

THE ARGONAUT

THE VANDAL VOICE SINCE 1898

uiargonaut.com

Friday, October 21, 2011



Working under pressure

Breaking down UI's emergency response system

Joanna Wilson
Argonaut

The University of Idaho is prepared for anything, including the Zombie Apocalypse.

While zombies may not be the biggest concern to UI at the moment, Emergency and Security Services is using the popularity of zombie themes to promote its emergency notification system. Students have been receiving emails as part of the UI Emergency Preparedness Program to encourage students to update their emergency contact information, among other things.

UI's emergency alert system works in several different ways, said Nancy Spink, risk management officer.

"If we had a snow day, what we would attempt to do would be to use the voice and text system," Spink said. "We would also try to get some messages out on radio. We would try to send an email blast. And we also have a method to pop up a little icon on our web page that says, 'We're having a closure for weather proposes.'"

Why alerts?

The Clery Act, a federal statute, requires all institutions of higher learning receiving federal financial aid to inform students and the public of crimes that occur on or near their campuses. Spink said the UI emergency alerts are comparable to AMBER Alerts — they are notifications, not warnings. Other reasons for alerts would be a campus-wide power outage, heavy snow or a flooded building.

"One of the things you want to think about is, 'Who is the group who needs to know that information?' So how wide is the distribution that is needed at the moment? The other thing is, 'How quickly they need to know it?'" Spink said.

A warning is sent out when something will or might happen in the future, such as a tornado warning, Spink said. A notification

SEE PRESSURE, PAGE 4

NYC to UI

Occupy Wall Street movement comes to campus

Lindsey Treffry
Argonaut

Voices boomed over a loudspeaker outside the Idaho Commons as a crowd held up signs for economic reform.

A local branch of Occupy Wall Street, a mass protest movement against "corporate greed and corrupt politics," gathered at the University of Idaho and students picketed from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday before marching downtown to join forces with Occupy Moscow in Friendship Square.

Sarah Sundquist, a landscape architecture major and Occupy Moscow member, helped form the Occupy UI group and handed out fliers to inform students prior to the event.

"Basically, Occupy Wall Street started by a group of people that saw that the system of government was not working as is," Sundquist said. "(One) of the main goals is to ... just make it so that corpora-

tions are not involved in politics because as it is right now, basically whoever has the most money wins elections."

Sundquist has been meeting with the Occupy Moscow group for two weeks now. She said there seemed to be a disconnect between the campus and the rest of the Moscow community.

"A lot of people are still just unaware of what this movement is," Sundquist said.

Another Occupy Moscow member, Raleigh Blum said during a general assembly for the Occupy Moscow group members set up a student outreach committee to get them interested in the movement. Blum said the movement is essential for economic reform.

"It's hard to get a job right now," Blum said. "Jobs are being outsourced and cut."

Blum also said students are graduating with degrees, yet don't get degree-specific

SEE OCCUPY, PAGE 4



Zach Edwards | Argonaut

Students gather outside the Idaho Commons as part of Occupy UI Thursday. University of Idaho chemistry and math major David Love, top, said he participated because he does think our economy should be reflected by Wall Street.

ASUI names new lobbyist

Bennett to represent UI at the Idaho State Senate

Kaitlyn Krassel
Argonaut

Bruno Bennett will become the voice of University of Idaho students at the Idaho State Senate as ASUI's new student lobbyist.

"This position is huge for ASUI and the student body," said Samantha Perez, ASUI president. "It lets the student voice be heard."

The ASUI lobbyist lives in Boise for the

second semester of the school year and represents the UI student body while the Idaho State Legislature is in session. Bennett will receive nine university credits in political science for his participation in the legislative process.

Joe Black, former ASUI lobbyist, said the individual must be well versed in government

SEE LOBBYIST, PAGE 4

Sci-fi classics inspire GDI week events

David Humphreys
Argonaut

A javelin-throwing contest, Star Wars-style pod races, Ewok hunts and light saber fights were all part of the Residence Hall Associations Gosh Darn Independence week events.

The javelin-throwing contest was originally supposed to be a Quidditch match, but was changed at the last minute due to poor turnout.

Events coordinator Shevin Halvorson, sophomore, said his committee attempted to use multiple outlets to spread word of a Quidditch match, including fliers, the residence hall newsletter and word of mouth. Even with the efforts made by his team, Halvorson linked the low participant numbers to a few factors.

"People forget easily," Halvorson said. "If you tell someone something

once, chances are they're going to forget it."

The makeshift javelin throwing contest was the third event of GDI week, said Amanda Mollet, assistant director for housing. She said the theme of the event, chosen by the Residence Hall Committee, was titled "Dorm Wars: Return of the Res Halls."

"GDI week is a chance for different halls to meet people outside of their building," Mollet said. "Competing with one another is a chance to show residence hall pride."

Mollet said Theophilus Tower won the Ewok Scavenger Hunt Monday, the first event of GDI week. Teddy bears were placed around campus and the first team to collect the most

SEE GDI, PAGE 4



Kyndall Elliott | Argonaut

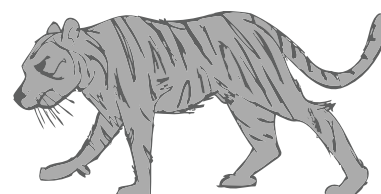
Junior Ryan Campbell tests his residence hall's "podracer" Tuesday on the Theophilus Tower lawn sidewalk. The Residence Hall Association had a week of Star Wars-themed activities for Gosh Darn Independent week.

IN THIS ISSUE



Find out where men's basketball is ranked in the preseason polls.

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Lions, tigers and bears, Oh My. The dangers of owning exotic animals.

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University of Idaho

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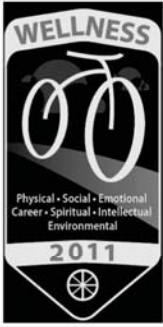
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THE INSIDE

CAMPUS METRICS & INTERACTIONS

Rex

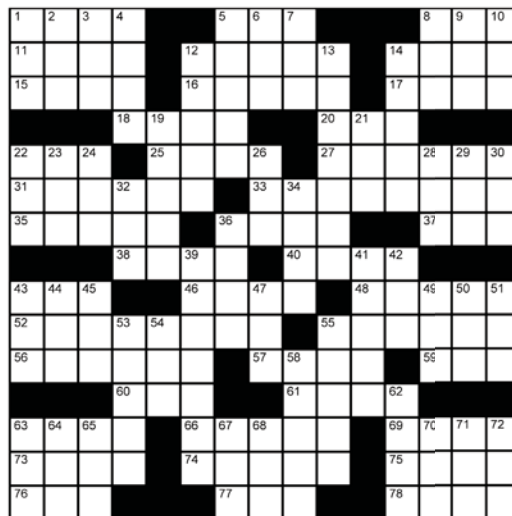


Eli Holland | Argonaut

CROSSWORD

Across

- Stash away
- Bishop's jurisdiction
- Nautilus, for one
- Fuzzy fruit
- Nodules
- Kind of package
- Hankering
- Like some suspects
- Battery fluid
- Apiece
- Mouse catcher
- Road curve
- Speaker's platform
- Overnight bag
- Humans, e.g.
- Makes like a surgeon
- Courageous
- Incinerate
- Feedbag morsel
- Gaelic tongue
- Bone (Prefix)
- Physicians' org.
- Potpie ingredients
- Caribbean cruise stop
- Questions after a space flight
- Wave runner
- Seinfeld regular
- Quickly, in memos
- Giant slugger Mel
- Preceded
- Level
- Firewood, e.g.
- Up to
- Mine entrance
- Table scraps
- Compost fruit
- Seat of Allen County, Kan.
- Compass dir.
- Wife of Saturn
- Sandwich shop

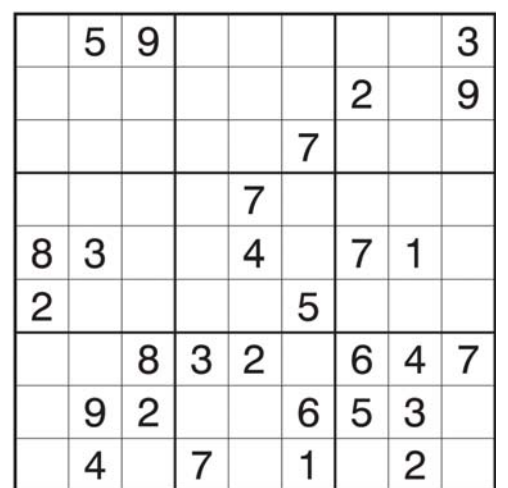


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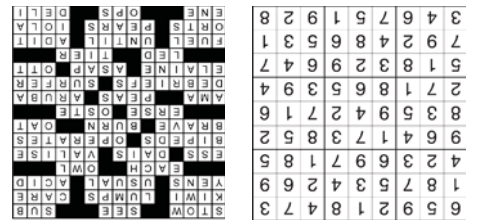
Down

- Heavens
- Dead heat
- Possess
- Judicious
- Kind of bar
- Down Under bird
- Clean air org.
- Pouch
- Spoonbender
- Geller
- Resting place
- Indiana Jones producer
- Unkempt folks
- Kind of lily
- Viper
- Conflict
- Subside
- Round Table title
- Hot springs
- Old French coin
- Four-time
- Japanese prime minister
- Yellow, for one
- N.Y. minutes?
- First lady
- Major-leaguers
- Burger meat
- Accelerate
- Brownish gray
- Blunder
- Fruit drink
- Funnyman Brooks
- Attorneys' org.
- Botanist Gray
- Tabloid topic
- Put on the line
- It may be framed
- Small streams
- Chemical suffix
- Cruises
- Mixes up
- Police action
- Antagonist
- Still-life subject
- Summer in Nice
- The Matrix hero
- Pub fixture
- Female antelope
- In poor health
- Clavell's -Pan

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS



Corrections

In the article "Indigenous ingenuity," published Oct. 18, Daniel R. Wildcat is a professor and co-director of the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center at Haskell Indian Nations University.

THE FINE PRINT

Corrections

Find a mistake? Send an email to the section editor.

On the web

uiargonaut.com, vandalnation.wordpress.com, facebook.com/argonaut

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- Letters should be less than 300 words typed.
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- The Argonaut reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, label 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

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Scientists collaborate

LASR creates new economic opportunities

Britt Kiser
Argonaut

The University of Idaho and private sector scientists now have an opportunity to work together on applied research, technology transfer and development projects that sustain economic growth in Idaho.

The Laboratory of Applied Science and Research (LASR), housed at the Jacklin Science Technology Center in Post Falls, is an independent not-for-profit corporation whose purpose is to support the efforts of UI, said Charles Buck, the center executive officer.

Buck said LASR makes the university's capabilities and resources available to external partners to accomplish well-defined research projects.

"The idea is to take on short-term projects that kind of prove a concept or principle quickly, so that a corporate partner can move more rapidly than they might otherwise do," Buck said.

Buck said because LASR was recently formed and recognized by the IRS as a tax exempt charitable organization, they have not completed any projects but are discussing a few with outside partners.

The original idea to create LASR stemmed from a previous microelectronics project, Buck said.

"Really the notion for LASR was driven by a group of community leaders who realized there were no opportunities to work with corporate partners that the university was obtaining," Buck said.

He said motivating factors to create LASR include the size of the university and its difficulty moving "at the speed of business," and also the issues attached to working directly with the university for a research project.

"Because it's a state institution, the intellectual property that emerges from any project done by the university must belong to the university," Buck said. "Some corporate partners are not interested in sponsoring research if they cannot own the intellectual property that comes out of it."

Buck said both the state board and the university have agreed to negotiate the owner of the intellectual property on a case-by-case basis, as LASR would separate the activity from the university.

LASR is about applying expertise, technology and the know-how of the university to battle a well-defined problem, Buck said.

He said in a sense, it's like the real world of business.

"You have a timeline for a project, and you must achieve specific milestones and report the deliverables of that research on a specific timeline, or the project is not going to continue," Buck said.

Buck said the Business Development Forum on Wednesday in Post Falls served as a "coming out" party for LASR.

The forum is a partnership with Idaho National Laboratories that engages communities statewide to discuss its programs, and how it can work with other organizations to positively impact Idaho, said Marilyn Whitney, INL economic development specialist.

"These forums are to bring together like-minded groups to talk about ways that we can leverage one another's capabilities and programs to make things happen for Idaho and the region's economy," Whitney said.

Buck said the forum enabled LASR to introduce and explain itself to the business community in North Idaho, and invite them to submit projects.

Steve McMaster, director of technology deployment for INL, said there are several capabilities INL can offer to new businesses or investors looking to help move technologies forward.

"The INL encourages learning about resources, because we're a potential resource for these kinds of technology-based economic development efforts," he said.

An example of an ongoing project that exemplifies how this type of partnership should work is the collaboration between Idaho Fall's Center for Advanced Energy Studies, INL and the states three research institutions — UI, Boise State University and Idaho State University.

"All four of these entities work on collaborative research in the facility that is occupied by the Center for Advanced Energy Studies," McMaster said. "That's an opportunity for researchers to connect with their peers at other institutions that are working on similar kinds of projects. We have some state-of-the-art equipment and laboratories that are made available to those researchers."

McMaster said anyone is invited to the business development forums, but they are geared mostly for business leaders, community leaders and others in the entrepreneurial community looking to start up businesses around emerging technologies.



File photo by Tony Marcolina | Argonaut
Moscow police arrest a megaload protester in August. MPD and the Latah County Sheriff's office have been working overtime because of the megaloads and protesters.

Megaload overtime

Local law enforcement sending bill to Mammoet

Katy Sword
Argonaut

The company responsible for transporting Imperial Oil refinery equipment in megaloads will be receiving a bill from the Latah County Sheriff's Department and the City of Moscow Police Department for overtime fees.

But it was not a surprise — it is something MPD and the Sheriff's Department planned for.

Mammoet is a Netherlands-based transportation company contracted by Imperial Oil to ship oil refinery equipment from the Port of Lewiston to Alberta, Canada.

"It all started with the protesters here in town," said Wayne Rausch, Latah County sheriff.

Because of the constant protests to the megaloads coming through town, law enforcement has had to be on the scene to ensure public safety, Rausch said.

"You prepare for the worst case scenario, so you are prepared for whatever happens. We staff accordingly," Rausch said. "We were caught off guard (by protesters) the first time the loads came through — it

wasn't thought there would be a problem."

County and city police have incurred overtime by monitoring the protests since August.

"They started contacting us at every load to staff the area," Rausch said.

"It's starting to get expensive."

The Idaho State Police are contracted with Mammoet to escort the loads and ensure public safety is followed, according to Capt. Lonnie Richardson of the Idaho State Police. Because of their contract, ISP receives reimbursement from Mammoet for the overtime they incur while on duty escorting the loads.

"They (Latah County Sheriff's Department and City of Moscow Police Department) have the option to enter into a contract, but have not opted to do so," Richardson said.

Initially, Rausch said he

did not favor billing.

"I look at it from a legal and practical standpoint," Rausch said. "Mammoet had received court approval

and ISP approval. The protesters were given the option to have public meetings to express their opinions, they were allowed to redress grievances, but consequently didn't like the answer."

He added that there is a point when petitioning becomes civil disobedience, and the protesters

have reached that point.

"Mammoet has stated they are willing to reimburse fees to ensure loads pass safely," Rausch said. "What we're doing now is calculating figures, since we have to compute each individual deputy's time so we can honestly account for everyone's time."

Rausch said they should be done calculating and ready to send the bill to Mammoet Wednesday.



You prepare for the worst case scenario, so you are prepared for whatever happens. We staff accordingly.

Wayne Rausch, Latah County sheriff

Creating awareness at UI

Summer Christiansen
Argonaut

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and students and staff of the University of Idaho are doing their part by hosting functions throughout the month to promote awareness.

Jackie Sandmeyer, a student coordinator at the LGBTQA Office, said UI's awareness program as a whole was sponsored by the Women's Center, but it was students from the Introduction to Diversity and Stratification class that put it on.

"Initially it was just an assignment for me and my group for my service learning project," said Marissa Hornby, a student in the diversity class.

In the first week of October, there was tabling with information on breast cancer.

"The second week, we did a movie in the Student Diversity Center called, 'My Breast,'" Sandmeyer said.

The movie was a true story about a woman who was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"It showed the different issues of when a woman is diagnosed and how it affects all parts of her life," Sandmeyer said.

Lysa Salsbury, the program coordinator at the Women's Center, said it was wise of the students to pick a feature film instead of a documentary.

"By connecting impor-

tant information to popular culture, so a medium like a film, it makes the issue more accessible," she said.

Hornby said the latest project, for week three, was her "little project event." She worked with her manager at Pony Espresso who informed her of a local woman going through treatment to fight breast cancer.

"I got in contact with a few of her friends and all proceeds from the bake sale on Monday went toward her," Hornby said. "A bunch of different women from my manager's church made baked goods and donated them."

Hornby said they made approximately \$200 in a couple hours from donations alone.

"The woman who we donated the funds to was fairly young and had six children," Sandmeyer said. "I don't think people realize how many financial responsibilities come up with treating breast cancer."

The last event for Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a discussion on self breast exams by Terri Grzebielski, a physicians assistant from the UI Student Health Center, at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 26 in the Horizon Room in the Idaho Commons.

"She's been doing this around universities for awhile now," Hornby said. "She's just going to come

out and basically give tips for self exams along with prevention tips."

Salsbury noted that Grzebielski has done programs such as these for the Women's Center before.

"She's very warm and accessible. She's the type of person you want working at a health center," Salsbury said. "She's non-judgmental and very open to talk about any sexual or reproductive issues."

Salsbury said her aunt had recently been diagnosed with breast cancer.

"She had done routine breast exams herself and had gone to her yearly exams," Salsbury said.

She said because the tumor was found so quickly, her aunt was able to get it removed with minimum invasive surgery and was completely cured.

"I hope people go because I don't think many women know how to examine their own breasts," Salsbury said. "There's definitely a technique that's under estimated. You should know exactly what you're looking for and what it should feel like so you can detect anything."

"All these programs are a huge example of service learning in general and how students can come together to promote change and awareness," Sandmeyer said.

New media changes traditional news ethics

Katy Sword
Argonaut

The first annual Oppenheimer Ethics Symposium raised awareness of ethics in media Thursday. The University of Idaho hosted the event and hopes to make it an annual symposium.

"It started with a conversation between CLASS Dean Katherine Aiken and myself about ways we could raise conversation between the School of Journalism and Mass Media in Boise and at the same time elevate discussion of ethical issues in Moscow," said Kenton Bird, director of the School of Journalism and Mass Media. "The driving factor for this workshop is how technology has changed the practice of journalism, the practice of law and the way business interacts with consumers."

The symposium was an all-day event in Boise Thursday, but streamed live on the Idaho Public Television website.

The day began with a keynote address by Bill Drake, chairman of the Drake Cooper marketing and advertising agency, about business ethics and interaction with the media.

"There is a need to reinvigorate ethics across the board," Drake said. "We need to take a deeper, more critical look at journalism and the media, in advertising and marketing. That's what I hope to shine a light on."

His speech focused on the ethical principles that guided his 30-year career, raising ethical issues including privacy on the internet, truth in a persuasive mode and transparency.

Donald Burnett, dean of the UI College of Law, and Lisa McGrath, a social media attorney, also made presentations. Burnett spoke about the relationships

between journalists, judges and lawyers, and whether their ethical standards are converging or diverging.

McGrath gave a presentation about new media, including online papers and social networking sites, and how the law applies to this new branch of media.

A panel discussion preceded the final keynote address by Jan Schaffer, executive director of J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism.

The panel covered media ethics and how they play into the current digital age as well as verification and professional versus citizen journalism.

A focal point of discussion was objectivity and whether it still exists with online content and the importance of separating blogs from newspapers and other professional media outlets in relation to objectivity and ethical expectations.

Speakers also addressed plagiarism in a rapidly evolving media landscape, with respect to how credit can be given to an original source with blogs, Twitter and other social networking sites.

The keynote address by Schaffer is based on a recent publication by J-Lab "Rules of the Road," and covered online news, the new dilemmas it raises and how to handle them.

"There are ethical mine fields surfacing," Schaffer said. "The rules for stepping around these mine fields don't always lend themselves to the hard, fast dos and don'ts."

She said that with the new media formats, the threshold for news has decreased. Now even the smallest news will live on forever in Google, which is changing the rules for what makes news.

"We are in search of what the new normal will be," Schaffer said.

PRESSURE

FROM PAGE 1

serves to inform students of an area on campus that may be dangerous, or in the case of a crime, to inform students so they will be aware of such events and take personal precautions to protect themselves.

The UI emergency email, voice and text system uses the student and faculty emergency contact information listed on VandalWeb to send emergency notifications to students. If the information has not been updated, a student or employee may not receive the information.

"Sometimes people will ask, 'What if I get the message and the person next to me doesn't?' And we say, 'Tell them.' We hope you will share the information you will get. No system is perfect," Spink said. "That's why we're having a big campaign right now. In order to encourage students to update their information, and that's why you cannot rely on just one way to alert people."

The process

As soon as risk management and ESS become aware of a potentially dangerous situation, an emergency response team makes the decision to send out an emergency notification. Lt. David Lehmitz, Moscow Police Department, said the process often starts when MPD calls Matt Dorschel, head of ESS, and Dean of Students Bruce Pitman.

"It's incident-driven, the more information we can release to them, the better off they can make a decision based on that information," Lehmitz said. "It's an immediate interaction. I have direct contact with people on campus, and they disseminate it from there."

President M. Duane Nellis is notified, along with members of his cabinet. UI policy dictates that the president is the only one who can issue a university closure or lockdown. That decision is passed along to Dorschel and the response group.

From there, the executive branch will focus on how the university will respond long term to the emergency.

Spink said one of the biggest challenges is putting together information to form an accurate picture of what happened.

"If it's a crime, you're working with the police, and you're subject to the information that they can release to you," Spink said. "The information is all very jumbled and you're trying to figure out what's happening."

Spink said the information

gathering process often takes more than an hour.

"And that's just for something simple," she said.

The response group follows the Incident Command system model, which is scalable depending on the emergency.

"(Incident Command) always includes the emergency manager, the public information officer, a safety officer, and then, what they call the command staff," Spink said. "That would be your next level. And then beyond that we would staff certain groups depending on what the hazard is."

Lehmitz said MPD would also have a representative working with the response group if the incident involved the police, such as in the case of a crime or an earthquake.

The response

In the H1N1 planning, the group included housing specialists and medical staff. For a lab explosion, health and safety would be a part of the response team, Spink said.

"We've gone and trained the top level of a certain level of the Incident Command System courses, so that they've got the concepts and they're ready should they be called on to assist."

The police would work with the group to establish a parameter around a dangerous area or help with an evacuation, Lehmitz said.

The group has an established meeting site, but also works through on-going communication.

"There are three levels of an emergency. One being the lowest, two being the next, and three being the university is fully engulfed in some kind of thing," Spink said. "We define it geographically. A level one would be a room, level two would be like a wing of a building, level three would be an entire building."

However, a level three crime would be treated differently than a level three power-outage.

Spink said weather-related problems are one of the most common incidents the group deals with.

Lehmitz said students should have their own emergency plan in place before something happens.

"Know the emergency procedures prior to them occurring," Lehmitz said. "It's a little late to plan for the emergency once the emergency has already happened."

Personal responsibility is not everything in safety, but it is a part of it, Spink said.

OCCUPY

FROM PAGE 1

jobs. Overall, Sundquist said the movement is different for every member.

"There are some things there seems to be a consensus on ... the economy is one right now," Sundquist said.

Katelyn Taylor, a UI political science major, attended Occupy UI and wasn't previously involved in Occupy events.

"I'm scared my voice will no longer be valid no matter how hard I work," Taylor said to Occupy UI attendees and bystanders over the microphone.

Fliers at the event also promoted "Bank Transfer Day," which endorses the movement of funds

from major banking institutions to non-profit credit unions Nov. 5 as part of the Occupy Wall Street movement. Taylor said Occupy UI prompted her to take money out of bank accounts in order to "stick it to the man."

"Our ability to create situations (like Occupy Wall Street) is what our government — our democracy — should be about," Taylor said.

A voter registration table was also set up at Occupy UI.

"Students can be involved in their democracy and we as a group have the power to do that," Sundquist said.

Blum said Occupy Wall Street has had a hard time convincing people to join the movement.

"This movement is happen-

ing in 82 countries worldwide," Blum said.

Sundquist said a date is not set for another Occupy UI event, but students can attend Occupy Moscow pickets every day from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in Friendship Square.

"Generally it's just important to note that even though mainstream media portrays this movement as being kind of a bunch of hippies playing on bongo drums, it's really not," Sundquist said. "Everyone who has been coming in our group is a full-time student or works full time ... It's a really diverse group of people. I kind of just want to encourage people to not look at the stereotypes, and think of what is important to them and how the system is working for them."

GDI

FROM PAGE 1

bears won. On Tuesday, residence hall participants handcrafted tricycle podracers and raced head-to-head against each other on the Tower lawn sidewalk. After being given 30 minutes to build an adequate podracer, the three teams from LLCs and Targhee, East Side Wallace and the Tower, attempted to make three laps around the Tower sidewalk. Some pods could be seen losing both pieces from the Star Wars-inspired vehicle as well as participants that flew over the tricycles low-rise handlebars. Within the first two laps, the LLCs broke away from the other two podracers and snatched first place for the event, earning 20 GDI points.

"We had a game plan going in and we stuck with it," said Isaac Fuchs, LLC podracer. "The hardest part was changing drivers at the designated spots. It was a good time."

These points are accumulated at the end of the

week and the winning team will be awarded a trophy. Halvorson, a music education and composition major, said competition is not the only reason RHA organized GDI week.

"The importance is to celebrate and have fun even if we are not in (a) Greek house," Halvorson said. "It's just about having a good time and making some memories."

He said Dorm Wars was conceived during weekly RHA meetings that are set up to brainstorm ideas and plan events that would interest the campus residence population. His goal is to get as many people involved as possible.

"I put about 20 to 30 people into a room for an hour and make them brainstorm ideas, and then give them jobs to do after that," Halvorson said. "Things get done which is surprising, but very convenient."

GDI will be hosting its last competition at 6 p.m. Friday on the Tower lawn. An award ceremony, banquet and costume party will follow the competition at Targhee. All students are welcome to attend.

LOBBYIST

FROM PAGE 1

versed in government proceedings, passionate about the university, and able to communicate with people without being abrasive.

"(Bennett) has got the right amount of intelligence and charisma. I think he'll do an excellent job," Black said.

Bennett, an Idaho native whose older brother also held the lobbyist position two years ago, said he understands the importance of the job.

"Personally, I rely on state-funded scholarships and grants to go to school. I can see it's relevant in my life," Bennett said. "I'm also passionate about the university, and I just thought this was something I could excel in."

Bennett has been involved in ASUI since spring 2011 when he became a senator. Since then, Bruno has served as the president pro-tempore during the fall 2011 semester. He will step down as

pro-tempore at the end of the semester to fulfill his lobbyist duties.

"I am super excited about it. Everything about the job — I'm just really excited," Bennett said.

Black and Perez were in charge of this year's selection. Black was responsible for recruiting candidates, and Perez joined him in the application and interview process to select the best candidate.

"I think that overall we made a great decision for our organization, and for the university," Black said.

Last year, Black picked up quickly on items that would affect students at UI. He lobbied for an increased cigarette tax, which he said he believed would reduce the amount of money the state planned to cut from higher education.

"You need to be able to look beyond just higher education policy, and look to active solutions. I think that Bruno's going to be great in this aspect," Black said.

Black's experience in the position helped him know exactly what qualities they would need to find in a qualified candidate.

"We were looking for someone who was very thorough. Someone who had a strong attention to detail," Black said.

The lobbyist's role is to represent UI in the state legislature and bring a face to ASUI policy and opinions officially established by the ASUI president.

"Whatever way I lobby, it's not the way I personally feel. It's the way the university as a whole feels. I'm just a mouthpiece," Bennett said.

Perez, Black and Bennett agreed the lobbyist position is an excellent way for the student body to be heard.

"I like the idea of students being involved in the (legislative process)," Bennett said. "(The legislators) are just normal people from Idaho. They want to know our perspective and what we have to say."

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SPORTS



Visit our Vandal Nation blog to view Robb Akey's press conference from Wednesday.

VANDAL NATION



Steven Devine | Argonaut

Freshman Morgan Porter, left, prepares to block an incoming kick from a fellow teammate during practice Wednesday on Guy Wicks field. The Vandals played La. Tech Oct. 16 and came out with a 1-0 win. They will be playing at home Friday against Utah State and Sunday against Nevada.

SOCCER

Unlikely hero

Freshman Morgan Porter steps up for Vandals

Sean Kramer
Argonaut

It had been more than four years since Morgan Porter had played goalkeeper. Throughout her high school career in Seattle she started all four years as a forward, winger and central midfielder. Scoring goals and creating the action was her niche.

Playing between the pipes? That was a thing of the past. She came to Idaho to keep scoring goals.

But last Sunday against La. Tech the keeper gloves came calling. After a Caroline Towles red card, Porter was forced into a distantly familiar keeper position.

She was part of the emergency contingency at the position. Idaho's other two keepers suffered season-ending injuries.

"We knew we would have to put a field player in," said Grant Williams, goalkeeper coach. "We kind of narrowed it down to her the day before."

Coincidentally, it all started as a joke between her and coach Pete Showler.

"We were joking around about how I got trained by Hope Solo before she was famous," Porter said. "We were talking about it and how I used to play, and how if anything happened to Caroline I could go in."

That conversation Saturday morning became more significant the following day when she made her Idaho debut against La. Tech.

"I told her she might regret telling me these things. It may have been said in a light hearted manner originally, but I had no doubt when it came to making that decision,"

Showler said. "Ironically, events on Sunday happened and after the game I told her she still may regret saying those things."

The moment of truth for Porter came in the 68th minute of the match when Towles handled a ball outside the box during a breakaway goal-scoring opportunity for La. Tech — an automatic red card violation and ejection.

"When it happened, I think we all knew I was going in," Porter said. "We didn't even really communicate, I just went on the field."

Porter didn't have time to settle into the position and had to make a play immediately upon entering the game. La. Tech was setting up for a free kick right outside of the box.

The ball found its way into her arms, and for the remaining 20 minutes of the match she preserved the Idaho shutout, and the win.

"That first ball got rid of all the nervousness," Porter said. "I think catching the ball for the first time in such a long time — felt like a relief that I caught it."

Showler said he was pleased with Porter's performance.

"She just went out and did what she needed to do, and did it well," Showler said. "She and the rest of the girls responded very well."

Towles' red card suspends her for Friday's match against Utah State at Guy Wicks Field.

Porter is preparing this week in practice as if she is going to play, and the coaching staff has confidence in her if her number needs to be called again.

SEE PORTER, PAGE 8

TENNIS

Vickers leaves great first impression

Charles Crowley
Argonaut

All the way from Victoria, Australia, Sophie Vickers joined the Vandal women's tennis team this season and is already making her presence known.

"She is a competitor on the court, she loves to compete, her results have been impressive this semester and I'm impressed with her work ethic," coach Daniel Pollock said.

Pollock said Vickers fit in with the team right from the start and eliminated any uncomfortable transition.

"She was pretty quiet and I think it's just part of her personality," Pollock said. "She just kind of blended in with the team."

Vickers said she has been playing tennis since the age of 5 when she decided to follow in her older brother's footsteps, and pick up a racquet.

Vickers said tennis in Australia is pretty much the same as everywhere else, but the courts she learned to play on were not like America's hard courts.

"The matches back home are played mostly on clay, so initially I found movement on the courts here a little difficult and it takes a while to get used to," Vickers said.

She said neither court is particularly harder to play on but the transition takes some getting used to.

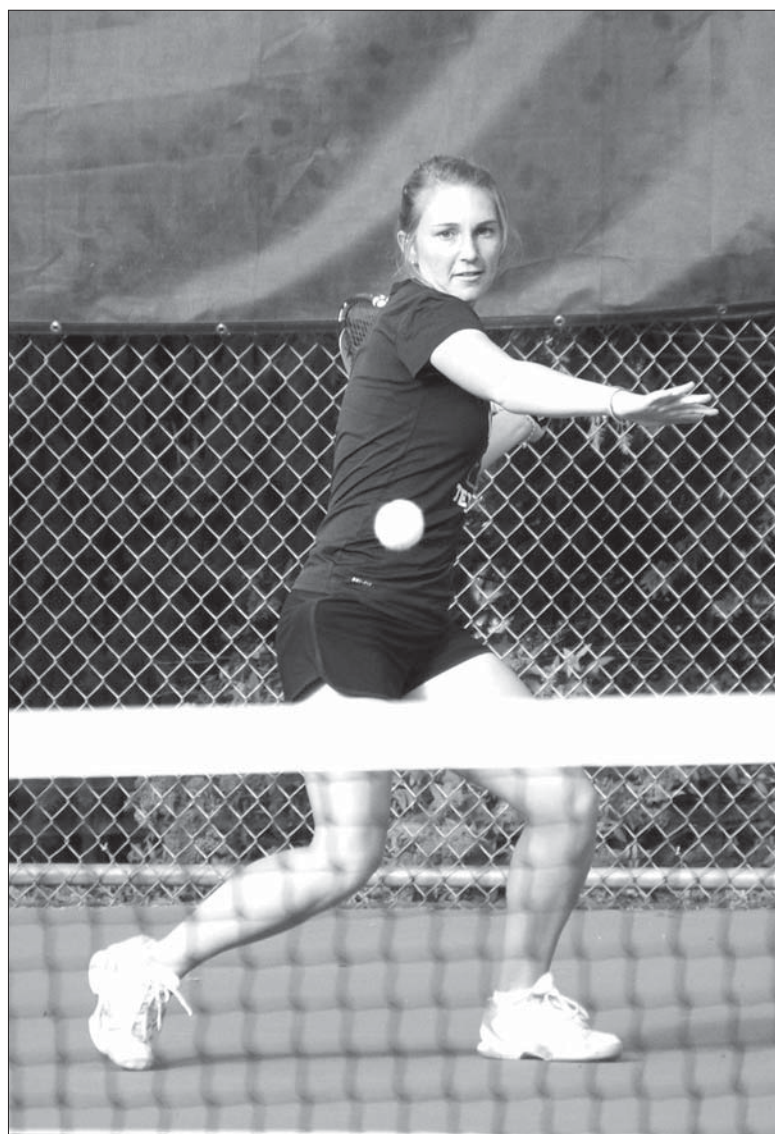
"I prefer to play on clay but that's just me because I have played on it my whole life," Vickers said.

Court and climate changes far from home haven't hindered Vickers' ability to adapt, she said.

"I was a bit nervous and didn't really know what to expect first arriving, but I am pretty happy with my results and looking forward to next year," Vickers said.

She said Pollock was helpful with her transition and she likes his coaching style.

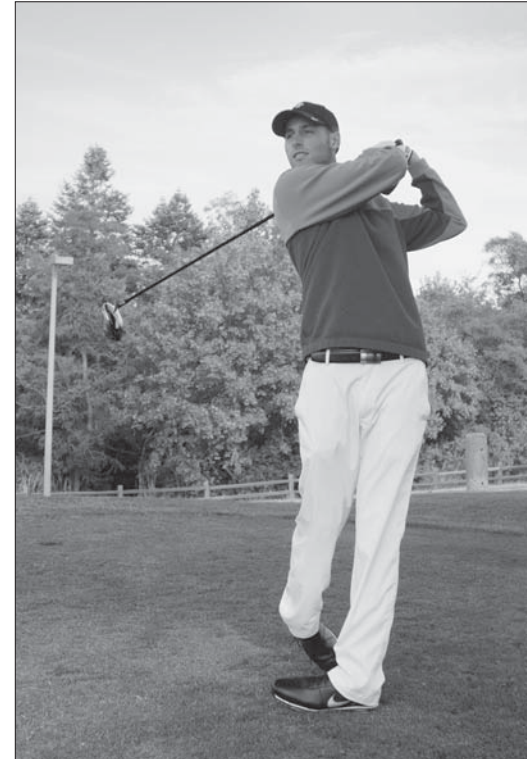
"Dan's been great, ever since I have got here he has been very helpful and I think he has got big plans of what he wants to get out of us next semester," Vickers said.



Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

Sophie Vickers, freshman, swings to return a ball at practice. The women's tennis team ended its fall season Oct. 12 in Las Vegas.

SEE VICKERS, PAGE 8



Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

Jarred Bossio finishes a stroke at practice Oct. 20. The Vandals competed in the Windom Memorial from Oct. 16 to 17.

GOLF

Risk and no reward

Stephan Wiebe
Argonaut

The Windom Memorial in Skokie, Ill., played host to the largest golf tournament of the Vandal men's season Sunday and Monday.

Idaho came into this tournament confident after winning the Jim Colbert Invitational in Manhattan, Kan., two weeks before. This confidence carried into the first round where the Vandals finished in the middle-of-the-pack at ninth. From there, things started to go downhill.

"We just played horrible the last round and then we weren't able to do the things that we've been able to do the last couple tournaments, which was make a strong finish," coach John Means said.

The Vandals played steadily worse during the last two rounds of the tournament, and finished 48 over par at 888 and in 14th place among 17 teams. Arkansas won the tournament with 847, and Michigan's Matt Thompson won the 54-hole tournament 5-under par at 205.

Means said the golf course was designed in 1898 by famous golfer Donald Ross. This old style golf course has severe greens and bunkers, Means said, and the layout gives golfers the in accurate impression that they

BASKETBALL

Idaho picked fifth by media, coaches

Theo Lawson
Argonaut

Media professionals and coaches selected the Idaho men's basketball team to finish fifth in the preseason WAC polls, which were released earlier this week.

Idaho's Kyle Barone is the only preseason All-WAC selection representing the Vandals. Teams and coaches nominated the junior center to the preseason second team.

Despite returning only one full-time

starter from last year's team in point guard Deremy Geiger, the Vandals recruited junior college talent in the off-season to remain a competitive force in the WAC. Returning players include Barone and Landon Tatum, two veterans who played crucial roles in the team's success last season.

"The teams that are picked ahead of us are the teams with experience," coach Don Verlin said. "Nevada returns almost everyone, so does New Mexico State and

so does Hawaii, and Utah State's been the class of the league for the last four or five years so I think we're picked right where we need to be."

Though Utah State has controlled the WAC for the last three years, the coaches' preseason favorite was Nevada, followed by New Mexico State, Utah State, Hawaii, Idaho, Fresno State, San Jose State and La. Tech.

The media poll jumbled the top three,

SEE FIFTH, PAGE 8

SEE RISK, PAGE 8

SOCCER

Fresno dreaming

Idaho closes out home schedule against WAC rivals

Sean Kramer
Argonaut

Idaho women's soccer team will play its final home matches this weekend with eyes set squarely on the prize.

Utah State and Nevada head to Moscow to take on the Vandals Friday and Sunday as they finish their WAC schedule at Guy Wickes Field.

A victory in either will send Idaho to the WAC Championship tournament in Fresno, Calif., in early November — the team's goal since the preseason.

"We've got one of the toughest weekends of our season. It's our last weekend of games. They know what they've gotta do, they know what their focus is," coach Pete Showler said.

The focus this weekend is the preseason coaches pick to win the conference, Utah State, and an Aggie team on a three-game winning streak that has outscored opponents 7-1.

"They're very physical, very well organized and very athletic," Showler said. "In the past what I've seen from their teams are probably the most well rounded team we'll play."

Idaho has not beaten Utah State in years, including dropping a 2-1 double overtime decision at Guy Wicks Field in 2009. The Vandals will be without starting goalkeeper Caroline Towles, who is suspended for her red card last Sunday against La. Tech. In her stead, freshman forward Morgan Porter, who subbed in Sunday

as well, is preparing as if she will get the start. Showler is confident in her abilities.

"She is full of energy, very athletic. She was one of the best softball players in the state of Washington, her hand-eye coordination is fantastic," he said. "This week will be a bit tougher without the regular goalkeeper but these things are sent to test us, and the girls will work and do all they can to make things happen."

The Nevada Wolf Pack sit at the bottom of the WAC table with only one conference victory to their name. The Wolf Pack has struggled to score goals this season, having only put 10 in the back of the net.

If the Vandals can sweep the weekend they will have an opportunity to clinch one of the top two spots in the WAC, which would not only get them to Fresno, but give them a first round bye and seed them directly into the semi-finals.

Showler said his team knows where they stand in the conference.

"They're as aware as anybody. They're searching the websites before we are sometimes," he said. "They know what they've gotta do, they know what their focus is. We can't concern ourselves with other people, we've got to do what we do and take care of what we can take care of."

VOLLEYBALL

Hitting the road

Kevin Bingaman
Argonaut

Vandal volleyball goes on the road this weekend, traveling to San Jose State and No. 7 Hawaii as they look to keep their winning streak alive.

It's the half-way point in the Vandals' (11-9, 5-2 WAC) conference schedule as they start the second round of WAC play Friday against San Jose State. The Vandals are third in conference standings, trailing New Mexico State and Hawaii. So far all teams in the conference have held true to their ranking with no teams beating a team who is ranked above them.

The Vandals enter the weekend riding the momentum of a five-game winning streak and will look to keep it going against San Jose State (7-13, 2-5 WAC). The Vandals swept the Spartans in their first meeting this season at home. Last year Idaho was upset at San Jose State and will try not to make the same mistake. Assistant coach Steve Whitaker said it comes down to the Vandals playing their game.

"I don't think it matters where we go. Whether we're in Mem Gym or on the road, we have to play our game," Whitaker said. "We have to serve and pass and I think if we can do those two things, we're going to set ourselves up for the least amount of failure."

Idaho will have a tough task Sunday when the team travels to the Hawaiian islands to take on No. 7 Hawaii (19-1, 7-0 WAC). Redshirt freshman Alyssa Schultz said it's a game the Vandals look forward to.

"It's more exciting than anything, plus they have a huge fan base, so it's a lot of fun to go and feed off their energy," Schultz said. "It's a good challenge for us."

The Vandals opened up their conference schedule Sept. 22 at home against Hawaii where they fell in four sets. Whitaker said solid control will lead to Idaho's success.

"We have to take care of the things we can control. Going to Hawaii — it's special," Whitaker said. "They're a very good team. They're a very good ball-control team. We know we have a big battle to fight and we just have to



Steven Devine | Argonaut

Redshirt Freshman Jessica Hastriter leaps to spike the ball during practice Wednesday in Memorial Gym. During the game against La. Tech, Hastriter was able to get five kill shots and a block, then hit a career high .250 at Eastern Washington Oct. 5.

take it one step at a time."

Schultz said her team has to get everyone involved if they're going to have any success.

"We're definitely going to have to get all our hitters involved, not just our outsides," Schultz said. "We're going to have to balance off our offense and try to get them out of system rather than just rely on one hitter."

Idaho's win streak is an improve-

ment from last season when the team failed to win more than two in a row. Whitaker said this team has shown some of the greatest improvement he has seen since coming to Idaho.

"Out of the three years I've been here, this has been the biggest progression," Whitaker said. "We're getting better every day, and I think it shows. I think we're focusing on the right things to get better."

14 reasons to check out basketball

Theo Lawson
Argonaut

Eight returning players and six fresh faces make up the 2011-2010 men's basketball team. A process in the making, coach Don Verlin is well aware of the talent this year's team possesses. Whether they will be able to execute during the season opener Oct. 28 against Evergreen State is another story. Verlin provided insight into the composition of this year's squad, one that he says could prove itself very competitive in the WAC this season.

Kyle Barone

Junior, center

Led the Vandals in rebounds and the WAC in field goal percentage last season, also a 2011-2012 all-league second team selection.

"Kyle Barone is our best player and an unbelievable talent. I think he's improved so much as a player and person."

Landon Tatum

Senior, guard

Played in every game for the Vandals in 2010-2011. Led the WAC with a 2.20 assist-to-turnover ratio, and led Idaho in assists as a junior.

"Landon Tatum is our team captain, he's rock solid and he's a wonderful, wonderful player."

Matt Borton

Redshirt freshman, guard

Redshirted during the 2010-2011 season. Honored as a McDonald's All-American nominee at West Valley high school in Yakima, Wash.

"Competitor — probably one of our fiercest competitors on the team and works like crazy every day to get better."



To read the rest of this story visit uiargonaut.com <http://bit.ly/njb6FT>



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Blame many, not one

When Idaho lost its season opener against Bowling Green, most thought it was a fluke. It seems now, maybe it wasn't and the 2011 Vandal football campaign might be lucky to finish the season with just four wins.

The Vandals rebounded after the week one loss, proving spring and fall camps must have been worth their time, by working over FCS opponent North Dakota. Since then the Vandals have been outscored 161 to 82 and have lost five straight.

Every coach and player on the squad has said the team is "so close" to breaking the barrier to get wins, and it is true. The Vandals are two plays from being 3-4, with a one-point overtime loss to BCS opponent Virginia, and a 7-point loss to WAC foe New Mexico State. Regardless of how close, losses don't clinch bowl games, so where does the blame lie?

Fans are quick to point the finger at quarterback Brian Reader. Reader is a less-than-impressive, but not a terrible 52.5 percent passing for 1,446 yards, nine touchdowns and seven interceptions. But, Idaho is 86th in the country in sacks allowed, with 17 in seven games. It's a wonder Reader has time to even find a receiver. His receiving core was depleted early in the season with injuries to starters Preston Davis and Justin Veltung — six losses cannot be placed on the shoulders of Reader.

Many blame offensive play calling, especially in two close road losses. It is difficult to reason with a 20-something drunk fan who says repeatedly a 2-point conversion to win in overtime is the worst call possible. On the road, in OT, why not? Yes, about the only thing that worked against Virginia was the defense and season MVP Bobby Cowan, but if the team has a chance to

win — take it. Remember, if it had worked Akey would have been a god, just like after the 2009 Humanitarian Bowl.

The defense has been inconsistent. The Vandals rank 96th in total defense, but held their first two BCS opponents to just 58 points in two games. Subsequently, the Vandals let Fresno State and La. Tech tally 72 points in the Kibbie Dome. Injuries are not to blame on the defensive side of the ball and before the season began, cornerback Aaron Grymes said there were, "No holes — not in this defense." I guess it just depends on which Saturday it is, because there are holes — sometimes large ones.

The most difficult part of the season is over and many expected to see Idaho around .500 at this point. Idaho faces one more non-conference opponent in BYU. BYU and Hawaii will likely be the toughest of the remaining five games, but the team has shown it can compete.

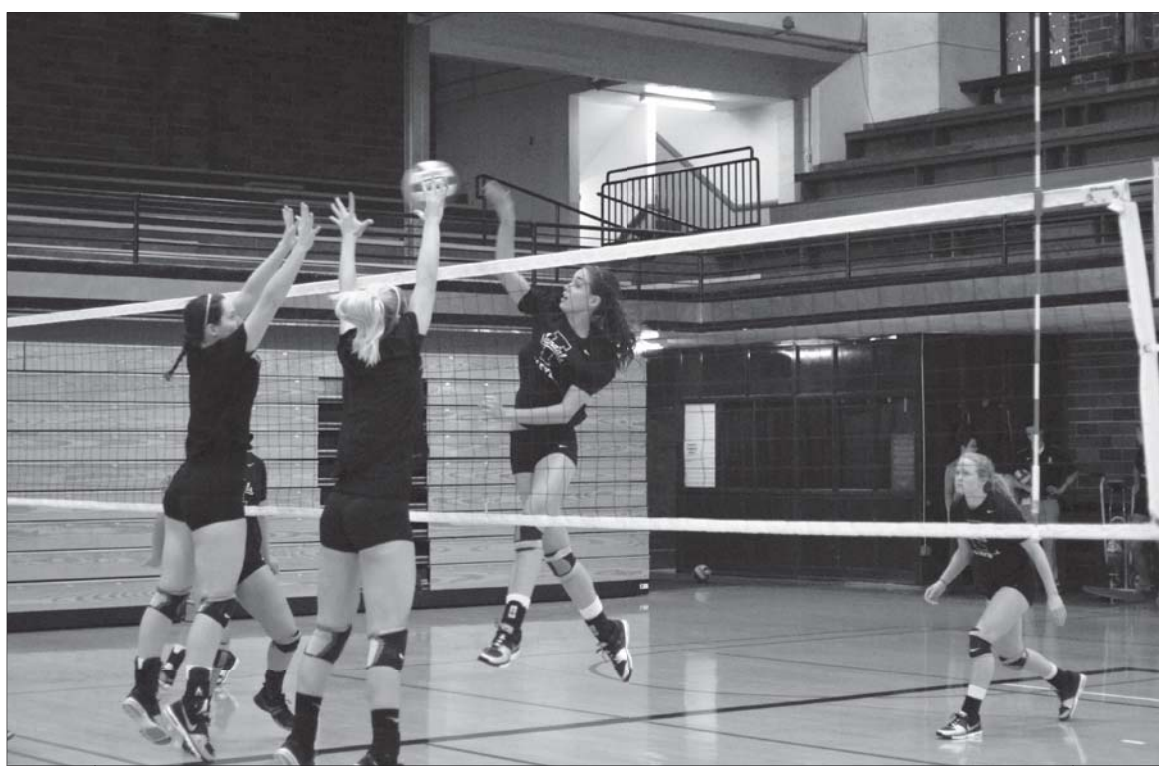
At this point in the season, the dream of a bowl berth is still alive, but the Vandals must be perfect to the end. If Idaho plays like it has, four wins will be a welcome end to the season. If Idaho finds consistency, stays healthy and mentally strong, it could find itself arguing its place for a bowl bid.

It is clear Idaho has problems, and the solutions are not simple. Whether it is injury, quarterbacking or offensive line, defensive line, cornerbacks or the secondary, offensive or defensive coordinating, coaching or simply team cohesion and morale — most don't have the answers.

Football is a team sport coached by a staff. Regardless of the root of Idaho's problems, one thing is clear — no individual is entirely responsible.



Nick Groff
Argonaut



Steven Devine | Argonaut

Idaho's volleyball team has had a positive season going 4-1 with its only loss to No. 7, Hawaii with all home games played in Memorial Gym.

True home advantage

Kevin Bingaman
Argonaut

The history and singularity of Memorial Gym sets it apart from the University of Idaho's other buildings. Its gothic cathedral-like structure reaches above other campus structures, and ball-hugging gargoyles cling to its turrets, supervising students and passersby.

For the Vandal volleyball team, its medieval halls are home, and home has been sweet this season.

The Vandals have won five matches in a row and are third in the WAC. Four of their last five victories occurred under the high-domed ceiling of Memorial Gym. They have gone 4-1 at home this season, with their only loss coming to No. 7 Hawaii. Even in that loss the Vandals managed to take one set from the Warriors, a feat that not many WAC teams have achieved in recent years. Redshirt freshman Alyssa Shultz said the home crowd pushes the team to a higher level.

"It's just more fun playing in your own environment and having

people cheer you on rather than not cheer you on," Schultz said.

Memorial Gym was built in 1928 to honor Idaho soldiers who died in World War I. Since then the building has been a home to Vandal sports. Before Cowan Spectrum, it was the home of men's and women's basketball and has long been the home of volleyball.

This year's volleyball team is not the only team to see success within the confines of Memorial Gym. From 1992-96 volleyball won 49 straight matches at home, the 11th longest home winning streak in NCAA history. Assistant volleyball coach Steve Whitaker said Memorial Gym's court is an up-close and personal experience that may contribute to continued Vandal success.

"It's one of the loudest venues I've been in," Whitaker said. "We're trying to talk to the girls during a timeout and it's so loud that they can't hear what we're saying. It's an oppressive small environment and I've heard it's really hard to play in when you come to play here."

For many recruits, the facility can be a selling point. Whitaker said Memorial Gym is a place that grows on recruits when they come to Moscow.

"They're surprised at first," Whitaker said. "Hopefully they get to see a match. Hopefully they get to witness that and then they say 'OK, this is something special.' There's a lot of history in this place."

Shultz summed Memorial gym up with one word — character.

"My first reaction was that it had a lot of character and I instantly liked it," Schultz said. "It's not like a modern facility, but it's a lot of fun."

Memorial Gym is a unique volleyball experience that puts fans practically on top of the court and makes it difficult for opposing teams to forget their presence. It's helped past Vandal teams and certainly seems to be helping this year's. It's home to Vandal volleyball and Whitaker said if they had the opportunity to move, they wouldn't.

"This is the perfect size for volleyball," Whitaker said.

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FIFTH

FROM PAGE 5

favoring Utah State, Nevada and New Mexico State while placing San Jose State ahead of Fresno State.

Idaho's 9-7 conference record in 2010-2011 earned them a third place regular season finish but the Vandals crashed out of the WAC Tournament early, falling to San Jose State in the first round.

Barone tends to overlook the preseason polls, which he believes utilized the team's lack of experience as reasoning for their fifth place selection.

"I think since we had a lot of new guys coming in, that's why we're so low but we can't really focus on that other than just try to prove them wrong and come out and show who we are," Barone said. "We can beat those teams at any given night."

A 2010-2011 all-WAC honor-

able mention, Barone has solidified himself as one of the conference's most dangerous centers. The 6-foot-10-inch Garden Grove, Calif., native led the conference in field goal percentage as a sophomore and led his team with 5.8 rebounds per game.

"They're going to look to me to score, rebound and lead the team in every way and I expect the same," Barone said. "Overall, I think we're going to play really hard on both ends of the court, we're going to work for everything, we're going to make the other team work, score — nothing easy. We're a tough team and I don't think we're going to be easy to get by."

In three seasons as Idaho's coach, Verlin has garnered 24 WAC wins, more than triple the

amount of conference wins the team had in the three seasons pre-Verlin.

Verlin has set a high precedent for this year's Vandal team and the WAC may prove to be extremely competitive this season, which will be the last for Fresno State and Nevada.

"I really believe that the four teams picked ahead of us are all equal. I think any one of those four teams could win it," Verlin said. "Then the other ones, the bottom four are trying to get into that top four."

Fans will have the opportunity to witness the 2011-2012 Vandals in action during the Black vs. Gold scrimmage, which will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday in Memorial Gym.



I really believe that the four teams picked ahead of us are all equal.

Don Verlin, Basketball coach



We all just struggled. We had our whole team kind of off our game and it definitely showed.

Jarred Bossio, Senior golf player

shot a 72 and finished second on the team behind senior Jarred Bossio. Bossio, who finished 6 over par and tied for 24th overall, called this his worst tournament so far this year but said he takes encouragement from the fact that he still had a top-25 finish.

"We all just struggled," Bossio said. "We had our whole team kind of off our game and it definitely showed."

Idaho's poor performance affected its national rank, as the Vandals dropped from 62nd to 138th in the Golfstat Relative Ranking. The Vandals left the Memorial feeling disappointed but they know that one of their toughest tournaments is behind them.

"This course was definitely one that is going to be more challenging than probably any other course we play," Bossio said. "I think we'll be more mentally prepared for other courses."

The Vandals look to their next tournament on Oct. 24 in Las Cruces, N.M., where they hope to get back to the disciplined style of golf they had been playing all season.

HE'S HEATING UP



Zach Edwards | Argonaut

Dzim Bandoumel, right, and Dazmond Starke participate in a drill at practice Oct. 20. The Vandals scrimmage at 7 p.m. Saturday in Memorial Gym.

RISK

FROM PAGE 5

can take chances.

"It looks like you can gamble and do some really good things but you can't," Means said. "As soon as you gamble and make a mistake, you end up with a double or triple bogey."

Wind was also a factor during this tournament, but Means acknowledges that all the teams had to play under the same conditions.

On this golf course, the Vandals' game plan was to play conservatively. They did this through the first round but in the second and third rounds, they started to gamble. This resulted in four of the five Idaho golfers finishing with round three scores worse than those of the first round.

"It shouldn't happen," Means said. "This team isn't young. They have to stick to the game plan."

Senior Stefan Richardson was the only Idaho golfer to improve in the final round. He

PORTER

FROM PAGE 5

"I'm not scared at all, in fact, very confident that any balls hit at her, that she can get her hands on and take care of," Williams said.

Williams said this week they will work on getting her more comfortable with ball handling and being

behind the defense. Getting used to watching the game from the goal, instead of behind her like she is used to as a forward is an important adaptation, Williams said.

"I'm a little nervous of playing this week," Porter said. "But anything I can do to help the team. I'm honored that I've been chosen to step up to the plate and play for our team."

VICKERS

FROM PAGE 5

Pollock said his immediate goal for Vickers is to become more aggressive on the court.

"She does everything really well but her quiet personality flows over into the game and she can sometimes be not as aggressive as she needs to be," Pollock said.

He said she is starting to come out of her quiet shell during team practices.

"We're starting to see a little bit more of her personality now and her sense of humor is starting to come out at practice," Pollock said. "She is a really funny kid with a good sense of humor."

Pollock said her personality and skill set could mean good things for Vickers and her future as a tennis player.

"She is left-handed, which is a huge advantage, and if we can figure out a few

more things I don't see why she can't be a solid college player for her next four years," Pollock said.

Vickers has her own immediate goal — to get used to playing at the college level and with different people. She said in Australia players run into the same competition over and over.

Off the court, Vickers enjoys shopping, reading and listening to music. She said she is not just here for tennis but for school too and she is majoring in exercise science and health.

Vickers said that some of her most enjoyable times are on the court with teammates, who she said all get along.

"We train hard but we enjoy it and have lots of fun at the same time, so I'm really liking it," Vickers said.

The fall season is over for the Vandals but Vickers may get some action if she chooses to enter individual events before the spring season.

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OPINION



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Education comes first

One hundred fifty-eight thousand — that's how many valid voter signatures it would take to push an early election and recall Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna.

Members of the Committee to Recall Tom Luna announced Sunday that they had only collected about 50,000 signatures and thereby failed in their effort to recall Luna.

But the real issue isn't recalling Luna from office. It's about recalling his policies and preventing further diminishment to the quality of public education in Idaho.

Last year, the Census

Bureau confirmed that out of 50 states and the District of Columbia, Idaho ranked 50th in terms of per-pupil spending. That same year, \$128 million was cut from the K-12 education investment fund.

As University of Idaho students, we should be concerned about public education on all levels. Approximately 82,000 high school students in 115 school districts will be adversely affected by Luna's "Students Come First" education reform plan, including our younger siblings or children. As the quality of education decreases in public

schools, it will slowly reach the university level. Luna's education reform plan will only speed up this process.

"Students Come First" will mandate online education courses and make laptops available to every high school student in Idaho. Luna said the reform is about educating students at a higher level with limited resources, but in reality, students don't come first. As a result of this reform, class sizes will increase by one or two students and almost 800 teaching positions will be eliminated. Laptops will substitute for the valuable one-on-one time be-

tween teachers and students.

Education is about preparing students for the future. Great teachers are able to fill a classroom with knowledge and make learning fun. Through public education, teachers have the ability to leave a lasting, positive impression and they are often the people who have one of the greatest impacts on our childhood. To help students succeed, teachers cultivate hidden talents and qualities in students.

Talents that won't be found in a student's reflection as they stare into a computer screen.

—EE

Peace of cake

What is peace?

This is a question a few hundred students and attendees were not led to ask during Nobel Peace Prize winner and former president of Costa Rica Oscar Arias Sanchez's speech "Human security in the 21st century" last week.

"I know that one day the goodness of humanity will prevail," said Sanchez at the end of his speech. "We have a voice and a vote, so we can make changes. Peace can seem like a dream, but it's a dream worth having."

Walking home afterward, a small group of us admitted we actually were not fully comfortable with the premise of this inspirational figure's speech.

Cutting the world's military spending by "just" 25 percent, apparently could buy every child in the developing world a laptop. The salary of a single soldier could fund a single English teacher. These statistics at face value point at the warped priorities of our system, in which war prevails over the well-being of people.

However, if we stop for a moment to consider these statements beyond face value they are not only infeasible, but do not make sense for the lives of people globally. A laptop is probably one of the biggest participants in the Western, industrialized rat race. Without causing any rise in net happiness, they are incredibly useful within the system we exist in — a Western system driven by Western priorities and ideals.

Added to this, if every child in the developing world had a laptop, the electronic waste from this technological invasion would exponentially destroy our natural environment. We may not be around much longer to play World of Warcraft or type out documents that were once culturally evolved and valued handwriting.

Replacing soldiers with English teachers also seems incredibly ideal until the concept of English as the savior to the "underdeveloped" world — a method for achieving "peace" — is considered.

War is undoubtedly an industry. It employs people, it makes money, it is a form of trade and a construct of human and social relations. Sadly, it can even be a source of entertainment. It is tragic, and is not something that ideally would exist at all. But without sounding like a complete pessimist, which I am not, humanity does not seem to ever exist without forces we consider to be "good" and "bad." Pleasure does not exist without knowledge of pain. Perhaps peace does not exist without the existence of its counterpart.

And then we come back to what the word actually means anyway. Peace, the "cessation of or freedom from any strife or dissension," is surely not the absence of physical war. Humans have developed further than this, in spiritual and cognitive understanding.

SEE PEACE, PAGE 10

Mail Box

Recall Luna

Dear Editor,

The 2011 Luna recall failed, but its embers are still glowing brightly. The 2012 Luna recall is already underway and focusing on the Nov. 6, 2012 election. The 2012 Luna recall will have new faces, new energy and above all, new tactics. In addition, there will be almost an entire school year for Luna's disastrous policies to show themselves before we start to collect signatures April 30, 2012. The official website of the 2012 Luna recall is recallluna.com (Yes, that's with three Ls.)

Best wishes,

Pete Peterson
Boise, Idaho

Throw away the 'V'

I am a Vandal alumnus, and I'd like to throw in my vote to ditch the "V." It's lame, and there are no other teams (college or professional, to my knowledge) that put the first initial of their mascot on their merchandise. We're not the Vermont or Virginia Vandals. This is as dumb, I think, as "Open Space. Open Minds." I sincerely hope the administration did not spend money backing this marketing disaster. Lord knows they have better directions to take their scarce funding.

Thanks,

Steve Schneider
University of Idaho '07



Illustration by Eli Holland

Commodities speculation is unethical

The latest "get rich quick" scheme for American investors: Steal food from the hungry. But do it legally. It's called commodity speculation.

Investors buy large amounts of food commodities, such as corn, soy or sugar. But rather than use these commodities to cut costs on products they manufacture (as, say, a bread company might by investing in wheat), they wait for the price of that commodity to go up, then sell it to other speculators for profit.

Like many upper class money-making schemes in the country, commodities speculation ultimately harms working and middle classes worldwide by driving up the price of food. It's been cited as a major reason for rapidly rising grocery prices during the past few years.

When speculators buy large quantities of commodities that means less food to go around. This is great for the speculators: Food prices go up, and they can sell those commodities for profit. However, it's not so good for families struggling to make ends meet. It's even worse for poor

countries unable to feed their citizens. The effect of rising food prices is felt worldwide, even in the U.S.

The price of milk in America has gone up 12 percent since last year. Bread costs have risen 17 percent. These aren't luxuries. These are staple foods. When a child must go hungry because their parents have to choose between buying bread and paying the rent, the responsibility lies with the people who are artificially inflating food prices for their own profit.

Worse than simply raising prices, commodities speculation is making the markets unstable. We've seen the effects of this kind of speculation before: The tech bubble of the '90s led to a recession in the early 2000s, and we're still in the recession caused by the 2007 housing market crash. Commodities speculation is creating a food market bubble. Rapidly rising prices are attractive to investors who want to cash in. But once speculation goes past what the market can bear, the bubble bursts, causing a sudden crash



Max Bartlett
Argonaut

Tweet Us



How do you think the cost of food affects college students?

in food prices.

At first this might seem like a good thing. After all, isn't it high food prices we're worried about? But a sudden drop in food prices could mean disaster for the agricultural industry. And farms shutting down would be a lot worse in the long run for world food prices, never mind the ripple effect that such a crash would have on the already weakened world economy.

Fortunately, the dangers of commodities speculation are beginning to come to light. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act requires new rules on commodity speculation, which are expected to be issued soon. And the subject will be brought up at the upcoming G20 summit, an economic meeting between leaders of the world's biggest economies.

SEE UNETHICAL, PAGE 10

OFF THE CUFF

QUICK TAKES ON LIFE FROM OUR EDITORS

Leisurely strolling

It takes twice as long to walk anywhere now that I'm always compelled to stop and take in all the fall colors.

—Amrah

Booyah

I'm back.

—Anja

Can't wait

I'm so thankful for all the opportunities this university has presented to me. Next Wednesday, a group of us editors will be Florida-bound for the National Student Media Conference.

—Britt

Hunger pains

Don't you hate when you are hungry but can't decide what you want to eat?

—Jens

Raider Nation

Carson Palmer to the Raiders. Raider fans ... unite.

—Jake

It's that time

VandalWeb informed me a few days ago that I need to apply for graduation. My adviser told me I only have nine required credits left to earn my degree. Guess that means it's time to saddle up to the idea of being a real adult.

—Elizabeth

Anonymous wisdom

"Life is a series of inter-

ruptions interrupted by interruptions."

—Rhannon

Leaving the 'scow

This weekend, I'll be in South Bend, Ind., to see two of the most successful college football teams in history play: Notre Dame and USC. Bye week isn't all that bad.

—Theo

Clouds and wind

The best part of every day this week has been the weather. Is that a good or a bad sign?

—Vicky

Flag football fun

I love coaching these kids in flag football. I wish I had the same enthusiasm that these kids do.

—Madison

Tsk tsk

My brother, who is living in Ecuador, thinks his fellow Americans there are feeble. They freak out when he throws horse apples at them.

—Jacob

Winter wardrobe

I'm not necessarily stoked about the drop in temperature, but I am excited to revamp my winter wardrobe. Scarves, coats, hats and mittens — I love 'em all.

—Elisa

Any takers?

Anyone want to bet on the Vandals this weekend? Either football or men's basketball. I'll bet anyone \$100 that neither team will lose. Let me know if you want in.

—Nick

Lions, Tigers and Bears, Oh My

Owning exotic animals ends in tragedy

Animal rights activists will criticize the events that occurred near Zanesville, Ohio, Wednesday when police officers had to shoot and kill 49 of 56 exotic animals released from a compound the night before, but the police made the right decision.

Autopsy results confirmed Terry Thompson, the owner of the compound, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after freeing the animals in his possession. The animals included lions, tigers, bears, wolves and monkeys. Because of the ag-

gressive nature of the animals and their potential to harm humans, the local sheriff decided officers needed to shoot and kill all of the escapees, citing public safety as his reason.

However, it is important to note those that could be saved were, and six animals were transported to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium where they are being fed and evaluated.

I am in support of animal rights as much as anyone else and it is horrible that these animals had to meet their end in this manner, but there is a larger issue at hand.

People who think it is a good idea to own exotic animals are the real problem in cases like this.

This event is a tragic example that shows exactly what can go wrong when people indulge their irresponsible impulses to own a tiger, wolf or even more popular, a monkey. Most don't realize what it takes to actually care for these animals, or that they have a significantly longer life span than the average house cat. Many abandon their exciting pets once they grow tired of them, when they realize their mistake in getting one in the first place, or learn they cannot train a tiger to stray from its biological habits.

Getting a pet is huge responsibility, and an exotic pet needs just as much, if not more, care and attention than a traditional pet. There are many groups who advocate for either side of this issue,

but the reality is that owning an exotic animal is a terrible decision. Each case is unique, and they don't all end like the situation in Ohio. But ultimately they end in tragedy for the owner or the pet.



Katy Sword
Argonaut

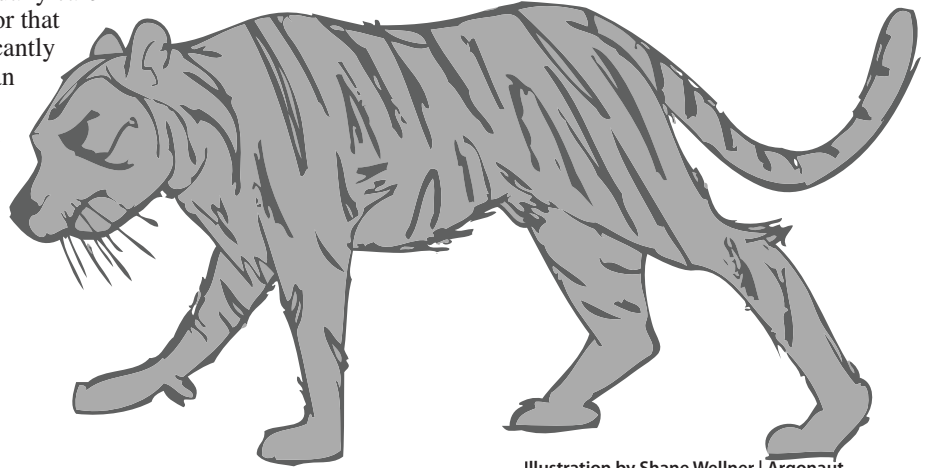


Illustration by Shane Wellner | Argonaut



OPINIONS FROM OUR READERS ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

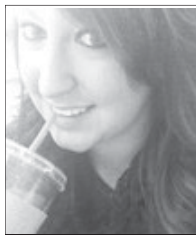
Opinion question: Will you continue to attend Vandal games this season despite a 1-6 record?



"As long as there's tailgating, there will be fans. Despite a losing record, you just can't beat that game day energy."

Courtney Winzeler
Posted on Facebook Oct. 19

"I will still attend football games despite the losing streak. It's not all about the quality of the game, but about the loyalty."



Jami Riener
Posted On Twitter Oct. 18



"Of course, it's the only time in my life I can go see a national level of football for free. No matter how badly we get beaten or how badly we play, it is still fun to watch football and support your university. You have to support your team through the tough times no matter how frustrating it is."

Cody Bear
Posted to Facebook Oct. 19

PEACE

FROM PAGE 9

Poverty and pain are no more prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa than they are here. They just exist in different forms. For people who are depressed, chronically stressed or lonely, no matter how much food they have access to, inner peace may be a long way away. It's important to remember to keep in mind different ways of prioritizing our existence.

"To plant a seed is the maximum act of faith," Sanchez said. This topic is far too vast to discuss in a column. But perhaps, more than a simple call to fix the surface problems of the world, seeds will also have been planted at the speech. Perhaps in the end we will advocate for the "cessation of ... strife" that may be able to transform not just a distant impoverished nation but our own lives here and now.

UNETHICAL

FROM PAGE 9

We need to ensure that these reforms happen. It's dangerous to think that identifying the problem means it will be solved. We need to demand action from our Congress and legislators at the state and federal levels. But it is the speculators themselves who can do the most to end this. The practice may be lucrative, but it is unethical. Commodities speculation steals food from the poor and raises prices for those who can't afford to pay them.

Do the right thing — invest ethically.

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