

THE ARGONAUT

THE VANDAL VOICE SINCE 1898

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Friday, January 13, 2012

UI cuts back Tuition Reciprocal Agreement

Katy Sword
Argonaut

Recent budget cuts have led the University of Idaho to examine some of its programs and reevaluate those that are no longer sustainable, including the Tuition Reciprocal Agreement.

The Tuition Reciprocal Agreement waives class tuition for employees and spouses of state agencies and other higher education institutions in the state.

SEE TUITION, PAGE 5



Kyndall Elliott | Argonaut

The Idaho Commons VandalStore closed at the beginning of the semester because of insufficient revenue. Supplies will be available at VandalExpress in the Commons or at the VandalStore across from the Student Union Building.

VandalStore closes two branches

Katy Sword
Argonaut

The Idaho Commons VandalStore and the Underground in Wallace Residence Center have been closed due to insufficient revenue.

Both University of Idaho bookstore locations offered various supplies and sundries.

"The final decision was made last month, but we are always looking at the performance of our units, so it's been an ongoing process," said John Bales, VandalStore director.

Bales said any product available in the VandalStore will be in the VandalExpress, and items offered in the Underground are available in the Sixth Street Marketplace. The only exception is art supplies.

"Things like art supplies we moved to the Commons to try and get closer to art and architecture students, so it will just be moved back (to the VandalStore)," Bales said.

Both locations are in the process of transferring out of the facilities. Employees will be transferred as well.

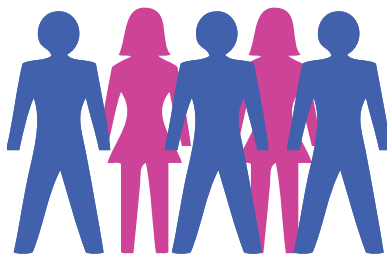
"We have one full-time salaried employee who was transferred to the main store," Bales said. "We will use our cashiers, or customer service reps, but they are generally students so school comes first. But if our schedules align we will use them."

Bales said that although all the products available in the VandalStore and the Underground will be sold elsewhere, if products are not available, students should tell a staff member.

"Our goal is that everything a student needs is available to them," Bales said. "It just might be 75 feet down the hall."

Native numbers

UI programs and staff aim to improve Native student recruitment and retention



5 Native UI faculty

1% of U.S. college students are Native

0.01% of scientists worldwide are Native

Victoria Hart
Argonaut

Ed Galindo sits in a secluded office surrounded by his students and research almost 30 years after he left the Shoshone-Bannock Indian Reservation for the University of Idaho. In the late 1970s UI's Native American student services were non-existent compared to those Native students enjoy today.

"Before there was a center or liaisons, we found each other," said Galindo, a UI professor.

Since then, UI has built a network of multicultural centers, offices, advisers, recruiters, boards and councils. Native American student support grew following the creation of staff positions and establishment of a Native American Student Center about five years ago. Despite increased recruitment and retention

efforts, Native student enrollment numbers remain unsteady.

Native American and Alaska Native enrollment jumped 18 percent since 2010, but is almost 4 percent less than it was in 2008 and more than 5 percent less than that of 2001.

The Office of Admissions gained a multicultural recruiter this year in Ricardo Buenrostro, who said his efforts are "population-based opposed to region-based." Buenrostro, the first to hold his newly created position, said he plans to focus on Latino and Native students in his foundational year because they are the most lucrative student populations at UI.

As of fall 2011 108 UI undergraduate students report American Indian or Alaska Native ethnicity, according to

+18%
change in Native enrollment since 2010

-4%
change in Native enrollment since 2008

-5%
change in Native enrollment since 2001

108
Native undergrad students in Fall 2011

SEE NATIVE, PAGE 5

Balancing books and babies



Grant Louis studies in the Native American Student Center Thursday afternoon. Louis is a member of the Okanagan tribe and contributes to the 1 percent of college students who are Native.

Victoria Hart
Argonaut

Losing his home, car and job meant University of Idaho student Grant Louis gained sole responsibility for his three children and the future of his family.

Louis, a member of the Okanagan tribe from Vernon, B.C., plans to graduate in May with a degree in family and consumer sciences. He said stereotypes and myths still come his way on a regular basis.

"People still ask me if we live in teepees and igloos," Louis said.

Misnomers about Native life persist, but Louis said he had to adjust to legitimate cul-

tural differences as an incoming student. He said the male-dominated, European culture that produced U.S. school systems doesn't mesh well with his culture's more circular way of thinking.

"We try to look at the whole picture instead of just the problem," Louis said.

Louis' story exemplifies the misconceptions and assumptions that fail to address the underlying issues.

The mother of his children was removed from their home in Plummer, Idaho, in 2005. Shortly after, Louis said, he was evicted from the house, and his

SEE BOOKS, PAGE 4

Greek houses broken into during break

Britt Kiser
Argonaut

Members of the University of Idaho's Kappa Sigma and Phi Gamma Delta fraternities and Alpha Phi sorority returned from winter break to find their houses had been broken into with a variety of items missing.

Lt. Dave Lehmitz of the Moscow Police Department said the three houses on Elm Street were the only ones reportedly broken into during winter break.

Items ranging from electronics to jewelry, to alcohol and firearms were reported as stolen, Lehmitz said.

Approximately 40 members of Kappa Sigma were affected by the burglaries, fraternity president Andy Gonzalez said.

"There were a lot of speakers stolen — Xboxes, Play Stations, games and movies — a lot of electronics," Gonzalez said. "Our first and third floors were hit the hardest. It was weird, it seemed like they set stuff in the hallways and were going to come back for it, but never did."

Gonzalez said to his knowledge this is the first time his house has been broken into.

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Tony Marcolina | Argonaut

Alpha Phi was the only sorority house broken into during winter break. Three houses total were broken into during break, including fraternities Kappa Sigma, Phi Gamma Delta.

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University of Idaho

Volume 113, Issue no. 31

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THE INSIDE

CAMPUS METRICS & INTERACTIONS

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University Studies

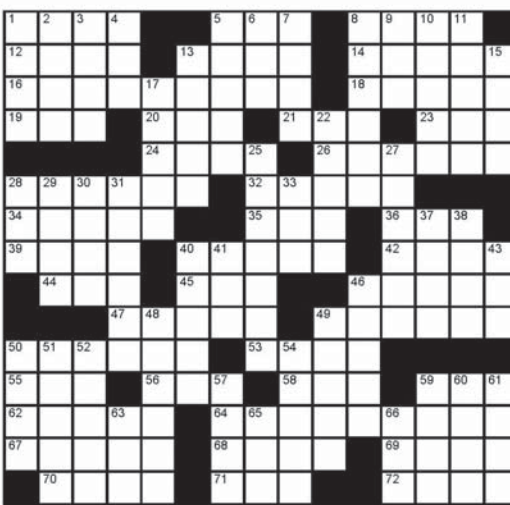


Wesley O'Bryan | Argonaut

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THE FINE PRINT

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Argonaut Directory

Elizabeth Rudd
Editor-in-Chief
argonaut@uidaho.edu

Britt Kiser
News Editor
arg-news@uidaho.edu

Jens Olson
Production Manager
arg-production@uidaho.edu

Abby Skubitz
Advertising Manager
arg-advertising@uidaho.edu

Rhiannon Rinas
rawr Editor
arg-arts@uidaho.edu

Dylan Brown
Broadcast Editor
arg-radio@uidaho.edu

Jake Dyer
Sports Editor
arg-sports@uidaho.edu

Elisa Eiguren
Managing & Opinion Editor
arg-opinion@uidaho.edu

Madison McCord
Web Manager
arg-online@uidaho.edu

Victoria Hart
Copy Editor
arg-copy@uidaho.edu

Amrah Canul
Photo Bureau Manager
arg-photo@uidaho.edu

Zach Edwards
Assistant Photo Bureau Manager

Theo Lawson
VandalNation Manager

Advertising (208) 885-5780
Circulation (208) 885-7825
Classified Advertising (208) 885-7825
Fax (208) 885-2222
Newsroom (208) 885-7715
Photo Bureau (208) 885-2219
Production Room (208) 885-7784



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Tribble unsurprised by court ruling

Kaitlyn Krasselt
Argonaut

University of Idaho law student Aaron Tribble remains undeterred in his pursuit of justice, despite the ruling of Latah County Court Judge John Stegner in favor of the University of Idaho in a lawsuit regarding Tribble's right to keep firearms on campus.

Tribble said he was unsurprised by the ruling.

"In some respects, I don't blame him. A trial judge doesn't want to upset the status quo," Tribble said. "Yeah, OK, (the court ruling) went against me, but in the grand scheme of things while it obviously counts for something, (Judge Stegner's) isn't the last word in the matter. It's the Idaho Supreme Court that's going to be having the final word."

The court issued its decision Dec. 8. Tribble presented his appeal for the case Tuesday and is now waiting for further notice on court proceedings.

After reading the judge's opinion, Tribble said he was surprised at what Stegner had come up with as reasons for his decision.

"On the other hand, I was really glad at what he came up with," Tribble said. "It makes my job easier because it's really obvious that what he came up with was wrong."

Tribble said the appeal process will mainly involve identifying the issues he will present to the Supreme Court, as well as identifying how the trial court made a mistake in what it decided.

"I think there's probably four main issues," Tribble said. "Did the trial judge correctly interpret the state constitution? Did the trial judge correctly interpret the federal constitution? Did he correctly interpret the Idaho code? And last, did the trial court correctly conclude that I waived my rights?"

A Facebook page about the case, Tribble vs. State Board of Education — Gun Case, has followed the court proceed-

ings since Tribble began his case one year ago. The full text of Judge Stegner's opinion can be found on the group's main page.

Tribble entered into a housing agreement at the South Hill Vista Apartments owned by the university on Feb. 20, 2009, and signed a renewal agreement on March 25, 2011.

In his decision, Stegner determined that Tribble waived his right to bear arms when he signed the housing agreement with the university.

"A waiver is an intentional relinquishment or abandonment of a known right or privilege," Stegner said. "Tribble knowingly, voluntarily and intelligently waived his constitutional right to keep and bear arms."

Lt. Dave Lehmitz of the Moscow Police Department said he is not sure what the impact of the case would be if Tribble were to win.

"It's not a crime (to have a gun on campus), it's a university policy," Lehmitz said. "The university deals with the issue until a crime is committed, then it comes to the police department."

Lehmitz agreed with Stegner's assertion that Tribble could have sought housing unassociated with UI.

"He has the option to live elsewhere, to go to school elsewhere," Lehmitz said.

Tribble said seeking alternate housing would not have been financially feasible for him and his family during his final semesters of law school.

"I really recommend to people to read the decision, and then decide what they think," Tribble said. "From my standpoint he ruled the wrong way, but these things are constantly being overturned."

Tribble has been representing himself in the case. Tribble said he thought about bringing in help, but that as a student, hiring a lawyer often isn't viable.

"I think if this issue was to advance outside of Idaho, which would be the U.S. Supreme Court, I would have to

bring in some extra help," Tribble said. "But as of right now I'm comfortable representing myself."

Tribble began the case because, according to university policy and a housing agreement signed by Tribble upon moving into his campus apartment, all firearms are restricted in on-campus residences and must be properly stored and locked in an area authorized by University Housing.

"The reason this case is really only two-sided is that I'm asking to have (my gun) in my apartment for self defense, not to carry it on campus," Tribble said.

Tribble said he is concerned about his ability to defend himself and his family should a dangerous intruder enter his apartment.

"Maybe it is rare, but it does happen. Virginia Tech doesn't happen every day, but it does happen," Tribble said. "It really would be a shame though if something did happen, and in the future I had to look back and say, 'What if I had spoken up?' This seemed like a better option."

Tribble said he is surprised the university hasn't considered a compromise.

"I was asking to have the ability to load the gun and use the gun if necessary. Guns don't really have any use to defend yourself if you're not able to load it and actually use it," Tribble said.

The university issued a statement just after the release of Stegner's decision that said officials were pleased with the ruling and it supported UI's legal authority to regulate firearms on campus, including on-campus housing. "Our firearms policy has been part of the faculty/staff and student handbooks since the mid-1970s," the statement said. "Members of law enforcement and supervised use in a shooting range are the only exceptions to the policy, which disallows loaded weapons, including conceal-carry, on campus."

Tribble said he expects the case will take time, but he anticipates the ruling will be overturned with few obstacles.

"I really don't see any obstacles other than my personal life being busy and having to do this at the same time," Tribble said. "In the end, it'll be worth it."

The reason this case is really only two-sided is that I'm asking to have (my gun) in my apartment for self defense, not to carry it on campus.

Aaron Tribble, UI law student

Classes at Gritman provide free diabetes education

Lindsey Treffry
Argonaut

Excessive hunger, heightened fatigue and extreme irritability may describe a common college student. But these symptoms can also be a sign of diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association.

Sponsored by Gritman Diabetes and Wellness, free educational classes are held the first Tuesday of each month to help with management of blood sugar, nutrition, exercise and medication. Nancy Kure, Gritman's diabetes care director, is in charge of the classes and often assigns a speaker for each class on different subject areas relating to diabetes.

On Jan. 3, Martin Wellness Center coordinator Odette Engan spoke about the importance of exercise and her Fit and Fall Proof class, an exercise program held at the center.

"If you have pre-diabetes or diabetes and you exercise, it helps control blood sugar, which helps control complications like blindness ... or [possible] amputations," Kure said.

Engan said Fit and Fall Proof is mostly for seniors, with strength and stretching exercises to reduce the risk of falling, as well as exercises from sitting to standing positions.

While Engan said exercise is important for people with diabetes, she said they should visit a doctor before beginning a

program.

"Exercise may reduce the risks [of diabetes], but as far as preventing diabetes — that's a pretty big stretch," Engan said.

Next month's class, from 4 to 5 p.m. on Feb. 7, is called "Healthy Heart" and will be led by Gritman's diabetes care team.

"If you have diabetes, the risk for heart disease goes way up," Kure said. "It is the same risk of a person who has already had a heart attack."

Kure said the class will focus on nutrition and understanding blood pressure in order to prevent heart disease. The class is centered around hearts, due to Valentine's Day.

Classes run all year as part of a non-profit outreach, and apart from speakers, Kure said the classes are interactive and can range from cooking to playing games.

"If you think about it, we bring in podiatrists ... the eye doctor ... and if these people know 'Gosh, I gotta get my eyes checked,' they're really gonna lower their risk of getting those complications," Kure said. "They're going to get a lot out of each one of the classes."

Classes are held in the Gritman Conference Center on 700 S. Main St. and more information can be found at gritman.org.

"[The classes] are just a good reminder every month to take care of yourself," Kure said.

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Exercising kindness

Amy Asanuma
Argonaut

While students at the University of Idaho enjoyed a lengthy winter break, the Student Recreation Center was hard at work organizing its eighth annual food drive.

From Dec. 17 to Jan. 10, Moscow locals were encouraged to bring at least four non-perishable food items in exchange for free access to the center. The donations gave admittance to the entire facility including the climbing wall and Wellness Classes.

"It is a win-win-win situation," said Brian Mahoney, SRC operations supervisor. "Locals get to use our facilities free of charge, the drive promotes physical wellness, and the community in need benefits from the donations. Students are off campus, leaving the center open to the community." Mahoney has managed the food drive for five years. In his first year, the drive collected approximately 600 cans.

"We run the food drive during this

time of the year because local food banks are running low on supplies," Mahoney said. "There are no other drives occurring at this time, as most end before Thanksgiving. Now is the opportune time to replenish the diminished stock from the holiday demand."

All proceeds benefit the Moscow Food Bank, and Mahoney said it is a tradition for the SRC to surprise food banks with canned goods.

"With the combined donations from various food drives in town, Moscow Food Bank will be able to continue serving 15 to 20 families a day," said Linda Nichols, director of Moscow Food Bank. "We are never short of food."

Nichols receives such a magnitude of cans that she typically stores the cans on the shelves and uses monetary donations to purchase other necessities.

Last year, the center received more than 2,000 cans and donated them to the Sojourner's Alliance. The donations filled a half ton truck. Student employ-

ees of the rec center assist Mahoney in counting food items and packing boxes.

Kenton Trautvetter, a UI junior studying exercise and health, is among several students working with Mahoney. Trautvetter worked during winter break gathering cans and answering questions.

"This drive is a great opportunity for community members who have never been inside the rec to try out the various opportunities the center has to offer," Trautvetter said.

"Access to Wellness Classes was a huge draw for the public. We were able to sell a few memberships as a result of our food drive," Mahoney said the unusual heat wave slowed guest traffic.

"Moscow residents are out and about taking advantage of the weather," Mahoney said. "Surprisingly, despite the climate the final count of the cans was 3,113 — far surpassing the expected count of 2,000."

The Moscow Food Bank will receive the donations at the beginning of next week.

GREEK

FROM PAGE 1

Several precautions are being taken to prevent future break-ins from happening, he said.

"We're working with our corporation board to start replacing stuff, and making sure our locks are up to code, and that our doors aren't sticking," Gonzalez said. "We're just trying to get our house locked up as tightly as possible, especially before spring and summer breaks."

Lehmitz said students should bring their valuable items home with them during the holidays.

The investigation is ongoing, and suspected burglars have yet to be discovered.

Lehmitz said the next step is to obtain a thorough description of each student's missing property.

"We need to start checking our pawnshops and out-of-the-area pawnshops," he said. "I believe we'll be able to get a lot of the property recovered, but without the proper identification we won't be able to return anything to its rightful owners."

Lehmitz said anybody with information regarding the burglaries is encouraged to contact the MPD, and is able to do so anonymously.

BOOKS

FROM PAGE 1

car was repossessed. Without a car to get to work Louis lost his job, which he said made him \$10 an hour and "wasn't cutting it."

Louis said he left high school after his sophomore year, but finished his GED in Plummer then applied to UI. He and his children moved to Moscow in 2007, and he began working toward a degree in psychology. Louis changed his major to the Family and Consumer Sciences department and chose the Life option.

"Psychology was all about the problems — fixing problems," Louis said. "I like this better because it's about understanding where someone's at — the family structure."

Louis' family, which included a 5-, 4- and 3-year old when he enrolled at UI, became a struggle to maintain along with his academic career. There are many places on campus that children aren't welcome, Louis said, and he's struggled to find facilities suitable for his family and his studies.

He talked about an instance when he took his children to the library with him.

"Some people got pretty angry," Louis said.

Recently, Louis said he's found a quiet room through disability services.

Daycare and afterschool programs are helpful, but Louis said the costs are crippling. He receives aid as a non-traditional student, but he said it isn't enough.

Resources for Native students at UI abound, but in Louis' first year as a student many programs and staff members had yet to appear. Louis said he failed his first two semesters at UI, and may have left altogether if not for a few key players.

"I didn't know how to study, and I failed a whole year," Louis said. "There was no Native center then."

Steve Martin was hired to direct the newly opened Native American Student Center in spring 2007. Louis said Martin vouched for him and committed to helping him succeed.

Martin said he is proud Louis has made it this far, and that it's taken a lot of work and support from Native faculty and staff.

"He's trying to navigate the system," Martin said. "He's a non-traditional student trying to balance academic and family life."

Louis said the Native center and the FCS department have been helpful. Other departments have chipped in to his success also, said Arthur Taylor, UI's tribal liaison.

"It's been a team effort to keep monitoring him," Taylor said. "He just keeps getting up and moving forward."

Louis said he's learned to ask for help and communicate with professors.

"He was struggling initially," Taylor said. "He didn't know how to speak to professors, or what to do."

Louis also had a relative who he looked up to as a role model. His uncle, Leonard (Len) Marchand, graduated from UI in 1964 and became Canada's first Native senator.

"He's proud of me," Louis said.

After graduation Louis plans to move back to Plummer to fill a job offer in the addictions program at Benewah Medical Center. Louis said he is frustrated by the cycle of self-hatred he thinks is bred into Native families.

"It began with the boarding schools where Native children were beaten and separated each other," Louis said. "From kindergarten to grade 12, they learned that who they are is bad."

Louis called these stories "the history nobody hears."

"Nobody wants to hear it because they think we're making all this money in casinos," Louis said. "People don't understand where we're coming from... We're not crazy just because — there are reasons."

Education is the way to healing, he said, because educated people can write grants and navigate the system more effectively.

"I'm one of the very lucky few," Louis said.

He mentioned the 1 percent of college students nationwide who are Native.

Louis said his daughter isn't afraid of education, and he predicts she won't experience the culture shock he did.

"They've met all my tutors and teachers," Louis said of his children, now 10, 9 and 8. "They're excited about going to college."

He said he wants his children to look beyond stereotypes and understand that people perceive life in a variety of ways.

Living away from his extended family has made Louis and his children stronger and more independent, which he said will benefit them in the future.

"I'm breaking the cycle," Louis said.



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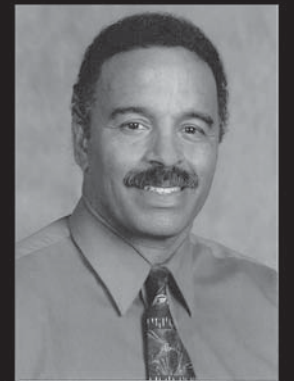
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NATIVE
FROM PAGE 1

the university's assessment office. The National Center for Education Statistics found that Native student enrollment in postsecondary educational institutes nationwide has remained at about 1 percent since the late 1990s.

Washington State University reports its multicultural enrollment in a lump sum 18 percent that doesn't specify ethnicities. North Idaho College offers its Native students an office and student adviser dedicated to their academic and cultural support. Lewis-Clark State College boasts an above-average 2.4 percent Native student population, with 113 of its 4,693 students registered as American Indian or Alaska Native.

As of the 2010 U.S. Census, 1.4 percent of the Idaho population is AIAN. The nine counties in northern Idaho, on average, are 3 percent AIAN. Idaho is the historic homeland of nine Indian tribes and four federally recognized reservations in the state.

Changes to the federal method of reporting race and ethnicity may affect the data presented by institutions, said Arthur Taylor, UI's tribal liaison. Taylor said the addition of a "two or more races" category makes Native numbers appear smaller because students who would have identified as Native are actually of

multiple races.

Taylor, a Nez Perce tribal member, is taking steps to record the tribal identity of UI students to improve recruitment strategies. He said a more accurate count will streamline recruitment and pinpoint which tribes send students to UI.

Taylor works closely with Steve Martin, who directs NASC and has served as UI's primary Native recruiter since 2007. The two share a belief in the importance of recruiting more than students.

"It's more than a presentation — it's a connection — to (Native students') parents, teachers and grandparents," Martin said. "It's more than sitting at a college fair. We're talking to families and developing a relationship within tribal communities."

Recruiting trips to tribal schools are more relationally based, Martin said. He said most of his recruiting trips are regional, leading him to Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Each year he goes on about eight trips — five in the fall and three in the spring. Buenrostro joined him on a late-November trip, and Martin said incorporating a new face will take time.

"Reputation goes a long way," Martin said. "(Taylor and I) have established that in five years."

He said a trusting, respectful relationship with tribal members is vital to gaining, and retaining Native students. He and Martin nearly strand-

ed themselves on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in the name of strengthening their bond with tribal members, Taylor said.

The isolated reservation straddles the Idaho-Nevada border, and snow fell all day as Martin and Taylor spoke to students, teachers and parents about UI. By noon, Taylor said students he and Martin joked with began suggesting they stay for the evening's basketball games. By afternoon teachers insisted they stick around for the festivities, so they obliged.

"We walked into the gym and all the parents were staring at us like, 'Who are those two brown guys with long hair?'" Taylor said. "But the students knew us, and we sat with them until we had to leave."

A study conducted on the Duck Valley Reservation in 2011 found that 96 percent of students on the reservation would like to attend college.

Taylor said becoming a part of the community is the most effective way to recruit Native students. To parents and grandparents though, he and Martin are often outsiders. That night, he said, they put in the time and effort to show tribal adults that they're serious about building trust and being visible in Native communities.

Many of Taylor and Martin's recruits are first-generation students from low-income environments, which Taylor said creates

specific needs. He said Native culture comes with a range of anxieties about higher education, and adults must trust that the university won't turn students into different people.

"When a Native person leaves the reservation," Taylor said. "They want to have something to take back."

Taylor said every involved, trusting student is an ally. He envisions a student on graduation day, and said effort goes into making each individual a whole person.

The Native student center acts as a stand-in for the community of support Native students leave, Taylor said. The goal of the center is to connect Native students to campus and each other, Martin said. As NASC director Martin leads recruitment efforts, scholarship and grant applications, and cultural programming on about \$27,000 a year, according to the university's online budget report.

"To recruit any student to UI takes a significant amount of resources," Taylor said. "A Native American student has less than average."

Relatively, the university allocated more than \$776,000 to admission recruitment in the 2012 fiscal year. Travel funds come out of NASC's budget so programming is weighed against recruitment, Taylor said. Martin said he aims to raise more money for both categories.

"We are lacking on Native

American student dollars," Martin said.

Barbara Warnick, who has worked for UI's Financial Aid Office since 2001, said she works closely with Martin and inquiries about Native scholarships usually come through him. Last-minute applications often make financial aid a struggle for first-generation students who are unfamiliar with timelines and expectations, Taylor said.

Martin estimated less than 10 Native students receive Native-specific scholarships through UI each semester. Warnick said 23 tribal agencies not connected with the university hold private scholarship accounts that have supported Native students at UI. Some tribes have funds to support higher education, and they often determine criteria, select students and mail a check directly to the university. One account, for example, supports about 10 students a year at \$3,000 each. Warnick said national outside scholarships are also available.

Taylor said a paradigm shift must occur in the minds of tribal parents and schools to help Native students attain higher education. He said he communicates with tribal leaders and elders the way he communicates with his own parents and grandparents.

"The common bond is that we're Native, and that opens the door," Taylor said. "But keeping it open is all about becoming part of that community."

TUITON
FROM PAGE 1

Under the old program eligible students paid a \$25 fee and \$5 per credit for classes they wished to take.

Under the revised program employees have to be accepted into a degree program, and can only take up to six credits a semester. These credits

are restricted to traditional classes — no longer including online courses. Spouses are excluded from the new program.

Smith said overall, the changes will affect about 250 people.

"We've been providing waivers much like they were our own employees," Ron Smith, UI vice president of finance and ad-

ministration said. "It's not sustainable anymore. It's a good perk but we can't use revenues from UI to subsidize anymore."

Smith said the university has seen forgone revenue amounting to \$480,000 in the 2011 fiscal year.

"We understand there may be some frustrations from individuals that are using the program now,"

Smith said. "We are not cutting anything for UI employees, and we are trying to ease the transition for those in a two-year degree program. But we are not the first institution to make this tough decision. BSU made a similar cut a few years ago."

Lewis-Clark State College has a similar program, and many of its employees and spouses will be affected by this change.

"It's a great opportunity to take those classes," Chet Herbst, LCSC vice president of finance and ad-

ministration said. "It's been modified but we really appreciate the opportunity for our employees to take these classes. Our employees take classes ranging a whole gamut. It could be education, physical education, science, anything."

Herbst said LCSC administrators understand why UI had to cut back the program.

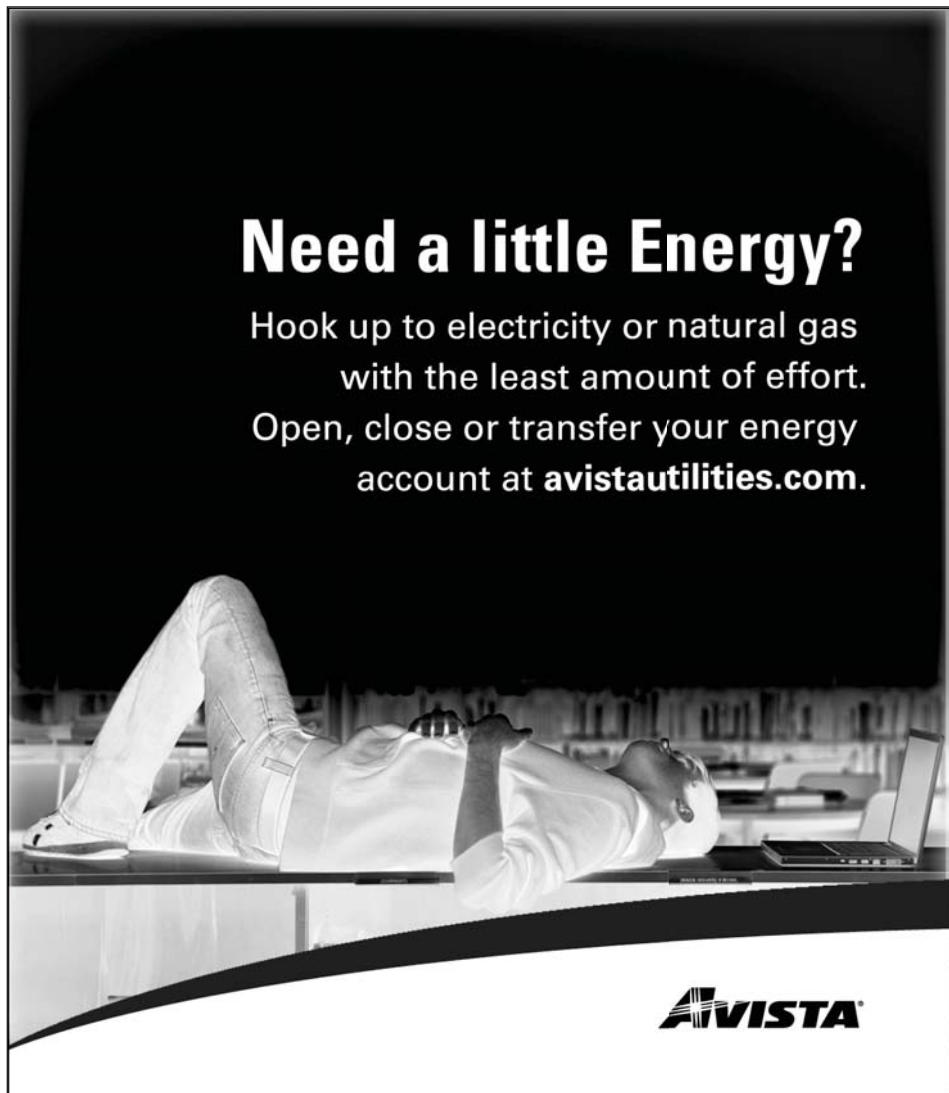
"We understand the pressures that drove this and all of the institutions are in the same place to make sure regular students come first," Herbst said.

"However, it does impact some that can't break away at the middle of the day. We are hoping we can work with UI on a case-by-case basis (particularly with online courses)."

Smith said there have been several complaints to the provost office concerning the program changes, but the change has been discussed with other institutions since last spring.

"It went into effect this semester, but notifications were sent out in advance," Smith said.

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SPORTS



For the full story of Thursday's women's basketball game, visit [Vandal](#)

VANDAL NATION

Men prevail in OT

Theo Lawson
Argonaut

Trailing by as many as 13 points in the first half, the Vandal men's basketball team found a will and a way to come out on top of Thursday night's overtime stunner against hosts La. Tech.

The 90-88 victory marked the first time Idaho (9-8, 2-1) has been victorious at the Thomas Assembly Center in six years.

After allowing their opponents to put up 43 points in the first half, the Vandals turned things around and found themselves with a chance to close out the game with 30 seconds remaining. Three offensive rebounds gave Idaho three separate chances to win it, but neither Kyle Barone nor Stephen Madison were able to convert from inside the key, thus forcing an overtime period.

With 4:11 remaining in OT, Deremy Geiger knocked down a shot from beyond the arc which gave his squad a 79-76 advantage. Despite a few missed opportunities the Vandals played a fundamentally sound overtime period, in which they never trailed. After a questionable inbound call went the Bulldogs' way, La. Tech had a chance to tie it up at 90-90 with 13 seconds left. Raheem Appleby had an opportunity to be the Bulldogs' savior, but after Matt Borton was called for a foul on Appleby's 3-point attempt the freshman missed his second free throw and Landon Tatum grabbed a defensive rebound on the third to seal the deal.

Idaho had no answer for the Bulldogs' perimeter shooting, but were able to survive the clutch hot hand of Ole Miss transfer Trevor Gaskins. The senior was 5-6 from 3-point range, four of



Vandal center Kyle Barone attempts a block Jan. 5 at the Cowan Spectrum. The Vandals lost the first WAC game of the season to the Nevada Wolf Pack 73-55 but are now 9-8 and 2-1 in the WAC after beating Fresno State and La. Tech.

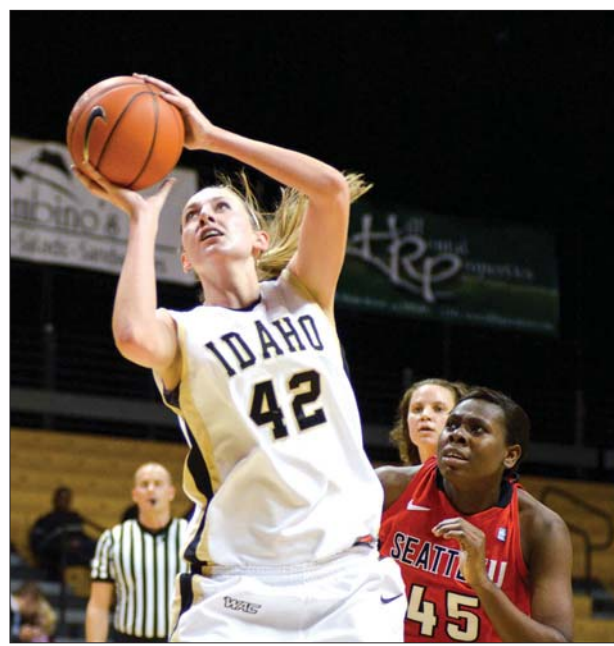
those coming in the second half and overtime.

The Bulldogs led for almost 30 consecutive minutes, but a 3-point jumper from Deremy Geiger set the teams even at 56-56

with 12 minutes remaining. Stephen Madison executed a layup turned 3-point play shortly after to give Idaho the slight lead. Although the lead itself didn't last longer than one La. Tech possess-

ion, Idaho battled and a Madison three at the 5:46 mark would spark a run that helped the visitors gain a four-point lead

SEE PREVAIL, PAGE 8



Zach Edwards | Argonaut

Ashley Walters attempts a shot Jan. 5 in the Cowan Spectrum. The Vandals lost to Seattle University 80-72 and posted a record of 2-4 during winter break. The next home game is Jan. 19 vs. Nevada at 6 p.m.

Catching up with women's basketball

Kevin Bingaman
Argonaut

Idaho women's basketball continued to show improvement through December and into January, going 2-4 with every game but one decided by 10 points or less.

The Vandals' (5-11) youth showed at the start of the season, but they seem to be getting stronger as the season progresses.

Idaho started the break with a 65-59 victory over Wyoming Dec. 18 on the road, thanks to a strong shooting performance. Unfortunately for Idaho, the performance was not repeated two days later when the Vandals lost 61-76 to Eastern Washington.

The Vandals then traveled to Missoula for the Lady Griz Holiday Classic. The Vandals over-

came North Dakota in their first game of the tournament. North Dakota defeated Idaho in their first meeting of the year 84-54, but Idaho pulled out a 53-50 victory, despite blowing a big half-time lead. Idaho coach Jon Newlee said it was big to beat North Dakota the second time around.

"It's a great win," Newlee said. "To come out to this tournament and get a win like this after this team beat us as bad as they did at their place, it's great for us and I'm real proud of our team."

Idaho concluded the holiday classic with a 63-62 loss to Southern Miss. The game came down to the wire, but Southern Miss hit a big shot at the end to come out on top.

SEE CATCHING, PAGE 8

Women's tennis set for Lewiston

Jacob Dyer
Argonaut

After a strong fall season and long winter break, the Vandal women's tennis team will drive to Lewiston Monday to compete against Lewis-Clark State College.

Idaho coach Daniel Pollock said he realizes the Warriors will be a solid challenge to open the spring season.

"LCSC is definitely not a team we can overlook," Pollock said. "They are led by the 10th ranked NAIA singles player in the nation, Dominika Jasova, and the 11th ranked doubles team in the nation, Jasova and Dorothy Chong."

Pollock said the Warriors play very disciplined tennis and are coached well, which should make them a good measuring tool for the Vandals as they begin the new season.

LCSC women's tennis coach Kai Fong expects a difficult match from the Vandals, considering they lost to the Vandals twice last season. First the Vandals beat the nearby rivals 7-0, and then 5-2 to end last year's regular season.

"We have dropped many against the Vandals," Fong said. "The Vandals



Zach Edwards | Argonaut

Sophomore Beatriz Flores returns a ball during practice Thursday afternoon in the Kibbie Dome. The Vandals open the spring tennis season Jan. 16 at Lewis-Clark State College.

have better skilled players throughout their lineup. This is to be expected of

programs." This will be the furthest the Vandals travel until Feb. 3, when they take on the Gonzaga Bulldogs.

All that time close to home has the Vandals looking to start the season strong. Pollock said he is comfortable with the conditioning of his team coming into spring competition. He said fall practice was excellent

and they are prepared for the spring matches.

"All the girls are significantly stronger physically now than they were during the fall season," Pollock said. "We worked extremely hard on strength and speed during the off-season, which will hopefully allow the players to both perform at a higher level and stay injury free."

One significant challenge the Vandals face this year is the youth of the team.

Of the seven members of the squad, four are sophomores and just two seniors lead the way.

Pollock said only one of the probable starting six has more than one year of college tennis experience and three have never played in a dual match before.

"With such a young team it's tough to set long-term wins and losses goals until after the first few dual matches have been played, and even then it is difficult," Pollock said.

Pollock said the loaded schedule includes matches against BYU, Oregon and Kansas, and has his goal set around the .500 mark.

Track and field set to face the Cougs

Stephen Wiebe
Argonaut

The Vandal men's and women's track and field teams begin the indoor season at Washington State Friday for the 10th Annual Washington State University Open.

The players and coaches are ready for the season to finally be underway after a long offseason of training.

"The (team) training has gone really well," said Idaho track and field coach Julie Taylor. "We definitely have some kids that are ready to put out some good marks (and times) to start the season."

The Vandals are no strangers to opening their season at WSU.

"(The WSU Open) is a perfect meet," Taylor said. "For this time of year and for us just starting out, it's perfect."

The proximity between Idaho and WSU and the years of competition between the schools have helped to form a sense of rivalry between the athletes.

"It's great to have a caliber of school like WSU so close because you always know you are going to have good competition," Taylor said. "Anytime we come against WSU it's going to be a challenge for us."

Idaho has matched up

Event info

Event: The WSU Open
Time: 4 p.m. beginning with the men's weight throw
Info: Jumping and running events start Saturday with the men's long jump at 8:30 a.m. and the men's 60-meter hurdles at 10a.m.
Price: Free

well with the Cougars in the past but one of the strengths of the Idaho team — its distance runners — will most likely not compete.

"We probably won't race anybody over a 400 meter this meet just because it's the first meet coming back," Taylor said. "Mainly, the first meet is a gauge to see where the kids are running and what times they're getting and where the marks are."

The WSU coaches and athletes will also use the first meet as a springboard for the future. Track and field training is such that the athletes want to hit their peaks at the end of the season.

"The first competition of the year is always going to be getting your feet wet and getting started, but we are anxious to compete," said WSU coach Rick Sloan. "It's time to put on the uniform and see where we are."

SEE COUGS, PAGE 8

Drought ends

After losing four in a row, Vandals come back to claim first WAC victory

Theo Lawson
Argonaut

Winter break play opened successfully for the Vandal men's basketball team that claimed its fourth victory in a winning streak that began Dec. 9 in Corvallis, Ore., afterwards the team fell into a slump, losing four straight.

Dec. 17

Idaho 72, CSU Bakersfield 44

The Vandals avoided drama at home by sending the visiting Roadrunners a rude awakening in a game that came down to Idaho graduate Jeff Ledbetter's buzzer beater 3-point winner last season. CSU Bakersfield kept it close in the first half and only faced a six-point deficit heading into the second. But Idaho outscored its opponent 41-18 in the second to keep the winning streak alive. Center Kyle Barone led Idaho in its lowest-scoring win of the season with 13 points and nine rebounds.

Dec. 20

Wright State 80, Idaho 78

Idaho fell to Wright State in a game so dramatic, it earned a spot on Sports Center's Top 10 plays of the day and was Sports Center's "Call of the day."

Idaho secured a 33-32 lead at halftime but the Raiders held tough in the second half. Down 69-66 with seconds left in the game Vandal guard Landon Tatum hustled to mid-court and sunk a long-range three at the buzzer to send it into overtime.

The teams traded baskets

for five minutes of overtime, but Dazmond Starke's layup with four seconds left on the clock gave Idaho a 78-77 advantage. Wright State's Julius Mays, the game's leading scorer, dribbled down the court uncontested and fired a three as time ran out, sinking coach Don Verlin and the Vandals.

Dec. 22

Wisconsin-Green Bay 63, Idaho 61

Heartbreak found the Vandal basketball team once again as Idaho dropped another nailbiter to a Horizon League opponent. The Vandals kept it close most of the game, but were down by as many as nine late in the first half. Idaho climbed back on top in the second as Kyle Barone steal and Connor Hill three-pointer gave the Vandals a three-point lead at the 10:59 mark. Down five with seconds remaining, Stephen Madison knocked down a 3 but it was too little, too late once again.

Dec. 31

Boise State 76, Idaho 73

Despite the schools' discontinued football rivalry, the teams put on a show for 7,540 Bronco and Vandal fans at the neutral Idaho Center in Nampa.

BSU freshman Anthony Drmic stole the show early en route to a career-high 26 points from the Australian international. Drmic knocked down four consecutive threes and contributed 12 of the Broncos' first 14 points to finish the first half with 17 points. Idaho

remained on the Broncos' heels despite a six-point halftime deficit.

The Vandals were down 74-71 with three seconds remaining when Landon Tatum was sent to the free throw line to shoot two. Tatum converted both and the Vandals were forced to put the ball in Kyle Barone's hands after Boise State's Drew Wiley hit two free throws to make it a 3-point game. Barone's three was off and the Broncos left Nampa with their 10th win on the season.

Jan. 5

Nevada 73, Idaho 55

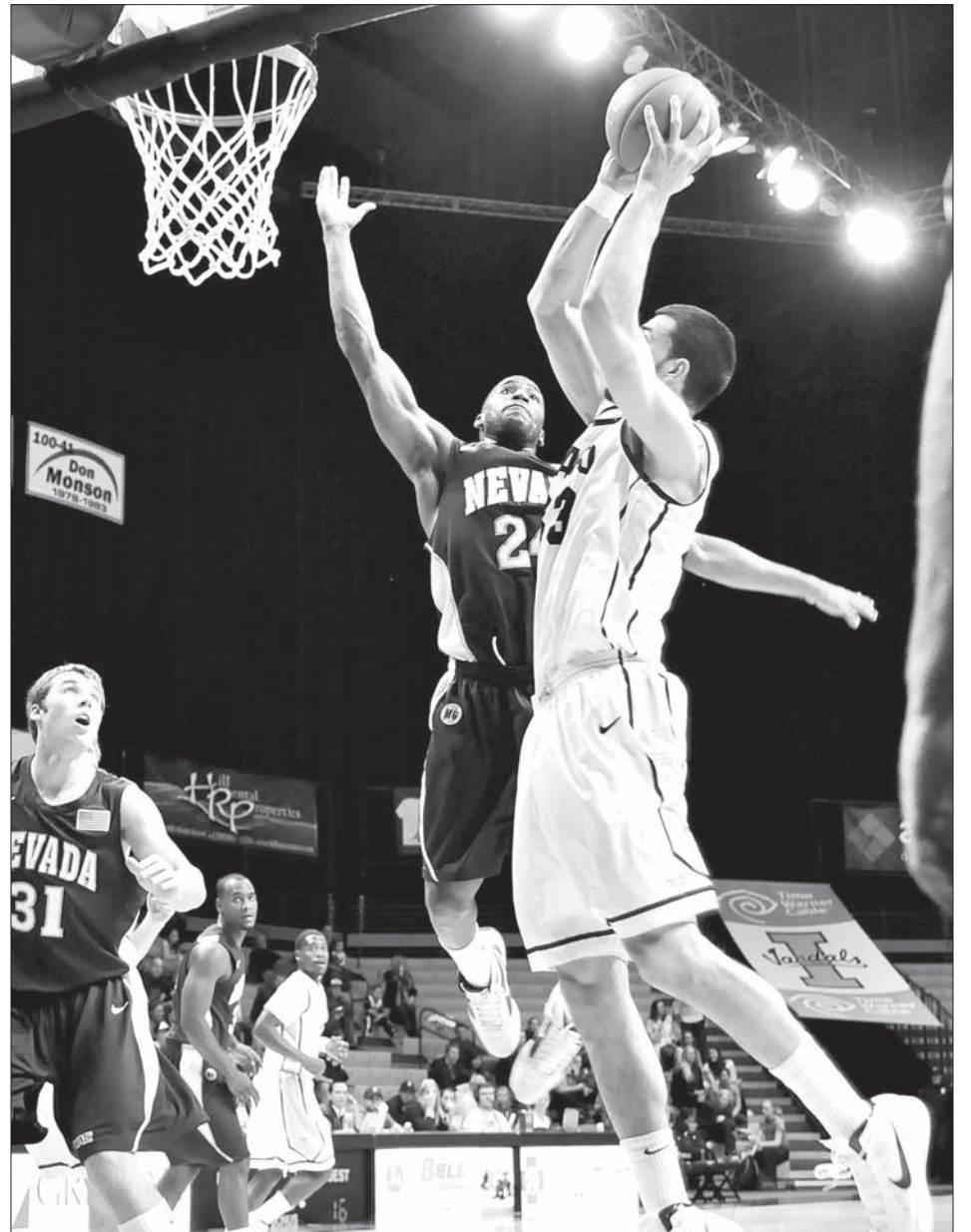
After losing three games by a combined seven points Idaho men's basketball had a chip on its shoulder heading into the WAC opener, a Thursday night contest in a rather empty Cowan Spectrum. However, preseason conference player of the year Deonte Burton and preseason WAC favorite Nevada stood in Idaho's way of snapping a three-game losing streak.

Turnovers haunted the Vandals, who committed 13 in the first half, which would turn into 13 Wolf Pack points. Burton shot 80 percent from 3-point range and tallied 26 total points, complimented by six assists and three rebounds. Nevada shot 54 percent from the field as a team and Wolf Pack guard Malik Story added 17 points.

Jan. 7

Idaho 63, Fresno St. 59

The four-game drought



Zach Edwards | Argonaut

Vandal center Kyle Barone rises above Nevada's Deonte Burton Jan. 5 in the Cowan Spectrum. The Vandals lost their WAC opener to the Nevada Wolf Pack 73-55 and Burton contributed 26 total points. Idaho went 2-4 during winter break.

ended Saturday night in the Cowan Spectrum as a sloppy game from both teams ended in favor of Idaho. The Vandals picked up their first WAC victory of the season in yet another game decided by four points or less. Stephen Madison

gave his squad a go-ahead basket with six seconds remaining and Vandal junior Mansa Habeeb blocked Jonathan Wills' 3-point attempt which was called for traveling. Habeeb was fouled after taking the ball inbounds and the junior

college transfer knocked down both free throws, helping Idaho collect its first win of the New Year. Djim Bandoumel tied his career-high with 16 points while Stephen Madison posted 14 points and had a team-high eight rebounds.

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Not a snooze fest

Why the National Championship was almost enjoyable

Alabama's victory over LSU marked the official end of another season of college football, giving the Crimson Tide their second title in three years.

It was a snooze fest for the most part with a ton of three-and-outs, punts and field goals. That was to be expected of this match-up. While many are unhappy with the game, it featured something virtually non-existent in other bowl games this year — defense.

It was strange to watch two teams play defense in a bowl season that saw a number of offensive records broken. While the Bama-LSU chess match was boring for lack of touchdowns, other games were equally boring because they lacked defense.

The Rose Bowl saw the most combined points it ever had with 83. Oregon and Wisconsin had more than 500 yards of total offense.

It got to the point where you expected a touchdown out of every possession, leaving one to wonder what happened to good, old-fashioned defense. It became so predictable

that it was difficult to watch. Viewers could have just watched the fourth quarter and would have seen all they needed.



Kevin Bingaman
Argonaut

The worst defensive game of the year had to be the Alamo Bowl. Washington and Baylor combined for a record 123 points with each team racking up

more than 600 yards. A high-powered offense is entertaining, but not when you think they have no chance of being stopped. Games like that should be in arena football not the NCAA. Yes these were two high powered offenses and yes a Heisman Trophy winner was involved, but I can't help but wonder if the defensive coordinators did anything to prepare for the game.

There were 10 teams this bowl season that scored more than 40 points. Clearly offense is becoming the focus

of teams, but should it be? High school coaches will tell you defense wins championships. Teams don't seem to be thinking that way anymore, but it is true and this year's National Championship proved it.



People can complain about how boring the game was, but it gave us a glaring reminder of how defense should be played.

deserving of the title.

People can complain about how boring the game was, but it gave us a glaring reminder of how defense should be played.

Defense still wins championships, and Alabama coach Nick Saban is proving it year after year.

CATCHING

FROM PAGE 6

Sophomore Alyssa Charlston had a career-high 30 points in the game and earned all-tournament honors.

The Vandals ended the non-conference season with a 72-80 loss to Seattle University Jan. 5 in the Cowan Spectrum. While the Vandals shot well in the game, they had too many turnovers and gave up too many rebounds.

It has been an uphill battle so far for Idaho. The Vandals have dealt with a number of injuries and dependence on young players. After the loss to Seattle U, Charlston said it's time to lose the young label and step up.

"Boxing out and rebounding on defense has been a consistent problem for us and we can no longer use the excuse that we're young or that we haven't played enough games, because preseason is over now," Charlston said. "We have to get more physical and we have to have pride in rebounding."

Bright spots for the Vandals so far have been Charlston and freshman Stacey Barr. Charlston said she's been feeling more confident with every game.

"Offensively I feel more confident," Charlston said. "The way our offense is designed is to be constantly moving because we don't have a size advantage against most teams, we have a quickness advantage."

COUGS

FROM PAGE 6

Idaho's strategy is similar, and Taylor said her goals lie five months down the road at the WAC Championship meet.

"It's a low-key meet,

it's not real intense," Taylor said. "A lot of our training that we're doing right now is going to go through these meets because really we're focusing on preparing for a conference championship."

PREVAIL

FROM PAGE 6

in the second half's final minutes.

Geiger, whose 3-point shooting and rebounding efforts proved essential down the stretch, finished as the game's leading scorer with 23 points, while tacking on four assists and four rebounds. Senior Landon Tatum was 13-15 from the charity stripe and added 20 points and six assists. Kyle Barone and Madison both finished in double digits and Barone led both teams with 15 rebounds.

La. Tech's Brandon Gibson troubled the Vandals as much as anyone as the junior guard notched 22 points and 13 rebounds.

Idaho now faces a daunting task in Las Cruces, N.M. on Saturday, when they take on New Mexico State at 6:00 p.m. The Aggies currently sit second in the WAC with 11 wins on the season and are led by senior forward Wendell McKines. The Oakland, CA., native ranks 40th in the NCAA with 18.4 points per game and 13th with 10.7 rebounds per game.

Giorgi plays in tournament honoring fallen soldiers

Stephen Wiebe
Argonaut

Idaho junior golfer Mark Giorgi was invited to play in the Patriot All-America Golf Invitational during winter break.

The three-day tournament took place Dec. 28 to 30 at Wigwam Golf Club in Litchfield Park, Ariz. The tournament brings together some of the best college golfers from around the country while raising money and awareness for the families of fallen or wounded soldiers.

"The tournament was about raising funds for families of military people that have been killed," Idaho golf coach John Means said.

During the tournament each player used a golf bag containing the name of a fallen soldier. The

bags were also autographed by every player in the tournament. At the conclusion of the tournament, the golf bags were sent back to players' respective colleges where they are auctioned for the Folds of Honor Charity.

"Our job is to try to find somebody that would be willing to buy that bag," Means said. "That money goes to the scholarship funds for the kids of that military person that was killed."

The 84-player field for the Patriot All-America is limited primarily to male college golfers who have earned PING All-America honors. Giorgi was an All-American at his former college, St. John's (Minn.) University, as well as the 2010 NCAA Division III Freshman of the Year.

"Any player from Division I, II, or III that was an All-American from the

past two years got invited (to the Patriot All-America Invitational)," Giorgi said. "The skill (of the opposing players) was a little better than other tournaments just because everyone was an All-American."

Not only was Giorgi up against tough competition, but the Wigwam Golf Resort proved to be a challenging course. The tight fairways and numerous water hazards did not bode well for Giorgi and the other northern athletes who had not had much outdoor practice this winter. This contributed to his 81st place finish.

"Every hole was pretty tight," Giorgi said.


Means said UI golfers practice primarily indoors during the winter months. This includes hitting golf balls into nets and working on swings rather than actual-

ly playing on a golf course.

"A lot of the kids that were down south had been playing (outdoors) a lot," Means said. "There was definitely a huge advantage for those living down south and had been playing a lot (this winter)."

The first and second place finishers for the Patriot All-America were Cory Whitsett and Bobby Wyatt. They are both from the University of Alabama. Giorgi was the only player in the tournament representing the Vandals. Since it was an individual tournament, Means could not attend. Giorgi's parents could not make it to the tournament either.

"(The Patriot All-America) is an individual tournament," Means said. "I wasn't even allowed to go with (Giorgi). He was out there playing in the tournament by himself."



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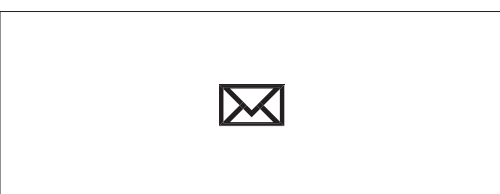
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OURVIEW

Light bulb: On

The light bulb has finally clicked on for Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter as he announced jobs and education as the top two priorities for the 2012 budget, and it’s about time.

During the last couple years, education on every level has suffered from millions of dollars in budget cuts. State officials failed to see the connection between education and an improved economy.

In his State of the State Address Monday, Otter said jobs and education are inseparable. Both components are key in helping to revitalize the state’s economy.

In comparison to last year alone,

this year’s budget proposal already seems to be a huge improvement for education throughout the state.

Otter said in his proposal that he is recommending full funding for the cost of enrollment growth, and moving into and operating new facilities for all universities, colleges and community colleges.

Enrollment growth is key to increasing revenue generated by higher education. The more students who attend each institution, the more money from tuition, campus housing and dining, school events, and other common student activities.

Not only would the institutions

feel the increase in dollars, but the communities that support the schools. It’s simple math: More people lead to higher demand for products and services, which equals an improved economy.

The second half of the deal — full funding for moving into and operating new facilities on campuses — is a logical addition and smart move. It’s a cause and effect situation, and it’s good that Otter has built it into his proposal.

He also proposed full funding for Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna’s Students Come First plan, which was voted into effect in 2010.

Full funding for educational institutions and programs is exactly what Idaho needs, even though there is heavy debate surrounding Luna’s Students Come First plan.

We should focus on the idea that there will hopefully be funds to support higher education in Idaho, instead of becoming bogged down in the debate about whether the plan will work or is a smart use of funds.

Although it has taken him a while, Otter has said he is putting funding for education in the forefront of Idaho’s priorities.

Let’s hope it actually happens. —ER

OFF THE CUFF
 QUICK TAKES ON LIFE FROM OUR EDITORS

Dashicray
 @ClickQuack_the0.
 What’d she order?
 —Madison

Ain’t it J?
 @madison_mccord,
 fishfile!
 —Theo

The end is near
 Last semester of senior year, now that’s a scary thought. Time to rock it.
 —Rhiannon

Let’s go
 I’m excited to tackle my new position as news editor at The Argonaut this semester. Best of luck to Dylan, and welcome aboard.
 —Britt

Amazon
 I love Christmas presents to yourself that are purchased from Amazon.
 —Jens

National Championship
 So they made us watch LSU and Alabama again because they wanted to punish us?
 —Jake

If you’re going to be upset about something
 President Barack Obama makes \$400,000 a year as president of the U.S. Hugh Laurie makes \$700,000 for an episode of “House.”
 —Vicky

Off the Cuff numero uno
 I have arrived and don’t know what to say. I can now officially empathize with all the other “Cuffers.” Something witty: TBA.
 —Dylan

Only a few will get this
 —Amrah

Dragging my feet
 I spent the last bit of my break in California with my boyfriend and his family. The sunshine and warmth was incredible and I had such a good time that I don’t think I have ever been so disheartened to come back to school. But I was excited to see my friends again and it’s a three-day weekend so it can’t be all bad.
 —Elisa

Fighting senioritis
 In the months leading up to my senior year, I was dreading graduation because I wasn’t ready to grow up. Last semester proved this feeling wrong. I had the worst senioritis ever. This semester I’m going to try to fight it, and I think intro to deviance and crime is just the solution. I’m stoked for it.
 —Elizabeth

Make a resolution to have resolve

Every January when the calendar turns over, we reflect on the past year and make resolutions to do things better:



Eric Czirr
 Argonaut

We are going to eat healthier, drive the speed limit, exercise more and give to charities. Year after year we make the same resolutions, and year after year most of us give up by March.

What is it about New Year’s Eve that causes

this strange ritual to repeat itself? Nothing. If you really stop and think about it there is nothing special about New Year’s celebrations. The point in time we chose to let the calendar turnover could just as easily have been sandwiched between June and July. The Roman New Year was March 1 on a 10-month calendar, which is still reflected in the names of the months (October means “eighth month”). It seems a bit flimsy to rest healthy decision making on New Year’s when the holiday itself is arbitrary.

Another reason so many New Year’s resolutions taper off is because it is hard. No one said it is easy to be on a regimented workout schedule, and if it were easy you wouldn’t have waited until New Year’s to start.

I’m not suggesting everyone who makes a New Year’s resolution should call it quits because New Year’s is just another day. Instead I’d like to suggest a new solution. Every day from now on let’s have New Day celebrations.

Let’s celebrate the other 364 days in the calendar and resolve to be better tomorrow than we were today and better today than we

were yesterday.

Everyone can make healthier decisions and there is nothing to stop today from being the day to start. We don’t need a new year to make fewer mistakes and better decisions, we only need today.

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let

us rejoice and be glad in it,” (Psalm 118: 24).

Today is that day.

This year make a resolution to end resolutions. Instead, let today be the day you have resolve, and tomorrow and the next day. Let’s stop waiting for Jan. 1 to better ourselves and start bettering ourselves today.



Fresh starts, new beginnings

It’s a new year, a new semester and that means fresh starts and new beginnings. For some, New Year’s resolutions have been set in an effort to change while others choose to remain the same. But everyone should realize a new semester is an opportunity to start again and make up for past mistakes.

The end of last semester might have been successful for some people or brought disappointment, but the spring semester is an opportunity to set things right and start fresh. After reviewing your goals for last semester, you might find that only half of them were accomplished. Don’t let that discourage you from working hard to achieve your goals this semester.

For people who were not satisfied with their grades last semester, this semester is an opportunity to improve. Your goals might include getting Bs, or even all As, and though it might seem difficult this goal is not far-fetched. Plan your schedule well — fitting in ample time for studying and homework, and not disregarding time for friends and other social activities.

Studying might have been a difficult ordeal in the past semester, but this semester is an opportunity to form good study habits. Find the style of studying that works best for you. Prioritizing assignments, diligence, hard work and relaxation

will help in your pursuit of good grades this semester.

This semester is also an opportunity to work hard at other goals besides doing well in school. Working out at the Student Rec Center might have been an unachieved goal last semester because of a very busy schedule and overwhelming amounts of assignments and exams. But the rec center is on campus, which makes it easier for students to stay fit and include going to the SRC in daily activities.

Goals for this semester might also include eating healthier with less junk food, spending more time with friends or setting aside more time to relax. Whatever your goals are and no matter how difficult they seem to be, they are definitely achievable. The semester will definitely get tough down the road and maybe you will slack off a little on your goals. But don’t let this discourage you. Focus on what you have to do, talk with friends about your difficulties and you will be encouraged to find that you are not alone.

Working toward your goals will keep you strong and motivated this semester. Approach this semester with determination and with the knowledge that it’s a fresh start with many new opportunities for you to do better than you have in the past.



Toulwani Adekunle
 Argonaut

Voters need to be informed

Caucuses and primaries are still elections

The 2012 presidential election may only be on the periphery of many people’s thoughts, but with the start of Republican caucuses citizens need to begin accurately informing themselves of what is happening in the presidential race.

In January 2004 the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania began a study to gather statistics concerning uninformed voters. At the first polling, which occurred after the first caucus in Iowa, 81 percent of those polled responded saying they did not feel informed enough to make a decision. By February the number decreased to 75 percent in the nine states that held caucuses in January, but in the remaining states voters who felt comfortable making an informed decision was around 18 percent.

These numbers represent uninformed voters for a caucus, not the actual presidential race, but they are just as disheartening. The caucus is a time to select who the best candidate will be for whichever party does not currently hold office, and this year in particular is filled with

numerous candidates who may or may not be suited for the position.

The issue lies not only with voters remaining uninformed, but how they base their decisions when they do vote. Uninformed voters tend to pick one issue and use that to determine who they support, while ignoring all other aspects of a candidate’s platform. When it comes to voting, it doesn’t matter how strongly a person feels about an issue — be it gay rights, the economy or abortion — it needs to be weighed with everything else the candidate stands for.

However, because of the continuous and predictable cycle voters use to decide their vote, candidates play on voters’ weaknesses to obtain more votes. This is especially prominent in campaign commercials. Candidates use commercials to either tear down an opponent or build themselves up based on a single issue. So those who do not seek more information have only a 30-second clip with which to decide their vote when elections come around.



Katy Sword
 Argonaut

SEE VOTERS, PAGE 10

Lessons from childhood

Dear potential employer:
I was asked to write a curriculum vitae for you during the break, but I did not truthfully convey the person behind the words you are now reading. The two required pages, lavish in their "education" and "work experience," allowed no space for a person between its lines. In fact, there does not appear to be space to fit a person in there at all. So here now is an accompanying letter written for a college paper, which many students will choose not to read.
You see, time is precious these days, and we walk delicately along the line of expectation in order to build up this paper self you have just read. You will likely never read

this letter in all its trivialities, yet the lessons shared will be carried with me each and every hour into any future position you may be willing to grant. Here is my real education.
I may not be able to speak in algebraic formulations, but I can tell you how to propel over a gate or how to angle your strokes and face slightly downward as a barrel plummets your streamlined body toward the shoreline. I can tell you about the glitter in black sand and the cliffs it shattered from. And how if you put a refrigerator magnet under paper you can make trails of sand snake across paper, and how to curl your toes while traversing steep dunes. Shakespeare evades

me, but I can show you how to source fresh water on mountainsides, how to wade through rivers and how to leap boulders without breaking stride. I can show you how to most efficiently lick melting ice-cream, if clouds are going to soon rain and how to weave baskets out of native flax leaves. I can show you how to build volcanoes out of sand and baking soda and how the tiniest daisies can form chains.
I admit, I lack any labor-intensive work experience, but how about hanging rope swings in trees, riding a bike through meter-high grass and navigating winding gravel roads. What about peeing in the sand without anyone around knowing and designing intricate forts to divert oncoming tides? Or clamoring around jagged islands, or linking arms in

gale-force winds to make it down mountainsides?
An education is something holistic that shapes and forms a person not only in knowledge and understanding but in action as personality or a broader skill-set developments. In this sense, an education is a life lived. And an education is failure.
A second accompaniment listing many various failures may be a little too long to fit here. An education is also disappointment, pain and loss, although the motives of sharing these is often questionable. We all have failures yet they are often better learned from and left behind.
So please consider these so-called trivialities. Please know that every person applying for a position is not the person who has compacted themselves onto two pages. Look for them between the lines.



Bethany Lowe
Argonaut

Something stimulating

Stimulus packages are short-term solutions

Even though President Barack Obama's \$447 billion stimulus package contained a number of GOP-proposed remedies, the bill was stymied by Senate Republicans. The defeat of this legislation reminded me of my experience with the last stimulus: The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
Last summer, I worked as an intern for the University of Idaho School of Journalism and Mass Media in the Clearwater National Forest documenting the \$18 million in stimulus projects being implemented there. The journalism lesson included a bonus tutorial in our government's bureaucracy — a bureaucracy with a flood of money that had to be used immediately on "shovel-ready" projects.

After the Recovery Act was passed forest service budgets in the Clearwater ballooned, some to more than five times the projected 2009 totals. As a government agency with a budget that had been cut in half during the past few years, the influx of stimulus money gave foresters the opportunity to complete long-deferred maintenance and continue with other projects.

But after all the pressing projects were paid for, the first problem arose. Unable to save the remaining millions in stimulus money and a future that promised more budget cuts, the forest service spent cash on unessential projects. Instead of saving resources for future economic stability, untouched trails got a facelift and structures got paint jobs.

However, contractors who won Recovery Act contracts got their money. The majority of the federal funding went to local contractors and in that respect the local economy was stimulated, if only during the two years the projects had to be completed.

But that is what a stimulus is designed to do: Provide a short-term bridge to better times during a period of economic crisis. The problem is the people who use the bridge are those who already have jobs. It just ensured those contractors didn't have to lay anyone off. The "job creation" touted by President Obama is a convoluted description of staving off firings.

Contractors I spoke to were thankful for the work, but many voiced concerns about how tax-payer money was being spent. As the nation's infrastructure crumbles and unemployment hovers around 10 percent, can we afford to fix fire lookouts four-hour's drive from civilization? While national forests are invaluable American resources, could these dollars have been better spent in other, more productive places?

An additional problem with stimulus spending around Clearwater, and on government projects in general, is the infatuation with private companies getting the money regardless of the costs. According to a veteran forest service official, he and a crew of high school volunteers repaired a lookout for \$50,000 less than a private company that did the same work on a similar lookout.

The government pays the private sector adhering to strict laborer salary guidelines, but what if the company doesn't fulfill its end of the deal? Americans constantly gripe about the inefficiencies of our government but continue to make them inefficient by requiring private labor.

Republicans have demonized the 2009 stimulus and voted down President Obama's latest proposal to spend our way out of the recession, but maybe it is our devotion to private enterprise that needs to change if the government is to become more efficient. Can't we trust a few foresters with decades of experience to build our lookouts?

After last summer, my question is: What do we value? If we want resources like national forests in the future, we need to start paying for it now. We need to stop mocking bureaucracy and trust people who have a tangible stake in the success of the organization they work for.

After all, the stimulus was just a short-term bridge — not a guaranteed fix.

VOTERS

FROM PAGE 9

Doing background research only takes a few minutes but can make a significant difference in who wins the Republican nomination, and the presi-

dency. Voters need to do themselves a favor and put in the effort to be informed. As Robert Kuhn, a public intellectual, said, "Democracy works successfully only when participants are informed and able to make independent judgments."

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