

# The Catalyst

Volume 1: Issue 4

February 2003

Welcome back! In this issue we have focused on the groups and organizations that have volunteered their time and efforts in the field of health care. The National Center for Health Statistics has found that there is an increasing number of people who have become ill and cannot find funds or access to the proper care that they need. The Center notes that there are nearly 1.6 million people in nursing homes and that this number could be as high as double for people who are in need of full-time nursing care and not receiving help. The statistics are similarly striking for children with severe health problems; the National Cancer Society reports that 1,322 children under the age of 15 died of cancer in 2001. Furthermore, this study does not even take into account the thousands of other children who have been diagnosed and are still receiving treatment for such diseases as leukemia and brain cancer.

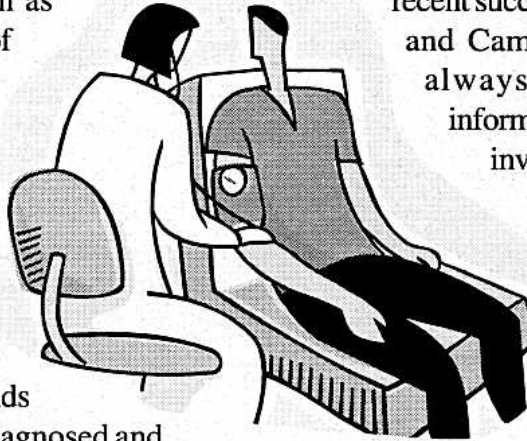
With these health issues in mind, we have included an article about the Delta Chi Fraternity's work with advertising for the biannual American Red Cross Blood Drive. Such drives not only provide the badly needed blood for hospitals and health care centers, but the revenue generated by such events also allows the Red Cross to continue with their philanthropic work elsewhere. In terms of groups involved in helping children with cancer, three groups have been particularly busy with activities and we have included articles about their efforts in this area. The American Cancer Society's Camp Rainbow Gold offers a free weeklong summer camp that seeks to help children diagnosed with cancer cope with their illness. In addition to Camp Rainbow Gold, the Tri Delta Sorority and the Up 'Til Dawn group members

have both done fund raising activities for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Tri Delta held a teeter-totter marathon, in which the \$800 in proceeds went to the hospital's research department, and the members of Up 'Til Dawn organized an event that encouraged six-member teams to participate in spirit building projects while raising the required \$750 donation fee. Both of these organizations

have contributed significantly to the recent success of St. Jude's Hospital and Camp Rainbow Gold. As always, we have provided information on how you can get involved with such activities within our articles and encourage anyone interested to contact the appropriate people.

In addition to our theme of health care service, we feel that the beginning of the year is a great time to summarize the many ways to get involved. With the semester just getting started, now would be a great time to take on the Semester of Service Challenge. This program was conceived in an effort to encourage and recognize the members of the faculty, staff, and student body who have volunteered their time for at least 30 hours each semester. By completing the 30 hours, the student or individual will be honored at an end of the year banquet.

Finally, the ASUI Civic Engagement Leadership Committee wants to wish everyone a good semester and a great year. If you are feeling timid about volunteering your time around the Moscow Community, please look inside and read the article by the Staff Corner that touches on the very issues of student involvement and what can be gained from efforts in community service.



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**SPOTLIGHT!**  
ABA's Service Trip  
To Las Vegas

# Service Teaches Leadership and Develops Character: Prerequisites to Civic/Political Action

In the past several months, several high profile research studies concerning the impact of community service activities and the relative civic engagement levels of youth have been released. Not surprisingly, these surveys have shown that youth are very interested in serving their communities and those in need, while they are not very interested in local, regional, or national civic initiatives or politics.

This is a constant concern of those involved in various aspects of the national service movement. However, despite this apparent gap, many surveys over the past couple of years do show that youth are not only interested, but also acknowledge, that service activities have been important in improving their ability to be leaders among their peers and others, and that service activities have changed their personal outlook or views about different things. Some surveys have revealed that students find their service activities to be among the top 3 most meaningful experiences in their entire college careers for reasons that include learning about people in different life situations, experiencing how to understand and deal with complicated situations and problems, building relationships with others, being part of a working team, and developing empathy and compassion for the real problems of other people who live right here.

While the leap to civics may seem long at this point, it seems clear to almost everyone that by engaging and encouraging students to become involved in service activities we are at least helping them learn important leadership characteristics and character qualities that make them wiser and more well rounded graduates prepared for that inevitable "real world." It seems that comments from youth reported in these surveys indicate that if civics remains far away at least basic civility is much closer. It

may be so obvious that it has escaped us, but isn't developing well informed people of civility, compassion, and kindness who are capable of working with others through challenging leadership issues and situations a prerequisite to any kind of

political leadership or action?

Service activities and their impact on leadership and character development are fundamental armor for and preparation for quality future civic or political engagement. It is a new year; make a new commitment to change yourself and your life by becoming encouraging or becoming involved in volunteer and service activities. You might find that in reality, no matter what the surveys say, it changes a lot more than just you in the end...

~Steven Janowiak

## Staff Corner



## CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT

## Delta Chi Gives In Annual Blood Drive

One of the major philanthropies that Delta Chi holds is our bi-annual blood drive. In association with the Inland Northwest Blood Center, we publicize the blood drive. Every semester, we pass out over one thousand fliers, numerous large

posters, chalk sidewalks, and talk to as many people as we can. As members of the Palouse area and citizens in the world, we try to do all we can to help those individuals that are in need of our help. Though we can't all save a life everyday,

we try to aid this cause with our blood and with our hearts. We have been given the title as the "Bloodiest Fraternity on Campus" here at the University of Idaho for the past four years and we are proud of it. Have you done your part?

~Chase Deobald

## Meet the ASUI Civic Engagement Leadership Committee

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# Tri-Delts Help Others Through Philanthropy

The Theta Tau Chapter of Delta Delta Delta has been very active with philanthropic activities this year. At the beginning of the semester, we organized a 48 hour teeter totter a thon where all of the proceeds went to our national philanthropy, St Jude Hospital for Children. St Jude is a cancer research hospital which is based in Memphis, Tennessee. This year, our chapter raised more than \$800 for St Jude. The sisters of the Theta Tau Chapter have also participated in several of the philanthropic activities organized by a few of the fraternities on campus including Sigma Chi's "Derby Days" where they proceeds went to



the Childrens Miracle Network, and the Phi Delta Tau's "Watermelon Bust" where the proceeds went to the Hole in the Wall Camp, which is a summer camp for children who are dying of terminal illnesses. For Halloween, our House went trick or treating for the Ronald McDonald House and we made almost \$1300 dollars to donate to the organization. Several of our sisters are also involved within the Moscow community. We have sisters who participate in the Moscow Mentors program and who volunteer with Alternatives to Violence on the Palouse. One of our sisters is also a Bonner Service Leader.

# SigEp Organizes Rock Against Rape

Five Bands. One Place. Great Cause.

Sigma Phi Epsilon, one of UI's newest fraternities is hosting the first Annual Rock Against Rape, March 26 in the Memorial Gym Auditorium.

Proceeds from the event will go to Alternatives to Violence on the Palouse, a group working specifically on ending

rape, a crime prevalent nationwide. "This is something new we wanted to do to give students a break from everyday class and bring awareness to a problem around the world," said Josh Studor, Sigma Phi Epsilon Vice President of Programming.

Tickets will be available one week before the show and will be in the form of

Rock against Rape buttons.

Rock Against Rape is one of the many projects included in SigEp's Balanced Man Program. The program is designed to create sound minds and bodies for its men. For more information on Rock Against Rape or SigEp, contact Josh Studor at [Josh\\_studor@hotmail.com](mailto:Josh_studor@hotmail.com)

# Camp Rainbow Gold Helps Children With Cancer Experience Idaho

American Cancer Society's mission is to help Idaho's children ages 6 to 16 diagnosed with cancer effectively cope with their life threatening disease through a free week long summer camp held in the heart of Idaho's Bitterroot and White Cloud mountains.

The American Cancer Society created Camp Rainbow Gold over 20 years ago. Every year, approximately 70 children from throughout Idaho spend a week forgetting about their disease, forgetting about hair loss and forgetting about the cars that are ever present in their daily life. Camp Rainbow Gold brings children together in every stage of their cancer treatment to learn from each other,

experience Idaho's great outdoors and realize that they are not alone in their battle. Through the joy of summer camp, these children with cancer become just children again.

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, you are encouraged to call the American Cancer Society at (208) 343-4609 and ask to be a volunteer for Camp Rainbow Gold. We are always looking for caring individuals who want to make a difference in a child's life.

Camp Rainbow Gold is held the first week in August of every year just outside of Ketchum, Idaho. New volunteers will be asked to attend an interview in Boise

on June 14, 2003. There is a mandatory training in Boise on July 19, 2003 and selected volunteers must attend camp from Saturday, August 2 to Friday, August 8, 2003. Volunteers must be 21 years of age but no other specialized skills are necessary. However, we are always in need of volunteers with CPR, first aid or life guard certification.

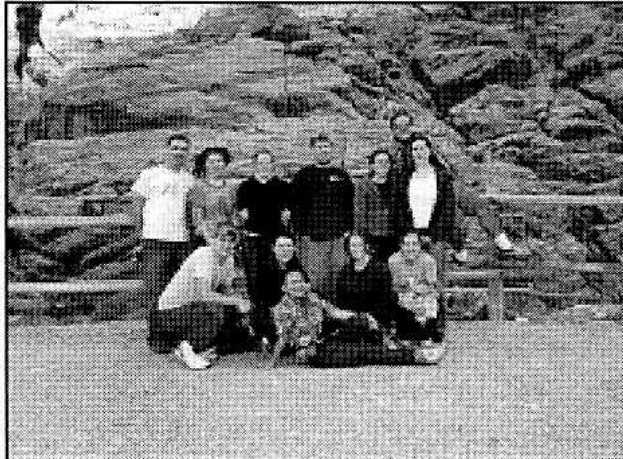
I guarantee that volunteering for our summer camp will change your life for the better. Through this camp you will work hard, eat bad camp food, never sleep and see the healing power of laughter. Finally, it will be one of the best weeks of your life. Please volunteer.

~Tim Tyree

## Spotlight On Service

While many students were enjoying the remainder of their holiday break with family and friends possibly taking in few runs on their favorite slopes, ten students and two staff members from the University of Idaho were participating in a ten day trip to Las Vegas in the hopes of having a little fun, helping a few people, and growing in ways never thought possible.

During the ten day trip sponsored by the Alternative Breaks Association, participants helped at an art therapy center, served dinner at a homeless shelter, organized clothing to be distributed at a thrift store and used in a women's shelter as well as contributed time at a Salvation



**CHEESE**--Alternative Break participants stop for a picture while touring Red Rock Canyon near Las Vegas

Army distribution center that also maintains a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. Between the 276 hours of service completed by the group, members also took in the sites including the famous Las Vegas strip, Hoover Dam, and Red Rock Canyon. Some even found the time to take the jump of their life at Skydive Las Vegas.

Aside from the "site" seeing this opportunity allowed several participants to see aside of social issues and volunteerism unavailable

in the Moscow community. As member Matt Strange reflected, "They said this would change my perspective on service, and they were right."

~Cassandra Byington

## UI Stays "Up Till Dawn" helping St. Jude's

The U of I community helps "Up til' Dawn" throughout the year. Teams made of six students from Greek houses, residence halls and off campus students have participated in letter writing events. The

events raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. The philanthropy has raised approximately \$21,600 as of January 31<sup>st</sup>.

UI student Colleen Carl recently visited St. Jude's in

Memphis, Tenn. "It definitely is a worthy cause; where else in the world can you get free cancer treatment?" she said.

St. Jude's mission is to find cures for catastrophic illnesses in children through both

research and treatment. St. Jude's is run primarily by public contributions, with operating costs more than \$715,000 a day. The hospital currently treats approximately 4,300 children a year. ~Julie Heck

## Celebrate Your Body Day Breaks Stereotypes

On Thursday, February 13, 2003, Body Image Task Force, FLAME, the Counseling & Testing Center, the Women's Center, and Student Benefits, Health & Wellness collaborated to bring the University "Celebrate Your Body Day,"

a call to accept your body, nourish it, and move it. Free eating disorder screening was available in the Commons with counselors to explain results. Students also spun a "Body Wheel" to test their I.Q. while munching on trail-mix snacks.

Scale smashing took place

at noon, allowing students to end a negative way of measuring self-esteem. Following this event, Francisco Salinas, Keri Galloway, and numerous students signed of the "Declaration of Independence From A Weight-Obsessed World."

Major issues concerning media and body image were also addressed during the day and a night Body Image workshop was given in the Commons. The central message of the day: "Self-esteem and identity come from within."

~Arlie Sommer

