



Tony Marcolina | Argonaut
"Humans" patrol the area for "zombies" Monday near the College of Natural Resources building. The zombie apocalypse has returned this week on the University of Idaho campus, and the game will continue until Feb. 16.

THE ARGONAUT

THE VANDAL VOICE SINCE 1898

uiargonaut.com

Friday, February 15, 2013

Task force to examine UI substance abuse, Greek life

Katy Sword
Argonaut

University of Idaho President M. Duane Nellis announced the formation of two task forces Thursday — a Substance Abuse Task Force and a Greek Life Task Force.

UI has been working on solving a variety of safety issues all year, from the "I Got Your Back" campaign to aggressive programming at new student orientation, Dean of Students Bruce Pitman said.

"We felt it was high goal programming,"

he said. "With recent events we felt we need to step back and make sure we do all we can do and take a careful look at campus life."

Pitman said the Substance Abuse Task Force will evaluate UI's policies and programming. He said the goal is to look at other college campuses and find a program they can adopt or amend to suit UI's needs.

"We clearly have substance abuse challenges and problems, just as most college campuses," Pitman said. "Next door WSU has committed to their own alcohol task

force for the same critical look at selves. Most college campus administrators on most college campuses will say to some degree there are substance abuse issues."

The Substance Abuse Task Force will consist of UI student leaders, faculty and staff, and Pitman said they will also reach out to a few Moscow community members who deal with substance abuse.

He said the Greek Life Task Force will evaluate the relationship between the university and its Greek system.

"Campuses and universities have very different models in what these relationships are," he said. "Some campuses are very restrictive and intrusive where fraternities and sororities are allowed to exist in confinement. The other extreme is where a university doesn't acknowledge presence, doesn't help them and frankly are not enthusiastic they exist."

Pitman said UI has had a strong

SEE TASK FORCE, PAGE 4



Hayden Crosby | Argonaut

Environmental Science senior Alex Rheault works at the Sustainability Center office. She is in the process of joining the Peace Corps, a volunteer program run by the United States government.

Peace Corps ranks UI 7th for volunteer count

Alycia Rock
Argonaut

The University of Idaho placed seventh on the Peace Corps' 2013 Top Colleges list among medium-sized schools for the number of volunteers it produces.

According to the Peace Corps' list, 33 UI undergraduate alumni are currently serving worldwide. The Peace Corps identifies the top volunteer-producing colleges in the country and compiles a list of 25 universities for acknowledgment. This year, the highest spot in the medium-sized colleges' category went to Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash. with 73 volunteers.

In 2012, UI did not make the cut. Historically, the university has produced 521 volunteers total, sending people as far as the Kingdom of Lesotho, in sub-Saharan South Africa, said the Peace Corps Regional Representative Marya Nowakowski.

UI senior Alex Rheault is among the Vandals joining the ranks in August. According to the Official Peace Corps Catalog, 90

percent of Peace Corps volunteer positions require a bachelor's degree. After Rheault's intensive application and interview process, she was accepted and is now waiting for an environmental education assignment. Rheault said she is still unsure of what country she will be placed in.

"I would really love to go anywhere," Rheault said, "I just think the Peace Corps is an important organization."

Rheault said she has been volunteering with her family since she was little and has had a passion for it since then. The opportunities presented by volunteer work made her think a lot about her future. She said she would like to aid the Peace Corps in educating the world about environmental issues.

"Not only teaching people about the environment, but learning from them and learning about myself too," Rheault said.

Rheault said some of the interview process was intense. Questions including, "Do you have anything tying you here?" and "What is your support system going to be like when you can't reach your family?" are just a few that made Rheault deeply consider her decision.

Ultimately, Rheault said she knew this is what she wanted to do.

"I could be walking 12 miles every day to my work place, but I'm excited," Rheault said. "It's going to be a completely different lifestyle."

Dean of Students Bruce Pitman, said Peace Corps is a great opportunity for graduates.

"I think it's terrific news," Pitman said, "I'm delighted that we have alumni that are so moved to participate in Peace Corps and do this important work."

SEE CORPS, PAGE 4

Moscow police: Wiederrick's BAC as high as .3 percent

Elisa Eiguren
Argonaut

Toxicology reports show University of Idaho freshman Joseph Wiederrick had a blood alcohol content of .17 percent at the time of his death, and could have been as high as .3 percent when he left Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity Jan. 20, Moscow Chief of Police David Duke said.

Duke said Wiederrick died of hypothermia between 5-7 a.m. Jan. 20 under a bridge near Paradise Creek, and his BAC was .17 percent. The average rate at which the body metabolizes alcohol is .02 percent per hour, Duke said, which means Wiederrick's BAC was likely between .25-.3 percent when he left SAE around midnight.

Wiederrick's toxicology report was also positive for marijuana, Duke said.

Duke said Dakota Vegwert, a UI freshman, allegedly provided Wiederrick with alcohol and has been issued a citation for serving alcohol to a minor. Vegwert will appear at the Latah County Courthouse Feb. 27.

UI President M. Duane Nellis announced the formation of two task

forces Thursday to assess substance abuse and the university's relationship with its Greek system. Duke said the Moscow Police Department will assist the university task forces by providing a representative to help assess college students' risk-taking behavior and offer insight.

Duke said he thinks the university's task forces are needed.

"I believe we need to provide more education to incoming students about alcohol use because it is a drug and overdosing can be lethal," Duke said.

Lt. Paul Kwiatkowski participates in a Moscow community board that meets monthly to discuss alcohol-related incidents. Kwiatkowski said several organizations are represented on the board, including Gritman Medical Center, the Latah County Prosecutor's office, a UI Counseling and Testing Center staff member and several health agencies.

Duke said the board's discussions and findings related to alcohol abuse in the community may be helpful in UI's current task force investigations.

Elisa Eiguren can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

Students share online secrets

'U of I Confessions' page reaches more than 1,300 likes

Molly Spencer
Argonaut

When Jessica Dettmann created the Facebook page "U of I Confessions," she hoped the page would serve as a safe place for people to get things off their chest.

"I created the page so that people in college could have somewhere to get things off their chest — say what they want to say and not be judged or even get some good advice," said Dettmann, a North Idaho College student.

She said she feels a lot of people struggle with speaking their mind because they are afraid of being

judged for whatever it may be. The purpose of U of I Confessions, other than being a place to share fun stories, was to help people with any issues they might struggle with, she said.

"That's why I refrain from putting anything negative on the page," Dettmann said. "Even if someone puts a negative comment on one of the posts I delete it because that's not what we are about."

No one asked Dettmann personally to take down the page.

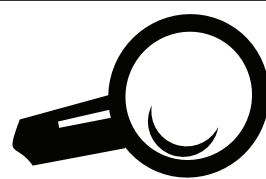
SEE SECRETS, PAGE 4

IN THIS ISSUE



After beating the Mavericks by 13 points in Arlington, the Vandals dropped another home contest.

SPORTS, 5



UI task force needed to initiate positive change — read Our View.

OPINION, 9