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Can a computer replace a teacher? Read Our View, page 9



Sports
The women's basketball team blew past Boise State 68-48, page 5

Another student fee increase looms

Dara Barney
Argonaut

Stephen Parrott, ASUI president, worries about student fees just like any student anticipating next year's increases.

"I've been looking into student fees as far back as when I was campaigning, and I originally had wanted to keep them where they were," Parrott said.

"But, once I did some research, I realized that if I thought into the long run, it would be better for students if we raised them a little bit now, instead of being hit with a huge increase down the road."

His research goes back as far as 10 years, and the increases are not uncommon, he said.

"After 'SJR 101' went through, we were able to change fees to student tu-

ition to put us on the same level playing field as the other state institutions in Idaho," Parrott said. "It allows some of that to go to teacher salaries, which is something we couldn't do before."

This will not be the cause for increases, Parrott said.

Furloughs, continuing to be in a hiring freeze, cutting parts of different departments and having to lay people off are all unfortunate possibilities in

a time of financial hardship, but student fees are helping counteract that, he said.

"This year every state agency was supposed to get a 2.2 percent cut, and we (education) were lucky to only receive a 1.3 percent cut," Parrott said. "I know some people aren't happy with the cut, but we need to be thanking Governor Otter for the break."

State legislature will ultimately de-

cide if that percentage will increase, he said.

"That is why we are going to Boise this week for Legislative Breakfast, to put a face to higher education, and talk to legislators about what this means for us as students," he said.

Next week is Higher Education Week, and Parrott said a more exact

see **FEES**, page 4

Chaos and butterflies

Student playwright finalist for national award



Katherine Brown | Argonaut

Brittany Kiser
Argonaut

Mattie Rydalch, University of Idaho dramatic writing Master of Fine Arts candidate, has been selected as a finalist for the David Mark Cohen Playwriting Award.

The David Mark Cohen National Playwriting Award is supported by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and Dramatic Publishing Company. It is anticipated to provide incentive to college and university theater production departments to help foster the growth and development of playwrights who have not yet received a professional production.

David Mark Cohen was the professor of playwriting at the University of Texas-Austin from 1989 to 1998.

She is the second UI stu-

dent ever chosen as a finalist for the award. The first was Lauren Simon, whose play, "Heartland" placed second nationally in 2009.

Rydalch's play, "Strange Attractors," was initially a project in Robert Caisley's MFA writer's studio. She said it relates to the fields of science and technology through chaos theory.

Chaos theory is similar to the butterfly effect, but deals more with human relationships. It is about finding the fundamental order in apparently random data. Beneath this random data are complex natural systems that abide by rules, but are sensitive enough for small initial changes to drastically change the final results.

Rydalch applies chaos theory to relationships in this tale about an amateur fiction writer and a motion-sick chaos theorist who fall in love in

The first place award is \$1,000. Second place is the Dramatists Guild Award, providing the playwright with active membership in the Guild. Third place is the presentation of a rehearsed reading of the play at the National ATHE conference in August that includes a \$500 stipend to defray travel expenses for the playwright.

a mobile home.

"I remember her bringing in the very first version of the play," said Caisley, associate professor of theater and head of dramatic writing. "We read 10 to 12 pages of it. All of her colleagues and I reacted very positively to the play itself. We cared about the characters and wanted to know what was going to happen to them. We wanted more."

see **AWARD**, page 4

Technology versus Idaho teachers

Dylan Brown
Argonaut

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna said he will not stand for any more cuts to the near destitute public education system.

"If the legislature doesn't have the political will to change the system, then they need to have the political will to raise taxes or whatever is necessary to fund the current system because you cannot cut the current system anymore," Luna said.

Luna, who has seen the budget slashed by more than \$200 million in the last two years, presented his new plan for reforming Idaho's public schools to legislators last week. With the federal stimulus running out in 2012, Luna's two-year, \$194.9 million plan, "Students Come First," will reshuffle limited resources into improved classroom technology and online courses to improve student performance.

"I have always said (the goal) is about raising student achievement," Luna said.

Along with new clickers and e-readers in classrooms, Luna told the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee he hopes to put a laptop in the hands of every ninth grader state-wide by the 2012-13 school year. The computers will be strictly for at-school use and are projected to cost \$4.7 million with an additional \$2.3 million set aside for maintenance and repair.

Luna's reform package will also require K-12 students to complete online courses before graduating. Luna said the online classes will be taught

by certified teachers and would be a valuable experience especially to students preparing for college.

Sherril Wood, president of the Idaho Education Association, said she is concerned that while Luna sees laptops as way to improve student achievement, there is no research to support his claim.

"Nothing in the package has worked anywhere else," Wood said.

Corinne Mantle-Bromley, dean of the College of Education at the University of Idaho, said she would love to see more

technology in the classroom, but worries about the implementation and ensuring equal access for all students.

"Will the students benefit?" Mantle-Bromley said. "I don't think we have the answer to that question."

Mantle-Bromley said while having high school students taking online courses will help prepare them for similar ones in college, university students she has spoken with said they prefer face-face lectures to a virtual classroom.

"Students Come First" will offset the new costs by increasing class sizes and eliminating 770 teaching, 300 classified personnel and 60 administration positions throughout the state.

Luna said with his new system's technological emphasis, the state will require 770 fewer teachers than it currently employs and he plans to eliminate those jobs through "attrition" instead of mass firings. Idaho loses 1,600 teachers every year ei-

see **TEACHERS**, page 4



Tom Luna

Law student suing university

Staff Report
Argonaut

A University of Idaho student has filed a lawsuit against the school because he said his second and fourteenth amendment rights were violated when he was told he could not keep his registered firearm in his university-owned housing complex.

Aaron Tribble, a 36-year-old law student claims he was banned from keeping his firearm at his residence, the South Hill Vista apartments. A second-year-law student, Tribble will represent himself in the suit that was filed last Tuesday in Latah County Second District Court.

The Idaho State Supreme Court Data Repository

shows Tribble has listed University president, M. Duane Nellis, and the State Board Of Education and Board Of Regents as the case's defendants. Summons for the case were issued Jan. 21.

A hearing for this case was set for 8 a.m. July 20.

The University of Idaho Administrative Procedural Manual Chapter 35.35 said, "...persons residing in University of Idaho-operated housing, including Residence Halls and Apartments, firearm storage is available at the Police Campus Substation."

Both Tribble and Joni Kirk, University of Idaho associate director of media relations were contacted but did not return phone calls by press time.

Decision of a lifetime

A choice for more than one

Sarah Yama
Argonaut

Ten potential parent profiles were narrowed down to three, and Tricia Sykes was close to making a decision that would not only affect her future, but the future of her unborn child.

About five months pregnant, it was the summer before the University of Idaho alumna's senior year in high school.

When Sykes first found out she was pregnant, she went directly to the father's house. The two knew they did not want to be parents, and decided their choices were adoption or abortion.

"The thought of abortion had crossed my mind, but I, as many women may be, was in desperate mode," Sykes said. "It was the first thing I could think of."

When Sykes' parents found out about her plan, they decided to take her to a bible study.

"I regretted thinking of making that decision, they convinced me not to have an abortion," Sykes said.

But Sykes still knew she couldn't be a parent.

"The boy didn't want to be a parent and I already had plans for college," Sykes said. "It would be a struggle and I couldn't do that."

Sykes contacted an adop-

tion agency instead.

Three profiles sat in front of her, and she decided she would e-mail a few more questions and make a choice based on the answers and timeliness of their responses.

"I put together a specific list of questions that were based on their parenting technique, values and the solidity of their marriage," Sykes said.

She finally chose a military family stationed in Japan. The family flew in, and Sykes met them in person, just to make sure.

They went shopping, had coffee and lunch. Sykes said she and the adoptive family

see **CHOICE**, page 4



Photo Courtesy of Tricia Sykes

Tricia Sykes stands with her son Quinn on a Florida beach in 2010. Sykes decided to put Quinn up for adoption since she wasn't ready for the responsibility.



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The Vandal Voice for 112 Years

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Read up on Monday's Naval guest speaker, Potlatch's gift to the UI library and the police log online.

Volume 112

Issue no. 33



Recyclable

Discover Life

at the Idaho Commons & Student Union

STUDENT ORGANIZATION ROUNDTABLE

Are you a member of a student organization? Do you have ideas on how ASUI could better support you? Share your thoughts, ideas and concerns.

9:00 am Panorama Room – 4th Floor Idaho Commons

Free Women's Swim!



Come this Sunday from 9-10:30AM in the Physical Ed Building! If you are a proficient swimmer, or just learning, come swim with us in this safe all female setting!

Get Involved Fair!

This is your opportunity to meet some of the members and leaders of the over 200 student organizations on campus.

Tuesday, February 15th 11:00 – 1:00 pm in the Clearwater/Whitewater Rooms of the Idaho Commons

Activities Board – Recognized Student Organizations Opportunity to be reimbursed up \$2,000.00

Spring Semester Funding Training Meeting Dates

The organization's treasurer/financial officer must attend this meeting before the club is able to apply for reimbursement and attend a hearing.

Tuesday, February 8, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Crest*
 Tuesday, March 1, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Crest*
 Tuesday, March 29, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Crest*
 Tuesday, April 12, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Crest*

Spring Semester Funding Hearing Dates
 ** The sign up sheet will be placed outside the room at 4:00 p.m. (clubs sign up for 7-minute slots beginning at 5:30pm)**

Tuesday, February 15, 5:30 p.m. - Crest*
 Tuesday, March 8, 5:30 p.m. - Crest*
 Tuesday, April 5, 5:30 p.m. - Crest*
 Tuesday, April 26, 5:30 p.m. - Crest*

Located on the 4th Floor of the Idaho Commons building

Idaho LEADS (Leadership Education and Development Series)

A collection of programs centered upon the belief that leadership is a learned skill accessible to all students, and that developing our students into capable leaders is essential both to their development as individuals and to the continued betterment of human life.

What is LEADS? Social Change Model in Athletic Administration

Tuesday, January 25
 3:30 - 4:30 pm, Aurora Room
 4th Floor Idaho Commons

Embracing Conflict and Other Wacky, Scary Good Things about Teamwork

Wednesday, January 26
 11:30 – 12:30 pm, Aurora Room
 4th Floor Idaho Commons

Clarifying your Values – Do you walk your talk?

Tuesday, February 1
 3:30 - 4:30 pm, Aurora Room
 4th Floor Idaho Commons

Leading by Example

Wednesday, February 2
 11:30 – 12:30 pm, Aurora Room
 4th Floor Idaho Commons

Idaho Commons Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 7am-12am
 Friday: 7am-8pm
 Saturday: 9am-8pm
 Sunday: 12pm-12am

Student Union Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 7am-12am
 Friday: 7am-8pm
 Saturday: 9am-8pm (will stay open later for programming)
 Sunday: 12pm-12am

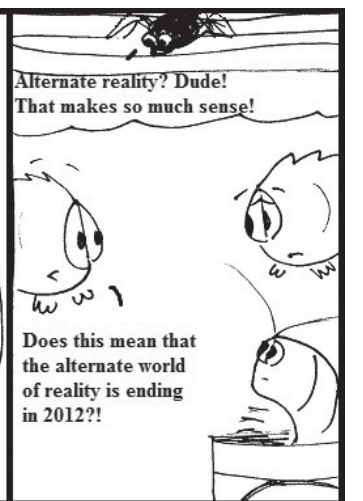
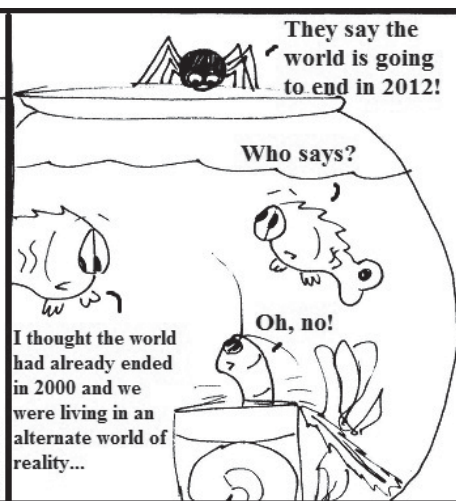
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Gray Scale

Erica Larson | Argonaut



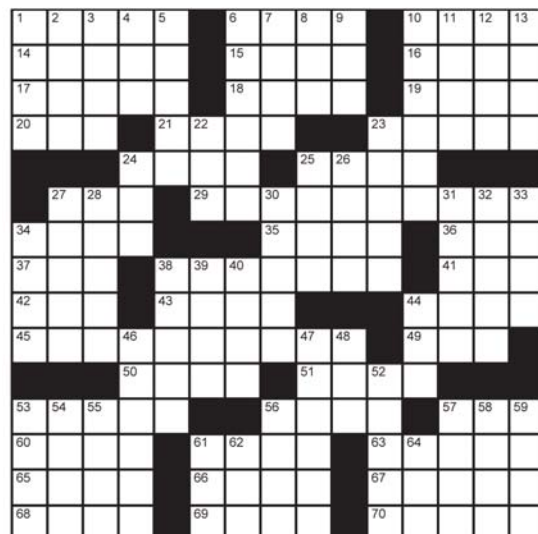
Rex

Eli Holland | Argonaut



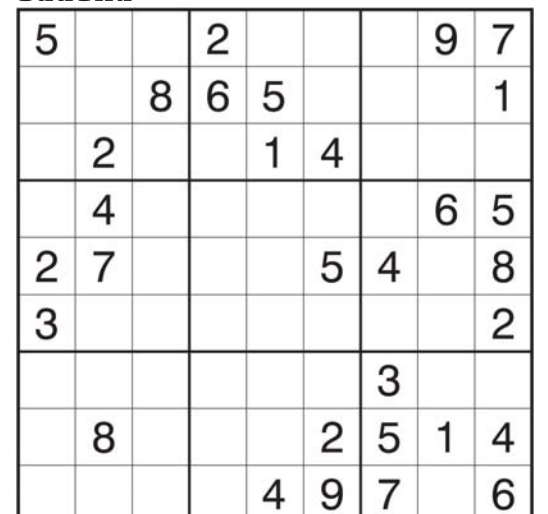
Crossword

- Across**
- Title-holder
 - Percolate
 - Highway hauler
 - Eagle's home
 - High point
 - Aid in crime
 - Billiards shot
 - Hoodlum
 - Sharpen
 - Distress letters
 - Mishmash
 - They can be magic
 - Kind of admiral
 - Billow
 - Casual attire
 - Court figures
 - Temperate
 - Shoestring
 - "... he drove out of sight"
 - Capt.'s guess
 - Delighted
 - Panel truck
 - A Bobsey twin
 - Pull down
 - Factor
 - Bier gardener?
 - Rub the wrong way
 - Stocking stuffers
 - St. Louis team
 - TV offering
 - As a result
 - Young newt
 - Kind of car
 - One of the Muppets
 - Pancho, for one
 - Lion's pride
 - Low dam
 - Sink
 - Places
 - Diner sign



- Down**
- Street fleet
 - Achilles, e.g.
 - War god
 - Soccer star Hamm
 - Black tea
 - Type of play
 - Audio effect
 - Easily tamed bird
 - Dowel
 - 1943 Bogart film
 - Black, to poets
 - Repair
 - Residents (Suffix)
 - Terhune novel, A Dog
 - Walked into the water
 - Wine choice
 - Neptune's realm
 - Story starter
 - Spiral-horned antelope
 - Meat cut
 - At no time
 - Field's partner
 - Dispatched
 - Waiter's offering
 - Big name in Argentina
 - After curfew
 - Historic times
 - " boom bah"
 - Short compositions
 - Miscues
 - Maid's cloth
 - Date place
 - Haunch
 - Isaac's eldest
 - It's overhead
 - Spew out
 - Dresden's river
 - Skedaddle
 - Tiny bits
 - Female sheep
 - Grazing ground
 - Rascal

Sudoku



Solutions



Corrections

Find a mistake? Send an e-mail to the editor.



2010 ACP/CMA National College Media Convention, Fifth place Best of Show Large School Website

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The Argonaut welcomes letters to the editor about current issues. However,

The Argonaut adheres to a strict letter policy:
 • Letters should be less than 300 words typed.
 • Letters should focus on issues, not on personalities.
 • The Argonaut reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and clarity.
 • Letters must be signed, include major and provide a current phone number.
 • If your letter is in response to a particular article, please list the title and date of the article.
 • Send all letters to:
 301 Student Union
 Moscow, ID, 83844-4271
 or arg-opinion@uidaho.edu.

Education credit to benefit students

American Opportunity tax credit will soon take effect

Kayla Herrmann
Argonaut

The expenses of tuition, housing and other fees can take a toll on families' finances during a student's time in college, but under the American Opportunity Tax Credit, some people are eligible to receive a refund.

The American Opportunity Tax Credit is one of many education credits, and allots a maximum of \$2,500 per academic year.

"This credit was part of a stimulus to help fund higher education through a family unit and to help students and their parents, while in college," said Debbie De Witt, H&R Block tax preparer. "It's now been in effect for two years, and has expanded and replaced the Hope Credit."

The IRS said the credit is available to anyone whose gross income is \$80,000 or less or \$160,000 or less for married couples filing a joint return.

Other qualification requirements include students cannot be convicted of a felony for possessing or distributing a controlled substance, depended on someone's 2009 tax return and must be enrolled part time in a college, university

or other accredited post-secondary educational institution.

"This credit is beneficial to individuals who are not dependent on someone's tax return, however a lot of students are dependent on their parents, so essentially the parents would get to take advantage of the credit," De Witt said.

Carol Fuson, H&R Block tax preparer, said 40 percent of the tax credit is refundable and can potentially produce a refund larger than the amount of payments made.

"I think that this credit is a great idea and college kids can certainly use the help," Fuson said. "We need more education in this system, so anything that is helping students is something that I completely support."

Kelsi Vincent, senior, pays for her own schooling and said she thinks a credit such as this can help relieve financial stress for students.

"A lot of students have to pay for college themselves and getting a refund would really help lighten the stress of the cost of college," Vincent said. "The government knows how important it is to have a college degree and to get an education, however I think they still have a lot to improve on in this aspect."



Amrah Canul | Argonaut

Student employees Chelsea Wilson and a co-worker ring up orders at Denny's in the 6th Street Marketplace Jan 19. The American Opportunity Tax Credit offers up to \$2,500 per academic year pending qualifications.



Katherine Brown | Argonaut

Brian Blee, a junior in English-creative writing, expresses his feelings at Sisters' Brew on Friday about DIRECTV's decision to drop the FOX network. Blee said he likes DIRECTV, but is "against FOX charging DIRECTV."

DIRECTV ends Fox deal

After Fox ups prices 'out of nowhere,' DIRECTV ends contract

Summer Christiansen
Argonaut

Station owner of KAYU Fox has asked DIRECTV for a 600 percent increase in fees for their contract, but Direct TV declined because it would result in a higher bill for clients.

"We're not going to do that to our customers, especially during this difficult time," said Robert Mercer, director of public relations at DIRECTV.

Mercer said DIRECTV's contract with Fox expired at the end of the year. He said they have been trying to renew it, but refuse to pay the vast increase for the renewal of the contract.

Areas that receive KAYU's reception include Spokane, Wash., Northern Idaho, Moses Lakes and Ephrata, Wash.

Shows covered on this station include "Fox News Sunday," NFL on FOX, "Family Guy" and "Fringe."

Brian Blee, University of Idaho junior, said he thinks DIRECTV made the correct decision in this situation and feels they will not lose any memberships because of the issue.

"I absolutely appreciate that DIRECTV didn't succumb to Fox's ways so I don't have a larger bill," Blee said.

Like Mercer, Blee said he thinks football fans will be able to find another way to watch the upcoming Super Bowl game without Fox. Mercer suggested DIRECTV users try using an off-air antenna or find a sports bar that will show the game.

James Buck Hansen, UI sophomore, agreed with Blee.

"I think its outlandish that Fox would try and raise prices seemingly out of nowhere," Hansen said.

Dan Hartman, senior vice president of programming acquisitions, said in the past two months DIRECTV has negotiated deals with seven station groups that represent collectively more than 90 stations in 71 markets, and said they would like to do the same in the Northwest.

"Station owners demanding exorbitant fees are becoming a common problem for the entire pay-television industry" Mercer said, "and that's why we're drawing a line in the sand with Northwest."

Mercer said he does not think the dispute will be resolved soon.

Briefs

SArb Applications

Student Alumni Relations Board is looking to fill up 20 spots. Their allotted number for members is 89, said Matt Cook, vice president of SArb. The members are to attend meetings every other Thursday for 45 minutes and complete four hours a semester of service. Any year can apply. If there are any seniors we ask that they will be a fifth year following this spring semester. The applications are due by 3 p.m. Thursday in the Alumni Office. Applications can be found online at www.uidaho.edu/sarb.

Listen

Listen

Listen
89.3



Civility clause affects students in the classroom

Molly Spencer
Argonaut

Students in a psychology and diversity class are responsible for the first draft of the civility clause that was presented to the Faculty Senate by the multicultural and co-curricular subcommittee of the president's Diversity Council.

"The respect clause originated in my psychology and diversity class for 2002 ... this subcommittee got together and said we need to do something and I said, 'I have this clause that students came up with and thought would be an important addition to syllabi in order to provide them with a respectful class environment,'" said Traci Craig of psychology and communication

studies department. "Through their vision, it has been revised by this committee and it has been changed to the civility clause rather than a respect clause."

The first draft of the clause was developed by Craig's students said Mario Reyes, associate dean of the College of Business and Economics.

"When I presented this to the Faculty Senate many of the faculty, they were nodding their heads because they already had their own version they had added in their syllabus," Reyes said.

The clause is meant to serve as a resource for students and faculty so they don't have to reinvent a statement. The clause is strongly recommended in the classroom, but can never be mandatory,

said Cori Planagan, coordinator of orientation programming.

"I think the goal is to always have a civil environment, and have it addressed and brought to light in the syllabus," Craig said. "That's the primary source of communication that sets a tone for a course and I think just having that already in there reassures students the discourse here should remain civil and mutual. I think it's just a way to formally acknowledge the context which that relationship should become."

It is a nice proactive step too, Planagan said. If something uncivil does happen in the classroom, instructors can use the clause as a tool to let students know the rules were set when the syl-

labus was shown.

"One guideline is to provoke a difficult thinking but in a very, very respectful, original way ... let's say text, that in there the context has religions or political isms, or contemporary events that are affecting the way that we interpret text," said Demetrio Anzaldo-Gonzalez, assistant professor to Foreign Language and Literature. "We are handling controversial topics but in a very, very rational, humane and respectful way."

Personalities in the classroom are different which cause some people to not want to speak in the class. With the clause, the tendency to monopolize discourse in the classroom will not be an issue, Gonzalez said.

Study Abroad FAIR

Wednesday January 26th, 2011
10:00am-2:00pm
Get info from both the Study Abroad Office and our program providers while listening to international music

Pre-Event
Tuesday January 25th, 2011
5:00pm-7:00pm
Eat free Pizza and hear from past study abroad Participants

Winning streak ended



Nick Groff | Argonaut

Vandal guard Deremy Geiger attempts to drive past Boise State guard Westly Perryman during the first half of the game Saturday evening in the Cowan Spectrum. The Broncos came back from a 12-point first half deficit to beat the Vandals 70-67 in front of the third largest crowd in Cowan Spectrum history. The loss snapped the Vandals six-game winning streak.

Pierce Beigh Argonaut

The University of Idaho men's basketball team left the Cowan Spectrum Saturday with heavy hearts after losing to in-state rival Boise State (12-7, 5-2 WAC) by a score of 70-67.

"I'm empty right now," senior guard Shawn Henderson said. "I just feel like we should have won this game."

With an attendance of more than 5,000 people, the packed Cowan Spectrum had the third largest crowd in its history.

"I appreciate the Vandal fans coming out tonight and I'm disappointed we couldn't reward them with a win," Idaho coach Don Verlin said.

With 6:45 left in the first half Idaho led by 12 and Boise State had not scored a field goal since 13:20 in the first half. Idaho played well defensively by closing the driving lanes, making the Broncos shoot from the 3-point line. With just minutes left in the first half, the Broncos switched to a full court press defense that slowed down the Vandal offense and allowed the Broncos to come within four points.

The Broncos were close to tying it up before halftime, but a 3-point shot by junior guard Deremy Geiger allowed the Vandals to head into the locker room up 33-26.

Henderson opened the second half with back-to-back shots, followed by the Vandals and Broncos trading buckets and returning to the fast-paced play that started the game. Bronco guard La'Shard Anderson was fouled while making a layup in traffic. He converted on the 3-point play, giving Boise State a one-point lead.

"There's a lot of emotions with this rivalry," Anderson said. "It feels real good to get the first win at Idaho of the season."

A slam dunk by junior post Luiz Toledo wasn't enough to keep the

see **ENDED**, page 8

Behind the 'Voice of the Vandals'

Theo Lawson Argonaut

Unlike many 13-year-olds, Evan Ellis had his career decided when he was in middle school.

Now working his fifth year for the Vandal Radio Network as the announcer for the men's basketball team, Ellis said listening to Portland Trailblazers games on the radio as a child fueled his desire to follow in the footsteps of Bill Schonely, his favorite radio broadcaster and the Blazers' first ever play-by-play announcer.

"It sounded to me, and it was obvious, that he was having so much fun calling those basketball games," Ellis said. "I had my little transistor radio and I would sit in my bed and listen to the games and when he signed off I went to bed."

A native of Vancouver, Wash., Ellis took his aspirations to Washington State University and graduated in 1999 from the Morrow School of Communications, which had the best broadcasting program in the state during the late 1990s. In addition to his play-by-play radio job at UI, he is also the news director at KQQQ AM in Pullman.

Calling basketball games has always been Ellis' passion, and he recalls his earliest days with Idaho when Vandal great Bob Curtis was the play-by-play announcer.

"I did some behind the scenes stuff and was responsible for scoreboard updates for a couple of years," he said. "I learned a lot from Bob Curtis, who was and will always be the original 'Voice of the Vandals.'"

Prior to his time with the Vandals, Ellis called football and basketball games for high schools in the Palouse for eight years and worked at Moscow High School for one year before UI hired him. After a few years of behind the scenes work, he began calling women's basketball games for the Vandals.

Ellis said his love for the Palouse and UI

will make it hard for him to take his broadcasting talents anywhere else.

"Most guys don't get the Division 1 job at my age, so to have this opportunity I feel very fortunate," he said. "It's a great athletic department, the fans are fantastic and I never would've thought it when I came out to the Palouse to go to college 15 years ago that this was going to be my home. I'm now married to a local girl and we've just now had our first born and I have a great job at a great university — I have no reason to go anywhere else."

Ellis, who is now 34-years-old, said his favorite part of the job is describing to the fans through his words what's happening during the game.

"It's really exciting and a real honor to describe to however many people are listening exactly what's happening on the floor and allow them to paint the picture in their mind based on what I'm telling them and what I'm focusing on ... to be able to do that is just amazing when you think about it," said Ellis.

Despite a short high school football career, Ellis has found qualities in basketball that make the sport more exciting for him to announce, specifically the minimal time he has to summarize what happens before the next basket is scored.

"I don't know all the Xs and Os, but I sure as hell know that I should be really fired up if I think our guy should be drawing a charge and instead he's called for a block," he said. "And to come across what it's like for a fan when the Vandals are on the road and Idaho's going to win this road game is amazing. It's dead quiet in there and all you hear is me yelling and screaming and I'm the only one in the gym that's excited because I want to provide fans with that perspective."

As an announcer, Ellis lives for games that

see **VOICE**, page 8



Nick Groff | Argonaut

Vandal guard Keri Arendse dribbles away from Boise State guard Kati Isham Saturday in the Cowan Spectrum. Arendse and the Vandals never trailed in the 68-48 blow-out win against rival Broncos.

Taking down the Broncos

Kevin Bingaman Argonaut

The Vandal women's basketball team was able to put the upset loss to San Jose State behind them when they trounced rival Boise State 68-48 in the Cowan Spectrum Saturday.

Idaho (10-7, 3-2 WAC) earned a share of the third place slot in the conference with the win, jumping Boise State (11-8, 2-3 WAC). Idaho will play three more games at home before going back on the road.

Idaho began the week with a heartbreaking loss to San Jose State, 61-63. The loss snapped a 20-game losing streak for the Spartans and gave them their first conference win since February 2010.

Turnovers have been an issue in several games for the Vandals this season, and that continued to be the case against San Jose, as Idaho turned the

ball over 18 times. Coach Jon Newlee said his team just didn't play up to its potential.

"We came out flat with no energy," Newlee said. "We talked about not looking past these guys and start talking about Boise State. We talked about not overlooking a team like this — we lost here last year. I guess it's on me, I didn't have them ready to play."

The one bright spot for the Vandals came from senior Yinka Olorunnife who played the game of her career, dropping 34 points and snatching 13 rebounds in her eighth double-double of the season. Playing at San Jose State seems to be an Achilles' heel for Idaho, having lost to them last season in a similar contest.

The Vandals more than made up for the loss Saturday, pummeling Boise State in a blowout.

see **BRONCOS**, page 8

Broncos sink Vandals in swim meet

Staff report Argonaut

The Vandal swimming and diving team were defeated Saturday by the Boise State Broncos, falling 160-83 at the University of Idaho Swim Center.

The meet was led by

freshman Shan Lim and sophomore Paige Hunt. Hunt took the 3-meter diving event after executing a personal best of 275.95 and Lim, a freshman from Singapore and the only international player on the swimming and diving team, barely beat her BSU com-

petitor in the 50m freestyle. Lim also pulled off a personal best score of 2:04.43 in the 200m backstroke, capturing another win for the Vandals.

The swimming and diving team will next travel to Corvallis, Ore. Saturday to go up against the Oregon State Beavers.

Vandals win top three at Cougar Indoor



Photos by Katherine Brown | Argonaut

Idaho senior Katy Lutjens puts the shot 10.92 meters Saturday at the Cougar Indoor track and field meet in Pullman. Idaho senior Eugenio Mannucci landed his shot put at 17.09 meters Saturday, which was only two centimeters from his recent record-winning throw.

Vicky Hart

Argonaut

The upperclassmen of Vandal track and field brought home three individual titles from this weekend's Cougar Indoor meet, while several newcomers earned runner-up finishes early in their careers.

The team spent its second consecutive weekend in Pullman competing against collegiate teams from Montana, Utah and Washington.

University of Idaho pole vaulter Jeremy Klas made his season debut Saturday and won the event with a height of 17-2.75 (5.25m), clearing the eighth-

best height in the nation and coming within inches of the NCAA qualifying standard. Idaho's jumping coach, Jason Graham, was pleased but unsurprised by Klas' top 10 qualification.

"It's early in the season and people haven't put up really big marks yet," Graham said. "I completely expect him to jump quite a bit higher than that."

The junior became Idaho's first indoor All-American in the pole vault last year and plans to continue to improve this season.

Senior Eugenio Mannucci brought home his second shot put title with a toss of 56-1 (17.09m), coming up just two centimeters short of last week's

winning throw.

The Vandals also shined in men's and women's weight throwing. Junior Gabby Midles won the women's event by a two-foot two-inch margin, and Kyle Rothwell took second with a throw of 50-4 (15.34m). Midles' 57-7 (17.55m) toss was the second-best of her career at Idaho.

The Vandal men's 4x400 team came in second behind Utah State University, whose men won the WAC indoor team title last year. Idaho's relay team of Andrew White, Andrew Bloom, Jeff Jacka and Kyle Tylor recorded a time of 3:26.14, beating out teams from Washington State University and the Univer-

sity of Montana.

First-year Vandals made an impressive showing this weekend, seizing top finishes in sprinting, jumping and distance events. Freshman Liga Velper ran the women's 400m in 56.96 seconds for a second-place title. Junior Rendel Jones, runner up in Saturday's triple jump with a distance of 14.06m, recently transferred to UI from Central Washington University. As his training continues, Graham expects nothing but improvement from Jones.

"Rendel (Jones) is one jump away from having a really big breakthrough mark," Graham said. "He's a tough competitor... he holds himself to a very

high standard."

Hannah Kiser, a freshman who ran cross-country earlier this school year, finished third in the women's mile run with a time of 5:01.09, the second-fastest time in the WAC so far this season. "Those things are exciting... especially for these new athletes to be competitive in the conference," Graham said.

The best is yet to come for Vandal track and field, as the athletes will train through the rest of January's meets. Idaho's coaching staff aims for athletes to peak in late February for the WAC indoor championship. Next week, the Vandals head to Seattle for the UW Invitational.

Double win for women's tennis

Kelli Hadley

Argonaut

Any concerns regarding the amount of youth on the Vandal tennis team were put to rest Saturday when the women beat Seattle University and Lewis-Clark State College 7-0.

Coach Tyler Neill said he had hoped for the two wins Saturday, but mainly wanted the freshmen on the team to get comfortable competing at the college level. The Vandal women did so, and also managed to win 11 of 12 singles matches and six doubles matches.

"Everybody looked pretty good out there," Neill said. "I guess my goal was just to kind of have everyone get some experience in the team setting and obviously that happened... and for everyone to compete their hardest, which I also think happened."

The team will travel the short distance to Pullman Friday to compete against Washington State University. Last year the Vandal women fell to the Cougars 6-1, and this year the team is expected to be just as talented.

"It will be a much bigger challenge, we know that. They're nationally ranked, they're a tough team and they always are, so that will be a lot more difficult," Neill said.

But Neill said he is so pleased



Jake Barber | Argonaut

Vandal Lauren Simpson of Canberra, Australia leaps to return the ball during a doubles match against Lewis-Clark State College Saturday in Lewiston. The Vandals swept the match.

with the way his team started the season that a similar performance this weekend would make him just as proud.

"I like the way we competed and if we compete like we did this last weekend, I'll be very happy, even if we don't win against WSU," Neill said.

Team captain Basia Maciocha and Molly Knox each had

6-0, 6-0 singles victories Saturday, and the only small hiccup came from a tough match between Victoria Lozano and LCSC player Dominika Jasova. Lozano beat Jasova 6-1 but fell to her competitor in the second match 4-6. A third deciding match ended the tie, with Lozano defeating Jasova 6-3. The rest of the singles and doubles

matches were straight wins for the Vandals.

"I was really happy with our performance. It's not so much the results but how everyone played," Neill said. "Everyone competed really hard and really gave good effort in all the matches. Being able to sweep both matches was a great way to start the season."

Men's tennis starts strong

Jacob Dyer

Argonaut

Getting off on the right foot came easy for the men's tennis team this past weekend as they swept Lewis-Clark State College, and then fended off Eastern Washington University with the help of notable performances by Lachlan Reed and Abid Akbar.

The Vandals had a strong showing against LCSC and defeated them 7-0. Reed led the way with his victory against Cesar Uauy 6-1, 6-0 and Alan Shin and Abid Akbar also had strong performances. The only hitch of the morning came when Akbar and his partner Jake Knox lost a close match to Lincoln Gay and Uauy, 9-8.

"LCSC is a strong NAIA that I could definitely see ranked in the top at some point this spring — they really pushed us in several matches," Beaman said.

After dismantling LCSC the Vandals took to the court again to face off against Eastern Washington. The Vandals came away victorious 5-2.

"Going right back on court against a tough Eastern team after our five hour LCSC match, I felt the guys could have been a bit sore and flat starting off," Beaman said. "All of our doubles pairings showed up right from the first point and with great energy and attitude to

sweep the doubles."

Alexandru Joitoiu, after a three set victory in the morning, defeated Stefan Simikic in another close match 7-5, 6-2. The Vandals were also helped by two more lopsided victories: Reed defeated Mario Navarro 6-0, 6-2 and Akbar defeated Chris Eriksson 6-1, 6-1.

The men's team walked away with three victories in doubles. Akbar and Jake Knox defeated Mario Navarro and James Russell 8-6, Jose Bendeck and Reed defeated Chris Henninger and Kyle Koetzig 8-6, and finally, Marius Cirstea and Joitoiu defeated Fernando Mussolini and Julian Sanchez 8-6.

Though the men left Cheney unscathed this weekend, they won't have long to celebrate as they head to Oregon Friday for the first match of six straight in the state, the first being a matchup with the Pac-10 Oregon Ducks.

"I would not be surprised to see Oregon move into the national rankings before we play them on Friday as they are off to a great start to their year with a record of 4 and 0 and some dominating performances," Beaman said.

The Ducks have won every one of their matches this year 6-1, including a victory against the same Eastern Washington Eagles the Vandals topped this past weekend.

Vandal and Bronco hockey to compete at McCall winter carnival

Kelli Hadley

Argonaut

A lesser-known face-off between the Vandals and Broncos will ensue this weekend, possibly resulting in a bloody ice rink, broken bones and rivalry glory for one club hockey team.

The University of Idaho hockey team will take a road trip to the McCall Winter Carnival this weekend for a festivity highlight — the annual rivalry games that senior Andy Gunkel said are sure to have "at least a couple fights."

"McCall is the biggest weekend for the Vandal hockey team," said Danny Wade, junior. "There's a big parade and tons of people... they have huge

ice sculptures, and it's kinda like the highlight of the night — ends everybody's big day of festivities."

Gunkel said there were three fights in the Winter Carnival games last year, and though fighting will get a player kicked out of the game, the crowd goes crazy as soon as two players rip off their helmets.

"Our captain last year... fought their captain — they planned it out before," Gunkel said. "They were kind of jawing at each other and were like, 'Third period we're dropping the gloves.' So two minutes left in third period, he jumps over the boards — the puck and the play is at the other end of the ice completely — and he yells at the

kid... and start goin' at it. I'm pretty sure he made the kid crumple."

Gunkel said there are as many as 2,000 people who show up to watch the games — one Friday night and one Saturday — both of which the Vandals won last year.

"The second game we won 15-2... three or four U of I alums came up to me and were like, 'Yeah, yeah, run the score up — this is the only time we get to see BSU get stomped,'" Gunkel said. "All 15 goals in the second game, they were screaming their heads off for them, it was awesome. It was one of the biggest crowds I've ever played in front of."

Wade said the Boise State games are a big deal for the team and hockey

fans, even though they don't count toward the national championships. The team makes extra money from selling tickets to the rivalry games, which significantly aids their recently-wounded fund allotment. The team received \$2,500 from UI this year, which Wade said is not nearly enough for the whole season.

"Two years ago we got \$10,000, which was huge 'cause that helped buy new jerseys and pay for refs, ice time, practice time, travel money, renting cars from the school... but now it's kind of coming out of our pockets," Wade said.

Wade said the team practices at the Palouse ice rink, which is only able to host 4-on-4 hockey at a time, but it's

the only facility nearby.

Gunkel said he thinks better facilities for the team would give the team a boost of recognition from the UI campus and Moscow community, resulting in more money for the team and school. He encouraged students to get out of Moscow for a weekend to support the team and see all the other events going on in McCall this weekend as well.

"I'd say 70 percent of the school doesn't even know we have a hockey team..." Gunkel said. "Who wouldn't want to watch a game where kids fight and you can drink beer? And it's considered the fastest paced, organized sport out there. It's really hard to get bored watching a hockey game."

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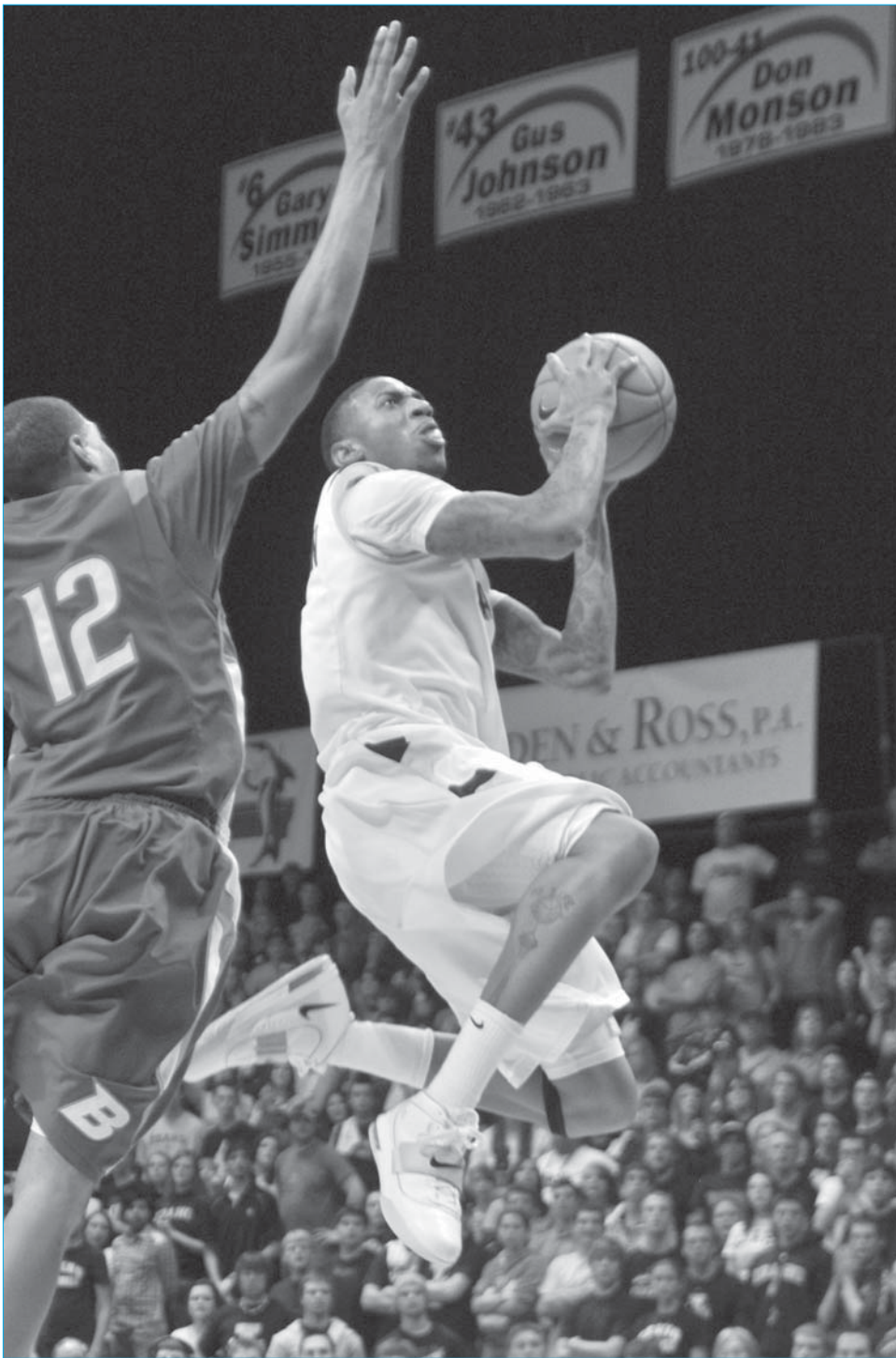
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TO THE RIM



Nick Groff | Argonaut

Vandal guard Shawn Henderson elevates to the hoop past Boise State guard La'Shard Anderson during the second half the game Saturday evening in Cowan Spectrum. Anderson blocked Henderson on the play and the Vandals lost the contest 70-67.

The right sight

The archery world is flooded with the availability of new products. These new innovations are revolutionizing every part of the bow itself and turning archery equipment into more deadly and accurate weapons than ever before.

The new age of sights has arrived in this flurry of new products, and they will give any bow an instant upgrade.

Holographic, vertical pins, horizontal pins, single pin and single pin adjustable — there are at least a half dozen different styles of sights to choose from, but which of these will be the best choice for the hard core bow hunter?

Holographic sights could be the future of sight technology. These sights have a clear lens where the sight pins should be. Upon looking down the string, imposed red dot aiming points are projected onto the lens, giving the shooter angle accounting accuracy. The downside of these sights is the majority of those available on the market are battery powered, or in Idaho, illegal. There are a few models produced that are the exception — these use light-gathering fiber optic coils to catch light and produce aiming points, making them legal in all 50 states.

Vertical pins are left over from a wave of popularity about three years ago. The pins, or aiming points, are lined up directly behind one another in a vertical line. Lining the pins up vertically takes up less space in the sight picture. This allows the shooter

to see more of the target than just the point of impact. These sights allow the shooter to see other animals that may be moving into the shot area, as well as any obstructions that may deflect the shot. The problem with these sights is, they are a little different from the traditional sight when it comes to sighting them in. Also, from personal experience, they have shown to be more easily knocked off center.



Michael French
Argonaut

The new horizontal pin sights are wild versions of the tried-and-true original compound bow sight. The pins

come from the side of the sight housing and into the sight picture — they are adjusted from the side and simple to operate. This is why this design has seen so much success — the majority of all sights on the market follow this description. But the new technology adds elements to this old-school design. First of all, one of the most important things about a sight is whether it is tough. The second is whether you can see the pins when you need to. Manufactures got the memo — almost every sight on the market has the improved capabilities to be abused. Sight pins have evolved from wimpy pieces of plastic to hard-core machined aluminum and steel. Fiber optics gather light, and the more you have on a sight the brighter the pins will be. The new trend is to wrap dozens of feet of fiber optic on the sight housing to ensure bright aiming points in the darkest situation.

The last sight style is one

that has been hiding in the No. 2 spot for years, simply waiting for bow technology to catch up. These are the single pin and single pin adjustable sights. These pins are easy to describe — its one pin, usually with a lightweight sight housing and one-piece mounting bracket. These have to be put on a bow shooting fast enough to have almost no arrow drop inside 40 yards. These sights are easy to sight in — most models have micro-adjustments for precise sight alignment, and the easiest to shoot on the market. With only one pin, a hunter takes yardage estimates out of the equation.

Adjustable single pin sights are a little more complicated, but still user friendly. The sight housing is similar to the regular single pin sight, but the mounting bracket is a yardage adjustment as well. The sight housing is attached to a swing arm that allows the shooter to dial in exact yardages quickly. This allows an experienced shooter to dial in shots at long distances with no hold over. The downside to this sight is a shooter must always remember what yardage the sight is set at — if the sight is set for 60 yards, you're going to miss at 30 every time.

For the beginning shooter a single pin setup works well, while the average hunter will find that a multi-pin setup will keep them prepared for changing shot situations in the field. The competition shooter or advanced hunter will find the adjustable single pin will show performance never thought possible. Regardless of the sight a shooter chooses, they should be sure to get comfortable with it before hunting or target season.

Conquering the winter blues with winter sports

There seems to be two views on winter among students — those who love it and those who hate it.

Some look at the cold as a hardship they have to overcome — they don't like the cold, the snow and fail to see any enjoyment that could come from it. To others, however, winter is the best time of year. The key to enjoying winter is to explore the many outdoor activities available.

There's no reason to stay indoors during the winter when there is an unlimited amount of adventures to be had outdoors. Snow is not something to avoid, but to embrace.

Skiing and snowboarding are at the top of the list of winter activities. There are not many sports in any season that invoke as much passion.

When avid skiers see the snow fall, it's not a downer, but a signal their favorite season is coming. Hitting the slopes is an experience everyone should have.



Kevin Bingaman
Argonaut

For the more traditional sportsman, there's always ice fishing. This may sound like the ultimate no-go for some people, but its many people's favorite form of fishing. When some imagine ice fishing, they picture sitting patiently on the ice, freezing and staring at a hole in the ground. It's true

some days it can get really cold, but on others, a day on the ice can actually get pretty toasty. It's a great way to spend a relaxing afternoon, and having fresh fish to fry isn't bad either.

The nearby Spring Valley Reservoir offers a great ice

fishing experience. It's possible to catch a mess of trout in a few short hours. The fishing at Spring Valley is rarely slow, and anyone who likes fishing would do well to give it a try.

For people who are into fitness, winter also offers activities like cross country skiing and snowshoeing, both of which can be done in the area, like Moscow Mountain. The snow-filled forest is beautiful and is well worth the time and effort to get out and experience it.

Winter is not a time to get depressed, stay indoors and dream about summer. It's a time to try new activities, and understand why some people love winter. Whether it is skiing on Lookout, fishing on frozen Spring Valley, hiking Moscow Mountain or ice skating at the Palouse rink, winter has something to offer everyone.

Everyone has a choice: Dread winter or embrace it. Everyone can have fun in the snow, they just have to choose to do so.

Kickers should be superstars

Football kickers are an underrated group of individuals. From place kickers to punters, the use of special teams can win or lose a game. What some do not realize is that kickers are like Supreme Court justices — once the kicker is drafted, if they have enough leg to make it in the NFL, they tend to stay with that team for their entire career.

For example, look at Jason Elam's career. Elam made an astounding 81.2 percent of the field goals he attempted, with his longest being 63 yards. As a third round draft pick, Elam was chosen by the Denver Broncos in 1993 and stayed there until he joined the Atlanta Falcons in 2003.

Like Elam, kickers are typically picked up in later rounds while teams fight for the cream of the college crop in the first round of the draft. For the Oakland Raiders, making history seemed to be on Al Davis' mind when he announced Sebastian Janikowski would be the Raiders' 17th overall pick in the 2000 NFL Draft. Janikowski was not the first kicker to go in the first round but he was only the third. That says something for how much leg he has, or it just proves that Al Davis was already off his rocker 10 years ago.

Having a good leg is not the only thing kickers have going for them. In fact, in recent years kickers have started to become more

physical when playing on the field. In the past, kickers, like quarterbacks, were likely to avoid converging on a tackle but times have changed. For example, Samuel Paulescu, former back up punter for the Dallas Cowboys put the hurt on Tampa Bay's Clifton Smith in 2008. In addition, Janikowski has been known to throw his body around as well. Then again when a kicker is 250 pounds it makes sense he would be an ideal tackler.



Anthony Saia
Argonaut

Kicking a ball through the uprights from 30 yards away seems like it would be a simple enough task, but it is well known it takes more than a great leg to get it done — just ask Boise State University kicker Kyle Brotzman. Yeah, they went on to win their bowl game and all that stuff, but this guy missed not once, but twice, causing the Broncos to lose their first game of the season to the Nevada Wolfpack.

Perhaps that's why it takes so long to select a kicker in the NFL draft. It would take a lot of research to see if a kicker prospect can be clutch in the long run.

Nevertheless, it seems the quarterbacks, receivers and running backs are still getting a lot of attention these days. Kickers deserve an equal amount of notoriety. Let's face it, kickers save drives and sometimes games. If anyone on the team is a star, it should be them.

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BRONCOS

from page 5

The first half was a back and forth battle, with each team exchanging runs. Idaho never trailed in the half, but was never able to build a decisive lead.

The Vandals ended the second quarter with a 30-21 advantage—the biggest lead of the first half. They came out in with a vengeance in the second half, competing with stellar long-range shooting and feisty defense. They quickly took a double-digit lead they didn't relinquish. Newlee said grabbing the momentum early was important.

"I thought we came out with a lot of energy, knowing what we wanted to do," Newlee said. "Those threes really energized us and got us going."

Junior Keri Arendse sparked the Vandal offense, scoring nine points to start

the second half. Arendse said she was just working with what the defense gave her.

"We take what they give us, and they were worried about our posts and it leaves us guards open," Arendse said. "The assistant coaches were telling me to keep my confidence and they (the shots) will go, and they did. My teammates set me up for some good shots, and luckily I hit them."

The win was never in question throughout the half, just a question of how much the Vandals would lead. Senior Rachele Kloke said it was a satisfying way to end her final home game against BSU.

"Senior year against Boise State, they didn't have a chance pretty much the entire game I was just having a blast the entire time," Kloke said. "We came in on our court and we defended it, and going down there it's going to be the same thing, they're going to want to defend their court."

ENDED

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Vandals on a scoring roll, however, as the team only made three field goals in the last 5:40 of the game.

With just six seconds left and the Vandals down by four, Henderson hit a 3-pointer to put Idaho behind by just one point with 5.5 seconds left, but Idaho couldn't make a victory out of it.

"I just give it to Boise for coming out in the second half," Henderson said. "We didn't play as hard as we should have."

Idaho (12-7, 5-2 WAC) is now tied with Boise State, and the loss ended

the best conference winning streak UI men's basketball has seen in 12 years.

"I thought their coach out-coached us," Verlin said. "You have to give them credit for that, they did a great job."

A controversial call late in the game gave Boise State a momentum boost, when a shot from Anderson appeared to miss the rim, which would have resulted in a shot-clock violation for Boise State and a turnover to the Vandals. The shot clock, however, was inadvertently reset and the Broncos, after grabbing the "rebound," knocked down a field goal to extend the lead and put Idaho in a hole from which it would not recover.

Officials deemed the call non-reviewable and Idaho fans and players found little relief in arguing their

point. In the confusion of this play, the Broncos were able to get the rebound and make another shot, extending their lead to four.

"It didn't touch the rim," Henderson said. "I thought they would at least review it."

In the last 33 seconds of the game, the Broncos went 6-8 from the free throw line, four of which came from Anderson, sealing the game for the Broncos.

"We knew that Anderson played a better second half game than his first half," Verlin said. "We just didn't take care of him."

The Vandals will head to Ruston, La. to play LA Tech at 5 p.m. Thursday. The game will be televised on ESPN Regional television.

VOICE

from page 5

come down to a buzzer-beating shot — he said the highlight of his announcing career was a road game two years ago in Boise.

"We had 1.4 seconds left to go and Marvin Jefferson hit the winning tip

in. That's the most exciting thing to call, that last second shot. That was the pinnacle in my opinion, especially since we hadn't won in Boise in 13 or 14 years," Ellis said.

Ellis said he was unlucky to miss Jeff Ledbetter's game winner last week against California State University in Bakersfield as he and his wife were expecting their first child.

Although Ellis describes announcing a Portland Trailblazers game as the "Coup de Gras of his career," he said not much can beat the job he claims to be a blessing.

"Each time I put on a headset at a Vandal game I get a rush, and many times I realize how lucky I am to get that opportunity ... it's an absolute thrill every time, even in the (down) years, when we win three or four games," he said.

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OurView

A laptop is not a teacher

Tom Luna, superintendent for public education in Idaho, has a new plan for public education. It involves replacing in-person courses with online classes and enlarging class sizes for fourth through 12th grades. It will also prevent new teachers from getting continuing contracts, disallow negotiation for anything besides pay and benefits and create a pay-for-performance

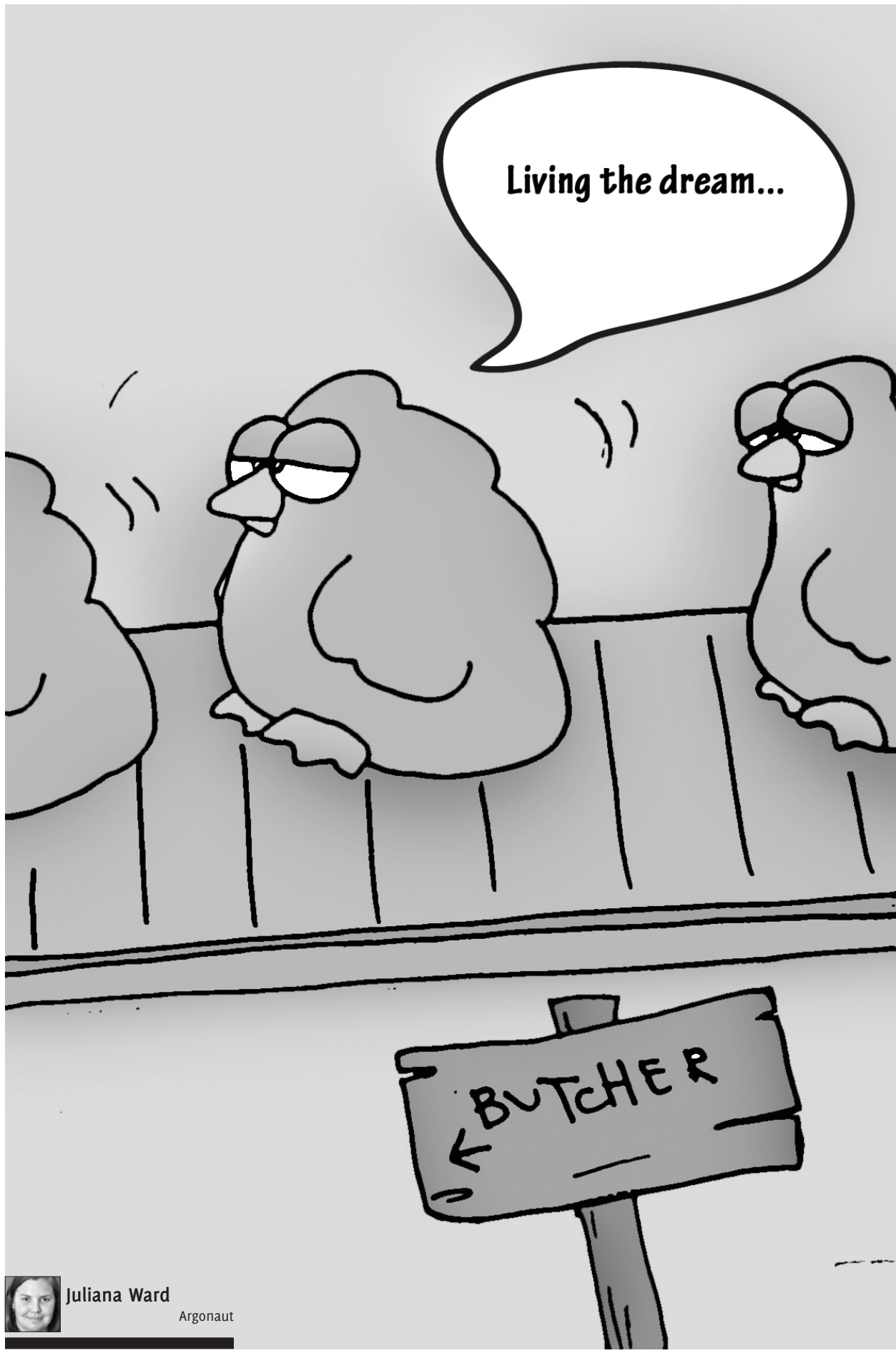
plan. This plan isn't good for students. Luna intends to cut 1,100 to 1,200 jobs when switching many high school classes to an online format. Money that would pay people in administrative positions, among others, will be used to start the online program. Along with this, every ninth grader in Idaho will receive a laptop to be used for school.


Laptops do not replace teachers. Some of the most valuable student experiences are in the classroom. Excellent teachers are in every school, and moving their classes online robs students of socialization and inspiration. If students are taught online, what will make them want to become teachers? Even if students are inspired to become teachers, the plan makes

their future bleak. Aspects of teaching, from prep time to sick leave, will be up to the discretion of the district. Pay-for-performance will cause some people to lose their jobs in order to raise the salary of other employees. In what could be considered the worst aspect of the plan, teachers will not be able to have guaranteed jobs through contract agreements.

Luna is robbing students of a traditional educational experience. His revamp of Idaho's education won't be beneficial — it detaches students from the people who should be helping them learn. Parents are often criticized for using television as a babysitter. Luna is doing the same thing — a computer is not a teacher.

— CT



 **Juliana Ward**
Argonaut

FinePrint

Volunteers need not apply

Sitting in class last Friday, my mind was 80 percent paying attention and 20 percent planning out my three-day weekend. These percentages were probably just minutes away from switching when I heard my professor end his question with, "Mr. Taylor." "S—," I thought, "I'm Mr. Taylor." As he finished the second part of the question, I looked around the room to see if any new students had joined us this semester that might also have the same last name as me. I was the only Mr. Taylor in the room. I had just become an unwilling participant in the Socratic method. The Socratic method is the primary method many professors use to "teach" in law school. In short, the professor calls on a student in what appears to be a random manner, and asks a question about that day's reading assignment. Each right answer is followed with another question. Every wrong question is followed up with two more questions. Gone are the days of PowerPoints and traditional lectures. Lessons aren't spoon-

fed — instead they are earned one answer at a time, a process designed to get us to "think like lawyers." As I looked up from my notes to my professor, I noticed he seemed a lot further away than he had just moments before and all my classmates that had been sitting in between us disappeared. It was only the third day of class, so I wasn't sure what this particular professor had in store for me. But I knew it couldn't be any worse than the time I got called on by a different professor last semester. I knew this because he hadn't read my column comparing case reading to watching pornography to the entire class first. I answered his questions the best I could. The point is to get us to a place where we can no longer answer because that's when the learning starts. Some people get there sooner than others, but we all get there. At that point, there are only three options: Say "um ... uh..." more times than George W. Bush does in a sentence, give the professor a blank look or pretend

to look for the correct answer in your notebook or textbook until it's someone else's turn. The professor called on someone who had his or her hand up to help me out. But just when I thought he had forgotten about me, he came back to me with another question. The turn ends when the professor says it ends, not before then. I knew I was off the hook though when he ended the next question with, "Mr. (someone else)." At the beginning of the year, we were led to believe seating charts exist for attendance purposes. That is not the case. They exist so professors have the ability to call on anyone at any moment without any sort of warning. The seating charts even have our pictures on them. The result is we have to pay attention to every question asked in class and have a rough answer ready to go in our heads since we don't know who will be called on to answer it. Unless, of course, you've already been called on once in that class. *R.J. Taylor is a first-year University of Idaho law student. Follow him online @ bobbyidaho.*



R.J. Taylor
Argonaut

Off the Cuff

Quick takes on life from our editors

Dear high school student,

Don't borrow your dad's nice shirts. They are three sizes too big. You look like an idiot.

— Jena

Football

Way to go, Green Bay. It's great to see Aaron Rodgers and the Pack in the Super Bowl. Make sure to keep the big green machine rolling all the way through Dallas next month.

— Madison

Three-pointers

Thanks to the women's basketball team for helping throngs of students be able to afford Vandal Under Armour and Nike apparel from the University of Idaho Bookstore. It's a pretty cool deal.

— Nick

Brrrrr

It is always so cold in our office. People say it is hot, but I sit by the window and I am always freezing. So cold. All. The. Time. The rest of you are crazy. I don't care what you say.

— Elizabeth

Diesel is my favorite

I'm thinking about getting a portrait tattoo of my cat. If I don't get a portrait tattoo, I'm going to get one of him driving a semi-truck — my cat's name is Diesel. If you can be a crazy cat lady with only one cat, I definitely am one.

— Chava

A mother's love

My mom sometimes sends

my siblings and me "Happy Day" presents — basically just little things to keep us going and remind us she loves us. I don't care how old I am — getting one of those once in a while still makes my whole day better.

— Kelli

Game etiquette

OK, I'm all for rivalries, but chanting "Kyle Brotzman" at a basketball game is not only factually incorrect, it's just stupid. If you're going to be annoyed by Boise State, pick a legitimate reason that doesn't point out one guy's terrible mistake. That's not fair and it makes us look as petty as some people say we are. Let's be better than that, 'kay Vandals?

— Kelcie

Self-visualization

So far, this semester has been a million times better than last semester. I think it's because I made the choice to once again embrace possibility. Anything is possible. When you give up on that idea, you give up on life.

— Tanya

15 items or less

Why doesn't Winco have express lines? I'm tired of buying a single can of tea and having to wait in line with the mother of eight children buying half the store.

— Loren

Hkfdjghf

I wish I had something super creative, but I am all worded out. Maybe next week.

— Dara

Stop talking

Filibuster reform is needed

There is a well-known maneuver in the U.S. Senate called the filibuster. Any senator can filibuster, which means standing up and talking for hours in debate, forcing the Senate to perform a cloture vote to end debate, which requires a 60-vote majority. This tactic is used to block legislation the senator disagrees with and is intended to prevent a majority party from steamrolling its agenda through the legislature.

Unfortunately, the filibuster is killing the American political process.

The problem is this: It is no longer actually necessary to filibuster in order to filibuster. Under current Senate rules, senators do not actually have to get up to talk in order to filibuster. In fact, they don't need to be in the Senate chamber at all. They can simply declare they are filibustering and then go to dinner, have a drink and head to bed. Meanwhile, the legislature grinds to a halt.

So it's no surprise that in recent years the filibuster has become more and more popular. The 111th Congress saw a record-setting 136 filibusters (as measured by the number of cloture votes) from January 2009 to December 2010. A popular target for the filibuster was President Barack Obama's 2009 health care bill, long blocked in the Senate, despite a Democratic supermajority.

The ease and popularity of the filibuster has created a de facto need for a 60-vote majority to pass any bill in the Senate. It is no longer enough to have a majority in the Senate — the

Republican minority managed to block almost every major piece of legislation in the 111th Congress, and it's likely to happen again if the filibuster is not reformed.

Many Americans have complained the Senate simply doesn't do anything. Indeed, Congress has some of its lowest approval ratings in history. In a time of serious economic crisis, bill after bill that could have helped the economy has been blocked by the power of the filibuster. Bills such as universal health insurance for all Americans, or a Wall Street regulation bill that would have prevented the irresponsible financial practices that caused the current recession, were unable to pass, despite majority support. Under the new filibuster, having a majority is not enough.

The need for filibuster reform is clear. Unfortunately, the Senate missed its chance at the "nuclear option," the constitutionally-mandated first day of the Senate when rules can be changed with a simple majority vote. But this doesn't mean rules can't be changed at all. It will take a larger percentage of votes, but it can still happen. The difference is now it will take both parties, working together, to reform the filibuster.

There is one change that can save the Senate from its current political purgatory — make senators actually filibuster when filibustering. The filibuster shouldn't be a political maneuver to grant power to a minority party. Senators should be forced to stand by their beliefs, and save the filibustering for issues that really matter.



Max Bartlett
Argonaut

Don't track our food

Food-borne illnesses, in combination with rapidly changing technology, have led to a new food safety law under the Food and Drug Administration. This law requires all handlers of the nation's food supply to be able to quickly trace where food came from.

The traceability requirement means anyone who comes in contact with food will need to maintain a digital record so the source of any item can be found within seconds. Even consumers will be able to access the information, provided they have a compatible phone.

While streamlining the tracking process and making it more efficient is fantastic, some potential methods are questionable.

Many are already embracing the available tracking technologies, which include bar codes affixed to single items or crates of food. However, the new law has prompted technology companies to compete to develop the best new technology.

One method discussed experimentation with radio frequency identification. Another proposed etching identification codes on food with lasers.

The first method treads on privacy laws. Radio frequency identification technology is more commonly known by its acronym, RFID. This technology does have beneficial uses when it is chosen by

users that respect limitations. However, the concept of tracking anything — food in this instance — breaches our right to privacy.

This concept is a proposal but is disturbing for two reasons. One, inserting anything electronic into food is alarming. Two, the devices could be used to do more than locate the source of food in the rare instance of an outbreak. RFIDs are powerful devices, and certainly not meant for food.

The second method mentioned involving lasers is preposterous. It is a ghastly waste of resources and is so futuristic it brings thoughts of robots wielding flamethrowers to mind. It is essentially the same as bar-coded stickers, but more high tech and frivolous — the way Americans like it.

These proposed methods take tracking food too far. A simplistic method works just as well as implanting our food with devices or etching barcodes onto the surface. It may take more than a second to identify the source of a potential outbreak, but a few more seconds is worth it if it means food can be left unaltered by technology.

Paul Chang, head of the traceability initiative at IBM, said the company is adopting the tracking system used in

pharmaceuticals and altering it to fit the food industry. Technology, which is something to be embraced, has its moments when it stretches beyond appropriate limits. Barcode stickers are appropriate. Altering a method to track pills, using radio frequency identification or laser-engraved barcodes are all inappropriate.

These alterations parallel genetically modified foods, which carry a heavy stigma already. Genetically Modified Organisms can cause unknown health risks, can carry unidentified allergens to those susceptible to food allergies and can alter the natural order of plant life. GMOs can reduce tolerance to herbicides, similar to DDT in the 1960s, and through gene transfer to non-specific species could transfer herbicide tolerance to weeds. There are a multitude of other risks that accompany GMOs, in addition to the basic argument. Sophisticated technology is being used to alter food — which thrives on its own.

GMOs make people uncomfortable and for good reason.

At some point, the modifications need to stop. The proposed solutions to the tracking system make it clear that point is now.

While streamlining the tracking process and making it more efficient is fantastic, some potential methods are questionable.



Katy Sword
Argonaut



Cheyenne Hollis
Argonaut

Definitive Four:

Not funny

There are certain jokes or conversations people find hilarious despite repetition or lack of humor in what they are saying. Around Moscow, people chuckle at some things that are not laughable.

It is impossible to know why people believe certain things are funny when they are not. It is almost as if people in America have been brain-washed into thinking these things are comical and will always be comical.

A sense of humor is a distinct personality trait but there seem to be a few exceptions in which society puts up with humor that should be universally banned.

This is not a list of personal preferences but a list of incidents that can be definitively agreed upon as unfunny.

Arm and a leg

Every once in a while, a gas station will replace the price of gasoline on its sign with the words "arm" and "leg." The first gas station that did this deserves credit but the joke has run its course. Doing it now is simply a hack move.

Gasoline has been expensive for quite a while, and it is either time to come up with a new joke or move on. It would be hilarious if a customer tried to pay for gas with an arm and a leg the next time one of those gas stations advertised limbs as the price.

Nicknames

There are a slew of horrendous nicknames throughout the university, and most of the responsibility falls at the feet of the Greek system. The nicknames range from wildly inappropriate to thoroughly stupid but few are funny.

It is confusing as to

why anyone accepts these worthless nicknames, let alone finds humor in them but all across campus students are wearing shirts with a lame nickname on the back. Nicknames can be hilarious, but those at Idaho seem unable to come up with anything comedic.

Freshmen

At one time, everyone was a freshman partaking in the special brand of humor that 18 and 19-year-olds delight in. However, it is something that should not be subjected to anyone beyond his or her first year of college. Freshmen think they are all budding stand-up comics, but most will realize the error of their ways.

Once a person gets a little older, he or she comes to be a bit embarrassed by the antics of his or her freshman year. As long as it is kept in the privacy of dorms, freshman humor is fine but subjecting the rest of the world to it is unfair.

Cold enough for you

Being asked, "Is it cold enough outside for you?" or its summer cousin of being hot, can drive a person insane. Must society be subjected to this inane banter?

The problem is two-fold. The first issue is the person asking the question thinks he or she is quite the cut-up, on par with Joey Gladstone from "Full House." The second problem is the fact that people ask this every time the weather gets fractionally bad.

The world, or at least the average journey around Moscow, would be a far better place without someone asking about the weather in what he or she feels is a comical manner.

Climate change is not to be ignored

I get this weird aura sometimes. It's that sort of "Alice-

in-Wonderland"-like sense of being in a place where reality isn't at all what you know, love and thought it was. It's like reality came home violently drunk and slapped you around and said it was cheating on you. Then it swiftly apologizes and says it's sorry and it should never have done that and didn't mean any of it, but things are never quite the same again.

I felt that aura while reading a news story at ClimateScienceWatch.org about the newly elected Republican House majority disbanding Nancy Pelosi's Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. That's right — disbanding. Why are they doing this?

In the words of Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisconsin), the climate scientists might have been the perpetrators of a "massive international scientific fraud." In James Sensenbrenner's mind, science is an organization — a competing organization like any other, driven by its own profit.

In other words, it's something they have a reason to commit fraud for — as though scientists will finally get to show numbers in the black this quarter. Some say you can only perceive the world as it appears through your own eyes, and it's hard to find a better example of that than James Sensenbrenner.

Disproving global warming at this point is like trying to disprove evolution or gravity. It's not about disproving

Darwin — it would be like uncovering the Illuminati, Bigfoot, King Arthur and the hidden alien knowledge Egyptians used to build the pyramids at once.

That's how big of a conspiracy this would require within the scientific community. It would be a conspiracy within NASA, the National Organization for Science, the Pew Center, and 99 percent of the scientific community. So many people have tested the evidence and theories out there that you can barely find a single reputable scientific organization that contests it.

And yet, another glance down the page reveals this other gem of a news story: "Sarah Palin Supports Teach-

ing Creationism in Schools." Great. She declines to say what she believes is truth but the controversy should be taught in schools, slipping back to the core argument

Disproving global warming at this point is like trying to disprove evolution or gravity.

that "debate is always healthy." This is the 2008 Republican nominee for vice president. This is the woman who was a heartbeat away from becoming the leader of the free world.

Do we teach the controversy to gravity? Do we allow the view that Yggdrasil drags the planet along by its tentacles a fair shake right up there with Einstein? Do we let Holocaust deniers present their side of the Anne Frank story?

No. Schools teach the truth. They teach science.



Bret Zender
Argonaut



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