



Sports

Men's basketball is at No. 4 seed going into the WAC Tournament this week, page 7



Opinion

An 8.4 percent fee increase could be more reasonable than you think. Read 'Our View,' page 13



Renovation continues

Kibbie Dome remodels aren't over

Brittany Kiser
Argonaut

University of Idaho students, staff, donors and fans will be pleasantly surprised upon completion of the Kibbie Dome renovation project, said Nick Popplewell, Athletic department marketing director.

"It's going to be a night and day difference in terms of how the facility's going to look, how it's going to feel," Popplewell said. "It's going to be a premier facility, I can't underscore that enough . . . I think people should be really excited about this project going on."

Guy Esser, the Department of Architectural and Engineering Services project manager, said there are currently two different

projects going on simultaneously in the Dome. The first is phase two of the Life Safety upgrades.

Esser said phase one of the Life Safety upgrades to the Kibbie was completed during the last two years. It entailed the replacement of the west wall, fire sprinklers in the roof, the start of the smoke exhaust systems, new handrails and renovating the fire alarm systems.

"That was all covered as part of phase one," he said. "The university went out and got more funding to cover the last part of the project that hadn't been completed, which is essentially replacing the east wall and finishing the smoke exhaust system."

see **KIBBIE**, page 6



Zach Edwards | Argonaut

Fences and signs warn people to stay out of the construction zones inside the Kibbie Dome. Construction will continue for the next several weeks.

Proposed fee increase

Administration announces 8.4 percent change in tuition to go to the SBOE

Kelcie Moseley and
Elizabeth Rudd
Argonaut

If the Idaho State Board of Education approves the University of Idaho's proposal, students can expect to see an 8.4 percent increase in tuition this fall. The amount works out to about \$450 per student for the academic year.

Doug Baker, provost and executive vice president, said UI's budget has seen a \$23 million cut during the last three years on the education side alone, and \$31 million total. In addition to the tuition increase, every college will receive a 1.5 percent cut on average, and the vice president for finance and administration will see a 3 percent cut.

Under the proposed increase, tuition and fees would jump from \$2,701 per semester to \$2,927 for Idaho residents. All but \$5.26 of the increase is tuition-based, because it can be most flexibly used across the budget, Executive Director of Planning and Budget Keith Ickes, said.

"This is the only time you'll be here, so if the state cuts the budget, it will affect you," Ickes said.

Stephen Parrott, ASUI president, said the \$5.26 increase to student activity fees was intentionally kept low because of the anticipated budget cut from the state. Though Parrott originally campaigned and hoped for a lower student fee increase, he said he realized it was not worth cutting the quality of education students receive.

"We started looking at it as, 'Is it

worth it to fight for no increase and have the university lay off more staff and institute furloughs again?' . . . That's kind of how we came to support the increase," Parrott said.

In total, the university is facing an approximate \$12.4 million hole, and the increases will cover about half of that gap. To fully cover the cost without fee increases, the Colleges of Business, Education and Art and Architecture would have to be eliminated.

"What we're going through is not unlike what other states are going through," said Bruce Pitman, Dean of Students. "This is not an Idaho-only issue . . . it's a struggle that's taking place throughout the West."

Pitman said Idaho takes a particularly hard hit in higher education partly because of its politics.

"There is such an extreme commitment to not increasing tax revenue," Pitman said. "So there is a ceiling on potential revenue."

Pitman said they plan to hold a public forum open to students shortly after spring break to explain the budget situation. Pitman said they tried to get feedback from prior to winter break about the cuts, but few responded. At this point, he said they are about 40 percent of the way through the process and will take the proposal to SBOE in April. Until then, the increase is unofficial.

Despite the continued struggle, Ickes said there is hope that the worst is coming to an end.

"There's a potential for this year to be a turning point for the university," he said.

8.4% increase

\$448 per student

Tuition and fees increased

2,701 → 2,927

University facing

\$12.4 million hole

"Is it worth it to fight for no increase and have the university lay off more staff and institute furloughs again?' . . . That's kind of how we came to support the increase."

Stephen Parrott
ASUI president

Dan Noble back at UI

Kelli Hadley
Argonaut

People who are diagnosed with mental conditions typically go through it in a private manner. For Daniel Noble, this was not the case.

Noble, former University of Idaho financial specialist, suffered a manic episode when, on the morning of Dec. 7, 2009, he drove to Pullman and hit two students with his Pontiac Grand Am. Both students had a broken leg from the collisions and one had a cut on his forehead.

Noble faced two felony charges of vehicular assault and hit-and-run following the incident. After spending time in jail and Eastern State Hospital in Medical Lake, Wash., Noble was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and acquitted of the charges on terms of temporary insanity. A psychiatrist cleared him to work again, but by that time Noble's position at UI had been cut.

Noble said finding out his job had been removed was tough, especially because he felt his services were necessary to the school's financial issues.

"It was kinda rough on me 'cause I couldn't understand how they would still do the work without me," Noble said.

Noble faced unemployment until he was recently rehired to the UI staff — this time as a senior financial tech in the Human Resources department, where he will do budget work.

With the bipolar prognosis and medication, Noble said he has been able to get back to life as a UI employee. One of the biggest struggles he said he faced following the incident was that his medical condition was broadcast so openly.

"It was a really different thing because . . . I was publicly diagnosed," Noble said. "That part of it was really kind of rough, that people knew publicly what I had."

But Noble said learning of the condition answered questions he had about other incidents that had happened throughout his life. He said he had no idea he had a mental condition, especially because there is no history of bipolar disorder in his family.

"When they finally diagnosed it and when they started giving me literature on it . . . I started reflecting a little bit on my life and thinking back and saying 'Oh, that explains

see **NOBLE**, page 6

Jazz Festival a success

Sarah Yama
Argonaut

The Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival is not designed just for entertainment, it is also designed for education, and this year's festival was successful in doing so.

"(The festival) went wonderfully," said Steve Remington, executive director of Jazz Fest. "Of course this was my

first event and I didn't really know entirely what to expect with the weather and the volunteers, but it all came together. I was pleasantly surprised at the extent the community came together."

Despite the weather, the 44th annual Jazz Fest sold a total of 9,539 tickets. Friday night topped the ticket sales with 4,897, Saturday had 3,073, Thursday 902 and Wednesday 667.

see **JAZZ**, page 6



Katherine Brown | Argonaut

A group of students wait for the Hamp's Club performance to begin Feb. 25 in the Kibbie Dome.

Students campaign for future leadership

Molly Spencer
Argonaut

Government on the University of Idaho campus operates under a federal model with an executive, legislative and judicial branch.

Petitions for the positions of presi-

dent and vice president and senator were due March 4. The candidates who win the spring 2011 elections will take office April 28 for the 2011-12 academic year, said Samantha Perez, ASUI senator.

Running for president and vice president are Perez and Pro Tem-

pore Juan Corona, respectively. At this point, no one is signed up to run against them, Perez said.

"On Tuesday, we have a mandatory candidate meeting to go over election rules and then campaigning will begin March 21," she said.

The legislative branch of ASUI

is made up of 15 senators and a pro-tempore. The legislative branch's job is to pass all the bills that deal with allocating funds, Perez said.

"We put on events like the Beat BSU canned food drive. We've done a self-defense workshop, so things like that," she said. "On the executive

branch we have several board chairs, so an example would be Vandal Entertainment board, communications board and there are also directors that focus on more specific areas. We have a director of sustainability, so they

see **FUTURE**, page 6



■ News, 1
■ Sports, 7
■ Opinion, 13

The Vandal Voice for 112 Years

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112
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Discover Life

at the Idaho Commons & Student Union

Idaho Commons & Student Union

This week's ASUI Vandal Entertainment Films...

Indie Film Series:

The Absent

Wednesday & Thursday
March 9, 10
7 & 9:30pm
SUB Borah Theater

Foreign Film Series:

The Secrets

Tuesday
March 8
7 & 9:30pm
SUB Borah Theater

DINE-IN SESSIONS

Are functional, fun and informative workshops geared to Student Organizations, but are open to all.

Time Management
Thursday, March 10

3:00 – 3:50 pm, Panorama Room
4th Floor Idaho Commons

Team Building
Wednesday, March 23

9:00 – 9:50 am, Panorama Room
4th Floor Idaho Commons

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.

Little Fish, Big Ocean

Tuesday, March 22

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

Group Values, Planning and Change in Higher Education

Wednesday, March 23

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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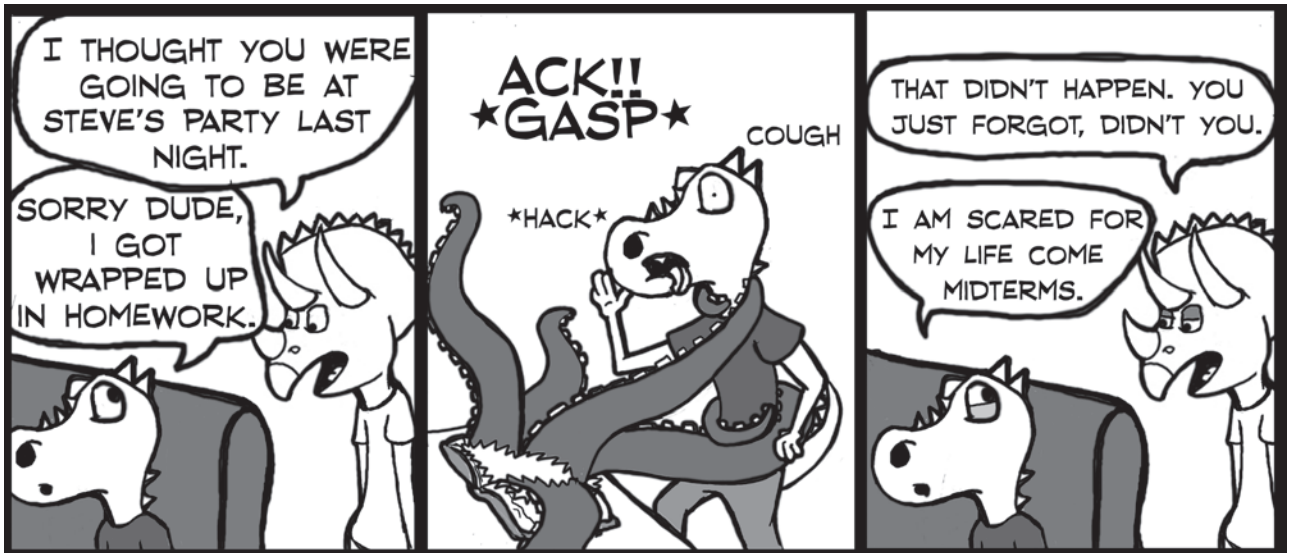
University Studies

Wesley O'Bryan | Argonaut



Rex

Eli Holland | Argonaut



Gray Scale

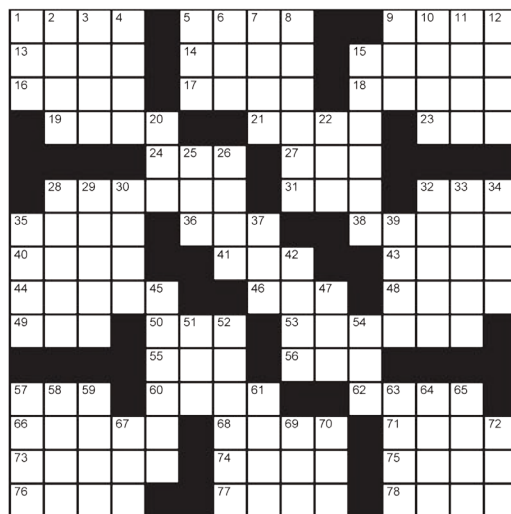
Erica Larson | Argonaut



crossword

Across

- 1 Be in pain
- 5 Shipping hazard
- 9 Stalk
- 13 Recipe direction
- 14 Ornamental handbag
- 15 Spanish form of address
- 16 Crash site?
- 17 Clique
- 18 Free from restraint
- 19 Picture card
- 21 Olympian's quest
- 23 Kind of deposit
- 24 Apple picker
- 27 DiCaprio, to fans
- 28 First-rate
- 31 Durable wood
- 32 Sensitive subject, to some
- 35 Stalactite site
- 36 Humor
- 38 Milk source
- 40 Cousin of a bassoon
- 41 Filch
- 43 Famous _____
- 44 Regretful
- 46 Barnyard male
- 48 It ebbs and flows
- 49 Kind of poodle
- 50 Blunder
- 53 Martial art
- 55 Farm mother
- 56 Conceit
- 57 Gallery display
- 60 Honeyed drink
- 62 Make eye contact?
- 66 Animal life
- 68 Partnership for Peace grp.
- 71 Obsolete
- 73 Inert gas
- 74 Musical pair
- 75 First name in jeans

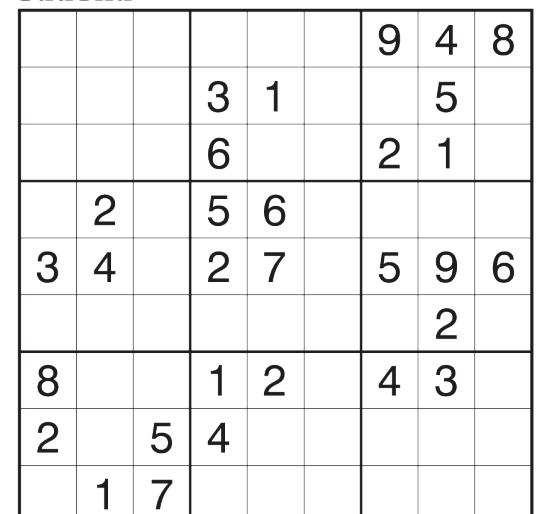


- 11 Film _____
- 12 Hammock holder
- 15 Number puzzle
- 20 Comprehend
- 22 Pastoral setting
- 25 Solemn promise
- 26 Majestic
- 28 Forbidden
- 29 Key material
- 30 One may exert pressure
- 32 Acknowledge
- 33 Crystal-lined rock
- 34 Gaelic tongue
- 35 Price to pay
- 37 Moppet
- 39 Spreadsheet numbers
- 42 Elbow
- 45 Sycophant
- 47 Kind of wheel
- 51 Caviar
- 52 Landlocked African republic
- 54 Propel a boat
- 57 At a distance
- 58 Not common
- 59 Yanks
- 61 Slap on
- 63 Groundless
- 64 Essential
- 65 Alcoholic drink
- 67 "____ so fast!"
- 69 Golf ball support
- 70 Giant slugger
- Mel
- 72 Headlight setting

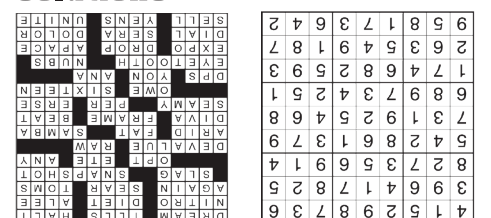
Down

- 1 Workout target
- 2 Chef
- 3 Old 45 player
- 4 Flair
- 5 Plead
- 6 Pilot's announcement, briefly
- 7 It helps you get a leg up
- 8 Playboy
- 9 Egg warmer
- 10 Golden rule word

sudoku



solutions



Corrections

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

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• 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:
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Moscow, ID, 83844-4271
or arg-opinion@uidaho.edu

A burning issue: Smoking policy at UI

Anja Sundali
Argonaut

Boise State University is having trouble with its resident smokers.

According to an article from Feb. 3 in BSU's student newspaper, "The Arbiter," BSU has had trouble enforcing the smoke-free campus policy that it instituted in the fall of 2009.

"A complaint was issued by the City of Boise to Boise State University last week, which focused primarily on the number of smokers and litter on the Greenbelt," the article said.

According to BSU's smoke-free campus website, the smoking ban "covers all university owned or controlled buildings, property, vehicles and parking lots, surrounding sidewalks, the Friendship Bridge and Greenbelt section adjacent to campus."

In response to the complaint, BSU has a new enforcement procedure for the policy that it implemented for the spring 2011 semester. The enforcement procedure is based on a three-strike system whereby an offender will be subject to disciplinary action by the university after their third smoking offense.

Unlike BSU, the University of Idaho does not have a campus-wide ban on smoking. University policy outlined in the "Administrative Procedures Manual," states that smoking is not allowed in any educational building or within 25-feet of any area that will affect the air quality of that building, such as entrances, exits, air intake valves and windows.

Fred Hutchison, director of Environmental Health and Safety at the UI, said the policy was created in the early '90s and was the first smoking policy at the university.

Hutchison said the safety committee that created the policy did not think it was necessary to create a smoke-free campus at the time.

"It was more of a societal issue," Hutchison said. "(The committee) felt it sufficient to ban smoking from the buildings themselves because at the time there were some fire safety concerns because of the fire started at the Idaho Capitol building by a burning cigarette."

Mark Miller, associate director of operations for the Idaho Commons and the Teaching and Learning Center, said he brought up the idea of a smoke-free campus to the Environmental Health and Safety committee a few months ago.

"As a building administrator, the easiest thing for me would be to adopt a campus-wide no smoking policy," Miller said. "Smoking around our buildings has become such a hassle because the main air intake units for both the TLC and the Commons are at ground level. If anyone is

smoking by those air intakes, it sucks the smoke right into the building."

Miller said the biggest problem areas for smoking are at the north entrance to the food court in the Idaho Commons and by the west entrance to the TLC. Miller said the problem with enforcing the policy comes from "a lack of awareness."

"It's all about education," Miller said. "A lot of people just don't know the rules."

Besides a lack of awareness of the policy, there are few signs around the TLC or Idaho Commons that serve to educate smokers. The only signs that can currently be seen are small, grey squares with the "no smoking" symbol printed upon them.

Miller said he has been trying to get new signs stating the 25-foot rule made for nearly a year, but the university has new design criteria for all university signage that is slowing down the process.

Another problem for smokers is that many of the smoking receptacles are located within 25-feet of many building entrances, making it difficult to discern where "no smoking" zones end and smoke-friendly zones begin.

Charles Zillinger, director of landscape and exterior services for the university's facilities department, said they are starting to remove many receptacles from the sides of buildings and install them farther away.

Hutchison, Miller and Zillinger have all received complaints about smoking on campus.

"Odor and smoke are the main complaints we hear about, which tend to drive restrictive signage and putting receptacles in places that are out of major walkway," Zillinger said. "This isn't convenient for the smoker, but people are much less tolerant of secondhand smoke than they used to be."

BSU also identifies education as a major component of policy enforcement. Jennifer Summers, health educator for University Health Services at BSU said in "The Arbiter" article, "Most of the time people aren't aware the policy exists or aren't sure of what the distinct campus property lines are ... you have to have that time period to educate."

For Miller, enforcement and education are still the key issues, not smoking.

"I don't think that smoking is a huge problem on this campus. A non-smoking campus would certainly not be a bad thing, but that isn't the issue right now," Miller said. "I think that the policies as they stand need to be made more aware, and a mechanism needs to be put in place to enforce them."



Zach Edwards | Argonaut

Beth Ropski smokes on a cigarette outside Idaho Commons during a break between classes. She said the new smoking regulations at Boise State University would be "inconvenient because campus is so huge and walking all the way off campus would suck."

The search is on

Dylan Brown
Argonaut

All three finalists for the Dean of College of Graduate Studies position echoed the goals of the University of Idaho's recently released strategic plan in their public forums this past week as the search for the next graduate dean continues.

Increasing enrollment, funding and interdisciplinary research, all of which are parts of university's new five-year plan "Leading Idaho," were shared goals for John Kiss, Nilsa Bosque-Perez and Jie Chen. All three said they planned on working toward growing the student population to 16,000 and increasing the research budget, a critical component of graduate studies, to the \$150 million goal of President Duane Nellis.

Kiss, a professor and the chair of the botany department at Miami University in Ohio, said he hopes his 18 years of experience teaching at every level — undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral — will make him a role model for faculty, a dean like the ones he admired most as a professor.

"I have always believed that strong administrators come from a good faculty background," Kiss said.

While his specialty in plant physiology may sound terrestrial, Kiss has been involved with six NASA projects in "space biology" to explore the behavior of plants in the extra-terrestrial setting. Kiss said his experience as an administrator on these projects has given him the necessary experience and an appreciation for working with different cultures, approaches and people around the globe.

"It's given me a tremendous experience and appreciation for interdisciplinary research," he said.

At UI, Kiss said he hopes to increase the number of professional master's programs to burgeon the options available to graduate students. Also, he would like to see UI create fellowships to bring in more endowed faculty positions, which in his experience were "fantas-

tic for (Miami) students."

Jie Chen, a political science professor and chair of the Department of Political Science and Geography at Old Dominion University in Virginia, attributed the importance of having a strong graduate program at UI to a quote in a report by the Council of Graduate Studies.

"A graduate degree will become the new bachelor's degree," Chen said.

Chen said this new minimum standard of educational experience is the result of staunch competition within our own borders and abroad as graduate students enter the job market, and the U.S. is lagging behind.

"In terms of graduate education, the United States is ranked 16th," Chen said.

With the U.S. already behind Europe in the number of science and engineering doctorates produced, Chen would like to see UI expand its enrollment, better prepare its students for real world application of their skills, and foster relationships with domestic and international universities.

Chen also stressed the need to produce more college-level teachers as numbers have dwindled in the past few years, while also increasing the number of professionals that leave academia. Both, he said, will be critical to graduate studies at UI continues to face teaching and budget shortages.

Interim Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and entomology professor Nilsa Bosque-Perez is already well acquainted with the problems confronting the dean position. Her presentation outlined the challenges and inherent opportunities she has faced in her short time in the Dean's office, including the shortage of teachers available to graduate students at UI.

Bosque-Perez has continued to teach throughout her time as Dean, and wants to continue even if she is appointed to a permanent position.

"I think (teaching) is important for keeping me grounded and to relate to the day-to-day activities of the

university," she said.

Among the challenges she foresees, Bosque-Perez said UI must find a way to pay teaching assistants more, as TA salaries are currently more than \$2,500 below the national average. She also said she would work to resolve problems in physical infrastructure and the lack of a development officer for the college to help bring in more revenue for the college.

The budget, of course, will be the decisive issue for the next Dean. The desired measures of all three candidates hinge on a statewide education budget that has seen \$200 million in cuts during the past two years, and the next Dean of Graduate Studies will have to find ways of generating revenue.

Bosque-Perez said the College of Graduate Studies must continue to increase enrollment, which she said is up 2.5 percent in the past three years. Also, the school must continue to search for grants to fund cash-producing research.

Kiss said while grants are one source, the university itself must find a way to pay for research he hopes will help ease financial pressures.

"I think if you are going to get money, you have to spend money," Kiss said.

Kiss, Bosque-Perez and Chen all advocated expanding interdisciplinary research as a way to join various fields of expertise into producing fruitful research. While some professors and students may have their doubts, all the candidates agreed joining people from across the academic spectrum is a proven way to better use research dollars and create more revenue.

Chen said while funding for graduate studies is deserved and provides a valuable service to the state, a rebound in state education funding is a remote possibility, and UI can't just whine about the lack of financial support.

"We have to behave like a leader, not just a follower," he said. "We have to show administrators and the state government what we can do for them. We deserve the resources, if we can make the case."



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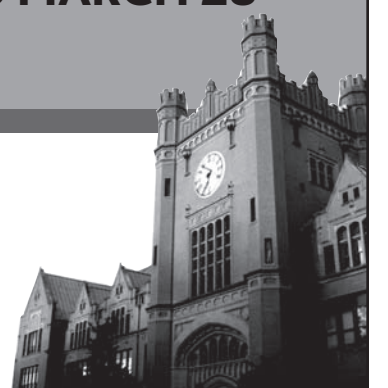




Photo Illustration by Katherine Brown | Argonaut

Discrimination in Idaho

Human Rights Bill comes to a standstill in Idaho legislature

Brittany Kiser
Argonaut

Idaho's Human Rights Act currently outlaws discrimination based on race, sex, religion, color, national origin and mental or physical disabilities.

Idaho Sen. Dan Schmidt said Senate Minority Leader Edgar Malapei recently introduced Bill 1033, which aims to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" in the human rights act.

"I think it's appropriate," Schmidt said. "I think all human beings deserve respect and dignity. To the extent that government could foster that, we should. We can't make people behave, but we can definitely encourage it. And if they don't be-

have, we have to decide what to do — that's what laws are all about."

According to the Associated Press, Republican chairman of the senate state affairs committee Sen. Curt McKenzie doesn't plan to schedule a hearing on the bill introduced in the 2011 session to ban workplace and housing discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

McKenzie told the Idaho Press-Tribune there's not enough support among Idaho's conservative lawmakers to move the bill forward.

Schmidt said as a committee chairman, McKenzie has the power and authority to make that type of decision.

"That's one of the powers our

"I think it's appropriate. I think all human beings deserve respect and dignity. To the extent that government could foster that, we should. We can't make people behave, but we can...encourage it"

Dan Schmidt
Idaho Senator

legislative process endows in committee chairs," Schmidt said, "and if he feels like there's not enough support, that may be his take on it. But the truth is, we're not going to know unless he makes the decision to put it out there and see or not."

Schmidt said it's impressive that legislators can handle complex issues that may not seem clear to all of us in responsible ways.

"So I think the bill does deserve a hearing," he said.

University of Idaho senior Shandy Lam said she can't believe there's not a bill of this nature already in place, and the only factor that should come into play when being turned away from a job is a person's qualifications and ability to actually do the job.

"I don't understand how who you're attracted to hinders a person's ability to do their job," Lam said. "I find it embarrassing that this is even being discussed, but I understand that it's definitely a generational idea."

Lam said there are more and more openly gay men and women on our campus.

"Nowadays, it's typical to have a class with a gay, lesbian or transgendered person," she said. "I find it refreshing to see such diversity accepted around campus, in living groups — in Moscow in general. As embarrassing as I find it to be argued about in legislation, I don't see anything changing until our generation is sitting in those very same seats."

Lawmakers back funding increase for Idaho prisons

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Lawmakers approved a 4.1 percent increase in total funding for Idaho's Department of Correction on Monday, listing public safety among the state's top priorities as they work to balance a cash-strapped budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee approved a \$175.6 million budget Monday for the agency's prisons and programs. The spending plan includes a 5.3 percent increase in the state's general fund, which is by far the biggest part of the prisons budget at \$155.6 million.

State Rep. Darrell Bolz, R-Caldwell, acknowledged the budget was a little "over target" as lawmakers attempt to cut Idaho's general fund spending to accommodate a substantial shortfall for the next fiscal year. But Bolz cited strides Idaho has made in reducing its prison population and urged lawmakers to approve the funding increase.

"I think we're seeing some positive things happening in the Department of Corrections," Bolz said. "We still have a long way to go."

Agency chief Brent Reinke also talked up efforts to reduce

the prison population before the start of the Idaho Legislature in January, saying the number of offenders under his supervision has declined in the past two years and he feared this work could be compromised if the agency is forced to take even more unpaid furloughs to save money.

The Department of Corrections is among agencies Idaho lawmakers are attempting to shelter from another round of budget cuts in the 2011 session.

But when they protect one agency, they have to find another to make up the difference.

With the prisons budget set, lawmakers now have to find roughly \$5 million in savings elsewhere.

"What it essentially means is either larger reductions to Medicaid and Health and Welfare or the use of the one-time funds that we initially talked about in order to balance the budget," said Sen. Dean Cameron, who co-chairs the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee.

Cameron is among Republican leaders on the panel who want to raid other agencies' surpluses to the tune of about \$18 million, but House leadership has yet to sign off on that plan.

State budget chief Wayne Hammon said Monday about \$5 million from the state Industrial Commission that Cameron and other budget writers had their sights set on likely won't be directed into the general fund, but rather used to offset businesses' worker compensation insurance taxes, as Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's called for in his State of the State address.

The Department of Corrections budget still needs House and Senate approval.

State Rep. Wendy Jaquet was among Democrats on the committee who voted against the portion of the budget that allocates the \$28.8 million necessary to fund Idaho's contract with Corrections Corporation of America. The company runs Idaho's only privately run prison, the Idaho Correctional Center, and is at the center of a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union early last year over claims of inmate-on-inmate violence at the facility.

"I'm tired of reading about what's happening in that prison," said Rep. Wendy Jaquet, D-Ketchum. "We have an obligation to make sure people are supervised and safe."

Sen. Diane Bilyeu, a Pocatello Democrat, said an increasing number of state agencies are entering in contractual agreements for services and there should be more oversight. In the Department of Corrections alone, between 35 to 40 percent of the budget is tied up in contract payments.

Bilyeu proposed the creation of a position in the Idaho attorney general's office for a contract specialist responsible for reviewing these agreements.

"I'm concerned not just about the corrections contract, but we're approving a lot of contracts now," Bilyeu said. "I just think it's an area that is totally overlooked."

News Briefs

International Women's Day Centenary

The Women's Center will host an event from noon to 2 p.m. today in the Idaho Commons Food Court to celebrate International Women's Day as part of National Women's History Month. This year will be the 100th anniversary of the international day of observance and will be about the economic, political and social achievements of all women. The event will include artistic and creative performances.

Refugee Seminar

A seminar called "Refugees: Who Are They, Where Do They Come From," will be from 9 a.m. to noon today in the Idaho Commons Whitewater room. It will include a talk by Idaho Officer for Refugees Director Jan Reeves and how her office has helped refugees from all over, a presentation on the Idaho office's agricultural outreach project, presentations by refugees Ilungu Mazanie from the Congo and Rusul Mousa-Bryant from Iraq. Two internship opportunities will be discussed following the seminar.

Ash Wednesday

St. Mark's Episcopal Church will begin the two-day celebration of Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. today at the church located across from the Moscow Public Library with a tradition pancake dinner. The all-you-can-eat buffet dinner will be \$15 for families, \$5 for adults, \$2 for children 6 to 12 and children 6 and under gets in free. The church will also burn the fronds from last year at 6:30 p.m. The ashes will then be used Wednesday when the church will be in downtown Moscow to put the ashes on the foreheads of people who walk by.

Public education support in Idaho

There will be a walk to show support for public education in Idaho from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesday. People will meet at the Palouse Empire Mall to walk sidewalks and streets with signs. There is also a postcard campaign currently taking place. The postcards will be delivered to the Capitol Wednesday.

Student planner cover contest

Students who are fulltime, degree-seeking students with an accumulative University of Idaho GPA of 2.0 or higher are able to submit a cover design for the 2011-2012 Student Planner to win a \$200 scholarship for the 2011-2012 academic year. Deadline for the contest is 5 p.m. April 1. The design is supposed to be submitted electronically and meet the required specs of full-bleed 5.75 x 8.75 inches, at least 300 dpi resolution, be original work and have the following text: Student Planner, 2011-2012 and University of Idaho. Students are allowed to submit up to three designs. The file should be sent to uistudentplanner@gmail.com and named by last name_first name_design name. The winner will be announced April 15 at the ASUI Student Achievement Awards.

Buddhist monks visit the Palouse

University of Idaho and Washington State University Thai Student Association and Palouse Meditation, a portion of the Thai Forest Tradition of Theravada Buddhism, will host Ajahn Sudanto and Venerable Caganando Bhikku of the Pacific Hermitage April 9 and 10. The monks will give a dharma talk and lead a meditation from 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 9 in Butch's Den in the Compton Union Building on WSU campus. They will also lead a day-long retreat for people who are working to become Buddhist April 10 in Pioneer Center in Pullman.

Police Log

Monday, Feb. 28

6:29 a.m. — Someone reported their neighbor running a snow blower at 6 a.m.

7:46 a.m. — There was a report of a green pickup that went into a ditch near the cemetery.

10:29 p.m. — Someone reported a group near Theophilus Tower throwing snowballs at vehicles.

Tuesday, March 1

9:12 a.m. — There was a two vehicle head-on collision with injuries on Rodeo Drive.

Wednesday, March 2

10:40 a.m. — There was a report of vandalism in the restroom of the Janssen Engineering Building.

2:49 p.m. — A male was arrested for driving under the influence.

Thursday, March 3

12:13 a.m. — There was a report of a dumpster on fire.

1:43 p.m. — A semi truck was on fire on S. Main Street.

Friday, March 4

6:27 p.m. — Someone reported a vehicle weaving over the centerline and tailgating.

7:07 p.m. — Someone reported juveniles taking Monster energy drinks and other items away from Safeway.

Saturday, March 5

12:10 a.m. — There was a report of four people in a room in Theophilus Tower and the smell of marijuana. A citation was issued.

12:10 a.m. — Someone reported a group of males throwing snowballs at passing cars on N Polk Street.

8:12 a.m. — The advising person reported someone threw a jar handle through two of her windows.

Sunday, March 6

12:53 a.m. — Someone reported a male running in and out of the street and rolling around on the ground.



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Kirsten Schmid
Rachael Studebaker
Traci VonJouanne
Shauni Wemhoff

Welcome new Delta Zetas! For more information, contact Mallory Yankush at deltazeta@uidaho.edu.

KIBBIE

from page 1

So that's what you see going on — the final bit of the Life Safety. That's what the cranes are for."

Esser said the Life Safety project is covered by the university through bonding sources. He said the university's reason behind the upgrades were to make the Dome safer.

"There were certain things about the Kibbie Dome that didn't quite meet code, even at the time it was built," Esser said. "And over the years, the gap between how it existed and how it met code compliance has gotten larger. So the university took it on to make that facility as safe as it could."

He said the Dome's previous combustible wood walls are being replaced with new, non-combustible steel. In the process, the opportunity to insert translucent panels arose. This will allow more light into the Dome and enhance energy performance.

The second project underway in the Dome is "Kibbie enhancements and seating upgrades," Esser said.

Popplewell said the current press box will be moved from the south end to the north end, above the student section.

"The current press box will then be renovated into a club room," Popplewell said. "We'll have club seats below that, with some suites in there as well. We actually have lodge seating in there too, so it's adding a premium seating component to the Kibbie Dome, which we haven't had before."

Popplewell said the Dome enhancements and seating upgrades were both projects funded by private donations from university donors.

Esser said the Dome closes Monday.

"Due to the wide array of construction that'll be going on, we will have impacts to the seating area on the north and south side, as well as the concourses," he said, "and they'll be staging a lot of that construction work from the floor. So we had to close it — for athletics, general public use — everything."

Esser said there will be closure to Rayburn Street, from Nez Perce Drive down to the Swim Center entrance between March 21 and 25 for the staging of structural steel materials on the cranes.

"Other than that, the Vandal athletic center stays open for the duration," he said. "We've tried to keep student access to the weight rooms and all the training facilities across the field."

There is not a definitive date, but the Dome should be reopened sometime in August before the fall semester, Esser said.

"There's a lot of work in the Dome that you won't see, but it's quite vastly updated as far as fire sprinkling, fire alarms — all that stuff," Esser said.

Popplewell said the Dome needs an update, and UI needs to become on par with its peers.

"This new premium seating will actually generate several hundred thousand more dollars for our revenue every year," Popplewell said. "Especially with how economic times are — a lot of our departments are getting holdbacks, so we need to find new ways to create money. And this is one of those ways."

ASUI

from page 1

deal with recycling and issues that are pertinent to that position."

Perez said on their judicial branch there is a student defender, so if any students need help with any legal issues involving the university, that person will be provided for free. Every student pays \$50 a semester that funds ASUI, she said.

"We use those fees to put on different programs. We sponsored the building of the Kibbie Dome and so that's why some of the tickets to athletic events are free, and we also help sponsor the (Student Recreation Center) and that's why we get to go to the rec for free as well," Perez said.

Senators from ASUI represent the student body and they have living groups which they visit every week and inform them about what ASUI is doing and what the university is up to, Corona said.

"We try to get their ideas and comments and we try to work in implementing and growing our projects that we have going on and making sure their voices are heard or any concerns that are going on with the students, that's what we do as a senate," he said.

@uiargonaut

Grizzly's threatened status appealed in Ore. court

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Dueling attorneys for a conservation group and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offered starkly different opinions Monday about the future of the grizzly bear population in and around Yellowstone National Park, if the bear is taken off the threatened species list.

Three 9th Circuit Court of Appeals justices heard half-hour arguments and rebuttals from each side more than a year after the grizzlies were returned to the list by U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy.

The federal government is bullish on the bear's prospects, and state wildlife agencies from Montana and Wyoming have argued in briefs filed to the appellate court that officials are confident the bears won't go extinct if states are left to manage them.

Environmental groups say the bear's future is murky, and lifting protections now poses too great a risk to their survival.

Molloy's ruling, which resolved a lawsuit brought by the Montana-based Greater Yellowstone Coalition, highlighted the deaths of hundreds of thousands of whitebark pine trees over the past two decades.

The pine trees produce nuts that some grizzlies rely upon as a mainstay, and the number of trees has been falling. The reasons range from climate change to the presence of a destructive species of beetle, but the shrinking food source has pushed grizzlies to look for food in areas that increasingly bring them into contact with humans.

Allen Brabender, a U.S. Justice Department attorney, argued Monday that the bear's population has been growing from between 4 percent and 7 percent a year, and the bears will find a way to adapt without the whitebark pine seeds.

Appellate court judge Susan Graber said she saw a disconnect in the government's argument.

"You say they'll find other things to eat, so they won't starve," Graber said.

Brabender responded that the government didn't have to prove that the bears would find a replacement food source.

"Even in years without the whitebark pine being available, Yellowstone grizzly populations were still up," he said.

Tensions have been rising in the northern Rockies as the bear population increases and the animals spread into parts of Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, where they prey on

livestock, damage property and periodically attack humans.

The government agencies in favor of removing the bear from the threatened species list argue that an appellate court judge shouldn't act as a scientist in determining the whitebark pine seed issue, according to a brief filed by the state of Wyoming.

Longtime conservationist attorney Doug Honnold said the Yellowstone area is the "shining example" of bear conservation, but areas around Yellowstone concern conservationists.

"At what point," asked judge Sidney R. Thomas, "does the grizzly get to where it could be delisted?"

Honnold declined to give a specific number but said the U.S. Forest Service number of 500 was too low.

Four other groups totaling about 900 grizzlies — all in the Northwest — have never lost their threatened status. Full grown male grizzlies can weigh 800 pounds and stand 8 feet tall. Most are omnivores, meaning they eat plants and animals.

As many as 50,000 of the animals once ranged the western half of the United States — striking terror in early European settlers who routinely shot, poisoned and trapped

grizzlies until they were reduced to less than 2 percent of their historic range.

The Yellowstone-area population has grown from an estimated 200 animals in 1981 to more than 600 today.

In his ruling, Molloy said the government relied too heavily on population monitoring and failed to spell out what steps would be taken if grizzly numbers started to fall.

Honnold said after the hearing that the Greater Yellowstone Coalition is similarly concerned that the government won't keep tabs effectively on the grizzly population if it were delisted.

Montana wildlife officials argued in a brief filed to the appellate court that the rules that protect the species on a state level would match those provided by the Endangered Species Act, and that no single rule can ensure the bears will live.

"There are vast factual differences between decisions to list a species that is in jeopardy and declining ... and decisions to delist recovered species such as the grizzly bears in (Yellowstone)," the state of Montana wrote in an appellate brief.

"Once a species is delisted, there is no single regulatory mechanism that will assure its survival," it said.

NOBLE

from page 1

He said he had no idea he had a mental condition, especially because there is no history of bipolar disorder in his family.

"When they finally diagnosed it and when they started giving me literature on it ... I started reflecting a little bit on my life and thinking back and saying 'Oh, that explains a lot,'" Noble said. "It's under management, I still see my psychiatrist once a month, I have medication ... it's been a good thing to get it under control."

Noble said he wants students to know millions of people have bipolar disorder and if they feel they are having problems, they shouldn't hesitate to ask for help.

"Don't be afraid, I think a lot of times people are afraid of mental disorders," Noble said. "They think it's a really bad

thing ... saying 'I don't have any problem, I don't have any problem' and denial is kind of thrown in there. But you shouldn't be afraid of it, because they're frequent and they occur a lot."

He said he realizes there may be negativity concerning his return, but so far UI employees and the Moscow community have been supportive.

"I personally believe that the majority of responses are going to be positive. People know me, and I was a pretty central part of campus ... the majority of people I've been seeing have given me hugs and handshakes and saying 'Hey welcome back' and 'Good to see you back' ... I think some of that hesitance ... or concern will go away over time."

Noble said he would like to use his experience as an education opportunity for others.

"For me to be able to say 'Hey look, this is what bipolar is about' and (for

people who are really scared about it, I can get into more details, I've got plenty of literature," Noble said. "So I see it as an opportunity ... to kind of work with people."

As far as long-term goals, Noble said he has thought about getting a Master's degree in interdisciplinary studies. For now, he said he is content where he and his wife are at.

"I see myself sitting around the Palouse," Noble said. "I work here and she (his wife) works there, I'm sure other opportunities will arrive as people come and go — maybe I'm a VP someday, I don't know."

Noble said his biggest goal as a UI employee is to work as well as he can, wherever his services are needed.

"I'm very happy to be back, I'm happy to be back on campus, I'm happy to be back at a job that fits my skills," Noble said.

JAZZ

from page 1

The festival also served 6,500 students in two days through Jazz in School and held 101 clinics and workshops. Volunteers totaled 489 who covered 889 shifts for a total of 2,759 hours.

"I was told we had more people attend than last year," Remington said. "We had a few school closures due to the weather, but it wasn't in huge numbers."

As far as the performances, Remington said Artistic Director John Clayton, was successful in creating an enjoyable, educational program.

"He is not going for the entertainment aspect or looking to please certain people to sell tickets," Remington said. "He is making his selection based on the artists and their connection with education."

"Jazz festivals need to be fun. Ours is a jazz festival whose focus is on education," Clayton said. "The celebration that we host touches thousands of students who actually play this music. We want to make sure that their performance and educational experience will be deep and long lasting."

Clayton said Jazz Fest is also designed for those who are true jazz fans and those who are new to the jazz world, and feedback is what encourages them to continue to try to improve the festival.

Moscow teachers and students who attended felt the same. Lisa Steckel, choir teacher at Moscow Elementary School, said she and her choir students enjoyed it thoroughly.

"The jazz festival was exceptionally fantastic," Steckel said. "It was incredible and my students learned a lot. We have done it three or four years now and will continue to do it as long as we have the choir and the funds."

Joel Pals, Moscow Junior High and High School choir teacher, said his students were able to perform at the festival, watch other schools perform and participate in clinics.

"My students were excited. They got to learn a lot of things watching others schools and it gave them goals to shoot for," Pals said. "The festival provides the ability to see professionals at work, ask them questions and see that they are real people."

Pals said he and his students relate to the educational nature of the festival.

"I literally have never missed a Jazz Festival. It's kind of like a homecoming to me," Pals said. "The educational mission of the festival is something that fits my philosophy and my students. All of my students were quite happy to be there."

The 45th anniversary festival theme was also released. Next year's Jazz Fest is planned to be themed "Mentors and Masters: Partners in Shaping Tomorrow." He does not see any obvious improvements for next year, and plans to build on this year's success.

"Next year we plan to have clear skies ... everything seemed to work this year, there are just little refinements," Remington said.

Remington said a committee has been formed to start planning for 2017's 50th Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival.

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ROAD TO
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Nick Groff | Argonaut

Vandal forward Stephen Madison catches a pass underneath the basket Saturday evening in the Cowan Spectrum. Madison came off the bench and added to the Vandal win against Seattle University with 12 points, three rebounds, three assists and a fast-break block. The Vandals got their 18th win 78-69 over Seattle last Saturday.

Vandals win home finale

Seniors come up big as Vandals defeat Seattle University, 78-69

Theo Lawson
Argonaut

Idaho men's basketball managed to shave off a 12-point first-half deficit in the game against Seattle University Saturday night, scraping out their second comeback win this week and overcoming the visiting Redhawks 78-69 in the Cowan Spectrum.

Idaho (18-12, 9-7 WAC) will now prepare for its most crucial challenges of the season at next week's WAC Tournament in Las Vegas. The fourth seeded-Vandals have a bye in the first round but will play the winner of Wednesday's contest between fifth seeded Hawaii and eighth seeded San Jose State. The Rainbow Warriors haven't beaten the Vandals since 2009 and the Spartans defeated Idaho at home this spring. San Jose is also home to the nation's third-leading scorer, senior guard Adrian Oliver. Idaho will play Thursday at noon in the Las Vegas Orleans Arena. The game will be televised on ESPNU.

Seattle freshman Sterling Carter gave the Vandals an early scare with his first-half points Saturday, but Idaho seniors Jeff Ledbetter and Shawn Henderson wouldn't

let the Redhawks spoil the last home game of their career, as the pair combined for 17 second-half points, leading the hosts to a win in their last regular season game of the 2010-11 season.

Although the game had no significance for the postseason WAC Tournament, Idaho understood the importance of the game to the teams' four seniors, Brandon Wiley, Travis Blackstock, Ledbetter and Henderson, who were honored prior to the game.

Carter, who knocked down five 3-point shots in the first half, was scoreless after halftime, a tribute to the Vandals' second-half defense.

"We did a lot better job in our zone finding him (Carter) and it's a credit to Shawn taking the challenge and locking him down," coach Don Verlin said. "That boy can shoot and we let him have way too many easy looks."

Seattle achieved its biggest lead of the game when a Carter 3-pointer put them up by 12.

Idaho, who fell to the Redhawks in early December, didn't fold and found a way back into the game, led in large part by freshman Stephen Madison, who came off the bench to add seven points, three re-

bounds and two assists in the final 10 minutes of the first half. Madison's 12 total points are a career-high for the Portland native, as well as his three assists.

"He's good. He's a multi-dimensional player, he'll be a good player in this program and he's gotten a lot better as the year's gone on," Verlin said. "He responded and I couldn't be happier for him. I thought he gave us a huge lift, I thought he was really aggressive, he turned it over a couple too many times but I'll tell you what, he came in and I thought he was one of the differences in the game for us tonight."

The game transitioned in favor of the Vandals, who were eventually able to hack down the early deficit and leave the court trailing by three at halftime.

After sinking 3-pointers on three consecutive possessions, Idaho found its first lead of the game. The Redhawks tied it up at 55-55, but Henderson's third 3-pointer of the half put the Vandals back on top.

Idaho's momentum persisted throughout the second half as junior guard Derymy Geiger dropped nine points in the final

see **VANDALS**, page 12

Women lose to La. Tech

Kevin Bingaman
Argonaut

Senior Yinka Olorunnife became the WAC's all-time leading rebounder Saturday in a 65-55 loss to La. Tech.

Olorunnife had eight points and eight rebounds in the final regular-season game, passing the previous record of 1,025 set by La. Tech's Shanavia Dowdell and hitting 1,030 career rebounds.

The next stop for the fifth seed Vandals is the WAC Tournament, where they will face the eighth seed Boise State March 9 in Las Vegas. The Vandals beat the Broncos two times in as many games this season, and the winner of this match-up will take on Nevada in the quarterfinals March 10.

Idaho (14-14, 7-9 WAC) had a shot at taking the first-place Techsters (23-6, 15-1 WAC) Saturday, but were not able to come up big at the end. The Vandals were never able to find their groove in the first half and went into the locker room trailing 35-23.

La. Tech looked as though they were going to put Idaho away, claiming a 15-point lead early in the second half, but the Vandals did not fall so easily. Idaho slowly plowed forward and got within single digits about halfway through the period. The rest of the second half was a series of counter punches between the teams, with no one able to deliver the decisive blow.

With 2:07 remaining in the half, sophomore Jessica Graham hit two free throws to get the Vandals within four, but Idaho would not score again as La. Tech went on a 6-0 run to end the game and claim the 10-point victory.

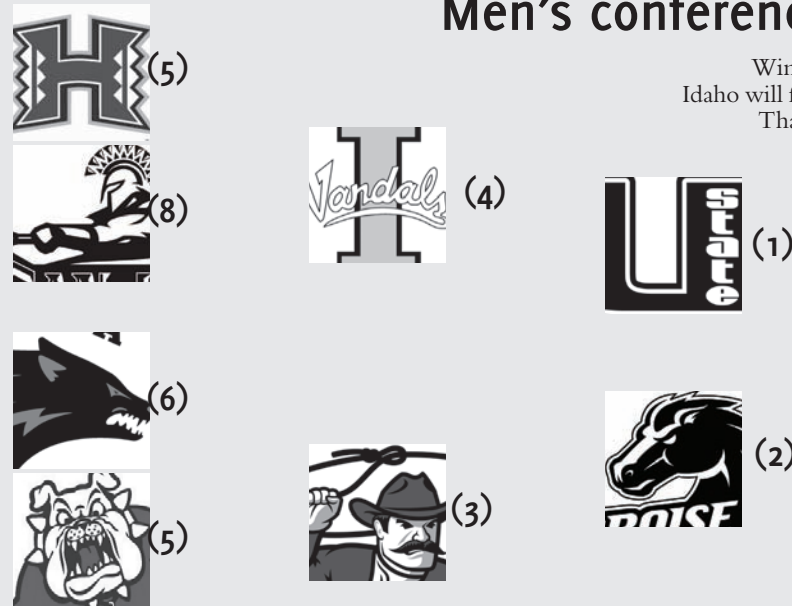
Freshman Alyssa Charleston led Idaho with 10 points and was the only Idaho player to finish in double figures. The Vandals were cold from the 3-point-line, hitting only three of 16 shots from beyond the arc. A bright spot for Idaho was forcing 15 turnovers from the Techsters.

The win gave La. Tech the outright WAC title for the season, and they will take the No. 1 seed into the tournament. The Techsters had an opportunity to finish the conference season with a perfect 16-0 record,

see **WOMEN**, page 12

Men's conference tournament bracket

Winner from previous game advances to the next round. Idaho will face the winner of the Hawaii v. San Jose State game. That winner will then face Utah State in the semi-finals



Winner receives bid to NCAA Tournament

Soccer debuts in spring loss

Theo Lawson
Argonaut

Five months have passed since the Idaho women's soccer team made history as the first Vandal squad to appear in the postseason WAC Tournament. Saturday marked the beginning of a new era as the Vandals opened the 2011 spring season with a 2-0 home loss to Seattle University.

The Vandals, who have only been able to practice twice this spring on a full-size field because of inclement weather, controlled possession and managed to get a number of shots off. Although they weren't able to find the net, the team has a lot to look forward to with five more games this spring.

"Obviously I told the girls I want them to be disappointed because we never like to lose, but there's a lot more to come," coach Pete Showler said. "We were beaten in certain areas and we've got to work on that and watch some game film, we can show the team and see that, but it was so evident we've been playing in tight areas because that's how we played as a team."

The Vandals have been accustomed to playing on the grass at Guy Wicks Field, where they spend the majority of the fall season practicing and playing games. Saturday's match was played on Idaho's SprinTurf, an artificial surface they will use for only one more spring game.

Seattle played its current seniors, a move that isn't common during spring season. Typically used as preparation for the lengthy fall season, coaches take advantage of the spring by trying out players in new positions and utilizing dif-

ferent formations, something Showler took part in during Saturday's match.

"It's like a springboard for the fall and it's preparing yourself for how we play as a system and how effectively we can play in that system," Showler said. "We've got some new personnel and people will have opportunities in different positions and same today — we played some players in different positions and we had two or three players missing. Those things make a difference."

Idaho's young starting lineup consisted of three freshman, seven sophomores and one junior. Two sophomores and two freshmen also came off the bench at different times to appear in the match.

Chelsea Small, former WAC Freshman of the Year, fired a number of on-target shots, but the sophomore who led the WAC in 2010 with 13 goals couldn't convert Saturday.

Sophomore defender Lauren Layton finished fourth in the WAC for assists, and said the match brought out positive and negative aspects the team will review during film sessions.

"We had some great connecting moments where we had some quick one-tuos out of pressure, and we also had some really good headers," Layton said. "However, there are some things we need to clean up, and there is definitely room for improvement."

Layton said improvement will come with practice, and practice will come with increased temperatures and less precipitation.

"When we play the ball on the ground and switch it around the field we are at our best," she said. "By our next



Steven Devine | Argonaut

Idaho player Nitalia Zuniga attempts to block Seattle University player Kara Kuttler during a preseason game on the SprinTurf Saturday.

game we will have some more outside practices under our belt, weather permitting, and will hopefully made the necessary adjustments to play more our game."

The team will take a three-week break and won't compete again until March 26, when they face Washington State and Gonzaga in a double-header. Both matches will be played

on the Washington State turf practice field.

"There's a lot more to come from this. We'll be better at moving the ball in terms of shifting, and we'll be more

dynamic in stepping to the ball and being first to the ball," Showler said. "If we played like that in a couple weeks' time, I'd be very disappointed, but we've got a lot more before then."



Steven Devine | Argonaut

Jarred Bossio practices his swing at the indoor training room located at the University of Idaho golf course. Bossio is ranked No. 75 in the NCAA.

Men's golfer nationally ranked

Kelsey Nash
Argonaut

Junior golfer Jarred Bossio said he has been golfing since he was about 5 or 6 years old — which may be one of the reasons he is currently No. 75 in the nation in collegiate men's golf.

Bossio said it was natural for him to become interested in the sport, as many of his family members golf, including both of his parents. He said he golfed with his parents as a child.

"They played it, so I just started going to the range with my dad," Bossio said. "None of them play professionally, just recreationally."

Family means a lot to Bossio, who said one of his greatest achievements in golf so far is having qualified for the 2010 U.S. Amateur Tournament that was held in Tacoma, 30 minutes from his home in Olympia.

"A lot of my family and friends were able to come out and watch me play and support me," Bossio said. "It was kind of like one of those lifetime experiences."

Another of his greatest golf achievements was setting a course record of 63 with a friend at the University of Washington's Kikkor Golf Husky Invitational

"A lot of my family and friends were able to come out and watch me play and support me. It was kind of like one of those lifetime experiences."

Jarred Bossio
Junior golfer

in September.

"It was kind of fun to shoot a course record there," Bossio said.

Before deciding to play golf for UI, Bossio had planned on attending UW. But after an assistant coach he liked moved from UW to UI, Bossio decided on Idaho.

That coach has since moved on, but Bossio said he is still happy with his decision to golf at Idaho and with the new men's golf coach at UI.

"I really like John Means," Bossio said, "so it's worked out."

Means has been coaching golf for 33 years and has his own golf teaching center. He said Bossio is a "real joy" to coach, mostly because despite having a great skill, Bossio doesn't let it go to his head.

"He's very receptive to making changes," Means said. "For someone who is such a talented player, you don't usually find that."

He said Bossio is not just down-to-earth — he's also a great leader.

"Jarred leads by example," Means said. "He leads by going out there and doing it. He's always looking for ways to make himself better."

Bossio said playing golf and pursuing his major in marketing keeps him busy, so he doesn't have much time for other activities. He said it was hard to imagine himself not playing golf, but if he had to play a different sport he would pick baseball, which he used to play as a child.

"I enjoyed baseball, but it was just at the same time as golf for high school, so I gave it up," Bossio said.

After graduating, Bossio hopes to go pro, but for now he is focusing on one semester at a time.

"Golf and school," Bossio said. "That's about it."

'Last Chance' for two track and field athletes

Vicky Hart
Argonaut

Vandal track and field favored quality over quantity at the Husky Last Chance meet this weekend, sending only two athletes to compete in Seattle.

Sophomore 800-meter runner Liga Velvere and senior shot putter Eugenio Mannucci won each of their events Saturday, but fell short of NCAA qualifying marks.

The Husky Last Chance meet is one of several meets held across the nation for athletes who are close to NCAA qualifying requirements but hadn't recorded one in the regular season.

"The purpose of (the) meet is for people who are running really well," assistant coach Julie Taylor said. "They may have a chance to qualify for NCAA championships."

After last weekend, Idaho planned to send about five athletes to the Last Chance meet, but illness kept most of them in Moscow, Taylor said.

"We didn't take very many people," Taylor said. "Jeremiah Dubie was dealing with a cold ... Jeremy Klas was going to go but he was getting sick during conference ... and so was Hannah Kiser."

Velvere's 2:09.95 in the women's 800-meter race put her ahead of runners from around the Pacific Northwest, but she was still almost five seconds behind the NCAA qualifying time.

"Liga (Velvere) has been running so well," Taylor said. "Every time she runs, she (hits a personal record), so it was a chance to see how she could do."

After a season of repeated first-place victories, Mannucci went out a champion. He threw 57-07.00 (17.55 meters) in the finals, outdoing athletes from Washington and Whitworth. None of the competitors hit the NCAA mark of 19.30 meters.

"Eugenio was 29th (in the nation), so we were trying to improve on that," Taylor said.

Several Vandals competed unattached to warm up for the impending outdoor

season. Josh Dalton, James Clark and Julia Veseth ran as individuals after red-shirting for the indoor season, Taylor said. Dalton finished the men's 800-meter in 1:54.56 and Clark followed him by .13 seconds. Veseth placed 13th in the women's 3000-meter race with a time of 10:15.58.

"They hadn't raced yet this year, so it was nice to see what they could do," Taylor said.

One Vandal will test himself against national competition in the NCAA Indoor Championships. Junior Jeremy Klas will pole vault with the nation's best at Texas A&M March 11 and 12. Jumping coach Jason Graham will travel with Klas to College Station, Texas, for the second consecutive year.

Meanwhile in Moscow, the rest of Vandal track and field will begin training for the upcoming outdoor season.

"Everyone is shifting toward outdoor now," Taylor said. "It was just a small meet. People are ready to focus on outdoors."

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Steven Devine | Argonaut

James Cathey gaps to a down box at Lookout Ski Resort over the long weekend. The Vandal Snow Club has earned an invitation to compete at the U.S. Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association Nationals March 8 to 13 in Sun Valley, Idaho.

It pays to shred

Vandal Snow to compete in Sun Valley

Jacob Dyer
Argonaut

The Vandal Snow Club has earned an invitation to compete at the U.S. Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association Nationals.

The 33rd annual tournament takes place from March 8 to 13 and is being held in Sun Valley, Idaho. Some of the events taking place will consist of alpine slalom, snowboard, freestyle and super-pipe competitions.

Robby Burns, a sophomore majoring in natural resources, is looking forward to the opportunity to compete.

"Snowboarding competitively has always been a huge part of my life. I have been doing it since I was 9," Burns said. "So for me, the opportunity to compete on a national level in college is pretty awesome. I am both excited and anxious to represent our school at nationals next week in Sun Valley. People may not realize it, but it is actually a pretty big event."

The Snow Club, formed in 1999, consists of both snowboarders and skiers. Between 50-55 members are in the club at any given time, and skill levels range from first-timers to experts.

The club's journey to nationals started when the first snow of the season hit the ground. That's when senior Gregory Dobak, the new president of the club, began contacting members and recruiting new ones.

Dobak said fees for the club are \$300, which he believes is a great deal for members.

"(Fees) included a season pass to Brundage, a week-long trip to McCall to stay in three mansions, free food for all of camp and a T-shirt, along with some other goodies that we throw in throughout the year," Dobak said. "Essentially it breaks down to about the cheapest snowboarding that you can do."

With fees out of the way, club members' next obligation was the week-long trip to McCall to bond and work on their skills.

"Snowboard camp at the beginning of the season really helps you get to know the rest of the club members," Burns said. "It's a busy week of fun-filled days on and off the snow. After camp I felt like I had definitely made some great new friends."

While competitions didn't start until January, the club members spend a majority of weekends car pooling to Brundage to continue to practice.

Burns said themed dress-up days keep

"People dress up in ridiculous costumes and hang out, it saves us all from the awkward silence that usually ensues when meeting a lot of new random people all at once."

Robby Burns

Sophomore in natural resources

the club from getting too uncomfortable for new members.

"People dress up in ridiculous costumes and hang out, it saves us all from the awkward silence that usually ensues when meeting a lot of new random people all at once," Burns said.

Christine Roberts, a freshman from McCall, said she has been grateful for the experience of joining the club.

"This is my first year competing and I really enjoy it. I get to go to huge mountains, with great parks, travel and snowboard ... it's pretty tight," Roberts said.

She said her favorite part of the club is how laid back it is, but she also said she enjoys the rush of competing.

"I got to experience competing for the first time and build some great friendships ... and best of all I have some snowboarding buddies to go on trips with on the weekends," Roberts said.

Dobak said the club also holds special events throughout the year to keep members interested.

"We always have a 'Pray for Snow' event at the beginning of the year and a 'Thank the Snow Gods' at the end," Dobak said. "This year we held a rail jam before the snow came in October where we trucked in a bunch of snow and set up some boxes and had a mini-competition."

Dobak said the rail jam had an entry fee, and a portion of the money helped support the team's expenses. There were 10 competitors and about 100 people there to watch the event. He said they also had good turnouts at the Pray for Snow and the Thank the Snow Gods events, with about 200 to 300 people who came out to watch.

ASUI Letter Writing Campaign

Associated Students University of Idaho

Hello, my name is Stephen Parrott. I am your ASUI President. This year, higher education in Idaho is facing a possible 5.3 percent cut for 2012's budget. This is due to the state's budgetary shortfall of about \$90 million.

This cut could mean that the University of Idaho will have lost around a third of its state funding in the last three years alone. This could mean a tuition increase of several hundred dollars on top of what you are already paying for your public education, a potential financial burden to you and your families.

It is important to remember that there is no way to avoid cuts to higher education funding. The university is prepared to do its part to help balance the states budget, but the full weight of the state's financial crisis should not be placed on the backs of students.

According to a study done by Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc., altogether, the average annual added income due to the activities of the University of Idaho and its alumni is nearly \$1 billion. This is equal to nearly 25,000 average-wage jobs, or a 9-to-1 return to Idaho's economy. For more specific information, please visit www.uidaho.edu/economic-impact/.

There are several creative ways in which the legislature could increase revenue. Right now Idaho taxes tobacco users \$0.57 per pack, while other neighboring states like Utah charges more than three times that at \$1.70 per pack and Washington charges more than \$3 per pack. Idaho legislators are considering a tobacco tax increase of \$1.25 and if passed, such a tax would raise an additional \$42 million in revenue a year. This is just one alternative source of income, with so many other possibilities.

You can join the fight for higher education in Idaho. As a student at the University of Idaho, you are entitled to have your opinion heard by your district's legislative representatives and senator. To find out who represents you and your home district, please visit www.legislature.idaho.gov and click the "Who's My Legislator" button. You can search for your district by entering your parent's address.

Call or e-mail your representatives and tell them that as a constituent of their district, you understand cuts will be made, but a 5.3 percent cut is too much.

Your ASUI representatives will have a table for you to sign a letter to your legislator in the Idaho Commons on March 2nd and 9th. A prewritten letter will outline the negative effects of a cut to the higher education budget. Once you have signed the letter, ASUI will send it to your respective representative.

So please, take the time to stop by and help protect the future of your education. It will only take a few seconds and your time could end up saving you hundreds of dollars.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact ASUI directly at 208-885-6331. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Stephen Parrott

ASUI President

GOOD FROM DISTANCE



Nick Groff | Argonaut

Idaho senior attackman Eric Fletcher winds up for a shot on goal Saturday afternoon on the Sprinturf against Portland State. Fletcher scored on the shot from distance and has already tallied 11 goals and six assists in the first three games of the season. Idaho is 3-0 overall and heads to California for four games before returning to Moscow March 26.

From live targets, to the Olympics, to UI

Kevin Bingaman
Argonaut

Shooting trap has long been a sport that outdoor enthusiasts enjoy, and students at Idaho have the opportunity to partake as well with the Vandal trap team.

Trap is a shooting competition that involves shooting clay pigeons — small clay disks — with a shotgun at various angles and distances. It was first meant to simulate live targets, but has evolved into its own sport that is even in the Olympics.

The UI trap team is a fairly young club sport, but club president Lucas Yockey said he and his team are working on creating a greater awareness of the team and sport.

“We haven’t been really promoting the club at all, it was just kind of hearsay,” Yockey said. “This year we’re blowing up the recruiting.”

Yockey said the team is growing rapidly — they have about 50 members, which is 20 more than they had this time last year. Yockey said they have even been instrumental in getting some students to come to Idaho who have the desire to shoot.

Trap is a sport that requires concentration and steadiness. Yockey said it’s kind of like golf, but with shotguns. In competition, each shooter shoots at five targets at five different stations. Each shooter earns an individual score, which is tacked on to the overall team score. Yockey said competitions may take concentration, but

more than anything else it’s about getting out and having a good time.

“It’s really fun, laid back,” Yockey said. “You don’t have to be in shape,” it’s just going out there, shooting your gun and having fun.”

The Vandal trap team has found success in the competitions they have had so far. It took a couple of years to get the team organized, but last year the team competed in their first intercollegiate competition. This year the team is scheduled for multiple competitions, mainly against Washington State University at the Colton Gun Club outside Pullman.

“We killed WSU the past few times we’ve faced them,” Yockey said. “Most of the guys have just grown up on the farms shooting live stuff, and then we put them on clay pigeons and

they do really well.”

The trap team practices at the Troy-Deary Gun Club, which also helps the team with fundraising. The team gets some funding through the university’s club sports programs, but they have to earn half their budget through fundraising. They also help run competitions at the Troy-Deary Gun Club to earn extra money.

Yockey said he is working hard this year to increase awareness of the team, and they will be at Vandal Friday and the Sportsman Exposition in April to do so. Yockey said trap is something anyone with an interest in shooting should look into.

“It’s something to do in the dead of winter,” Yockey said. “Not only is it fun but it’s good practice for hunt-

ing in the fall. It’s a competition we can take part in, not just in our team but with other universities.”

Yockey said his team is a diverse group of people from all kinds of backgrounds, majors and interests. He said experience is not necessary for joining the team, just the desire to learn how to shoot.

“We’ve had a wide spectrum,” Yockey said. “We range from people who have been shooting since they were two, to people who this is their first year shooting and want to learn.”

Yockey said he is open to anyone who wants to join the team, or just come out for a day to see what trap is about.

“Come out and break some clay with us,” Yockey said. “We’re open to anyone joining.”



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Sat. 3/12–Sun. 3/20: CLOSED

Mon. 3/14–Thurs. 3/17: 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Fri. 3/18–Sat. 3/19: CLOSED

Sun. 3/20: 12 p.m.–9 p.m.

Einstein Bros Bagels (Idaho Commons)

Fri. 3/11: 7 a.m.–4 p.m.

Sat. 3/12–Sun. 3/20: CLOSED

Mon. 3/14–Fri. 3/18: 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Sat. 3/19–Sun. 3/20: CLOSED

Joe's Cafe (SUB)

Fri. 3/11: 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Sat. 3/12–Sun. 3/20: CLOSED

Mon. 3/14–Fri. 3/18: 8 a.m.–11 a.m.

Sat. 3/19–Sun. 3/20: CLOSED

J Street Cafe (Idaho Commons)

Fri. 3/11: 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Sat. 3/12–Sun. 3/20: CLOSED

Bob's Place (Wallace Complex)

Fri. 3/11: 7 a.m.–1 p.m.

Sat. 3/12–Sun. 3/20: CLOSED

Sister's Brew (Admin Building)

Fri. 3/11: 7:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Sat. 3/12–Sun. 3/20: CLOSED

Sister's Brew (Law School Building)

Fri. 3/11–Sun. 3/20: CLOSED

Stover's (Albertson Building)

Fri. 3/11: 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Sat. 3/12–Sun. 3/20: CLOSED

University of Idaho

Campus Dining

BYU holds strong to its values

Starting Brigham Young University forward Brandon Davies was taken off the basketball team last week for having sex with his girlfriend, a violation of the BYU honor code.

The honor code is set of rules every student must uphold to in order to go to school and participate in athletics at BYU. To many people, having sex with your girlfriend may not seem to be a big deal, but when you attend an institution like BYU, it is enough to lose your spot on the team.

Davies was not forced to play for BYU — when he made the decision to play for the Cougars he knew what the rules were, and is now off the team. A lot of people may think the rules at BYU are unfair or too strict, but it is the school's choice. If you don't like the rules, don't play for BYU.

Suspending someone for having sex with their girlfriend is kind of harsh, but there is a reason why most athletes don't choose to play at BYU — they know in advance the rules set out for them are way too severe to follow faithfully. There would have been nothing wrong with what Davies did if he did not play at BYU and hadn't agreed to the hon-

or code upon beginning his education and athletic career at the school. Davies is not a criminal or a troublemaker — he simply had sexual relations with his girlfriend. That's not a crime.

People should applaud BYU for taking action and sticking to its code, rather than criticize them. Too many athletes think they can get away with anything because they can shoot well on the court or run fast on the football field, and it isn't right. On most teams, if a player gets arrested for committing a crime, he or she might be suspended for one game and be back on the court or the field within a week. At least here BYU stood up for something called "values," which seem to get lost sometimes in situations like this.

If more schools stood for the values presented, the athletes and students alike could graduate as a better person than when they came in. This is a rare case in which values won over statistics and John Wooden put it best: "Who you are as a person is far more important than who you are as a basketball player."

BYU proved that it cares more about who its students are as people — not just their athletic skills.



Michael Greenway
Argonaut

Perfect start for Vandal lacrosse



Nick Groff | Argonaut

Junior attackman John Kopke controls on an Idaho offensive possession in the fourth quarter against Portland State University. Idaho beat Portland State 15-5 on Saturday and Kopke added his seventh goal of the season on a late game-winning shot Sunday that secured Idaho the 13-12 win over University of Montana. Idaho is 3-0 overall on the season.

Nick Groff
Argonaut

A late surge by the University of Montana almost spoiled the perfect weekend for Idaho men's lacrosse Sunday afternoon on the SprinTurf.

Idaho branded Portland State University, winning 15-5 Saturday afternoon on the SprinTurf, before holding off a late Montana surge in the second game of the weekend's double header Sunday. Idaho was up 12-5 at the end of the third quarter, but Montana scored seven unanswered goals to tie the game late in the fourth quarter.

Idaho coach John Andrysiak said the Montana comeback was not a result of a let down after the blow-out Saturday.

"It was a product of Montana is a better team than Portland State," Andrysiak said. "All good teams make a comeback at some point. It was not as much a let down as it was a bit of fatigue near the end of the weekend."

With a little more than two minutes remaining in the game, junior attackman John Kopke scored the go-ahead goal, cementing the 13-12 Idaho victory.

The Vandals are 3-0 on the season and have outscored their opponents 36-20.

The team leaves March 11 to play a slew of games in California over spring break. Idaho starts the break against Chico State, one of the best teams it will face, Andrysiak said.

"They're a pretty decent team so their record doesn't look as good as they are," Andrysiak said. "We're looking forward to having a good showing in California."

Upcoming games

- March 13 | Chico State, Chico, Calif.
- March 15 | Texas Tech, San Diego
- March 16 | San Diego State, San Diego

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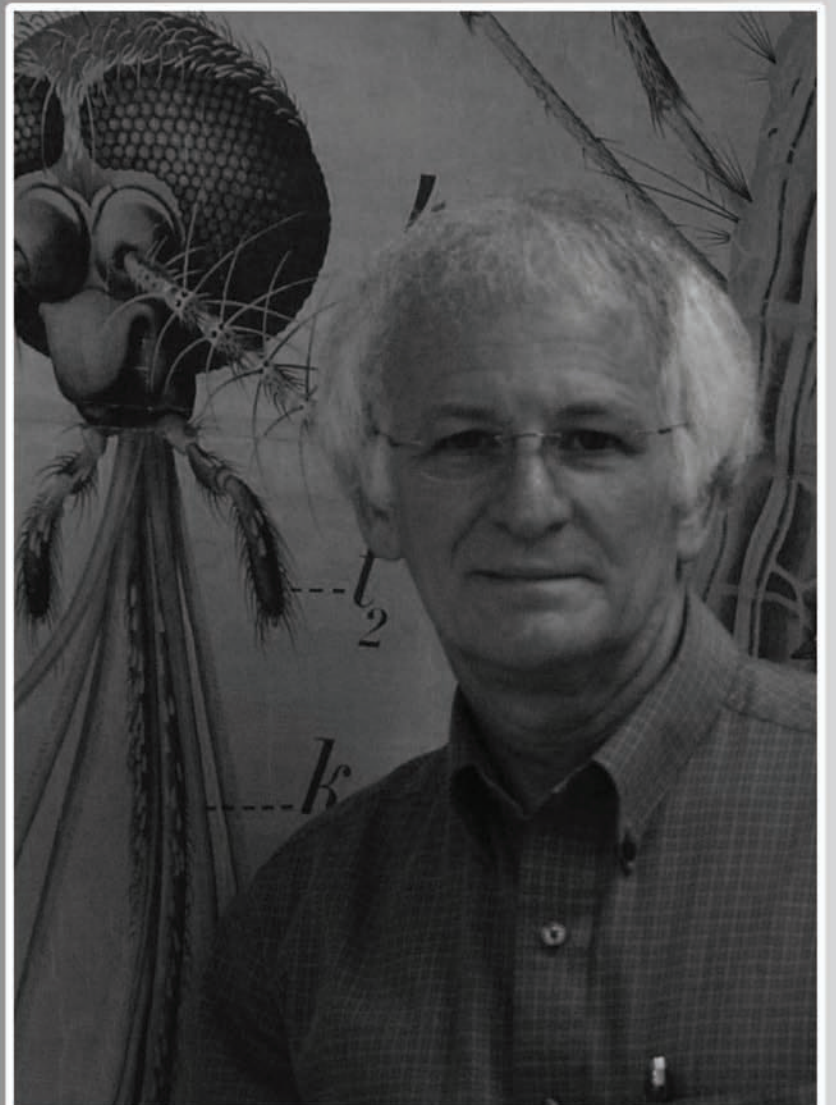
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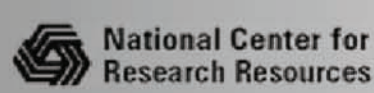
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VANDALS

from page 7

20 minutes, while sophomore center Kyle Barone grabbed six rebounds, four of them coming offensively.

Geiger finished with 15 points, a team high, along with four assists and three steals. The junior was also a perfect 6-6 from the free throw line. Barone was two points away from what would've been the third double-double of his career, grabbing 10 rebounds with eight points.

"Just keep staying persistent, not changing anything, sticking with what I've been doing and the team's been doing. We just grinded this one out," Geiger said. "This was one of the games where it took a lot, we had to grind out every possession, we

couldn't give up, we couldn't relax. We knew they could get back into it just like that."

Ledbetter, who leads the team in points-per-game and tops the WAC in 3-pointers made, ended his last regular season game as a Vandal with nine points, four assists and one steal. The senior said he has been grateful for the opportunity UI has given him.

"My whole family was here — Mom and Dad, both brothers, best friend. I mean there was about 15 of them here, they all flew in from Seattle and drove down from different areas so it was tough, there was a lot of emotions going into this game with Senior Night, last game in the Kibbie Dome," Ledbetter said. It worked out great for me here. It's everything I wanted and more at the D1 level."

WOMEN

from page 7

to finish the conference season with a perfect 16-0 record, but fell to Nevada 71-66 Feb. 28 on the road. San Jose State is the only WAC team that will miss the tournament, finishing the season 2-14 in conference play.

Young shooting victim honored

Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — Chicago Cubs right-hander Carlos Silva had his second straight rough spring start.

Silva, who had an altercation in the dugout with third baseman Aramis Ramirez during his first start last week, gave up eight runs and 10 hits in 2 1/3 innings and the Cubs overcame a nine-run deficit in a 14-13 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Monday.

The teams combined for 37 hits and used 13 pitchers. Scott Moore hit a grand slam in a seven-run sixth inning for Chicago. Angels first baseman Mark Trumbo was 4 for 4 with a solo homer, his third of the spring.

Silva was upset about three errors in the first inning of his first start on Wednesday against the Brewers. He said he accepted blame for the incident.

Bryan LaHair's long single to the gap in right-center field scored Fernando Perez with the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning. Perez had reached base on a one-out walk and had stolen second.

In two starts (3 1/3 innings), Silva has given up 14 runs (11 earned) and 13 hits and two home runs.

A brisk wind was blowing out to right-center on Monday, but Silva said that did not affect his pitches.

"I was feeling pretty good. Most of them were singles that were hit through the hole (between infielders)," Silva said.

"You get out there and try

to do your work. You're usually not concerned with results. But you need results when you are competing for a starting spot in the rotation," he said.

Silva knows he needs to pitch better to quiet his critics. "When I pitch good, nobody says anything," said Silva, who was 10-6 with a 4.22 ERA in 21 starts in 2010, his first season with the Cubs.

"I feel good. I feel strong. I'm going to be fine," he said.

Angels starter Dan Haren feels fine, too, especially after throwing three hitless innings against the Cubs. He walked one and struck out three.

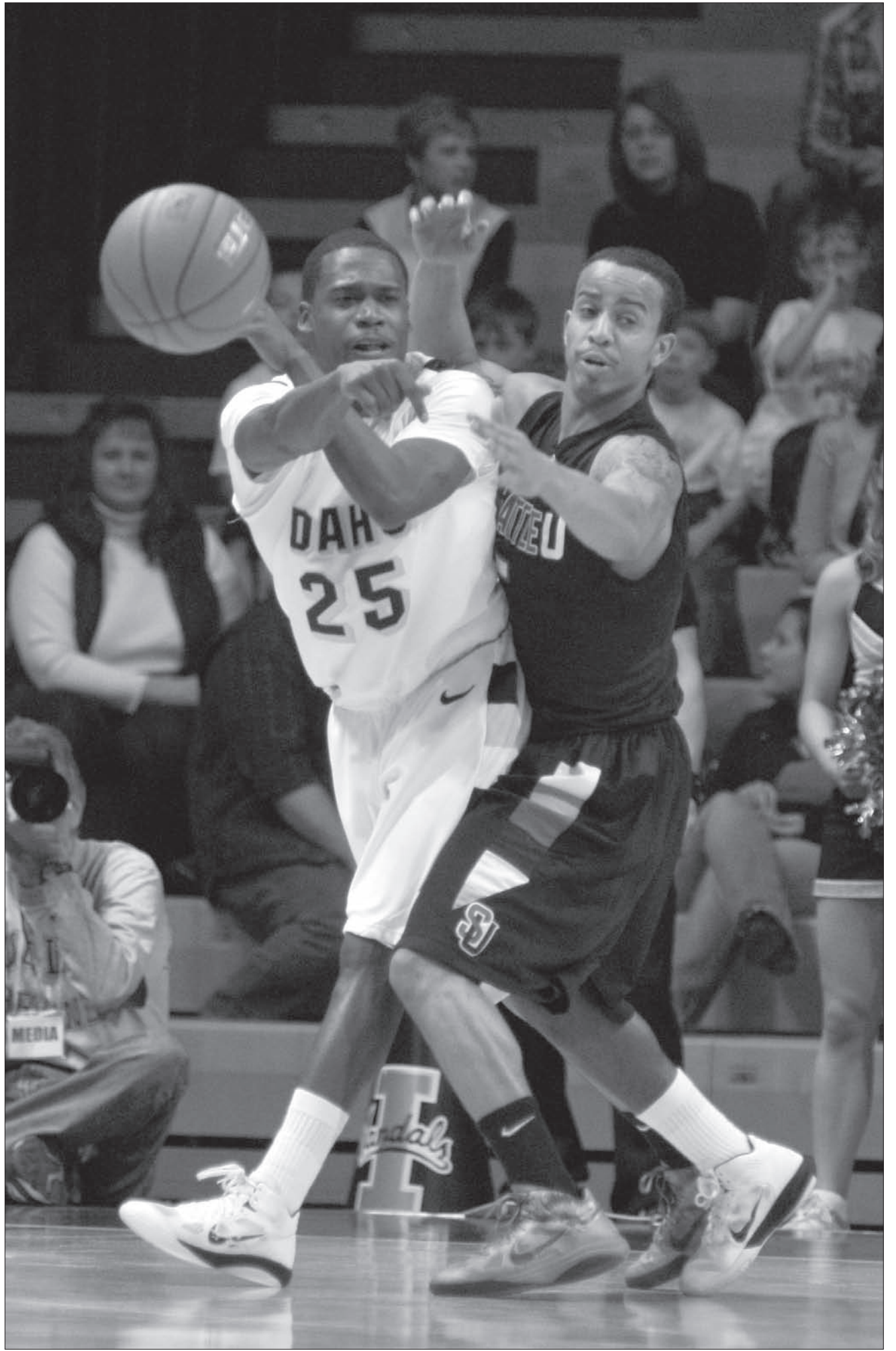
The right-hander took the loss in his first start against Texas on March 2.

"It was a little scary with the wind blowing out (against the Cubs)," he said. "My sinker did sink a little more. I've been really focusing on getting the ball down. My fastball was moving well. And I felt I was able to throw well out of the stretch a couple of times."

He was acquired in a trade with Arizona on July 25, 2010, and was 5-4 in 14 starts for the Angels and finished 12-12 overall. He relies on five pitches — a two-seam fastball, a four-seam fastball, a cutter, a split-finger pitch and a curveball.

"I don't throw 95 (mph) so I have to use all of those," he said. "When you're working in the spring, you go from the bullpen to live BP (batting practice) to the games, where there's a little more adrenalin. You have to learn to make adjustments. If you don't, you will pay the price."

COMEBACK KINGS OF IDAHO



Nick Groff | Argonaut

Vandal point guard Deremy Geiger passes the ball back to the top of the key to reset the Vandal offense Saturday evening in the Cowan Spectrum. Geiger and the Vandals won their last regular season game against Seattle University, 78-69, and will play March 10 in the WAC Tournament in Las Vegas.



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More fees don't close gap

In order to compensate for basic funding the State of Idaho was supposed to give the University of Idaho during the last three years, tuition would have to be increased by 50 to 60 percent.

To an experienced or inexperienced ear that is a lot of money — and that is only the tuition portion. Student fees are comprised of three other areas as well. That would raise tuition to about \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year — plus the additional fees.

That makes the proposed 8.4 percent increase sound a lot better, which is an increase of about \$450

per student for the academic year.

Despite the size, no one wants to hear student fees will be increased again. Money is still money and as college students it is still hard to find. But the administration is stuck in the mud with less and less support from state government.

In the last three years, the state government has cut 21 percent of UI's budget, which translates to \$23 million on the education side alone and \$31 million for the whole institution.

To make up for the cuts, the university has eliminated about 200 positions and just fewer than 40

departments. Colleges have been consolidated from four to three departments, furloughs were issued and funds like travel, operations and the reserve have been reduced. It is still not enough.

To balance the budget, UI would need to generate about \$12.4 million. The 8.4 percent increase will help some, but it will not close the gap.

With the change from matriculation fees to tuition, the university will be able to pay faculty and staff from the additional funds brought in by the increase in tuition. That means the quality of education offered will have a little better chance

of staying closer to where it is now.

Compared to other state institutions, like Washington State University, Montana State University or Oregon State University, UI has yet to increase tuition great enough to make up for the lack of state funding. In the long run, it is still a low tuition rate for the level of education we receive.

It is tiring to hear education constantly be pushed to the backburner. To get the education we want will require a little more out of our pockets — but it could be even more. It could be 60 percent. — ER

Off the Cuff

Quick takes on life from our editors

My weekend

WINNING.

— Loren

Charlie Sheen

It is already old. If you are using the term WINNING, you are actually LOSING. If this term continues to be a catchphrase, our culture is losing in the fact that we can't come up with anything better to say.

— Dara

Butts

I follow the creator of Toothpaste for Dinner on Twitter. His handle is @drewtoothpaste. His feed is a gold mine of laughter, but there is one that never ceases to amuse me: "What you gonna do w/ all those butts? All those butts inside your butt? I'm gonna butt butt butt your butt, butt butt my butt butt butt." Winning.

— Chava

Hey punks...

This weekend someone decided to mess with my "I Vandals" magnet on my car. At first I thought they had just stolen it, and then I, by chance, found it on top of my car Sunday night. I'm not really sure why someone thought it would be fun to do that, but I was not impressed. I was seriously mad when I realized it was missing, so here's to anyone who thinks it is a good idea to mess with someone's car: You're a jerkface. Losing.

— Elizabeth

Match made in heaven

How is it that stumpleupon.com knows me so well? Stumbling was the perfect break between bouts of studies this weekend. Now I have recipes for chicken alfredo pizza to try and plans to build my own reading nook. Useless? Maybe. Perfect? Yes. Winning.

— Tanya

One last spring break

In four days I'll be on a plane to California, where there is sunshine, beaches and unlimited partying. Is it weird that going to Disneyland is what I'm most excited about? It may be my last spring break as a college student, but that doesn't mean I have to grow up. Winning.

— Kelli

Home is boring

So I get to go to Caldwell, Idaho, for spring break. While it will be great to see my family and friends from home, C-Town isn't the usual party time destination. Losing.

— Nick

Soccer

In exactly one week I will be in Seattle to watch my Sounders pound the Galaxy. Watch out Beckham and Donovan. Winning.

— Madison

Dara

I can't express how excited I am for Dara's birthday. She is one of the greatest news editors of our time, and I love having her around the office to share her great advice, that perfect smile or even just being present. Happy early birthday Dara. I can't wait to give you your present valued at more than \$1 million. As much as I hate to say it, that girl is Winning.

— Jens

'The future'

My application for graduate school has officially been processed, and I will be notified sometime in the next two weeks to several months if I've been accepted. That's a really long time to someone who's trying to plan the next year of her life. Please, please don't make me wait more than two weeks. Losing.

— Kelcie



Mail Box

Correspondence with our readers

Thanks, Vandals

My son's first and second grade micro-basketball team was invited to play an exhibition match at halftime of the University of Idaho men's basketball game versus Fresno State. The student body was absolutely amazing. They stood up and cheered throughout the entire scrimmage and created a once in a lifetime experience for a group of 7- and 8-year-old children. As an alum and staff member at UI, I was never more proud to be a Vandal. The smiles on all of the children's faces was a priceless memory for the parents and grandparents. What a wonderful night.

Special thanks to Vandal Athletics for the invitation, Joe Vandal for letting our children mob you multiple times, the entire student body for their support and cheers, and finally to Emily Kees for organizing the coaches, parents and teams.

Go Vandals.
Speeders coach,
Erick Larson

Raising taxes to save America

The United States government is rapidly running out of money. There is a projected budget deficit in the next year of \$1.27 trillion. This is to say the federal government would like to spend \$1.27 trillion that it doesn't actually have. So perhaps "rapidly running out of money" isn't quite the right way to put this.

The country is broke. The U.S. government simply doesn't have the money.

So how do we solve this problem? That's the \$1.27 trillion question in Washington right now.

Democrats would like to cut discretionary spending while cutting taxes, or at least maintaining existing tax

cuts, for the lower, middle and upper-middle classes. They would be willing to cut taxes for the rich, very-rich and super-rich as well in an act of bipartisan compromise. Maybe they'll do it anyway.

The super-rich are too big to fail, after all.

Republicans would like to cut discretionary spending while cutting taxes for the middle, upper-middle, very-upper-middle, rich, very-rich and super-rich. But

to be fair to the Republicans, they would be willing to avoid raising taxes that primarily affect the poor, such as sales taxes and other flat taxes — those sorts of taxes are the duty of the states, after all.

So there's an obvious compromise for our politicians.



Max Bartlett
Argonaut

Apathy abounds at UI

The apathy vote is in — college students care less than high schoolers.

When the first portion of Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna's education reform bills passed, high school students in the Boise area did not stay silent. Instead, they protested the legislation.

The students organized walkouts by creating a Facebook group, texting about it and talking to one another. After walking out of classes, they staged a sit-in at the Capitol Building, where they studied with books and paper to show their preference over computers.

These students — who are still children — have done more in the last week than many college students have done in the last three years. Lately there have been marches on the University of Idaho campus to show support for the citizens of Egypt and Libya, but those causes have not directly affected them like the education reform has to high school students.

The high school students who participated in the protests and made signs chose to voice their opinions and have utilized their First Amendment right in a proactive way. They should be applauded for doing this. They recognized the impact the legislation

would have on them and their education, and instead of standing by, they decided to make their voices heard.

At least by being proactive and vocal, the high school students will be justified in their complaints if and when the whole reform package goes through. The same cannot be said when UI students do not like what ASUI chooses to do with the money from their student fees and tuition.

ASUI is an important form of government and directly affects UI students. Like any other form of government, the people have a say in what happens, who is elected and where the money is spent. But it only works if people are involved.

The next election for ASUI president and vice president currently only has one set of candidates. That is a shame. It's not a shame because of who the candidates are, and this is not to say they can't handle it, but there should at least be a competition. Students should at least care enough to want to try to make a difference in the place where they will spend four to five years of their lives.



Elizabeth Rudd
Argonaut

Obama steps too far with DOMA

The steps President Barack Obama climbed on his rise to power have been shoved to the background in our political climate.

While presidents Clinton and Bush followed the usual route of cruising through Yale, meeting the right people, getting involved in a campaign and raising their own profile, Obama went off the beaten path. After directing a community growth program for three years, Obama finished at Harvard and chose to become a professor of constitutional law, lecturing Yale students for the following 12 years.

You shouldn't respect a man based on reputation alone, but I still feel like I'm doing something silly by

questioning his latest decision. It has to do with the Defense of Marriage Act, aptly titled to convey the impression that marriage itself is under attack by gay people. The bill mandates that no state should be required to recognize same-sex unions.



Bret Zender
Argonaut

Obama has determined the bill is unconstitutional and not worthy of defense by his Department of Justice. As is common when religious tradition is entangled with government power, a cultural battle has begun. Whatever, America. Interracial couples had to fight for legal recognition. The next battle had to be fought sometime, and it's happening right in front of us instead of in vague stories from history books. John Boehner vowed to

fight Obama's decision, and the sky continues to be blue.

I support gay marriage and find the idea we even still have to argue about it in this day and age to be too pitiful for ridicule. Arbitrary justice is about the most dangerous activity a man can partake in, especially when that man is the most powerful human alive. It's a big deal when the president of the United States decides he doesn't feel like following a particular law, and that the law everyone agreed was OK 15 years ago is unconstitutional now.

It's true, I sympathize with how you feel, Obama. It may be the law, but so what, right? We've executed people for "following orders" — rule of law be damned if the law itself is corrupt. Obama sees a wrong, and is attempting to right it, under the guise of unconstitutionality. But it's important to remember it is not the role

of the president or the executive branch to make rulings on what is or isn't constitutional. It is the role of the judicial branch.

Sure, it's all fine and dandy when the powers happen to see my point of view. What happens if a Sarah Palin or "Newt" Gingrich administration starts deciding which laws to enforce and which not to? Might their justice departments find it unconstitutional to allow gay marriage? Suddenly it's less of a victory and more of a nightmare.

If a law is wrong, it needs to be proved wrong via the proper channels. Go through the courts, have the judges slam their gavels and declare it an abomination. The president is an executive, not a judge. Although I agree with his intent, the position should continue to execute the decisions of others — not make them.

Focus on abstinence for Lent

Forty days is a long time to give up something you love. Everyone has something that makes their day brighter. Maybe it's coffee in the morning to prepare them for the day. Lent causes us to focus on those things we grow dependent on, and challenges us to go without.

The thing might be of beneficial value, but are we able to survive without it? Maybe, in giving it up, we'll learn something. Lent is a time when Catholics from all around the world take time to focus on Christ in his passion and ask "What is it in my life that I mistake luxury for necessity?"

We learn a lot when we look at ourselves and what we value honestly. St. Augustine took education seriously. He researched multiple philosophies, searching for truth. He said it was when he averted his search from the world, and looked inward, that he found truth. From his experiences, he said, "Men go abroad to wonder at the height of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motion of the stars, and they pass by themselves without wonder-

dering." Lent is the perfect opportunity to reflect beyond just textbooks, but to ourselves and where we want to be as individuals.



Casey Dail
Argonaut

With Lent approaching, I rented "40 Days and 40 Nights." It is a comedy about a man, Matt, who can't get over his ex-girlfriend, and keeps having meaningless sex to try to fill the void. These descriptors come straight from his mouth in the movie, as he repeatedly runs to his brother for priestly advice. Matt decides to take a vow of abstinence for the full 40 days — no sex, no sexual intimacy and no masturbation.

His first encounter with a girl, Erica, is at the Laundromat, who makes conversation with him. He resorts solely to nodding, smiling and lips silent, as if a vow of abstinence means a total social dud. After he finally speaks and they spend the day together, she leans in for a kiss and he interrupts it with a high five.

It's interesting to see how much interactions change when sex is taken out of the picture. Matt explained to Erica the reasons for his vow, saying he "wanted to see what

What would change in your relationship if you postponed sex longer?

It'd be like without all the ... sex brings to the picture." As they talk, Erica agreed "it's very easy to confuse a physical attraction with a real connection." Matt is happy about his vow until the end of Lent when he is twitching and zombie-like, similar to coming off an addiction. It was funny, but is this reality?

Some live their whole lives without sex. Some, like St. Augustine, have premarital sex, but live the rest of their lives celibate. Some wait until marriage to have sex. What would change in your relationship if you postponed sex longer? We know sex is satisfying, and beneficial to the body, but there can be something learned from waiting. The director of the film said Matt conquered his vow, and came to a truth of himself he would never have come to otherwise. I leave you with a challenge, one only you can answer — can you have an intimate relationship without sex?

Definitive Four

Two weeks of questions

Two weeks ago, the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival overtook Moscow, leaving a path of destruction and unanswered questions in its wake. Last weekend, Moscow Mardi Gras left a whole new set of destruction and unanswered questions.

Both events have untold benefits for the community, and this is not a call to end either one. There are, however, a few questions that need to be asked about both.

In order for events to improve in the future, questions must constantly be asked and Jazz Fest and Moscow Mardi Gras should not be exempt from this. These questions are designed to help improve both events in the future.

There are plenty of reasons the past two weeks will have a left a person scratching his or her head in bewilderment, but only four definitive questions need to be asked about what has transpired in Moscow.

Why teens?

Every Jazz Fest sees hoards of teenagers descend upon Moscow acting in a manner that would make small children blush with embarrassment. Temper tantrums, annoying jokes and general misbehavior are seen throughout town during a dreadful four-day spell.

Parents and chaperones seem unable or unwilling to put an end to petulant behavior most teens exhibit during Jazz Fest. Moscow is willing to open its doors to host an important event to the regional jazz community — the least these teens and their handlers could do is reciprocate the courtesy.

Why college students?

Every Moscow Mardi Gras sees hoards of college students descend upon downtown Moscow acting in a manner that would make small children blush with embarrassment. Temper tantrums, annoying jokes and general misbehavior are seen during a

dreadful one-night spell.

The only difference between Moscow Mardi Gras and most Saturday nights is that proceeds benefit charity on Mardi Gras. That is quite fortunate, considering Moscow Mardi Gras highlights the propensity of a lot of students to pass out in public bathrooms in a pool of their own vomit or get involved in fights about nothing.



Cheyenne Hollis
Argonaut

Dance floors throughout Jazz Fest and Mardi Gras were assaulted by people who had no clue what they were doing. Half of the people looked like they were suffering from some sort of seizure, and the other half needed copious amounts of space on the dance floor for the unsafe swinging of limbs.

Not every person dancing during the past two weekends in Moscow has been horrible, but a majority has been. It remains to be seen why the past two weeks has seen awful dancing on the rise in Moscow, but hopefully it will go back down to normal levels.

Cover bands. Really?

Cover bands, especially those covering classic rock, are more often than not creepy and not good. Everyone likes hearing hit songs, but it makes just as much sense to play a jukebox than to have some 40-something-year-old guys playing The Eagles' songs and trying to get women half their age to expose themselves for beads.

The other odd thing about cover bands is all of them seem to play "Sweet Home Alabama," and people in the crowd start going crazy every time the song is played. There is no other time people clamor to hear "Sweet Home Alabama" except when a cover band is on stage. It is almost as if everyone knows it is the one song that is almost impossible to mess up, but that hardly makes it worth listening to.

The consequences of capitalism

Teachers being undervalued in materialistic society

Johnny Depp makes about \$75 million per year from his career as an actor.

The average Idaho elementary school teacher makes approximately \$33,812 per year. The average University of Idaho professor makes somewhere between \$40,000 and \$80,000 per year.

In other words, Idaho teachers make in one year what Depp makes in one to four days.

Capitalism has made our society successful. It has pushed us to strive for more and "work hard" to better our lives and make money. It has made our system unique and enviable — but it also rewards selfishness and punishes the unselfish, as is the case with the disparity between an entertainer's income and a teacher's income.

Public school teachers in Wisconsin have protested to retain their collective bargaining rights as a union. Some have said they are overpaid, with benefits packages of about \$38,000 putting their salaries around \$90,000 — but is that really enough to qualify as "overpaid?"

Those who wish to become teachers usually attend a higher education institution for four years, followed by student teaching for at least one semester, but more experience is preferred.

Teachers go into this profession — most of the time — because of a genuine desire to make a difference in a student's life. It would be difficult to argue teachers go into the profession

for the money and easier to believe it is out of an unselfish desire to make a difference.

Why is it we so lavishly reward arguably selfish professions like acting or playing football or baseball, but we don't appreciate and under-reward those who unselfishly give their time and energy to areas of life that make a difference in the long run?

Think of the teacher who made the most difference to your life up to now. Did he or she inspire you in a way no one else could? Did you admire them and respect him or her? Did he or she work hard day after day to provide you with quality education and resources?

He or she did all of that for what an actor can make in two days shooting a movie that will ultimately have little to no impact on your life.

But hey, teachers get summers off. Why should they be complaining? And they get to go home earlier than everyone else. However, I remember my teachers sticking around well past 3 p.m. — sometimes as late as 7 or 8 p.m. Actors and athletes have off-seasons as well, and are paid millions more. Are they overpaid and lazy?

Many of us wouldn't be attending this institution were it not for quality teachers. Think about that the next time it's tempting to support cutting teachers' union collective bargaining rights and oppose salary increases.



Kelcie Moseley
Argonaut

Many of us wouldn't be attending this institution were it not for quality teachers.

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Big Pharma deserves money

Prescription drugs can bankrupt those without health coverage. Many brand-name drugs are expensive, and pharmaceutical companies have the revenue to show for it — Pfizer is currently sitting on a \$20 billion stockpile of cash, and 10 "megamedicines" have sold for a combined sum of almost \$50 billion.

Big Pharma should be sitting pretty right now. Americans without health coverage are paying more than \$150 for a month's supply of some brand-name medications. That's logically enough money to keep any company afloat.

The problem is that pharmaceutical companies are, in fact, in trouble. Many patents on brand-name medications are expiring in 2011, and these expensive drugs will become generic — and may become as cheap as \$10 for a month's supply.

This is great news for consumers. Prescription drugs are expensive, and the 30 million Americans without health insurance may now be able to afford medications. This can mean a healthier population with fatter wallets.

It also can be troublesome

down the road.

If pharmaceutical companies are not taking in enough revenue, they may be forced to cut in certain areas of the company — in research and development, for instance. This may mean new medicines won't be developed, and while current medications meet most consumer demand, the future is uncertain.

I speak from a position of privilege. I have health insurance. I also take prescription medications. For a long period of time, I took a medication that was still under a patent. Even with the help of my insurance company, it was difficult for my family and me to afford it, and I often relied on samples from my doctor.

Within the last two years, my medication became generic and instantly cheaper. My prescription used to cost about \$75 for a month's supply. Now, I pay \$10.

The patent expiration on my medication was good for my wallet. However, the parent company who held the patent for the drug lost a great amount of revenue when it went to generic companies. This means the

It's outrageous to pay as much as companies demand for prescription drugs, but it also makes sense — they need the revenue to make better drugs in the future.

company might not be able to research new drugs — drugs that might not have the side effects of my current drug and a higher efficacy.

Research and development is integral to the pharmaceutical industry. Without it, no new products would ever come out. It's outrageous to pay as much as companies demand for prescription drugs, but it also makes sense — they need the revenue to make better drugs in the future.

Sooner rather than later, a new health threat will arise. Pharmaceutical companies may not have the money to research treatment. Cheap drugs won't help them.

Is college worth it?

Prospects of future employment seem promising

As a 19-year-old freshman in college, I worry about the youth and its unemployment. Young people are encouraged to pursue post-secondary education, with some guarantee they'll have a higher-paying salary than if they didn't. Senior citizens who are old enough to retire but don't are taking what could be my future career. I don't see anything fair about this situation. Let's face it, America — our country is a mess.



Molly Spencer
Argonaut

Earlier this academic year, I wrote a piece encouraging high school students to move onto higher education. I was told to come to the University of Idaho in order to eventually make a living that will rake in more cash than the alternative — working as a hostess in a breakfast restaurant for

the rest of my life. But if the education is putting me into a debt I'm going to suffer from five years from now, and there is no guarantee that I will receive a career relevant to what I'm studying, than why am I here?

In January, the unemployment rate for women 20 years and over was 7.9 percent, and for men, 8.8 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Unemployment for both sexes 16 to 19 is at 25.7 percent.

Odds are both sexes 16 to 19 haven't been educated beyond a high school diploma. And if the unemployment rates for those 20 years and over are exceptionally lower, maybe that shows a college education eventually does pay off.

Unfortunately, unemployment isn't the only factor affecting my future ca-

reer. Since the economic downturn, less people have retired and refuse to do so. I suppose if I were a baby boomer in the economy, I would do the same thing, but I'm not. I'm a student who is striving to earn a college education, and because senior citizens refuse to retire, I'm left wondering if I'll even be able to find a career when I graduate.

I'm not saying it's their entire fault that our economy has gone down the drain or that I may be career-less when I graduate. But they obviously play some part in why the unemployment rate is where it's at, just as everyone in the United States does. I believe there will be a hard lesson learned for those pursuing higher education and those refusing to retire. I'm competitive, and will do anything to get the career I'm paying for. I hope my peers feel the same way. College isn't a waste of time or even money — at least it won't be for me.

Babies aren't for everyone

According to the tabloid magazine OK, Paris Hilton is ready to have a baby.

Really? Babies are actual people. They can't be used as an accessory. Once you have a baby, you're responsible for raising it. Is she aware that it's a full-time commitment?

Maybe she is. Maybe she's not. But she should be required to prove she's capable of raising a child before attempting to have one.

The U.S. requires people to have licenses to fish, drive a car, panhandle in Memphis, have a bike in Moscow, babysit in some cities and own a dog, gun or hot dog stand.

But we let people take on the most important responsibility we as humans have without requiring any assurances of quality control.

While it would be hard to enforce such a license, it would go a long way in protecting people not only from themselves, but everyone else from having to pay for other peoples' mistakes in the way of welfare and other social programs.

Unlike a marriage license that just requires money to exchange hand and verification of the parties own some sort of identification, a license to reproduce should ensure the people requesting it is capable of raising a child.

Are you at a stable point of your life? Do you have a way of supporting any offspring

financially? Are you able to take care of yourself before adding a help-

less baby to the mix? What's that? You're a 14-year-old girl thinking about sleeping with a guy you met 10 minutes ago in exchange for drugs? Going to have to say no.

You're a single parent with six other kids living off welfare, but really like this guy because he took you to

Red Lobster on your second date? That's probably not the best of ideas. And you really should have come seen us sooner.

You're a child molester? Don't think so.

You think it's OK to let a 14-month-old baby run around outside in the snow without shoes on? No.

You're alcoholic, abusive and impatient? Not looking good.

You've been married to someone for three years and both of you have steady jobs and want to expand your family? That makes sense.

You've been with the same-sex partner for years and want to raise children together? OK.

You've been highly successful in every aspect of your life but relationships, and you're tired of lying, cheating men and want to have a child on your own? Go for it.

You're 30, famous for being famous and have enough money to hire a team of 42 nannies to raise your children? Maybe you should think again.



R.J. Taylor
Argonaut

Prevent illness with better hygiene

No, Lil' Wayne, I do not like my Sprite 'Easter pink'

Tell me I have an immunity deficiency, but I have been sick more times than I can count on my pretty little hands this year.

Yes, I will probably get my tonsils out this summer, but I am sick yet again, this time with a viral infection, vertigo and ear issues.

This has led to a codeine syrup prescription, and I'm confused as to why Lil' Wayne sings about drinking the stuff like it's liquid candy, because the haze I've experienced isn't something I'd compare to a "party."

All of this would not have been possible without everyone else.

For that, University of

Idaho dwellers, I thank you.

I know I am not the only one who has suffered from the chronic head cold, disorientation when standing up or the intense urge to sob whenever I have to use any muscle or joint in my body.

OK, the last part might be an exaggeration, but this is preventable.

Maybe it would be more effective to schedule a tabling session in the Idaho Commons Food Court

and pass out hand sanitizer while continually yelling random germ facts about the spreading of sicknesses like mononucleosis, pinkeye and flesh-eating bacteria that could turn a person into a



Dara Barney
Argonaut

skeleton in 10 seconds flat.

That might be another exaggeration. Maybe a minimum of 20 seconds.

The best way to prevent this: Wash your hands.

Don't scoff at this suggestion. I can name at least 15 instances this week (and it is only Tuesday) where I have seen people skip this step after say, blowing their nose, sneezing or even using the bathroom.

I don't know if you carry a little sanitizer bottle in your fanny pack and clean your hands secretly in the stall, but that is highly unlikely.

I'm no doctor, but here's a suggestion, and by suggestion I mean a desperate demand.

If you are ever inside of a bathroom, with all the fecal matter — yes, fecal matter — floating around, take a minute to take the dirty off your hands.

That dirty could be the germs of the girl who couldn't stop coughing up nasty phlegm, or the guy who itched himself over his gym shorts he hasn't washed in weeks. Yum.

That dirty could get you really sick, or the people around you.

Please, prevent premature skeletal exposure or pink syrup intake (not a cocktail ingredient) and scrub your hands when involved in any sort of situation where the germs could win.

Don't do that half-assed kind of hand wash either where you run your hands under the sink and think you deserve the "cleanest" trophy of the day. Maybe sing like half of "Dirrty" by Christina Aguilera while you wash, because we all know MRSA isn't sexy in the least bit.



SAFE SPRING BREAK

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- REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITIES UNTIL CLEAR CONSENT IS GIVEN
- USING A CONDOM DURING CONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACTIVITIES
- NOT HAVING SEX WITH ANYONE WHILE INTOXICATED
- MAKING LEGAL AND RESPONSIBLE DRINKING CHOICES



Encourage ambitions — even small ones

When I was in the first grade, my teacher asked the class what we wanted to be when we grew up. My classmates responded with untainted aspirations of ballerinas and astronauts. I told her I wanted to be “the lady who cleans hotel rooms.”

I remember that day because it ended in a call from my teacher to my parents expressing concern for my “lack of motivation” and that I wasn’t developing the skills to push myself.

You know what I think? I was a 6-year old, and we had stayed at a Holiday Inn the week before. I probably saw a maid whose uniform I liked, or something of that nature.

But what if I really had wanted to be a lady who cleans hotel rooms? It seems unfair my dream was so promptly squashed. Why not have let it ride out until I came to more

reasonable terms?

Three months ago, I was discussing my impending May graduation with a professor, who told me finding a job in journalism right out of college will be almost impossible, and I should prepare myself for the possibility of having a minimum wage job for a while. I disagree. I think it will be very difficult and I will have to work my butt off — but it’s not impossible. There is a difference between being realistic and being negative, and when talking to an already anxious, almost-alum, one should avoid as much negativity as possible.

Expressing low confidence in others is only a reflection of our own self-doubt and a reflexive fear of failure. As children, we have a spirit and an immense capacity

for creativity. As we grow older and education becomes more difficult, we become more drawn to attempting perfection. It is better to be “right” and get an “A” in a class than to try something “different” and risk failure. But failure is so key to growth, and we cannot become standout, innovative adults without a slap to the face every once in awhile.

Recently, I applied for an opportunity I knew I was perfect for. I was positive I’d get it and was so excited about the possibilities ahead.

I was turned down, and it hurt. I was bummed, I pouted a little and now I’m (somewhat) over it. But I prefer that it happened in this way as opposed to someone telling me from the get-go I would probably not get it. The rejection encouraged me to take extra steps to improve myself and find other options. Maybe I’ll even try my hand at being a lady who cleans hotel rooms.



Kelli Hadley
Argonaut

Don’t get hooked on hookah

Minnesota Daily
U. Minnesota via UWIRE

That smell, like a concoction of incense, fruits and cigars, wafted to my nose Saturday morning as I entered Hideaway Head Shop, a Dinkytown hookah store. About a dozen eager college-aged customers hungrily stared with anticipation as a salesperson reached behind the counter to reveal an assortment of brightly colored hookah pipes.

The customers seemed to anticipate the moment they’d later puff fruit-flavored tobacco through their new pipes. But what may not have been on their minds are the health risks involved when smoking hookah, as with other tobacco products.

Hookah — a tobacco-smoking device that originated in India 400 years ago — is a hip new trend among college students, popular because of the perception that it’s a safer, less addictive alternative to smoking cigarettes. But emerging research is beginning to disprove this.

Recent studies by the American Lung Association, the World Health Organization and international researchers show that hookah may pose the same — even some unique — health risks as cigarette smoking.

In a typical one-hour session of hookah smoking, the user is exposed to at least 100 times the volume of smoke inhaled from one cigarette, according to a 2007 WHO advisory note. One session produces as much tar as 20 low-tar cigarettes. The smoke is also

dangerous because it contains high levels of toxic compounds like carbon monoxide, heavy metals and carcinogens.

Probably the most common misconception is that hookah is safer than cigarettes because of a water filtering system that prevents chemicals from passing through the pipe, an idea suggested by a 16th century physician in India when hookah was invented. WHO asserts this claim is unsubstantiated.

“Using a water pipe to smoke tobacco is not a safe alternative to cigarette smoking. ... Contrary to ancient lore and popular belief, the smoke that emerges from a water pipe contains numerous toxicants known to cause lung cancer, heart disease and other diseases,” the report said.

Despite the risks, hookah is an increasingly mainstream leisure activity. Since 2000, an estimated 300 hookah bars have opened in the U.S. and the phenomenon is quickly catching on among college students. Biology, society and environment senior Mohamed Mursal said University of Minnesota students mostly go to the hookah bar on University and Raymond avenues in St. Paul every Friday evening. He used to smoke almost every weekend last year, sometimes in his friend’s dorm room in Frontier Hall. Peer pressure had a lot to do with it.

“[My friends would] have the Xbox set up, a game on the TV. So whenever it’s a social situation there’s always hookah involved,” he said. “They said, ‘Try it, it’s not too bad, it’s filtered through water,

and it’s not as bad as people say it is, just try it.’ And it smells nice, it doesn’t smell as harmful as cigarettes, so [I thought] why not?”

His smoking became a ritual: He’d smoke hookah for six hours a day with friends over winter break. The turning point for Mursal came when he couldn’t breathe properly, so he decided to quit. Despite this, he denies he was ever addicted.

Other college students I spoke with also said they see hookah as primarily a social activity with friends or a less stigmatized, legal alternative to cigarettes or alcohol.

“I can’t imagine [hookah] without the social aspect, because I don’t get pleasure out of the buzz,” said sociology and political science sophomore Anthony Streiff, who usually smokes hookah with members of his fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha. “The only valuable part of it is doing it with other people. I probably wouldn’t do it if it weren’t for the social aspect. I don’t see the point.” He thinks cigarettes and alcohol carry more stigma than hookah.

“It’s really common to smoke hookah, and I think a lot of people believe cigarettes are much worse, but I haven’t seen evidence to back it up,” he said.

Freshman Abi Abu-Bakr also said she smokes hookah with friends during the summer.

“It’s social; it would be weird to smoke hookah alone just because we always smoke hookah when hanging out, so that’s what I associate it with,” she said. “It’s not something I do by myself.”

She said she would never

smoke a cigarette, because she understands the health risks. “But in my head, when I started [hookah], I thought it was OK because it’s never been presented as a bad thing,” she said. “And there’s no nicotine in hookah,” she added.

This last claim, of course, isn’t true. A clinical study of hookah smokers found high nicotine levels in smokers’ blood and saliva, debunking the myth that hookah cannot be addictive. And while hookah is perceived to be an occasional leisure activity, it can be a gateway to nicotine addiction and increased tobacco dependency.

For example, a 2006 study examining the emerging trend in tobacco use among teens found that out of 411 college freshmen, those teens who had ever smoked hookah were about eight times more likely to experiment with cigarettes. This is dangerous because tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of premature death in the U.S. and is responsible for 435,000 deaths annually.

It’s precisely the social aspect of hookah that researchers warn against. Yet another study by the University of Memphis and the Syrian Center of Tobacco Studies stresses that the social aspect of hookah exposes users to more smoke over a longer period of time than do cigarettes. And the pleasant smell and taste can mislead users to assume it’s less risky.

It’s true that research about hookah’s risks is still emerging, but that’s all the more reason to remain cautious, even if you’re smoking just for fun.

TAXES

from page 12

Cut discretionary spending, such as what we spend on infrastructure, health care, the arts, education and other discretionary nonessentials. And while they’re at it, cut taxes across the board because raising the revenue that could keep our government functioning might cost a few of our beloved Congressmen their jobs. It’s obvious how much those people who might lose their jobs to state and federal budget cuts would like to see Congress keep theirs.

And it’s good the government is cutting down on all that discretionary spending because it represents a whopping 19 percent of the federal budget. Of course, much of the discretionary spending goes to education and the arts, and publicly-funded services such as Planned Parenthood. Programs that improve the quality of life for a fair portion of our population. Anyone who has received birth control or family planning assistance from Planned Parenthood might question how “discretionary” they are.

Medicare and Medicaid are another 23 percent, and Social Security and defense spending represent 20 percent apiece. Of course the government can’t simply cut Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. They’re an important social safety net for some of America’s neediest citizens. But the government could pass reforms, such as public-option health care and a more progressive tax system, that would reduce the burden those programs place on our government.

We could also cut defense spending. Robert Gates said we spend too much on defense. He should know — he’s the Secretary of Defense.

America spends more on defense than our five nearest competitors. And as we saw during the war in Iraq, much of that money isn’t being used on, for example, body armor and helmets for our troops, but instead goes to private military contractors such as Halliburton and Xe (formerly and infamously, Blackwater).

But it may be time for America to think the unthinkable. It may be time to raise taxes.

More importantly, it may be time for progressive taxation. This means reducing the tax burden on our poorest citizens while increasing it on those who can truly afford it — the rich. The top 10 percent of American asset-holders hold 80 percent of America’s assets. The government needs to get rid of flat taxes, such as sales taxes, that take a disproportionate percentage of the poorest Americans’ income, and increase the percentage of income we tax for the very rich. America needs to close tax loopholes and stop writing tax law to favor corporate capital-holders.

Our politicians talk a lot about tough budget decisions. Maybe it’s time they made some.

APATHY

from page 12

Not everyone is cut out or wants to be a politician, but half the time the people who are complaining about what ASUI is doing did not even vote in the first place. If students are not going to become active by running for a position or voting for those who do, then they have no reason to complain.

Participating in ASUI elections and campaigns or being a senator, cabinet member or president is an important part of attending a university. It is an opportunity for students to have their voices heard on one of the easiest levels of government to access.

The fact that high school students are more politically active than college students is a bittersweet idea. College students need to care more, but it is good to know the younger generations have at least started to figure it out.



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