

THE ARGONAUT

THE VANDAL VOICE SINCE 1898

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Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Crossing cultures

Pakistani cultural ambassadors share experiences at UI

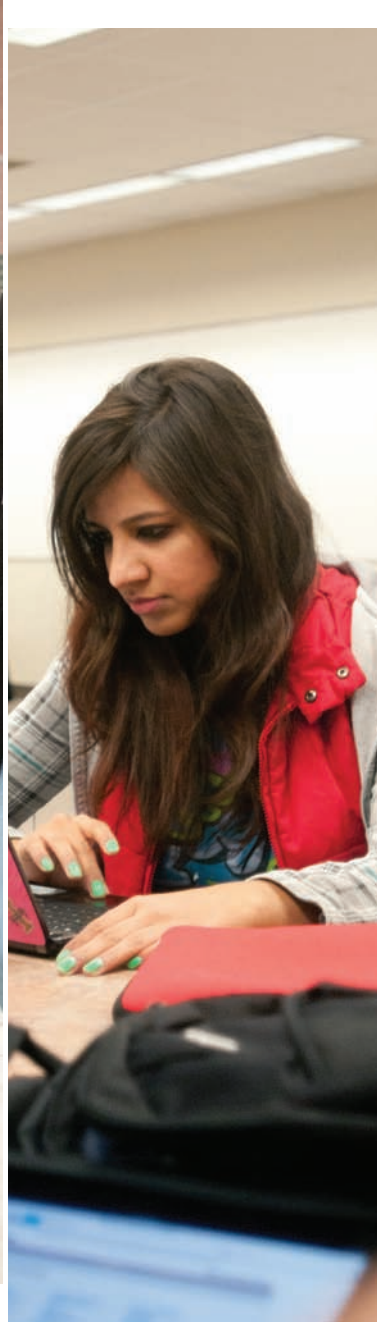
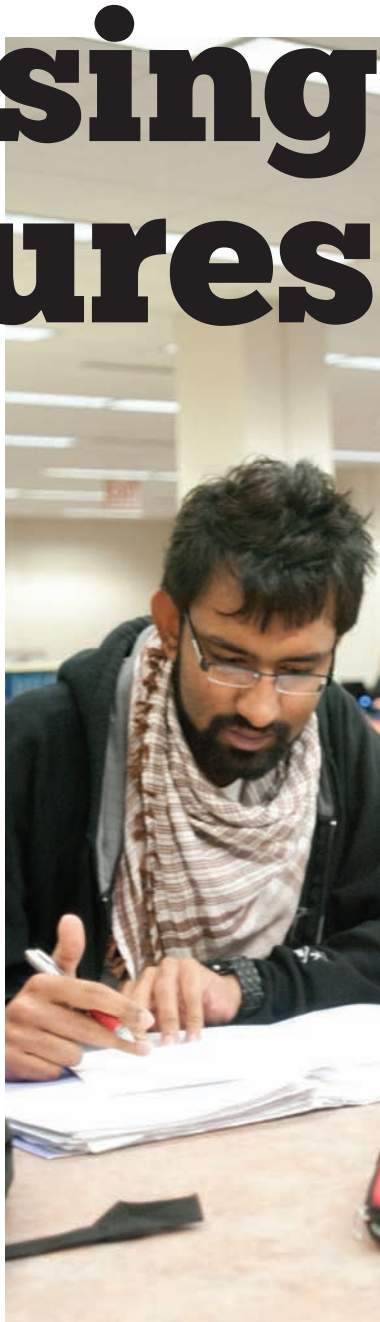
Anja Sundali
Argonaut

Thousands of miles from their home country, four Pakistani students found a new home this semester at the University of Idaho.

Mirza Ahmad of Lahore, Faheem of Bajaur Agency, Sara Mehmood of Peshawar and Sehrish Abbasi of Rawalpindi came to UI in August. Ahmad, Mehmood, Faheem and Abbasi are part of a group of 100 “cultural ambassadors” studying at universities across the U.S. through IREX’s (formerly International Research and Exchange) Global Undergraduate Exchange program. The program partners with the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

All four students are returning home to Pakistan at the end of this semester, bringing new experiences and lessons learned back with them.

SEE CULTURES, PAGE 5



Philip Vukelich | Argonaut
From left, Mirza Ahmad, Faheem, Sara Mehmood and Sehrish Abbasi go about their daily activities Monday on campus. The “cultural ambassadors” are international students studying at the University of Idaho as part of IREX’s Global Undergraduate Exchange program.

Eggs and education

Student to travel to Boise for Legislative Breakfast

Kaitlyn Krasselt
Argonaut

The Legislative Breakfast is a yearly opportunity for students to communicate one-on-one with Idaho legislators about issues in higher education.

“This is an opportunity for us to reclaim the student voice and speak about issues that are important to us,” said ASUI President, Samantha Perez.

The breakfast will be held Jan. 25. Perez said the older generation doesn’t think students care about issues dealt with in the legislature.

“They think we just want to go to school and don’t care about decisions that are made,” Perez said. “But the truth is

that there are students that do care, and they are passionate about these issues — they’re passionate about higher ed.”

Bruno Bennett, who has been selected as the ASUI lobbyist for the 2012 legislative session, is organizing the event.

“I went last year and it was a really great experience,” Bennett said. “It’s a really good opportunity for any major to gain an experience and build their resume and open up opportunities in their future.”

Thirty-five students will have the opportunity to attend the legislative breakfast. This is the first year that students are able

SEE BREAKFAST, PAGE 5



Kyndall Elliott | Argonaut

Lambda Theta Phi members dance in the Student Union Building Gold and Silver rooms Saturday at the Gamma Lambda Toy Express Dance. Admission to the dance was a donation.



Amrah Canul | Argonaut

Ted Barrus ranks his peppers in order of “hotness” Nov. 30 in the Idaho Commons.

Ted the Fire Breathing Idiot

UI janitor partakes in pepper-eating challenges

Lindsey Treffry
Argonaut

Ted Barrus calls himself a “custodial engineer,” but the University of Idaho janitor has another name too — Ted the Fire Breathing Idiot.

Barrus is a pepper-eating sensation with nearly 70,000 YouTube viewers.

Barrus challenges friends and UI faculty to eat the hottest peppers sent to him from around the world, including the

SEE FIRE, PAGE 5

A Christmas for every kid

Greek organizations collect toys, money for children

Joanna Wilson
Argonaut

The beats of DJ Pedro Garcia filled the University of Idaho Student Union Building Gold and Silver rooms as students filtered into the Gamma Lambda Toy Express Dance Saturday night.

Gamma Alpha Omega Sorority and Lambda Theta Phi Fraternity sponsored the dance to collect toys and raise money for Christmas for Kids, a Moscow chari-

table organization.

Daniel Spaulding, a UI freshman, said he heard about the event from his mentors in Lambda Theta Phi.

“It’s a good cause for the kids,” Spaulding said. “It sounded like fun.”

The entrance fee to the event was either a new toy or a monetary donation. Hugo Velazquez, Lambda Phi Fraternity president, said about 100 people attended, donating 61 toys and \$347 in all.

“Mostly toys for 8 years

and younger — stuffed animals, little cars,” Velazquez said.

Velazquez said donations were about the same as the previous two years.

“Compare money-wise, last year we raised \$200,” Velazquez said. “We almost doubled it.”

Velazquez said they will also help Christmas for Kids deliver the gifts Dec. 9 to 17.

SEE CHRISTMAS, PAGE 5

IN THIS ISSUE



Read which true freshman helped lead Vandal men’s basketball against UC-Davis Saturday.

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OUR VIEW

Nothing like a rivalry to encourage school spirit — Read Our View.

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University of Idaho

Volume 113, Issue no. 29

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UI Swim Center, PE Building

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ASUI Student Organizations

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Questions? Contact Denise Carl (dcarl@uidaho.edu) or Butch Fealy (bfealy@uidaho.edu)

Jan 26 & 27

Registration due Jan 24

Leadership Dinner

Keynote: *One Better World*

Thurs. Mar 1

Questions? Contact Denise Carl (dcarl@uidaho.edu)

ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action

Want to host a Blood Drive or Vandal Community Tables for Spring 2012

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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Orphan Acres: Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation Sanctuary Horses

If interested go to www.orgsync.com/41099/events/3000080/show for more information

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THE INSIDE

CAMPUS METRICS & INTERACTIONS

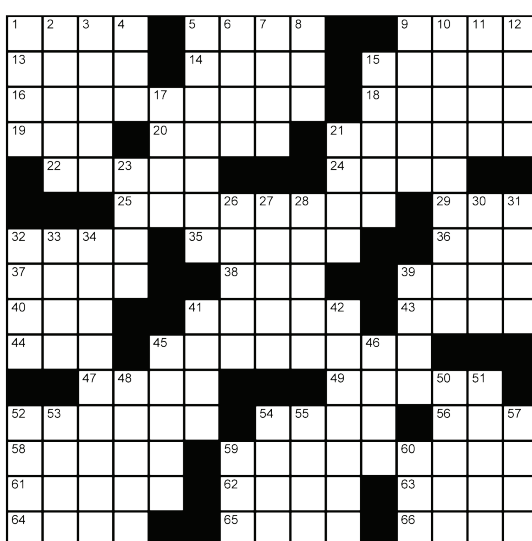


Eli Holland | Argonaut

CROSSWORD

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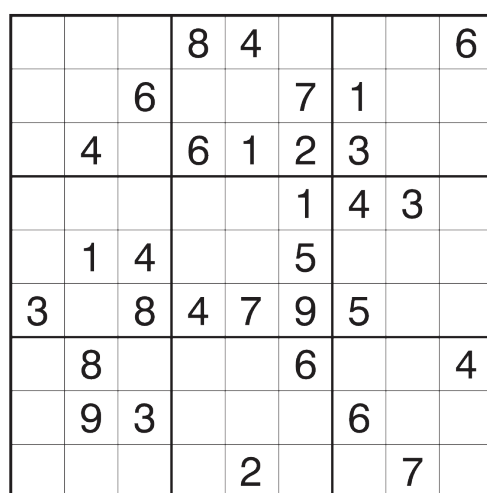


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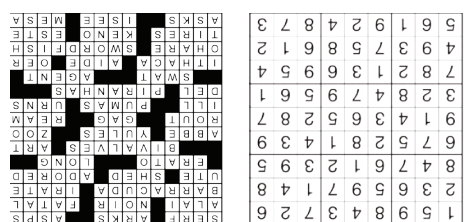
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SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS



THE FINE PRINT

Corrections

In "Reserve fees spent for students," published Dec. 2, Dan Savage is an author, columnist and creator of the "Savage Love" podcast. In "Toys to two-step" published Dec. 2, the Gamma Lambda Toy Express Dance was Dled by DJ Pedro Garcia.

On the web

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

UI Student Media Board

The UI Student Media Board meets at 4:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. Questions? Call Student Media at 885-7825, or visit the Student Media office on the SUB third floor.

Editorial Policy

The opinion page is reserved as a forum of open thought, debate and expression of free speech regarding topics relevant to the University of Idaho community. Editorials are signed by the initials of the author. Editorials may not necessarily reflect the views of the university or its identities or the other members of the Editorial Board. Members of the Argonaut Editorial Board are Elizabeth Rudd, editor-in-chief, Elisa Eiguren, opinion and managing editor, and Madison McCord, web manager.

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The Argonaut welcomes letters to the editor about current issues. However, The Argonaut adheres to a strict letter policy:

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

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Idaho Press Club Website General Excellence - Student, 1st place
SJI Mark of Excellence 2011: 3rd place website

Non-profit Identification Statement: The Argonaut, ISSN 0896-1409, is published twice weekly during the academic school year and is located at 301 Student Union, Moscow, ID 83844-4271.

The Argonaut is printed on newsprint containing 24-40 percent post-consumer waste. Please recycle this newspaper after reading. For recycling information, call the Moscow Recycling Hotline at (208) 882-0590.



Jazz Festival calls for volunteers for 2012 performances

Jonathan Gradin
Argonaut

The annual University of Idaho Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival relies on volunteers to help put on the event each year. Not just a handful of volunteers either, but close to 1,200.

"Without (volunteers) we couldn't do this," said Britnee Packwood, volunteer coordinator and UI student. "Last year we had I think 847 volunteers with 1200 hours."

This year's Jazz Fest runs Feb. 22-26 and features concerts by nationally-renowned artists as well as classes and critiques for middle- and high-school bands.

"These (volunteer positions) range from people delivering lunches to site managers to site volunteers to people driving the artists around," Packwood said. "Anything you can think of, we pretty much have it."

Don't have much time with a busy class schedule and a large extra-curricular load? No problem. Packwood said coordinators can work around schedules, with time slots beginning at 6 a.m. and going until evening. Volunteers can commit to as much or as little time as they are able, although a free Friday or Saturday night ticket is offered as incentive to those who give more than four hours during the week.

Volunteer registration is as easy as going to the website, lionelhamptonjazzfest.volunteerhub.com, creating an account and signing up for the shift that works with one's schedule. Drive team positions, however, require additional paperwork and proof of a driver's license.

Packwood said site volunteers are in high demand. According to the volunteer information sheet, site volunteers help manage student performances in the varying venues on campus

and in the community. Volunteers welcome students and directors, announce performers and make sure everyone is directed correctly.

"Normally we try to get the fraternities and sororities to adopt a site," Packwood said. "That means for the entire day it's their responsibility ... in 10 different sites. We really like it when the Greek community gets involved, as they need volunteer hours."

Packwood said those who enjoy spontaneity should apply to be a special teams volunteer. These volunteers are "the glue that holds the festival together," according to the info sheet. They are on-call for last-minute errands — such as delivering lunches and supplies — or to assist with under-staffed positions.

People with good customer service skills and an ability to retain information are encouraged to become registrar volunteers who assist

with check-in and general information services.

Drive team volunteers with a good driving record — and preferably the ability to drive in snow, Packwood said — are needed to give festival directors and artists rides to various locations throughout the city. Cars are provided for these volunteers, and insurance is not an issue, Packwood said.

Packwood is head of the newly-formed Vibe Masters, an ASUI club whose mission is to help promote the festival among the student body. She said that as this club has just been established, they don't have a website yet. For information, call the Jazz Fest office at 208-885-5900.

Volunteers are needed for pre-festival work such as marketing and publicity efforts. Packwood said interested parties should call or stop by the office in the Student Union Building, room 127.

'This land is your land, this land is my land'

Amy Asanuma
Argonaut

In honor of Lena Whitmore Elementary School's international week, 20 international students from the University of Idaho gave presentations about their home countries to various classrooms.

"Childhood is extremely vital, and so often traditions and cultures are not reflected on. I wanted students to experience thinking about their roots and share with children who are in developmental stages," said Denise "Glen" Kauffman, coordinator of the International Friendship Association.

The presentations were student-driven and created. Interested students signed up with Kauffman and prepared presentations about their country of origin. Students presented traditional games, language, and cultural traditions to each classroom they visited.

Audin Enot Centeno Torrez, a student studying through the Scholarships for Education and Economic Devel-

opment program, spoke of his home country Nicaragua.

"I started by introducing the country, but the kids had so many questions. They asked what the flag meant, the location of Nicaragua, how I grew up, and even what the national beer was," Torrez said.

After answering questions, Torrez taught simple words and phrases in Spanish. Even after his presentation, the students' curiosity continued to blossom, he said.

Carlos Ruiz, a student also studying through the SEED program, presented El Salvador. He described the basics of living in a tropical environment.

"I talked about the warm and humid weather in El Salvador. When I first came to Moscow in the summer, I was incredibly cold," Ruiz said.

He then showed pictures of his house, introduced his family, and brought pictures of various sights in the country.

"The enthusiasm was great," Ruiz said. "The kids loved what I had to say.

One even asked to travel in my suitcase with me back home."

Markus Geiger, a senior at UI, presented his home country of Germany in a slideshow.

"I made this presentation interactive," Geiger said. "I tested the students' knowledge, asking if they knew of any German cars or candy. I was always posing questions, keeping them as engaged as possible."

With the help of Diana Rosslorova, another international UI student, Geiger taught the German version of "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes" to the class. Afterward, Rosslorova told a classic German Christmas story to capture the children's interest.

"Everyone was enthralled. They were energetic and were not afraid to ask questions," Geiger said. "It made everything so much fun."

The International Friendship Association plans to have more students present at Westpark Elementary School in the spring.

BREAKFAST

FROM PAGE 1

to apply for the opportunity — in previous years the spots were appointed to students.

Former ASUI student lobbyist, Joe Black, said the committee is looking for the best and brightest students to represent the University of Idaho.

"It's a really great educational and networking experience for all of the students that are involved," Black said. "They get to see state government first-hand, and I think that's valuable for students even if they are not interested in politics because state legislature is making decisions about their lives and about the way that they live their lives."

The 35 students selected will represent each of the 35 legislative districts in Idaho and meet with the three legislators from their assigned district.

Black said ideally, the goal is to send a student who is actually from each district, but in some cases it's just not possible and students may be assigned to a different district.

This year, students will be asked to focus on two specific issues when meeting with their legislators.

"The first is faculty raises, and the second is financial aid for students," Bennett said.

Bennett said UI faculty has gone nearly five years without receiving a raise, and as a result it is becoming increasingly difficult to encourage faculty to remain at the university.

"If we continue on this way we're just going to lose valued faculty members," Bennett said.

Black said if the university is to remain competitive and recruit the best faculty it must be able to show that faculty have room to expand their roles and earn more compensation as they continue their commitment to the university.

Money for faculty raises comes from the Change in Employee Compensation funding pool. Every institution is behind on this funding. UI is approximately \$2 million behind, while BSU is nearly \$10 million behind on CEC funding.

"CEC funding, even the slightest raise in that, we feel would be a great step in the right direction," Black said.

All undergraduate students are eligible to apply to attend the legislative breakfast.

"We're looking for people with leadership experience, people who have a lot of Vandal pride, and people who are very passionate about education and their educational experience," Bennett said.

Perez said she encourages all students to apply because it's really important that the student voice is represented at the state legislature.

All expenses for the trip are paid for by ASUI and the Alumni Association, and students will receive excused absences from their classes for the three days spent in Boise.

"I encourage students of all ages, abilities, and majors to apply," Bennett said. "It's definitely a beneficial experience to anyone who has the privilege of going on this trip."

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Learning about law enforcement

Moscow Police Department hosts Citizen Police Academy

Katy Sword
Argonaut

The Moscow Police Department has hosted a Citizen Police Academy for 11 years, and will do so again beginning Jan. 24.

The course consists of 11 weekly meetings, usually on Tuesdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

"It's an overview of what we do, why we do it, how we do it and how we go home at night to keep everybody safe," Officer Jesse Applehans said. "A lot of people do it if they are interested in the career."

Classes cover "police history, the criminal justice system, patrol procedures, traffic & drug enforcement, criminal investigations, use of force, firearms training and

emergency vehicle operation," according to the City of Moscow's website.

The course is free and open to anyone, but seating is limited to about 25 participants, so those interested are encouraged to register early. Applications are available at the MPD until Jan. 9.

After spring break, there will be two Saturday classes. One will take place at the shooting range, the other will include a ride-along in a police vehicle.

The course is intended to educate citizens on the law enforcement profession while "enhancing communication lines to those citizens we serve and protect," also according to the Moscow city website.

"You can also get credit through the university," Applehans said.

WSU professor honored for public service

Katy Sword
Argonaut

The fourth Sheikh Community Unity Award was presented this year to Linda Pall, clinical associate professor of business law and coordinator of business law for the college of business at Washington State University.

The Sheikh Community Unity Award is presented biannually by the mayor of Moscow and was founded to honor the public service works of Ismat Ara and Abdul Sheikh in 2007 and to recognize "extraordinary contributions to diversity, inclusion, human rights, and public service in Moscow and the surrounding area," according to an October press release from the city of Moscow.

Pall received the award Nov. 17 in a surprise ceremony at the 1912 Center.

"It's a surprise to the recipient," Mayor Nancy Cheney said. "Although, we work behind the scenes to make sure they will be there. But with Linda you can't (keep it a secret) because her fingerprints are so ingrained in the community."

Pall said she was surprised to receive the award.

"I never for a moment, and I mean literally never, thought of myself as a person who

would be honored this way because there are so many other people," Pall said.

Pall joined the Moscow City Council in 1977 and served for 18 years. During her time on the council, and long after, she earned numerous awards including the Idaho State Bar Family Law Section Award of Distinction in 1990, the NLC Excellence in Leadership Award from



Linda Pall
Sheikh Community Unity Award recipient

National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) in 1998 and the National League of Cities Distinguished Service Award from the NBC-LEO in 2000.

"The thing that was so warm, pleasant and charming that night is how many people, friends and associates I had worked with over the years were there. I saw these people standing up and saying, 'Linda, you've done it,'" Pall said. "This was a hugeatta girl for me."

Pall was also instrumental in establishing the Moscow Human Rights Commission and the Finding the Center Human Rights Conference.

She was also honored by the Latah County Human Rights Task Force in 2002 with the Rosa Parks Hu-

man Rights Award, and in 2006 was named the Idaho Progressive Leader of the Year by United Vision.

"This award is tremendously important and I think Linda was very moved to be recognized," Cheney said. "It had to do with recognizing that we are human beings and what we can do to help each other."

The awardee is ultimately chosen by the mayor, but is based on nominations from the community. Anyone can nominate a community member, and once the period for submissions ends, the Human Rights Commission submits them to the mayor for consideration. The submission period ends the first week of October and Cheney said the decision takes weeks.

"We have tremendous competition going on here," Cheney said. "We have uncommonly engaged citizens here."

Pall received a plaque, her name was engraved alongside previous recipients on another plaque housed in City Hall and her name was placed on a commemorative stone in East City Park, according to the Moscow press release.

"We can thank the individual, but good can be contagious," Cheney said. "It's good for the community to reflect on the good things we have going on."



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FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

Naga Viper pepper, the Bhut Jolokia chili pepper — commonly called the ghost pepper — and the Trinidad Scorpion Butch T pepper. Barrus grows and eats them himself too.

"I had my friends eating them, but I was immediately addicted," Barrus said. "I didn't like spicy food, but (I found) it was a massive endorphin rush."

Barrus said people compare eating such peppers to being in combat.

"To fight off the pain ... it's indescribable," Barrus said.

Barrus' interest in pepper-eating spurred from watching YouTube videos of Darth Naga, a world famous pepper-eater from England, who works with a company called The Chile Foundry. Barrus said the sole purpose of his pepper-eating videos is to make people laugh.

"And I'm trying to get on Tosh.0," Barrus said.

His attempt to get on the show included dressing and talking like a hillbilly, with dark-rimmed glasses, a mullet wig and blacked-out teeth as he consumed a chocolate ghost pepper, a yellow 7-pot pepper, ghost pepper cashew brittle, a dried Scotch Bonnet, a red Trinidad Scorpion and a spoonful of Ten Minute Burn hot sauce, all followed by a stick of butter.

While the names of the peppers may not sound threatening, the heat of the peppers can be described in Scoville units. While jalapeno peppers range from 3,500 to 8,000 units and habaneros range from 100 to 350 thousand units, a Trinidad Scorpion Butch T — which holds the world record for hottest pepper — ranges from 1.1 to 1.5 million Scoville units.

When consuming peppers this

hot, Barrus said his body reacts in different stages.

"It burns in different places of your mouth," he said. "The side of your cheeks, your tongue, (your) throat. It's like a hot piece of charcoal stuck in your throat ... You start to forget about life in general because it feels like a blow torch in your throat."

He said the burn takes a long time to build and some burns build for up to 10 minutes.

He said there is no chest burn, but 15 to 20 minutes after the pepper reaches his stomach it feels like a red, hot poker behind his belly button. From there, he said post-digestion is what he calls the "ring of sting" and often has to throw up to get rid of the pain.

"It's still gonna hurt the next day," Barrus said.

Barrus said these reactions in the body occur due to human capsaicin

receptors.

"It's all in your mind," he said. "It's just dealing with the physical pain. It's mind over matter."

Barrus said he has attempted to challenge UI students, but most of them "chicken out." His sole pepper-eating companions include friends and coworkers.

Although UI Biological Sciences Research Associate, Karen Miller, has never attempted a pepper challenge, she said she tried one of Barrus' candied chilies.

"I thought, 'Okay, this is hot,' so I didn't keep it in my mouth," Miller said. "I can't imagine myself doing that."

Among Barrus' fellow pepper-eaters is another UI janitor, dubbed Naga Bob on Barrus' YouTube channel, who has participated in numerous pepper challenges.

"We became friends through work," Bob said. "I'd had some

pretty hot food before, but not to that level. I'd had a Scotch bonnet ... but I hadn't heard of a ghost pepper."

Bob is featured in Barrus' channel and has consumed a Death pepper and a Trinidad Scorpion 7-Pot Brain Strain among others.

"It feels like fire ants on the tongue," Bob said. "It's like you put your tongue on an electric fence."

Barrus has been consuming hot peppers for two years and said he realized although there are health benefits to eating peppers, his body's reaction proves that this hobby should not be long-lived.

"I have good life insurance," Barrus said.

To partake in Barrus' challenge or to watch his pepper-eating videos, visit youtube.com/user/tebdarrus or email him at tebdarrus@yahoo.com.

CULTURES

FROM PAGE 1

Breaking down barriers

Faheem, who is studying electrical engineering, said he decided to be part of the program because he was curious about other cultures.

"We live in a global village where you have to know other's culture, because if you want to live in a global village in every true sense of the word, you have to understand each other," Faheem said. "That's the only way we can promote understanding between people."

One goal of the program is to promote cross-cultural understanding, Abbasi said.

"We want to abolish the stereotypical notions that people have about Pakistan and that the Pakistani people have about Americans," she said.

Abbasi said she thought she would experience prejudice from Americans and that they would be arrogant toward her.

"We are staying in the dorms but we are still able to practice our religion and share our cultures with others," Abbasi said. "We realized, 'Oh, we were wrong too.'"

Mehmood said she and the other ambassadors found Moscow to be extremely friendly and open to other cultures.

"The best thing I like about American culture is that it absorbs a lot of other cultures," Mehmood said.

Faheem said he was at home in Moscow and never felt like he was an outsider.

"People are so friendly," Faheem said. "We are so far

from our home but we never feel that because people are there for you. They help us out."

Each student said conversations with other students often revolved around stereotypes in each other's culture. Mehmood said one of her classmates asked her what it felt like to be living in a war zone.

"I was like no, the city I live in, it's very peaceful. You know, occasionally things happen but he thought I lived in a war zone because of the media," Mehmood said.

Culture shock

Thousands of miles from home in a brand new country, Ahmad, Mehmood, Abbasi and Faheem all said the hardest part of coming to the U.S. was the food.

"I was so excited to try the food because it all looked so good on TV," Mehmood said. "But I tried it and it was so bad and it made me sick."

Faheem said he and his fellow Pakistanis are used to hot and spicy food, and the meals here were bland in comparison.

"I felt prepared for U.S. culture after watching TV and listening to music, but you cannot taste food in media," Ahmad said.

The ambassadors get together on weekends to cook traditional food, they said, and often invite other students and friends to join them.

Mehmood said she learned more about American culture by watching her roommates and how they interacted with friends and family. Even something like the perception of time

and punctuality are different across cultures, Faheem said.

Stamping passports

Each of the Pakistani students carries a "cultural passport" where they receive stamps for completing different activities in Moscow. Categories include such things as daily life, arts and music, sports and a mandatory 20 hours of community service.

Community service was a great way to get involved and learn more about the community, Abbasi said. She and the others served in the community through the Muslim Community of the Palouse doing highway cleanup projects and volunteering in soup kitchens. They also helped out other international students as "English language partners."

"We are not just exposed to American people but also to all other international students, so we get to learn about the world as well," Abbasi said.

Mehmood said one of her favorite parts of Moscow were the outdoor activities. So far she and the other students have been rafting, paintballing and ice-skating, among other activities.

"We have so many opportunities to try new things here, so every weekend is booked," Mehmood said.

The ambassadors also are required to give presentations on Pakistan culture to their classes at the university and to local high schools and elementary schools.

Abbasi said she gave a

presentation to a class of third graders and brought her traditional clothes and Pakistan's national flag.

"After the presentation I asked the students what they thought about Pakistan and they all yelled 'We love Pakistan' and I was so happy to hear that from them," she said.

The ambassadors also gave a presentation at Moscow High School and were able to sit down and speak with local students in person, Faheem said.

"It was a good chance for us to clear up misconceptions from the media and stereotypes," he said.

Education

Although the cultural ambassadors attend UI as non-degree seeking students, taking advantage of the American higher education system was a huge benefit of the program, Ahmad said.

Ahmad said one of the major differences between the Pakistani and American educational systems is that in Pakistan, once a student has chosen a field of study all of their courses are pre-assigned for the duration of

their studies. This makes it very difficult to take courses outside of their individual fields, Ahmad said.

"The thing I love about the American educational system here is that you are not forced to select any kind of subject, it's up to you to choose whatever you want," he said.

The ambassadors are required to take at least one course in their field of study and one in American studies, but the rest of their credits may be filled with whatever courses they please. Ahmad is taking public speaking and Mehmood, who is studying business, is taking a foreign language.

"I never would have had the opportunity to take these classes in Pakistan, because they are outside of my school," Mehmood said.

Faheem said he enjoyed the opportunity to work with engineering professors who had done research and had a lot of practical knowledge.

"At home we learn all the equations and mathematics, here you get a practical taste of everything and how it's actually used," Faheem said.

As cultural ambassadors, Ahmad said he and his fellow Pakistani students feel a huge amount of responsibility to represent the best side of their country and culture.

"I always think before doing anything, because if I do anything wrong people won't blame me, they will blame my religion or my culture," Ahmad said.

After six months in the U.S., their ultimate goal, they said, remains the same.

"The message we want to say is if people of America have the chance to have a first-hand experience in Pakistan or the culture there, that would be such a good thing because the media exaggerates everything," Faheem said.

While IREX does not currently offer any program that brings U.S. students to Pakistan, Faheem said there is a program that brings teachers to the country for a week at a time to work in local schools.

Ahmad, Faheem, Mehmood and Abbasi said they are all hoping to return to the U.S. in the future to complete their master's or doctorate degrees.

CHRISTMAS

FROM PAGE 1

Carlos Ibarria said he came to the dance because it was a good cause.

"It's just a fun thing to do, to go to and give a toy or money, or whatever," Ibarria said.

Daniel Urrutia, a member of Lambda Theta Phi, helped promote the dance by making posters and setting up displays.

"We wanted to make this

a bigger event, since this is our third year doing it," Urrutia said. "It started off slow (tonight), but it's picking up."

Urrutia said the men in his house are interested in helping people who are less fortunate.

"Especially for the holidays," Urrutia said. "Not a lot of families — or children for that matter — can have as good a Christmas as others, and so one thing we really wanted to do was give

them something special for the holidays."

Urrutia said students should be aware that need does not begin and end with the holidays.

"We've helped out with the food bank in the past, and they've pushed to get as much (food) as they can," Urrutia said. "Just be aware of what's going on in the community and help out whenever you can and where you can."



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VANDAL NATION

BASKETBALL

Team effort leads to victory

Theo Lawson
Argonaut

Three players scored more than 15 points, true freshman Connor Hill lit it up from 3-point range and Vandal men's basketball sent a roundhouse punch to UC Davis Saturday, defeating the Aggies 94-74 in California.

It was a much-needed win for coach Don Verlin's team, which now prepares for potentially its toughest match-up of the 2011-2012 campaign, a home game against Pac-12 opponent Washington State Wednesday evening.

Saturday though, belonged to the Vandals who picked up their first road win of the season against a Division I opponent.

Verlin applauded the performance he witnessed from his team Saturday.

"I thought our team energy, our team effort was good and it was a good bounce back win for the Vandals," he said. "I had some lineups out there that I haven't had out there before and I thought some guys stepped in there and played very well ... I thought we did a very nice job passing the ball and I hope that continues."

Idaho set the tone early and a breakout half from Deremy Geiger saw the senior point guard hit three of four from beyond the arc, helping the Vandals to a 43-30 lead at halftime.

Despite a well-rounded effort from the Vandals, the 2011 Idaho 5A Player of the Year took over with 14 minutes remaining in the second half. Hill, who was originally supposed to redshirt his freshman season, knocked down his first 3-point attempt and

then his next four, setting him at a career-high 17 points. The Post Falls native was 5-6 from 3-point range and 6-8 from the field in just 12 minutes of play.

"He did what we brought him off of red-shirt to do and heck of a performance in the second half by him," Verlin said.

Despite a surprise performance from the true freshman, sophomore forward Stephen Madison was the unanimous offensive and defensive MVP for the Vandals.

Madison led the squad with 19 points and came up big on the boards, grabbing a game-high eight rebounds.

Idaho's biggest lead stood at 22 points and came early in the second half when the Vandals went on an 11-0 run, six of those points coming from junior college transfer Dazmond Starke, who came off the bench

to add nine points and six rebounds.

And that's just the kind of day it was for an Idaho team that received 34 points from four bench players.

Center Kyle Barone contributed 15 points, four rebounds and three steals, and talked about the importance of the newcomers familiarizing themselves with their roles.

"These guys stepping up, now they know what they can do out there and they can give us a lift off the bench when we need it," Barone said.

UC Davis was led by Eddie Miller, whose 22 points led all scorers. Miller came off the bench, was 4-4 from 3-point land and 6-6 from the free throw line.

SEE VICTORY, PAGE 8



Amrah Canul | Argonaut

Vandal all-around swimmer Rachel Millet runs freestyle drills at practice Monday in the University of Idaho Swim Center. The Vandal women beat the Fresno State Bulldogs 165-135 Saturday in Fresno.

Victory on the road for swim and dive

Stephen Wiebe
Argonaut

The Idaho swimming and diving team will go into winter break on a high note after beating the Fresno State Bulldogs 165-135 Saturday in Fresno.

The Vandals won nine of 16 events, and coach Mark Sowa said he was most impressed by his team's toughness and tenacity after a difficult week of training.

"We came out aggressive," Sowa said. "The (team) knew this was going to be a challenge. We just kept our foot on the accelerator and just kept trying to put together good races."

The first event of the day, the 400 medley relay, set the tone for the meet with the Vandals taking first and third in the event. The winning team consisted of freshman Erica Anderson,

junior Kelsie Saxe, freshman Rachel Millet and sophomore Megan Venlos, and beat the Bulldogs by 0.04 seconds.

"(The race) was really exciting," Sowa said. "Megan Venlos is a heck of a good finisher. She swam against a very good freestyler and got her hand on the wall."

In addition to the medley, Millet took first place in the 200 free, 100 free and 500 free. Anderson finished first in the 100 back, 200 back and was part of the winning 200 free relay with Venlos, and seniors Si Jia Pang and Katie Hendricks.

"(Millet and Anderson) are a pleasure to work with," Sowa said. "Every day those two make each other better. They bring a lot of young energy to our team."

Junior Paige Hunt won the 3-meter

dive for the Vandals with 258.45. She also took second in the 1-meter dive.

Sowa was quick to point out that the Vandals would not have won without the second and third place finishes as well.

"To single out performances would always be a mistake," Sowa said. "There were swims like (the second and third place finishes) that kind of could go underneath the radar. Our team notices that and feeds off of those swims."

The victory over Fresno State signals the end of competition for the fall semester. The Vandals now focus on training and improving over winter break. The Vandals won't compete again until Jan. 21 when they take on New Mexico State. The team will get

SEE SWIM, PAGE 8



Spencer Farrin | Courtesy

Princeton McCarty dodges a tackle during Saturday's game versus the Nevada Wolf Pack in Reno. The Vandals lost 56-3 in their last game of the season. They were only able to accumulate 306 offensive yards. The loss leaves Idaho at 2-10 for the season and 1-6 in the WAC.

Not even close

Nevada has field day in 56-3 victory against Idaho

Nick Groff
Argonaut

All season Idaho football coach Robb Akey said how close to success his Vandals were in every losing contest.

In Saturday's season finale, Idaho was farther from success, leaving Reno the victim of a 53-point drubbing at the hands of the Wolf Pack.

Idaho (2-10, 1-6 WAC) held Nevada (7-5, 5-2 WAC) scoreless through nearly the entire first quarter, but once the Wolf Pack put seven points on the board with 20 seconds remaining in the first quarter, the screws came loose and the wheels fell off for the Vandals.

"The way things started, I thought we'd have a chance," Akey said. "Then we didn't get the stops made. We didn't play well on offense."

Idaho didn't play well on defense either, allowing Nevada to accumulate almost 600 yards of total offense and nine touchdowns in the 56-3 loss at Mackay Stadium.

Idaho athletic director Rob Spear said he would be meeting with Akey Monday to "evaluate every point regarding (the)

football team."

"I don't even know what to say about this," Spear said. "It was an unacceptable performance from our football team ... we are going to get better."

Speculation has flown regarding job security for multiple positions on the Idaho coaching staff, but

no further announcement has been made regarding the details of the meeting between Akey and Spear.

Not many positives were brought back to Moscow, but senior linebacker Tre'Shawn Robinson pocketed nine tackles, including one-and-a-half tackles for loss, a sack and a forced fumble. Fellow senior running back Kama Bailey accounted for 69 all-purpose yards and punter Bobby Cowan maintained his punting average for second place in the nation, just 0.59 yards off first place.

The Idaho offense was not able to score a touchdown and netted only three points off 306 total offensive yards.

"We were moving the ball," Bailey said. "We just weren't finishing. This is not how we wanted to go out."

The game chucks up as the worst loss since Idaho fell to Arizona 0-70 in 2008.

Hanging in there

Idaho fell to Colorado 68-54

Kevin Bingaman
Argonaut

The Vandals were down three with less than two minutes to go at Colorado.

Idaho women's basketball had hung with the Pac-12 foe all game and it came down to the end, but it just was not to be as the Buffaloes went on a 10-0 run to end the game, handing the Vandals another loss, 68-59.

For the second straight game Idaho (2-6) fell to a Pac-12 team. The Buffaloes (7-0) started the season on a terror and hold a perfect record.

The Vandals turned the ball over 11 times, the lowest this season. Idaho coach Jon Newlee said he was happy with the way the offense clicked.

"I liked our offensive execution," Newlee said. "I thought we really kept our poise and we did a good job of running our stuff and had a little more inside out balance than we've had."

Idaho is a young team

and Newlee said he's happy with the team's improvement thus far.

"I told them after the game that I was real encouraged by the progress just from the last game to this one," Newlee said. "We just got done playing two Pac-12 opponents who are going to do well in their league."

Colorado's Chucky Jeffery was the difference for the Buffaloes. Jeffery racked up 30 points with 10 rebounds and was 4-5 from the 3-point line.

"Just too much Chucky today," Newlee said. "She did a great job and she really came to play. We kind of backed off of her at the start to see how it would go, and she burned us a little early."

Freshman Stacey Barr and sophomore Alyssa Charlston each had 12 points for Idaho, while junior Jessica Graham pitched in with six points and seven rebounds.

SEE HANGING, PAGE 8



File photo by Zach Edwards | Argonaut

Senior Adrie Shiels prepares for a shot against a Gonzaga defender during the basketball game Nov. 17, in Memorial Gym. The Vandals lost to Colorado 68-54 Sunday.

WAC round-up: Week 14

Theo Lawson
Argonaut



VS.

Utah State 24, New Mexico State 21



Utah State was bowl eligible prior to Saturday's game but the win earned it a berth to the Idaho Potato Bowl. New Mexico State

kept it close until the last minute of the game when Utah State concluded a successful drive with an Adam Kennedy touchdown pass to Matt Austin with 35 seconds remaining.

Utah State scored the game's first touchdown but New Mexico State didn't go away, and replied with three touchdowns of their own. The visiting Utah State Aggies took advantage of an unstoppable ground game that saw four players rush for at least 60 yards. Michael Smith led Utah State with 121 yards on 18 carries and Kennedy threw for 123 yards and three touchdown passes, completing 75 percent of his passes.



VS.

BYU 41, Hawaii 20



The Cougars have been the WAC's Achilles heel all season and Saturday's match-up in Honolulu wasn't any different when the visitors rose to 5-0 against WAC opponents. BYU will play Tulsa in

the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl. Despite Hawaii's six wins, the Warriors also have seven losses and won't represent the conference during bowl season.

The Warriors were competitive early, and scored the game's first touchdown then took a 13-10 lead into halftime before the Cougar onslaught began. BYU found the end zone four times in the third quarter and Hawaii scored just once in the second half.

The Warriors haven't found an offensive rhythm since losing quarterback Bryant Moniz to injury. BYU quarterback Riley Nelson on the other hand, threw for 363 yards and three touchdowns and the Cougars outrushed the Warriors 167-17.



VS.

San Diego State 35, Fresno State 28



Saturday's loss in San Diego was Bulldog coach Pat Hill's last game at the helm in Fresno, the 59-year-old was fired shortly after the game. The Aztecs will be on a plane to New Orleans for the Carriers New Orleans Bowl Dec. 17, but had trouble with Fresno State early Saturday.

The Bulldogs blocked a field goal in the first quarter and returned it 56 yards for a touchdown, then extended their lead following an 88-yard pass from Derek Carr to Jalen Saunders. Carr found Josh Harper for a 23-yard touchdown pass to make it a three-touchdown game but San Diego

A season to remember

Volleyball finishes season at 16-11

Kevin Bingaman
Argonaut

It was a season to remember for Idaho volleyball. The Vandals finished the season 16-11 and claimed the second seed going into the WAC tournament, the highest the program has finished since joining the conference in 2005.

The momentum didn't continue into the tournament as the Vandals were eliminated in the semifinals by New Mexico State. Idaho coach Debbie Buchanan said the loss was a big disappointment, and her team is hungry to get back next season.

"They were pretty upset after that match, and I don't blame them," Buchanan said. "They worked hard and had a great week of practice and we're doing everything right."

Buchanan said the experience is tough to deal with but she feels her players will learn from it. She said her team's focus helped it get as far as it did.

"I think if you look at the team, the kids this year were really locked in and they had their eyes set on where they wanted to finish," Buchanan said. "They worked for it and I'm really proud of them. They didn't let outside things affect them and I think their determination is the best we've seen in the past few years."

Idaho took home a pile of

awards from the WAC awards banquet. Outside hitters Allison Walker and Alicia Milo earned first-team all-WAC honors while libero Cassie Hamilton, setter Jenny Feicht and middle blocker Alex Sele earned second-team all-WAC. Middle blocker Alyssa Schultz earned WAC all-freshman team.

Buchanan took home WAC Coach of the Year for the first time in her career. She said it's more about the team than her.

"It's a great honor," Buchanan said. "I don't think you get that though without a great staff and a great team that comes to work hard every day. It's nice that my peers voted for me, but I look at it more as a program award."

Next year the Vandals will be without Cassie Hamilton, Alicia Milo and Rylee Walker, who graduate. All three seniors played an important role on this year's team and Buchanan said they'll be hard to replace.

"We have a number of players who are going to be in position to jump into those positions and fight for things," Buchanan said. "Even with those kids jumping in, the one thing that is hard to replace is experience."

Next year the WAC will look a lot different for Buchanan and the Vandals. Most notable will be the



Zach Edwards | Argonaut

Rylee Walker spikes a ball during the last home match of the season Oct. 29 against New Mexico State. In the 2011 season, the Vandal volleyball team had a 16-11 record overall and was 10-4 in WAC play.

exit of Hawaii. The Warriors have ruled the conference for the past decade and usually had a high national rank. Buchanan said it's going to be anyone's conference next year.

"It's sad to lose Hawaii because they're such a great opponent," Buchanan said. "I think it's going to open up the conference and allow some other teams to win some championships now. You're not playing the No. 6 team in the country on a

regular basis."

Idaho will have a long wait before getting back on the floor. Buchanan said her team is going to work on developing its game and decreasing errors in the off-season. She said her team is hungry for more and she is confident that they will be back in the running next year.

"I feel pretty confident about next year and where our teams going to be at," Buchanan said. "I see us getting better."

What were these NFL teams thinking?

The NFL is a quarterback league. Teams live and die by the quarterback and if the right man isn't under center, it can be disastrous. Not all teams are blessed with a franchise quarterback and this year some teams put less-than-stellar quarterbacks under center. Here are the top four quarterback fails from this season.

No. 4 Tarvaris Jackson
What were the Seahawks thinking on this one? You give up Matt Hasselbeck for Jackson? Yes, he has had some good moments, but he is definitely not the guy you want out there week after week. So far this season he has thrown for 10 touch-

downs and 12 interceptions. Jackson is not the caliber of quarterback that's going to lead Seattle out of the gutter.

No. 3 Donovan McNabb



Kevin Bingaman
Argonaut

McNabb had the resume coming into this season. He was a good quarterback for many years in Philadelphia and the Vikings wanted a veteran around to help develop Christian Ponder, but McNabb didn't come as advertised. In the six games he played with Minnesota he threw just four touchdowns. Ever since McNabb left Philly he hasn't looked the same. Maybe he didn't fit in with the Minnesota system or he just doesn't have it

anymore, but his stint with the Vikings goes down as an utter failure.

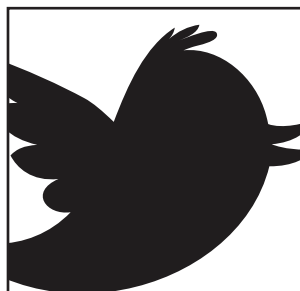
No. 2 Curtis Painter

If there is anything that proves how important the quarterback is in the NFL, it's the situation in Indianapolis. In one season the Colts went from a Super Bowl contender to a team that has the potential to go 0-16, and it's all because Peyton Manning is out. Since then the Colts have tried numerous guys at the position, including Curtis Painter. Painter has been Peyton's backup for a while. He finally got his chance to show what he has learned, and he failed miserably. In nine games he has thrown six touchdowns and nine interceptions,

while only completing 54 percent of his passes. The only thing Painter proved is how good Peyton is. Colts fans just want to get the season over with so they can see Manning back — or could it be Luck?

No. 1 Caleb Hanie

The Bears looked like they were putting all the pieces together to make another run at the Super Bowl, but in the past two weeks those dreams have come crashing down with the injury to Jay Cutler. In two games Hanie has thrown for six interceptions and the Bears have lost both games. The Bears can't get Cutler back soon enough, but in the meantime maybe it's time we see a certain former Vandal make his debut.



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HANGING

FROM PAGE 6

The Vandals gave up a 4-20 advantage in second-chance points, which Newlee said was the difference in the game.

"I thought we lost the game on the glass," Newlee said. "The second-chance points really hurt us. We knew coming in they were really long, big and have a lot of size and we needed to block out and not give them those second looks."

The Vandals will come back home beginning with Carroll College at 6 p.m. Thursday in Memorial Gym.

SWIM

FROM PAGE 6

a week off for Christmas before travelling to Arizona to continue training.

"(The team) has tasted a little bit of success and these kids are hungry for more," Sowa said. "We have to swim really well to be competitive in this conference."

VICTORY

FROM PAGE 6

Washington State comes to Moscow with a 4-4 record and consecutive wins against Grambling State and an Eastern Washington team that beat Idaho last Wednesday.

The Cougars, who graduated Pac-12 standout Klay Thompson last term, are led by senior guard Faisal Aden who averages 16.3 points-per-game.

"Vandal fans, students come out it's going to be a great atmosphere. I thank Washington State for playing this game, a lot of teams won't do a home and home," Verlin said. "The rivalry's gone on a long time. We've played over there two consecutive years in a row... I know our guys are going to be extremely excited to play, same with Washington State and it's going to be a heck of a rivalry game."

Tipoff is at 7:05 p.m. in the Cowan Spectrum and students will be able to enter the arena at 5:30, a half hour before the general public.



Guard Landon Tatum goes up for a shot against Eastern Washington Nov. 30 in Memorial Gym. The Vandals played UC-Davis Saturday defeating them 94-74.

File photo by Lucia Sanchez | Argonaut

49ers beat Rams 26-0 for 1st playoffs since '02

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — All week long, Frank Gore had a quick, supportive message to ease Jim Harbaugh's mind whenever he sensed his coach was unnerved: "Coach, we got this."

"He came up to me probably a half dozen times," Harbaugh said. "I believed him. I trusted him."

Gore made good on his mantra, all right. He's headed to the playoffs for the first time, and as San Francisco's career rushing leader to boot.

The two-time Pro Bowler and his 49ers trounced the beat-up St. Louis Rams 26-0 on Sunday to become the NFL's second team to secure a playoff berth behind unbeaten defending Super Bowl champion Green Bay.

Harbaugh's team, in command since Week 1, wrapped up that long-awaited NFC West title with four games to go. This has been quite the resurgence for a once-proud franchise determined to return to the glory days of Jerry Rice and Joe Montana, Steve Young and Roger Craig.

Gore waved a giant 49ers flag all the way back to the celebratory locker room.

He and Vernon Davis, Alex Smith and Patrick Willis, they're all taking their trusted leader, "A" Harbaugh, "A" to the postseason next month as playoff first-timers.

The 49ers are division champs and back in the playoffs for the first time since 2002.

"It's sweet to clinch it, especially at home," said Smith, the 2005 No. 1 overall pick who has been beaten down time and time again during a rocky seven years in the Bay Area only to prevail under Harbaugh's guidance. "It's the first step. We talked about it all week, "A" win the division. Obviously it hasn't been

done around here in almost a decade. We've talked about it since I've been here, and it's no different this year."

Harbaugh delivered exactly what the 49ers hired him for back in January: immediate success, a major transformation in a matter of months. So much for the lockout slowing him down.

Left tackle Joe Staley delivered the Gatorade dousing on Harbaugh's head in the closing moments, "A" sneaking up on the coach at the 2-minute warning. Or so he thought. Harbaugh, a 15-year NFL quarterback himself in his day, dodged out of the way to avoid being fully soaked.

"This step, this game today is for all those strong and mighty men who have been carrying the flag for this many years," Harbaugh said. "Each year that they've been here, thinking that was going to be the year, the year we go to the playoffs ... and there's disappointment when you don't make that."

Gore helped run San Francisco (10-2) right into the postseason, passing late Hall of Famer Joe Perry and finishing with 73 yards to become the franchise leader in yards rushing at 7,417.

Smith threw second-half touchdowns of 52 and 56 yards to Michael Crabtree and Kyle Williams, respectively, and David Akers kicked four field goals to help Harbaugh join George Seifert (1989) and Steve Mariucci (1997) as the only rookie coaches in franchise history to win the division.

The only downer came when Willis left the game in the first half with a right hamstring injury that Harbaugh afterward said he didn't consider serious.

Rams quarterback A.J. Feeley struggled in place of injured starter Sam Bradford for the

reeling Rams (2-10), who watched several more key players go down.

Even Feeley needed X-rays afterward on his right thumb.

"It's kind of the same story we've had all year. We just can't seem to put anything together," he said. "It's like a clock where everybody's got to be in sync. When that doesn't happen you put yourself in a tough situation."

The 49ers bounced back from a discouraging 16-6 loss at Baltimore on Thanksgiving night against the Ravens and Harbaugh's big brother, John, with another methodical victory. Smith was sacked nine times in that game and four more Sunday.

Despite further problems converting in the red zone early, San Francisco shut out an opponent for the first time since a 35-0 home win at Candlestick Park on Oct. 4, 2009. That was also the Rams' last shutout.

The Inners also avenged a late-season loss from 2010 that was still plenty fresh. They had won five straight before losing at St. Louis in the second-to-last week. It was after that game when coach Mike Singletary was fired. That led to the high-profile hiring of Harbaugh in January. And the 49ers' transformation began in earnest.

San Francisco's impressive season might help shed that "NFC Worst" stigma from the West.

"It's not a Hollywood team," Harbaugh said. "It's a blue-collar team."

Smith, who didn't start that last game against the Rams, completed 17 of 23 passes for 274 yards with no interceptions to finish with a career-high 142.3 quarterback rating. He gave way to rookie backup Colin Kaepernick midway through the fourth.

Gore ran for 2 yards early in the second

quarter to give him 7,345 career yards rushing, moving him past Perry (7,344) for most in franchise history.

The 28-year-old Gore, a two-time Pro Bowl selection in his seventh NFL season, has said it was a goal for this season to become the career rushing leader. "A" though getting to the playoffs for the first time has always been the top priority.

"There've been some tough years here," Gore said. "To get an opportunity to get to the postseason and to get it early, that's a blessing."

Gore and his teammates are wearing No. 34 helmet decals this season in honor of Perry, the first player with back-to-back 1,000-yard rushing seasons and nicknamed "The Jet" for his sensational speed. He died in April at age 84.

Willis watched the second half on the sideline in a sweat suit.

The four-time Pro Bowler landed awkwardly after missing a tackle on fullback Brit Miller, who grabbed an 18-yard completion from Feeley with 4:28 left in the first quarter. Willis' body twisted as he fell to the ground and he stayed down for a short time as trainers ran out to check on him, then helped him limp off the field.

Akers kicked field goals of 36 and 19 yards then booted a 28-yarder 1:41 before halftime for his 31st of the year, topping Jeff Wilkins' single-season franchise mark of 30 set in 1996.

The 49ers certainly hope there's more to come.

"We want to make it to the championship. It's something we've been wanting for a long time," Davis said. "This is the reason why I'm here. It means a lot to me."

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OPINION



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OUR VIEW

Time to bring it back

We can't always love our neighbors. In fact, sometimes they are the best candidates for friendly competition — or a college rivalry.

Washington State University might not be in the same conference, or even the same state, but with only eight miles separating the Vandals and the Cougars it's a traditional rivalry that has been ongoing for more than 100 years.

But in the 40 years that Boise State University was the focus, Vandals have lost sight of a rivalry that has been around since 1894.

While it has been four years since UI and WSU have competed on the football field, the

basketball teams will face off Wednesday for the 107th consecutive year.

We might not have rivalry banter built up against the Cougs like the terms directed toward the Broncos, but this is our chance to revive a historical rivalry and the school spirit that used to be so strong.

Like all rivalry sporting events, the level of intensity and its effects are always a concern, especially when students are involved. This is the exact reason both rivalries have been drastically downsized in recent years. There will always be those people who take it too far, but

that's why it is important for the majority of students to remember the true purpose of a rivalry.

Rivalries are supposed to be about competition, excellence in sports and academics, showing pride and claiming superiority, even if only for a year. It's about wearing school colors, singing the fight song, screaming like crazy and having fun.

The Battle of the Palouse has not been given the attention it deserves. It's a tradition that started shortly after both schools opened their doors. In that time, UI and WSU have expanded their campuses, increased enrollment and developed their institutions. The

rivalry between the Vandals and Cougars is a connection between two universities that have grown up next door to one another.

Throughout the years, students at both universities have shared classes, university resources, public transportation and stores. We shop together at Walmart and mingle at bars when the weekend comes around. UI and WSU students are probably more similar than we think, which is one reason the rivalry has remained long standing and good-natured.

Even though we may be friends, friendship doesn't exist on the basketball court.

—EE and ER

OFF THE CUFF

QUICK TAKES ON LIFE FROM OUR EDITORS

From the mouth of babes

I was getting ready to leave the other night and I asked my 3-year-old how I looked and he said, "You look fat, Dad."

—Jake

Just a little cheer

My amazing roommate came back this weekend with a Christmas tree, ornaments and a freaking sweet wreath for our house. Plus, we already had lights. Our duplex is going to be so festive when we're done decorating. I am so excited. It will be super awesome.

—Elizabeth

Sheesh

I'm beginning to think Siri is getting annoyed with my constant queries. She's been giving me some real lip lately.

—Anja

Nope, don't think so

Boise State is 11-1 just like Alabama and Oklahoma State. BSU deserves a shot at the BCS Championship game. Wow ... that really sounds stupid when I say it out loud.

—Madison

'Gilmore Girls'

"I'm rooming with a Stephen King novel."

—Rhiannon

SEC times two

LSU v. Alabama will be a great National Championship game with hard-nosed defense and prolific offense. The haters need to be quiet.

—Theo

To the wannabe hipsters

That ship has sailed, find something new. Also, your outfit is terrible.

—Jacob

Christmas gift

Girls, if your boyfriend asks for a duck call just go buy him a duck. Tell him to get it to call just poke it. Upside is when he comes back empty-handed you still have at least one duck.

—Jens

You know what I like?

Fresh Krispy Kreme doughnuts. In the Idaho Commons, studying between classes or on my way to class. You can have some too. Starting at 9 a.m. Wednesday in support of Engineers Without Borders-UI and a project to help bring potable water to the people of Chivirapi, Bolivia.

—Amrah

Yum

I don't care if Scentsy products are a pyramid scam, my room smells like a cupcake and it's delicious.

—Elisa

Helmets and pads, folks

In the 1905 college football season, 18 players died. Safety regulations were added after that. The things you learn from reading the oatmeal packaging...

—Vicky

Keep holding on

The last two weeks of the semester are stressful. Remember to breathe — and more importantly — to laugh. Remember who you are and why you're here. Try to focus on one task at a time. It is not the end of the world, I promise. Always remember, keep moving forward.

—Britt



VANDAL VOICES

OPINIONS FROM OUR READERS ON FACEBOOK

Do you think team rivalries encourage school spirit? Why or why not?



"What is a rivalry these days? Usually a rivalry is competitive and long-standing. Idaho does not have a rivalry. We were never really competitive with WSU, and BSU left us for greener pastures. So who does Idaho compete against?"

Stephen Conklin
Posted to Facebook Dec. 4

"I think they do. They promote school pride, encourage school traditions and bring students/faculty/alumni together to cheer on their team. So rivalries definitely encourage schools, especially if you win. And if you lose you know there will be another shot at them next season."

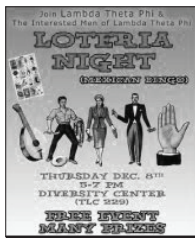


Victor Ferral
Posted to Facebook Dec. 4

"Yes, they do. You want your team to win that much more. Sure you will 'diss' the other teams but that's what all the fun is.

Just like when we played against 'Pony State,' our Vandal pride came out more."

Daniel Urrutia
Posted to Facebook Dec. 4



"Yes. Much like nationalism and rivalries on the world stage, school rivalries are often an incentive for students to show off what makes their school so great, whether it is sports or music or academics. They feel the need to take pride in their school."

Shannon Kelly
Posted to Facebook Dec. 5



Mail Box

Support Vandal basketball

Dear Students,
I would like to personally invite you to the men's basketball game against Washington State University at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Cowan Spectrum. It is the Battle of the Palouse — a storied rivalry game for us and something every University of Idaho student should experience.

I encourage you to come out to the game, bring your friends and be rowdy so that we show our Palouse neighbors what we're made of. We will open the doors to the Cowan Spectrum for students at 5:30 p.m., 30 minutes before the general public, to ensure you have the best seats for this game.

The team and I appreciate your support and we look forward to seeing you in Cowan Spectrum as we take on the Cougars.

Go Vandals.

Sincerely,
Don Verlin
Idaho men's basketball coach

More info

Follow Idaho men's basketball on Facebook: facebook.com/VandalHoops.



Welcome to the police state

The Senate recently passed the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2012, voting



Eric Czirr
Argonaut

93-7. If approved by the House, NDAA will give the military power to detain individuals — including U.S. citizens — indefinitely without a trial.

But this should not be allowed to happen.

If the NDAA were to pass, the right to a fair trial would be damaged. It is true that the act applies only to those suspected of terrorism, but because there is no due process after detainment there would be no way to prove your innocence if you were wrongly accused. Under NDAA a suspect can be held with no trial for as long as desired. This would give the military power to undercut police forces and the Department of Justice.

The American Civil Liberties Union has made statements about the bill, saying "all state and federal law enforcement would be preempted by the military." The ACLU also points out loopholes in the bill, which would extend military jurisdiction to civilians in the United States who would otherwise be outside of military control.

Perhaps what is more puzzling than the bill itself is that the media has only narrowly covered this topic. Of course, the most recent Herman Cain scandal is probably more important than the corrosion of civil liberty.

This could be because some do not see anything wrong with extending this power to the military

in pursuit of the famous war on terror. There are also arguments that giving this power to the military would not change anything for a vast majority of people. Although this could be the case, it is not something to gamble on.

Civil liberties have continually been degraded by legislation since the establishment of our government, and post 9/11 we have continued to move away from civil liberties. Immediately after 9/11 the PATRIOT Act was passed, which single-handedly diminished Americans' right to privacy and expanded police power far beyond reasonable measure. The PATRIOT Act was passed based on the grounds that a stronger police force was



needed to crack down on terrorism. If NDAA passes this power will be extended to the military as well. So while this might seem like a small step, it is still a step toward a military state.

So if you like the right to a fair trial — or at least the option to one — then write your representatives and ask them to vote down NDAA. Or go online to do some research and educate yourself on this issue. Regardless of the reasons for NDAA, the military should not have this power.

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