

# Sights and Sounds

By Pat Spanjer

## Fiddler's Dream

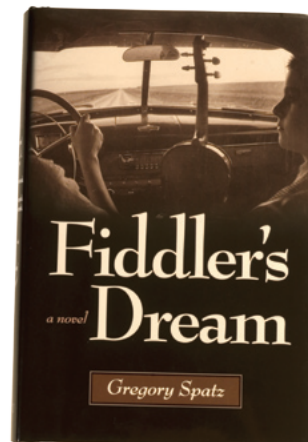
By **Gregory Spatz** (EWU Associate Professor of English/Creative Writing in the Inland Northwest Center for Writers, EWU's Center of Excellence Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing), Southern Methodist University Press

Summarizing Gregory Spatz's second novel, *Fiddler's Dream*, is like describing the city of Nashville – it's all about the music, everywhere you go, everything you see and everything you hear.

An accomplished fiddler and member of critically acclaimed bluegrass band, John Reischman and the Jaybirds, Spatz cleverly and artistically intertwines his two passions – music and writing – to tell the fictional story of Jesse Alison, a young man whose natural gift and longing to reunite with his musician father drive him from home in Vermont to the bluegrass mecca, Nashville. Jesse makes connections with musicians he hopes will lead him to an audition with his idol, bluegrass king Bill Monroe, and an overdue reconciliation with the man who walked out on him and his mother.

"The book is mainly about playing music, which is what kept drawing me back to writing it, to talking about it, in a strong narrative," says Spatz, who, as a younger man, lived in Nashville a couple months "in between things," several years before coming to teach at Eastern. Like Jesse, Spatz "met interesting people and played music" there.

Treat your senses: Sit back, relax and listen to John Reischman and the Jaybirds' latest CD, *The Road West*, while you read *Fiddler's Dream*. (Listen to an NPR review of *Fiddler's Dream*, <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5587591>; read more about it, <http://www.tamu.edu/upress/BOOKS/2006/spatz.htm>; learn more about John Reischman and the Jaybirds, <http://www.johnreischman.com>)



## Under a Raging Moon

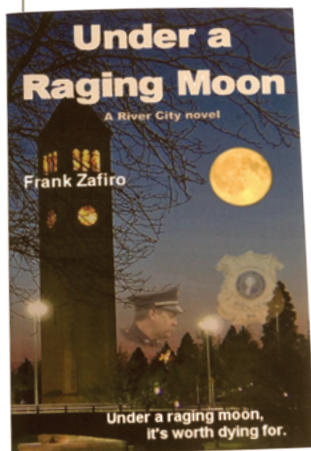
By **Frank Zafiro (Scalise)** ('98, BA history), Wolfmont Publishing

Picture an armed robber knocking off convenience stores in Spokane and police in pursuit on Division, Regal, Washington, Riverside and 29th. Spokane author Frank Scalise, writing under the pen name of Frank Zafiro, has published his first novel, *Under a Raging Moon*, set in a fictional Spokane known as River City.

It's not all cops and robbers. Written in the classic crime novel style (complete with cop lingo, firearm descriptions and forensic details to keep the reader hooked), Zafiro – an experienced Spokane police patrol officer, corporal, detective and sergeant – lets his readers peer into his characters' private lives, examining relationships strained by late-night patrols, shop politics and the inherent dangers of law enforcement.

"I tried to humanize the characters with realistic problems," says Scalise. "I wanted to accomplish two things with this book. I wanted to show the human nobility of cops, that they are human with noble goals, that they're not perfect, they're there for the right reasons, and that they make mistakes, but not maliciously. I also wanted to show that good guys (and gals) usually win, but not always, and not without a price."

*Under a Raging Moon* is the first in a series that will feature recurring characters and overlapping story lines. (<http://frankzafiro.com>)



## On the Trail of the Ice Age Floods: A geological field guide to the Mid-Columbia Basin

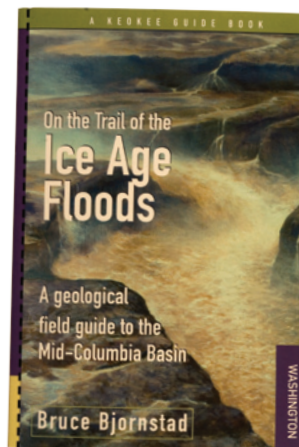
By **Bruce Bjornstad** ('80, MS geology), Keokee Books

Who hasn't driven through the Palouse and Columbia Basin and wondered, how did that gigantic boulder get there? In this easy-to-understand, illustrated guidebook, Bruce Bjornstad – a licensed geologist/hydrogeologist in Washington and Oregon who has studied the Ice Age floods and explored every corner of the Pacific Northwest since 1980 – leads readers on a descriptive adventure of the landforms created in this region during the last Ice Age, which ended about 15,000 years ago.

The first section of the book is an introduction to the floods and a primer on identifying flood features. Area residents and frequent travelers through the region will be fascinated to learn how well-known features and overlooks such as Wallula Gap and Saddle Mountains were formed. For ease in understanding, he divided this section into four specific geographic regions of eastern Washington: Palouse-Snake River, Othello-Quincy Basins, Pasco-Lower Yakima Basins and Wallula Gap-Walla Walla Basin.

Part II of the book provides trail and tour descriptions and maps for readers to follow as they get out and discover the region's unique geology on foot or by car, bike or aircraft. This guide is deserving of a place in the glove box, right next to the state map and proof of insurance.

(<http://www.keokeebooks.com/IceAgeFloods.html>)



If you are an Eastern or Cheney Normal School alum or faculty member and have written a general interest book or have a music CD on the market (no self-published works, please) and would like to have it considered for inclusion in *Eastern* magazine's Sights and Sounds section, please send it (along with your contact information) to: *Eastern* Magazine, 300 Showalter Hall, Cheney, WA 99004-2445.