

THE ARGONAUT

THE VANDAL VOICE SINCE 1898

uiargonaut.com

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Evaluating evaluations

Low student response affects teacher evaluation statistics

Lindsey Treffry
Argonaut

It's nearing midnight on Sunday before your final exam. Coffee in hand, you decide to go through your Spanish flashcards one more time. A three-week-old email from your Spanish instructor sits in your inbox, reminding you to fill out her instructor evaluation before the clock strikes 12 a.m. Your caffeine-surfed hand shakes as you close your laptop, ignoring her request, and head to the kitchen to cook some Top Ramen. It's going to be a long night.

"(The online student evaluations of teaching systems) are used a lot more than students realize," said Archie George, director of University of Idaho Institutional Research and Assessment. "If students knew that, they'd be more inclined to fill it out."

The IRA carries out policy and development of the online SET system, which replaced paper evaluations in the early 2000s. The digital format improved the reach of instructor surveys to off-campus students and cut a five-week process of sorting, scanning, compil-

ing and distributing more than 32,000 forms. Issues with the current system include abnormal course dates, student log-ins and technology issues.

George said the biggest issue is not with the online system, but with student response rates.

"The logistics are great," said Karen Humes, UI's geography department chair. "Just the collection needs to be improved so we can have a genuine majority."

In Humes' department, she

SEE EVALUATIONS, PAGE 4

1. Instructor Overall, how would you rate the instructor's performance in teaching this course? (4 is high)

4 3 2 1 0

Comment on the instructor's performance. What was most helpful? What could be improved?

2. Course Overall, how would you rate the quality of this course?

4 3 2 1 0

Comment on the quality of this course. What was most helpful? What could be improved?

LEARNING POW WOW CULTURE



Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

A Native American dancer displays traditional dress while competing in a cultural dance against other elder dancers at the 13th Annual Tutxinmepu Pow Wow Sunday in the Moscow Junior High School gymnasium. The pow wow offered attendees the chance to learn about traditional Native American Culture.

New policy defines appropriate relationships

Joanna Wilson
Argonaut

University of Idaho Dean of Students Bruce Pitman said the new relations policy email, sent to students March 28, was an important reminder to students who had heard of the policy before and new information to others because of UI's constant changing demographic.

"There are expectations of both faculty and of students in making de-

isions about relationships," Pitman said. "In order for the educational process to take place in a safe environment, and in an environment that furthers our academic goals, there need to be appropriate relationships so that judgments can be made about the quality of work that's being made in the classroom."

Policy 3205 in the Faculty Staff

SEE POLICY, PAGE 4

Empty seats

ASUI seeking feedback in athletic event forum

Kaitlyn Krassel
Argonaut

A lack of student participation and attendance at athletic events this year has lead ASUI Director of Athletics Grady Hepworth to seek student feedback to increase involvement and Vandal spirit.

An open forum at 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Idaho Commons Horizon Room is intended to gain perspective on the issue. The forum is open to all students and will last until 5 p.m. Hepworth said free pizza and drinks will be provided for attendees.

"It seems like attendance has gone down for (football) games because our winning percentage dipped," Hepworth said. "But at the same time that doesn't make sense because our bas-

ketball team did win a lot this year and attendance was low there too."

Hepworth said one of his goals is to increase student participation and bridge the gap between student athletes and the rest of the student body.

"A number of the population isn't interested in the actual sport itself when they go to these events," Hepworth said. "A lot of people go because it is a social event. But there are also a lot of people that don't go and that's something that we can change. We want to get more students to show up and have fun, because these events are fun."

Hepworth said he and several others within ASUI have been working with the transportation department to move the designated tailgate area to a new location that is

SEE EMPTY, PAGE 4



Elizabeth Barker Brandt



Brenda Helbling



Carmen Suarez

Showcasing professionalism

Women of the Year Award highlights three UI women

Lindsey Treffry
Argonaut

Three University of Idaho faculty, staff and administrative members were awarded Athena's Women of the Year Award.

Athena supports professional women at UI through training programs, conferences, scholarships and stipends. The Women of the Year Award highlights some achievements of these women.

"These are women, who through their work (on our campus and our entire state), have a significant impact in a positive way on a number of women's lives," said UI instructor and Athena President Shauna Corry.

This year's winners include Elizabeth Barker Brandt, law professor and associate dean for Faculty Affairs; Brenda Helbling, execu-

tive assistant to Provost and Executive Vice President Doug Baker; and Carmen Suarez, director of Human Rights, Access and Inclusion.

Both Helbling and Suarez are Athena members at UI, while Brandt is not.

"Anyone can receive the Women of the Year award, not just Athena members," Corry said. "There are really great women that don't have time (to join Athena) that do significant work and are contributing."

Corry said award-winner Helbling can solve any problem and helps other people do the same.

Helbling said she is responsible for implementing initiatives, building relationships across the university and maintaining strong professional

SEE PROFESSIONALISM, PAGE 4

IN THIS ISSUE



Read how the track and field team collected multiple individual titles last weekend.

SPORTS, PAGE 5

OUR VIEW

Did you already vote in the ASUI presidential and vice presidential election? Read Our View.

OPINION, PAGE 9

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University of Idaho

Volume 113, Issue no. 52

Recyclable

KUOI
NEWS

READING THE NEWS SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO
 mwf @ 9:30/3:30 on 89.3 fm or online at kuoi.org

ASUI Student Engagement

Leadership Programs

Advisor Brown Bag

Developing and Increasing Personal Effectiveness

Wed. April 18, 12 pm

Panorama Room, Commons

Student Achievement Awards

Award Ceremony

Fri. April 20, 7 pm

Admin Auditorium

Business Attire

Center for Volunteerism and Social Action

Saturday of Service

Sat. April 28

For info or to register visit volunteer.asui.uidaho.edu

Vandal Entertainment

THIS WEEK'S FILMS

SUB Borah Theater FREE

DISNEY WEEK

ALL MOVIES AT 7 PM

Tues: The Aristocats

Wed: Tarzan

Thurs: Hercules

Fri: The Lion King

Sat: Lady and the Tramp

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Robert Hastings

"UFO's: The Secret Story"

Tues. April 9, 8 pm

Admin Auditorium

International Friendship Association

FREE Women's Swim

Campaigning has begun!

Sun. April 15, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Physical Ed Building Pool

Questions? Glen Kauffman

208--885-7841

Student Organizations

Activities Board Funding Training

Step 1 for Student Orgs to be reimbursed

Tues. April 10, 6:00 - 6:45 pm

Crest Room, Commons

Activities Board Funding Request Applications Due

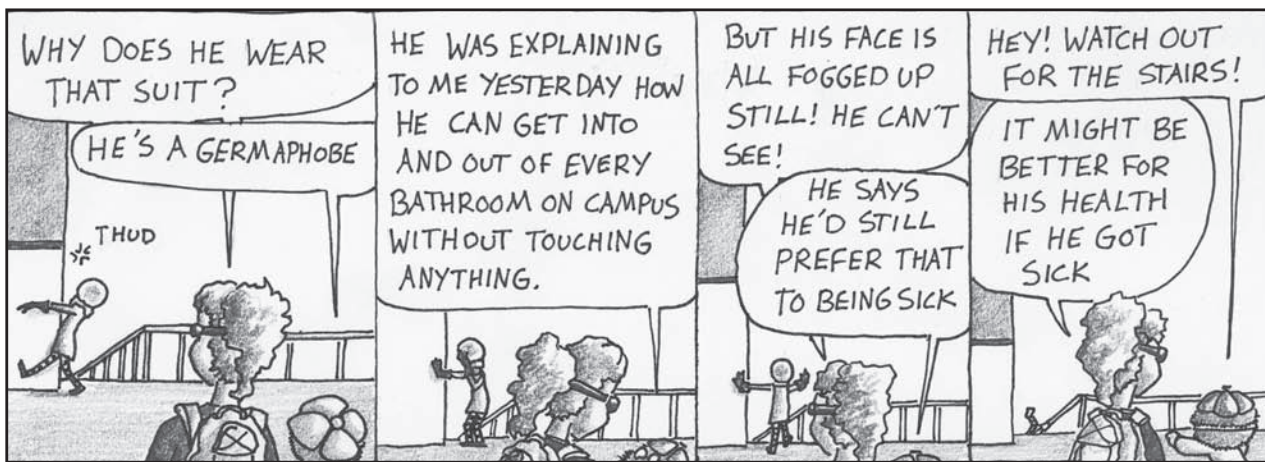
Fri. April 13 at noon

to be heard at the

Tues. April 17 hearing

ASUI.UIDAHO.EDU
208.885.6331

University Studies



Wesley O'Bryan | Argonaut

Rex



Eli Holland | Argonaut

Cloud 9

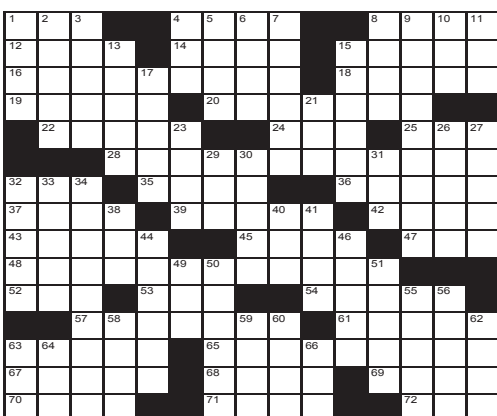


Andrew Jensen | Argonaut

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Roadside sign
- 4 Herring relative
- 8 Competent
- 12 Track shape
- 14 Wing (Fr.)
- 15 Nose, to some
- 16 Old West painter, Frederic
- 18 Old two-door car
- 19 Jagged
- 20 More than one or two
- 22 Store events
- 24 Author LeShan
- 25 Broke bread
- 28 Olympia painter
- 32 Antitrust laws protector (Abbr.)
- 35 Exhausts
- 36 Greek letter
- 37 Spring
- 39 Heightened
- 42 Part of USDA (Abbr.)
- 43 Golfer Palmer, to pals
- 45 Ancient
- 47 Football positions (Abbr.)
- 48 Painter of colorful and primitive rural scenes
- 52 Mineo of Exodus
- 53 Sparkler
- 54 Rascal
- 57 TV installment
- 61 Plains tribe
- 63 Sir or madam, e.g.
- 65 The Night Watch painter
- 67 Fragrant oil
- 68 Magazine contents

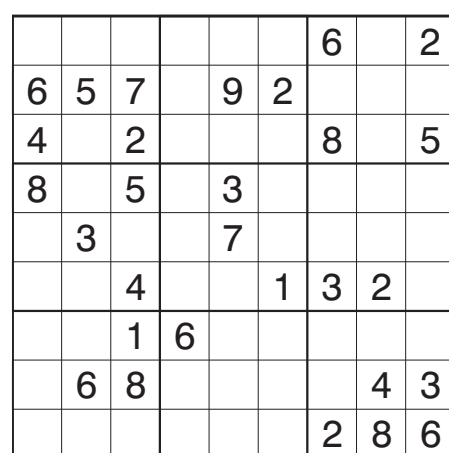


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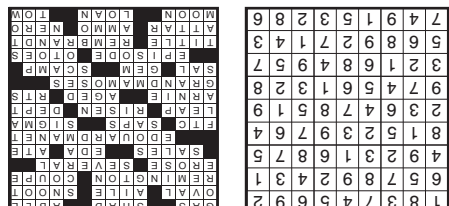
Down

- 1 Horror film staple
- 2 Certifies
- 3 Pago Pago's place
- 4 Droop
- 5 Some plays
- 6 Burn balm
- 7 Mile-High City
- 8 Celebes dwarf buffalo
- 9 The Slave Market painter
- 10 Cut off
- 11 Summer on the Seine
- 13 Cotton thread
- 15 Skeddaddles
- 17 Exigencies
- 21 Actor Byrnes of 77 Sunset Strip
- 23 Skyrocket
- 26 Beguile
- 27 States (Fr.)
- 29 Reuters rival inits.
- 30 State in Northeast India
- 31 Subsidy
- 32 Mastheads
- 33 _cotta
- 34 Painter Giovanni Antonio Canal's AKA
- 38 Brooch
- 40 Freudian topic
- 41 Famed loch
- 44 More uptight
- 46 Designer's concern
- 49 _amis
- 50 Unprincipled
- 51 Paradise Lost figure
- 56 California's San _ Bay
- 58 Scheme
- 59 Showroom model
- 60 Jane Austen heroine
- 62 Pack away
- 63 Tartan cap
- 64 Former Japanese prime minister
- 66 _vivant

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS



THE FINE PRINT

Corrections

In the April 6 edition of The Argonaut, in the caption of the photo accompanying "Spreading cultural understanding" the date of the Tutinmepu Pow Wow was incorrect. It took place April 7 and 8.

On the web

uiargonaut.com, uiargonaut.com/vandalnation, 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.

Letters Policy

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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Democrats and delegates

Idaho Democratic caucus to determine Latah County representatives

Katy Sword
Argonaut

There may be only one official presidential candidate for the Democratic Party, but the caucus will still take place.

"Basically the choices are between Obama and uncommitted," Caucus Chairman Jim Miller said. "People come and declare who they will vote for."

The Idaho caucus will take place Saturday at McDonald Elementary School in Moscow. Doors open at 9 a.m., with the events starting at 10.

"Unlike the Republican caucus, ours is open to anybody," Miller said. "You don't have to declare a party affiliation, but can't have voted in the Republican caucus and then here."

Miller said the caucus will

also determine Latah County representatives for the state convention in June.

"Our county has 15 delegates sent to the state convention," Miller said. "We determine the percent of delegates based on the percent of people's pledges."

The delegate selection process is written by each state's Democratic Party. Once county delegates are selected, each state is allotted its number of delegates to the national convention based on population and the party's voting strength, according to the Idaho Democratic Party.

Miller said delegates are chosen based on the percentage of votes they receive during the caucus. He said even if someone interested was unable to attend the caucus, they could still run to be a delegate as long



Basically the choices are between Obama and uncommitted. People come and declare who they will vote for.

Jim Miller,
Caucus chairman

Event info

Event: Idaho Democratic Caucus
Location: McDonald Elementary School, Moscow.
Time: Doors open at 9 a.m., events begins at 10 a.m.

as they register before the event.

Miller said participants, even if they are not running, need to be registered voters in Latah County. A registration table will be set up before the event to register people to participate.

Miller said he expects about 200 participants because the candidate is an incumbent.

"It's not a big choice this year," Miller said. "We are planning for 200, but there could be 50 or there could be 1,000 — we don't know."

For more information or to get involved, contact the Latah County Democrats at (208) 882-6600.

Katy Sword can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

VOLLEYING FOR A CURE



Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

Kassidy Woody, 12, plays volleyball with a friend on the turf of the Kibbe Dome during the 2012 American Cancer Society University of Idaho/Latah County Relay for Life at 12:30 a.m. Saturday. Woody was part of the Carscallen Craziest relay team, whose members took shifts walking the track for the 14-hour relay.

Quilting for charity

Kasen Christensen
Argonaut

For more than 30 years, the Palouse Patchers' annual quilt show has raised money to make quilts for foster children, veterans and others.

Celia Boland, a member of the club since 1982, said the annual quilt show's \$5 admission fee is the club's primary fundraiser.

They also raffle off a quilt, on which Boland said members of the club collaborate. This year's raffle quilt is on display at BookPeople of Moscow.

Mary Shook, one of the club's community service chairwomen, said the club donates quilts and other hands-on projects to community members in need.

"We're doing our part to help kids in need in our area," Shook said.

Shook said the group gives quilts to the Quilts of Valor Foundation, which has donated more than 62,000 quilts to service members and veterans.

The group also gives a quilt to every child in foster care in the area, including Lewiston, Clarkston, Pullman and Moscow.

Shook said Iris Murray, a Palouse Patcher who also volunteered with Court Appointed Special Advocates — which advocates for children in the foster system, started the program.

Boland said the group donates money to local libraries, Paradise Creek Regional Alternative School and gives Christmas gifts to children.

She said because the group is a non-profit organization, all of its money must be spent each year.

Shook said they donate between \$500 and \$700 a year.

"And that's cold, hard cash," Shook said.

Shook said they are always on the lookout for opportunities to donate quilts or money raised through the quilt show and other activities.

This year's quilt show is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Latah County Fairgrounds.

Boland said about 200 quilts will be on display, most of them made by members of the Palouse Patchers.

"We just take over the whole building," Boland said.

Boland said some members of the group participate in quilting challenges. This year, contestants were given different colors, which will be grouped together to create a quilted rainbow.

Other items on display include baby quilts and antiques. Sometimes group quilts are on display.

Boland said most of the quilts are not for sale, though vendors will sell fabric and other quilting items. Some members of the group have also written books.

Homemade cookies will be served after the quilt show, according to Boland.

Shook said she enjoys the



Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

This quilt, on display in BookPeople of Moscow, will be raffled at the Palouse Patchers' Quilt Show April 15 at the Latah County Fairgrounds. Raffle tickets sell for \$1 at BookPeople of Moscow.

group because it welcomes a variety of people from different age groups.

Boland said she would like to see more young people join the group.

She said there are no dues, but each member is expected to help out at the quilt show.

"We're always glad to have new members," Boland said.

For more information about The Palouse Patchers and their projects visit palousepatchers.org.

Kasen Christensen can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

Spruce up the Palouse

UI students volunteer to paint houses in Moscow

Amy Asanuma
Argonaut

Paint cans, brushes and 200 volunteers will line the University of Idaho Library at 9 a.m. Saturday for UI's annual "Paint the Palouse" event.

"This is a great opportunity to see the community come together," said Rachelle Ausman, food and labor committee member. "We all receive identical shirts and are all united as a team."

Einstein's Bagels will provide breakfast, while the UI Food Nutrition Club and Food Science Club will supply chili, bread and desserts for lunch.

"Last year, we did 'Paint the Palouse' at the beginning of the fall semester," Ausman said. "It was awesome to see the freshmen who were unfamiliar with the campus bond with students in their painting groups. I'm excited to see how students interact this year."

Luci Sanchez, "Paint the Palouse" coordinator, said she had an interesting experience planning the event.

"I've never really participated in this program before," Sanchez said. "I have not had as much guidance as previous coordinators."

Despite lack of direction, Sanchez said she created four committees with specific jobs to plan the event — advertisement, house liaison, labor and food, and financing.

"(The advertisement committee) decorated the residence halls, Greek houses, the

Commons and the SUB with flyers and sign-up sheets for any interested students to get involved," Sanchez said. "The house liaison committee selects eligible homeowners with financial need or who are physically unable to re-paint their house. The food committee deals with meals to be provided and the financing committee calculates the money needed for supplies."

To prep the houses for a new coat of paint, the UI housing painting department will wash the exteriors of houses. This year, the group will have three houses to paint. Those who wished to be more involved were invited to apply to be house managers, who are responsible for dividing volunteers into three groups.

"Paint the Palouse" is funded by many organizations," Sanchez said. "RHA provides funds for the paint, residences halls and Greek houses donate and we received a grant from National Association of College and University Residence Halls."

The event is expected to end around noon.

"Traditionally, different organizations and clubs participate to fulfill a volunteer requirement they need," Ausman said. "We see community members joining in as well as UI staff and faculty members. It's an enriching experience. We can only hope for good weather this year."

Amy Asanuma can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

o ASUI Student Engagement o

Saturday of Service

Saturday April 28 • Check in at 9AM • Work 10AM to 1PM



f OrgSync
uidaho.edu/asui

EVALUATIONS

FROM PAGE 1

said there's not a single class that has more than a 60 percent return rate of evaluations from students.

For Pamela Bathurst, associate professor of voice, the return rate of teaching evaluations has been meek as well. She said the lack of evaluations do not provide the feedback necessary for instructors.

"(Instructors) absolutely need to have something to look at in order to see progress and also ... to be able to see where maybe they can tweak things so that they have a class that is the best class," Bathurst said.

She said evaluations are even taken into consideration when reviewing faculty positions.

Instructors undergo an annual evaluation process that analyzes the extent and quality of their teaching. This process can lead to merit-based raises, promotions, tenured positions or firings.

"Students don't realize how much these matter in people's careers — especially the untenured," Humes said.

When instructors are up for tenure, a report with a summary of student evaluations provides a summary score and is placed in every professor's review packet. According to Institutional Research Analyst Chris Lighty, these are compared to department, college and university scores.

"If you're denied tenure, you get one more year and then you're out," Humes said.

Humes said low student response rates also create a bias. For example, Humes said a small class of 20 students could receive a 50 percent response rate. With a few low scoring evaluations, she said this could

really impact an instructor's job.

"(The students who fill out the surveys are) people who really loved a professor or really hated a professor," Humes said. "It is not in the middle."

Kenneth Sprende, professor of geophysics, environmental and planetary sciences, said evaluations either flatter you or they're unfair.

"They either say something outrageous or that really annoys you," Sprende said. "You can lose sleep over that. Who wants to be told you're doing a great job, when you're not necessarily doing a great job?"

Bathurst said there are various reasons students in the middle sector don't fill out evaluations.

"I think (students) get busy," Bathurst said. "There are papers that are due, tests to study for. Things they feel are at the top of the list. (The evaluations) get shuffled to the bottom of the list. They can go online and do it and it doesn't take very long, but it's just one more thing."

Although the majority of the university follows the same online evaluation process, there are exceptions. All law courses, for example, use paper evaluations of a narrative form. Elizabeth Barker Brandt, professor and associate dean of Faculty Affairs at the College of Law, said the evaluations are passed out in class. She said each professor is responsible for distributing evaluations during the last quarter of the semester and before a final exam.

"I'll pass out the evaluations in my class and I go wait in my office," Brandt said. "I designate a student to delegate. They take 15 or 20 minutes, collect them and bring them to the office and we return to class."

Brandt said the whole university used to use a system similar to the College of Law. "Then the university went to numerical

and then online evaluations," Brandt said. "Our faculty had really big concerns about that. We figured if we went to numerical, students would not write comments. We thought if we did not get the comments, it would not be as resourceful."

Brandt reads all faculty evaluations and writes a summary, which is then submitted to the dean.

"We're sacrificing the administrative efficiency because our faculty has really wanted to have the detail that a narrative provides," Brandt said.

She said there is an 85 to 95 percent return rate per class for evaluations.

"Students don't have a reason to forget to do it," Brandt said. "They sit in class and do it. Students really feel like the narrative matters. They all know that I read them all, every semester."

While it is unlikely that the entire university would return to a paper system, Bathurst said the system seemed to work well.

"The rate was much higher because students were already in the class, but I believe I understand the reason for the change — it makes it easier for the people going through all of them," Bathurst said. "But I also saw (during the online switch) there was a drop in the amount of evaluations actually turned in. It became less mandatory and there was not time made for it. Going back to paper evaluations is not an option that would be looked at positively, but I think that's it."

Other than an unlikely return to a paper system, George offered other solutions to the response rates.

"The No. 1 recommendation I hear is for students to not be able to see grades for a period of time after grades have been posted, if they haven't submitted evaluations," George said.



(The evaluations) get shuffled to the bottom of the lists. (Students) can go online and do it and it doesn't take very long, but it's just one more thing.

**Pamela Bathurst,
Voice professor**

Humes said some instructors give class incentives. While instructors cannot see who submitted a class evaluation, they can see the number of students who have. She said some instructors reward students with extra credit if they reach a certain percent of evaluation responses.

Bathurst suggested instructors require students to bring their laptops to class to fill out instructor evaluations.

"(Students) think their vote doesn't count," Bathurst said. "It's the same thing with evaluations. It's the idea of not feeling like they really

count but that is not the case — they definitely count."

The evaluation period for courses begins three weeks before a course end date. The period to evaluate full-semester courses ends the Sunday before final exam week — at 11:59 p.m. May 6.

"If (students) look at it as part of contributing to the overall excellence of the classes offered in the UI — if they see themselves being part of that — maybe they might take the time to give input," Bathurst said. "It is not ignored. We all want everything to be the best we can. We are consciously looking to better, better, better our classes and our offerings and (student) contribution is viable."

*Lindsey Treffry can be reached at
arg-news@uidaho.edu*

POLICY

FROM PAGE 1

Handbook, enacted Dec. 13, 2011, states that the university's mission depends on maintaining professionalism, and romantic or sexual relationships "inevitably raises concerns for objectivity, fairness, and exploitation."

This includes instructor-student, instructor-assistant, senior faculty-junior faculty, mentor-trainee, advisor-advisee, counselor-client, teaching assistant-student, coach-athlete, student housing staff-resident and supervisor-employee relationships.

Paul Joyce, UI Faculty Senate chair, said the new policy clarifies the old policy.

"It's always been known that these sort of things are a bad idea," Joyce said. "Now it's in policy."

Joyce said that if such a relationship arises, the couple should disclose it immediately to the supervisor.

"They will need to either end the relationship, or end the authority," Joyce said. "If the student is in the class of the faculty member, he or she may be moved to a different section as a first step."

Once the relationship is disclosed, the department administrator will develop

a plan to remove the authority, Joyce said.

"Some could say this has to end, no matter what," Joyce said. "It's within their discretion. One could say you would have to move to a different section, then allow it. But there must be a plan to mitigate the situation."

If the relationship is not disclosed when it appears, and if it comes out later, the full policy will be enforced and could lead to dismissal of the faculty member, Joyce said.

"The university acknowledges that there are preexisting relationships between faculty and students," Joyce said. "For example, we have married couples, and one might be a graduate student and one a faculty member, or one a graduate student in chemistry and one in history."

The university would ensure that one member of such a couple has no academic or workplace authority over the other.

"This policy would also apply to somebody who works in the office," Joyce said. "It would not be allowed if one was the chair of a department and the other worked in the office."

*Joanna Wilson
can be reached at
arg-news@uidaho.edu*

TRADING VIEWS ON TORTURE



Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

Steve Wax, Esq., answers an audience member's question at the panel discussion entitled "The United States and Torture Since 9/11" held Monday in the College of Law courtroom. The discussion surrounded the United States and its role as a leader in global policy and actions taken in regard to torture.

EMPTY

FROM PAGE 1

accessible to the entire student body.

"There's an immediate association that tailgating equals booze, but that is a cultural thing," he said. "We're trying to make it fun for everyone, whether you're drunk or you're sober, over 21 or under 21 — we're hoping to get some ideas as to what would make students feel more included in the tailgate. Tailgates are supposed to be a school spirit function, a social function."

Hepworth said other ideas include the creation of a student flash mob group, outreach activities for student-athletes and promotional giveaways.

"We've been working closely with the Vandalizers, trying to figure out ways to get more people

involved, maybe create more of a personal feel toward the games and hopefully get more people interested in athletics," he said. "We'd like to have some better ideas. When you're working with the same people the same ideas pop up, so we're hoping to come up with new ways to attract students."

Hepworth said certain demographics seem to show up to every event, and he thinks other groups might feel unwelcome or excluded from athletic events. He said he hopes the open forum will encourage everyone to share ideas and to find out why certain groups don't attend.

"If students have great ideas we can guarantee they'll be listened to," Hepworth said. "This is one of those opportunities for students — for their

More info

The open forum is at 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Idaho Commons Horizon Room. The forum is open to all students and will last until 5 p.m. Free pizza and drinks will be provided for attendees.

voices to really be heard. This information will be used going forward."

Hepworth said ASUI and the athletic department hope many students attend the forum and help the departments gain perspective.

"We just want to know why students don't go and how we can get them there," Hepworth said.

*Kaitlyn Krasselt can be reached at
arg-news@uidaho.edu*

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PROFESSIONALISM

FROM PAGE 1

relationships all the way to the state board level. She said her job has to adapt to current needs.

"Creating relationships and opening effective lines of communication set the stage to resolve problems when they arise," Helbling said. "If I have the relationship and communication built first, then I can address difficult or challenging issues."

Corry said Brandt works tirelessly to address women's and children's concerns and tries to enact positive changes to societal perceptions of women and children. She said Brandt is her mentor.

Corry said Suarez, award-winner and Athena secretary, has voiced the need for more women in administrative positions. She said Suarez is a champion for people of all cultures and those with disabilities, and that she is very giving and has made a

difference on campus.

All chapter funding comes from membership dues, Corry said, while donations go to an un-ended scholarship fund. Dues fund meetings and a bi-yearly women leadership conference. UI President M. Duane Nellis funded the Women of the Year Award celebration at his residence March 28.

"Being awarded sort of focuses on the positive side of your balance sheet," Helbling said. "While it applauds individual achievement, in reality, it applauds availability of opportunities given to me by others and applauds effective relationships I've been a part of."

Corry said anyone can nominate a faculty, staff or administrative member for the award.

"An award to an individual has greater reach than the individual themselves," Helbling said.

*Lindsey Treffry can be reached at
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SPORTS



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Nailed it

Splitting up for the second week in a row, Idaho track and field brings home towering marks, dominant times

Stephan Wiebe
Argonaut

After splitting up for the second consecutive week, the Vandal track and field team produced impressive times and marks in both the Stanford Invitational in Palo Alto, Calif., and the War V Regional Dual in Spokane during the weekend.

Most of the team competed at the War V hosted by the Community Colleges of Spokane at Spokane Falls Community Colleges. Idaho senior Andrew Blaser won the 110-meter hurdles by nearly half a second with a time of 14.48 seconds.

In the 400-meter race, freshman Ben Ayesu-Attah and sophomore Andrew Bloom finished at the top for the second consecutive meet. The teammates tied for first, finishing in 48.39 seconds. Bloom also finished third in the 200-meter race with 22.17.

The Vandals also took the top two spots in men's pole vault as freshman Matt Sullivan won the event with a vault of 15-11 feet. Sophomore Dylan Watts finished with the same height but took second based on number of total attempts.

In the pits, junior Jason Lorentz won the long jump with a 23-00.50 mark while senior Rendel Jones took first in the triple jump with a leap of 47-07.

Sophomore Andrey Levkiv won the shot put for Idaho with a toss of 54-01.75. Fellow sophomore Kyle Rothwell won the hammer throw with a 186-06, nearly 15 feet farther than the next competitor. Sophomore Mike Marshall won the javelin with a 207-05 toss to round out three throwing victories

for the Idaho sophomores.

On the women's side, junior Anna Kalbrener took second in the 1,500-meter race finishing in 4:35.51. Kalbrener was the top Vandal distance runner to compete in Spokane and placed third in the 800-meter race with a time of 2:17.07.

Sophomore Cait Rowland finished second in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 65.08, just .04 seconds ahead of the third-place finisher.

Senior Morgan Dunning claimed her second consecutive top-two finish in the pole vault with a second-place vault of 10-11.75.

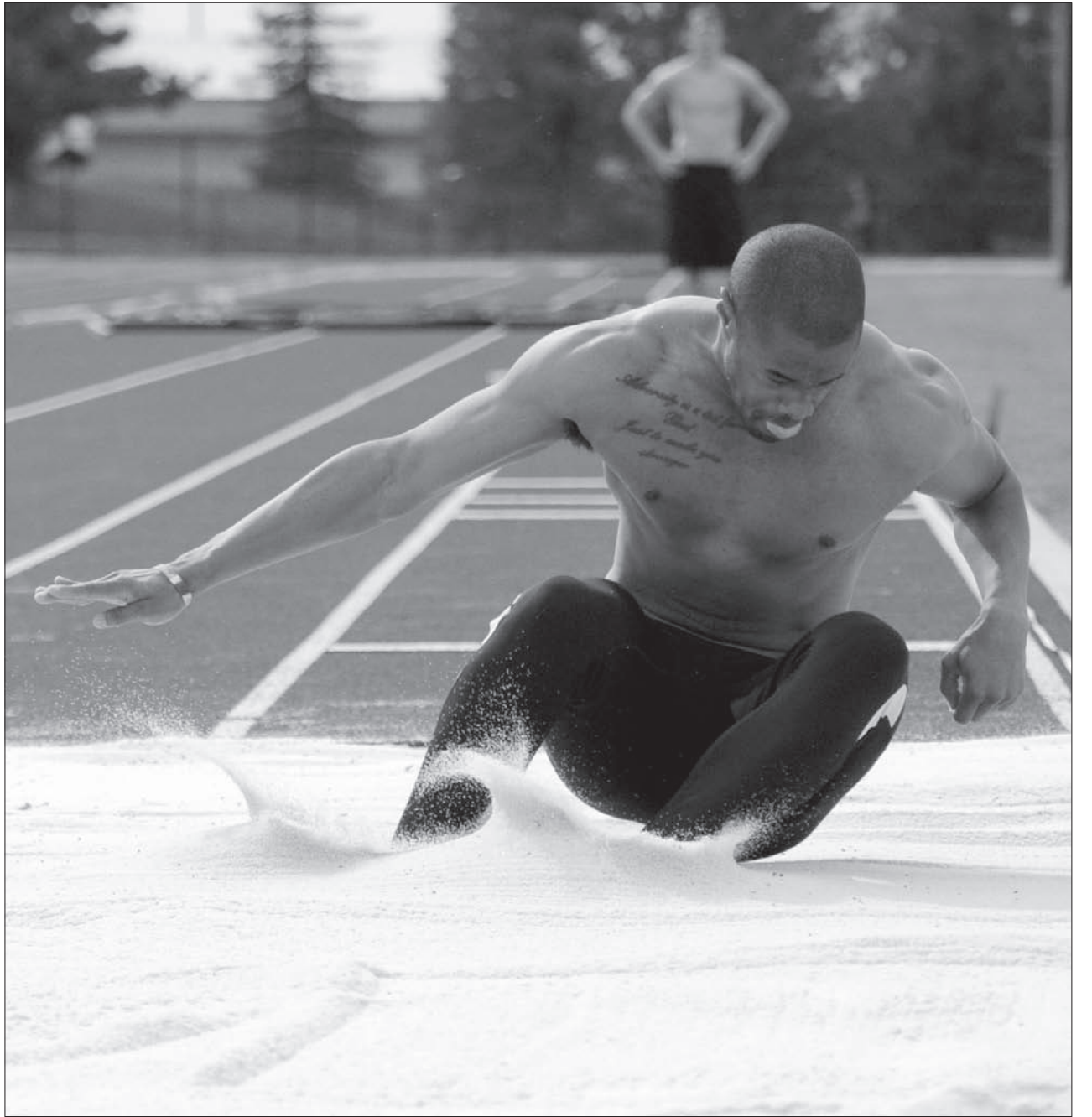
Back in the pits, junior Alyssa Covington's leap of 17-04.00 earned her second place on a day every competitor jumped below their season best.

Idaho rounded out the meet with a strong showing in the women's throwing events. Freshman Johanna Hockettaller took first in the shot put (45-05.25) and second in the discus (151-06), junior Kristine Leonard took first in the discus (153-04) while senior Gabby Midles and junior Sarah Nutsch dominated the hammer throw with tosses of 180-10 and 167-07. The next best competitor hit a 158-02.

The few Vandals that competed in the prestigious Stanford Invitational faced some of the nation's best athletes.

Senior Erica Digby ran a 4:22.18 in the third section of the women's 1,500-meter race to place third — a 13-second personal best for the fifth-year senior.

"I wasn't surprised by 4:22, based off the indoor



Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

Senior jumper Rendel Jones lands a triple jump at practice Monday at the Dan O'Brien Track and Field Complex. Jones won the men's triple jump Saturday at the Northwest Scoring Clash WAR V meet with a 13.95 meter leap.

season, but to do that in the very first race of the season with no specific 1,500 work yet is amazing," Idaho Director of Track and Field Wayne Phipps said. "It shows how fit she is and

shows what kind of potential she has for later on when we get more work in."

Sophomore Hannah Kiser finished in 4:27.46 in Section 2 of the event to put her No. 2 in the WAC, only

behind Digby. Phipps said that the two girls had great times despite battling illness leading up to the meet.

Junior Liga Velvere, Idaho's highest individual finisher at Stanford, took

seventh in the women's 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:01.21.

On the men's side, senior distance runners Stephane

SEE NAILED, PAGE 8

Athletes of the week

Erica Digby, track and field

In an extremely competitive field, Digby, a senior, stood out at the women's 1,500-meter race during last weekend's Stanford Invitational, finishing with a personal and WAC-best time of 4:22.18. The Vancouver, B.C., native beat her previous Personal Record by 13 seconds and holds the third-best time by a Canadian, according to recent performance lists.

"I wasn't surprised by 4:22, based off the indoor season, but to do that in the very first race of the season with no specific 1,500 work yet is amazing," Idaho Director of Track and Field Wayne Phipps said. "It shows how fit she is and shows what kind of potential she has for later on when we get more work in."



Erica Digby

Molly Knox and Sophie Vickers, women's tennis

The doubles pair contributed to Idaho's sweep of Weber State Friday afternoon at Lewis-Clark State College's indoor facility. The two defeated Weber State's Nittaya Phonharath and Michelle Warwick 7-0 at the No. 2 doubles spot, to help the Vandals claim a doubles point that saw the team drop just seven games in three matches played.

Knox and Vickers then went on to dominate in singles play, only losing a combined six games. At the No. 3 singles spot, Knox defeated Phonharath 6-2, 6-2 while Vickers handled Thais Kurer, defeating the Wildcats' No. 4 6-1, 6-1. Vickers and Lozano now prepare for tough weekend tests as Idaho hosts conference foe Nevada in addition to Pac-12 opponent Oregon.



Molly Knox



Sophie Vickers

SEE ATHLETES, PAGE 8

Line 'em up: Inexperienced O-line battles it out to fill gaps before season opener

Theo Lawson
Argonaut

Idaho's untested offensive linemen are on an even playing field with recently hired offensive line coach Gordy Shaw, who brings some of the same inexperience to his new position.

The departure of seniors Sam Tupua, Tyrone Novikoff and Matt Cleveland gave way to an onslaught of players eager to come out on top of position battles before Idaho's home-opener against Eastern Washington.

One of these is veteran lineman Guy Reynolds, has been with the program since 2008. After redshirting his freshman year, Reynolds saw back-up action in 2009 and 2011, but suffered a season-ending injury in 2010.

Though Reynolds' experience is limited, the junior is a favorite to claim a starting spot this fall. "As of right now we're all inexperienced," Reynolds said. "There's two guys who started 12 games and the rest of us, we played every now and then. We have big shoes to fill, the O-line here has been good for years ... It'll be a battle, it's going to be fun and that's how you build depth."

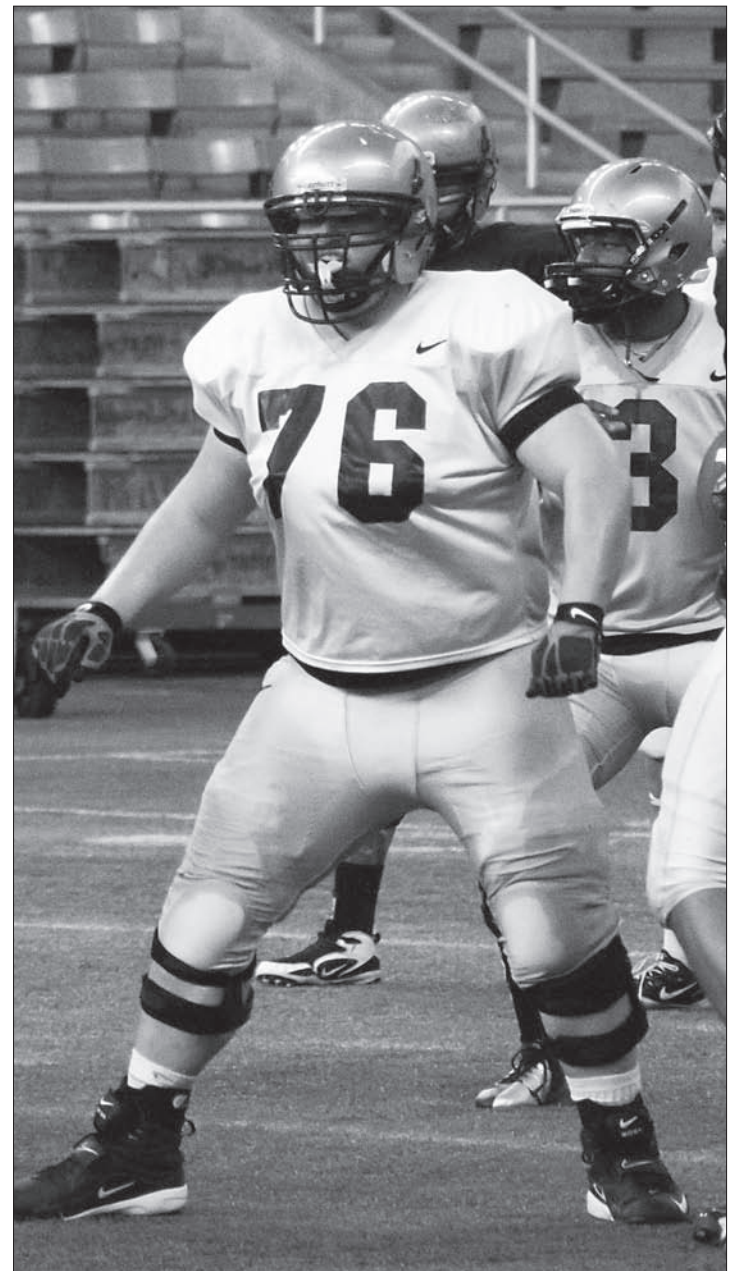
Although A.J. Jones, a senior, and sophomore Mike Marboe started a combined 22 games on the offensive line last season, they share similar Division I experience. A transfer from Butte College in Chico, Calif., Jones enters his second season with the Vandals. Marboe on the other hand, redshirted his freshman season after joining the Idaho program a semester early in January 2010.

Their experience, though limited, may be valuable to a historically strong offensive line that produced San Francisco 49er Mike Iupati, the No. 17 overall pick in the 2010 NFL Draft.

And while Shaw may be familiar with the Idaho program itself, the former Vandal defensive coordinator is still learning coach Robb Akey's offensive schemes.

"In the protection area, they had a lot of different protections and I've tried to simplify things and pull it down into three or four so I think the players appreciate that," Shaw said.

SEE LINE, PAGE 8



Ilya Pinchuk | Argonaut

Offensive lineman Jacob Benson stands guard after blocking defensive end Maxx Forde during practice Saturday morning in the Kibbie Dome.



Tony Marcolina | Argonaut

Idaho junior Abid Akbar serves the ball during a practice doubles match Monday on the Memorial Gym tennis courts. The men beat Northern Arizona 7-0 Friday in Lewiston, putting them at an overall record of 11-13 so far this season.

Extending a streak

Idaho men's tennis beats Northern Arizona, tallies three wins

Nick Groff
Argonaut

It doesn't always matter how a team wins, but when it wins. Idaho men's tennis (11-13, 1-2 WAC) is peaking when it needs to — just before they end the season against WAC competition.

The Vandals swept Northern Arizona 7-0 Friday at Lewis-Clark State College to extend their win streak to three after a dismal March, which saw them drop seven straight.

Idaho Director of Tennis Jeff Beaman said he expected lighter competition from the Lumberjacks, but the score was misleading.

"There were a lot of competitive matches, which for as easy as the score looked, it was actually a lot tougher in terms of the amount of the time the match took," Beaman said. "You get the confidence from the win, but you really have to earn it."

The Vandals only dropped one match, at the No. 3 doubles position, and Beaman said winning the doubles point provided enough momentum for his team to roll through singles competition. He said he will continue to evaluate who will play No. 3 doubles with Marius Cirstea this weekend.

Junior Abid Akbar said the whole team stayed consistent and mentally tough, which it will need Saturday against Hawaii (3-9, 2-1 WAC) and Utah State (4-9, 0-2 WAC) in Logan, Utah.

"They're both not the toughest teams we've played, but they're definitely pretty strong," Akbar said. "... it should be, it will be

tough matches. We gotta keep staying mentally strong."

Akbar said the key is to do exactly what they have been doing lately, staying focused and mentally tough.

"We have this one week to get prepared," Akbar said. "... it's two good teams. It's the WAC. It's important. We'll see who comes out at the top."

Beaman echoed Akbar and said Idaho, depending on the outcome Saturday, could be seeded as high as No. 2 and as low as No. 6 in the WAC Championships.

The most coveted seed in the tournament is the No. 2 seed. Whichever team clinches it would not have to play the nation's No. 26 team, Fresno State, assuming it reaches the championship.

Idaho plays Hawaii at 9 a.m. The Vandals and Warriors both beat New Mexico State and lost to Fresno State. Hawaii beat Nevada, but Idaho did not. At 2 p.m. Idaho faces Utah State in its last regular season match. The Aggies are winless in the WAC, having lost to Fresno State and New Mexico State.

Beaman said preparation for the final regular season weekend will be nothing different, but the intensity needs to be turned up.

"This is a critical weekend," Beaman said. "They're healthy and we really have to go at a high intensity. We need to be on all cylinders going into these two matches."

Nick Groff
can be reached at
arg-sports@uidaho.edu

So far, so good for Mariners

Fifteen runs in two games and three wins in four — results we certainly did not expect but hoped for out of the 2012 Seattle Mariners.

Meanwhile, the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox sit in the cellar of the American League East winless with 0-3 records.

Is this business as usual in this 2012 Major League Baseball season?

With 158 games left in this season it's probably best not to overreact to the first weekend of baseball, but it might be hard not to.

After all, these were the very same Mariners who played half of their games last year with Chone Figgins hitting .188. Seattle's leading home run hitter last season was catcher Miguel Olivo, who hit 19 jacks. Justin Smoak was the next leading home run hitter with 15.

Last season the Mariners had quite possibly the most pathetic offensive existence I have ever had the misfortune to watch.

They ranked last in the American League in batting average, last in the AL in on-base percentage, and second-to-last in the AL in total home runs during 2011.

So when the Mariners put together a ridiculous hit parade, scoring 15 runs in two games and affording everybody a hit in their latest 8-7 victory, how can you not overreact?

General Manager Jack Zdurenciek entered the off-season with an explicit goal to improve the club offensively, while keeping the team on a low-cost youth movement. So instead of blowing \$219 million on Prince Fielder, he dealt Pineda to the Yankees for Jesus Montero, his designated hitter of the future.

Dustin Ackley, Kyle Seager and Mike Carp all impressed during Spring Training and begin the first full major league

seasons of their careers.

The desperation for offense has even made Figgins the leadoff hitter and put Ichiro in the three hole for the first time in his Major League career.

So far, so good.

Ichiro and Figgins have gotten off to scorching hot starts following the season opening games in Japan, becoming top-of-the-order sparks that led to huge offensive innings and blew the last two games against Oakland wide open.

This is encouraging not only because Seattle is actually putting runs on the board, but because this trend could reinvigorate fans and prove Seattle won't be dead to rights when it is down two runs in the eighth inning. The ability to manufacture rallies from anywhere in the order could make this year a stark contrast from last season, although the pitching is likely to regress a little.

But, again, it's important not to overreact to an optimistic 3-1 start for the Mariners. We haven't seen what the Mariners will do against Texas or how the starting rotation, which features three new faces, will look.

This team, though, is worth our patience. It won't be pretty all year — Smoak and Montero will go through their growing pains in the heart of the order, Figgins may fall on his face eventually, and the rotation after Felix isn't an ideal two through five — but this team is being grown the right way, through young, home-grown talent.

If the first weekend of baseball is any indication, it should be better than last season.

Sean Kramer
can be reached at
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Sean Kramer
Argonaut

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Idaho shuts out Weber State



Tony Marcolina | Argonaut

Idaho sophomore Alejandra Lozano returns the ball during practice Monday on the Memorial Gym tennis courts. The women won 7-0 against Weber State Friday in Lewiston, helping them improve to 15-5.

Charles Crowley
Argonaut

Weber State (0-18) had been shut out seven times this season and Friday, the Idaho Vandal women's tennis team (15-5, 0-1 WAC) increased that number to eight, defeating the Wildcats 7-0.

The Vandals won all three doubles matches and the point before winning all six singles matches in straight sets.

Idaho coach Daniel Pollock said Weber State's record doesn't do them justice. Pollock said the Wildcats hit the ball really well and have a few solid players.

"They tried really hard — we couldn't just walk in there and wait for them to lose," Pollock said.

He's not sure why the Wildcats can't get over the hump against less-talented teams, but Pollock said Idaho was definitely the better team Friday.

"People shined in different places but I feel like everybody played with the confidence that they should do against a lower level opponent that we were expected to beat," Pollock said.

Sophomore Vicky Lozano, Idaho's No. 1 singles player, said that it's "just bad luck" the Wildcats haven't won any matches.

Lozano faced Weber State's Brittny Moore in doubles and singles, and said Moore was a strong player but her game was easy to attack.

"(Moore) was not bad, but I adapted really well to her game and felt very comfortable playing with her," Lozano said.

Pollock told the Vandals to come out and start strong. Doubles matches were first on the agenda and the 7-0 score reveals that senior captain Molly Knox and her partner Sophie Vickers took their coach's advice.

"Probably for doubles, the most fun I

have had all year," Knox said. "I got to hit tons of volleys. Sophie (Vickers) had great serves and returns and really set me up at the net."

This match was set to be Idaho's first home match of the season but weather concerns moved the match to Lewis-Clark State College's indoor facility in Lewiston.

"We like Lewiston, especially coming from the WSU courts that are a lot faster and we have been practicing on them for the last couple weeks," Knox said.

Pollock knows his players are comfortable in Lewiston and said the facility is top-notch.

"There is no reason why you can't play perfect tennis in there," Pollock said. "They love it — (I) wish it was in Moscow."

An average crowd attended the match and a few Vandal supporters showed up.

Pollock refuses to see Idaho's four wins in a row as a streak, and said he will take it one match at a time.

"You can't judge how you're (going to) play next week on how you played this week. You just have to go in and prepare like it's the first match of the season," Pollock said.

Pollock doesn't think the women are getting ahead of themselves. They know the upcoming matches will be tough and they have to practice hard to prepare for Friday.

Weather permitting, the Vandals will have another chance to play in Moscow when they host Nevada on Friday and Oregon on Saturday.

"We're excited to play them and see some different girls that we haven't seen before in competition," Knox said.

Charles Crowley can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu

Walk-ons vital to team

Kevin Bingaman
Argonaut

Making the cut on a Division I football team isn't an easy thing to do even with a scholarship. Making the cut without one is even harder, but there are a few every year that battle the odds to put on a college uniform.

A Division I team only has so many scholarships to offer, so every year some spots have to be filled by walk-ons. Idaho coach Robb Akey said walk-ons are a vital part of the Vandal football program.

"They're very important to our success," Akey said. "We only have 85 scholarships to give, so we have to have them and we're lucky to have had a good group of walk-ons in the past few years."

The process of walking on usually begins with an invite. Coaches choose and invite high school stars who didn't receive a scholarship. Idaho players Tom Hennessey and Justin Parkins experienced the process first-hand.

Hennessey is a 5-foot-11-inch sophomore safety from Mountain Home, Idaho, where he earned all-state honors. During his redshirt season at Idaho he was named the team's defensive Scout Team Player of the Year. Hennessey said he didn't hesitate to accept the walk-on invitation because being a Vandal is a family tradition.

"I grew up an Idaho Vandals fan," Hennessey said. "My dad played up here and I made a decision out of high school that I wanted to play football."

Parkins, a redshirt freshman running back, rushed for more than 1,200 yards during his senior year at Moscow High School.

Akey said Hennessey and Parkins have been impressive in their time so far and both have a bright future.

"Those two guys are some good ones," Akey said. "They come out and work hard and help the team get better. They're going to have a great future here."

The life of a walk-on is no different from that of a scholarship player, except they don't receive any money. They go to early morning meetings, practices and workouts, plus work extra hard to impress coaches.

"It's hard," Hennessey said. "It's an uphill battle just to make the cut in the spring and it's even more of an uphill battle to get playing time."

Parkins said it can be hard to do all the same things scholarship athletes do without the same benefits.

"You think about it at first, but it comes down to you're just playing football out here," he said. "Eventually if you keep doing what you're doing you could get paid. Some kids

never get paid. It happens but as long as you're playing ball, that's what everyone came here to do."

Hennessey's work paid off last year when he got on the field against North Dakota. He said the moment justified all the time and sweat he put in.

"When I got on the field against North Dakota, it was what I've been working for," Hennessey said. "It was a special moment."

Not all walk-ons experience that moment and Akey said it takes a mentally tough person with a passion to play the game.

"They have to love football," Akey said. "They have to love doing this because they're going to be doing it all day and all night. They have to have that drive."

In the end, Parkins and Hennessey agreed — it all comes down to work ethic. The two aren't paid, but doing what they love and pulling on the Vandal jersey makes it all worth it in the end.

"Some days are tougher than others," Hennessey said. "There are some days I don't want to be here, but there's only a couple thousand people in the country who get to do this."

Kevin Bingaman can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu



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ATHLETE

FROM PAGE 5

Andrew Bloom and Ben Ayesu-Attah, track and field

While Digby and company impressed in Palo Alto, Calif., Bloom, Ayesu-Attah and the rest of the track and field team returned to Spokane for the War V Regional meet. In the men's 400-meter dash, Bloom and Ayesu-Attah tied for first, for the second consecutive meet with identical 48.39 times. Bloom also found success in the 200-meter dash, where he took third with 22.17. Idaho claimed eight individual titles at the War V meet.

**Andrew Bloom****Ben Ayesu-Attah****LINE**

FROM PAGE 5

His experience with offensive line responsibilities dates back to a 13-year tenure at Minnesota, where he was the Gophers' offensive line coach from 2001 until 2006. Shaw held the same position at Hawaii from 2009 to 2011.

Shaw has spent his first few weeks in Moscow at every one of Idaho's spring practices and said aside from Marboe and Jones, multiple young faces have proven their worth recently.

"I think that Brady (Lisoski), Dallas (Sandberg) and Cody (Elenz) are guys who are really coming on," he said. "I think Guy is that guy, he's smart, he's fundamentally technique sound, he gives us a good solid player in there — so we're working with about seven guys."

Marboe said position battles result in Idaho's high intensity spring practices. A redshirt two seasons ago, he can relate to the pressure and adversity his younger teammates face.

"Nothing is set in stone so everyone, especially the kids that were redshirts are trying to prove themselves, I've been in those shoes before," Marboe said. "And I think it's been really fun and everyone is challenging each other and pushing each other to be the best we can be."

The combination of Shaw's knowledge, Marboe's and Jones' experience, and ambitious youngsters could prove to be the recipe for success for an offensive line that allowed the third-most sacks in the WAC last season.

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Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

Andrew Blaser, senior, pole vaults at practice Monday at the Dan O'Brien Track and Field Complex. Blaser claimed an individual victory for the Vandals in the men's 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.48 Saturday at the Northwest Scoring Clash WAR V meet in Spokane.

NAILED

FROM PAGE 5

Colle and Markus Geiger also made their outdoor season debuts at Stanford. Colle finished the 1500-meter race with a time of 3:53.19, while

Geiger wrapped up the meet with a 14:45.96 in the men's 5000-meter race.

"I think this entire group has a lot of high expectations for themselves after the indoor seasons that each of them had," Phipps said. "This is a great meet to open at with a lot of great

competition and very good weather. I think this is great preparation to set us up for Sacramento and Mt. SAC in the next two weeks."

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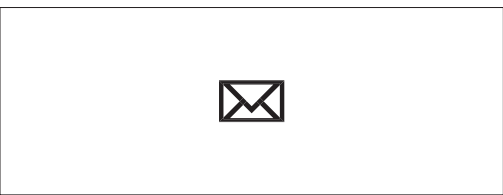
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OPINION



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OUR VIEW

More than a resume

Your vote in the ASUI election matters

Any undergraduate student enrolled with at least one credit and a grade point average of 2.75 is eligible to run for ASUI president or vice president. But there are other intangible qualities the people who represent the entire University of Idaho student body should possess.

ASUI presidents and vice presidents should not only have a fresh vision to improve the future of UI, but also the knowledge and understanding of the inner workings of the university and student government to make their vision reality. It also means being unselfish and working to provide benefits for future generations of Vandals — like current ASUI President Samantha Perez's extensive audit of the dedicated student fee and proposed zero percent increase. It's not another bullet point on a resumé or

a checkmark on a list of personal accomplishments — those are just positive side effects of an intense year in office. ASUI president is not just a fancy title, it means hard work managing real money and constituents.

This year's candidates have reached the end of the campaign trail. They have presented their platforms and showcased their knowledge — or lack thereof — during open forums and in Facebook groups. Months of planning, decision-making and campaigning have boiled down to three days and one unpredictable component of any election — voter turnout.

A democracy is a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and their right to elect leaders, and ASUI is no different. Students are always clamoring to make their voices heard, and for the next two days the fu-

ture of UI's student government is in their hands.

But as with any election, there is the danger of candidates being elected based on superficial reasons — physical appearance, unrealistic campaign promises and popularity.

Information about each presidential and vice presidential ticket is available in a variety of mediums: newspaper articles, Facebook pages, websites and word of mouth from friends or peers who might be more informed. Contact the candidates themselves to ask questions about their platforms or goals. Voting is a privilege and responsibility that should not be frivolously carried out with the click of a mouse.

The candidates have done their best to convince you they know what you want. Now it's your decision which ticket actually does.

—EE



ANDAL VOICES

Are you going to or have you voted in the ASUI presidential and vice presidential election?

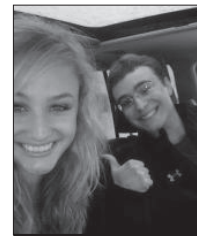


"I already voted. As students it's up to us to decide whom we want making the decisions in ASUI. I feel that if I want to see things I like come out of ASUI then I am obligated to give my vote. Students don't have a very good excuse to complain about what ASUI does when they never actually vote in the elections."

Shannon Kelly
April 9

"I have already voted. I believe voting is a great way to still get involved on the campus level. You may agree with some of the candidate's statements, or you may not, but staying informed and having someone who is willing to be that 'flagship' ASUI president and vice president is what really matters."

Sam Koester
April 9



"Absolutely. These positions are vital to campus and it is important that we have qualified and dedicated leaders. Each and every student is impacted by ASUI whether you realize it or not."

Samantha Perez
April 9



Shane Wellner
Argonaut

Tough little cookie

Only 15 years old. I crouched in the darkness underneath a cardboard box. Shivering and chilled to the bone. Recently kicked out of my home and with nowhere to go, my aching feet stumbled as they searched for a place to sleep for the night.

A man dressed in slacks and a polo slices an onion and holds it up to my eyes. It stings.

"Come on Bethany, you can do it."

I strain and focus on the pain. Finally, out comes a sob. Then another. The funny thing is, I mean it.

"OK, cut!" he yells, and the camera stops whirling.

Let's go back even farther.

At 5 years old I stare down the hallway at my mother screaming, and people dressed in white running around to the tune of sirens. Morning comes, and I stare adamantly at my parents and ask where my brother went.

Not a tear falls.

A "thick skin," is what they call it. I was a tough little cookie. And that little

cookie presumed that cookies should naturally just get harder with time. Then after the tumbles and turns of life, we become rock solid.

But hang on — look at elderly people who have hardened to the world. They're not the ones baking cookies for the neighborhood. They're not the ones giving out hugs and stories and candy. And they're certainly not the ones still taking risks, laughing, crying and dancing.

During the last few weeks, the tumbles of life have been severe. Vulnerable to judgment, time and time again I've felt the need to be tough. But instead I've been learning to crumble. I've been learning to cry. I've been learning to feel the pain of people disliking me and leaning on the ones who truly care. It hasn't been easy, but ironically, it's been liberating.

From their emergence into the world, children learn to be tough, especially boys, who are told not to cry and not to care



Bethany Lowe
Argonaut

Do you have adequate insurance?

Many people imagine how they would react in an emergency situation, but don't spend time

preparing for the reality of a disaster. Do you know what you would do if there was a catastrophe? Could you afford to lose everything? Most people could not.

Luckily, insurance is available to cover you, your property and others. There are many types of insurance: Auto, health, life, home owners, etc. But even with all these insurance options, do you have enough coverage?

Auto insurance is le-

gally required if you own and operate a vehicle in nearly all states, but about one in seven drivers do

not have auto insurance. So what happens if one of these uninsured drivers hits you? If you carry full coverage or uninsured motorist coverage you will have at least some compensation from insurance. If not, you will be responsible for that damage.

The majority of students do not own a house, so we are generally tenants who rent our homes. Renters insurance

SEE INSURANCE, PAGE 10

GUEST VOICE



Amanda Ryan
UI graduate student, Architecture

OFF THE CUFF

QUICK TAKES ON LIFE FROM OUR EDITORS

Epic Easter

I don't want to brag, but the roomie and I made one killer Easter dinner this weekend. Homemade beef burgundy may be the best thing ever.

—Madison

Mammals

I don't know if you guys know this, but bunnies don't lay eggs.

—Jens

Triple-dog dare

I realize it's bad form to skip directly to triple-dog dare, but I have chocolate-covered crickets and mealworms if anyone is brave enough to try them.

—Elisa

EPL has it right

Manchester United sits eight points ahead of bitter rival Manchester City and 18 points ahead of third-place Arsenal with six games left to play and 32 in the books. This point table system needs to make its way to American professional sports because if you can't tell me United deserves the premiership after nine months of play, you need to check yourself. Forget playoffs.

—Theo

Morbid reading

It seems a little morbid, but so far I find Dave Cullen's "Columbine," a narrative journalism piece about the Columbine shooting, incredibly fascinating and impressive.

—Elizabeth

Cowabunga

First blue and purple skateboarding bruise of the year. It's officially spring.

—Chloe

Doughnuts and holes

As you ramble on through life, whatever be your goal, keep your eye upon the doughnut and not upon the hole.

—Britt

Can't do it

I simply cannot afford gas, yet I keep buying it. Rumor has it the price will hit five bucks in Moscow by summer. I remember when it hit \$1.99 and society thought the world was ending.

—Nick

Civil liberties

Jay-Z guest lectured on the Fourth Amendment. I got 99 problems, but they are all unreasonable search and seizure.

—Dylan

Happy thoughts

I just wish that I could bake a cake made out of rainbows and smiles and we'd all eat it and be happy.

—Amrah

He isn't even from here

Amrah just has a lot of feelings.

—Vicky

SEE COOKIE, PAGE 10



Illustration by Erin Dawson | Argonaut

Hungry

for change that matters

Big problems require big solutions, and a healthy perspective is crucial.

Poverty, war and natural disasters engulf our world. Fifteen percent of the American population was in poverty in 2010. More than 4,000 U.S. troops — and more than 10,000 Iraqi troops — were killed in the 2003 to 2011 American war with Iraq. As of summer 2011, 12 million people in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya lack food, water and sanitation. Drought, flooding and other climate crises during 2010 and 2011 made 42 million people across Asia-Pacific regions pack their water-damaged bags and hoof it to higher ground.

Riots, uprisings, disease, domestic abuse, human trafficking and warfare waged by children fill newspapers worldwide. Divorce, therapy, health care and gasoline

rates are on the rise.

It's easy to lose your head amid the myriad of issues. It helps to realize what's really important and what's truly at stake. It does no good to fight the symptoms while the disease is left to fester. Cancer victims need treatment, not discount codes for surplus purchases at maxwigs.com.



Matt Maw
Argonaut

It's all about expectations and how hard we're willing to work. Low expectations will yield low-value results. Change can't happen when it isn't anticipated. We need to stand up for ourselves, pound our fists on the table of life and make a scene that will get the attention we require.

People must do whatever they can. Explore your surroundings and discover what causes and correlations you can trace to the problem and do something about

it. Climb walls, cut through red tape and leap across countertops that obstruct the path to your goal. When the decisive moment arrives, be prepared to take power by its stiff, authoritative lapel and choke it into submission.

Realize that some problems are too big to ignore, and don't be distracted by tertiary issues. People will come with trifles and raise a fuss for your attention. Infomercials will demand your dollars. Well-meaning people will hold picket signs and gather in the street. Do not be dissuaded.

The next time some waiter tells you to make your own fry sauce with ketchup and mayonnaise, don't be passive. Roll up your sleeves, ball your fist and create a five-step solution on the spot.

People who pay the price shouldn't have to settle for something they already had.

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COOKIE

FROM PAGE 9

what people think of them, "Life's tough, get over it."

And then as if the daily knocks of life aren't enough, up piles more self-imposed tougheners. Moving to the other side of the world alone as a teenager? That can do it. As can volunteering to help addicts in downtown Eastside in Vancouver while stuck outside the country waiting for a visa. I remember taking off

to travel around the world for three months alone in trains with just one backpack, a smile and staunch independence. I thought I was a tough cookie then for sure. I guess we all need those times.

Another big toughener: politics. I wondered if being in Ghana and then representing its people in New York among hundreds of suit-clad youngsters, hardens one to things. I felt the disconnect between the real, on-the-ground people and the systems that talk about them from afar. Discuss-

ing human trafficking at an international conference in the Middle East — from lavish, air-conditioned rooms — had the same effect. It's like watching the daily news in a way. We can become desensitized.

Perhaps we should mirror the weather in Moscow more. It's certainly not afraid to express emotions, multiple emotions in the span of a day. It is happy one minute and bawling the next. Not that I'm encouraging people to be more bipolar — I'm all for balance.

But for the girl who used to have onions rubbed into her eyes just to make tears come out, this is growth. Learning to be vulnerable is just one step closer to being that old, cuddly lady who paints her nails blue, bakes cookies for strangers, dances to '90s music and cries during sad movies. She's the cookie with the warm goey center everyone wants.

Bethany Lowe
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INSURANCE

FROM PAGE 9

is surprisingly affordable in Moscow and a responsible insurance to have. No matter how careful you are, living in attached housing like apartments and duplexes or converted housing adds a level of uncertainty. If your neighbor's home catches fire and takes your apartment with it, there is no one to replace all of your belongings without insurance. If you are not sure if you are adequately covered you should talk with an insurance agent. They will discuss your assets, your liability and give advice on what you should do in case an emergency scenario comes true.

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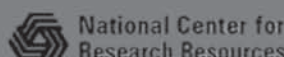
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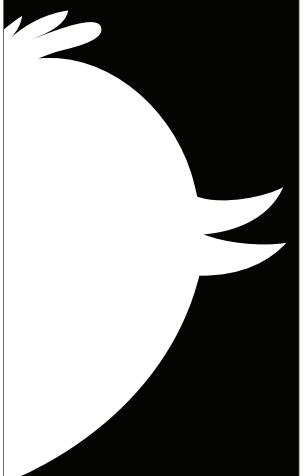


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