

THE ARGONAUT

THE VANDAL VOICE SINCE 1898

uiargonaut.com

Friday, November 13, 2015

CAMPUS



Harold Osborne | Courtesy

From left to right: Assistant Manager of the Experimental Forest, Brian Austin, stands beside members of the 2015 summer logging crew, Walter Schroth, Zach Mohr and Connor Rainey. Crew members work full-time schedules in the summer and part-time in the fall.

Cut above the rest

UI Student Logging Crew offers unique, hands-on experience

Lyndsie Kiebert
Argonaut

When fire ecology major Walter Schroth joined the University of Idaho Student Logging Crew in May, he quickly discovered his favorite part of the job — the challenge of using a chainsaw.

“But the most important thing is understanding how logging works,” Schroth said. “How production comes about, how we get paper, chairs, books — it all starts out in the

woods with somebody with a chainsaw.”

Schroth, one of three students on the UI Student Logging Crew last summer, put his forest management skills to good use by felling, thinning and scaling trees, as well as learning to operate equipment in UI’s Experimental Forest.

The forest is a collection of eight properties in and surrounding Moscow that were gifted to the College of Natural Resources for teaching opportunities such as the logging crew. The crew works full-time in the summer and part-time in the fall.

Applications for the upcoming summer are accepted through the end of January. Ex-

perimental Forest Manager Robert Keefe said revenue from timber harvested from the Experimental Forest is put toward scholarships for College of Natural Resources students.

Schroth, a native of western Pennsylvania, said he had experience in the logging industry prior to applying for the crew. But to junior Nick Winner, experience is not necessarily a requirement when applying.

Winner, a double major in fire ecology and forest resources, joined the logging crew the summer after his freshman year.

SEE CUT, PAGE 6

FACULTY SENATE

A system of averages

VP of finance explains new budget feature to Faculty Senate

Erin Bamer
Argonaut

In an effort to simplify the budget process, University of Idaho Vice President of Finance Brian Foisy said the university implemented consolidated fringe rates (CFR) last semester.

CFRs are a measure of how much each university department will be charged for the benefits their employees receive based



Foisy

on the types of employees who work in each department, Foisy said. Employees are separated into three categories — faculty, staff and students.

Budget Director Trina Mahoney said a CFR system averages out the amount of benefits faculty, staff and student employees each get, so the university will not gain or lose from the change.

Before adopting CFRs, Foisy described UI’s previous system as actuals-based, which he said was a bit of an over-simplification.

Under the old system, each department would be charged for their employee benefits, and each employee would need to be taken into account individually and added to the total for the department.

“When you introduce the human element into this, that’s when it starts to get complicated and challenging,” Foisy said.

SEE SYSTEM, PAGE 6

CAMPUS

Showcasing culture

Movimiento Activista social hosts Latin American culture event

Jessica Gee
Argonaut

Visitors can expect dancing, traditional foods and an amplitude of information about Latin American culture at the El Color de Nuestra Tierra event Saturday.

Movimiento Activista Social (MAS) will host the 7th annual El Color de Nuestra Tierra, which translates to “the color of our land,” from 5-8 p.m. Saturday in the International Ballroom located in the Bruce Pitman Center.

MAS is a student organization focused on securing human rights and raising cultural awareness, said Elena Perez, a member of the organization.

Perez, a junior studying sociology, international studies and Spanish, said MAS is not structured like most organizations because there are no elected positions, such as president or secretary.

“We are just a group of people who are passionate about the same issues,” Perez said. “That makes us unique because one day you’ll just be a regular member and another day you’ll be running the meeting.”

Perez said the members of MAS consider themselves social activists and El Color de Nuestra Tierra is another way

they can raise awareness of Latin American cultures.

This event will consist of workshops, a free dinner and student performances, Perez said. She said the theme for this year will be food.

Starting at 5 p.m., Perez said she will begin her workshop on potatoes. She said she hopes to get people to see the food industry from a different perspective.

“We can connect (food) to almost anything: equality, economics, politics and lots of other issues,” Perez said.

Mikayla Sievers, a junior at UI and member of MAS, said the workshops will range from face-painting to learning more about traditional Latin American cuisine. She said students can partake in the free dinner, which will consist of carnitas and tamales, and then walk around to various workshops that interest them.

“I’m really excited because this event is going to show (UI) the different cultural aspects of Latin America,” Sievers said. “A lot of people think that Latin American is just this poor place south of the U.S. and that’s just not true.”

Perez said the performances will showcase cultural dances and she will perform with the Sabor de la Raza, which is a Mexican folklore dance group at UI.

SEE CULTURES, PAGE 6

ADMINISTRATION

Not searching now

Jerry McMurtry serves as interim dean as administrators plan next search move

Ryan Locke
Argonaut

Although there is no active search for a permanent dean, the College of Graduate Studies is carrying on as normal under the leadership of Interim Dean Jerry McMurtry. The college has been without a permanent dean since July.

According to a statement from the University of Idaho, John Wiencek, provost and executive vice president, will move forward with finding a new dean for the College of Graduate Studies after the completion of UI’s new strategic plan this spring.

McMurtry said finding a new dean involves a rigorous process that starts with Wiencek’s office putting together a search committee.

They plan to conduct a national search and look for a pool of individuals who are interested in the position.

“We have good programs. I think we work with policies and procedures that keep our programs rigorous and at a high level,” McMurtry said.

Then, the search committee will

screen those applicants and narrow them down to who they think would be a good fit for UI. Those applicants will then be invited to the university for interviews and conversations with faculty and staff. Finally, the committee will make a recommendation and Wiencek will make a decision.

McMurtry said the dean of the College of Graduate Studies is responsible for all of the graduate students — from admissions through graduation. When graduate students are admitted, they’re admitted into the college and take courses from other colleges and other units.

McMurtry said the college also provides funding for teaching assistants on campus and puts together education programs to enhance their teaching abilities.

“And so we are kind of the unit that does everything,” McMurtry said.

McMurtry said they would like to see a dean candidate who has a passion for education and a vision of how to improve and enhance graduate programs. In the position, he said the dean could enhance the graduate student experience and work with faculty from all colleges.

SEE MOVES, PAGE 6



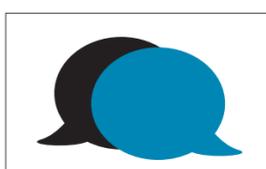
McMurtry

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Idaho football looks to bounce back at home against Appalachian

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Mizzou protestors missed an opportunity to get their voices heard. Read Our View.

OPINION, 10



A recap about everything involving a galaxy far, far away.

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Sat & Sun	November 28 & 29	12 - 6pm

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Find What Moves You



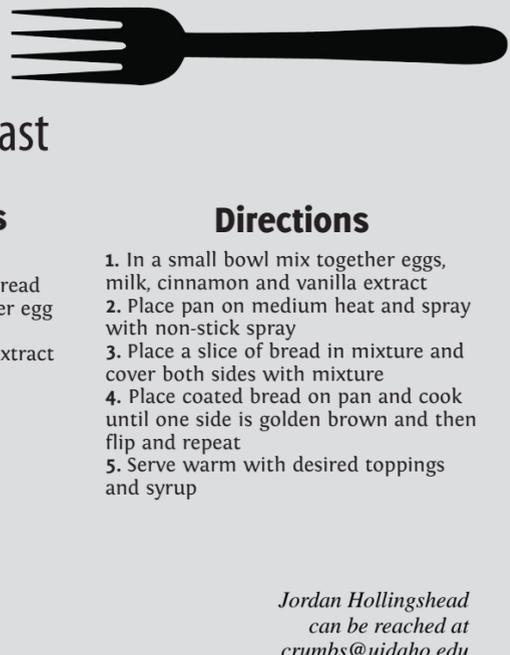
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CRUMBS

A Crumbs recipe

French toast



Ingredients

- Bread
- 1 egg per 2 slices of bread
- 2 tablespoons milk per egg
- Cinnamon to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Syrup to taste
- Any desired toppings

Directions

1. In a small bowl mix together eggs, milk, cinnamon and vanilla extract
2. Place pan on medium heat and spray with non-stick spray
3. Place a slice of bread in mixture and cover both sides with mixture
4. Place coated bread on pan and cook until one side is golden brown and then flip and repeat
5. Serve warm with desired toppings and syrup

Jordan Hollingshead can be reached at crumbs@uidaho.edu

Completely Unrelated



ARE YOU CANDY?
SURE AM.

YOU LOOK NOTHING LIKE YOUR PICTURES.
WELL YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY SIX-FIVE, SUGAR.

Karter Krasselt | Argonaut

FOR MORE COMICS, SEE COMIC CORNER, PAGE 11

CROSSWORD

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Across

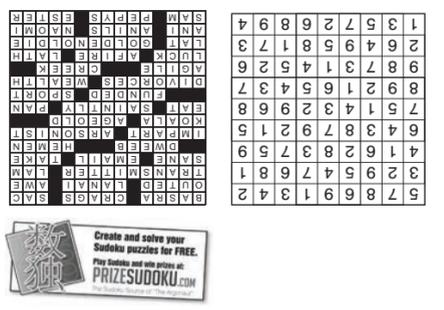
- 1 Iraqi port
- 6 Steep rugged cliffs
- 11 Baglike structure
- 14 Revealed, as a secret
- 15 Island west of Maui
- 16 Miracle response
- 17 Broadcaster
- 19 Hasty escape
- 20 Rational
- 21 Internet messages
- 22 Bit of filming
- 23 Hardly Mr. Cool
- 25 Macho guys
- 26 Disclose
- 28 Incendiary
- 31 Eucalyptus muncher
- 32 Like some customs
- 33 Dig in
- 34 Beatific
- 36 Prospector's need
- 39 Bankrolled
- 40 Athletic game
- 42 Splits up
- 45 Fortune
- 46 Light-footed
- 47 Stream
- 48 Gambler's hope
- 49 Blazing
- 52 Strip of wood
- 55 Back muscle, for short
- 56 Formerly popular song
- 58 Blackbird
- 59 Dye-yielding shrubs
- 60 A Judd
- 61 Friend of Frodo

Down

- 1 Gadfly larvae
- 2 Atmosphere
- 3 Don't draw, in poker
- 4 Urban ___
- 5 Pitches
- 6 Scale
- 7 Pro ___
- 8 Dead against
- 9 Highlander
- 10 Word said with a salute
- 11 Tubular food
- 12 Stops sleeping
- 13 Building material
- 18 Encounter
- 22 Look after
- 24 Wipeout?
- 25 Vatican City
- 26 One of the Clantons
- 27 Extinct flightless bird
- 28 Infamous 1972 hurricane
- 29 Abbr. after many a general's name
- 30 Peruvian coin
- 32 Auxiliary
- 35 Mandela's org.
- 36 Design item on a dress, maybe
- 37 It's often left hanging
- 38 To the ___ degree
- 39 Music genre
- 41 Saffron-flavored dishes
- 42 Lone-Star State city
- 43 Large lizard
- 44 Swindled person
- 45 St. Paul's architect
- 47 Salad ingredient
- 49 Crackerjack
- 50 Smart-alecky
- 51 Without purpose
- 53 Prison term
- 54 Prince of Wales, e.g.
- 56 Mountain pass
- 57 Early afternoon

SUDOKU

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THE FINE PRINT

Corrections

An article entitled "Backpacks, ski poles and rafts, oh my," that appeared in the Nov. 10 edition of The Argonaut should have said the event was Thursday.

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 at the Bruce Pitman Center on the 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 Katelyn Hilsenbeck, editor-in-chief, Claire Whitley, managing editor, Erin Bamer, opinion editor and Corrin Bond, Rawr editor.

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 Bruce Pitman Center, Moscow, ID, 83844-4271 or arg-opinion@uidaho.edu

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ASUI

Reinstating WUE not on the table

With low tuition in Washington, WUE is not likely to return to UI

Nishant Mohan
Argonaut

The University of Idaho discontinued its participation in the Western Undergraduate Exchange in 2011, and will not be rejoining the program any time soon, according to ASUI Director of Policy Nick Wren.

The program offers out-of-state students from a select group of nearby states 150 percent of in-state tuition. For UI, Wren said that is about \$10,500.

Wren said UI stopped participating in the program because it was losing too much money.

Wren said he knew there are many UI deans who would like to see the program return. He said he also had a conversation with Dan Davenport, director of financial aid, who told him bringing the program back might be possible.

Wren said he pursued the possibility with the hope of helping address UI's dropping enrollment, but conversations with Jean Kim, vice provost for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, revealed UI cannot afford to rejoin the WUE.

"Washington universities are cutting tuition enough that no Washington resident will be paying \$10,000 for their in-state tuition," Wren said. "Washington was a big pipeline for UI, but even if WUE returned, UI would not be able to compete."

UI would need at least 115 students with the required 3.5 GPA to apply through WUE in order for the program to be affordable for the university, Wren said, but it is unlikely UI would be able to attract that many.

ASUI affirms its offices are welcome to all

ASUI Senate passed a resolution Wednesday to ensure ASUI is inclusive for all in response to concerns from former Black Student Union president and founder Chelsea Butler and current president Cynthia Ballesteros.

"We want to remind ASUI that ASUI offices are an inclusive space," said ASUI Sen. Rachel Miller, who sponsored the bill. "I don't think the incident Chelsea Butler told us about was intended, but we want to



Alex Brizee | Argonaut

ASUI Sen. Zoe Ball listened to senators discuss diversity, WUE and intellectual property Wednesday night.

make sure."

Miller said she and Sen. Cruz Botello are dedicated to addressing diversity issues, something that was part of their platform while running for senate.

"Diversity is important to us," Miller said. "We are both Latino, and Botello is a diversity scholar."

Pro Tempore Kate Ricart, Butler and Ballesteros will be attending ASUI pre-session meetings as of next week.

"We want to discuss how best to reach out

and be inclusive," she said.

Intellectual property and the state

ASUI President Max Cowan said he is having promising conversations that may lead to securing some rights over the intellectual property members of the university create.

Cowan said currently, state policy makes it so anything a student or faculty member

produces becomes state property through the university.

He gave the example of Gatorade, which was originally owned by the University of Florida.

He said this is a standard policy across the country, and he would like to change the student version of the policy at UI.

Nishant Mohan can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

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CAMPUS EVENTS

'When you hear my voice'

Award-winning poet Allison Joseph reads her poetry Wednesday evening

Diamond Koloski
Argonaut

The Borah Theater held an eager audience Wednesday evening as they waited for award-winning poet Allison Joseph to recite her poems. The event was part of the University of Idaho's Distinguished Visiting Writer series.

Joseph is a professor and director of the MFA Creative Writing Program at Southern Illinois University. She is the author of six poetry collections and has spread her work across the country.

Joseph said she finds her inspiration through feelings and occurrences with her late father, tragic incidents and a variety of other topics. She has even found inspiration in her kitchen floor, about which she published a poem.

"The constant source of joy for me in my life has been the ability to use poetry to express whatever it is I need or want to express," Joseph said.

She said sometimes she writes a poem im-

mediately after witnessing or partaking in an event, while other times she takes years to decide to write a piece.

"Sometimes I react right away," Joseph said. "Sometimes it takes me years to put certain things together."

Joseph gave a personal example that took decades to develop.

As a child, Joseph said she would see Santa as a black man during Christmas time.

Later in her life, after getting married, Joseph visited a mall in Indianapolis, Indiana, in which parents were apparently upset over the fact they had hired a black Santa. She said the situation made her uncomfortable and upset enough to want to go write about it.

"Two things collided. The memory of having my own black Santa, and the refusal of some people, somewhere, to acknowledge that Santa could be anything or anyone," Joseph said. "That's when I wrote the poem."

One of her poems, "Voice," describes how she and everyone else has a voice.

"When you hear my voice, you don't have to know anything about me to know I love the motion of words in the air," Joseph said.

One of her inspirations, her father, is depicted in her poem "The Payoff," which alludes

to his thrill of playing the lottery.

"Instant riches, lucky numbers — my father knew a life of trying to accrue the kind of luck he couldn't afford," Joseph said. "His fever rose as jackpots grew."

Joseph said she likes to write something every day, simply so she can say she wrote that day. She mentioned she may salvage a line from one of those poems and use it in a future poem to be published.

"I do get this thrill from having written," Joseph said. "I don't always like doing the writing, but I like having done the writing."

During the event, Joseph brought the audience to an amused laugh by comparing the feeling to her being a runner.

"It's like in the middle of the run, I'm like 'I hate this, I hate this' then I stop, see how far I've gone, and then I'm like 'Yes, I'm a badass,'" Joseph said.

She compared that progress to her poetry yet again.

"(The miles ran) add up, they accrue, just like the poems," Joseph said.

Mike Andrews, a student in the MFA program, was at the reading with his wife, Meg. They both said they enjoyed Joseph's

work and the event.

"I find her poetry is very accessible, which is refreshing to me," Meg said.

Mike said it the poetry seems relevant and easy to relate to.

Canese Jarboe, a student in the MFA Creative Writing Program, introduced Joseph during the event, offering some insight into her talents.

"Allison Joseph is not only a good poet, she is a gifted teacher," Jarboe said. "Her spirit is infectious and I believe being exposed to her poetry and electricity is one reason why I realized I want to be a part of this community."

Mike said he believes the Distinguished Visiting Writers series has had a great impact on the MFA program, and that success was continued with Joseph's appearance.

"I think its very encouraging and it also gives us exposure to ideas outside of the school," Mike said. "The fact that you get to bring fresh blood in and hear stories that you normally wouldn't hear — it really raises our level of enthusiasm."

Diamond Koloski can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

STUDENT LIFE

Life of a UI law student

Marisa Casella
Argonaut

After successfully making her point, Yuridia Equihua likes to borrow a "How I Met Your Mother" catchphrase — "lawyered."

Now a law student at the University of Idaho, Equihua grew up in the small town of Granger, Washington, and always knew she wanted to become a lawyer.

"It made no sense to my parents," Equihua said. "But ever since I was 5 years old I was saying I wanted to be a lawyer."

Equihua would not stray from her childhood goal. From attending career fairs to writing reports, Equihua said she always focused on becoming a lawyer.

Equihua began her studies at the University of Washington in Seattle. Yet, the cost of living in Seattle was too much for Equihua and it became difficult to focus on school with the financial burden of living in the city, she said.

UI's law school was more affordable for

Equihua, so she transferred in the summer of 2013, she said. The lower costs and the more relaxed atmosphere of a smaller town made it easier for Equihua to focus on her schooling, she said.

"It was shocking at first, coming from a city to Moscow," Equihua said. "But I've adapted."

While transferring was simple, things haven't always been easy for Equihua.

"I'm first generation, so neither of my parents went to school," Equihua said. "They didn't know how to apply for college, let alone apply to law school."

Being the first person in her family to pursue college could be stressful, Equihua said. She said she often found herself looking back and wondering how she got there with no guidance on what to do next. Yet, Equihua said she looks at the positive results of those obstacles.

"I'm an ambitious person," Equihua said. "It made me work hard and not settle for things or give up when I didn't know the

next step."

Equihua has already completed an externship with the Northwest Immigrants Rights Project, a group who helps people seeking immigration relief. She also did an internship with Halverson Northwest Law Group, a private practice that focuses on business law. Equihua is currently in Clinic — a course where UI law students perform real work for people in Moscow involved in family law issues.

With hopes to graduate spring 2016, Equihua said while she's open to any job opportunities that may come her way, her dream job would be working with the Innocence Project. The organization uses post-conviction relief to essentially save people who are convicted under questionable evidence. Equihua has also considered doing something that is law-adjacent, such as being a law adviser.

When Equihua is not working toward

Senior Yuridia Equihua describes her experience as a law student

her dream of being a lawyer, she enjoys hanging out with her friends and boyfriend, going to the gym every morning and watching Netflix.

Equihua said her parents keep her humble with everything she has accomplished and will continue to accomplish, she said. Equihua looks forward to having her parents see her graduate law school.

"Throughout the process they were like, 'Just keep working, don't worry about anyone else, just keep working,'" Equihua said.

Now that she's in her final stretch of law school, she said her parents are beginning to give her more recognition for her accomplishments.

"I always knew it was there," Equihua said. "They just finally feel like they can show it."

Marisa Casella can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu or on Twitter at @marisacasella1

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JAZZ FEST

Connecting through music

Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival announces 2016 lineup

Mary Malone
Argonaut

The Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival is not just about the music — it is also about showcasing the community.

Steven Remington, festival executive director, said the festival theme for 2016, “Jazz Pathways to Discovery,” refers to the stakeholders of the festival and how the community comes together to create a valuable experience for the students and band directors.

“There’s this opportunity for the students when they come here to discover more than just something about themselves, which is to say their creativity and their hard work is rewarded with these wonderful performances, but they also learn something about their peers, the other students,” Remington said.

The 49th annual Jazz Fest kicks off Feb. 24 with performances from the All-Star Quartet and UI’s Lionel Hampton School of Music Jazz Band I, directed by music professor Vern Sielert.

The All-Star Quartet is also the house rhythm section for the festival, deployed to play with other artists throughout the week. Josh Nelson is an award winning pianist known for performing with many well-known jazz musicians like Natalie Cole. Katie Thiroux will be on base for the All Stars, but is also a semifinalist for the Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Vocals Competition.

For the opening festival performance,

Cuban drummer Ignacio Berroa will play with the All Star Quartet. Remington said Berroa was the last drummer to play with Dizzy Gillespie’s band and is a well-known Argo-Cuban drummer.

“(Berroa) kind of pioneered the whole salsa sound when it was sort of being invented in New York back in the ’40s and ’50s,” Remington said.

Berroa will also perform with Jazz Band I, along with vocalist Dee Daniels, who Remington said has returned to the jazz festival about 20 times.

The festival will continue Thursday night featuring the Justin Kauflin Trio, followed by Berroa with his own quartet and then Daniels with her quartet.

Remington said Kauflin started playing the violin at 4 years old before beginning to play jazz piano in his teens.

Kauflin recently filmed a documentary called “Keep on keepin’ On,” a movie that details his relationship with legendary trumpeter Clark Terry. The film will also be shown during the week, followed by a Q&A session with Kauflin.

Friday night will feature the Monty Alexander Trio followed by Tower of Power.

Remington said Tower of Power is known for having the tightest horn section of any popular band in the last 40 years. He said they play 200 dates a year and are one of the hardest working bands, with hits like “What is Hip,” and “You’re Still a Young Man.”

Alexander, a well-known jazz pianist, has performed with legendary artists, such as Dizzy Gillespie and Frank Sinatra.



Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival | Courtesy photo

The Cherry Poppin’ Daddies will perform Saturday Feb. 27 during Jazz Fest week.

“He is a remarkable musician who really embodies the Afro-Caribbean styles like reggae and jazz,” Remington said.

On the final night, the Lionel Hampton Big Band will open with special guests Warren Wolf, known for his work with the San Francisco Jazz Collective, and Barbara Morrison, a blues and jazz singer with “incredible depth and sass,” Remington said.

“She’s the real deal,” he said. “Some people have superpowers, and she is one of them.”

The festival will commence with a performance by Cherry Poppin’ Daddies, famously known for the song, “Zoot Suit Riot.” The band plays a variety of music, but Remington said it has strong roots in jazz and swing.

“I think it is a great lineup,” Remington said. “It encompasses bands who have had top 40 hits, which you don’t get a lot of at a jazz festival.”

Mary Malone can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu or on Twitter @InkSlasherEdit



CAMPUS

Re-working the rough drafts

UI Writing Center provides resources for students to strengthen their writing

Corrin Bond
Argonaut

On the third floor of the Idaho Commons, between the Honors Program office and the Career Center, lies an office full of writing advice and citation style guides.

To Tutor Lorrae Fox, The Writing Center is one of the most important resources to the University of Idaho campus.

Fox, a graduate student, said the Writing Center not only provides tutors to help students improve their writing, but it also serves as a place where students can access basic writing resources or study.

“We have an extensive library where we have guides for different citation styles,” Fox said. “Some people come here to study or use the computers.”

While it can get a little noisy at times, she said the center serves as another place to study for students.

UI established the Writing Center in 2000 and Mary Ann Judge, Writing Center director, said it has been helping a diverse range of individuals ever since.

“We work with students from all over the world. We have faculty members asking for help,” Judge said. “From freshman through graduate students to visiting scholars to faculty, we’re sort of it.”

Judge said the Writing Center operates through appointments, which students can schedule with tutors by calling or stopping by the office to set something up at a later time.

“If we’re not busy and someone came in we would help them, but we don’t set aside time for drop-ins,” Judge said.

Fox said the center keeps records of students who meet with tutors because some classes, like English 109, require students to visit the Writing Center at least once during the semester.

“If someone has signed up for an appointment, we have them fill out a record card,” Fox said. “At the end of every

session, your tutor will fill out what you worked on during the session.”

Fox said these forms are also useful because returning students may not always have the same tutor, and the card allows different tutors to understand what a student has or has not worked on.

When it comes to choosing a tutor, Fox said students can either work with the same tutor regularly or work with a new tutor every time.

“We encourage students to try a few different tutors,” Fox said. “We don’t get offended if one of our regulars has gone to someone else, we appreciate that sometimes a different perspective is really helpful.”

Fox said the Writing Center isn’t exclusive to English classes or essays, either. She said tutors have looked at presentations, essays, reports and anything to do with writing, including papers on biology, environmental science, natural resources and business.

Judge said the Writing Center currently has 15 tutors and they are always looking for more. She said anyone interested in becoming a tutor can check out the link on the center’s website.

“Tutors who are just starting out first take an internship for one semester where they work in the Writing Center and take a class about how best to tutor students,” Judge said.

The Writing Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. almost every day, and Judge said it’s a place where students will not regret spending their time.

“It always helps, no matter what, to get feedback on your writing,” Judge said. “We help students get feedback on their writing, work through writer’s block, and we learn as much from students as they learn from us.”

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MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE



Laura Wheeler | Argonaut

University of Idaho Veterans Adviser Dan Button leads a wreath-laying ceremony outside the Memorial Gym Tuesday in recognition of Veterans Day.

CUT

FROM PAGE 1

Winner had no prior logging experience when he joined the crew, but said he became comfortable with operating a chainsaw through the summer.

“At the beginning, it would take us each like 10 minutes (to fall) a tree because you were just focusing on getting everything right,” Winner said. “It went from that to, at the end of the summer, three to five minutes to fall a tree.”

Brian Austin is the assistant manager of the Experimental Forest and was a member of the logging crew in the summer of 1999.

The crew first began in the summer of 1972 under the operation of Franklin Pitkin, the namesake of UI’s Pitkin Forest Nursery, Austin said. Pitkin saw the opportunity for a crew to utilize the forest as an educational resource where students could exercise what they were learning in the classroom.

While other institutions, such as Oregon State University and Montana State University, have similar experimental forests, Austin said student-logging crews are not as common.

“We’re not alone as one of these entities, but we have a for-hire student crew working on us, which is unlike many of the others,” Austin said.

Austin said he spends

the majority of his time in the Experimental Forest guiding students through their technical training.

Although some don’t have much experience, he said students hired onto the crew are treated as professionals.

“They are expected to perform,” Austin said. “We ask all of them to push that limit, their own personal limit.”

While some can do 50 trees a day, for others, that target is five trees, Austin said.

“Everyone has a different target,” Austin said. “And all that I ask is you pursue that target.”

Although students are encouraged to challenge themselves with new techniques, Keefe said safety is the logging crew’s top priority. He said the crew allows students to gain hands-on experience in the forest — something that is difficult to teach solely in a classroom.

“For safety’s sake it’s really important that the team dynamic is there and people work well together,” Keefe said.

Schroth said the extensive safety training is not something he’ll soon forget.

“The No. 1 thing we are taught is to never be in a rush, whatsoever,” Schroth said. “No. 2 is if it starts to get bad, walk away, leave the tree standing.”

Students on the crew are paid \$9.50 an hour, Keefe said. And while summer forestry jobs outside the university may pay more,

they lack the research-based learning environment, he said.

“There’s things we have to offer that many others don’t,” Keefe said. “That can be a real advantage for students depending on their career goals or if they want to go to grad school.”

Despite the smaller paycheck, Winner said he found working with the UI logging crew well worth the educational experience.

Austin said during their time on the crew, he hopes students not only learn how to fall trees, but also that they acquire an understanding of the politics, communications and business operations that come with forest management.

“You’ll not only have figured out how to sharpen and use a chainsaw, but you understand more of the process about the landowner, the watersheds, the endangered species and how these all interact,” Austin said.

Austin said it feels good to work in a green industry, and that he goes home each night feeling good about what he and the crew accomplish.

“We’re in it for the long-term — as a university, as natural resource professionals and in developing the student body to be successful in their later years,” Austin said.

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SYSTEMS

FROM PAGE 1

Foisy said when applying this method to larger institutions like UI, things can get much more complicated, as employee benefits change on a regular basis.

Mahoney said CFRs make budget plans more predictable, so departments can plan ahead easier.

“You know what’s going to happen in advance,” Foisy said. “You can plan.”

Foisy said the reception to this shift has been mostly positive. Although some tweaks have been made for the next fiscal year, he said most people who have commented on CFRs have made it clear that they think it will be an improvement.

“That was our idea, to improve the situation for departments and other people who manage budgets on campus,” Foisy said.

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CULTURES

FROM PAGE 1

“We try to educate and keep the culture alive through dancing,” Perez said.

Victor Canales, who works for the College Assistance Migrant Program at UI and is also an adviser for MAS, said he was one of the students who started the organization when he was still a student at UI in 2008.

“We wanted some sort of

event for Hispanic Heritage month and we wanted it to be not only about culture, but also about social justice,” Canales said.

Canales said the performances are his favorite aspect of the event and he enjoys watching students exhibit their poetry, songs and dances. Though Canales said this event will be entertaining for students, it will also be an opportunity

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to learn more about issues going on in Latin America.

“Students should stay open-minded and try to take something away from the event,” Canales said. “It will be a lot of fun but it will also be very informative.”

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MOVES

FROM PAGE 1

McMurtry said his role as dean is to help graduate students get through their graduate education smoothly, and to put together programs that will help accomplish their professional goals.

He said the college tries to create visibility for graduate

programs around the world, sending a recruiter out to generate interest and bring in high-quality students.

“We work hard to publicize what our graduate students do — the research that’s been done and the accomplishments that our students see,” McMurtry said. “We publicize those. We do a lot to make

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those visible to an international audience.”

As dean, McMurtry said he feels his greatest responsibility is to find strategies to keep improving the university’s graduate programs and strategies to attract the best students.

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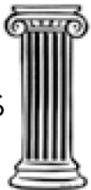
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SPORTS



Idaho women's basketball opens regular season against UC Santa Barbara Sunday at home

PAGE 8

FOOTBALL

Idaho offense strong in losses

Idaho offense has been bright spot in two tough losses

Garrett Cabeza
Argonaut

After two tough road games in which the Idaho football team blew a 23-point lead against New Mexico State Oct. 31 and a 24-point lead against South Alabama Saturday, the Vandals (3-6 overall, 2-4 Sun Belt Conference) will play in front of their fans at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Kibbie Dome when they face the Appalachian State Mountaineers (7-2, 4-1) in Sun Belt action.

Despite the two losses, Idaho coach Paul Petrino said the program is moving forward.

"I think what we've also seen in the last two weeks tells you how much farther we've come along as a program," Petrino said.

Petrino said the points and the yards the Idaho offense has accumulated the last two weeks shows the program's improvement.

Idaho has not played a game at the Kibbie Dome since the Vandals beat Louisiana-Monroe 27-13 Oct. 24 during Homecoming Week.

Even in Idaho's last two road losses, the Vandal offense was tough to stop. Idaho amassed 93 points combined in the last two games.

Idaho quarterback Matt Linehan has played an important role the last three weeks as the sophomore has thrown for 300 yards or more in each of the Vandals' last three games.

Idaho senior running back Elihaa Penny has carried the load in the running game. Penny has carried the ball 35 times or more for at least 135 yards in the last three games.

Junior wide receiver Callen Hightower has been Linehan's go-to receiver the last two games as the Loganville, Georgia, native has 19 recep-

“

He's gotten a ton better, a ton more comfortable with the defense.

Eric Brown, coach

tions for 200 yards and one touchdown during that span.

Idaho tight end/receiver Deon Watson stepped up against South Alabama as the 6-foot-4-inch junior racked up seven catches for 109 yards and two touchdowns.

"I've definitely felt the momentum swinging my way," Watson said. "I feel like the momentum's with the team too. We just got to learn how to finish in that fourth quarter."

On the defensive side, Idaho freshman linebacker Kaden Elliss and senior defensive end Quinton Bradley flew all over the field as the two had nine tackles each against South Alabama.

It was Elliss' third straight game with nine tackles. Bradley is second in the conference in tackles for loss and tied for second in sacks.

"He's gotten a ton better, a ton more comfortable with the defense," Idaho linebackers coach Eric Brown said of Elliss. "I think there's still plays for him to make. There's still more potential to be tapped with him so I'm excited for him to just continue to get better each game."

While the Mountaineers are 7-2, the last two games have not been easy.

They lost to Sun Belt Conference leader Arkansas State 40-27 Nov. 5 and narrowly beat Troy 44-41 in triple overtime Oct. 31.

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Tess Fox | Argonaut

Redshirt freshman running back Isaiah Saunders approaches the end zone during football practice Wednesday. The Vandals play Appalachian State at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Kibbie Dome.

CROSS COUNTRY

On to regionals

Seven Idaho women cross country runners, one Idaho man will compete at NCAA Regional Championship

Mihaela Karst
Argonaut

Eight Idaho cross country runners — seven women and one man — are heading to Seattle, Washington, Friday to compete at the NCAA Regional Championship.

On the women's side, senior Kinsey Gomez, juniors Ally Ginther, Halie Raudenbush, Valerie Mitchell and freshmen Krista Story, McCall Skay and Andrea Condie will compete. Junior Nathan Stark will run on the men's side for Idaho.

Gomez placed third at the Big Sky Championships Oct. 31 in Cedar City, Utah.

"Two of the best runners in the country are competing in this field and I think Kinsey can run with just about anybody," Idaho assistant coach Travis Floeck said. "She's feeling phenomenal and she has a goal of qualifying for the national meet and I think she is more

than able to attain that goal."

Floek said he expects all the competitors to run well this weekend.

"I expect them to get in there and run with confidence, compete and do their best," Floeck said. "It's a pretty good course. It's a little faster and they can definitely break some personal records."

Floek said the team has really improved over the season, but the end of the season has its pros and cons.

"Sometimes you run the risk of being really fatigued at the end of the season," Floeck said. "But we're looking really good and well rested."

Idaho will face tough competition in Seattle, but Floeck said the team's expectations remain the same as any other meet.

"Majority of the team would love to P.R. (personal record) and are capable of doing it," Floeck said. "We want them to run with confidence and do their best and I think that some great things can happen for them."

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

West Coast clash

Idaho men's basketball opens regular season at San Jose State Saturday

Josh Grissom
Argonaut

After exhibition matchups against NAIA and Division II opponents, the Idaho men's basketball team travels to San Jose State to take on a Mountain West program in the regular season opener for both teams.

The Vandals take on the Spartans at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Event Center Arena in San Jose, California. After San Jose State, Idaho plays California State-Bakersfield at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Bakersfield, California.

The Vandals kick off the start of the regular season by playing five of their next six games on the road, including the Mean Green Showcase in Denton, Texas.

"It's really important to come out strong," Idaho coach Don Verlin said. "It would be a great way to get off to a good start and really help us as far as momentum going into the season."

Idaho (2-0 preseason) was led in

exhibition play by sophomore guard Victor Sanders, who averaged 15 points per game during Idaho's two preseason games. Senior forward Nahshon George also made an early impression by adding 13 points against Lewis-Clark State College last Friday.

The Vandals employed a dominating presence in the paint during the team's two exhibition games. Senior forward Paulin Mpawe grabbed 11 rebounds in Friday's matchup against the Warriors and electrified the home crowd with several commanding dunks late in the second half.

Idaho will face a San Jose State team that is looking to revitalize its program after last year's disappointing season when the team finished with a 2-28 record.

The Spartans have five true freshmen on the roster, but what the program lacks in experience, it makes up for in height.

The two starting forwards for San Jose State are 6-feet-9-inches and 6-feet-8-inches, which would create a pivotal matchup for Mpawe and George in the post as they attempt to win the physical battle for rebounds.

SEE WEST, PAGE 9

BASKETBALL

Picking up the pace

Idaho women's basketball opens regular season Sunday at home against UC Santa Barbara

Tess Fox
Argonaut

After a 93-58 exhibition win over Lewis-Clark State College Friday night at the Memorial Gym, the Idaho women's basketball team is hoping to keep the energy going as the Vandals open their regular season against UC Santa Barbara at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Memorial Gym.

"We want to keep getting better, trying to get better in the little areas," Idaho coach Jon Newlee said.

He said rebounding, strong defense and ball movement are areas the team is working to improve.

Senior guard Connie Ballestero led the Vandals with 17 points in their win over the Warriors. Senior post Ali Forde added 16 points and sophomore post Geraldine McCorkell helped with 13 points and eight rebounds.

"We did a great job of sharing the basketball," Newlee said. "I liked our energy ... we need to keep doing that."

UC Santa Barbara junior point guard Onome Jemerigbe is coming off an honorable mention All-Big West season as she led the Gauchos with 8.6 points and 4.4 assists per game. Her 4.4 assists and 1.6 steals per game ranked her fourth and sixth in the Big West, respectively.

McCorkell said she hopes to continue the fast pace the Vandals established against LCSC.

"We've really picked up our offense and our defense, really getting after plays ... running in transition so I think it'll be a lot quicker game than in the past," McCorkell said.

"It's early in the year but we have a good mix of veterans and young (players) so you know, let the seniors and the older people take a leadership role and we go out and we play hard," Newlee said.

Tess Fox can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu

VN
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Senior guard Connie Ballestero fights to dribble through senior guard Christina Salvatore and freshman guard Taylor Pierce at practice. Tess Fox | Argonaut

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CLUB SPORTS

Vandals take center ice

Idaho men's club hockey looks to bounce back from Boise State loss

Josh Grissom
Argonaut

After a match against in-state rival Boise State Saturday, the Idaho men's hockey club returns to Moscow for its first home game of the season.

"We held our own for the first half of the game against Boise State," said junior goaltender Nick Grover. "We have been able to identify what we are lacking, so that is a good starting point for the team going into Saturday's game."

The Vandals will face a formidable Gonzaga opponent that has won four of its last five games. The two teams go head-to-head at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Palouse Ice Rink in Moscow.

Idaho possesses a roster

primarily consisting of freshman this year after the team added 13 new players during the offseason.

Despite the relative youth of the squad, Grover said the backbone of the team is the upper-classmen's veteran chemistry.

"Our veterans have played together before, which is a confidence boost to the team and demonstrates the kind of team we are to the rookies," Grover said.

Freshman defenseman Kasey Peach has been instrumental for the Vandals on the ice, providing a daunting presence on defense in the team's previous matchups.

Meanwhile, freshman forward Gavin Ingraham has stood out as one of the quickest Vandals on the ice. Grover said the Vandals possess a strong presence in the net after the team added two new goalkeepers to the roster.

"Having three goalkeepers allows us to compete

against one another, ultimately making each of us a more skilled player," Grover said.

The Vandals participated in the fifth annual Black and Blue Rivalry Game against Boise State at the CenturyLink Arena Saturday as part of a public fundraiser for Metro Meals on Wheels.

The meeting between the two teams raised over \$32,000 for the charitable cause, which will help provide meals to seniors and disabled individuals in the Boise area.

The Vandals lost 9-0 to the Broncos after three periods of play.

Grover said the team prepared for the upcoming match with Gonzaga by scheduling additional team meetings outside of practice in order to review offensive schemes.

Gonzaga is traveling to Moscow after back-to-back victories against Portland State last weekend.

The Bulldogs claimed a 5-1 victory in the first game of the weekend series against the Vikings Saturday. In the following game, Gonzaga scored nine goals during the first period of play, exiting the rink with a 10-3 win over the Vikings.

Despite Gonzaga's recent success on the ice, Grover said the team is excited for the matchup and the opportunity to finally play in front of a home crowd.

"Vandal hockey games have the most energy I have seen in any University of Idaho sport," Grover said. "We pack the rink with fans as though we were a Division I team."

Josh Grissom can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu or on Twitter @GoshJrissom

OPINION

How far they've come

The Idaho volleyball team has mostly underclassmen on its roster, giving younger players the opportunity to fill gaps left by Jessica Hastriter, Stephanie Hagins and Alyssa Schultz, who were seniors last season.

At first, the results weren't good when the Vandals faced tough opponents outside of the Big Sky Conference, but that's how Idaho coach Debbie Buchanan prefers it.

Buchanan likes playing a tough nonconference schedule — like Hawaii at the beginning of the season — because she thinks the team benefits long-term and it helps Idaho's RPI (Rating Percentage Index).

I was skeptical on how the team would finish the season because the Vandals struggled to reduce their hitting errors.

Although it's still on Buchanan's mind, she brought an interesting point up on how the team doesn't need to make too many adjustments going into the final week of the regular season.

It shows how confident Idaho is as a team — and who can blame them? They're on top of the Big Sky North division after defeating Eastern Washington Saturday.

However, if there's one part of the season where Idaho's confidence level grew, it has to be when Idaho was challenged in three consecutive five-set matches, and won all of them.

The Vandals beat Portland State Oct. 8, Sacramento State Oct. 10 and Montana Oct. 15 in five sets each.

Those games showcased how this young team had a different mentality and relied on everyone to step up her own game.

Whether it is sophomore outside hitter Sarah Sharp earning the most kills in a match after coming off the bench or freshman outside hitter Kaela Straw closing the match with multiple kills in the final set, it does not matter who is on the court for the most part.

Each player gets the job done when she enters the game.

Another unique attribute Idaho has is its approach. The Vandals focus on the next play.

Say senior outside hitter Katelyn Peterson earns a kill. The energy level increases among the team and it becomes stronger because the players are excited to succeed.

But when things go rough, like the Vandals' 3-0 loss at Idaho State Oct. 24, they become a more effective team after that.

Let's not forget when Idaho faced Southern Utah and Eastern Washington last week. It lost in the third set but it outperformed each team in the fourth set to win each match.

After the win against Southern Utah Nov. 5, senior setter Meredith Coba said the Vandals were angry about losing the third set and entered the next set with a sense of urgency.

In sports, you must have a strong mentality to brush off a frustrating loss and try to outperform your opponent next time. For the most part, Idaho has done a great job overcoming

Vandals struggled in nonconference play to start season, now on top of Big Sky North



ing adversity.

There's no quit in this team.

The only question remaining is whether the Vandals stay on

top of their division.

That will be Idaho's next challenge. The Vandals lost to North Dakota Thursday night in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and will finish the regular season against Northern Colorado at 11 a.m. Saturday in Greeley, Colorado.

This week will truly tell how competitive Idaho can be going into the Big Sky Tournament Nov. 19-21. But based on how far Idaho has come as a team, it wouldn't be surprising if the Vandals do retain the top spot in the North division going into the tournament.

The Vandals are hitting their stride late in the season and growing as a team at the same time.

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WEST

FROM PAGE 7

"Their role on Saturday will be huge," Verlin said. "All of our posts will be very important because our next two games are against teams with some size and athletic bodies down low."

The Spartans will also debut the program's first ever four-star recruit. Freshman Cody Schwartz earned the

prestigious rating from ESPN after averaging 20 points per game as a high school senior and Division II all-state selection in Wisconsin.

"I've been very impressed by what I saw from San Jose State in their exhibition game," Verlin said.

"They put together a good athletic group and got some better recruits. Obviously the team is much better than they

were a year ago."

San Jose State already mustered a surprisingly hot start in preseason play, shooting 58.9 percent from the field in a 112-59 victory over NAIA Pacific Union Saturday.

Verlin said the key for the Vandals is to protect the basketball and defend well in transition.



"We can't allow them to go on big runs," Verlin said. "Our transition defense

has to be very good. San Jose is very athletic and we need to keep them from penetrating to the basket."

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SOCCER

Idaho brings home hardware

Idaho soccer earns many Big Sky awards after record-setting season

Josh Grissom
Argonaut

The season may have ended in heartbreak for Idaho's soccer program Sunday, but the team did not walk away from the pitch empty-handed this season.

A number of Vandals collected individual awards and recognition, including Big Sky Conference Coach of the Year honors for second-year head coach Derek Pittman.

"It was very humbling and a huge honor," Pittman said. "I'm thankful that my coaching peers in the Big Sky feel that we've done enough as a staff to warrant such an award."

"I think this award truly goes to my coaching staff and players, but it just happens to have my name on it," Pittman said.

After Idaho fell to Northern Colorado in the Big Sky Tournament title game, the conference released the all-tournament list as voted by the media. The Vandals snagged five of the 13 spots on the lineup.

Junior forward Kavita Battan and freshman goalkeeper Amanda Poertner joined junior midfielder Elexis Schlossarek and sophomore forward Olivia Baggerly in receiving all-tournament honors at the conclusion of Sunday's match.

Freshman forward Kayla Watanabe also received the recognition after a breakout performance that consisted of a goal against Montana and an assist in the championship game.

"We always knew that she would have opportunities to break loose and score," Pittman said. "Kayla has a tremendous engine and mentality that is very brave and courageous, and nothing was more evident than that when she scored the goal against Montana."

The Vandals also received an abundance of awards when the Big Sky released the finalists of the annual all-conference team. The results were based on the votes from the 11 Big Sky head coaches.

Poertner received

the nod for Goalkeeper of the Year after posting nine shutouts during the season, setting a new Idaho single-season record.

Junior midfielder Alyssa Lloyd, junior defender Amanda Pease and sophomore defender Josilyn Daggs joined Battan and Poertner on the first team all-conference roster after a 9-0-1 regular season in conference play.

Junior midfielder Clara Gomez was awarded a spot on the second team after setting a new Big Sky single-season record with 13 assists. Baggerly joined Gomez on the second team by scoring nine goals and providing seven assists for the Vandals.

Freshman defender Kelly Dopke received honorable mention after amassing 1,947 minutes on the pitch.

"In my opinion Kelly has the potential to be the Big Sky Defender of the Year multiple times over the next three years," Pittman said. "She is very calm and composed and makes good decisions in the back and is everything you could want from a centerback."

Pittman received Coach of the Year honors after a turnaround second season at Idaho, guiding the Vandals to the regular season title. Idaho mustered four wins last season.

"We have a group of players that all bought in and decided nine months ago to truly commit to doing what the coaching staff was asking of them," Pittman said. "This is just an example of what can happen when they play together as a team and I feel blessed to be the leader of this group."

Idaho produced the highest winning percentage (.738) in program history and set the team record for most goals in a season with 44.

Idaho concluded the 2015 season with a 14-5-2 record and the first regular season Big Sky title in program history.

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Entitled end zones

America needs to stop glorifying a culture that allows for assault against women

In the land of the free and the home of the brave, a new kind of culture has emerged. It's a culture where individuals who are regularly glorified by the general public are allowed to commit crimes and wake up the next morning as if nothing had ever happened — where petty theft, sexual assault, battery and driving under the influence are all actions for which there is little consequence.

The worst part about it? It's a culture that's fostered by America's favorite sport.

According to a survey taken by the Harris Poll in 2014, professional football has been America's favorite sport for the past 30 years.

But, it's also a sport notorious for harboring players who regularly commit crimes and acts of violence against women.

Some of the most recent cases include the murder conviction of former New England Patriots tight end, Aaron Hernandez and the indictment for third-degree aggravated assault of former Baltimore Ravens running back, Ray Rice.

Last year, the defensive end for the Carolina Panthers assaulted his girlfriend and went on to sign with the Dallas Cowboys after the charges were dismissed following an appeal. Then there was NFL free agent C.J. Spillman, who was also recently charged with sexually assaulting a woman at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Conference Center.

According to USA Today's NFL Player Arrests database, there have been about 35 players arrested for numerous incidents this year alone.

In his article about the NFL's violent crime problem, Stephen Bronars, a contributor for Forbes, cites a study that found 1.1 percent of NFL first-round draft selections are arrested for assault each season and the rate is twice as high for DUI or drug possession charges.

Although the same study found first round selections are arrested at about 63 percent of the rate for men of the same age in the general population, there is a difference between crimes committed by football players and crimes committed among the general public.

In an article for The Huffington Post, Maxwell Strachan cites a study which found that "while NFL players are arrested for property crimes and public order crimes at rates far below the national average, they are often arrested for violent crimes at rates above them."

While yes, all of America has a violence problem, not every individual arrested for violent crimes is back at work, being adored and glorified by thousands of fans after a brief suspension or less.

This is not to say all football players are criminals — that isn't the case at all. This is not a critique of the sport itself, either. It is a critique about the kind of entitlement associated with athletic performance,

specifically in football.

When athletes are not charged for crimes like domestic violence, it sends a dangerous message to other incoming players that these actions are somehow accepted. When football fans continue to tune in to every game and cheer for these athletes, it sends an even more dangerous message that not only does the justice system not care, but the general public isn't disturbed by their violent behaviors, either.

This kind of entitlement and neglect of criminal cases isn't limited to the NFL. Recently, University of Idaho student Dezmon Epps was removed from the Vandal football team. Epps had a history of criminal behavior, including two misdemeanor charges for driving without privileges, shoplifting at two different locations and allegedly assaulting his girlfriend.

Epps isn't the only Vandal football player with a record.

Former Vandal cornerback, Isaiah Taylor was involved in a shoplifting incident at the Van-

dal Bookstore with Epps, receiver David Ungerer was arrested for a DUI on Halloween night and the Las Cruces Sun-News recently reported that an unidentified Idaho football player allegedly "grabbed" a New Mexico State University Sundancer during the New Mexico State-Idaho game on Halloween.

While the NFL commissioner, Roger Goodell, has announced plans to be tougher on players who commit crimes and both Epps and Taylor have been removed from the Vandal football team, there is still a long way to go from here.

I'm all for second chances, but it shouldn't take numerous offenses before an individual is held accountable for their actions.

As a country, we're prioritizing a popular sport over the integrity of the justice system. By continuing to endorse or support players after they get away with drunk driving, domestic violence or assault, we are condoning a culture in which those who are good at what they do believe they are above the law.

It's a culture that encourages aggression as well as excessive and forceful physical contact. It allows for individuals to not hold themselves accountable for their actions — it's a culture where the strength and value of an athlete on the field directly correlates with how much they can get away with.

While it's up to the NFL or head football coaches to develop stricter disciplinary policies for players who commit violent acts and other crimes, it's up to the American public not to endorse a culture in which someone's athletic performance is more important than who they are as a human.

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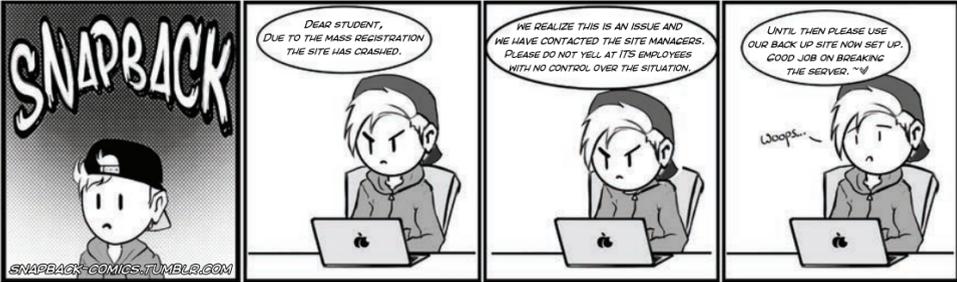
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War on Christmas

Christians definitely need to avoid Starbucks

All Christians beware — the local Starbucks is out to ruin your holiday. That's right, Starbucks hates Jesus and has declared war on Christmas.

The war began artistically, with a cup. A paper cup. A cup that is designed to hold coffee and apparently hates Jesus.

The holiday cup from Starbucks is, get this, red. Technically, it is red, green and white — the universal colors of Christmas — because of the Starbucks logo. But that's not Jesus-y enough for us. Technicalities don't matter.

In past years, the cups have had snowflakes, snowmen, elves and just about everything else the Bible mentions when Jesus was born. Lo and behold, Mary and Joseph were actually elves. It's in the Bible.

At the base of it all, the whole debacle brings out the true spirit of Christmas — hating on businesses through social media in order to get retweets or views. Forget good cheer and happiness this holiday season, instead people can just whip out their smartphones and include #WarOnChristmas in their tweets and Instagram uploads. How festive.

Every year, someone accuses a business or organization for being anti-Christian just because they try to be inclusive of all religious holidays. God forbid Jewish holidays are ever represented or Islamic observances

are taken into consideration. There's that good ole Christmas spirit again. Accepting everyone and being kind to thy neighbor apparently is overrated.

This simple red cup acting as a declaration of war on Christmas is absurd. The cup is still more Christmas-themed compared to the other winter holidays. Are Hanukkah's colors red, green and white? What about Kwanzaa?

In fact, I say Christians should be thrilled by this design and with Starbucks itself. The company is still pushing plenty of Christmas merchandise, despite the fact that it's still early November, and the cup undeniably reeks of Christmas, even if it lacks tacky snowmen and sleds.

If you don't want to drink at Starbucks out of religious protest, then don't drink Starbucks. Find some Jesus-loving coffee corporation to give your money to instead, there's plenty of them.

The holiday season shouldn't even be focused on Christians who feel like their religion is being attacked. This season is supposed to focus on family, love and sharing what we have with those we care about. So maybe shift your focus outward this season, whether you're celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, and give the gift of understanding.

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Claire Whitley
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Mindfulness is kind

Why self-kindness, kindness to others is an important tool

As a child, my father worked in road construction and we moved twice each year to follow his jobs. I always seemed to be the new girl earning her way into the playground games.

I'd been at a new school about a month at the start of my fourth grade year and was feeling pretty good about my social status among my new classmates. Then one day after school, a popular boy tripped me.

As I lay sprawled in the hallway with a bleeding knee my class circled around chanting insulting names and mocking me. Nobody came to my aid. Suffused with shame and sobbing my eyes out, I fled school in the direction of home.

I returned to school the next day a different girl. I kept to myself and didn't play at recess. The echo of that hallway chanting was a drumbeat in my head. I told myself I was ugly and clumsy and unwanted.

A few days later, Cindy Butler, a well-liked and pretty blonde in my class, set her lunch tray down on the table next to mine. She complimented a ring I was wearing and asked if I wanted to swing at recess. I didn't fully trust her motives, but I accepted her invitation.

Over the next few weeks, we became fast friends who giggled about boys and asked a Ouija board if we'd be rich.

We all carry fragments from the impacts of human kindness and cruelty in our lives. We harden up a bit after moments when we are teased or betrayed or misunderstood. We soften and relax after moments of

kindness and generosity and understanding.

Mindfulness meditation highlights the importance of kindness. To develop the peace, gentleness and stillness of meditation, a kindly awareness is required.

Self-kindness is a key component. Mindfulness emphasizes cultivating an attitude of "non-reactivity" and "non-judgment" as we notice our own thoughts, feelings and behaviors that arise during meditation. That is, we cultivate the willingness to see clearly and with friendliness with whatever resides in our experience.

But won't that just make us soft and lazy? How can we be friendly with everything and still improve? As we soften knee-jerk evaluations and negative self-talk, we relax a bit, soften and can greet ourselves with patient amusement. We

can even offer some self-compassion.

Kristin Neff, a researcher at the University of Texas in Austin suggests that we talk to ourselves like we'd talk to a good friend. With a better understanding, we make better choices.

Being kinder to ourselves also shows up in how kindly we treat others. As our judgments soften inside, we find ourselves more understanding with others, too. We can allow for their humanity and mistakes without judging or belittling. We offer help.

These small gestures matter. They can transform a moment and shine through someone's whole day. In the case of my old friend Cindy Butler, her kindness transformed my entire fourth grade year.

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