

Publication: Idaho State; Date: May 16, 2004; Section: news/local; Page: 12



Your hometown

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Sens. Larry Craig and Mike Crapo of Idaho attended a classified Defense Department briefing Wednesday.

The meeting was available to all senators participating in the ongoing investigation of alleged abuse of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

What Craig saw, he found disturbing.

According to a press release, Craig said the United States needs to send the message that it will not tolerate its soldiers violating anyone's rights, even soldiers. He added, Congress should allow the military court martial process to proceed unimpeded.

He also said the incidents of abuse should not be motives for derailing "our mission to bring freedom and prosperity to the people of Iraq."

He added the actions of a few "should not tarnish the reputation of our military or cloud the message that what they are doing is just and right."

Crapo agreed. In a separate release, he urged that criminal investigations of prisoner abuse continue, but stressed they should not deter from the country's goal of fighting for freedom and defeating terrorism.

He also condemned the videotaped execution of American prisoner Nick Berg, who was beheaded in retaliation for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib. Berg's execution was posted Tuesday on an al-Qaida-linked Web site.

"I join all Americans in expressing shock, outrage and a demand for justice in the killing of American Nick Berg," Crapo said.

"All indications point to the fact he was an innocent bystander caught in a savage act aimed to upset fellow Americans, and I join with other senators in seeking swift justice to avenge his murder."

POCATELLO - Randy Hoover of Pocatello and Jack Shurley of Idaho Falls were awarded graduate fellowships in the Idaho State University GK-12 Project for 2004-2005, according to a press release from project coordinators.

Undergraduate fellowships in the project went to Doug Alder and Netty DeGarlais, both of Pocatello, and Thomas Lewis, Idaho Falls.

The project is a National Science Foundation-funded grant based in southeast Idaho that partners with ISU and school districts in Pocatello and Idaho Falls. Other partners in the project are Fort Hall Indian Reservation, Pocatello Zoo and Idaho Museum of Natural History.

GK-12 uses relevant local topics in science, engineering and technology to increase elementary and secondary students' interest and performances in these fields.

Ten graduate students were selected from ISU's engineering, biological science, chemistry and geoscience programs and 14 teacher partners were chosen from local school districts, Pocatello Zoo and Museum of Natural History.

Teacher partnerships were awarded to: Betty de Jong, Pocatello Community Charter School; Mark Edwards, Pocatello High School; Tina Jo Fehringer, Highland High School; Rebecca A. Thorne-Ferrel, Idaho Museum of Natural History; Deborah L. Hobney, Century High School; Bonnie Jakubos, Pocatello Zoo; Markette Kelemente, Highland High; Chris Lenihan, Irving Middle School; Teri Mitton, Highland High; Amy Pike, Pocatello Community Charter School; Leah Potter, Irving Middle School; Eric Rude, Pocatello High; Brenda Scheer, Tendoy Elementary School, Cara Sonnemann, Shoshone-Bannock Junior/Senior High School; Cindy Watts, Pocatello High; Richard Anderson and Curtis Thomas, both of Hillcrest High School, Idaho Falls.

Other graduate fellowships were given to eight ISU students from Minnesota, Colorado, Florida, Ohio, Wisconsin, Moscow and Perrysville, Idaho.

POCATELLO - Debbie Brooks, a senior in English at Idaho State University, recently won the "Ford Swetnam Poetry Prize" for her poem, "Grandma." Dr. Susan Swetnam, ISU English professor and Swetnam's widow, presented a \$100 check to Brooks at the publication reading of the ISU literary magazine Black Rock and Sage, according to a press release.

As a mentor for beginning poets and writers, Swetnam established the poetry prize/contest for undergraduates before he died of cancer in the spring of 2002.

"Ford often said, 'It's nice to see the young folks flourish'," Susan Swetnam said.

In his will, Swetnam left provisions for the award, including a list of possible judges. This year Dr. Michael Sowder, former ISU English faculty member, chose the winner.

Brooks is the third recipient of the award, given each year in the spring.

She returned to school after raising two sons and is studying toward a bachelor's degree in English with an emphasis in creative writing. She has published many poems and is currently writing fiction.

Brooks wrote the award-winning poem in honor of her grandmother, "a little Hungarian woman who had little more than her own appreciation of finer things."