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## Quotes



### IdahoPTV Web Casting of the Idaho Legislature

"Great job. I am impressed with the quality of the picture. Thanks for showing who is speaking."

William Kichok, Nampa  
 February 26, 2007



"I have just discovered your site through nettrekker and have found

fantastic material to use in my 6th grade middle school classes! States of Matter and Simple Machines in particular and I still have a lot of exploring to do! Thank you so much and PLEASE keep up the great work!!"

Craig Frey, Bardstown, Kentucky  
 February 19, 2007



### JFAC Votes For Idaho Public Television General Fund Support

On Thursday, February 22, the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) voted 18-0, to recommend to the full House and Senate the General Fund contribution to the IdahoPTV's fiscal year 2008 operating budget.

The State of Idaho provides approximately 25% of IdahoPTV's operating budget, which is targeted specifically for the maintenance and administration of the statewide delivery systems.

The budget recommendation calls for a maintenance of current operation (MCO) budget for Idaho Public Television. No new initiatives were proposed by IdahoPTV and the State Board of Education, and none were recommended by the Governor and JFAC.

Within the frame of MCO, there are some areas of increases to cover escalating costs. They are as follows:

Power Upgrade, 1 Time (KAID-DT)	\$13,500
Attorney General Fees	\$15,800
Risk Management Fees	\$700
State Controller/Payroll Fees	\$5,000
Treasurer Office Fees	\$400
State Positions Merit Increases (5%)	\$41,100

In addition, JFAC recommended much of the replacement capital for equipment that IdahoPTV had requested:

<u>IdahoPTV Request</u>	<u>JFAC Recommendations</u>	<u>Items</u>
\$228,500	\$228,500	5 translator site upgrades
\$908,000	\$908,000	KUID studio equipment upgrade
\$167,985	\$0	KUID building ADA remediation
\$5,000	\$5,000	Tech maintenance item, KUID beacon
\$26,500	\$26,500	Tech maintenance item, 4x4 truck
\$126,700	\$0	PC replacement
\$356,000	\$356,000	NOC replacement (video file server, HD encoder)
\$44,000	\$0	FAA required KUID/KAID tower painting
\$1,862,700	\$1,524,000	Total

As you can see, there are three items that were not recommended by JFAC: KUID building ADA remediation, agency PC computer replacement (5 years old) and F.A.A. required KUID/KAID tower painting.

As noted in last month's GM Report, with encouragement with both the Governor's Office and the Legislative Budget Office, we have been in discussions with the Permanent Building Fund's Deferred Maintenance Fund (PBF DMF) to fund of the KUID building ADA remediation and the tower painting. The proposal has been well received by the PBF and JFAC. On Friday, March 2, JFAC voted to adopt the Governor's recommendation for the PBF DMF. We will closely monitor the progress of this recommendation as it progresses through the legislative process.

In addition, JFAC also provided intent language allowing IdahoPTV to use any replacement capital savings and grants to provide for the upgrade of our desktop computers systems.

Idaho Public Television is very pleased with the progress of our budget request for fiscal year 2008 State appropriations.



## Visit Travel Destinations Across the Gem State in IDAHO GETAWAYS: AN OUTDOOR IDAHO SPECIAL

- Airs Thursday, March 8, at 8:30 p.m. MT/PT
- Repeats Sunday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. MT/PT

A new Idaho Public Television production takes viewers off the beaten path to discover some of Idaho's travel treasures with five IdahoPTV producers.

The program is produced in the spirit of the popular PBS program GLOBE TREKKER, where the audience goes on an adventure with the on-camera guide. In IDAHO GETAWAYS, the guides are IdahoPTV's five producer writers: Bruce Reichert, John Crancer, Joan Cartan-Hansen, Jim Peck, and Marcia Franklin.



Bruce Reichert and friends find solitude on the Middle Fork of the Salmon by scheduling a September float trip. "By then, most rafters have given up on the Middle Fork," Reichert says, "But not us. Even if it means flying into Indian Creek to avoid the first 20 miles of low water."

They not only avoid the lowest water levels but most of the rocks too, and make several side trips that include pictographs, waterfalls, hot springs and a grotto once used by a hermit prospector.

After a day or two on the Middle Fork, "serenity seeps into your bones" to be replaced by a bit of melancholy as the rafters emerge from their 100-mile journey onto the Main Salmon. "It's always kind of sad. Everyone who's done this trip feels that way," Reichert says.



The float trip introduces the program and is a journey that continues as each of the getaway segments ends. In the first segment, producer John Crancer swings into the saddle on an eastern Idaho guest ranch to help herd cattle. Butch Small and his family operate the 102-year-old Dubois-area spread where visitors experience life on a working cattle ranch.

"Some people want a hot tub at the end of the day," says Miss Elly, a guest from Boston, Massachusetts. "This isn't the place for them. This is a place for people who want the real experience of what it might have been like to live in this country a hundred years ago."

The Small ranch draws "dudes" from around the country and around the world. Olaf, a travel writer from Germany, reviewed many opportunities.

“My plan was to do a story about ranching holidays. And there are about a thousand places, but most of them have five-star accommodations and Jacuzzis,” he says. “So I rang the tourist authorities and asked them, ‘Do you have anything without frills — just the basic thing, the real thing?’ They came back to me and said, ‘Go to Butch Small. He’s got it all.’”

Visitors climb on horseback to drive cattle through the Dead Horse Hills, a necessary part of ranch operations. Food from the chuck wagon that accompanies the temporary ranch hands fills their bodies after a day of soul-satisfying physical labor. And decades-old western tunes, played on acoustic guitar and voiced by locals, help take the visitors back to a life that few remember and fewer now live.



Producer Joan Cartan-Hansen, along with her son and daughter, seek a more urban habitat, exploring resort opportunities in the Coeur d’Alene area. They establish their base at the historic Clark House on the shores of Hayden Lake. Cartan-Hansen begins the adventure by teeing up at the floating green at the Coeur d’Alene Resort with the help of golf pro Andy McKimmie.

When her teeoff finds a watery grave, McKimmie is sympathetic — but not surprised. “Typically, there are about 30,000 golf balls that are picked up off the bottom of the lake bed by a professional diver” when the season ends, he says.

Next stop is the Silverwood Theme Park on 212 square miles south of Athol. Cartan-Hansen and the kids try out some of the 60 rides, including a heart-thumping roller coaster. They lower their heart rates by taking a sunset cruise on Lake Coeur d’Alene.

“I like to go to places that have a lot of good views,” says Jim Sollars, cruise captain. “So we will go counter-clockwise around this part of the lake and down the channel.”

To get a fresh perspective on the sweeping, glacier-carved North Idaho landscape, the trio heads skyward for a hot-air balloon ride. Valerie Favicchio of Adventures Aloft provides brief but important lessons about how to ride the air currents and successfully experience even a rough landing.

Another river route attracts producer Jim Peck — padding a Montana waterway to trace the route Meriwether Lewis and William Clark followed to the Bitterroot Mountains.

Soon, Peck and others in the group find out just what the Corps of Discovery was up against as they head upward into Idaho with a guide from Lewis and Clark Trail Adventures.



“When Lewis wrote in his journal that ‘we stumbled out of the Bitterroot wilderness more dead than alive’ — until you’ve walked over that eight miles, 4,000 feet in one day, you don’t really understand how that can be the case,” says Brandt Boyle of Gaithersburg, Maryland.

When Peck and his companions reach their modern-day camp, they find tents, chilled beverages and food awaiting them — unlike Lewis and Clark, whose group faced early snows and poor hunting. Still, it is not easy.

“Most people go up a mile, turn around, come back, or start from the top and turn around and go back. So it’s been really nice to lead people up through there, because as far as I know, it’s a very select few,” says guide Chad Jones.

They persevere to search out sites that connect to the Lewis and Clark journey, traveling on foot, on mountain bikes and by van. They hear excerpts from journals written 200 years ago and match the words to the landscape.



Producer Marcia Franklin goes to the Sawtooth Valley, one of her favorite Idaho destinations. “Each time I visit the Stanley Basin, the jagged spires of this beautiful (Sawtooth) range take on a different light,” she says.

She stays at the Idaho Rocky Mountain Ranch, built in the 1930s as a private hunting lodge. Guests have access to ranch hot springs, as well as trails, horseback riding, mountain biking or just enjoying the panoramic view from the lodge porch.

Franklin straps on a helmet and climbs into a kayak to take in the Class 3 rapids along the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River. The day includes a mountain bike ride on the ranch’s trails and a wagon ride to a mountain meadow for a Dutch oven meal.

The next day, fishing expert Julie Meissner provides a fly fishing lesson — “OK, that was a throw; make it from the elbow,” Meissner says. Franklin learns that for her, a visit to a fish hatchery is a surer way of getting a close-up view of a fish than using a fly rod.

Franklin also takes in Redfish Lake Lodge and visits with singer Muzzie Braun. A longtime resident of the Stanley area, Braun and his wife have a bed and breakfast facility outside of town, powered by solar energy. Braun provides a musical interlude that caps Franklin’s getaway.

## the buzz



KTVB/Boise, Channel 7 Broadcast Live from IdahoPTV Studio on Tuesday, February 27, 2007

— FESTIVAL 2007 Opens Saturday, March 3, on IdahoPTV— Annual On-Air Fund-Raiser Is March 3-18

An Idaho Public Television production premiere about getaways in the Gem State and international stars of music and drama lead the nighttime billing on IdahoPTV’s FESTIVAL

2007. The 16-day on-air fund-raiser also offers a variety of cooking, self-improvement, travel and nature shows to fill television screens statewide.

FESTIVAL 2007 opens on March 3. A full listing of FESTIVAL 2007 programs is available on the IdahoPTV Web site at [idahoptv.org/schedules](http://idahoptv.org/schedules).

“During FESTIVAL we feature a number of specials as well as episodes from some of our regular series. These, along with IdahoPTV’s own productions, provide a sampling of the kinds of programming we air throughout the year,” says Kim Philipps, IdahoPTV director of marketing.

Philipps points out that the annual March fund-raiser and a December weekend event help secure a major part of IdahoPTV’s operating budget.

“Idaho Public Television depends on private contributions, which make up 62 percent of our operating budget. FESTIVAL is our single largest fund-raising event of the year. It’s critical that this campaign succeeds,” Philipps says. “The money we raise during FESTIVAL helps pay for program acquisition and Idaho productions that viewers enjoy throughout the year.”

“FESTIVAL 2007 is a time for people to become partners with us, to make an investment in television worth watching,” Philipps says. “Remember, we’re here for you.”



**PBS**

— The long-awaited film portrait of the Idaho Legislature (photographed in 2003) by legendary film-maker Frederick Wiseman is set to air nationwide on PBS and IdahoPTV on Wednesday, June 13, 2007.

According to [pbs.org](http://pbs.org)...

“Legendary filmmaker Frederick Wiseman has made 33 documentary films about American institutions. Among his films are High School, Welfare, Model, Central Park, Public Housing Near Death, and Domestic Violence, all of which have been broadcast on public television and screened in movie theaters around the world.

Wiseman’s theater work includes directing THE LAST LETTER at the Comédie Française in 2000, and a North American tour of the play in 2001. He directed an English-language version starring Kathleen Chalfant in New York in December 2003. Welfare: The Opera, based on his documentary film Welfare (with music by Lenny Pickett, libretto by David Slavitt and directed by Wiseman) was staged at the American Music Theater Festival in Philadelphia in 1992 and St. Anne’s Center for Restoration and the Arts in Brooklyn in 1998.

Wiseman has received a MacArthur Prize Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Dan David Prize for 2003 and the Irene Diamond Lifetime Achievement Award from Human Rights Watch. He has won three Emmy Awards and three A.I. duPont-Columbia University Awards. He is an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.”

— On March 5, I presented an overview of Idaho Public Television to the Senate Education Committee. Included my presentation was an overview of our multi-year conversion to digital television, state budget request update and an overview of several new local productions.

## IdahoPTV Staff Updates And Transitions



I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Carrie Newell to IdahoPTV. Carrie is our new full-time receptionist. Before coming to IdahoPTV, Carrie was at the Division of Human Resources for 7 years. She has recently moved to Boise from Sweet to be closer to her 20-month old grandson.



## Upcoming Meetings of Idaho Public Television's Friends Boards

- The Friends of Idaho Public Television: KUID/KCDT will meet Wednesday, March 28 at noon.
- The Friends of Idaho Public Television: KAID/KIPT will meet Thursday, April 19 at noon.
- The Friends of Idaho Public Television: KISU will meet Tuesday, April 24 at 5:30 p.m.



TRIAL OF THE CENTURY Update  
Jim Peck, IdahoPTV Producer

Ely, Nevada is in the middle of nowhere. I mean, really in the middle of nowhere. Its biggest current claim to fame is being at the end (or beginning) of Highway 50, the self-proclaimed "Loneliest Highway."

Ely is an old mining town and has a wonderful collection of trains from the days when the small railroad worked hard carrying coal and miners.

In late February, Videographer/Director Alan Austin and I headed to Ely to gather some footage of old steam engines for the upcoming ASSASSINATION: IDAHO'S TRIAL OF THE CENTURY program currently in production by Idaho Public Television. There is a key sequence that involves kidnapping and transportation of three principles involved in the assassination of former Governor Stuenenberg via old steam trains, and Ely is one of the best spots left where you can find such trains in their natural environment.

The Nevada Northern Railway runs tourist trains and photo tours that draw railfans from around the world. The area worked wonderfully for us because the high desert scenery and sagebrush was the perfect stand-in for Colorado, Wyoming and Idaho in 1906.

The hours were long and the cold, but we came back with some terrific High-Definition footage of the old trains.

## COLOR ME CONSCIENCE Update

Work is progressing on the research phase of a proposed IdahoPTV documentary entitled COLOR ME CONSCIENCE (working title), which examines the history of the human rights movement in Idaho. With research funding provided by the Idaho Women's Network, producer Marcia Franklin has conducted pre-interviews and some filming with Former Governor Phil Batt; Tony Stewart, Professor, North Idaho College; Les Purce, Pocatello; Bob Hughes, retired U.S. Department of Justice; and Marilyn Shuler. Fund raising for the production of the documentary is on-going.



## How Early-Childhood Education Yields High Returns to the Public

— Aired Thursday, March 1, at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT



On this episode of DIALOGUE, Host Joan Cartan-Hansen discussed early-childhood education with Rob Grunewald, Associate Economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota.

Grunewald's economic research shows that public spending on early-childhood education yields positive results to society as a whole. When state and local governments invest in very young children, both the business and public domains see real economic benefits.

During the live call-in show on Thursday at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT, Cartan-Hansen and Grunewald took calls from viewers on a toll-free line: 1-800-973-9800. (No call-ins were accepted on the high-definition [HD] TV airing at 9:30/8:30 p.m. MT/PT Thursday.)

To accommodate FESTIVAL 2007 programming, there was no Sunday repeat of this DIALOGUE show.

The program is also available on the radio. In Southwest Idaho, it airs on KBSU/NPR 91 at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday and, in Eastern Idaho, on KISU FM at 6:30 p.m. on Monday (March 5).

DIALOGUE, produced by IdahoPTV, is Idaho's only weekly statewide public affairs program. The program is funded by the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation. Individual DIALOGUE programs are archived on the IdahoPTV Web site at [idahoptv.org/dialogue](http://idahoptv.org/dialogue) and can be Web streamed for later viewing.

View or listen to DIALOGUE episodes in a variety of formats:

- Traditional analog over-the-air broadcast airs Thursdays at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT, with repeats Sundays at 5:30/4:30 p.m. MT/PT, on channels 35-KUID/26-KCDT, 4-KAID/13-KIPT, and 10-KISU. Analog is also available through cable and satellite; consult local suppliers for channel numbers.
- High-definition over-the-air broadcast airs Thursdays at 9:30/8:30 p.m. MT/PT, usually with repeats on Sundays at 8:30/7:30 p.m. MT/PT, on channels KUID-12, KCDT-45, KAID-21, KIPT-22 and KISU-17. The high-definition broadcast is also available through some cable companies; consult local suppliers.
- Standard-definition over-the-air broadcast airs between 7:00/6:00 a.m. and 3:00/2:00 p.m. on Citizen-4 digital channel. The frequency, days and times may vary. The standard-definition broadcast is also available through some cable companies; consult local suppliers.
- Video streaming from [idahoptv.org/dialogue](http://idahoptv.org/dialogue) is available in high-bandwidth or low-bandwidth format. Windows Media Player is required; a free download is available.
- Video download from [idahoptv.org/dialogue](http://idahoptv.org/dialogue); ultra-high bandwidth required.
- Podcasts (MP3, audio-only; and MP4, audio-video for video iPods) are available for download from [idahoptv.org/dialogue](http://idahoptv.org/dialogue).
- NPR News 91 audio-only airs in Southwest Idaho. Sundays at 11:30 a.m. MT.
- KISU FM audio-only airs in Eastern Idaho. Mondays at 6:30 p.m. MT.



## Hearing!

— Aired, Tuesday, February 20, at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT

When you make a sound, you are creating energy. But how does your brain convert that energy into music, language, noise? And how do people who cannot hear communicate with others? You know that you use your ears to hear, but did you know that they also contain a mechanism that helps you balance and stand upright?

On February 20 at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT, IdahoPTV host Joan Cartan-Hansen invited Gerene Hamilton-Norton, associate professor in the Department of Communication Sciences at Idaho State University and Erika Blanchard from the Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital to explain more about how we hear, and how our ears work.

Additional information about how we hear and links to related Web sites are available at the DIALOGUE FOR KIDS Web site: [idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/](http://idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/).

This year, a Web-only show in which the guests answer questions not addressed on-air is available on the Web site. In addition, the on-air program is available in the D4K Web site archives for viewing online.

DIALOGUE FOR KIDS, produced by Idaho Public Television, airs the third Tuesday of the month throughout the school year and focuses on a variety of science-related topics.

## IdahoPTV Reaches Out

READING RAINBOW Young Writers, Illustrators Contest  
Takes Entries Until March 30 Deadline



Idaho Public Television is calling on kids to enter the 13th Annual READING RAINBOW Young Writers and Illustrators Contest. Children in kindergarten through third grade can submit illustrated stories to the Idaho contest by the March 30 deadline.

Submit entries to the nearest IdahoPTV station: KAID/KIPT in Boise, KISU in Pocatello or KUID/KCDT in Moscow. Idaho judges will determine winners at each station for each grade category. Entries are judged on originality, creative expression, storytelling and integration of text and illustrations.

All first place stories will be sent to the national contest. National entries compete for prizes such as a laptop computer, flat panel TV or an MP3 player. Each of the 12 national winners also receive three sets of 10 READING RAINBOW DVDs and books - one set each for home, school and community library.

Fliers promoting the contest have been distributed to schools and public libraries throughout Idaho.

To enter:

- Obtain an entry form and rules at a public library, elementary school, or from [idahoptv.org/kids](http://idahoptv.org/kids) on the IdahoPTV Web site.
- Submit a story that contains at least five illustrations. Stories should be between from 50 to 200 words (kindergarten and first grade) or from 100 to 350 words (second and third grade). Text can be typed or handwritten, or dictated to an adult by a child who cannot write.
- Have a sponsoring teacher or parent sign the entry form granting permission to use the entry for promotional purposes. The teacher or parent's signature is required to enter the contest.

Visit the IdahoPTV Web site ([idahoptv.org/kids](http://idahoptv.org/kids)) to see winning entries from the 2006 contest. *READING RAINBOW*, hosted by LeVar Burton, airs on IdahoPTV weekdays at 2:30/1:30 p.m. MT/PT.



ISU and BSU Offer Free Screenings and Discussion of PBS' INDEPENDENT LENS Film

- Tuesday, February 27, at Idaho State University, Pond Student Union Building Theater
- Tuesday, February 27, at 5:30 p.m., at BSU Student Union
- Saturday, March 3, at 10 a.m., at BSU-West, Room 102-E

A partnership of Independent Television Service (ITVS), Idaho Public Television, Boise State University and Idaho State University presented free screenings of a new INDEPENDENT LENS offering.

*RACE TO EXECUTION* traces the fate of two Death Row inmates, Robert Tarver in Alabama and Madison Hobley in Chicago. Their cases are presented against a backdrop of inequality: in the United States, people who murder whites are much more likely to be sentenced to death than those who kill blacks. The film looks for explanations of this disparity, including the impact of media on the internalized biases of jury members, and the racial bias in jury selection.

By focusing on the added dimension of race, *RACE TO EXECUTION* expands the conversation about capital punishment.

The hour-long film was screened at BSU's Boise and Canyon County facilities and at the Pond Student Union Building Theater at Idaho State University. The public was invited to attend.

Local school of communications faculty conducted discussion sessions on the film.

This screening and discussion is in advance of the national television release, which airs on IdahoPTV on Tuesday, March 27, at 10:00 p.m.

Two additional film-centered events were planned for this spring. BLACK GOLD and KNOCKING will be screened in later March and April.

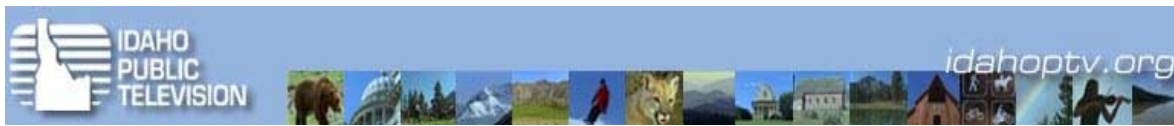
For program descriptions and more information on ITVS COMMUNITY, visit [www.itvs.org/pressroom/photos](http://www.itvs.org/pressroom/photos).

ITVS COMMUNITY CINEMA is the monthly screening series featuring upcoming selections from the Independent Lens season. Presented in partnership with local public television stations and leading community organizations, ITVS Community Cinema holds preview screenings in select markets across the country making a real contribution on a range of current social issues by connecting communities with organizations, information, and the opportunity to get involved.

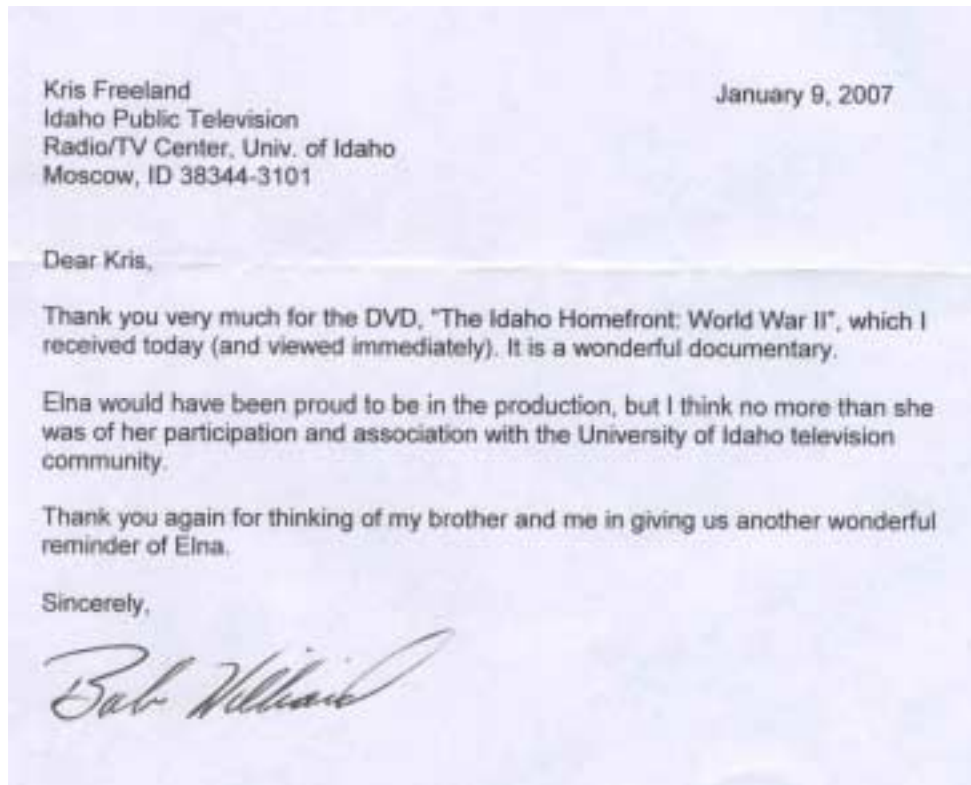
The Independent Television Service (ITVS) celebrated its 15th Anniversary in 2006. ITVS is a leading funder and presenter of award-winning documentaries and dramas on public television, innovative new media projects on the Web, and the Emmy Award-winning weekly series Independent Lens on Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. on PBS. Independent Lens is jointly curated by ITVS and PBS and is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private corporation funded by the American people, with additional funding provided by PBS and the National Endowment for the Arts.

On February 1, 2007, The History of Idaho Broadcasting group held their monthly meeting in the telemedia room of IdahoPTV/Boise with 9 persons attending. An audio tape recording of the first sign on and sign off of KAID-TV was played as well as a DVD of old films of KBOI-TV tower construction and 40th anniversary. Following the meeting a tour of the KAID facilities was conducted by Larry Smith and other KAID employees.





## Letters (and Responses) From Viewers



February 16, 2007

A few years ago I used to enthusiastically watch Idaho Reports daily during the legislature term. Now I watch it, but feel deprived because it is so largely scaled down that we see little legislative action; whereas in the past we saw actual floor discussion, etc. It was so much better than now. For your format, you have a well-balanced panel, but we don't get the benefit for which IPTV was originally formed, to educate us in citizenship.

Thank you.

Mary Jane Fritzen, Idaho Falls

February 17, 2007

Mary Jane,

Thanks for your response. As one of those who used to work on the daily legislative show, I appreciate your enthusiasm for the good ole days! It was a lot of work, but we thought we were doing something valuable.

As you may know, some years ago, our federal CPB money got severely whacked. We lost a handful of good reporters and crew, and even though it was not fun, we had to make some tough decisions. Our daily Idaho Reports show was, frankly, taking many of the resources and, based upon every measurement we had at our disposal, not that many eyes were watching our efforts.

We cut the show back to a weekly program, always hoping that somehow we'd find a steady stream of dollars -- about \$150,000 a year -- to bring the show back. We've looked for that money, but so far, no takers.

I've also worked on the half hour version of our legislative show, and, as you suggest, it's impossible to duplicate what we were able to do with a daily show. (Of course, I remember some dreadful daily programs, particularly in the first 4-5 weeks of the session, when Nothing seemed to be going on, except in the caucuses where our cameras were not allowed.)

I will say that, since Jim Peck has taken over the reins of our weekly program, he has done a fine job of holding viewers' interest with his mix of lawmakers and panelists.

This has been a strange session this year; not a lot has happened on the floor of either House or Senate. I'm sure, when the activity shifts from the committees to the floor debate, Jim will gather some of the best of that debate for his show.

Also, a couple of things you may or may not be aware of. We have a real solid web presence that is the envy of many larger stations. It's won some serious awards. It's at <http://idahoptv.org/idreports/>

And, if you convert to digital television -- and we'll all have to do that by February, 2009 -- you can now watch the House and the Senate floor action on your television. This is new; it just happened this year (for several years now, folks have been able to watch the floor action on their computers).

Thanks again, Mary Jane, and even though you want more, I'm glad you're watching.

All the best,  
Bruce Reichert

February 20, 2007

Dear Bruce,

Thank you for caring enough to reply to my letter about Idaho Reports.

For some of us, this used to be a valued opportunity to witness our lawmakers in action, and thereby become informed about their legislation.

Sincerely,  
Mary Jane Fritzen

## Public Television in the News



February 21, 2007

The U.S. Government Accountability Office recently released the results of the study of Public Television funding undertaken at the request of Representatives Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL) and Candice Miller (R-MI). The congressional requestors had hoped that the GAO would find support for their "Billion Dollar Big Bird" statements during the June 2005 House fight on Public Television's funding.

They were wrong. The GAO revealed that statement for the myth that it was.

APTS President and CEO John Lawson said: "In 2005, Representative Ginny Brown-Waite stood on the House floor and made false claims about a 'billion dollar Big Bird' in a failed effort to cut public broadcasting's federal funding by 45 percent. When the House voted to restore our funding anyway, she and Representative Candice Miller sent the GAO to prove that we were hoarding funds or could reap huge windfalls from the private sector if we only tried harder."

"Now that the GAO has officially refuted their positions, we call upon Reps. Brown-Waite and Miller to at least publicly acknowledge their findings," he said.

The study, titled "Telecommunications: Issues Related to the Structure and Funding of Public Television," reviews (1) the organizational structure of Public Television, (2) the programming and other services that Public Television provides, (3) the current funding sources for Public Television, (4) the extent to which Public Television stations are increasing their nonfederal funding sources and developing new sources of nonfederal support, and (5) the extent to which Public Television benefits financially from business ventures associated with programming and how this compares with commercial broadcasters.

The GAO reviewed revenue, membership, and programming data for all Public Television licensees. The GAO also interviewed officials from 54 licensees, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Public Broadcasting Service, federal agencies, and producers of commercial and public television programming. Please visit <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07150.pdf> to download a copy of the study.

Earlier today, APTS issued the following press release commenting on the GAO's findings and their relationship to the Administration's budget proposal to cut federal funding for public broadcasting by approximately twenty-five percent in FY 2008.

## GAO Reports Federal Funding Cuts Could Reduce Public Television's Children's Programming

### Administration's Proposed Slashing of Funds Could Cause Stations to Go Dark

WASHINGTON—February 21, 2007—If federal funding were reduced by the twenty-five percent recently proposed by The Bush Administration, Public Television stations would need to reduce their level of service, or some would completely shut down their operations, a GAO study released this week reported.

The report comes just weeks after President Bush proposed slashing federal funding for public broadcasting, including the Corporation of Public Broadcasting (CPB), by roughly \$145 million in his FY 2008 budget submission to Congress.

The GAO study, "Telecommunications: Issues Related to the Structure and Funding of Public Television," reviewed revenue, membership and programming data for all Public Television licensees. The GAO also interviewed officials from 54 of Public Television's 173 licensees, CPB, PBS, federal agencies, and program producers for commercial and Public Television.

Association of Public Television Stations President and CEO John Lawson said: "In 2005, Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite stood on the House floor and made false claims about a 'billion dollar Big Bird' in a failed effort to cut public broadcasting's federal funding by 45 percent. When the House voted to restore our funding anyway, she and Rep. Candice Miller sent the GAO to prove that we were hoarding funds or could reap huge windfalls from the private sector if we only tried harder."

"Now that the GAO has officially refuted their positions, we call upon Reps. Brown-Waite and Miller to at least publicly acknowledge their findings," he said.

The GAO concluded that another source of funds doesn't exist to fill the void that would be left if federal funding were reduced or eliminated. The GAO further found that substantial growth of nonfederal funding for Public Television stations "appears unlikely."

In addition, the GAO study said the benefits that Public Television sometimes receives from business ventures associated with its programs are "infrequent and do not generate significant revenue." "Public Television does not have the financial resources to invest heavily in the cost of program production to secure a larger share of any resulting back-end revenues. Moreover, the sale of merchandise associated with a program generally returns a small percentage of the retail price to the program's producer and investors, as is also true commercial television programs," the GAO study stated.



February 27, 2007

The next time you hear making legislation is like making sausage, think again. Filmmaker Frederick Wiseman thrilled crowds at the Berlin Film Festival in Europe this month with his documentary on the Idaho Legislature's 2004 session. Wiseman's two-man crew shot more than 100 hours of film thanks to access granted by former House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, R-Burley, and Senate Pro Tem Bob Geddes, R-Soda Springs.

Remember, this is a documentary -- one that lasts three hours, 37 minutes. Wiseman's observational work doesn't give much narration, which means the legislators provided most of the drama and debate. What ensued was a real look at democracy at the state level.

"Everybody is extremely impressed with the intellectual quality of the discussion and the civility with which the people treat each other," Wiseman told the Lewiston Tribune. "They might not necessarily agree with the conclusions on the issues, but it's a film about the process."

Idahoans should be able to see the film on PBS sometime later this year.



## Film about Idaho Legislature earns praise in Europe

### Critic says documentary shown at Berlin festival provides 'mind-boggling insights' on U.S. democracy

The Associated Press - Idaho Statesman  
February 20, 2007

A documentary about the 2004 session of the Idaho Legislature hit the big screen last week at the Berlin International Film Festival, giving audiences outside the United States a look at democracy at work in a state Capitol. Frederick Wiseman spent three years completing "State Legislature," between editing a film about New York City's Madison Square Garden and directing a play in Paris.

German film critic Ekkehard Knörer said viewers stand to gain nothing less than "mind-boggling insights into the machinery of American democracy."

In a career that has spanned five decades, Wiseman has made nearly 40 documentary films, including the highly praised and controversial "Titicut Follies," a 1967 film about the treatment of patients at Bridgewater State Hospital, a Massachusetts mental institution.

In a telephone interview with The Lewiston Tribune, Wiseman said the Idaho film unifies many of his past works. "A legislature is the key institution in a state that determines the policy and provides the funds for many of the other institutions, which have been the subjects of my films," Wiseman said.

He mentioned his films about high schools, an urban hospital, a police department and a juvenile court. "They weren't in Idaho, but in each case, the Legislature provides the basic funding for those places, and helps determine the policies of the institutions," he said. "That's why it's key."

Wiseman shot 160 hours of footage during the three-month legislative session, missing only a few days. The film took 14 months to edit because of the amount of footage. The finished film runs three hours, 37 minutes.

He called the film nonpartisan and said festival-goers viewed it the same way. "Everybody is extremely impressed with the intellectual quality of the discussion and the civility with which people treat each other," he said. "They might not necessarily agree with the conclusions on the issues, but it's a film about the process."

Knörer, the critic, acknowledged Idaho's conservative reputation, but brushed it aside as unimportant to the deeper meaning of the film. "Even if you don't share many or even most of the often reactionary positions and attitudes expressed, 'State Legislature' shows what holds not only this state, but the whole of the United States together: the idea that procedures must exist that give people a hearing in matters that concern them," he wrote. "The grandeur of this idea shines through the nuts and bolts of political workings, and Europeans can only look on in astonishment," he wrote.

Wiseman said Idaho residents likely won't see the film until it airs on public television this summer or fall. But he said he's been in touch with legislative leaders to arrange a screening in Boise for lawmakers, and more theatrical screenings around the state could be arranged.

About 350 films are shown every year at the Berlin festival, most of them world or European premieres. Films of every genre, length and format can be submitted for consideration.

This year, director Wang Quan'an's "Tuya's Marriage," which follows the troubles of a young farming woman in fast-changing China, won the top Golden Bear award. The festival, in its 57th edition this year, opened on Feb. 8 and ended Sunday.



## Documentary on Idaho Legislature draws rave reviews at Berlin festival

By JOEL MILLS, of the Tribune  
Monday, February 19, 2007

Frederick Wiseman's long-awaited documentary about the 2004 session of the Idaho Legislature hit the big screen this week at the Berlin International Film Festival.

And the early reviews of "State Legislature" sound nothing short of profound.

"One stands to gain nothing less than mind-boggling insights into the machinery of American democracy," wrote German film critic Ekkehard Knvrrer, as translated by the online journal sig nandsight.com.

Wiseman, often called a "master" of the documentary form by film critics and his peers, has made nearly 40 films in a career that has spanned five decades. In a telephone interview from Berlin earlier this week, Wiseman told the Lewiston Tribune that "State Legislature" is the film that unifies many of his past works.

"A Legislature is the key institution in a state that determines the policy and provides the funds for many of the other institutions, which have been the subjects of my films," Wiseman, 77, said from the Hotel Savoy early Friday morning, Berlin time.

He mentioned his films about high schools, a big-city hospital, a police department and a juvenile court.

"They weren't in Idaho, but in each case, the Legislature provides the basic funding for those places, and helps determine the policies of the institutions. That's why it's key."

Idahoans and the rest of the nation won't likely get a chance to view "State Legislature" until it airs on PBS this summer or fall, Wiseman said. But he said he's been in touch with legislative leaders to arrange a screening in Boise for lawmakers, and more theatrical screenings around the state could be arranged.

And word was floating around the Capitol Friday afternoon that some lawmakers had received an advance copy of the film last week.

Wiseman said the popular reception of "State Legislature" at the festival has also been strong. "Tonight there was lots of applause when the movie was over," he said. "So naturally, I like that."

He said it took him three years to complete the film because he had to finish editing a film about New York City's Madison Square Garden and direct a play in Paris before he could turn to the 160 hours of footage he shot in Boise.

Even once he started, the film took 14 months to edit because of the amount of footage. He said he normally shoots between 100 and 110 hours of 16mm film on a subject, and spends about a year in the editing room. He said he missed only a few days of the three-month legislative session.

"There's not much action," he said. "It's all talk-based. And I tried, in the editing, to make sure when an issue is being debated, the various points of view about the issue were presented. And that takes time."

The finished film runs three hours, 37 minutes.

And since there wasn't much action, Wiseman's two-man crew usually let the camera roll.

"There's only one rule that's absolutely accurate in making these movies," he said. "The moment you turn the camera off, that's when the most interesting thing is going to happen."

Wiseman's documentaries are observational, and don't use commentary or narration. He has called "State Legislature" nonpartisan, and said festival-goers are viewing it the same way.

"Everybody is extremely impressed with the intellectual quality of the discussion and the civility with which the people treat each other. They might not necessarily agree with the conclusions on the issues, but it's a film about the process."

He also commended legislative leaders for making sure he had unfettered access, especially Senate President Pro Tem Robert Geddes and former House Speaker Bruce Newcomb. But he said everyone in the Statehouse deserves credit for the quality of his finished product.

"You can't make a movie like this unless you have the cooperation of the participants. Everybody was helpful and nobody refused to be in the film."

In his review, Knvrer acknowledged Idaho's conservative reputation, but brushed it aside as unimportant to the deeper meaning of the film.

"Even if you don't share many or even most of the often reactionary positions and attitudes expressed, 'State Legislature' shows what holds not only this state, but the whole of the United States together: the idea that procedures must exist that give people a hearing in matters that concern them," he wrote. "The grandeur of this idea shines through the nuts and bolts of political workings, and Europeans can only look on in astonishment."

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# Newsweek

## TV Rabbit Ears Are Back: In High-Def

The antenna, that relic of the pre-cable age, gets an afterlife thanks to high-definition TV.

February 19, 2007

By Johnnie L. Roberts, Newsweek

When cable TV arrived in the '70s, rabbit ears seemed destined to go the way of the polyester pantsuit. So, too, the clunky outdoor antenna, a rooftop fixture that once upon a time signaled the rise of television in American life. But a funny thing happened on the way to the analog dust heap: it turns out that a new generation of rabbit ears and antennas can receive high-definition television broadcasts. And it's free.

The irony is marvelous. Pushed into obsolescence by the technological advances of cable and satellite, antennas are re-emerging thanks to one of the most promising high-tech services of the digital age. High-def channels can be plucked out of thin air by antennas just like regular broadcast signals - no cable, no satellite dish, no monthly bill, no waiting for the cable man. It's like the old days, except this time antennas (which cost between \$18 and \$150) may offer the clearest picture. "More than 90 percent of our customers say they want the antennas for high-def," says Jerry Chapman, owner of online dealer SolidSignal.com, which ships "thousands of antennas." The downside - and it's a big one - is that antennas can only pick up the broadcast networks, not cable channels like ESPN or HBO.

Still, antenna makers are enjoying a warm reception. Companies like Terrestrial Digital of St. Louis, Winegard of Burlington, Iowa, and Audiovox of Hauppauge, N.Y., are watching sales soar. Terrestrial Digital's sales have doubled annually since its launch in 2003, to \$1.4 million last year, says founder Richard Schneider. The company is "a hobby spiraled out of control," he says, noting that he got his start essentially selling homemade antennas out of the back of his truck. "People thought I was selling drugs," Schneider says. "Nerds were showing up in my driveway." Winegard believes more consumers would embrace antennas if they only knew high-def can be delivered via the anachronism. "Our biggest focus right now is on consumer education," says Aaron Engberg, manager of "off-air" sales.

A corporate clash in televisionland has helped give antenna sales a boost.

The dispute involves cable giant Charter Communications and broadcaster Belo Corp., which owns TV stations in several cities. In January, Belo said that unless Charter agreed to pay extra for the high-def signals Belo provides, it would bar the cable operator from redistributing any HD programming that originates from its stations. In cities like St. Louis, where Belo owns the CBS affiliate, that meant viewers wouldn't get the Super Bowl in high-def as horrifying a prospect to many Bears and Colts fans as running out of beer and chips.

Enter Terrestrial Digital's Schneider, announcing an antenna giveaway in St. Louis. "The best HD for no monthly fee," Terrestrial Digital declared in local radio ads, touting a free antenna for the first 200 customers. "It was bedlam," Schneider told NEWSWEEK. "We had lines stretched around the block." The Super Bowl was - believe it - saved by rabbit ears.

In truth, today's antennas don't much resemble rabbit ears anymore: they're smaller, and much more powerful. One model, called the Bowtie, "almost looks like chicken wire," says Chapman of SolidSignal.com, based in suburban Detroit. Another comes in the shape of a picture frame. But the basic mechanism of the antenna is still the same: it remains "one of the few forms of consumer electronics where there's been little change since the 1960s designs," says Schneider.

He and apparently growing numbers of consumers are convinced that antennas provide the best of high-def pictures. Because high-def signals are exceedingly more plump than standard TV signals and hog the capacity of their pipelines, cable- and satellite-TV operators "compress," or squeeze, them (broadcasters don't have to). There's a wide belief that the forced dieting degrades picture quality. Naturally, someone must pay. Enter Philip Cohen, a Los Angeles lawyer who filed a class-action lawsuit against DirecTV last September. "Let's just say the high-definition isn't what it's claimed to be," Cohen says. DirecTV says the suit is without merit. Cohen says he's aware that high-def can be had with a simple antenna, but because he lives in a hilly area, rabbit ears won't help. May we suggest a rabbit's foot?

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