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The Vandal Voice for 110 Years

Friday, January 30, 2009

Program Prioritization Process



Kate Kucharzyk/Argonaut

Fans hold up signs with a message supporting the University of Idaho physics department at the basketball game against Boise State University Thursday.

Physics phase-out

Undergraduate physics program one possible cut

Christina Lords
Argonaut

Editor's note: There are 41 programs that could possibly be cut from the University of Idaho come April. This story is the first in a series of how those proposed cuts, determined by Program Prioritization Process, would affect the UI campus on a college-by-college level. Look for next week's installment on how the PPP is affecting the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences.

"I don't know how they could cut physics from the College of Science and still be the College of Science."

Alex
NATALE
senior physics major

Alex Natale can't believe the rumors are true.

Natale, a senior physics major, heard from classmates the University of Idaho might be cutting its undergraduate physics program. The next day in class, his professors confirmed his disbelief.

"I thought it was ridiculous," he said. "I don't know how they

could cut physics from the College of Science and still be the College of Science. It's a core science."

The bachelor of arts and bachelor of science physics programs may be cut as a result of the university's Program Prioritization Process. The PPP is a part of the University of Idaho's Strategic Action Plan — a long series of decisions affecting the university's future that was implemented in 2005. Interim President Steven Daley-Laursen said the PPP is an effort to increase the overall financial and academic efficiency of the university. The Provost's Council oversees the PPP.

College of Science Dean Scott Wood said he recognizes the physics cuts detailed by PPP are not without controversy, but he said he hopes the cuts made in the undergraduate program will lead to a more focused and viable graduate program.

"Current faculty and staff are disagreeing with the recommendations," he said. "There is some controversy there."

The possible loss of upper division courses will allow more time for faculty to focus on graduate work, Wood said. Currently, UI has 57 physics majors.

"We want (faculty) to focus on research," he said. "We think they should be drawn to that."

Wood said the university's efforts to focus on research would help retain quality faculty members if the proposed cuts were to be carried out.

"I don't think we'll see a mass exodus," he said.

But Natale isn't so sure. He and other physics students are concerned with the quality of education they would get if cuts were made, especially for the undergrads and future students, he said. If the physics upper division courses were cut, Natale said he worries about professors having enough incentive to stay at UI.

If the physics faculty is more consumed with research, he fears graduate students may

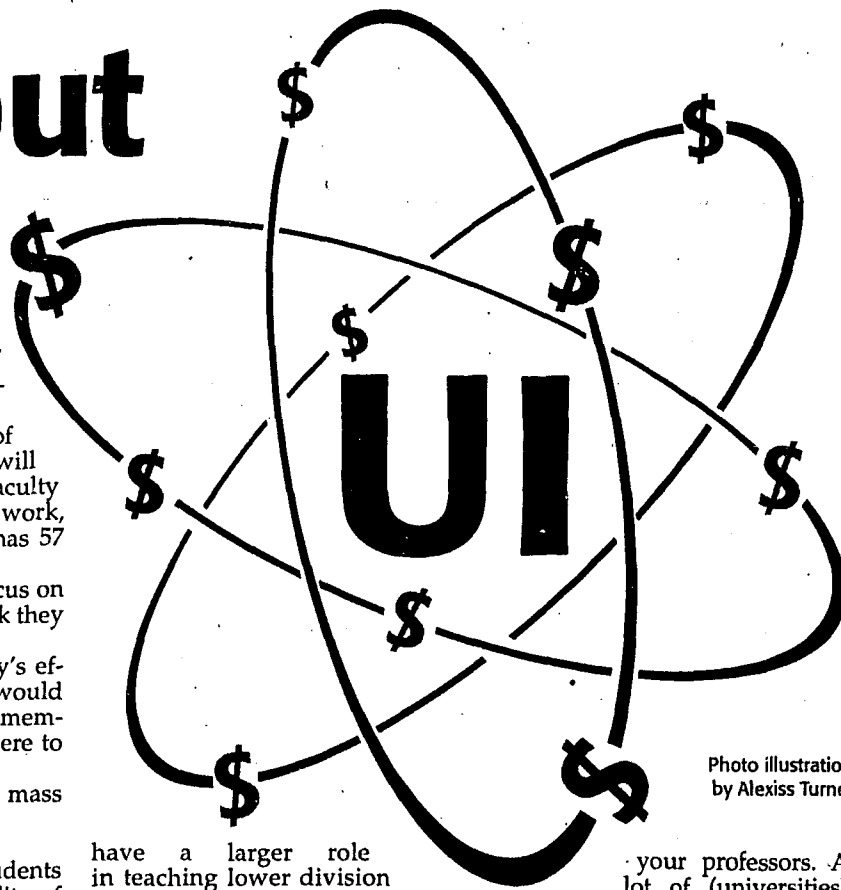


Photo illustration by Alexis Turner

have a larger role in teaching lower division courses, he said.

"We want (incoming students) education to be pretty good, too," Natale said.

He stressed the importance of maintaining the current level of student-faculty interaction and available lab work for undergraduates in the physics department.

"You learn the same things wherever you go," he said. "It all depends on how well you know

your professors. A lot of (universities) don't get that time with their professors and don't get the time to do that lab work."

The master of natural science degree and master of arts in teaching degrees in chemistry, earth science, geography and physics are graduate programs that may also be cut from the College of Science.

See **SCIENCE**, page 5

UI announces presidential candidates

Lianna Shepherd
Argonaut

The Idaho State Board of Education has announced five possible candidates to take over the position of president at the University of Idaho — two of which will soon come to the Moscow campus.

Kansas State University Provost Duane Nellis and Montana State University Provost David Dooley are two of the candidates visiting the university. Nellis will arrive Monday, and Dooley will be on campus Feb. 9.

"This search process attracted an exceptionally strong field of candidates," said Regent and committee co-chair Sue Thilo in a written statement. "Our com-

mittee was very impressed by everyone we interviewed."

Fellow co-chair and Regent Paul Agidius added in the same statement, "I'm anxious for these two finalists to visit the campus. They bring a very impressive skill set with them."

The other three finalists include California State University — Stanislaus President Ham Shirvani, former Colorado State University President



David Dooley

Larry Penley and UI College of Law Dean Don Burnett, said board spokesman Mark Browning. Only Nellis and Dooley are scheduled to visit the campus at this time.

"It's important to note that they aren't coming for an interview," Browning said. "They are coming to see the campus and interact with its community."

The search committee was formed last June after former President Tim White left after four years at UI to serve as chancellor at the University of California-Riverside. Since then, Interim President Steven Daley-Laursen has filled the position.

ASUI President Garrett Holbrook, a member of the search committee, said he was excited to hear what the nominees have

to say during their visits and hopes the university community is pleased with the choices.

"We were looking for someone with a well rounded background," Holbrook said. "This is a massive land grant institution, and it was important to us that all our candidates understand what that entails."

Holbrook said it was important to him the candidates were well



Duane Nellis

See **PRESIDENT**, page 5

Idaho spring numbers up

Alexiss Turner
Argonaut

Enrollment numbers released each semester on the 10th day of classes show spring enrollment is up 1 percent.

Steve Neihsel, assistant vice president for enrollment management, said University of Idaho enrollment has increased by 2 percent statewide to 11,192 students. There are 10,048 enrolled on the Moscow campus.

He said both increases are attributed to a combination of improved retention, increased student continuation and new students.

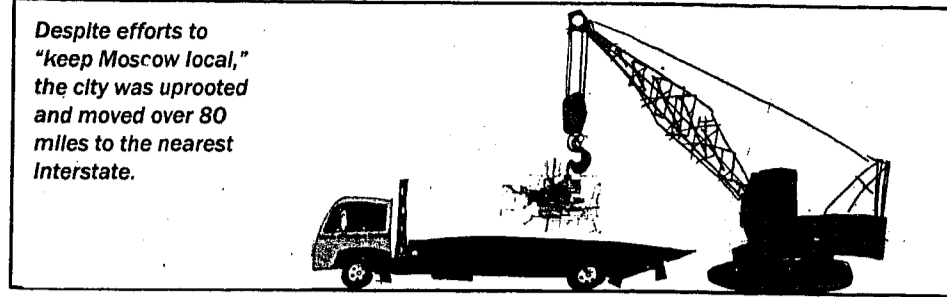
See **NUMBERS**, page 5

PeopleWeKnow

K. Ray Johnson/Argonaut

Percy the Barbarian

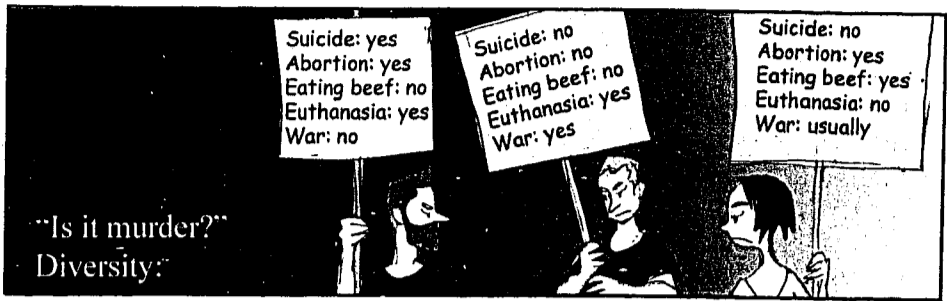
Stasia Burrington/Argonaut



Despite efforts to "keep Moscow local," the city was uprooted and moved over 80 miles to the nearest Interstate.



UM, I HEARD YOU MADE THE FOOTBALL TEAM...
YUP!
I GUESS I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW FIT YOU WERE...
HRMPH.
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD HELP ME.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THIS?



"Is it murder?"
Diversity:



SO YOU'RE ASKING ME TO BE YOUR PERSONAL TRAINER? YOU COULD SAY THAT...
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CampusPROFILE

Jill Smith

Panhellenic Council President



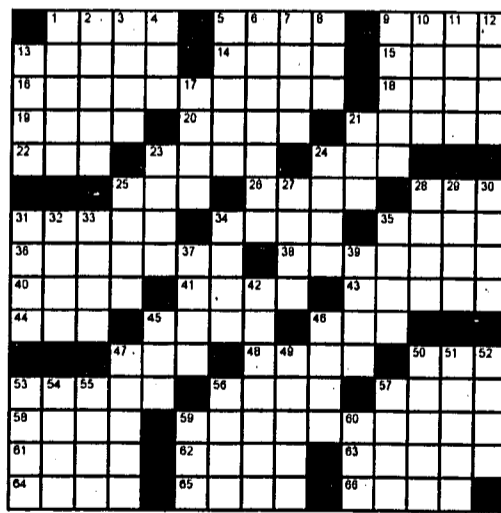
Photo by Jake Barber

What are you most looking forward to this semester: Building Greek relations and networking with students.
What change from last semester are you most proud of: Seeing students work towards the changes they want.
Is anything stressing you out: Not right now. I try to not stress and be carefree. I go with the flow!
One word to describe your self: Delicious!!!
Your favorite class: Advertising classes (with Mark Seavist)
Dream Vacation: Backpack and Rafting Adventure in South America.
Favorite band: Beyoncé and all the SINGLE LADIES!
Fondest Memory: Laughing. I cherish all moments especially at where I couldn't keep from laughing the dinner table.
What would you do with a million dollars: Build a beauty camp for girls in the Idaho mountains.
Best advice you have ever received: Always give 100% of yourself. If in the end you've failed - at least you gave it your ALL. (Thanks Mom & Dad)

Crossword

Across

- 1 Renown
- 5 Golden rule word
- 9 Con game
- 13 Log home
- 14 Page
- 15 Cherish
- 16 Teenager
- 18 Domain
- 19 Benefit
- 20 Kennedy and Turner
- 21 Tangle
- 22 Time zone
- 23 Breakers
- 24 Beer barrel
- 25 Rudyard Kipling's Gunga
- 26 Condo, e.g.
- 28 Hubbub
- 31 Discover
- 34 Current
- 35 Sluggish
- 36 Criminal
- 38 Wildcat's concern
- 40 Deli side dish
- 41 Legume
- 43 Kilns
- 44 French possessive
- 45 Toe holders
- 46 Bunk
- 47 Bouncer
- 48 Not this
- 50 Amigo
- 53 Music group, at time
- 56 Old autos
- 57 East of Eden director Kazan
- 58 Golf club
- 59 Carnival attraction
- 61 Bunsen burner
- 62 Ready for picking
- 63 Zodiac sign
- 64 Clairvoyant
- 65 Social insects
- 66 Grubstake

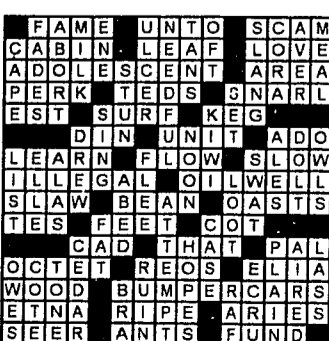


- 11 Profess
- 12 Repast
- 13 Fear or Horn
- 17 Bowl over
- 21 Arrange
- 23 Harmonize
- 24 Fuzzy fruit
- 25 Sketched
- 27 Midday
- 28 Brews
- 29 Buffoon
- 30 Night fliers
- 31 Enumerate
- 32 Model
- 33 Minceperson
- 33 Wistful word
- 34 Take to the hills
- 35 Kill a fly
- 37 Retired
- 39 Booty
- 42 Try
- 45 Blubber
- 46 Detective's assignment
- 47 Fragrant wood
- 49 Aspirations
- 50 Garden-variety
- 51 Broadcast
- 52 Colleen
- 53 Has debts
- 54 Pigeon's home
- 55 Sound quality
- 56 Destroy
- 57 Beige
- 59 Lingerie item
- 60 Brit. fliers

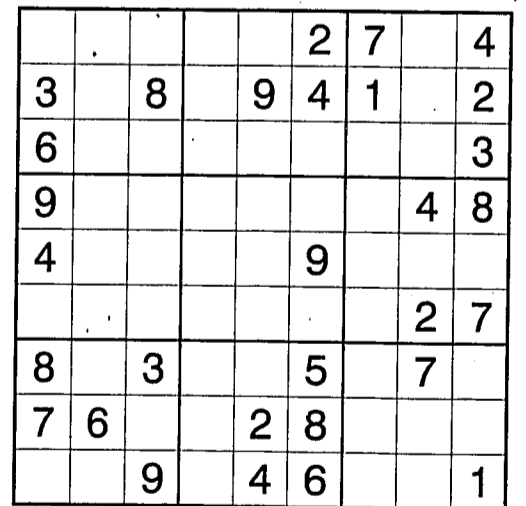
Down

- 1 Withers
- 2 Cancel
- 3 Cow juice
- 4 Compass pt.
- 5 Gastric woe
- 6 Stephen King's Things
- 7 Sunburns
- 8 Frequently, in verse
- 9 Language type
- 10 Actress
- 11 Witherspoon

Solutions

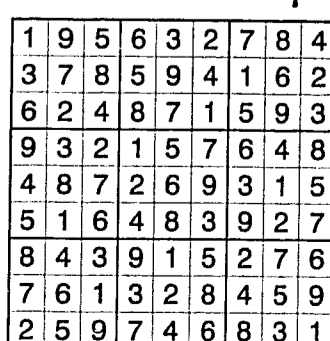


Sudoku



Corrections

In Tuesday's issue of The Argonaut, the "Parents petition for family leave," article cited Rebecca Payne as a single mother. She is married. Also, in the online version of The Argonaut, Joseph Zeller was cited as the dean of the College of Letters Arts and Social Sciences. The dean is Kathy Aiken. The Argonaut apologizes for any confusion.



CAMPUS CRIME

Annual report still incomplete

Reid Wright
Argonaut

It began with Jeanne Clery, a 19-year-old University of Lehigh freshman who was raped and murdered while sleeping in her campus dorm room in 1986.

Further investigation by her parents revealed Lehigh students had not been told about 38 violent crimes committed on the campus in the three years before Clery's death.

The federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act was signed in 1990 and officially named after her in 1998. It requires universities to publish crime statistics related to its students annually.

The University of Idaho released its annual Clery report for 2007 school year on Jan. 20, which showed overall crime on campus was increasing but still comparatively low. But officials involved with campus crime say the numbers in the report are ambiguous and not representative of the actual crimes committed on campus. With some crimes — such as sexual assault — the Clery report may only scratch the surface.

"The spirit of the Clery (act) was good," said Valerie Russo, program director of violence prevention programs. "But the mechanics do not give an accurate picture of campus crime."

Lt. David Lehmitz of the Moscow Police Department campus division said comparing the amount of crimes reported to crimes that actually occurred was like "comparing apples to oranges."

"What (the Clery statistics) really represent," Nancy Spink, risk management officer at UI said, "is a snapshot of numbers of incident's reported."

Spink said the statistics were compiled from crimes reported to UI and MPD involving UI students. She and Lehmitz both agree to that extent they are accurate.

Lehmitz said the most commonly unreported crimes were domestic violence and sexual assaults.

"(Sexual assaults are) probably the no. 1 most unreported crime in the nation," he said.

The UI Clery report said there were four reported sexual assaults in 2007, up from none in 2005. Russo estimates the amount of sexual assaults that actually occur annually at UI is more like 250.

She said she thinks the rate of sexual assaults at UI was about one in four women, or about 25 percent, which she said is fairly consistent with most other universities.

However, Russo emphasizes it is almost impossible to determine how many actually occur since victims are often reluctant to come forward, and if they do, they often seek help in places they can remain anonymous, such as the UI Counseling

and Testing Center or Alternatives to Violence on the Palouse.

Don Lazzarini, program coordinator at UI violence prevention and former detective, said it is also difficult to determine the number of sexual assaults because sometimes possible victims will come to violence prevention and only say "something happened," which is usually all the information needed to refer them to counseling. Thus it is uncertain if the student was actually assaulted.

Russo and Lazzarini said they believe there are a handful of repeat offenders or serial rapists on campus who are accountable for most of the attacks.

Lazzarini said perpetrators of sexual assault often gain the trust of victims by creating the illusion that the victim is in control. For example, he said a girl will push a perpetrator's hand away when he is making advancements at a party, and he will comply, but once the two of them are alone, everything changes.

"Up to that point, he has led her to believe that her words have control of the situation," Lazzarini said. "Behind closed doors, that is no longer the case."

Sexual assault or rape victims often don't come forward because they are ashamed of what happened — often blaming themselves, Russo said.

"If we're doing our jobs," Lazzarini said, "students would become aware that it's not their fault and come forward, and we would be able to catch these guys."

He encourages victims to seek help, regardless of how long ago the assault happened, saying suppressed traumatic stress can re-surface — triggered by something as simple as a certain song or smell.

"It's a minefield to try and navigate on your own," he said.

Hate crimes are also misrepresented by the numbers. There were no hate crimes reported on the UI Clery report for 2005-07.

Lehmitz said a February 2008 incident in which a UI employee discovered a noose drawn on her white board with the word "lynch" written below was classified as a potential hate crime because of her race.

However, a September 2008 incident in which an openly gay UI student found the words "Faggot. F_ing kill you" written on the marker-board of his dorm room door, will not likely show up on the report because it does not meet the definition of a hate crime, Lehmitz said.

According to Idaho statute 18-7902, "It shall be unlawful for any person, maliciously and with the specific intent to intimidate or harass another person because of that person's race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin."

"What happened to him," Lehmitz said, "is not considered malicious harassment

Offense:	On Campus Property			**Residential Facilities			Public Property		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Murder / Non - Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offense, Forcible	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses, Non-Forcible	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	0	2	1	1	1	7	2	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Law Arrests	11	22	7	11	16	5	17	12	51
Liquor Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	69	86	96	63	85	95	1	0	3
Drug Law Arrests	11	14	0	14	5	20	3	1	6
Drug Law Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	8	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession Arrests	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illegal Weapons Possession Violations Referred for Disciplinary Action	1	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0

Hate Crimes: No hate crimes reported for 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Image Courtesy of the University of Idaho/Photo Illustration by Jake Barber/Argonaut

or a hate crime because (the law) does not specifically talk about sexual orientation."

Further, just because the rates of arrests and citations are increasing does not necessarily mean crime is increasing. It can also be an indication of enforcement levels.

In 2005, the MPD was lacking in manpower, Lehmitz said. Because of this, the department was not able to write as many alcohol citations. The UI Clery report states 69 liquor disciplinary referrals were made in 2005, compared to 86 in 2006 and 96 in 2007.

Crackdowns can also affect arrest and citation rates.

Lehmitz said the Moscow Police Department recently joined the Quad-Cities Drug Task Force.

"You're going to see a rise (in numbers) in 2008, because I know for a fact there were more than five drug arrests made," he said.

An effort has been made to encourage students to report crimes.

"What I've been seeing is more of an awareness," Lehmitz said. "I'm not so sure crime is necessarily increasing. I think people are more aware, and we've taken great efforts to try and get people to come forward and report. So, I think you're going to see more reports, but I don't believe crime is necessarily increasing."

Lehmitz said the MPD has been educating faculty and students on how to recognize and report certain crimes.

"We're trying to build that relationship ... for people to come forward," he said.

He said starting at the beginning of last year, officers also began visiting Greek houses and living groups to give talks about local laws and repercussions of violations and hold question-and-answer sessions.

"I tell them at the very beginning," Lehmitz said, "I don't lie to you. I will tell you exactly how the Moscow Police Department will handle this ... That usually gets the ball rolling ... and I've been at various fraternities for up to two hours."

Lehmitz said he believes these sessions have established more trust between the UI Greek system and the MPD, encouraging them to come forward and report more crimes. He said previously the relationship had been somewhat "adversarial."

"I'll have members of a (Greek) house call me and ask me 'Hey, this is what happened, what should we do?'" he said.

Similarly, Russo and Lazzarini said they are trying to educate students about sexual assault.

"We need to hold offenders accountable," Russo

said. "We need to have a more open conversation as a community."

She said preventing sexual assault relies mostly on men, who are most likely to be the perpetrator.

"When we think about prevention," she said, "we think about the offender ... That's why we look at the men on campus."

Lazzarini is adviser to Brotherhood Empowerment Against Rape, a student organization that strives to end male violence.

He said most men say they are against rape but will throw parties and provide free alcohol to women, setting up a situation that enables a rapist.

"It's not what we say, but what we do that prevents rape," Lazzarini said.

Overall, Lehmitz said he thinks UI is safe compared to other universities of similar size and setting.

"This is not a violent campus, I think everyone will agree with that," Lehmitz said. "By and large, I think the University of Idaho is a very safe campus."

"I think people are safer on campus than behind closed doors at a party," Russo said. She said she and Lazzarini are determined to impact violence on campus.

"We've got our sleeves rolled up," she said. "It's not about the money ... it's a passion."

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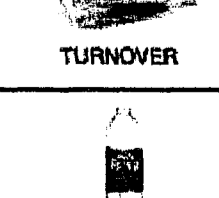
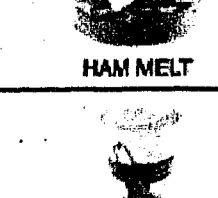


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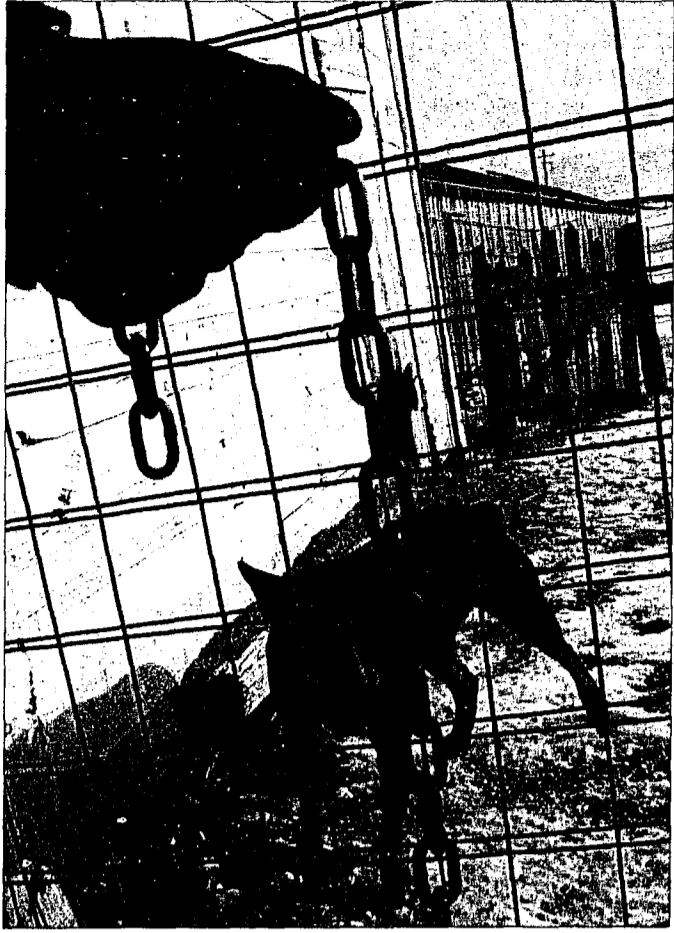


Photo Illustration by Jake Barber/Argonaut
Stop Torturing Our Pets, an advocacy group created to increase awareness of animal cruelty, is fighting for a bill that would allow felony charges for the third offense of animal cruelty.

Consequence of cruelty

Alexiss Turner
Argonaut

There are 1,000 reported cases in Idaho each year of animal abuse. One woman, Virginia Hemingway, has set out to reduce the number.

Hemingway is president of Stop Torturing Our Pets, an advocacy group she created to increase awareness of animal cruelty. Her current mission is to add a bill into Idaho legislation to allow felony charges for repeat offenders.

Current legislation is separated by terms for the first, second and third offense. The maximum a person can be charged for a third offense is a fine ranging from \$500 to \$9,000,000 in addition to or in place of no more than 12 months in prison. A third offense must be committed within 15 years of the first conviction.

"It's a slap on the wrist," Hemingway said.

The bill STOP members are fighting for would allow felony charges upon the third offense. There is no timeline as to when the bill could be accepted.

Jeff Rosenthal, executive director of the Idaho Humane Society Veterinary

Hospital and supporter of the bill, has seen animals shot with arrows, poisoned and even set on fire.

The clinic serves one-fourth of the state and deals with more cases of cruelty than any other facility.

More than 400 cats were found in nine run-down mobile homes used as an animal sanctuary in Bonner County in 2006. The same year, 100 cats were found in a Twin Falls sanctuary.

"It's not an act of negligence," he said. "It's a real drive for some sick purpose to make something suffer. Society has a good reason for wanting people punished."

Since it was created two years ago, STOP has grown to about 1,000 members, all of whom reside in Idaho. Rosenthal said STOP's local roots are favorable in the eyes of Idaho Legislature. STOP is not affiliated with a national organization. He said national affiliation is often a "kiss of death" for groups looking to have legislation passed.

Rep. Tom Trail has been an advocate of increased animal cruelty legislation for four years. He said Idaho is ranked low among other states as far as updating its cruelty laws and stands be-

hind STOP's bill. Trail said a higher penalty would discourage acts of cruelty.

"(The bill) would send out a much stronger message," he said. "If you're going to be cruel to animals, there are heavy consequences."

Hemingway said most people are unaware of how prevalent animal cruelty is.

"They are appalled," she said.

A bill was passed early last year to apply felony charges in cases involving illegal dog fighting. Hemingway said most confuse this for legislation that is all-encompassing of animal cruelty. That is not the case, she said.

According to Idaho Supreme Court records, 406 convictions have been made in animal cruelty cases in the last three years. Trail said 80 of the cases were out of Kootenai County, north of Moscow. Rosenthal said most counties don't have shelters, which is where cases of negligence occur most frequently, an act also punishable under Idaho law.

"People are irresponsible," he said. "They don't mean to starve animals, they're just lazy ... It's rare to be sadistic."

Program changes inevitable

Erin Harty
Argonaut

Editors note: The following story is part two in a two-part series on cuts being made on the ceramics program.

University of Idaho students may need to start crossing state lines, not to go to a casino or find a bowling alley, but to take a ceramics course from Washington State University.

UI's College of Art and Architecture made a decision to remove ceramics from the Art and Design curriculum for the 2009-10 school year. Students wanting to pursue the craft will have to go elsewhere.

The Art and Design department has undergone some strategic planning and determined they don't have the faculty line to continue the ceramics program.

Mark Hoversten, dean of the College of Art and Architecture, said UI hasn't had the faculty for the ceramics program for several years now. He said the decision to cut courses is a long process and is never easy.

"We are all going to realize we can't be all things to all people," Hoversten said.

Hoversten said the university is seeing some changes and the CAA is dedicated to maintaining its accreditation in all departments and to the strategic planning process. He said he hopes this will focus the department and emphasize its areas of strength.

"Like all departments and colleges on campus we are faced with budget hold-backs," Hoversten said. "Those will have impacts. We are working hard to see what they will be and how we will deal with them."

Portland State University, one in a line of universities to cut its ceramics department, eliminated its program more than five years ago.

Clea Ball, office coordinator for the art department at PSU, said they have not seen a significant change in the schools in-

terdisciplinary art program since the cuts. "We occasionally get calls asking if we have it (ceramics)," Ball said, "but people seem to be doing okay without it."

Hoversten, who is a strong supporter of the arts, said he realizes there are a lot of disadvantages to cutting a program like this one, but it is difficult to say what the future affects will be at this time.

UI students who want to begin or continue classes in ceramics always have the option of applying at WSU to take classes.

Ann Christiansen, WSU ceramics instructor, said their program is doing well and all three sections are full each semester. Christiansen said they don't currently offer reciprocity or conjoined classes for UI students, but no one has ever asked.

UI has not made any plans to coordinate reciprocity credits in ceramics through

WSU, but is not dismissing the idea. "(Reciprocity) is probably a good idea," Hoversten said. "It is something I am willing to look at."

In the last three years, UI's art and design program has seen considerable growth, a 20 percent increase in enrollment.

The CAA is building on its strongest programs and will move forward with plans to build an interdisciplinary studio complex. The complex is being funded through private donations that Hoversten said will emphasize the studio learning process with all AA students.

The complex will be built with regenerative design — simple materials intended to make the complex energy efficient, issue low carbon emission and incorporate a lot of day lighting. Construction is expected to begin sometime next year.

Hoversten said he will know more about further changes in the CAA as the spring semester unfolds and will then make an official announcement to students and staff.

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campus
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This week: Bruce Pitman

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ECLECTIC ENTERTAINMENT



Jake Barber/Argonaut
The Seattle-based band, Eclectic Approach, performs in the Student Union Building Ballroom Thursday. The band describes their sound as hip-hop, rock and funk.

UI retiree lawsuit in 'discovery stage'

Greg Connolly
Argonaut

A hearing will take place in July for the class action lawsuit filed against the University of Idaho by several retired employees.

What started off as four employees suing the university for a breach of contract has turned into a class action lawsuit involving 255 UI retirees.

The retirees are suing UI because of a 2007 announcement medical benefits previously held by retirees would no longer be available unless a monthly premium was paid after a change of policy said attorney Ron Landeck. He is representing the retirees who are suing.

Each retiree involved in the lawsuit retired early when the univer-

sity asked them to on two different occasions. Some of the members of the lawsuit retired in 1999 and others retired in 2003.

"The university has the same right to adjust benefits and premiums in its plans for those who retire at normal retirement age and for those who took early retirement," said Joni Kirk, associate director of university communications and marketing.

Landeck disagrees, citing a clause in the contract that said nothing can be modified unless all parties agree in writing.

"These people gave up their jobs since the university promised certain things to them," Landeck said. "As a group, these people are upset that the university has renege on the contract."

The 1999 group of retirees were part of a program called ERIP, or the Early Retirement Incentive Program. The 2003 batch were a part of VSROP, or the Voluntary Separation and Retirement Opportunities Program.

Members of both groups were compensated following the agreement with the university, and each retiree signed a contract that promised all "benefits earned" at the time the contract was signed, Landeck said.

This means the university is obligated to provide all benefits that had been earned at the time of the employee's retirement, he said.

The 2007 update to the contracts said employees must pay a monthly premium or lose the benefits. If the premium isn't paid, employees lose their

health insurance. The contract also guaranteed a life insurance policy equal to the employee's salary up to \$75,000, where it capped. The 2007 revision to the contract changes the cap to \$10,000.

A summary judgment is set for July. Each party will hand in all relevant documentation for the court to review ahead of time, and on the actual day of the hearing, both sides are given a chance to make an argument to the court before they make a ruling assuming there aren't any issues that need to be resolved beforehand.

In addition to restoring the benefits, the lawsuit also aims to get the money retirees paid in premiums given back to them.

The university hired Portland attorney, Bruce Rubin, to represent itself.

Co-ed dorm veto stirs conversation

Sarah Yama
Argonaut

Opposite sex dorm rooms will have no place on the University of Idaho's campus after a decision announced by Interim President Steven Daley-Laursen.

The plan for co-ed dorm suites was declined by the UI president.

"While the suites offer private and secure sleeping accommodations, they also feature a shared, secure bathroom space, which I am not comfortable offering to students of opposite gender," Daley-Laursen said in a statement. "Consequently, I have ordered the discontinuation of the plan to offer these accommodations at the University of Idaho."

Shortly after announcing his decision, groups across Idaho began expressing their support.

"The concerns the president heard were not the bathrooms but rather fostering an environment that is not appropriate," said Bryan Fischer, executive director of the Idaho Values Alliance. "The administration has an obligation to keep students as safe and as protected as possible."

The bathroom situation wasn't the concern for some groups, but rather the ideological issues connected with premarital sex and the fear that co-ed dorms would encourage the behavior.

"The issue here is opposite sex couples sharing living quarters and bathrooms. It creates an inappropriate and risky environment," Fischer said.

Fischer said when one considers the spike in sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia, the increase in out-of-wedlock

births and the instances of date rape among young adults, co-ed dorm rooms are a chance.

"You can't put two rabbits in a cage and not expect baby rabbits," Fischer said.

Some students had their own opinions on opposite sex housing.

"I don't think there's a problem with it," said Olivia McDaniel, a freshman in general studies. "It wouldn't be like you're forced to live with someone of the opposite sex, it's your choice."

"You can't put two rabbits in a cage and not expect baby rabbits."

Bryan
FISCHER
Idaho Values Alliance
executive director

McDaniel said she felt the only real problem were privacy issues. There is no space, bathroom or suite, for a private moment.

The Director of University Housing, Ray Gasser, who deferred comment to University Communications, previ-

ously stated he felt by following the new housing trend more students would consider staying another year.

"Honestly, overall I don't think (students) would actually opt to stay there," said Andrew Rötton, who lives in Wallace Residence Center. "It would probably be less than a third."

"I really don't think more people would stay in the dorms," said McDaniel. "I mean dorms are co-ed right now, just not in the suites."

Fischer said the issue addressed by the president, was in essence about the type of environment being fostered by the university.

"At the end of the day, it doesn't matter what the president did or didn't do, the fact is he made a socially responsible decision," he said.

SCIENCE

from page 5

"We have exceedingly low demand for those programs," Wood said. "We're basically cleaning up the catalog there."

Jack McIver, UI's vice president of research, said concern had been expressed that faculty would not have as much undergraduate student help with research opportunities. Undergraduates can be utilized from other science departments to conduct physics research, he said.

Natale said one of his main concerns would be less opportunity for research in

important cutting-edge areas such as nanotechnology and bioinformatics. Nanotechnology is technology of devices and materials that are constructed in extremely small scales. Bioinformatics utilizes computer science and mathematics to model and analyze biological systems, such as genetic information.

McIver said it was important to analyze UI's current research and anticipate what kinds of research will receive future funding.

"It will be more of a shift (in research) that we'll be doing," he said. "We'll have a new administration, a new Congress ... The question is, is this university aligning its strengths to get money from federal funding?"

Wood said he encourages students to get involved with the prioritization process — an option students like Natale are taking seriously. Graduate student in physics Jamie Hass is circulating a petition to save the major.

"There are more of us than the faculty," he said. "We pay for our education. We're like consumers in this situation. We have a say in what happens

to us."

Students have been encouraged by faculty and department leaders to write letters expressing their concern, Natale said.

"They all want us to try to fight this," he said. "We just didn't think it's reasonable."

Students have already written letters to the Idaho State Board of Education, Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, former UI alumni and student organizations like the Society of Physics Students, Natale said.

Some students feel like university leaders haven't been transparent enough, he said.

"It seems like these changes came out of nowhere," Natale said. "It doesn't seem like there's a place for feedback ... They say they're being open, but it doesn't seem like there's a way of communicating with these people who made this decision."

The process has been hard, but the university's leaders, especially fellow deans, have shown support for one another's programs, Wood said.

"We're just going to make (UI) that much better, but to do that, we have to make difficult decisions," he said.

PRESIDENT

from page 1

suited for the culture at UI including the students "unique way of looking at things and adaptability to the weather."

"They're not gonna see a foot of snow on the ground and run away," he said.

All of the candidates were made aware of the university's financial situation and the budget cuts currently in progress, he said. Holbrook said whoever is selected, "won't be afraid to do what needs to be done."

Browning said the economic struggles are taking place on a national level and he therefore feels all the candidates are "well aware and prepared to deal with challenges that come with running a university in today's economy." (The state board) have been very meticulous in their search to find the right person at the right time.

There is no set time of when a new president would be announced. However, Browning said members of the board are still striving to find a president by the end of the academic year.

"That was the goal in the beginning and the search committee is still striving to make that a reality," Browning said.

Online exclusive:

Check out this issues' online features including:

Campus Faces: Bruce Pitman

Ombuds Office open to students

Small farms make every inch count

NUMBERS

from page 1

Neiheisel said enrollment numbers are down from fall of this year, but this is normal and has in most universities he has been affiliated with.

"We always have less returning students," he said. "We graduate a lot in December, and then they go find their jobs and live happily ever after."

These factors, Neiheisel said, make the comparison of fall semester to spring semester unfair. Thus, enrollment numbers are compared on a seasonal semester to equalize the comparison.

"We get apples to apples and not apples to oranges," he said.

Neiheisel said the rise statewide could be contributed to increased attraction to UI's outreach centers.

The Idaho Falls center received a 32 percent increase, Boise is up 3 percent and Coeur d'Alene is up 6 percent.

The numbers include both full-time and part-time students.

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Exhibit brings the Japanese perspective

Kasey Blair folds an origami crane at a recreation of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum in the Idaho Commons Whitewater Room Wednesday. Japanese Consul General Mitsunori Namba spoke at the exhibit Wednesday morning and for the Martin Forum presentation "Japan's International Cooperation."

Anne-Marije Rook
Argonaut

The world held its breath as it watched America drop two nuclear bombs on Japan on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945. The magnitude and destructiveness of the bombs were unprecedented. In America today, the bombing is regarded as the "the event that ended World War II." Yet in Japan, the bombs' destructiveness is still a vibrant topic.

Wednesday, the Martin Institute presented a one-day exhibit of the Atomic Bombings Memorial Museum — a small-scale version of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum — and with it, the Japanese perspective.

Martin Institute intern and international studies major Neil Shibe planned the exhibit after volunteering at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum while studying abroad last year.

Shibe said he developed an interest in the dropping of the bomb through a conversational tutoring class where they discussed the topic of nuclear nonproliferation and world peace.

"The message I'm trying to convey is that usage of nuclear weapons in any type

of conflict is unnecessary," Shibe said. "I believe that having a weapon that can demolish an entire city, not being specific to target — there's just no need for it."

The exhibit featured informational posters, before-and-after images and a video of survivor testimonies. Shibe personally met some survivors while in Nagasaki and remembers one man specifically.

"He had been 5 or 6 when the bombing happened," Shibe said. "He was just your average 85-year-old Japanese man with a story. He had a detailed and graphic story that hit home for me. The way you could visualize that, it was just awful."

Shibe said while in high school, he remembers being taught only briefly about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as the event that ended World War II.

"We hear the American side of the story," said Dylan Tracy, a volunteer for the exhibit. "But when you hear the Japanese side ... we were basically demanding a country disarm themselves and not be aggressive. But then look at us, we're the biggest imperial nation on the globe. But then again, we did issue ultimatums to Japan to surrender or else

we'd drop the bomb. It's a tough issue. I'm not quite sure where I stand right now."

One goal of the exhibit was to use human faces to bring statistics to life.

"It hits hard," University of Idaho history professor Ian Chambers said. "It's heavy when you realize what happened, what was done ... the eyeglasses melted into someone's face by the heat makes it so much more realistic than just the history book telling. You realize it's an individual person."

Japanese Consul General Mitsunori Namba from Seattle spoke at the Martin Forum Tuesday and attended the opening of the exhibit Wednesday morning. Namba pointed out Japan condemns the use of nuclear weapons and does not use military force to deal with any of its foreign conflicts — a rare practice.

"Security must be maintained," Namba said. "We have to seek peaceful use of nuclear technology."

Namba said this was the first time he had visited this type of exhibition in the United States.

"I truly appreciate students at the university who want to learn about Japanese

culture," Namba said. "This is a really good opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of history and to lower any bias."

UI Japanese faculty member, Ikuyo Suzuki said she asked students from her classes to attend the exhibit and discuss the event in class.

"It's a great opportunity for students to know what happened and get to hear it from both the Japanese and American side and think about solutions for future wars," she said.

Visitors folded paper cranes to help Shibe reach his goal of 1,000 paper cranes to send to Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima.

"I do like the fact that people are taking time and effort to do this exhibit," former Japanese student Shaun Shaw said while folding his 10th paper crane.

Shaw said while past events cannot be changed, it is crucial to learn from history.

"Asking if we should or should not have dropped the bomb is irrelevant. It happened," he said. "The decision, destructive in its nature, is always hard to make. But conflict happens and without it, growth can't happen."

Local bars go head-to-head

Megan Broyles
Argonaut

Outside Moscow city limits on Robinson Park Road sits a park of the same name — the site of an annual football game played in the dead of winter.

Two Moscow bars, John's Alley Tavern and The Garden Lounge, face off yearly in freezing temperatures to take home the glory until next year.

"It hasn't snowed in weeks," Jerad Anderson said, a first-time Lurker Bowl attendee and Garden Lounge supporter. "But as soon as it does, we rush to the middle of nowhere for a kegger."

Spirits — both from supporters and in plastic cups — were high while the snow fell Saturday afternoon. Employees from both bars took donations from willing spectators, fulfilling the event's original purpose: to benefit the food bank in an especially hard time of the year.

"It's a good cause and a good time," Alley bartender and player Christian Blackman said. "They've been doing this for well over 10 years."

The games were played full contact with no required pads or safety equipment. The men and women of the Garden and Alley brought a proportional crowd to support the area food bank with monetary and canned food donations.

Blackman said in recent years other Moscow bars have been invited to assemble their own football teams and participate in the event. After a few attempts to incorporate more teams, Blackman said Lurker Bowl became too hectic and large.

"It was nuts," he said. "There were just too many people to deal with. It's always been the Alley and the Garden, and we decided to go back to that, just the originals."

Competition was divided into men's and women's divisions, giving bartenders, servers and management of both genders a chance to show their Heisman-like tendencies on the frozen field.

"This is the first year I've played," said Alley bartender and former Garden server Lydia Williams. "I love the energy of everyone here, we're

See BARS, page 9

Emotions from abroad

Amberly Beckman
Argonaut

Bill Voxman made friends in Cuba by offering them spark plugs and baseballs.

That is how he was able to capture one of his photographs — a Havana woman in a taxicab.

As a photographer, Voxman has traveled the world, capturing hundreds of moments in time.

Some of his work is currently on display in the Reflections Gallery in the Idaho Commons and is titled, "The Human Scene: Despair, Intimacy, Elation."

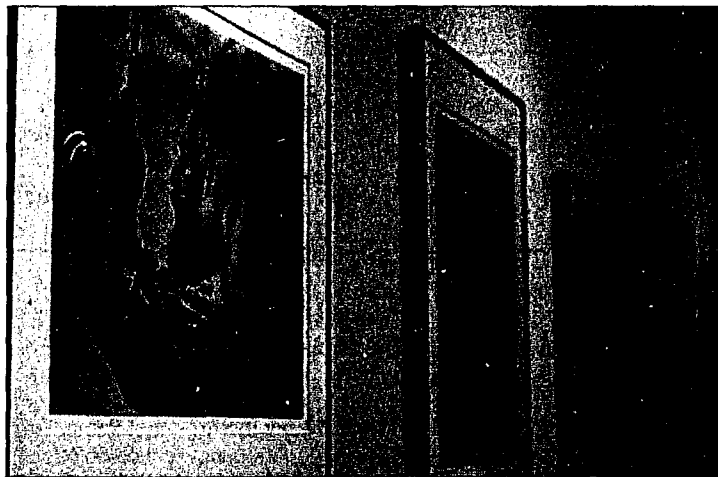
Photos from the exhibit were taken in Montana, Portland, Coeur d'Alene, Spain, Cuba, New Zealand, Portugal, Italy and Mexico. Voxman speaks four languages and takes his wife with him on his trips.

His favorite place to visit is Cuba. Voxman said he enjoys the people the most. Despite the country's socioeconomic problems, Voxman said the street life is wonderful.

"I haven't found a country I don't like," Voxman said.

On another of his trips, he took a photograph of a man selling mangos on the street.

"I suppose he's still sitting



Kate Kucharzyk/Argonaut

The exhibit "The Human Scene: Despair, Intimacy, Elation," by Bill Voxman is being presented from Jan. 17 to Jan. 31 in the Idaho Commons.

there selling mangos," Voxman said.

For the most part, Voxman doesn't like his subjects to know they are being photographed. In southern Mexico, he took a series of photographs of an older man who "looked like the end of the world" until a friend showed up and the two began having an animated conversation.

While some of his work is serious, Voxman admits some of the pieces are just funny.

Jennifer Mueller, a junior

architecture major, said she enjoys the display because "it's funky."

She said she enjoys the black-and-white photographs because they are dramatic and force the observer to further analyze the content.

Her favorite piece is a series of three photographs in which a man watches a woman walk by him in a park.

"It's interesting that (Voxman) would notice that,"

See GALLERY, page 9

Hayes' fourth album a mixed success

Marcus Kellis
Argonaut

I first heard Gemma Hayes' wonderful voice on a cover of "Lay Lady Lay," as a guest vocalist performing with Magnet, a Norwegian singer-songwriter.

Though I'm a fan of covers, this one stuck with me, not because I love the Bob Dylan song, but because Magnet's arrangement featured some unanticipated strings, percussion and, as noted, a vocal duet with this singer, unknown to me. (Hollywood noticed it, too: the track appeared on both "The O.C." and "Mr. and Mrs. Smith.")

Hayes is an Irish musician, and alongside townie Josh Ritter, she's part of the mostly-Irish supergroup The Cake Sale. "The Hollow of Morning" is her third album, released in May in Ireland, in September in the U.S., but only now the focus of radio attention.

Across 10 tracks Hayes predominantly focuses on two modes of play.

One, featured in "Chasing Dragons," "At Constant Speed" and "January 14th,"

is sparse and folk, like Will Oldham or other forebears.

The other — as heard in "Out of Our Hands," "In Over My Head" and "Sad Ol Song" — shows influence from the late '80s early '90s, specifically bands like Mazzy Star and the Cocteau Twins.

The hallmarks of Mazzy Star, the Cocteau Twins and now of Hayes' latest album, is a sort of fuzziness in the instrumentation, "swirling"-type guitars and harmonies. Think of a Skittles commercial or, for those of a certain age, a Fruitopia commercial.

Another influence, who happens to guest on the album, is Kevin Shields of the legendary Irish group My Bloody Valentine. Shields plays guitar on "In Over My Head," but not discernibly. In a way that was the point of My Bloody Valentine, whose problems in recording their albums were comparable to those faced by Guns N' Roses.

"In Over My Head," in fact, is a good opening to an issue the album brings up. A criticism sometimes leveled at bands is that of sameness: the punching bag from Canada Nick-

elback might be the most illustrative example for a modern audience.

Some genres can defy the charge. Nobody could rightfully accuse it of Slayer, say, or Explosions in the Sky, at least not when reviewing an album against itself. If bands fail to show progress album-to-album, that's a different matter.

But when Hayes is in what I've called her second mode, the Mazzy Star one, the songs show similar tempo and similar moods — in a word, they're undistinguished.

The album picks up near the end around "Chasing Dragons." "Sad Ol Song" fulfills the promise of its title. "At Constant Speed," the album's opus, which at 6:12 accounts for about 17 percent of the overall running time of 36:39, is revelatory and in its last few minutes really earns the length. That is about as high a compliment as can be given to many pop/rock songs of that duration.

The album ends with an evocative instrumental, "Under a Canopy Looking at the Rain" (truncated to only the first three words on the back cover). I don't suppose that Kevin Shields will be asking Hayes to perform guitar on his new album, the same favor she seems to have asked of him, but it's a pretty and fitting finish to the work.

Raiding tombs has never been this fun

Jordan Gray
Argonaut

Two guns, a pair of shorts, a set of boots and a sleeveless tank top — the perfect outfit for going tomb raiding.

"Tomb Raider: Underworld" is the eighth game in the Tomb Raider franchise. Like its predecessors, "Underworld" concentrates on a mix of mythology, puzzle-solving, gun-fighting and ingenuity to bring the game play and the plot to a culmination.

"Underworld" picks up from where "Tomb Raider: Legend" left off, although it is not necessary to have played that game to understand this one, since a compilation trailer explains the key elements of the previous game.

Players start out in a burning Croft Manor to refresh their skills (a level which is later repeated to preserve continuity) before going on the first mission in the Mediterranean Sea. The plot centers on Lara Croft's search for the mythical Avalon and her mother and the fact she needs Thor's hammer to reach it.

Croft has come a long way from her humble days as a well-built set of poly-

gons. In "Underworld," she blends well with her visual environment and has the ability to interact with it almost fully. And since she's Lara Croft, she looks good doing it too, a fact aided by the motion-capture technology that was used in her animation. She can grapple rings, pull down boulders from above, pick up and throw boxes and, provided two close-set walls, leap between them until she reaches a ledge she can hang onto.

The interactive element is one of the most charming parts of the game. Enemies don't magically disappear once killed, Croft actually gets dirty from all the mucking about in ancient tombs, and breaking innumerable priceless artifact jars by kicking them open in a burst of pottery is strangely satisfying.

Puzzle-solving takes precedence over melee combat, but the system has improved to the point where Croft can actually target two enemies at once or level an enemy with a few well-placed kicks. Fans of Croft's motorcycle will take joy in that it's an integral part of some levels, with Croft

racing to enter a labyrinth in Mexico before an ancient puzzle resets itself and closes it again.

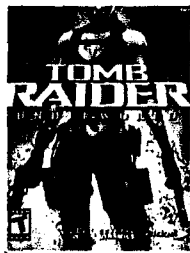
The rule of thumb seems to be the same as all games in the Tomb Raider series: when in doubt, look for somewhere to climb.

The worlds inside the levels have expanded greatly, giving players freedom to explore the gorgeously rendered and exotic environments. Players can also make their own decisions about what they want to do next. A sonar map shows the basic layout of an area and can be navigated with the joystick, although this feature is marginally useful at best.

"Underworld" does suffer from some glitches. The camera is one of the most frustrating points of the game. While user control does make for a better experience, the automatic camera focus in close situations can leave the player staring at a shot that's too close to let them do anything useful.

And Lara Croft, for as smart as the globetrotter seems to be, occasionally walks into a wall or a corner and keeps running into it until she can be re-directed back.

The game has been released on all major platforms and is a worthy addition to the collection of any Tomb Raider or puzzle-solving fan.



"Tomb Raider: Underworld" PC, PS3, Xbox 360

B+

GALLERY from page 8

Mueller said.

When the Reflections Gallery has a new display, Mueller said she makes sure to visit it.

Voxman displays his work every year in the gallery in the Commons, and before it was built, at

the Student Union Building. His photographs will remain on display until Saturday.

Voxman continues to travel, having recently returned from a trip to Germany and Austria, and he has another trip planned for later this semester.

"Wherever I go, I take my camera," Voxman said. Voxman is now retired

but was a professor at UI for 35 years, and was director of the CORE program. He never taught photography.

He hopes people enjoy his photographs, and gallery onlookers will have their own reactions to them.

"I'm happy with a photograph when I'd rather see it than the actual scene," Voxman said.

BARS from page 8

all having such a good time even when we're not playing or watching a game. I don't think it really matters who wins in the end, but it's been fun to play out here."

Both establishments had a variety of players fighting

for victory on the field.

Idaho students, alumni, community members and friends of each business filled the rosters. Strategies and plays were still being practiced and finalized by both teams before play began, and the environment brought its own challenges. Players discovered the difficulty of completing a successful play in 2 feet of frozen snow and inches of powder.

"It's hard out there," Williams said. "Even with gloves on, the ball will slip out of your hands. Your feet are freezing as you're running through knee-high frozen snow and it doesn't seem like it would hurt when you get tackled — it does."

The Garden Lounge was eventually declared the winner of both the men's and women's games.

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QuickHITS

Vandals in action

Today
Men's tennis — The team will travel to Eugene where they will take on Oregon. The match is slated to start at 9 a.m.

Track and Field — For the second week in a row the team will travel eight miles down the road to Pullman where they will compete in the WSU Cougar Indoor.

Saturday
Track and Field — The team will resume competition at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in Pullman.

Men's Basketball — The Vandals will play a third consecutive home game when they take on Nevada at 7 p.m. in the Cowan Spectrum.

Men's Tennis — The team will remain in Eugene where they will play matches against Samford University. Play begins at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Sunday
Women's basketball — The team will complete a three game home stand when they take on Hawai'i at 2 p.m. in the Cowan Spectrum.

Vandals to watch

Mykael Bothum
Track and field



Bothum will return to the same venue where she broke her own UI record in the shot put. The performance also netted her Western Athletic Conference Player of the Week. The Vandal track and field team will look for another record-setting performance from Bothum this week in Pullman as she will compete in the WSU Cougar Indoor.

Shaena Kuehu
Women's basketball



Kuehu is coming off a game against New Mexico State in which she scored in double figures and snatched nine rebounds. The Vandals will look to Kuehu to have another good stat line as they take on Hawai'i Saturday. The Vandals are carrying momentum into the game and sit at 4-2 in conference play.

Did you know ...

With National Letter of Intent Day nearing, the Vandals have 15 verbal commitments for next season's football team.

Vandals by the numbers

4 Las Vegas had the Vandals winning by four points against Boise State last night.

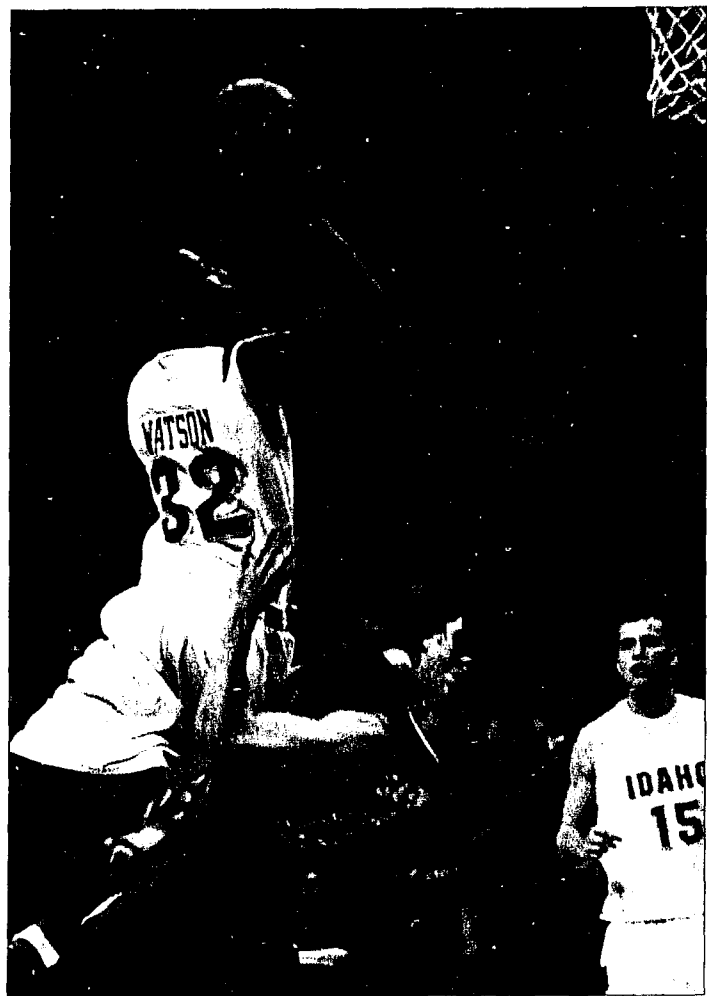
12 The Vandals have lost twelve consecutive matchups with the Broncos in basketball dating back to the 2000-01 season.

Obscure stat of the day

In the 1965-66 season the Vandals averaged a gawdy 94 points per game — the most in UI history.

BASKETBALL

Broncos fall to Vandals



Kashif Watson jumps past Boise State University guard Aaron Garner as he shoots the ball during the basketball game in the Cowan Spectrum Thursday.

Levi Johnstone
Argonaut

Basketball is supposed to be fun and the Vandals, both players and fans, had some last night.

A raucous crowd of 4,731 cheered and jeered and for the first time in 14 matchups and nearly a decade had a reason to rush the court — and they did when the Vandals won the in-state rival matchup 63-59.

After the emotional game, several Broncos were not impressed with UI fan antics.

"I'm guaranteeing victory," Boise state guard Anthony Thomas said. "I guarantee we won't lose to Idaho again as long as we play them."

The Vandals were led in scoring by Mac Hopson and Brandon Wiley for the second consecutive game.

Hopson had 20 points and Wiley finished with 12.

Hopson had this to say about Thomas's comments.

"Well, it's not going to be sweet for them," Hopson said. "I still have to play them at least three more times, so it's not going to be sweet."

A series of missed calls by the officials led to a Bronco run midway through the first half. The most apparent came when Trevor Morris was called for a block after being run over by BSU guard Jamar Greene on a fast break.

The Vandals surged back late in the first closing the half on a 9-0 run in large part due to tenacious defense which created turnovers and led to a series of easy buckets.

"I thought our guys did a great job

of getting to their shooters," Idaho coach Don Verlin said. "I thought our length really bothered some of their guys on the outside."

The staunch Vandal defense held the Broncos to just 30 percent from the field in the first half.

UI went into halftime clinging to a 29-26 lead despite shooting just 37 percent from the foul line and 33 percent from beyond the arc.

The team came out of halftime seemingly on fire sprinting out of the gates extending the lead to as much as 12 points.

Vandal guard Kashif Watson brought immediate energy to the court connecting on consecutive shots to open the second half and pumping up the crowd after a BSU timeout. He ended the game with a double-double, scoring 10 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

Wiley came up big in the second half as well contributing not only points but also offensive rebounds when the Vandals did miss shots.

Despite the home crowd and surge to open the half, the Broncos were able crawl back into the game cutting the lead to three points with just less than 15 seconds remaining after back-to-back threes.

The Vandals put the game away in a similar fashion to their victory over New Mexico State — with stingy turnovers creating defense and the help of Terrance Simmons and Mac Hopson. The two put a dagger in the Broncos heart with Simmons sinking back to back buckets with less than a

See FALL, page 12

Vandals look to sweep Hawai'i

Hugh Jones
Argonaut

The University of Idaho women's basketball team prepares to take on Hawai'i for the final matchup of a three-game home stand.

The Rainbow Wahine will leave Manoa with zero conference wins and a 3-16 overall record, making a stop at Utah State on Friday before arriving in Moscow.

This season has cast the Idaho women's program in a new light with first-year Idaho coach Jon Newlee at the helm.

Where last season's Vandal women picked up only four wins to finish out the season at the bottom of the Western Athletic Conference, this combination of Vandals has begun setting a new pace at 7-10, 4-2 WAC.

Newlee came with quite a reputation to the Vandal Athletic

Department from Idaho State University last spring. In his first two years at ISU, Newlee took his team from a 6-20 overall record in 2002-03 to 20-9 the following year.

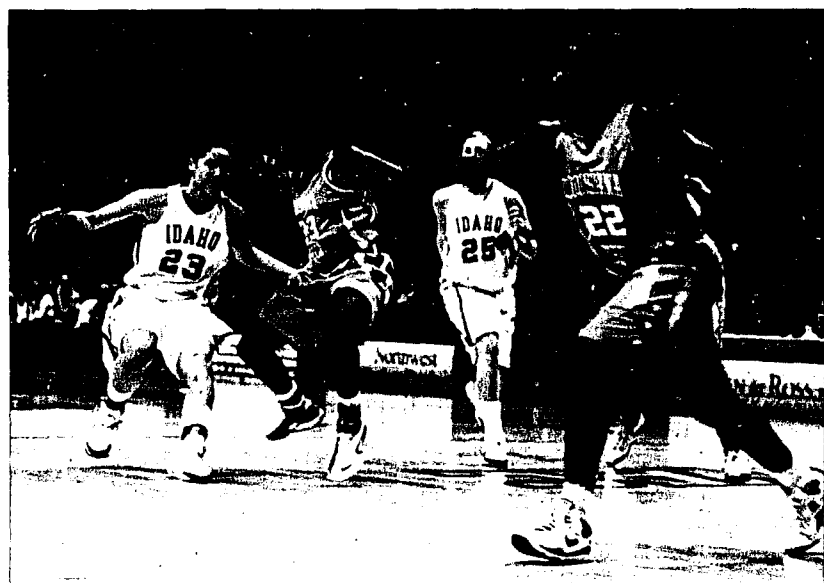
Recently, some of his reputation has started to show for the silver and gold.

Four of Idaho's seven wins have come in the last five games for Idaho. The fifth game was ceded to Louisiana Tech on Friday by four points in overtime.

Players say they expect the momentum to continue throughout the rest of the season.

"We've really started to get the offense down to the point where we don't have to think about it," Idaho point guard Charlotte Otero said. "When we step on the court, we know we can win ... it's never been like that before."

See VANDALS, page 12



Vandal guard Shaena-Lyn Kuehu dribbles the ball during the game against Louisiana Tech Jan. 23 in the Cowan Spectrum. The University of Idaho will meet with the University of Hawai'i basketball team on Sunday.

Bothum's throws break UI track records

Megan Broyles
Argonaut

Four University of Idaho athletes were named Western Athletic Conference players of the week for the week of January 18-25. Two of these athletes were specifically named the Western Athletic Conference Men's and Women's Field Athletes of the Week — Matt Wauters and Mykael Bothum.

Bothum, a senior from Hermiston, Ore. wrapped last season up by breaking both the indoor and outdoor school records in the shot put. She ranked 42nd nationally by throwing the 8.8 pound shot put at least 50 feet each throw.

Bothum broke UI's record along with the Washington State University record in the shot put this season, and that put her in a better position to reach NCAA Championships. For the last two seasons, Bothum has barely missed the cut-off for the competition but attained indoor provisional and outdoor regional qualifications.

She says her goals for this season are simple: to become the WAC Champion in her event and head to the NCAA Championships.

"People don't realize how hard we work," Bothum said. "Yeah, (throwers) run too. We lift every day."

Bothum's coach Julie Taylor echoed her hard working sentiments.

"We spend a huge amount of time in the weight room," she said. "(Throwers) need to be quick, very strong and explosive. We work our throwers more than most programs do. It makes them strong

and makes them test themselves to see that they're strong."

Bothum and Taylor said the athletes support one another in their events. Bothum is redshirting outdoor events this season to give younger members of the team a chance to gain experience in competition.

Many of the upperclassmen have taken this action in hopes the freshmen will come away from season with the skill and practice necessary to take the WAC by storm the following year with the whole team in full force.

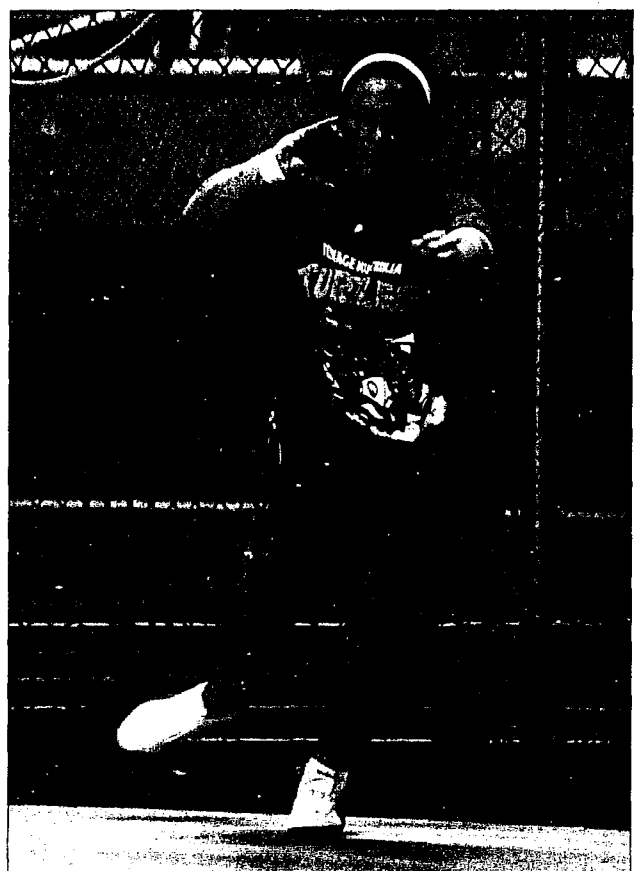
"We have hard-working coaches and athletes," Bothum said. "It makes me proud, making my parents and coaches proud and seeing all of our hard work pay off."

Taylor said it's a shame how track and field becomes forgotten in the mix of other sports.

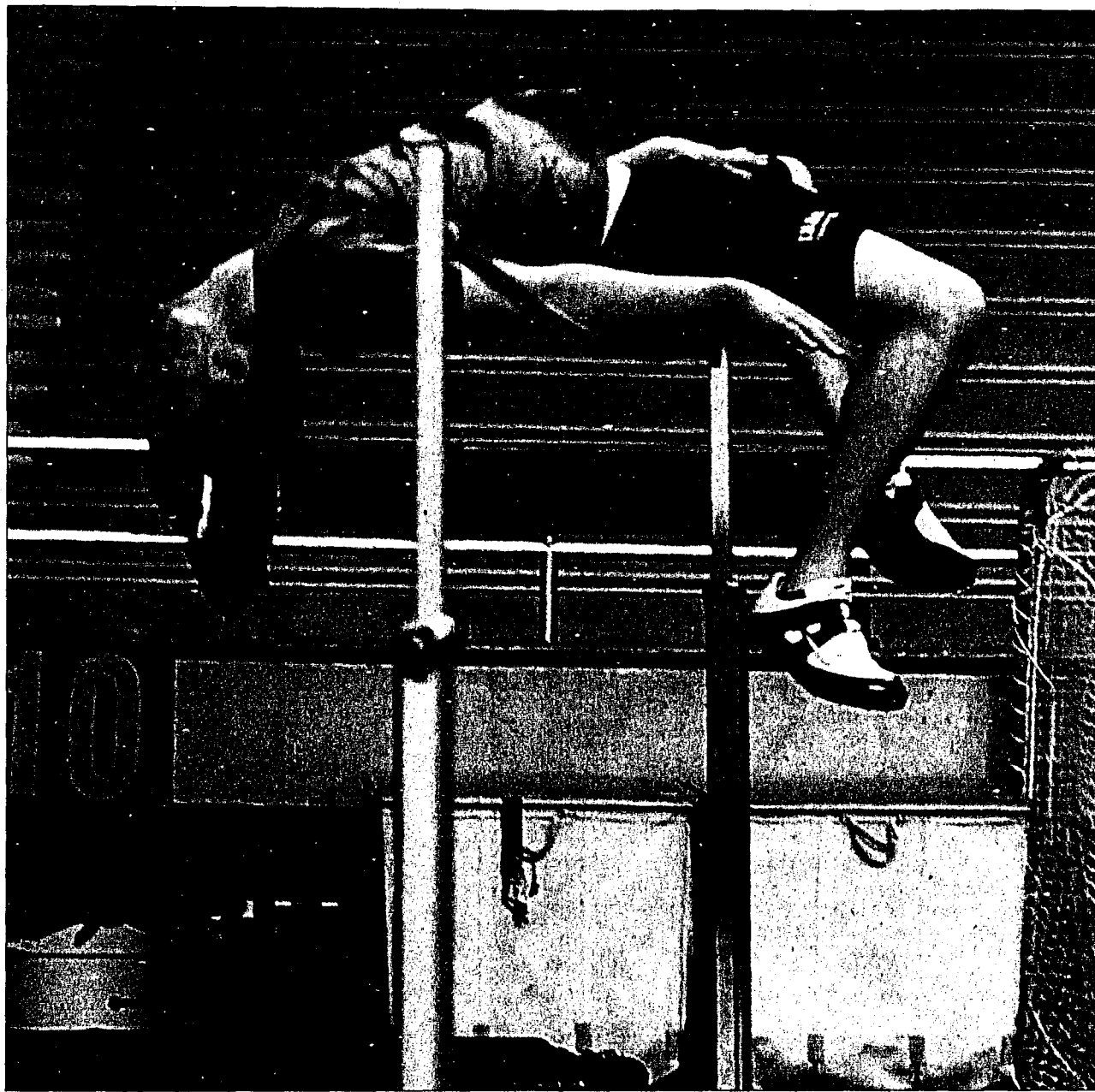
"Track and field is overlooked," she said. "It's easy to look past, but people need to realize how good we are. Our men's team was ranked 19th in the NCAA last year. 19th — in the entire country. People need to come see what our kids are all about."

Taylor, Bothum and the rest of the throwers have been perfecting technique throughout the season, first starting with the throwing motion itself and then progressing to perfection while utilizing implements — javelin, hammer or shot put.

The team will get the opportunity to show the University of Idaho and the Palouse how its hard work makes a record-breaking athlete at the Vandal Indoor track meet on Feb. 6, followed by the Runner's Soul Open on Feb. 7.



Nick Groff/Argonaut
Mykael Bothum, a double school record holder in the shot put, practices Thursday afternoon in the Kibbie Dome. Bothum will head to Pullman Saturday to compete at the Cougar Indoor and will look to break her own and school record of 51 feet, 7 1/4 inches again.



Seth Nolan, a sophomore from Anchorage, attempts to clear the high jump bar during practice Thursday afternoon in the Kibbie Dome. Nolan and the Vandals will head to Pullman Saturday to compete in the Cougar Indoor.

Nick Groff/Argonaut

Track at it again

Scott Stone
Argonaut

The Idaho track and field team will look to improve on last week's meet as they once again travel across the border to Washington State University to compete in the WSU Cougar Indoor.

Three Vandals managed to reach the NCAA provisional qualifying mark in the WSU Open last week, and more athletes will have the opportunity to do the same today and tomorrow.

After the team reached three provisional marks, and broke both a school and meet record, the coaches were happy with what they saw.

"I always go in thinking we're a pretty good team, and now I know we are," said Idaho coach Yogi Teevens. "To have the provisional marks, the school record and the meet record happening in the first meet, it shows me that we are every bit as solid as I thought we'd be."

Senior Mykael Bothum was not only one of the three to qualify for the NCAA, but she also broke her own meet and school record in the shot put by more than a foot.

The other two qualifiers were senior Matt Waiters in the 35-pound weight throw and senior K.C. Dahlgren in the pole vault.

"I thought overall we did pretty well," said Idaho coach Wayne Phipps. "We didn't compete very many people but the people, that did compete I thought performed well."

Phipps said the first meet of the season athletes just need to get out and compete to get things going again.

"This next one will be kind of similar to that, but we just kind of look to improve from week to week and make little minor adjustments from weekend to weekend, so hopefully each meet does get a little better," Phipps said.

The players are trained throughout the season to peak in their performance during championship season, and right now Phipps said they're in a pretty intense part of that training.

"We kind of gradually build up in volume and intensity and right now it's still a pretty high in-

tensity period of time in our training, and we won't really start backing off for another two weeks," he said. "People will go in a little more tired than they would for a championship meet."

One athlete who's looking forward to competing this weekend is junior Mike Carpenter, who will be competing in the pole vault. Because of injuries he's been fighting, he didn't get the opportunity to compete last week.

"It's pretty much the first time in a year so just looking to open up and clear some heights hopefully,"

Carpenter said.

He competed well in the same meet last year, clearing 15-11 and taking first place.

Carpenter said at this point in the season they're just focusing on getting better and competing again.

Also looking forward to a new season is junior Darcy Collins who will compete in the women's pentathlon.

Collins placed third last season in the WAC Indoor Championships but just missed the NCAA provisional standard by three points.

She too has been bat-

ling injuries and said she hopes to do well this weekend, but doesn't expect to blow away the competition this early in the season. Her goal right now is for everyone to stay healthy and get some practice in.

"Just stay healthy and for everyone to get good marks so they can start the season off good," Collins said. "I know a lot of people haven't even run yet. So start the season off good."

The meet will take place most of today and tomorrow in the WSU indoor track facility.

Super Bowl could see dreaded tackles

Ben Walker
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla.— Try this in high school or at the mall, and you'd have an all-out brawl.

But at the Super Bowl, it's perfectly OK: Go ahead and grab Larry Fitzgerald or Troy Polamalu by their long hair, then yank 'em down.

"It's legal. It is a body part, like someone's arm or leg," NFL head of officials Mike Pereira said.

Hmmm, turns out the most dreaded tackle when Pittsburgh and Arizona meet Sunday may not be one of those teeth-jarring, helmet-to-helmet hits. By a hair, it might be the prospect of seeing a player taken down by his tresses.

Search YouTube for "Polamalu" and "hair" and "tackle," and watch the first thing that appears. There's a 27-second clip from 2006 of the Steelers star being ripped to the ground by his free-flowing locks after an interception.

"I was so disturbed by it," Hollywood stylist Michael Shaun Corby said after watching it Thursday. "But I probably watched it 50 times. I'm going to put it on my MySpace page right now."

"I think a little pulling of the follicles is good, it gets the blood going," he said. "But I'd say it's never a good thing to have your hair pulled by a 300- or 400-pound man."

Having styled for Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan and other celebrities, Corby offered some advice.

"The main thing is extra protein. That gives you strong hair. And the richest source of protein is hemp. I would tell those players to get more hemp into their system," he said. "I'm sure the NFL won't appreciate me saying that."

Oh, Corby made one other observation.

"Whatever happened to the days when pulling someone's hair was just wrong?" he said. "Little girls do that. It's so unmanly, right?"

Hardly something

Johnny Unitas and Ray Nitschke worried about. Johnny U wore a crew cut into the Hall of Fame, Nitschke was bald when he led Green Bay to victory in the first Super Bowl.

Fitzgerald and Polamalu are fair game if they're carrying the ball. Certainly gives new meaning to helmet hair, too.

Polamalu's black mop hangs a few inches past his shoulders. The Steelers' safety hasn't cut his hair since 2000 to salute his heritage and the Samoan warrior spirit.

"It's kind of become an extra appendage to me," he said. "Sometimes I do wish I could go without it, just out and about with my wife. It's kind of a dead giveaway."

Fitzgerald's neatly woven dreadlocks drape down: even farther. His mother wore hers the same way. She died in 2003 from breast cancer, and the Cardinals' record-setting receiver hasn't had a haircut since.

"I grow it as a tribute to her, in her honor," he said. "So every day I look at myself in the mirror and I think about her and what she means to me."

Last spring, the NFL briefly toyed with making a rule requiring players to curb their long hair. It clarified its rule in 2003 when Ricky Williams was tackled by his dreadlocks. He later trimmed his hair, as did Cardinals running back Edgerrin James after he was a similar victim.

"If you were going to wear it long, you were subject to getting pulled down," Pereira said.

Fitzgerald said it hasn't happened to him yet. Polamalu was nailed by Kansas City's Larry Johnson two seasons ago, and the YouTube video had been seen more than 600,000 times.

Johnson stuck out his right hand and tugged Polamalu, sending him toppling. The Chiefs' rugged running back never let go — he was penalized 15 yards when he hoisted Polamalu back onto his feet by his hair.

"No, it didn't hurt," Polamalu said.

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Black coaches not a curiosity in NFL

Dave Goldberg
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla.— A small group gathered for a closed-door meeting at NFL headquarters two years ago in December, as it had regularly since 2003. The topic: identifying minority candidates for coaching jobs.

The session was led, as always, by Steelers owner Dan Rooney. The hottest name during the discussions — Mike Tomlin.

Soon after, Tomlin was hired as Pittsburgh's coach.

It was a classic case of the "Rooney Rule" in action, even if it wasn't intended that way.

And Sunday, Tomlin could deliver the ultimate reward to Rooney: A Super Bowl championship won by a black coach for a team owner whose very name has become synonymous with diversity hiring.

The Rooney Rule requires any team with a head coaching vacancy to interview at least one minority candidate. Tomlin is one of 11 black coaches hired in the NFL since the rule has been in place, finally addressing an embarrassing lack of diversity in America's most popular sports league. There were two in 2002.

Tomlin credits his hiring to the Rooney Rule.

"I have no question it helped me get this job," Tomlin said this week. "Anything that brings a group of people an opportunity is a policy worth having. But I also thought that eventually I'd get an opportunity, Rooney Rule or not."

The rule was born after two lawyers, Cyrus Mehri and the late Johnnie Cochran Jr., threatened to sue the NFL in October 2002 if it didn't open up more opportunities for minorities. Then-commissioner Paul Tagliabue, who had been pushing minority hiring for the 13 years he had been in office, immediately appointed Rooney to head a committee on the subject.

He was the perfect choice — a humble man who cares deeply about his team, the game and the people involved with it.

Now 76, Rooney eats daily in the cafeteria at the Steelers' facility with the rest of the team's employees — from players to secretaries.

Politically, he's to the left of most of the NFL's conservative owners. He endorsed Barack Obama during the Pennsylvania Democratic primary last April and campaigned for him and with him, notably in Steelers strongholds in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

At the Super Bowl, he has kept a low profile, preferring to talk to Pittsburgh reporters and others he knows. On media day, he walked the field, slightly hunched, wearing a windbreaker and brown pants with suspenders, a phalanx of cameras trailing him.

The son of the Steelers founder Art Rooney, he's more comfortable working out of the public eye, as he did when Tagliabue put him on the diversity committee. Two months after his group got the assignment, they came up with the rule.

"It wasn't as easy to get done as some people now seem to think it was," Rooney said. "A lot of people thought the league was meddling in team business. We got comments like, 'Why should you be involved in telling us who to hire?'"

But it has undeniably had an impact. During the second half of this season, after Mike Singletary got the San Francisco 49ers job, there were seven black coaches — an all-time high. There are six now, with vacancies in Kansas City and Oakland yet to be filled.

The current group includes Raheem Morris, who at just 32 was picked this month to lead the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

While the NFL hasn't achieved the coaching diversity of other sports leagues — the NBA has had double-digit numbers of black coaches for a decade, Major League Baseball has nine black, Hispanic or Asian managers for 30 teams — the Rooney Rule seems to have inspired minority hires not only on the sidelines but in the

front offices.

The rule does not apply to top executive hires, but the number of black general managers has increased from one in 2002 to five now. Just as important is the success of minority coaches and GMs: five of the six teams in the last three Super Bowls have had either black coaches or general managers.

The group includes Tomlin and general manager Rod Graves of the Arizona Cardinals, who will play the Steelers on Sunday; Jerry Reese, general manager of the New York Giants, who beat New England last year; recently retired Colts coach Tony Dungy; and Lovie Smith of Chicago. In 2007, the latter two were the first black coaches in a Super Bowl.

"To me, that's remarkable," Mehri said this week. "To go from a situation two decades ago when the only minorities in the NFL were on the field to having people of color in the forefront of all but one of the Super Bowl teams is the kind of progress we've never thought we'd get so quickly."

Mehri, a Washington-based civil rights lawyer, has gone from being an outsider to an insider under the Rooney Rule.

Another participant is John Wooten, a guard for Cleveland and Washington from 1959-69 and chairman of the Fritz Pollard Alliance, an organization named after the man who in 1921 became the NFL's first black head coach.

Pollard was a player-coach in an era where many teams were pickup squads that changed from week to week. He was an exception, however. By the 1930s, the NFL wouldn't even sign black players, a practice that lasted until 1946, a year before Jackie Robinson integrated baseball.

Wooten and Hall of Fame linebacker Harry Carson, the Pollard Alliance's executive director, are among the participants in those annual December meetings. They help league officials keep track of potential minority candidates.

Rooney plays down his role as a pioneer in race relations — just as he plays down the role of the Rooney Rule in the hiring of Tomlin.

He said he chose Tomlin as only the third Steelers coach in nearly 40 years without considering his race. He had heard of him during the league office meetings and also got a strong recommendation from Dungy, who played and coached for the Steelers and hired Tomlin when he was in Tampa.

"He was NOT a Rooney Rule candidate," Rooney insisted this week, noting that before the Steelers interviewed Tomlin, they had spoken to Ron Rivera, who was then Chicago's defensive coordinator. "We already had talked to Rivera, which met the requirement. We chose the man we thought was best for the job."

Still, without the rule, it would have taken longer for Tomlin to get into the pipeline.

Job candidates themselves don't always appreciate the Rooney Rule.

In 2003, five minority candidates declined to interview with the Detroit Lions when it was clear that the job would go to Steve Mariucci. The Lions hired Mariucci without interviewing a minority. Matt Millen, then the team president, was fined \$200,000 by Tagliabue, infuriating Lions president William Clay Ford, who claimed the rule had never been approved by the owners and thus was invalid.

Before he was promoted in Tampa, Morris was interviewed by the Denver Broncos for the job that went to Josh McDaniels, New England's offensive coordinator. He said he would have gone to the interview in any event.

"I'm not at a point to judge whether it's a Rooney Rule interview or not," he said.

Dungy recommends that potential candidates go on the interview, because they have nothing to lose.

"I was probably the fourth or fifth choice when I got my first head coaching job," he said. "You never know what will happen or how an owner will react to you."

Obama rooting for Steelers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said he's pulling for the Pittsburgh Steelers over the Arizona Cardinals in football's biggest game on Sunday — and he did so with a politician's touch.

Obama said Thursday that he would root for Pittsburgh against the "long-suffering" and "great Cinderella story" Cardinals. His spokesman also said the president would have friends as well as a bipartisan group of lawmakers over to the White House to watch the game.

"I have to say, you know, I wish the Cardinals the best," Obama said diplomatically. "You know, Kurt Warner is a great story, and he's closer to my age than anybody else on the field."

Warner, Arizona's 37-year-old quarterback, came out of nowhere about

a decade ago to take the St. Louis Rams to two Super Bowls, including a title in 2000. Just when he seemed washed up, Warner rose to the top again this year with a stellar performance. His team was not expected

to make the playoffs, let alone get to the title game.

Steelers owner Dan Rooney, a longtime Republican, endorsed Obama's presidential bid and campaigned for him. During Oval Office remarks, Obama noted that one of the Steelers most beloved former players, Franco Harris, had campaigned for him in Pittsburgh, too.

"Other than the (Chicago) Bears," Obama said, "the Steelers are probably the team that's closest to my heart."

Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said the invitation to watch the Super Bowl in the White House is part of the new admin-

istration's efforts to work across the political aisle, similar to his bipartisan cocktail party Wednesday night at the executive mansion.

"You know, the president also wanted last night to be a little bit more social, you know, so that individuals could better get to know each other and understand where they're coming from in these legislative disagreements," Gibbs told reporters Thursday. "But, again, you know, the president's outreach on this will continue."

During the pregame show, Obama also planned to participate in a live interview on NBC with Matt Lauer.

Vice President Joe Biden, a native of Scranton, Pa., also is cheering for the Steelers. He told CNBC that he's having a Super Bowl party at the vice president's residence "with some of our Republican and Democratic friends."

"I know you're supposed to be one of these guys that says I'm not sure," said Biden. "But I want to make clear, I'm rooting for the Steelers. Go, Mr. Rooney."

VANDALS

from page 10

As a junior, Otero is in her third season as a Vandal.

Sophomore guard Alana Curtis expressed similar sentiments, and said this is the most confident the team had been in the two years she had been a member.

One Vandal to watch is WAC Player of the Week sophomore Yinka Olorunife. The second-year post chalked up 21 points and 11 rebounds in Friday's match-up with Louisiana Tech, then 17 points and 19 boards against New Mexico State Sunday.

"Yinka just kind of took over in the paint on the defensive end," Newlee said after the New Mexico State game. "She really got into people tonight, and I thought she did a very good job of being physical with a very physical front line."

Olorunife now averages 14.2 points and 10.6 rebounds per game. She holds the highest rebound percentage in the WAC and is also the only player in the conference to average a double-double.

The Vandal women will hit the road next week for a second go-around with both the Lady Techster's and the Aggies. The La Tech game will be broadcast live at 5 p.m. Friday on 105 FM. Fans on the Palouse can tune in at <http://www.z105fm.com>.

FALL

from page 10

minute to go and Hopson hitting a free throw with 4.6 seconds remaining.

"We did a great job defensively," Verlin said. "Our team defense was excellent holding them to the field goal percentage we did was awesome."

After the rival victory, many on the team were speechless.

"I can't express how I feel right now,"

Simmons said. "I'm speechless, it's just a huge win for our program and for us."

The win marks the Vandals second consecutive victory and leaves the team at 10-10 (4-3) on the season and Verlin hopes more fans will come out to see the Vandals play.

"I never thought we'd see a crowd like this here today," Verlin said "I really appreciate the Vandal students and Vandal Nation coming out."

The Vandals will wrap up a three-game home stand against Nevada at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Cowan Spectrum.

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