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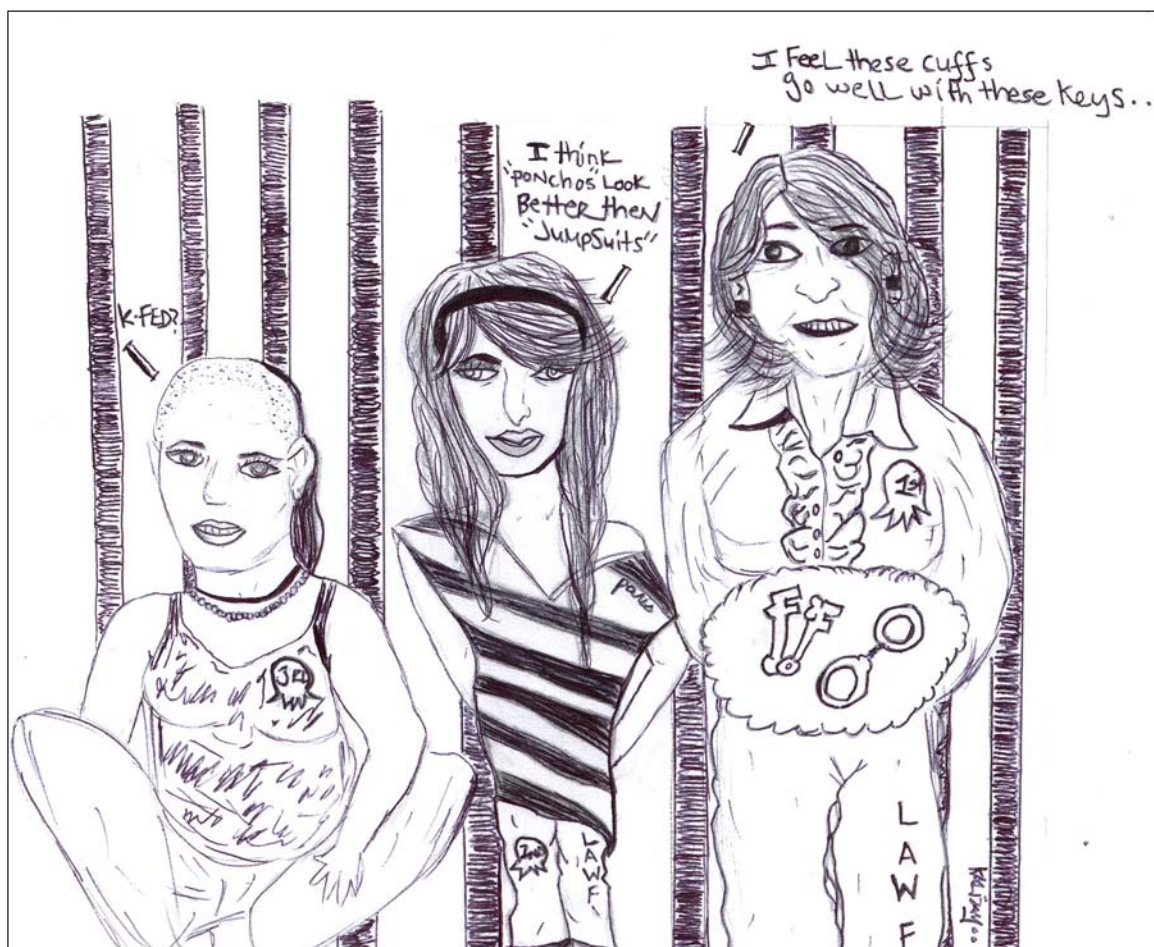


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OPINION

# GOP Sen. Craig gestures his way out of politics

By **BARRY KEARNS**  
Staff writer

Sen. Larry Craig has announced that he is stepping down from the Senate, and no one seems all that surprised. From an inappropriate pass made to an undercover cop in Minneapolis to the end of a political career, everything about this scandal feels like something we've seen before: the well-timed surrender before this matter goes any further.

The tactic seems to be a sound one - when things get hot and we ask questions you don't want to answer, quit your job and we'll cut you some slack. Some of us may now be more aware of where our feet are in public restrooms, but the parade of denials

that then changed to a resignation seems to be a common move for someone who decides to quit while still ahead. Craig had a last-minute change of heart about resigning, but the GOP is against it.

Craig had been in politics for more than 25 years and was on his way to a fourth term as a senator before the restroom incident. Less than a week after the article regarding the arrest appeared in the *Idaho Statesman*, he announced his resignation.

A major factor in Craig's decision is the lack of support, and in some cases outright condemnation, from his Republican peers, notably from Sen. John McCain and Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who referred to the matter as

disgusting.

Perhaps in another time, when the GOP was in better shape, he could have found some more support. But, with a critical eye cast to the right wing, it's a chance they can't afford to take.

So what does this boil down to? A Republican senator noted for backing anti-gay legislation was caught in a public restroom making gestures that could be construed as an invitation for gay sex. He decided to plead guilty to disorderly conduct in the hope that the matter would go away.

Of course, it didn't and, despite the initial denials and his diatribe against the press, he's quitting politics.

The signals that Craig gave to

the police officer seem innocuous to the uninitiated, but were specific enough to warrant his arrest. That's the point of these signals; they can easily be refuted by the sender. Even in the world of anonymous hook-ups, there's a place for plausible deniability.

Craig's resignation could be viewed as him saying uncle before any other details could come to light. He'll leave politics claiming that he can't change the way that people think and will try his best to avoid any attention in the future.

At this point, it would seem distasteful to look further into his career or his private life, but this is the life of someone who has served as a senator for almost three full terms. This is a position of incred-

ible power as someone who makes decisions not only for the state of Idaho, but for our nation. His views and judgments affect our everyday lives and our personal freedoms.

Craig was elected numerous times by people who felt confident that he could make decisions based on our best interests. Now he's decided that when it comes to his personal indiscretions, it's too close to home and that abdicating his role in the senate is a worthy sacrifice to buy some breathing space.

It begs the question, what is he getting away with? That's the question that we won't get the answer to. Craig pled guilty to make the charge go away and the Republicans have pushed him to resign in the hopes that he will, too.

# Celebrities: still innocent, even if proven guilty

By **ELISE LEON**  
Staff writer

I'm pretty sure we are all basically thinking "What's going on with the judicial system?" when watching the news about Lindsay Lohan, Paris Hilton and other celebrities getting special treatment

for the crimes they commit.

I truly do not comprehend how these bimbos who can't even keep a script rolling can get away with acts that an average citizen would easily do three months for. It is ridiculous how much influence they have on society and the way we feel about our clothes, make-up, hair, bodies and now our "unbiased" legal system.

While Nicole Richie was driving under the influence of heroin, she called the police in hysterics saying that everyone on the 134 freeway was driving in the wrong direction. She was arrested and sentenced to four days in jail.

Shockingly, she served 82 minutes. According to [www.realitytvworld.com](http://www.realitytvworld.com) the sheriff's department stated, "Under a fed-

eral court mandate to manage jail overcrowding, arrestees sentenced to 30 days or less for a nonviolent offense are usually released within 12 hours."

Next, Paris Hilton was sentenced to 45 days in jail for driving under the influence of alcohol (her blood-alcohol level was .08) and with a suspended license. She only served five days, thanks to a brainless

sheriff buying the excuse of her claustrophobia.

Thankfully, the judge didn't buy it, and the police arrested her at her Hollywood home. The judge sent her back to jail and all anyone could really remember was Hilton yelling, "Mother!"

She finished her sentence on June 27, only serving 23 days in

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## CAMPUS COMMENT >>> Which celebrity would you like to lock up ?



**CHRIS CLIFTON**  
English

"Nicholas Cage. Haven't you seen 'Gone in 60 Seconds?'"



**FRANCINE DULIN**  
Bioscience

"Paris Hilton. She never learned her lesson and got out too early."



**KEN STEADMAN**  
Chemical engineering

"George Bush."



**BRANDON MONLUX**  
Respiratory therapy

"Lindsay Lohan, because it's unsafe to drive with her."



**MELODY SESMA**  
Psychology

"Britney Spears; why not?"