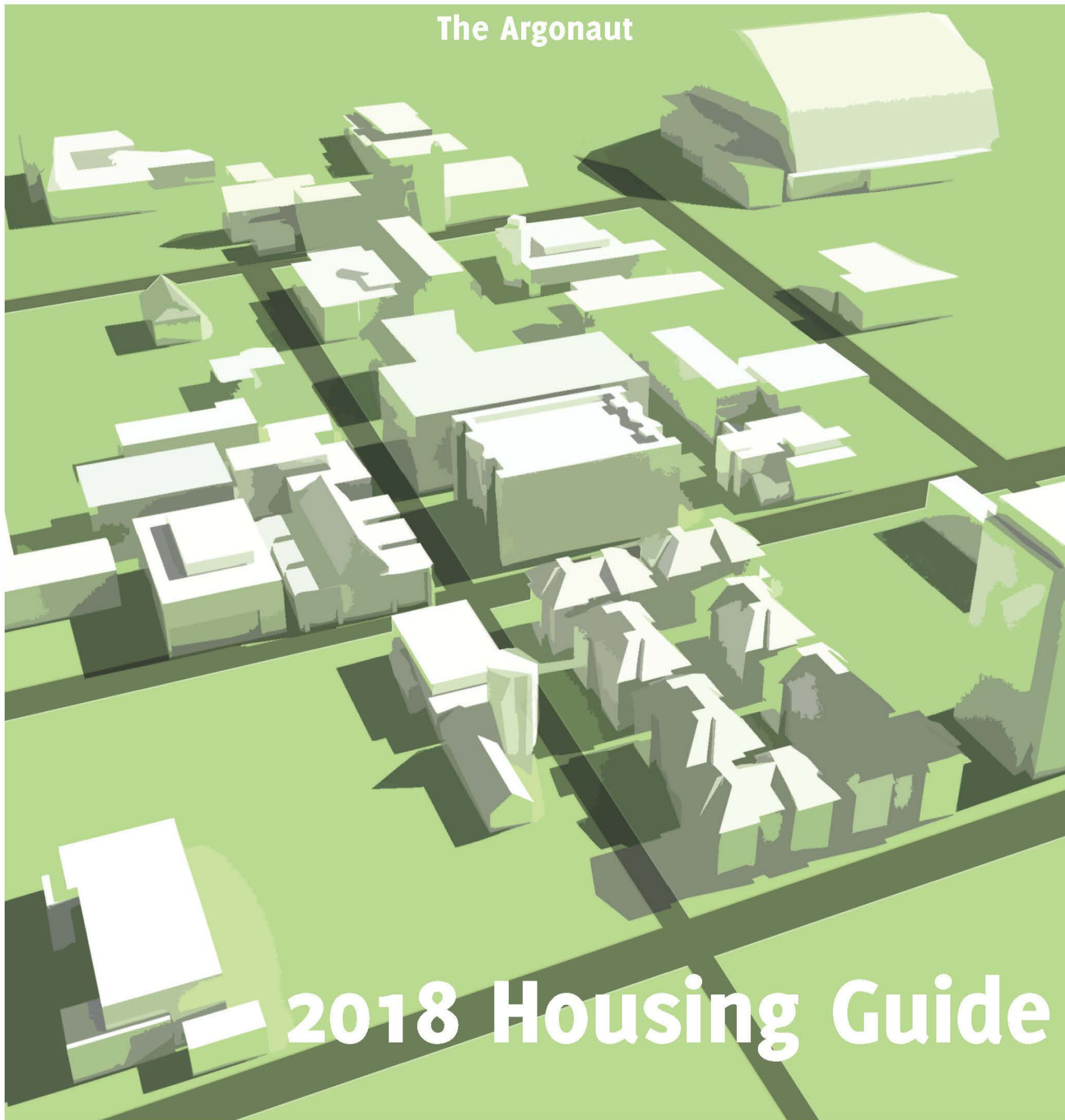


The Argonaut

2018 Housing Guide



UI housing options 2018-2019

Wallace Residence Center: \$2,215 (Double) \$3,040 (Single)

- Gooding Wing
- Six co-ed floors for first-year students of any academic major
- Wiley Wing
- Six co-ed floors for first-year students of any academic major
- Ballard Wing
- First three co-ed floors designated for sophomores through graduate students of any academic major
- Fourth co-ed floor designated for sophomore through graduate students in the College of Agriculture and Life Science
- Stevenson Wing
- Four co-ed floors for students of any academic major

Theophilus Tower: \$2,215 (Double) \$3,040 (Single)

- Female floors of any academic major: 1st, 4th, 6th
- Male floors of any academic major: 2nd, 3rd, 5th
- Male engineering/computer science floor: 7th, 8th
- Female honors program floors: 9th, 10th
- Male honors program floor: 11th

Living Learning Communities: \$2,512 (Double) \$3,220 (Single)

- Gem: Open to sophomores and beyond of any

academic major

- Syringa: Open to sophomores and beyond of any academic major
- Sage: Open to sophomores and beyond of any academic major
- Upham: Open to freshman of any academic major
- College of Natural Resources: Open to first-years and beyond enrolled in CNR
- Gault: Open to sophomores and beyond of any academic major
- Engineering: Open to sophomores and beyond majoring in engineering
- Scholars: Open to sophomores and beyond enrolled in the Honors program

McConnell Hall: \$3,040 (Single)

- Basement: Co-ed open to any academic major
- Male floors: 1st, 2nd
- Female floors: 3rd

Meal plans 2018-2019

- The Vandal: Unlimited meals, \$100 Dining Dollars (\$2,210)
- The Pride: 14 meals per week, \$250 Dining Dollars (\$2,095)
- Silver 160: 160 meals per semester, \$450 Dining Dollars (\$1,975)
- Silver 130: 130 meals per semester, \$650 Dining Dollars (\$1,960)
- Silver 95: 95 meals per semester, \$900 Dining Dollars (\$1,960)

Greek

Sororities

- Alpha Gamma Delta
- Alpha Phi
- Delta Delta Delta
- Delta Gamma
- Delta Zeta
- Gamma Phi Beta
- Kappa Alpha Theta
- Kappa Delta
- Kappa Kappa Gamma
- Pi Beta Phi

Fraternities

- Alpha Gamma Rho
- Alpha Kappa Lambda
- Beta Theta Pi
- Delta Sigma Phi
- Delta Tau Delta
- FarmHouse
- Kappa Sigma
- Lambda Chi Alpha
- Phi Delta Theta
- FIJI
- Pi Kappa Alpha*
- Phi Kappa Tau
- Pi Kappa Phi
- Sigma Chi
- Sigma Nu
- Theta Chi

*Does not provide housing

Renters beware

Renters should proceed with caution

Tess Fox
ARGONAUT

It's hard to find someone not affected by the sudden closure of Whitepine Property Management last summer. In six months of reporting, I met countless people who had negative experience with Whitepine and a previous iteration of the company, University City.

Whitepine Property Management — one of the largest property management companies

in Moscow — vacated its office and closed for business without notice during summer 2017. Tenants, many of whom were UI students, began calling the City of Moscow and the UI Dean of Students Office with concerns.

"Throughout the utility billing department, we also got notice that there were some accounts that were delinquent. They were all belonging to it (Whitepine)," said Jen Pfiffner, Moscow assistant city supervisor.

Security deposits for properties were not returned. Renters in existing leases with Whitepine did not know who

managed their property. Those who had not yet moved in, but paid a deposit, did not know if they had a place to live.

Property owners — who paid Whitepine to manage the lease, payment and maintenance — had not received rent payments for several months. City-issued utility bills in excess of \$200,000 were left unpaid.

Here are some ways students can avoid similar situations.

1. If you're a first-time renter, ask for help. Ask your friends, your parents, adults you know and trust or other students you know. Don't be afraid to ask people for their experience with certain companies and if they have any tips.

2. Take responsibility. You are

in charge of your own destiny. Looking for housing early gives you more options to choose from. When you're looking for companies to rent from, check their Google reviews.

3. Trust your gut, because it's rarely wrong. If the company is won't answer phone calls or stands you up for showings, those are red flags. If your company won't complete maintenance requests, that's a bad sign too.

4. When you're ready to sign a lease, read it thoroughly. Look for inconsistent and vague language. A Whitepine examined by attorney Ron Landeck, noticed fees and unclear language everywhere.

If you find these inconsisten-

cies and vague statements, ask the company what it means. If they can't or won't tell you, don't sign the lease.

When moving in, be sure to fill out the move-in inspection form thoroughly. This sheet is given to renters upon move-in. Go through every item on the list and check for any existing damage. By documenting this now, you could prevent yourself for being financially liable for existing problems.

For a more thorough list of tips, consult the Landlord and Tenant guidelines provided by the Idaho State Attorney General's office.

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Towering above the rest

The Theophilus Tower offers new experiences for incoming first-year students

Kali Nelson
ARGONAUT

Eleven stories of brick peek above the University of Idaho skyline, visible from almost anywhere on campus or in Moscow. As the tallest building on campus, the Theophilus Tower serves as the primary housing option for first-time Vandals.

According to the UI housing website, rooms in the Tower cost \$2,215 per semester for a double room and \$3,040 for a single.

Tyler Kennedy said he chose to live in the Tower because he enjoyed the layout compared to other UI housing options.

"It was easy, compared to like Wallace. I kind of enjoyed the layout a little bit more," Kennedy said. "I liked not having bunk beds. It just feels a little more communal."

Mike Frei, another student living in the Tower, said he appreciated the major-specific floors on the upper levels.

"It seemed like the best way to meet new people and there's the community showers and stuff so that way I don't have to clean the bathrooms," Frei said.

Frei said he appreciated the Tower's layout, with a maximum of two roommates per suite. However, he said he wished rooms came with carpet and cabinets, and using a community bathroom can be an inconvenience.

Kennedy, meanwhile, said he wished rooms came with running water, and the open floor plan does not lend itself to privacy when sharing a smaller space with another person. He also said his particular floor does not often engage socially, forcing him to find other alternatives.

"I would say in terms of people on my floor, my floor's really quiet," Kennedy said. "I don't interact with the people, I think there's maybe three people on my floor that I talk to and the rest of it's really quiet, which I've noticed is a little odd. I've got buddies up on the seventh floor and I'll go hang out with them and there's always something going on, so it kind of varies it think."

Brock Browning, a first-year student, said he lived in the Tower briefly before moving to the Wallace Residence Center to live with friends. Browning said he ap-



Alexandra Stutzman | Argonaut

The Theophilus Tower, one of three housing options for University of Idaho freshmen.

preciated the housing staff's dedication to planning activities tailored for first-year students, with plenty of opportunities to get involved.

"Pros? It was easy to just go up and find people to do something with. Cons? The showers and the bathroom setup," Browning said. "It was okay, it was just annoying to have to deal with the whole commute over to the bathroom, and also showers had super low water pressure so it was like standing in the rain instead of taking a shower."

Kennedy said the Tower is a good place to get started in college, meet new people and is in a great location on campus. Browning, after living in both the Tower and Wallace, said he noticed a stark contrast in the personalities of both residence halls.

"I'd say the people in Wallace are a little more confident to be by themselves and more independent, while people in the Tower are more group oriented," Browning said. "They want to spend a lot of time with people and from what I've seen aren't as comfortable with themselves and being bold and who they are."

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Alexandra Stutzman | Argonaut

A dorm room in the Theophilus Tower Tuesday morning.

To Greek or not to Greek

While the decision to join Greek life can be hard, the experience pays off in the end

When deciding where to attend college, the answer came effortlessly — University of Idaho. Deciding where to live, however, did not come so easy.

The day came when it was finally time for me to spread my wings and obtain my bachelor's degree. After receiving admission to the university, nearly everything was falling into place. But, there was one thing holding me back from being just about as happy as ever — housing.

Between the various housing options around campus, I was bound to have some doubts. On one hand, there are residence halls. Here, I would have a dorm room with likely just one roommate. On the other hand, I could undergo Greek recruitment.

At first, I did not even want to consider sorority life. From living with a ridiculous amount of girls the same age as me to the dreaded sleeping porches, I was sure my personality type would not fit in.

Somehow, over the course of the summer, I was convinced by a family friend who had previously been through UI's Greek system to give Greek life a try. Now, I regret nothing.

Following formal recruitment in Fall 2014, in less than one night my entire outlook on sorority life had changed.

I became part of Kappa Kappa Gamma and embraced all the beautiful white house on the hill had to offer. From regular sisterhoods to chapter meetings, all prior assumptions I had about sororities were thrown out the window.

To be completely honest, I never saw myself as the "sorority type." I spent most of my days engrossed in books and hanging out with my dogs. I was far from

what anyone would expect a sorority girl to be.

I am just one of the many examples that shows a person does not have to be a particular type or fit into any specific mold to love living in a sorority. Sorority life can be for everyone — I just had to open my eyes to truly realize it.

Despite my polar-opposite personality, the house grew on me. That isn't to say it changed me, I simply began to accept the fact that living with 75 other women is pretty cool and that I would never have that opportunity again.

As the house itself grew on me, so did the girls within it. As cliché as it sounds, I really did find my bridesmaids.

I lived in the house my first three years as an undergrad and am now spending my last year living in an apartment off campus. Surprisingly, there are many things I miss about living in house — the constant friends nearby, the chef, the breakfast bagels — but, living out my senior year has also helped me grow and prepare for post-grad life.

Although there might be some false presumptions about the typical "sorority girl," I am here to say that living in a sorority is one of the best decisions one can ever make in college.

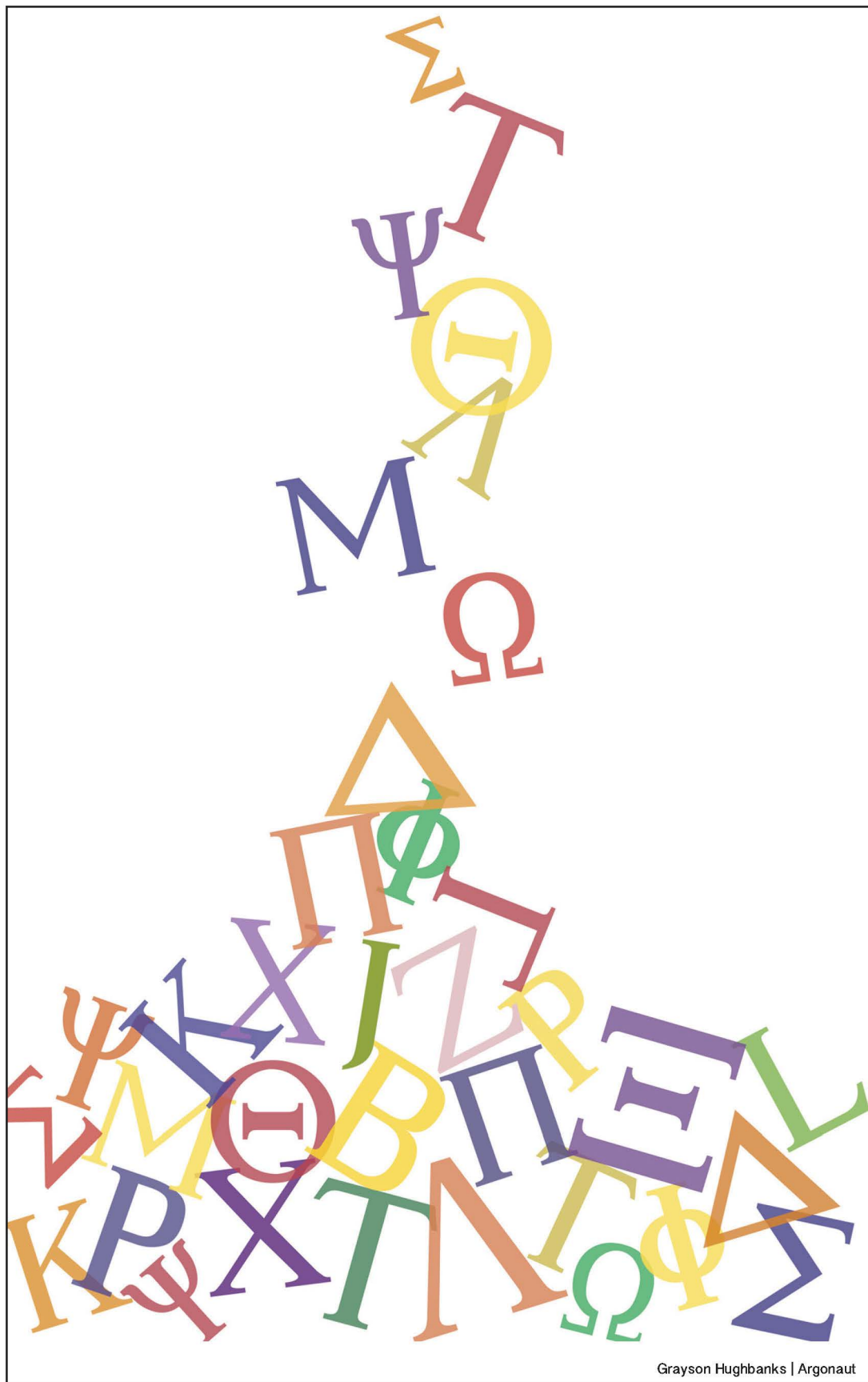
I will admit, however, living in a sorority with nearly 75 other women can get a bit overwhelming. For an introvert like me, my personal space is important and sometimes I wasn't given that luxury. But, I learned to like that part of it, as it forced me out of my shell. I even learned to accept the sleeping porch.

For those on the fence about participating in recruitment this fall, I urge you to take a chance on Greek life. It won't let you down.

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**Savannah
Cardon**
ARGONAUT



The UI housing crisis

On-campus housing rates force students to live off-campus after their first year

University of Idaho Residence Life is full of staff who support first-year students as well as other academic grade levels throughout the school year. If students choose not to be a part of Greek life they have the option to pick out a building on campus they are comfortable living in. Back in November an email was sent to students who live on-campus that costs in all residence halls will increase.

Living on campus is a unique experience and gives students a chance to meet others who they might have never have met before. This privilege will get taken away from some students with the cost raise.

Raising the cost of on-campus living is worrisome, considering first-year students are required to live on campus. First-year students get the choice to live in the Theophilus Tower, Wallace Residence Center and the Living and Learning Community Upham building. Requiring students to live on campus their first

year is beneficial. It forces students to get acquainted with their environment, and learn they aren't alone.

The Tower is a great choice for first-year students — it gives them a chance to feel that sense of campus community. Students often share a room. Living in the Tower forces students to engage with others in order to make friendships, and make their school year that much better. During the 2017-2018 school year, the cost to live there for the academic year in a double room was \$4,300. For the 2018-19 academic year, the price was raised \$130 more for a total of \$4,430. The same goes for Wallace.

Many students love the environment of these halls, but prefer to live alone or have their own space. Living in the Tower and Wallace this year in a single room costs students \$5,900. Next year the price has risen to \$180 more for a total of \$6,080. Shared room rates in the Tower and Wallace haven't gone up that much but

single rates are skyrocketing, and it's not just for living in these two halls. The LLC's are a group of buildings where mostly upperclassmen share suites in an apartment setting. The option for a single room or double room is available as well. An LLC is one of the most expensive places to live on campus, but costs are going to become even higher next year. Living in a double room this year costs students \$4,875 and next year that costs will increased by \$149 to a total of \$5,024.

An LLC is one of the hot spots on campus for students who want their own space to live. This year the price is \$6,250 a year and next year it raises \$180 more to a total of \$6,440.

Then there's McConnell Hall. McConnell is an academically based resident hall for upperclassmen and transfer students who live in a single room. The total rate for this year was \$5,900, and next year it will be \$6,080. This is the same cost as living in a single room in the Tower or Wallace.

Whatever building people choose, picking one of these residence halls gives

students a chance to be a part of the residence life family. Not only that, it is a close distance to downtown Moscow, the Recreation Center and Winco. It's a convenient place for students to live, and raising the costs won't help students already paying a pretty penny for every other university amenity.

Living off campus in an apartment is proven to be much cheaper than living in the dorms on campus. The residence halls are a great place to make connections. Yet, is it worth digging yourself in more student debt to keep this experience going?

The deadline for these decisions is just around the corner and students need to start making these decisions on where they want to live next year. It just depends on what the right fit for them is.

Students are already in enough debt, and this decision puts a higher cost on the college experience.

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Lindsay Trombly
ARGONAUT

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Living in Vandal country

UI apartments have many accommodations

Andrew Ward
ARGONAUT

Students looking for different housing on campus may want to take a look at the South Hill Apartments at the University of Idaho, located on Deakin Street and Taylor Avenue.

Haleigh Sims-Douglas, a fifth-year student majoring in secondary education, said she chose the university apartments after living in the residence halls for her first three years on campus.

"I started looking into them and they were really convenient because they're not just close to campus — they're on campus," Sims-Douglas said. "I was highly involved in the residence halls, so I have worked with these people before. I didn't have to meet a new landlord and the maintenance staff."

Sims-Douglas said she has been very happy with the price of the apartments, along with their convenient location on campus.

"It has been incredibly affordable," Sims-Douglas said. "I know people who live around the area who pay close to what I pay, but people in the general Moscow area are paying quite a bit more than I am."

Sims-Douglas said her rent is much more affordable with the help of two roommates.

"I live in a three-bedroom apartment in the South Hill Apartments — I pay about \$630 a month total," Sims-Douglas said. "I split that with three roommates, so that gets knocked down to about \$210 every month."

She said housing also offers an option where, instead of paying rent monthly, students can pay for an entire semester at a time.

Sims-Douglas said one of the



South Hill Apartments, one of the multiple on-campus apartment options.

LEAH HUBER | ARGONAUT

best parts of living at South Hill are her neighbors.

"I absolutely love all the neighbors I live around," Sims-Douglas said. "They're all so kind. There are quite a few families and children that live around here. It's really awesome because a lot of the kids around here are friends, and they have their own little playground. It's a beautiful little area."

She also said the maintenance staff are excellent and efficient at their jobs.

"If there is maintenance to be done, the staff and custodians are really awesome about it," Sims-Douglas said. "They're always so timely."

Sims-Douglas advocated for people who want to live on campus but have grown tired of dorm life to give the apartments on campus a try.

"The apartments are really great to do if you don't want to live in the residence halls anymore," Sims-Douglas said. "Or if you're a Greek student,

and you don't want to live in-house anymore, we are very close to Greek Row. It's a really great option that I don't feel enough people know about."

Veronica Hughes, a fifth-year ecology and conservation biology major also living in the South Hill, said she came to live there for practical reasons.

"I really like the idea of still living on campus, without living in a dorm, because I just love to sleep," Hughes said. "It gives me more time to sleep or get ready.

Then, when I get out of bed and get to class within 10 minutes."

She said she pays around \$312 a month for her apartment. However, Hughes said the convenience is worth the most.

"It's a four-minute walk to the Administration Building," Hughes said. "You can't get much better than that!"

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Building bridges in Wallace

The Wallace Residence Center welcomes any and all Vandals

Elizabeth Marshall
ARGONAUT

With its four wings and convenient access to the University of Idaho's main dining hall, the Wallace Residence Center is a ready-made home for many UI students.

Wallace holds four different wings: Gooding, Stevenson, Wiley and Ballard. Ballard and Stevenson are both four stories high, while Gooding and Wiley each have six floors. Suites in Wallace are gender specific, but floors are co-ed.

Rooms in Wallace differ with rooms in the Theophilus Tower, in that Wallace rooms come with bunk beds and sinks. Bathrooms are shared between two rooms, connecting them as a suite. Wallace is home to many first-year students, as well as some upper-level students who choose to live in one of the three floors in the Stevenson wing dedicated to upperclassmen.

Leah Dreesman, a first-year student who lives in the Gooding wing, said that even though there are a few things she doesn't like about Wallace, including the smaller windows compared to those in the Tower and having to sleep in bunk beds, she is ultimately very happy with her decision.

"I'm really glad I decided to live in Wallace. There are quite a few reasons I'm glad I chose to live here and not the Tower. For starters, having the bathroom, besides having to clean it, definitely makes life easier, I think. Also, having a sink and water in my room is really nice. I don't have to carry and store it in my room which is convenient," Dreesman said. "There's also more storage with the shelves and all the drawers which is nice. Another selling point for me was the floors are co-ed, I think



The Wallace Residence Center Tuesday morning, one of the possible living spaces for students.

Alexandra Stutzman | Argonaut

separating girls and boys like the Tower does feels weird and co-ed floors allow you to meet a larger variety of people."

Coleman Edwards, a first-year student living on the fourth floor of Gooding, said that while a more communal living situation has its downsides, Wallace is a good choice for students because of its smaller price tag and proxim-

ity to many places on campus, including The Hub. UI's main dining hall, The Hub, is located on the first floor of the building, making it a short trip to get food for any student with a meal plan living in Wallace.

"I like that (The Hub) is just a short walk away," Edwards said.

The basement of Wallace is home to the multiple study spaces, the mail desk and a

community kitchen. There is also a student computer lab and The Student Success Program.

According to UI's website, 2,078 students visited the Student Success Program during the 2017 fall semester.

Workshops put on by the Student Success Program occur in the basement, with many of these workshops given by Academic Peer Mentors.

Although all rooms in Wallace come with bunk beds, students can reserve a single room. Housing rates for the 2018-19 for Wallace per semester are \$2,215 for a double room and \$3,040 for a single.

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Live and learn

The LLCs provide a unique living experience for its residents

Mary Phipps
ARGONAUT

The Living Learn Community (LLC) residence halls, located along Paradise Creek Street, consist of eight buildings housing University of Idaho students of all majors and school years.

The LLCs provide students with suite style rooms with between two and five students sharing a suite. With most rooms housing a single student, these suites provide an opportunity to socialize with roommates while still offering privacy.

There are also common areas in each building for all residents of the building to use, with televisions, ping pong tables and

pool tables. Kitchens in the common areas come equipped with two stoves in each building.

“There are always people making some delicious meals in the kitchen,” said Ubaldo Arana, a resident of the Scholars building. LLCs’ residents are mostly upperclassmen and offer a practical and reliable place for returning students to live, with returning students given first-pick when choosing rooms. They are the newest residence halls on campus and are kept up-to-date. With close proximity to the UI Recreation Center and Library, it is convenient for students because of location and proximity.

“It’s really convenient,” said

Amber Keele, a resident in the Syringa LLC. “If I wasn’t on campus, I wouldn’t go to as many events.”

A first-time resident in the LLCs, Keele appreciates the proximity of her home, especially during her breaks between classes and during campus events. Her resident assistants, or RAs, are relaxed individuals she is able to talk to when problems or questions arise. Keele said she appreciates the ease of access to the rest of campus and to different campus events.

“If you struggle going to class, the LLCs could be good for you,” Keele said. “I’m glad I live close by so that, if I go to an event, I

don’t have to plan around it, so I know when to go home.”

Arana has been a resident assistant in the LLCs for three years and said he has benefitted in many ways. He said the opportunity of meeting a wide variety of individuals has allowed him to grow and learn something new from each of his residents.

“I have had well over 150 residents in my time as an RA, and they have each taught me something new,” Arana said.

With eight buildings, the Engineering, Natural Resources and Upham buildings offer rooms for first-year students. The Scholars building is limited to upperclassmen students in the

Honors program or with a 3.3 cumulative GPA or higher. The other buildings, Gem, Syringa, Gault and the Global Village, offer housing to students of all majors and school years. The LLCs are the only residence halls that do not require its residents to have a meal plan. Instead, they provide the community kitchens for all residents to use.

“This allows students to cook on their own,” Arana said. “This is both a cheaper option for students, and I’ve found that my many of my residents simply enjoy it.”

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Home sweet apartment

How to make your apartment a home

Nearly two years ago, I moved into my first apartment. It was the middle of a Moscow summer, and the lack of air conditioning, bare walls and ‘70s era carpet made me feel anything but at home.

I loved my roommate. I loved Moscow. I loved being out of my small dorm. But, I hated my apartment.

It didn’t feel like home. Until we finally began making the space feel comfortable, even in the smallest ways, I didn’t want to be around it, let alone in it. In time, I grew to love it. But, it took some effort, a couple bucks and strategic thinking to make my rental feel like home.

Moving into any new place can be incredibly stressful. No matter where you are, or who you bring along, no one likes lugging boxes up stairs all day.

I will be lucky enough to live in the same apartment for three years. Once we made my

apartment feel cozy and homey, I never wanted to leave. But, it took some time. An apartment, or any sort of rental, should be more than just four walls — it should be a place you actually want to spend time in.

Most renters don’t end up staying in one space their entire college career and some, like me, end up doing just the opposite.

Whatever the situation — long term or short term — making your space feel relaxing, inviting and comfortable is key to happy renting.

To make a rental a home, think of move in and decorating process in these three steps.

FIND YOUR STYLE

The bulk of young renters, especially in Moscow, will have one or more roommates. This can make decorating a bit of a free-for-all. However, the more roommates the better, it just takes some planning.

Roommates help divvy out the needs and expenses that come with renting. If one person gets the table, the other buys the lamp. When roommate buys a plant, the other buys a poster. It’s the little things that help bring a home together. Finding these bits and pieces together brings out your individual styles while keeping the space cohesive. If it looks like an entire Ikea catalog exploded in your space, it might be time to rethink your styles.

BLANK CANVASES

Every rental, no matter the structure or layout, can look the same when bare, white walls make up the bulk of the space. Don’t be afraid to use up all that empty wall space.

Framed photos, framed posters, framed art will draw your space inward, creating an inviting feeling in social areas of your rental. The key is framing. Nearly anything and everything looks better with a simple, cheap frame.

Avoid things like nails and strong tacks — you want your

safety deposit back. Take the time to hang decorations with wall-safe items. In the long run, they will stay up longer and require less work upon move out.

FURNITURE IS KEY

On a college budget, there is a small chance your rental is going to look like it came straight from a Pottery Barn collection. So, even though furniture is one of the most important aspects of creating a comfortable home, comfort should come before style.

Although it can help the space, no one expects every piece of furniture to match. You can utilize thrift shops, clearance shelves, online trade sites and even the side of the road to find furniture. None of the pieces in my own home came from an actual store or at their original price. It simply took a little time and love to bring them back to life again.

Use the furniture you find to frame your space. Place couches and lounge chairs around the TV or centerpiece of the shared

space. Place the table in a space for homework and eating. It might take a few moves and a little time to get the right feel, but every piece of furniture can be used in multiple ways.

Find furniture that you wouldn’t mind taking out into the real world after college. Chairs and couches can be large expenses, so if you invest in them, love them enough to keep them around for a while.

Even if you know you’ll be moving in a year, two years or three, and it seems like a waste to even make your rental a home because of how fast you’ll be moving on, a house won’t feel like a home until it feels like you. Take the time to put an extra effort into your space. Your parents will love it when they visit. Your friends will love it when they hangout. And, you’ll love it when you settle in after a long day of classes.

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Hailey Stewart
ARGONAUT

Cost and commitment

Students entering Greek life should consider the immense time commitment

In the fall of 2016, I had no friends.

I had acquaintances. There were those I talked to in class for a fleeting few minutes before lectures, and I often engaged with those I worked with, but outside my girlfriend, I had no platonic pals.

After trying and failing to connect with other students in my dorm or through the many clubs on campus, I decided to join a fraternity as a last resort.

I came into college with a very negative opinion on Greek life after watching movies like “Animal House” and “Neighbors.” In my eyes, fraternities were an unsightly blot on UI’s campus, an unruly group of young men with nothing better to do than drink and wreak havoc.

Nevertheless, I saw an opportunity to meet new friends and engage in fun activities, so I signed my bid card and said farewell to my miserable and lonely dorm.

While my experiences after rushing in spring 2017 were limited, as I did not completely immerse myself in Greek life, I was pleased to learn that many fraternities on campus do not fit the stereotyp-



Brandon Hill
ARGONAUT

ical mold. My chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity stood as the only dry fraternity on campus, and I was taken aback by the level of integrity each member was held to. Members prided themselves on earning high GPAs, chores were to be taken seriously and every member was to present themselves as a “gentleman on campus.”

I soon learned that Greek life, and the pledge process in particular, comes down to enthusiasm and participation. Those interested and excited will have the time of their life. Those wary, shy, and flooded with other responsibilities may miss out on the joys of being a pledge.

I definitely fit into the latter group, as my increased roles at work and growing course load

as a sophomore kept me from being a devoted member of my house. I missed events, skipped meetings and did not socialize as much as I should have.

Now, as a junior living in my own apartment surrounded by friends who mostly do not participate in the Greek system, my eagerness and confidence in my role as a Theta Chi continues to wane. I find myself reflecting on my time as a pledge, and wishing I had done more. When it came to my fraternity, I just didn’t give it my all.

That’s the main benefit — and problem — with going Greek. It’s all or nothing.

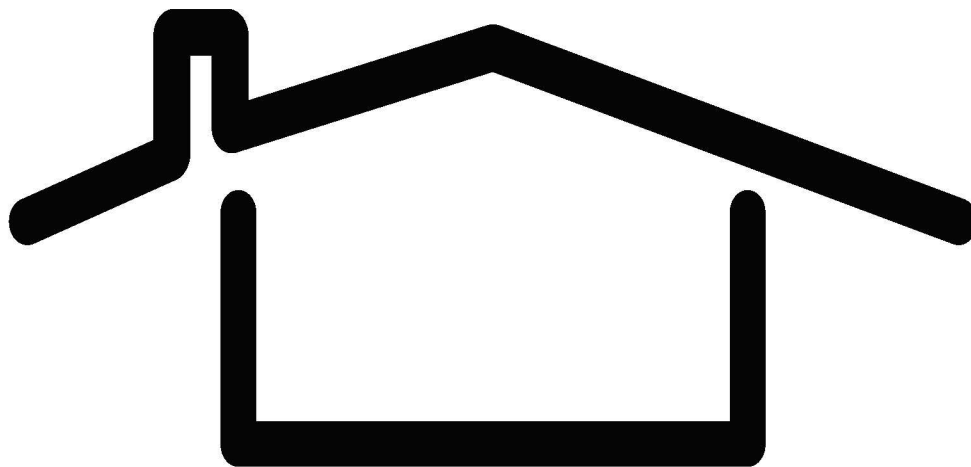
For incoming freshman looking to be more involved on campus, Greek Life is a great alternative. The opportunities to make lifelong friends

are much more abundant in the Greek system, but only if a Greek member is willing to stick their neck out there and shake some hands.

The pledge process specifically is highly intensive and focused on grooming future generations of the fraternity. In my experience, events were aimed at brining future members into the mold, with brotherhood bonding events scheduled specifically so pledges could become more comfortable hanging around the house.

That’s my advice to future pledges of not just Theta Chi, but any fraternity or sorority. Get involved, meet new people and be the find a niche.

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