



37°

Mixed showers or light snow
Forecast: 8A



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The LEWISTON TRIBUNE

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Screaming helps blow off steam

College students find creative ways to vent stress from final exams

By **MARTHA IRVINE**
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EVANSTON, Ill. — They stand outside in the cold the night before exams, wearing jeans and sweats or just PJs. And at 9 p.m. on the dot, they partake in one minute's worth of silliness for the sake of their sanity.

They scrEAAAAAMMM—MMMM!!!

It's a long-standing tradition at Northwestern University and other schools across the country, from Stanford and Harvard to Pennsylvania's Messiah College and Northland College in the hinterlands of Wisconsin. The "primal scream," as it's often called, is one of many creative ways college students are finding to blow off steam during one of the most stressful times they've faced in their young adult lives.

"It's not just your tension. It's everybody's tension you're feeding off, too," says Andrew Walker, a junior and resident adviser at a Northwestern dorm.

A film major, Walker has a screenplay to finish before the holiday break, so he gladly joined hundreds of other students to let out a few loud howls. "It hurt my vocal cords a little bit," he said afterward, holding his throat and smiling widely. "But I liked it!"

At Tufts University in Medford, Mass., students this week stripped down for the annual nude run.

And at Santa Clara University in California, a bunch of dorm mates recently took a break from studying to go to a warehouse where they jumped on huge trampolines with kids half their age.

"When we got back, I still had to type a paper," says Evan Sarkisian, a senior who is a "community facilitator" at one of Santa Clara's dorms. "But it was good to get some perspective and get distracted."

Increasingly, faculty members also are getting involved in the de-stressing process. New York University offers "tea and empathy," where students can talk to a professor about whatever's on their mind.

NYU is also among a number of colleges and universities that host late-night breakfasts during exams, where administrators and professors often cook and serve up the food.

"The president putting eggs on your plate is very different than what they expect me to be doing," says Arthur Kirk, president of Florida's Saint Leo University, which has a "midnight breakfast" attended by hundreds of students.

Gregoire hounds sex offenders

Washington governor announces proposal to upgrade monitoring of criminals across state

By **CURT WOODWARD**
OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TACOMA — In a neighborhood still reeling from the kidnapping and killing of a 12-year-old girl last summer, Gov. Chris Gregoire on Wednesday announced an \$8.2 million plan to boost sex offender monitoring around the state.

Gregoire's public safety package is

dominated by a \$5 million grant program that would pay law enforcement agencies to conduct in-person visits with sex offenders. Low-risk offenders would get annual checkups under the plan, with the highest-risk sex criminals being seen four times a year.

Smaller pieces in Gregoire's sex-crime package include a \$920,000 plan to expand satellite-based offender tracking and a \$320,000 project to

beef up the state's sex offender Web site, as well as automatic e-mail notices sent to residents when a sex criminal moves into a new community.

The programs are part of the governor's suggested supplemental budget, which lawmakers will consider when the Legislature convenes in early January.

Gregoire pitched the package as an attempt to develop innovative programs that could give local officials the

money they need to get tough on sex crimes — something state lawmakers have made a priority in recent years.

"There are a lot of good laws, but they are worthless if we don't have the human and financial resources to put them into effect," she said.

The governor's Republican opponents immediately panned the program as too skimpy and too reactionary.

Dino Rossi, Gregoire's GOP challenger in 2008, said the Democratic

> See **GREGOIRE**, Page 7A

Sign of the times



Tribune/Kyle Mills

Michael Millhouse, of Millhouse Signs in Lewiston, works on giving the windows at SCI Enterprises in downtown Lewiston some holiday spirit with a Christmas greeting Wednesday afternoon.

A surveillance camera captures the image of an unknown man at the counter of a Zip Trip store on Bridge Street in Clarkston. A woman's wallet can be seen laying on the counter in front of the man. The camera videotaped the man later picking up the wallet and putting it inside his coat and walking out of the store.

Contributed photo



Cameras capture disappearance of wallet at Zip Trip in Clarkston

Cops want to contact man for questioning

By **DAVID COLE**
OF THE TRIBUNE

There was nothing grainy about this real-crime video. Video surveillance cameras rolled early Tuesday at the Clarkston Zip Trip on Bridge Street, capturing the theft of a wallet that had apparently been left on the counter by a customer.

The man police are calling a suspect in the theft walked up to the counter multiple times while in the store, chomping on a meat stick and sipping on an A&W coffee.



To see the video, go to www.lmtribune.com

Video screens, from multiple angles, showed the man casually snatch the wallet up and pack it out the front doors while chatting with other people inside.

Clarkston Police Chief > See **CAMERAS**, Page 7A

Freeze on nuclear plants appears to be melting down

A fellow at a recent meeting quipped, "More people died at Chappaquiddick than at Three Mile Island."

I appreciated the political wit, but was struck by the reminder no one died during the 1979 Three Mile Island nuclear plant meltdown.

I was just a kid when it happened. I thought everything back East was glowing green as a result.

Disaster impressed me back then.

Around first grade, I recall radio commentator Paul Harvey warning of killer bee swarms fly-

ing to the United States.

To this day, whenever a shadow crosses the land, I hear a phantom buzzing sound and cast a fearful eye skyward. All clouds, so far.

But Three Mile Island and its melted reactor core that threatened Pennsylvania impressed everyone. Fear was rampant.

Just 12 days before the Three Mile Island accident, a movie called "The China Syndrome" hit theaters.

Jittery audiences watched top stars, such as Jack Lemmon and Jane Fonda, deal with nuclear catastrophe. A China Syndrome, as

mentioned jokingly in the movie, happens when a nuclear reactor core overheats and melts through the Earth to China.

I wonder if China would even notice.

Three Mile Island had lasting effects beyond just making a generation fearful of nuclear power.

For one, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission got some teeth and toughened rules for commercial nuclear plants. And Idaho got "fallout" of sorts from Three Mile Island as well.

Between 1986 and 1990, radioactive Three Mile Island waste rode the rails to the Idaho

National Laboratory near Idaho Falls. The waste is awaiting a final resting place outside of Idaho, according to the INL Web site.

But commercial nuclear power now sees Idaho as more than just a place to hide radioactive evidence of its embarrassing past.

The Idaho Statesman reported two commercial nuclear power plants are being considered for Owyhee and Payette counties.

"We're in a very preliminary due-diligence process to look at a potential energy project in Payette County," Bill Fehrman, president and chief nuclear officer for MidAmerican Nuclear

Energy Co., told the Statesman.

The prospect of a nuclear plant nearer to our region brings southern Idaho's political issues farther north.

In 2006, the Idaho Legislature dealt with fallout from a proposal to build a \$1.4 billion coal-fired power plant for Jerome County.

The issue didn't raise hackles in northern Idaho. But folks around Twin Falls were in a dither and the issue factored into political races.

Along with being a big job creator and power maker, the power plant would be a big polluter of

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UP FRONT/
COMMENTARY

Dean Ferguson

Today in the Tribune

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Coming in Friday's Tribune

Lewiston physician Daniel Miller explores the history of the Craig Mountain region in his first book, "Little Patch of Idaho." Miller discusses the book in a story for the **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION**.

