

THE ARGONAUT

THE VANDAL VOICE SINCE 1898

uiargonaut.com

Friday, September 14, 2012

Waiver woes

New policy gives UI dependents choice between tuition waiver, scholarships

Britt Kiser
Argonaut

A new benefit for University of Idaho employees would reduce the tuition and fees of their dependents by 50 percent.

But there are stipulations — the family of a UI employee can only utilize one waiver at a time for a maximum of eight semesters, and if accepted, the dependent must forfeit all institutional scholarships.

Paul Joyce, interim dean for the UI College of Science, said the waiver is meant to help recruit and retain quality faculty.

“Especially when we are always worried about losing staff to WSU, to have this added benefit would be a way to keep staff here because they’d have to consider that as part of their compensation packet if they were to move,” Joyce said.

The tuition waiver is worth \$3,106 for the year, which equals half of resident tuition and fees.

UI Executive Director of Planning and Budget Keith Ickes said dependents have two choices.

“If they’re already getting more financial aid than \$3,106, they should keep the financial aid,” Ickes said. “... If their scholarship was less ... choose the waiver.”

Students can still claim any scholarships from outside organizations, including the UI foundation, in combination with the waiver.

“The explanation’s fairly simple,” Ickes said. “That’s all new money that comes from an outside donor and it really

does help us pay the bills. An internal scholarship, however, does not. It represents one of our discounts that we have to figure out how to pay out of our own cash.”

Joyce, who served as the UI faculty senate chair for 2011-2012, said the Employee Dependent Tuition Waiver was initially proposed in 2010, but didn’t pass the faculty senate due to a lack of information about its financial implications. Joyce said as faculty senate chair, he worked with the staff affairs committee to resurface the waiver. He said in order for a policy to come about, it must go through a fairly rigorous process.

The waiver was first filtered through the faculty affairs committee, where changes were made, and passed up to the senate leadership. The faculty secretary’s office then sent the waiver out to university lawyers, human resources and the financial aid office — each vetted the waiver and made suggestions to improve it. It was sent back to the faculty affairs committee, which chose to accept or deny certain changes, and then off to the senate.

Current Faculty Senate Chair Kenton Bird said before the waiver went to the senate, there were several meetings with UI Provost Doug Baker and Ickes to try and estimate its financial impact.

“Paul (Joyce) is a mathematician, so numbers come easily to him,” Bird said. “His goal was to first try and estimate how much it would cost (the university) and second, how many students would likely take advantage of it.”

Joyce said his cost analysis was three-fold.

SEE WAIVER, PAGE 4



Ricky Scuderi | Argonaut

Ashley Rich, one of the sister baristas at Sisters’ Brew, makes a macchiato at the downtown location on Thursday. The location on the corner of Main Street and Third Street is currently up for sale. If sold, then Sisters’ would focus more on their campus locations.

Family time with frappuccinos

Sisters’ Brew to open new locations, sell main shop

Victoria Hart
Argonaut

Sisters’ Brew boasts three on-campus locations at the University of Idaho and has plans for a fourth by spring 2013, but co-owners Tim and Gina Rich are ready to put the spotlight back on family.

“We opened this to be a family and we’re starting to get too big,” Tim Rich said. “We’re too busy to do anything but work in the shop all day, then go home and sleep.”

The Rich family put the original Sisters’ Brew in downtown Moscow up for sale in an effort to focus on campus locations. Tim Rich said the Main Street site will remain a family-owned coffee shop and two potential buyers have showed interest.

“We’re under no illusions that it’s going to sell quickly,” he said. “We still enjoy the shop.”

Sisters Ashley and Dallas Rich, the coffee shops’ namesakes, will take the reins as the business shifts toward campus clientele.

Dallas Rich, 19, has spent much of her time since the semester began in Sisters’ Brew’s newest location — the Campus Christian Center.

“We’re three weeks into this location and business is picking up,” she said. “I’m seeing new people in here every morning.”

The CCC contacted Sisters’ Brew during the summer about opening a satellite shop in the building’s basement. Sisters’ Brew employees painted the walls, renovated the seating and service area and stocked the space with drink flavors.

“One espresso machine was

already here,” Dallas Rich said. “The rest of the stuff we brought in.”

Cozy chairs and bistro tables characterize the chain’s downtown location, but on-the-go service has become the norm for on-campus shops. Employee Brian Kelly said UI students and employees who patronize Sisters’ Brew in the Administration Building appreciate grab-and-go coffee.

“It’s more of a focus on quick service than quiet seating,” Kelly said. “That seems like how people on campus want it.”

The CCC, located on the corner of University Avenue and Elm Street, is equipped with space and seating to supplement the loss of the downtown shop. Tim Rich said it will become the main location as other satellites open. Business there has exceeded his

SEE FAMILY, PAGE 4

CONSERVING LIBERTY



Hayden Crosby | Argonaut

Douglas Wilson, pastor of Christ Church in Moscow, debates his belief on gay rights conflicting with Christian values at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the University of Idaho Student Union Building ballroom. He debated with R. Clarke Cooper, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans.



To read the complete story, visit uiargonaut.com.

In brief

UI student falls from fraternity roof

At 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, Moscow Police were dispatched to the University of Idaho Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house after a student fell from the roof.

Lt. Dave Lehmitz said UI sophomore Kurtis Wrobel, 21, was found on the ground between the Student Union Building and the ATO house.

“It was determined that the individual climbed out the window of the sleeping porch to access another room that was locked from the inside,” Lehmitz said.

Bruce Pitman, UI dean of students, said Wrobel is stable and recovering very well.

“His mother indicated he might be allowed to leave in the next couple of days,” Pitman said. “He has

no permanent injuries, but has a few broken bones.”

Wynn Smiley, chief executive officer for ATO National Fraternity, said Wrobel also sustained injuries to his face. Wrobel is at the Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane.

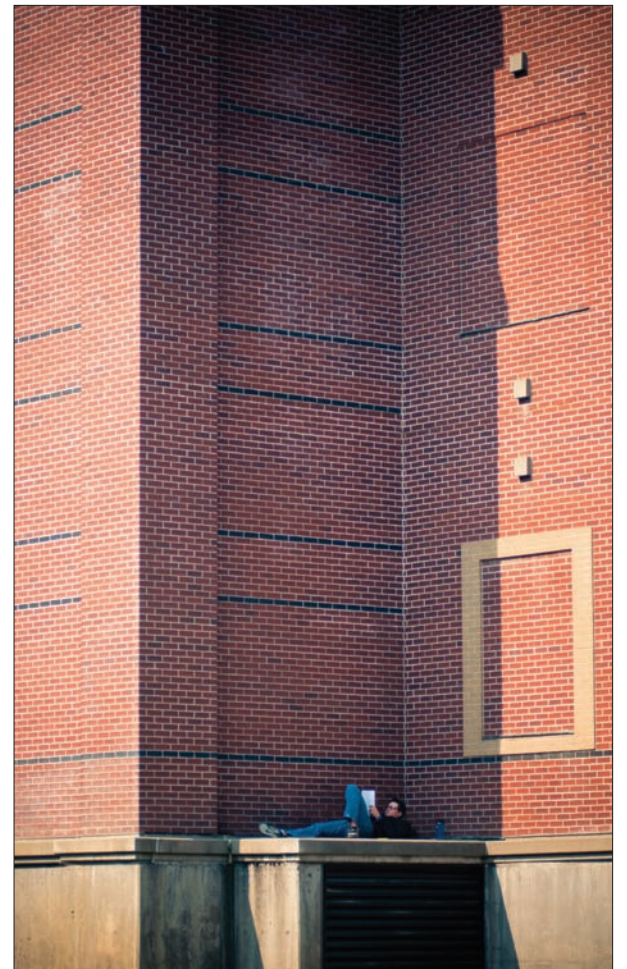
ATO members expelled from fraternity

Twenty-two University of Idaho Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity members have been expelled from the fraternity following the investigation of a non-sanctioned event Aug. 18 in rural Latah County that resulted in 20 minor in possession citations.

“We have taken action against those men who we believe are not interested in upholding the ideals and principles of ATO,” said Wynn Smiley,

SEE BRIEFS, PAGE 4

LEARNING ON EDGE



Amrah Canul | Argonaut

University of Idaho junior Jet Johnstone studies for a Geology class on a ledge of the Engineering-Physics building Thursday.

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Vandal football visits the nation’s third-ranked team on Saturday.

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University of Idaho

Volume 114, Issue no. 9

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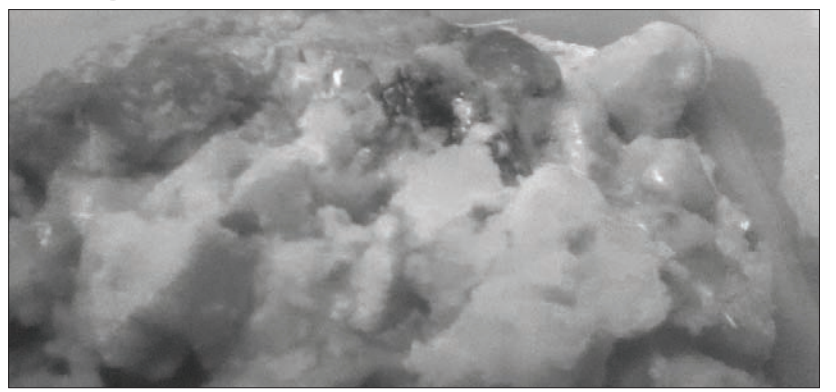
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UI Campus Rec

CRUMBS

Cheesy sausage potato casserole

Kasen Christensen
crumbs

I'm a big fan of food items that tell you the recipe in the title. It's a casserole with sausage and potato covered in cheese sauce. It's so easy.



Kasen Christensen | Crumbs

Ingredients

- A dozen or so small potatoes
- Smoked Sausage (One of those horseshoes work pretty well. I used a package of Andouille from WinCo, but it's a little pricey.)
- 1/2 cup cream
- 2 tbsps. butter (C'mon, use real butter.)
- 2 tbsps. flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1 1/2 cup medium cheddar cheese (Put as much or as little as you want. It might be interesting to try half sharp and half medium.)

How to

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. I always forget and have to wait forever for my oven to heat up. Don't follow my lead.

Start by cutting the potatoes into smallish cubes. Use a nice big pot, cover them in water and let them sit for 20 minutes or so. Make sure they don't get too mushy—we aren't making mashed potatoes here.

In a saucepan, melt the butter and whisk the flour in.

Add the milk and cream. Whisk everything together. Make sure the flour and butter get absorbed.

Add the cheese and let it sit on low heat for a few minutes.

Next, cut the sausage into little bits. Put these in a frying pan and heat them through.

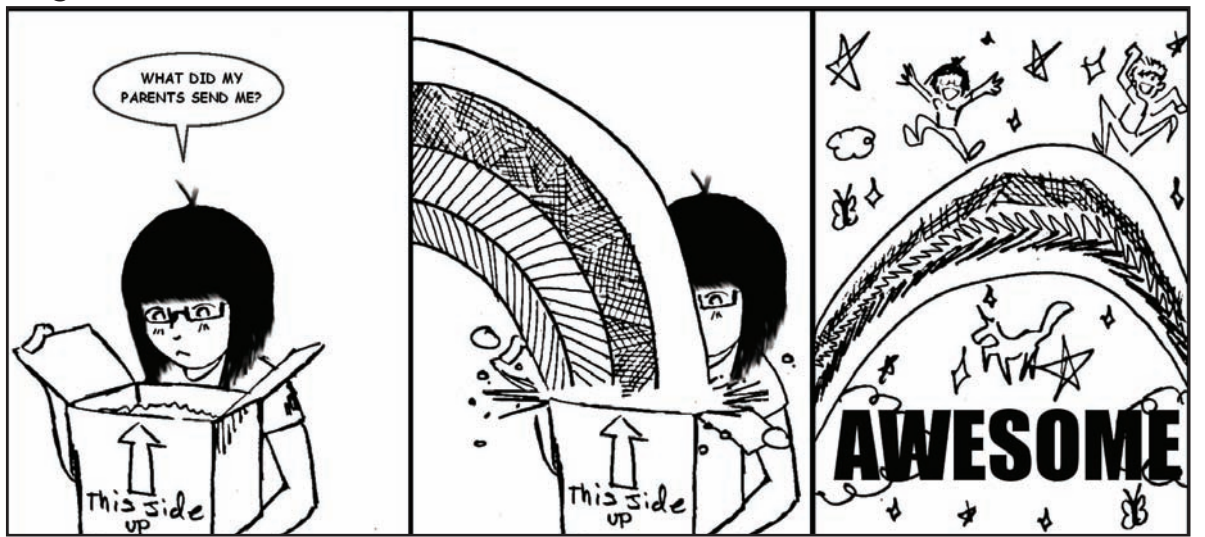
When everything is ready, mix the potatoes and sausage together and pour them into a casserole dish.

Pour the cheese sauce on top.

Finally, cover the top with more grated cheese and put it in the oven for 20 minutes, or until the top is bubbly brown and delicious.

Kasen Christensen can be reached at uicrums@uidaho.edu

High Five



Shane Wellner | Argonaut

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FOR MORE COMICS SEE COMIC CORNER, PAGE 10

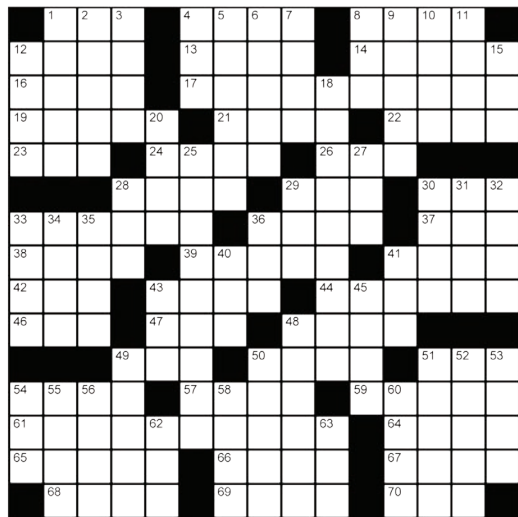


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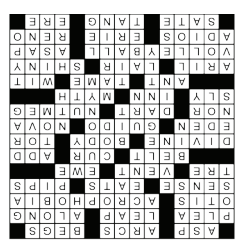
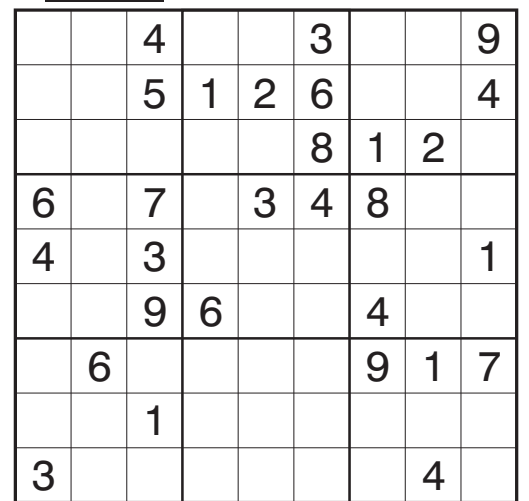
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SUDOKU



THE FINE PRINT

Corrections

In a column published Sept. 11 about religion, Richard Dawkins' name was misspelled.

On the web

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

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

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A SOCIAL ANIMAL



Steven Devine | Argonaut

Nick Schwartz, head of social media for Nike, speaks to a group at the University of Idaho Thursday about the importance and impact of social media in our world today. Schwartz also talked about tactics to make your work get noticed first.

ASUI to fill lobbyist position in October

Kaitlin Moroney
Argonaut

From among the student ranks, one person will be selected in November to represent the political agenda of the University of Idaho during the 2013 legislative session in the state capitol.

Every year, ASUI goes through the process of hiring a student to be the voice of the university as a registered lobbyist. ASUI President Hannah Davis said it's an important position because it gives the state legislature a face for the university.

"We are a public institution and we depend on the funding from the state," Davis said. "So I think it's very important that they understand when they talk about higher education funding, they are affecting students."

Although the position is open to any university student, Davis said it is important that the candidate be interested in state and national politics as well as university policies.

"(We want) someone who is passionate about the university and higher education," Davis said. "And someone who is passionate to focus on students because students are the most important part of higher education, so they need to be willing to work for that."

ASUI Director of Policy Bruno Bennett held the lobbyist position during the 2012 legislative session. He said being assertive is an important quality for the position.

"You are going to be talking to a lot of people in prestigious positions and that can be very intimidating," Bennett said. "So the main goal of this is just to be assertive not to be afraid to voice the opinion of the students."

Bennett said what the university lobbies for varies from year to year, and he was primarily focused on ensuring raises for faculty and staff as well as generally getting more money for the university.

"Any amount of money that UI receives from our state means we can take away less money from other areas such as tuition," Bennett said.

Although Davis said they are still deciding what issues they want the lobbyist to pursue in the upcoming legislative year, she said they will probably include facility updates as well as university employee compensation.

The ASUI lobbyist is a paid position that receives \$80 every two weeks during the fall semester and \$800 every two weeks during the spring semester, according to the ASUI rules and regulations. Along with the salary, \$1200 is allocated to the student appointed to be used for living and travel expenses as well as ASUI business-related expenses.

Davis said they will begin taking applications sometime in October, with the final hiring decision being made before Thanksgiving break. Application deadlines have not yet been set.

Kaitlin Moroney can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

See, change the world

ASB winter trips give students opportunities to experience other cultures

Allison Griffith
Argonaut

The ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action at the University of Idaho is accepting applications for the Winter Alternative Service Break trips.

Bruce Mann, ASUI volunteer center coordinator, said ASB trips are an opportunity for hands-on learning.

"Some of the best experiences can come from out-of-class experiences, though these trips still compliment what is taught in the classrooms," Mann said.

The winter ASB trips are scheduled from Dec. 27 to Jan. 8, 2013 in four different locations. Two UI teams will serve on an international level, one in Quito, Ecuador and one in Cai Kay, Peru, and two teams in the U.S. in Pittsburgh and Atlanta.

An ASB trip is a service experience centered around learning, said Maggie Hand, an Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator for the ASUI volunteer center. Students serve, but then discuss what they are doing and the impact of what they have seen.

"It is different than other service

experiences," Hand said.

Tony Ive, also a coordinator for the ASUI volunteer center, went on a winter trip to Ecuador and said it is a transforming experience.

"It is life changing," Ive said. "I changed my major after my trip — I got a whole new perspective."

Mann said the point of these trips is getting people to understand the value of being engaged citizens.

According to Mann, each trip focuses on certain aspects of volunteering. The Georgia trip is based around homelessness and hunger, and students will prepare and serve food throughout Atlanta, along with multiple other projects.

Students who go to Pennsylvania will learn about poverty, racial and housing issues, while working with Rebuilding Together to redo houses, mostly for elderly citizens.

In Peru, students will focus on education and community development, and work with Mi Caleta to try and get children off the streets, while also doing projects to help benefit the community.

The team going to Ecuador will

More info

The applications for the Winter ASB trips are due by 5 p.m. Sept. 14, and can be found and submitted online at <https://orgsync.com/41099/forms/52291>.

spend half of their time as mentors learning about poverty and education, and the other half learning about sustainability.

Mann said they choose the people going on the trips very carefully. Applications are scored, and people are interviewed and asked questions as to why they want to go on an ASB trip. The teams are designed to have a diverse group of people, so students can learn from each other as well.

The cost of going on the international trips is \$1200, and the national trip is \$450, which is just a fraction of the cost, Hand said. The rest is subsidized by student fees.

Allison Griffith can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

Officers enforce drinking age

Police hand out 18 MIP's, 3 drug offenses, arrest one

Johanna Overholser
Argonaut

The number of undercover police officers increased Sept. 7-8, as the Moscow Police Department prepared for the weekend after Labor Day. A large quantity of minors in possession and minors in consumption were handed out over the weekend as police officers dressed in college apparel roamed the campus, specifically Greek Row.

"Usually at the beginning of the year we do alcohol emphasis patrol," said Lieutenant Dave Lehmitz of the Moscow Police Department. "We are required to do a minimum of three a year."

Lehmitz said a majority of undercover

officers patrolling make an appearance on weekends following holidays.

The University of Idaho had three to four police officers patrolling both nights of the weekend.

"During this patrol there were 18 MIP's for six open containers, three drug offenses for controlled substances, and one arrest," Lehmitz said.

UI Freshmen Kelly Mooney said he saw an arrest take place in which he saw two cops tackle a student who was carrying marijuana. Mooney said he noticed one of the undercover police officers wearing a school backpack and thought he looked a little older, but dismissed the thoughts until he saw the tackle.

"I will definitely think twice before leaving the house next time," Mooney said.

Johanna Overholser can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

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ASUI Center for Volunteerism
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University of Idaho

WAIVER

FROM PAGE 1

He looked up the enrollment at Moscow High School, as well as the fraction of students there who are dependents of UI employees. Joyce said he then made an educated guess about the percentage of those students who were likely to attend the university.

"So the idea was that if we could increase enrollment among Moscow faculty and staff dependents by between 20 and 40 — then because they're in-state students and the state pays a portion of that tuition — that added amount of students would increase the revenue enough to pay for the benefit," Joyce said. "That's assuming that you could absorb 20 to 40 students without too much cost."

Joyce said the state pays about \$8,000 of an in-state student's tuition, while the student pays about \$6,000. With the waiver, dependents of UI faculty would only pay about \$3,000.

"So those students would be generating \$11,000 to the university versus \$14,000," Joyce said. "So the university would lose on those students, but if we were able to attract 20 to 40 more students, we could make that up."

Joyce said he did the worst-case and best-case scenarios for the cost analysis.

"We also did the cost analysis under the assumption that we couldn't make it up, and we figured it would run around \$200,000 out of the budget," Joyce said.

Ickes said before the waiver could become policy, it was signed by UI President M. Duane Nellis on May 30 and approved by the Idaho State Board of Education during its mid-August meeting.

Ickes said the financial analysis given to the SBOE made the assumption that the state would pay the university for increased enrollment, which isn't always the case.

"It does not appear necessarily that it

will be the case this year," he said. "The enrollment numbers that we saw this fall are lower than was used in the model. I don't have the final numbers yet, but they clearly seem to suggest that we're well below the numbers that were talked about in the model."

Ickes said this means there will be fewer students who would have potentially been an increase.

"It's not clear at this point in time because we're waiting for final (enrollment) numbers ... it may very well be that we don't have an increase, in which case the state won't fund anything at all," he said.

Ickes said he speculates the resulting loss in tuition, based on initial estimates, could be anywhere between \$100-\$125,000.

"I don't think we're going to get the support from the state, but I also don't think there have been as many students involved as they expected," Ickes said. "So I think the final reduction in tuition will be somewhat less (than the original estimate)."

After the waiver became policy, university administration decided how to implement it.

Joyce said the senate never intended to couple institutional scholarships with the waiver.

"The policy is built by the senate in a fairly general way, and it's up to the administration to implement the policy," Joyce said. "... So there's nothing in the policy that says (dependents) have to either take the benefit or the scholarships."

He said the senate discussed and voted on the waiver independent of any other sources of funding.

"We viewed the waiver as a benefit, and if your kid is a good student and gets scholarships, then that's an entirely separate issue," Joyce said. "That was our view."

Ickes said the policy, as it is written,

states no intent about financial aid.

"It's not that there was intent — it just completely ignores the whole question," Ickes said. "So there is no stated intent in the written policy that this was to be above and beyond any other financial aid."

Bird said the senate expects to hear a report regarding the status of the waiver after official enrollment numbers are released on Oct. 15.

"The student accounts office is going to track for us the number of people using it," Bird said. "We'll never know how big a factor this was in a student's decision to come here, but we'll at least know how many students are utilizing it."

Bird said he knows several families of UI employees already receiving internal tuition discounts felt short-changed and that they didn't receive all they were entitled to.

"Realistically, we had to balance our desire to provide this benefit with being fiscally responsible," Bird said. "Since we didn't know how many people would be eligible, we wanted to be somewhat restrictive."

Bird said there wasn't ample time to implement the policy, but the administration thought it would be better to go forward on a limited basis, so some students could take advantage of it in the fall.

Since this is the first year the waiver has been offered, it's essentially a pilot year, Bird said.

He said the student financial aid committee will closely monitor the waiver and keep the faculty informed.

"If it looks like we need to tinker around the edges with the policy, we'd be receptive to do that probably in the spring," Bird said. "We'd like to see two semesters of data on how many people are taking advantage of it, and how much it's costing the university."

Britt Kiser can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

FAMILY

FROM PAGE 1

as other satellites open. Business there has exceeded his expectations, but he said it's not yet making the profit he hopes it will.

"The biggest challenge of the stands in the CCC and law building is that people think they can't go in unless they already have business there," Tim Rich said.

Sisters' Brew appeared in the Administration Building in 2010, the law building the following year and most recently the CCC. Dallas Rich said moving on-campus was always in the business plan, and her father said he wanted to expand the business so it could support a growing family. On-campus food provider Sodexo takes a percentage of profits, as does the off-campus CCC.

"We really enjoy working with (Sodexo)," Tim Rich said. "It's everything we could ask for business-wise."

The corporation monitors all food and beverage sales on campus and has a working relationship with outside providers like Sisters' Brew and Einstein Bros.' Bagels. When leaders from UI's engineering department contacted Sodexo about opening a coffee shop across from the auditorium in the Janssen Engineering Building, company officials referred them to the Rich family.

Another Sisters' Brew stand is scheduled to open there by spring 2013.

"It was supposed to open sooner, but they're working on a sound-proofing arrangement since the auditorium doors stay open," Tim Rich said. "It's kind of complicated, but engineers enjoy that sort of thing."

As more stands open, Tim Rich said he and his wife will step back from the coffee counter to strategize and improve the business while their daughters manage daily service. The sisters work primarily at on-campus stands, and Dallas Rich said she enjoys talking to students.

"I like working on campus," Dallas Rich said. "We hadn't originally planned on closing (the downtown shop), but we're looking to open more."

An impending change of ownership has not dampened business on Main Street, Tim Rich said, and he hopes customers will transition smoothly to sipping coffee and sitting cozily beneath a new family's name.

"We have a lot of regulars (downtown) ... some that just come in and sit down that know we'll bring their drink," Tim Rich said. "We know the people and we try to give them good service."

Victoria Hart can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

Classifieds

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Job Located in Moscow/Pullman/Lewiston

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 1

chief executive officer of ATO National Fraternity.

"Our goal is that ATO at Idaho be a positive resource for the remaining members and potential members who are looking for a quality fraternity experience."

The remaining 12 members have re-committed to rebuilding the chapter, according to a press release from the national ATO organization. Smiley said ATO fraternity members want to be an asset to the campus and the community. He said they are starting recruitment immediately to replace those lost members.

"We have had a few staff members on campus for the past week," Smiley said.

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SPORTS

...
LSU
PREVIEW
IDAHO
...
IT'S **GEAUX** TIME

Photo illustration by Madison McCord | Argonaut

Idaho travels to the bayous of the Deep South where they'll face LSU — their most fearsome opponent to date

Theo Lawson
Argonaut

Proceed with caution. It's the message that Idaho players and coaches will receive before venturing into the Deep South — Tiger country, as those sporting purple and gold refer to it.

Patience awaiting the Vandals' arrival in Baton Rouge? LSU, the 2011 BCS National Championship runner-up and No. 3 ranked team in the nation, according to the AP Top 25 poll.

It's a preposterous test for Idaho as a whole and especially the Vandal offense, which has been stifled by its Big Sky and MAC opponents in losses to Eastern Washington and Bowling Green.

Only inferior to SEC rival Alabama, the Tigers were the nation's second-best defensive squad last season, allowing 11 points per

game. This season, LSU's two opponents have managed 17 combined points against the three-time national champions.

Idaho coach Robb Akey is conscious of the monstrous task LSU demands from its opponent's game in and game out.

"Opponents continually tend to get stronger week to week, this one's pretty damn good," Akey said. "There's really not a lot of difference between No. 3 and No. 1 or No. 8 and No. 3. Those guys are all good and when you watch the film on these guys they're big and athletic up front, they're strong and fast at the skill positions."

In early August, SEC fans let out a

collective sigh of relief when 2011 All-American and Heisman finalist Tyrann Mathieu was suspended from the team indefinitely.

In the grand scheme of things, Mathieu's presence was appreciated, yet not crucial to the success of LSU's secondary unit. The Tigers picked off 18 passes last season, but only two of those were Mathieu's.

True freshman Jalen Mills has replaced the man commonly referred to as the "honey badger."

"They're not missing much. Maybe it's a good thing (for them) that they don't have the

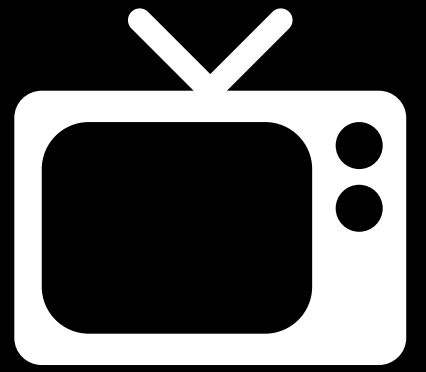


In this week's scouting report, Idaho players and coaches talk about their preparation for the Tigers.

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SEE GEAUX, PAGE 8

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Photo courtesy of Steve Franz | LSU

LSU shines with dominant defense, quarterback

Theo Lawson
Argonaut

Barkevious Mingo- Defensive end

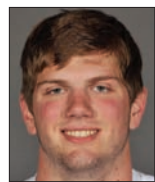


Mingo

If the name isn't intimidating enough, Mingo's two-year career at LSU has been nothing short of remarkable. The 6-foot-5-inch, 240-pound junior appeared in all 13 of LSU's as a freshman, racking up 35 tackles. He earned 2010 Freshman All-Southeastern Conference honors and made one season start against

National Champion Auburn. Mingo was one of the SEC's most feared pass-rushers as a sophomore, and ranked third in the conference with 15 tackles for loss. He garnered 2011 second Team All-SEC honors.

Zach Mettenberger- Quarterback



Mettenberger

Mettenberger earned the starting spot a year after a controversial situation arose with starters Jarrett Lee and Jordan Jefferson. The former Georgia signee made five game appearances last season and was 8-11 with 92 yards and a touchdown against Northwestern State. With LSU's ability to

establish the run game thus far, Mettenberger hasn't been relied upon heavily. That doesn't mean he hasn't impressed in his first two starts. In wins against North Texas and Washington, Mettenberger's thrown at a 70 percent completion rate with two touchdowns.

SEE PLAYERS, PAGE 8

Battle in the Bayou

Sean Kramer
Argonaut

This week Stephen Baker from SBNation's 'And the Valley Shook' blog joins us to answer a few questions about this scary-looking LSU Tigers team.

Vandal Nation:

Les Miles is talking a lot about how Arkansas losing to La. Monroe is reason for his team to be on edge while facing Idaho. He's also talking a lot about how he respects who we've played our first two games. Is this just typical posturing from a head coach trying to not give the other team locker room material or is he really worried about a letdown after dismantling the Huskies last week?

Stephen Baker: I don't think he's worried about losing, but he is worried about a letdown. As great as LSU looked against UW, that's how sloppy the team looked against North Texas. It's not like the UW game was perfect either, as the receivers dropped a lot of balls. This game is LSU's last chance to clean stuff up before SEC play, so I do think something is at stake from Miles' perspective. No more mistakes.

VN: The perception out west is that the SEC schedules an

incredible amount of cupcake games like this for its out of conference (OOC). Is it hard as a fan to get up for these types of



KNOW A FOE

games when OOC games like USC - Auburn or UW - LSU are pretty few and far between?

Baker: Well, I think every conference schedules their fair share of cupcakes. Check out the Big 12 schedule or pretty much every Pac-12 team that isn't USC. That said, I think

LSU's out of conference schedule this season is a travesty. Last year was so great precisely because LSU played so many great teams OOC, and while I don't begrudge a team one or two cupcakes, LSU is playing (no offense to Idaho fans) three of them, including FCS Towson. Now, I know the reason LSU is playing Towson is because TCU backed out of the game due to adding a conference game in their schedule change and Towson was the only team LSU could find on such short notice to fill that specific weekend. But three cupcakes and the toughest OOC game a home date with Washington? That's pitiful.

Baker cont.: LSU at least has the "late replacement" excuse and a tough-ish SEC

SEE KNOW A FOE, PAGE 8

... VERY QUOTABLE " AKEY & MILES "

"We've got nothing to lose, we're gonna go pin our ears back, get after it."

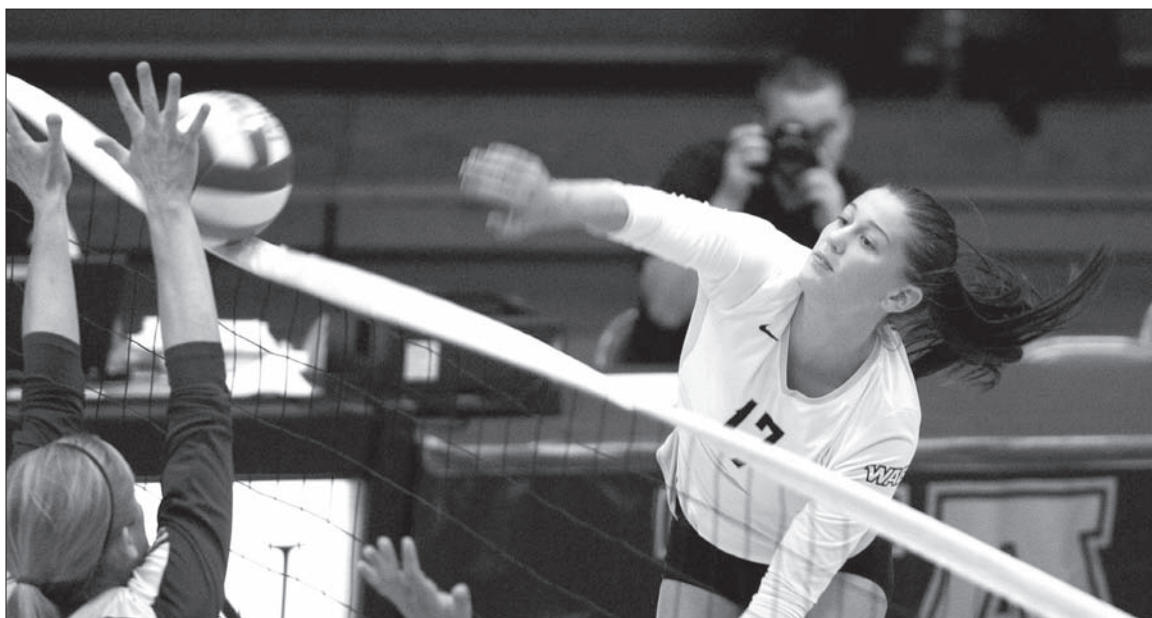
”

— Robb Akey, UI coach

"This team comes in 0-2 and without a guy that really lights you up."

”

— Les Miles, LSU coach



Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

Vandal outside hitter Ashley Christman spikes the ball past the hands of a Denver block. Idaho defeated Denver 3-0 Thursday in Memorial Gym.

Oh snap: Vandals sweep Denver, break 7-game losing streak

Kevin Bingaman
Argonaut

It was anything but a warm welcome for the Denver volleyball team in its first conference match as a member of the WAC Thursday night when the Vandals beat the Pioneers in straight sets.

The Vandals (3-8, 1-0 WAC) had lost seven consecutive matches coming into the night after playing some of the nation's best in the preseason, but snapped the streak in dominating fashion with a decisive win over the Pioneers (6-4, 0-1 WAC).

Junior Ashley Christman said it was nice to get a moral boost after the losing streak.

"It feels great because losing was really disheartening," Christman said. "To come out and just win like we did really makes us feel better."

The Vandals will be back at it when they play their second conference game of the year when they face New Mexico State at

7 p.m. Saturday in Memorial Gym. Idaho will be looking for revenge, as the Aggies eliminated Idaho from the WAC Tournament last season.

Buchanan said Saturday's match against the Aggies will be a tough one.

"They're a big team," Buchanan said. "They're always a good volleyball program. They don't make a lot of errors, so we're going to have to amp it up a little bit more for Saturday."

After fighting off a late run by the Pioneers to take the first set 25-22, the Vandals went on to take the second set, dominating Denver 25-12.

After the break, the Pioneers came out tough in the third set and went step-for-step with Idaho right down to the wire. The Vandals trailed 19-21 at one point, but went on a 6-1 run to finish the set and take the match.

The Vandals may have dominated this first matchup with Denver, but Buchanan said when Idaho visits the Pioneers, she expects a tougher challenge.

Christman led the Vandals with 13 kills and a .455 hitting percentage. The junior said it was a great feeling to have an offensive night like she did.

"It feels awesome," Christman said. "I was glad we were able to connect offensively like that. It just feels awesome."

It was an all-around solid night offensively for Idaho. The Vandals hit a season-high .290 as a team and had four different players with over 10 kills, including sophomore Alyssa Shultz who finished with 10 kills and .750 hitting percentage.

Buchanan said she was happy with the way her team came out against Denver.

"Tonight it was a good passing night for us," Buchanan said. "It was a good offensive distribution night for us and we were able to come back in game three when we were behind and show some composure and finish the match out."

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

Now or never

Vandal soccer seniors looking for first ever victory over rival WSU

Madison McCord
Argonaut

Through the first four matches of the season, the Idaho Vandals soccer team showed glimpses of the skill, leadership and determination the senior-laden side possesses. Then the four-match losing skid hit.

This weekend won't get much easier for the Vandals (2-6), as they face Eastern Washington on the road and local-rival Washington State at home.

Scoring only twice and allowing 14 goals in the last four matches, Idaho coach Pete Showler said the team's key to rebounding over the weekend will be the team finding its identity.

"We know these teams will make things difficult, they'll work and grind hard and nothing will come easy," Showler said. "We've got to go play our brand of soccer and get the identity of our team back and show them what it is."

The first match of the weekend will take place at 4 p.m. Friday in Cheney as the Vandals travel north to face the Eastern Washington Eagles (1-4-1), who are coming off their first win of the season, a 3-1 victory over Boise State last weekend.

Like Idaho, the Eagles have struggled to put goals on the board, netting only six in their six matches, compared to the Vandals' eight in eight matches.

Both sides also have gaps in their defense, allowing over two goals per match, a number Idaho goalkeeper Liz Boyden said needs to go down immediately.

"Well it's been difficult, because I don't think I've ever been scored on this many times. It's kind of a mental struggle in itself," Boyden said. "It's not our

team either, we shouldn't be allowing this many goals. We've been having too many breakdowns, but if we fix those breakdowns we can compete with these top level teams."

The second match of the weekend marks the first Idaho home match in three weeks, and it couldn't come against a more fierce rival as the WSU Cougars make the eight-mile trek from Pullman to Moscow at noon Sunday.

This is the second consecutive year that the Cougars will face Idaho at Guy Wicks Field, with the visitors winning last season's contest 2-1 in a thrilling overtime match.

This is the fourth match against the Cougars for senior forward Jill Flockhart, who said the team wants a win this game more than any of the others so far this season.

"It would be huge. A win against Eastern would be huge too, but a win over Wazzu is always personal," Flockhart said. "They're just down the road, and we've never beaten them in the fall since I've been here. A win like this would also help us out of this slump we've been in."

Showler said success will be tough against a WSU team (4-1) that is coming off a 3-2 home victory over Wyoming. The Cougars will come in with a potent attack that has netted 14 goals in five matches this season, while their defense has only conceded seven.

"A win against WSU would be huge. It sets a good tone, and anytime you beat a Pac-12 team, you know they're challenging the SEC and other big programs in terms of successes," Showler said. "We just want to get a win like that and get back on track and show everyone what we're capable of."

Madison McCord
can be reached at
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Ricky Scuderi | Argonaut

Kasey Hatrup, left, follows Will Austin-Cray, Cayle Turpen, and Stephane Colle during cross country practice Thursday. The team is using the Old Arboretum to prepare for the upcoming season.

Early test for XC

Stephan Wiebe
Argonaut

For the first time this year the Vandal men's and women's cross country teams will compete with their full squads as they prepare to run in the Sundodger Invitational Sept. 15, at the University of Washington.

Idaho used teams consisting mostly of freshman in the first meet of the season so the Sundodger will be the first meet of the year for most of the veteran runners.

"Some of the veterans haven't raced in a long time," Idaho coach Wayne Phipps said. "We redshirted a couple of the people (in outdoor track and field) so it's been months and months more than what it is normally between races."

Idaho's best runners on both the men's and women's teams, senior Barry Britt and junior Hannah Kiser, redshirted the 2012 outdoor track and field season.

"I haven't competed in an Idaho jersey since February so I'm really excited," Britt said. "Cross country is my

favorite season so I'm itching to get started."

The Sundodger Invitational will be a competitive meet featuring several schools from the Pacific Northwest. The Huskies will be the favorites in front of their home crowd as they're the No. 2 team in the nation on the women's side and the No. 10 team on the men's side.

"UW is always tough," Britt said. "It's exciting to go up against them. Last year we gave them a little bit of a scare."

Phipps said the Sundodger is a high quality meet for this early in the season. The Vandals will face tougher competition as the year goes on, but the Sundodger will be a tough early test. The course is mostly flat which makes it a low injury risk course. Since it is the same course every year, the veteran runners can compare their times to those of the previous Sundodger Invitational meets and use it as a gauge of their improvement.

"We'll kind of use this as a test to see where we

are a little bit," Phipps said. "We've definitely bumped up the training over last year so everyone is in really good shape, but probably coming in a little bit tired."

One advantage the Vandals have competing in Seattle is their training in higher climates. After training in hilly areas, rough terrain and high climates, the mostly flat meet at sea level will feel a lot easier, Phipps said.

Britt is the top returner on the men's side for the Vandals. He joins fellow senior Jeff Osborn and a talented group of younger runners.

On the women's side, four of the top five runners are returning including Kiser, who competed in the 2011 NCAA Championships.

"You learn a lot from that first race," Phipps said. "I really think this race will help us in preparation for the meets down the road. You're always guaranteed really good competition (at UW)."

Stephan Wiebe can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu

Money games

Idaho paid \$2.35 million for three money games

Sean Kramer
Argonaut

Meet Mike VI, a 450-pound Bengal tiger and the mascot of the Louisiana State football team. On Saturday evenings in the fall he can be found caged up near the opposing tunnel entrance to the field.

Though, Mike VI might be the least terrifying thing about Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, La., when the Idaho Vandals travel there Saturday, it will instead be the No. 2 college football team in the country standing on the opposite sideline.

Idaho will be projected as anything but favorites Saturday, although no matter the result, Idaho will get what it came for — the check.

LSU is paying the University of Idaho \$925,000 to come to Tiger Stadium.

"In the perfect world you'd like to play one of these games. It's a very good thing, for a number of reasons," coach Robb Akey said. "The competition level, number one ... the experience of being there. Our conference is not going to be that same caliber."

The benefit for the opposition, LSU in this case, is that Idaho is a likely win. In fact, LSU is a 42-point favorite.

In two weeks Idaho will receive an \$800,000 payout from North Carolina to play a game in Chapel Hill. Altogether, including another road game at BYU, Idaho will receive \$2.35 million in payouts in 2012 for a total of three "guarantee" games.

This is the second season in a row in which Idaho will play two teams from a BCS conference and BYU. In the three seasons prior Idaho only scheduled one such game. Last season Idaho received about \$2.08 million for those games. In the three years prior

that number didn't exceed \$1 million.

"The way some things have worked with the scheduling we have a couple more of them in the last couple of years, it is what it is," Akey said.

Last year the Vandals played five out of conference games due to the WAC having just eight teams. This year the WAC only has seven teams, meaning Idaho had to fill six out of conference slots. Idaho has chosen to fill those extra slots with more "guarantee" games.

"The thing that is tough if you are playing too many of these games it can be tough physically and mentally on your ability to go compete for the WAC conference championship," Akey said. "It is what it is and we're anxious to go play this week. We're going to make it be a good thing."

In what he'd like to ultimately see, Akey said he prefers the typical A-B-C method of scheduling.

"You look for a game where you're supposed to be the upper team. We had one of those and we screwed it up, unfortunately. I'd like the other ones to be comparable to our conference ... that has been the ultimate goal," he said.

With the ultimate goal of winning that final WAC football championship, the fact is that the Vandals won't play their first conference game of the season until game No. 6 when the Vandals could conceivably be winless.

"It depends on how the games are being played, this last game against BG we came back as a team. We've been building up from each game," senior wide receiver Justin Veltung said. "It benefits us in the long run ... we get to play those great games before the WAC. It's just going to make us that much more prepared."

Sean Kramer can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu

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GEAUX
FROM PAGE 5

“honey badger” any more, that guy’s pretty good, that’s North Texas for you,” Akey said of Mills, the SEC Freshman of the Week.

Up front, the Tiger defensive line weighs in at a combined 1,082 pounds. Their size isn’t as impressive as their pass rush ability, which led to 39 sacks a season ago. Linemen Barkevious Mingo, Sam Montgomery and Bennie Logan accounted for 20 of those sacks and return as starters this fall.

To avoid the wrath of a defensive line that features two All-SEC selections and a second team All-American, Idaho quarterback Dominique Blackman may find the most success with short yardage passing situations.

Blackman and co. relied on that same style in last week’s loss to Bowling Green and though the offense managed just one touchdown, much of the reason Blackman threw 80 percent and for 352 yards was due to Idaho’s

success with shorter hitch and slant dump-offs.

Senior wide receiver Mike Scott says imperfections do exist within the heralded Tiger defense. “They’re not perfect, nobody is perfect so we’re just going to try to find holes that they have,” Scott said.

He also believes the Vandals’ depth at the receiver position could prove to be a major advantage Saturday.

“It’s good because it keeps teams guessing. A lot of times when teams have that one guy that has most of the work, they kind of strategize against him but us you’ve got four guys so you need to strategize against all of us,” Scott said.

And you better believe the Tigers have strategized for the Vandal pass game, but more specifically, their starting quarterback.

LSU coach Les Miles took notice of Blackman’s historic performance against Bowling Green, complimenting the junior’s physique and decision-making ability. “He’s extremely accurate —

big, strong, tall throwing Jessie ... Talented guy,” Miles told reporters following Wednesday’s practice. “They have a good, quality receiving corps.”

On the flip side, the Tiger offense is also under the command of a first-year quarterback. Junior Zach Mettenberger has taken the reigns of a position that became quite the controversy in Baton Rouge last season, when seniors Jarrett Lee and Jordan Jefferson split time.

With an experience-laden group of running backs that includes All-SEC second teamer Spencer Ware, LSU has had great amounts of success establishing the run game thus far. Still, Mettenberger has shown promise during his first two starts, passing at a 70 percent completion rate with two touchdowns.

Protecting Mettenberger is another group of gargantuan Tiger linemen who stand at an average of 6-foot-6 inches and weigh an average of 318 pounds.

Idaho defensive end Maxx Forde said although they can’t

replicate the size of the LSU O-line during practice, it’s something they’re able to prepare for.

“Some of the guys out here won’t be as big that you’re going against in practice ... You can prepare for that by trying to work on your pad level, getting your strike. Honestly they’re always going to be bigger than us on the defensive line,” Forde said.

Communication is another area Akey has stressed throughout the week of practice leading up to the Saturday game. To imitate the ear-shattering sounds that 90,000 plus fans produce on any given Saturday at Tiger Stadium, the coaching staff applied artificial sound through speaker systems at the SprintTurf this week.

Akey still insists that the synthetic noise is no comparison to what the team will experience come 7 p.m. Saturday.

“There won’t be anything fake about that noise, it’s going to be loud,” Akey said.

Another option, joked Idaho’s coach, was to have players wear

the noise-canceling Beats by Dre headphones, many of them can be seen using.

“You know they’ve all got these nice headphones, I’m thinking about having them go out there and crank those things up and we’d be rolling,” he told the media during Monday’s news conference.

Following Louisiana-Monroe’s upset of former No. 8 Arkansas last weekend, the possibility of mid-tier conferences shocking SEC powerhouses has become that much more realistic.

At least, that’s what Akey hopes. “We call it a game for a reason,” he said. “I’d tell you what, this football team is damn good, they’re going to be in the hunt for it all. I’d love nothing more than to be able to pop the bubble.”

With a 7 p.m. CDT/5 p.m. PT kickoff, Idaho fans will be able to tune-in to TigerVision, a pay-per-view service provided by LSU, to watch the game. ESPN’s GamePlan will also air it.

Theo Lawson can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu

KNOW A FOE
FROM PAGE 5

schedule by getting Florida and South Carolina as its east opponents. LSU will still have a tough overall schedule, but it is sorely missing that marquee out of conference game that should have been TCU. I’m ticked about it, but part of the reason LSU couldn’t find a major conference dance partner is because no one wanted to step up to the plate and schedule a tough OOC game. It sucks. Fans pay a lot of money for season tickets and they are paying primarily for games no one wants to watch.

VN: Introduce us to Zach Mettenberger. We’ve already faced two pretty decent quarterbacks, is it just going to get worse for us this week?

Baker: “The Mettensavior” has a big arm and gives LSU a legitimate threat at quarterback. He’s completing about 70 percent of his passes and he has the confidence to put the ball in tight spaces. It leads to the occasional poor decision as he trusts his arm a little too much, but he is just bursting with talent. The most discouraging thing is that his primary role is still to hand the ball off to the stable of future NFL running backs. He threw only four second half passes against Washington, and LSU still scored 41 points. The passing

game just keeps you honest so LSU can beat you with the rubber hose that is the running game.

VN: The Honey Badger was noticeably in attendance at Tiger Stadium for the win against Washington. Has his absence been noticeable on the field yet, or would you have to wait for conference play to really assess that impact on the defense?

Baker: I thought it would be a big deal, but the two Jalens, Mills and Collins, have been pretty spectacular so far in coverage. LSU is shutting down opposing quarterbacks almost completely, as there’s just no one open. LSU is missing those big plays on defense and momentum shifting turnovers, which Mathieu provided, but the pass defense is still remarkable.

VN: What was your reaction to Washington coach Steve Sarkisian bringing a live tiger to practice to simulate the environment of Mike VI? Robb Akey did say he would bring two of them this week

Baker: I thought it was kind of cool, but Sarkisian probably needed to spend more time preparing for LSU’s defensive front four. LSU’s ends especially are just a nightmare to game plan for, and Washington had no answers for a team that could generate intense pressure without blitzing.

Sean Kramer can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu

PLAYERS
FROM PAGE 5

Jalen Mills-Cornerback

When Tyrann Mathieu was indefinitely suspended from the program, questions about who would replace the “Honey Badger” arose. Mills, a freshman from the greater

Dallas area wasted no time answering those questions. In high school, Mills was ranked the No. 33 cornerback in the nation but proved in his first two games, he could be much better than that. Mills recorded four tackles against North Texas and seven

more against Washington. He intercepted a pass and has another pass break-up against the Huskies. A breakout game against UW earned Mills SEC Freshman of the Week honors.

Theo Lawson can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu



Mills

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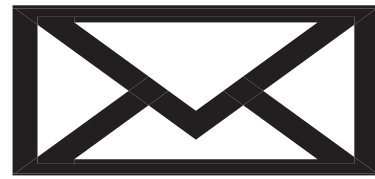
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OPINION



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OUR VIEW

Stand up Help Vandals make good choices

University of Idaho students consider themselves young, wild and free — until someone's friend, roommate, sorority sister or fraternity brother is seriously injured.

College students often think they're invincible. But multiple campus incidents and injuries each year prove invincibility is far from the truth.

UI sophomore and Alpha Tau Omega fraternity member Kurtis Wrobel was found on the ground Wednesday morning after falling off the fraternity's roof. Moscow police say alcohol was involved. Fortunately, Wrobel suffered no permanent injuries, but when a student is hurt in an alcohol-related incident it becomes a campus-wide issue.

Life on a college campus can be like living in a virtual version of truth or dare with new freedoms and friends, few responsi-

bilities and alcohol in abundance. Without parental supervision your well-being is in your own hands and making safe decisions is more important than ever.

In 2007, more than 19 percent of college students met the criteria for alcohol abuse or dependence, while 3 percent thought their problem was bad enough to seek help but didn't, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

UI has been emphasizing campus safety with the start of the "I Got Your Back Campaign." The campaign encourages students to look out for one another — Vandals taking care of Vandals. The university is putting forth the message and it's up to students to listen.

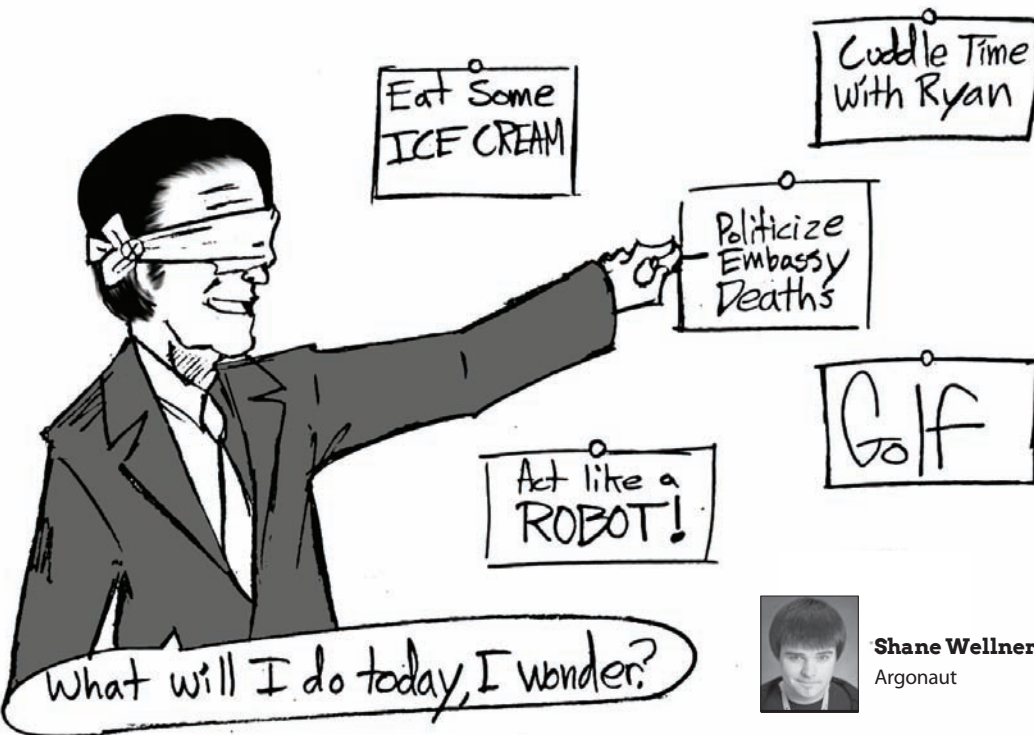
Most people recognize that drinking and partying is a big component of college life. However, when alcohol becomes a major factor in several campus

incidents in which students are sometimes seriously injured it's time to reevaluate our behavior. It takes courage to stand up to friends and peers and make a choice that might be unpopular or considered lame. But it's your responsibility as a friend and a person to tell someone when enough is enough.

Going to college comes with a list of inherent problems such as choosing a major or making new friends, but physical safety should never be a worry. Always be a friend, especially while you're drinking, but don't stop there.

Be a friend for the person who came to the party alone, for the stranger person who doesn't know their limit and, for the person that is about to make a choice that could alter their life forever.

—CR



Shane Wellner Argonaut

Pause for prevention

This week, Sept. 9-15, is National Suicide Prevention Week, and with suicide as the third leading cause of death, accounting for 14.4 percent of all deaths for 15 to 24-year-olds, we have a responsibility to talk about prevention. In addition to national statistics, our University of Idaho National College Health Assessment data collected in 2011 reported that in the 12 months prior to being surveyed, 50 percent of UI students felt overwhelming anxiety, 39 percent felt overwhelming anger, 45 percent felt things were hopeless, 58 percent felt very lonely, 60 percent felt very sad, 32 percent felt so depressed that it was difficult to function, 4 percent intentionally injured themselves, 7 percent seriously considered suicide, and 1 percent attempted suicide.

Understanding risk factors, looking for warning signs and tak-

ing immediate action are important steps to preventing suicidal behavior, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. If you notice any concerning signs in yourself or someone you know, please reach out for help.

If you or someone that you know is in crisis and needs help, call the UI Counseling & Testing Center at 885-6716 to connect with a counselor on campus. If you need on-campus assistance outside of regular office hours, a crisis counselor is on call 24 hours a day. Also, any student, staff or faculty who is concerned about someone, may call the Dean of Student's Office where they will initiate a formal process that the university has in place to assess suicidal behavior and intervene when necessary. You may also reach out to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK or visit their online resources at www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

GUEST VOICE



Shannon Haselhuhn UI Health Education Coordinator

Signs of concern include:

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill oneself
- Looking for a way to kill oneself, such as searching online or buying a gun
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Displaying extreme mood swings

OFF THE CUFF

QUICK TAKES ON LIFE FROM OUR EDITORS

42.5

Would it kill the Vandals to beat the spread?

—Kasen

—Sean

Second mouse

The early bird might get the worm, but it's the second mouse that gets the cheese.

—Joseph

Andrea Gibson

"Autumn is the hardest season. The leaves are all falling, and they're falling like they're falling in love with the ground." Andrea, you always say everything just right.

—Chloe

Geaux Vandals

We play No. 2/No. 3 LSU tomorrow. Really let that sink in for a minute.

—Theo

PB&Js

100 percent apricot jam and all-natural peanut butter on whole wheat bread is addicting. That might be why I eat it for lunch four out of five days a week.

—Lindsey

The sniffles

Go away, right meow.

—Katy

Rejuvenated

They might be rare, but afternoon naps are the best.

—Kaitlyn

UW-Idaho connection

Last time Idaho played at LSU the Vandals scored first, RB Joel Thomas took it in. Thomas now coaches running backs at Washington.

Same ol' problems

Why can't I get a photographer at practice?

—Amrah

Harsh reality

I may or may not have failed my first quiz this week. But I guess there's a first — and last — time for everything.

—Britt

Geaux Vandals

This is the biggest game for Idaho and I'm proud to say that I'm a Vandal. Go down and kick some Tiger behind.

—Madison

Feline frenzy

"I love cats, I love every kind of cat ... I'm sorry I'm thinkin' about cats again, I really love cats." This song gets stuck in my head literally every day.

—Molly

Making a difference

I was stopped in the Idaho Commons Thursday and asked to call Sen. Jim Risch to ask him to take a stand on ending human trafficking. Normally, I would have kept walking but this time I made the phone call. Maybe it won't make a difference, but maybe it will. I always have hope.

—Elisa

Answer ignored

Oregon's answer to America's meth problem

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden wants to fix America's meth problem. He has a bill to not simply improve, but redirect America's fight against meth — a bill he cannot submit.

In 2006 Oregon made ephedrine and pseudo-ephedrine, ingredients in popular cold medicines and used in making methamphetamine, available by prescription only. Drug companies moaned, cold sufferers were inconvenienced and Oregon's meth problem became more manageable.

This law attempts to shed Oregon's reputation as the worst meth state in the union. Since enacted in 2006, Department of Justice statistics show a sustained 96 percent drop in meth lab incidents such as lab seizures, fires and injuries.

The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission tells us meth related arrests are down 32 percent without a change in police strat-

egy. The law has not eliminated meth from the state, but domestic production is almost non-existent. With this success, Oregon's law should be the national model for attacking meth, but it's not.

Sen. Wyden would love to submit his state's plan as national policy, but he cannot. With almost no national support, he can only wait.

What is he waiting for? He's waiting for America.

We've grown accustomed to boasting of our exceptionalism without accomplishing the exceptional. Sen. Wyden has no public support because too few care for issues outside gaffes and taxes. He's stranded legislatively as well. Conservatives loathe regulations while

democrats have little agenda outside the status quo. American audiences bemoan substance-free politics while continually rewarding the empty and



Brian Marceau Argonaut

Oregon's law should be the national model for attacking meth, but it's not.

Brian Marceau

SEE METH, PAGE 10

Chicago teachers bring reality to education demands

The Chicago Teachers Union is on strike. The union walked away from contract negotiations with city officials, citing concerns over public school funding and tying teacher evaluations to standardized test scores. Twenty-six thousand public school teachers are on strike while 400,000 Chicago students are unable to return to school. The strike has lasted three days and is expected to last many more.

Those are the bare facts. It's easy to forget them when discussing teachers unions — the topic is emotionally charged. Frustration is understandable for parents who don't want the education of their children affected. It's easy for parents to see teachers as selfish and lazy, constantly looking for higher pay and less account-

ability. And that's the conservative side of the argument. Teachers have been on the defensive lately, attacked by anti-union



Max Bartlett Argonaut

Republican governments in states like Wisconsin and Idaho. But the truth is far more complex. Conservatives like to cite teacher salaries as an argument against unions. And it is true that the average teacher's salary puts them solidly in the middle class. What they fail to mention is that the average public school teacher works far more than eight hours a day. When schools are unable to provide basic materials to students, such as writing materials and art supplies, teachers often pay for them out of pocket. Teachers are consistently one of the most underappreciated, yet most essential,

professions in our society.

And teachers have concerns beyond just salaries. Many teachers union strikes, including the one in Chicago, are over issues such as class sizes and the availability of textbooks and technology for students. Teachers unions work to protect their students and their schools, not just their own salaries.

Evaluations based on standardized test scores are also unreasonable. No one believes there should not be a mechanism for evaluating teachers, and identifying and rewarding our most effective educators. But tying teacher success to standardized tests is inherently flawed. Standardized tests measure only a small part of a complete education, and teachers need to be able to do more than teach students rote memorization.

Residents of Chicago, and supporters of public education around the country, need to pressure the city to meet the demands of the union. What they are asking for is reasonable, and can be achieved with more support and funding for public education.

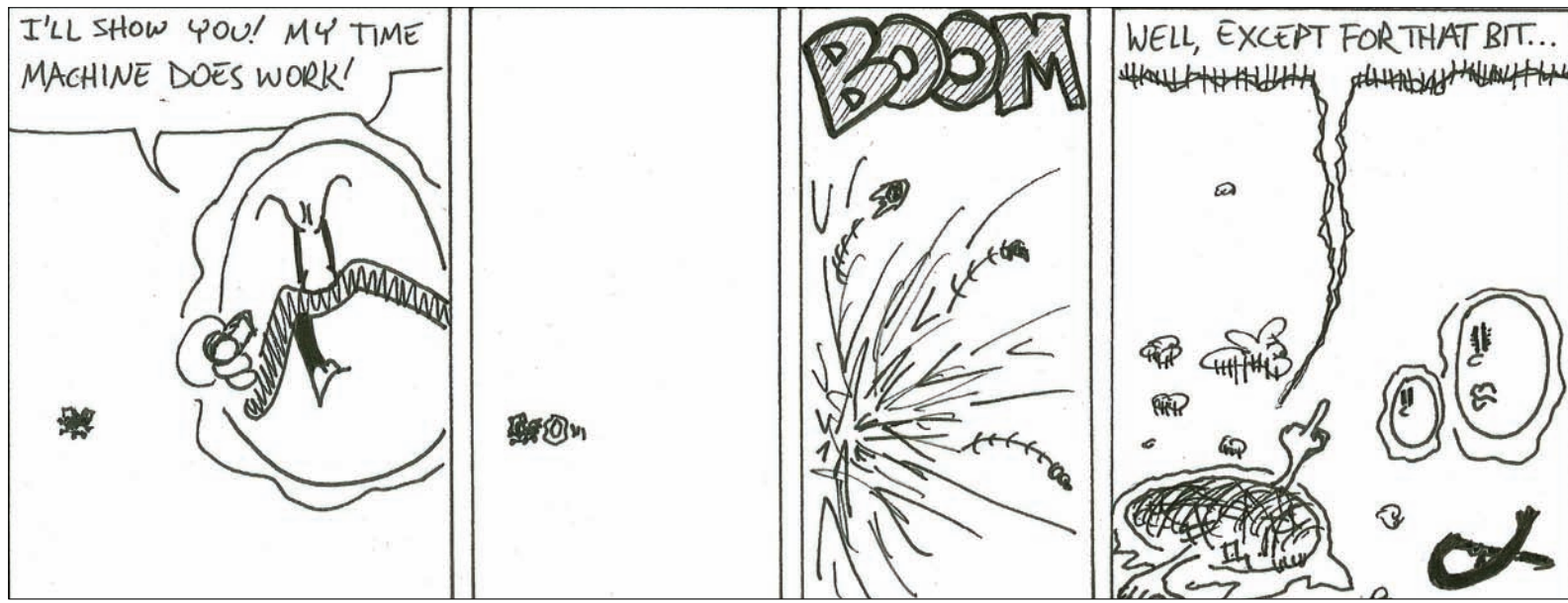
The consequences could be more than losing a few weeks of the school year. If Chicago can't settle, the best teachers in the area will leave for other cities and states with better school systems and stronger unions. Chicago could see an exodus of its best and brightest educators, at a time when more than ever our children need a strong education. We run the same risk here in Idaho. This November, Idaho voters will be able

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 10

COMIC CORNER

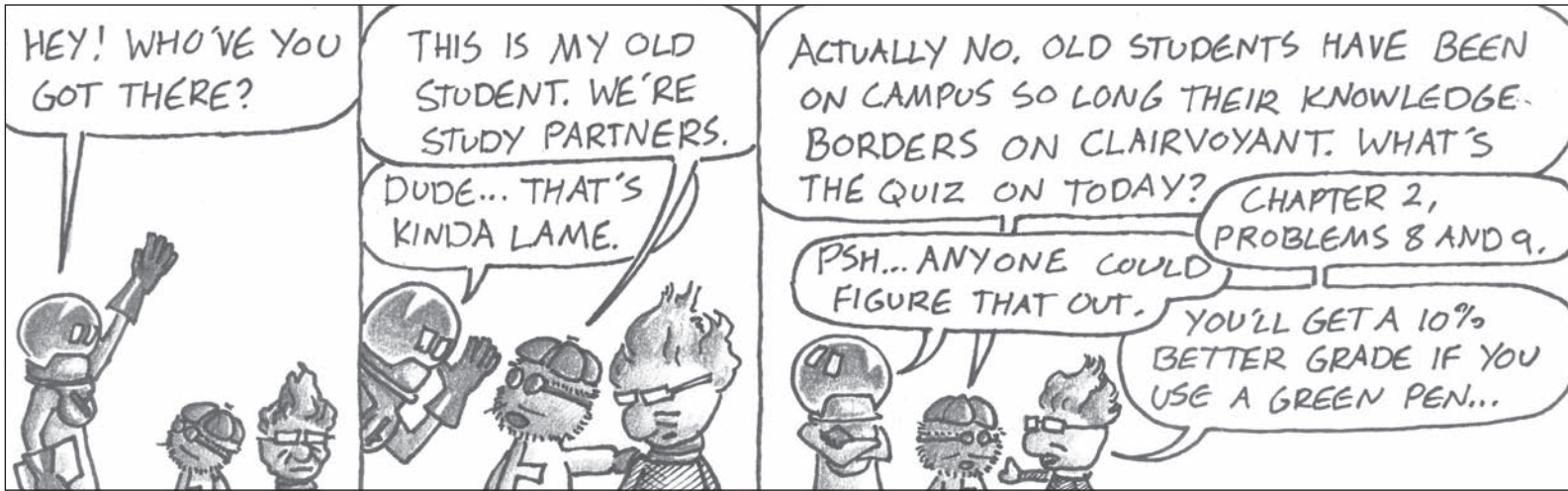
FROM PAGE 2

Cloud Nine



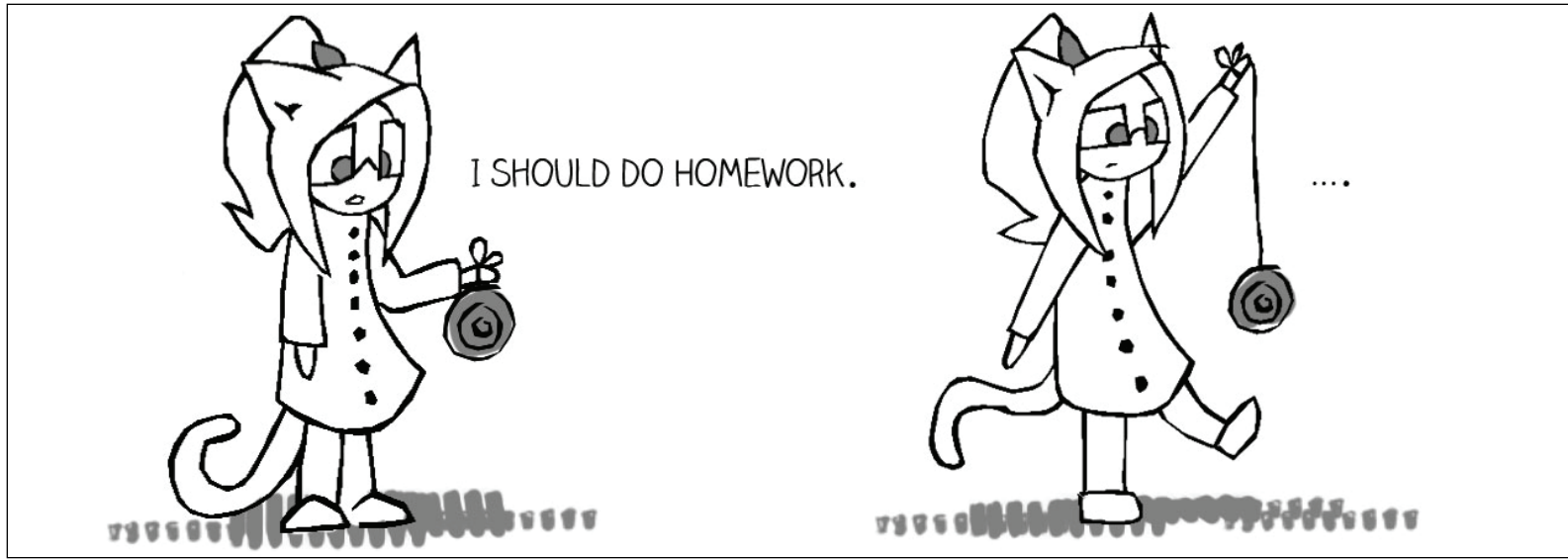
Andrew Jensen | Argonaut

University Studies



Wesley O'Bryan | Argonaut

Greyscale



Erica Larson | Argonaut

METH

FROM PAGE 9

petty. Our parties learned long ago that aggressive words earn more votes than aggressive action, and today is no different.

So meth joins universal healthcare, education, immigration reform, tax reform, and the drug war on our list of problems the baby boomers and "Generation X" are too weak to address. There are no perfect answers for our litany of issues, but we have ways to make our country better for everyone. We just don't like them.

Brian Marceau can be reached at arg-opinion@uidaho.edu

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 9

to decide whether Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna's "Students Come First" proposals, which would weaken teachers unions and create a merit pay system, among other anti-public education "reforms," will be up for a recall vote. Public education has rarely been a priority for Idaho voters, but if the state is to save its schools they need to take a stand in opposing Luna's proposals. Strong teachers unions are one of the first steps to a strong public education system.

Max Bartlett can be reached at arg-opinion@uidaho.edu

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