

# THE ARGONAUT

THE VANDAL VOICE SINCE 1898

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## COMMONS' SKATING GROUNDS



Steven Devine | Argonaut

University of Idaho senior Courtney Barry skates in a synthetic ice rink Thursday at the Idaho Commons Plaza for the first Winter Festival hosted by ASUI and Campus Recreation. The carnival runs through Saturday and includes free hot chocolate, snacks and skating. For more information on the carnival visit [on.fb.me/XqbgCJ](http://on.fb.me/XqbgCJ).

## Pin access phase-out

ITS to eliminate VandalWeb pin for privacy, conformity

**Katy Sword**  
Argonaut

Feb. 19 will mark the end of pin access for University of Idaho students. The pin has been in effect since VandalWeb was launched more than 10 years ago, which Chuck Lanham, information technology services assistant director, said was originally deployed because it was the login method chosen by Banner Systems.

"The problem with the pin is, first of all, it's only six characters in length," Lanham said. "That's the way it was set up 10 years ago by the registrar's office."

He said the short pin length is one reason it is being phased out.

"It's insecure and easily guessed," Lanham said.

The pin also automatically resets to the student's birthday adding "00" as the last two digits.

"For example, if someone's birthday was February 7, it would reset to 020700," he said. "If people do not go in and change it, it's pretty easy to figure out their password."

Lanham said the second reason the pin is being phased out is to work toward the UI goal of having only one password for university systems — the NetID.

"You have a minimum of three passwords when you first become a student at UI and that's confusing," he said.

UI senior Shelby Owens said she prefers the pin.

"The pin is faster because I use those really long passwords that last forever, so the pin is more convenient," she said.

Matt Montecucco, UI junior, said he shared Owens' opinion.

"No offense to the school or anything, I am not a very big fan of how often they change, update and make us renew our passwords. I think this is pointless," Montecucco said. "The reason that we have a password is so that we and our parents can log on and help with financial aid and make sure everything is on track. With all of these updates and changes it is hard to remember what password (is used where). I like to have one password for log-ins and keeping that password."

This is why Lanham said the change is being implemented, to limit confusion and the number of passwords students need to remember.

UI Registrar Nancy Krogh said these concerns were addressed by the UI group that gathered to discuss this change.

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## In brief

### Wear Red Day to raise heart disease awareness

Today is National Wear Red Day. Shannon Haselhuhn, University of Idaho health education coordinator, said the event raises awareness for women's heart disease. The day is sponsored by the American Heart Association with the "Go Red for Women" campaign — which works to raise money and awareness and encourage healthy lifestyles.

To celebrate, she said the Student Recreation Center is offering free admission, wellness classes and rock climbing to those who wear red.



Men's basketball tried to "white out" Cowan Spectrum Thursday against Utah State, losing 77-67.

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## Disqualifying freshmen

Faculty Senate votes on regulation to put first-year students on academic disqualification for earning less than 1.0 GPA

**Britt Kiser**  
Argonaut

Four out of five University of Idaho students who earn below a 1.0 GPA in their first semester of college drop out of school or are placed on academic probation at the end of the following semester, said Andrew Brewick, director of university advising services.

In an effort to alter this statistic, the Faculty Senate proposed a change to UI's general catalog that would put students who earn less than a 1.0 GPA their first semester on academic disqualification.

"(Disqualification) sounds harsher than it really is," Faculty Senate Chair Kenton Bird said. "Disqualification means that their registration for the next semester is cancelled, but they still have options to remain."

Brewick said any student placed on first disqualification has the right to petition their college for immediate reinstatement.

Bird said several senators raised the issue of the narrow window of time between when students get their grades and when they would have to submit their petition.

"You would have to be right on top of when those fall semester grades are posted and then probably contact your college dean's office immediately and submit that petition before the spring semester begins," he said.

Brewick said students placed on first disqualification are encouraged to take a semester off to refocus. At the end of that semester, he said students are automatically reinstated on probation and allowed to register for classes.

The proposal is an extra layer to Regulation L, which already exists in the general catalog, Brewick said.

Currently, any student, regardless of their year in school, who earns a 2.0 GPA or below

is placed on academic probation.

Academic probation immediately locks a student's registration so they cannot change their schedule until they have the probation hold removed by their adviser, Brewick said.

"We use it as kind of a warning term, that you have fallen into an academic category that puts you in jeopardy of then moving onto first disqualification," Brewick said.

If a student has a third semester of sub-2.0 work, Brewick said they are placed on second disqualification. He said a student would then have to go through their college appeals committee to be reinstated to the university.

Brewick said if a student does all of those things and is placed on third academic disqualification, they must go through the academic petitions committee to be reinstated.

This new regulation specifically targets first-year students after their first semester, Brewick said.

Bird said the proposal emerged from conversations between the dean of students' office, the registrar's office and university advising services.

Brewick said they looked at incoming student data and collected an exhaustive study of first-year student cohorts based on the Student Options Advising Retreat. SOAR is designed for first-year students who are on probation after their first semester. Brewick said it helps students who earn below a 2.0 GPA shape success strategies they can implement in the spring. SOAR is free and takes place the day before spring semester begins.

Brewick said there is a seemingly large difference between students who earn below a 1.0 GPA and those who earn between a 1.0



What we believe and what we know from national trends is that students who earn below a 1.0 often have motivational issues, so they simply don't have a reason to here.

**Andrew Brewick,**  
Director of University  
Advising Services

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Photo Illustration by Amy Asanuma | Argonaut

Senior Kevin Baker uses a sun lamp in the Counseling and Testing Center in Mary E. Forney Hall. The CTC offers services including crisis intervention, individual and group counseling and more.

## When tragedy comes together

**Michelle Gregg**  
Argonaut

In light of two student deaths less than two weeks ago, it is important to remember the support the University of Idaho and the community provide to each other — how in difficult times they come together and help one another, said Sharon Fritz, psychologist at the Counseling and Testing Center.

"As I watch our university and community respond to tragedy, we do come together and support one another," Fritz said. "The CTC takes a really active role, not only in

helping students individually, but also to help our community. To me, that's exactly what a counseling center is supposed to do."

Fritz said it is hard to tell if there is an increase in numbers after incidents, but during challenging times like this, they do see students who come in and express concerns about what has happened.

"After situations like this, or similar to this, we (the CTC) become very responsive in helping the community, living groups or

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