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August 27, 2020

UIARGONAUT.COM

Argonaut

THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

FOR, OF AND BY THE STUDENTS SINCE 1898



Die-in protesters (far left Zach Sugano, middle left Thys Ballard, middle right Chris Ward, far right Jordan Hardy) lie on University Avenue and Campus Drive during the President's Barbeque

Kim Stager | Argonaut

ADMINISTRATION

Students left out of class

With classes in session, UI is still sending out results making students eligible to attend in person

Haadiya Tariq
ARGONAUT

Despite University of Idaho classes having begun Monday, a number of students remain untested for COVID-19 or continue to await results. Students must have a negative test result to attend classes in person, but UI has received fewer test results than planned.

According to an Aug. 11 email sent by UI Special Assistant to the President Toni Broyles, the university aimed to test over 10,000 people.

As of Aug. 26, tests are still coming in. UI Director of Communications Jodi Walker said the university has between 7,500 and 8,000 completed results with around 1% coming back positive.

Originally, testing was expected to end Monday, but testing appointments have been made available through Wednesday to accommodate students arriving later.

"There were some students that couldn't come back earlier for whatever reason," Walker said. "But it looks like we got most of them through."

However, Walker said the lack of results is not a fault of testing.

"We have never (gone over) capacity for testing," Walker said. "The lab and the university are not behind on testing, we can't test people if they don't sign up and show up to test."

Walker said students either signed up for testing this week or are not yet on campus. The UI testing center has so far never had a day where all time slots were filled, she added.

As an example, roughly 550 students were swabbed at the on-campus site on Tuesday.

The university ensured testing was available as different groups of students returned to campus, including fraternity and sorority life students and marching band participants.

Even though testing was originally limited to appointments only, Walker said walk-in testing was made available as well.

As mentioned in earlier memos from UI President C. Scott Green, the analysis lab was meant to provide results 24-48 hours after students or employees were tested. However, people have been receiving results far later.

Freshman Emily Robertson was tested last Friday. She got her results barely in time to attend classes in person Monday.

"Results came back later than I thought," Robertson said. "Otherwise, it was pretty smooth."

SEE TESTING, PAGE 3

ADMINISTRATION

Vandal Lives Over Profits protests

Students against holding in-person classes attend protests as University of Idaho classes begin

Anteia McCollum & Kim Stager
ARGONAUT

Vandal Lives Over Profits (VLOP), a student group against in-person classes amid the COVID-19 pandemic, met on the Theophilus Tower Lawn with signs and a grim reaper costume Sunday evening.

The group members met on a Facebook group titled "UI Idaho Memes for Socially-distanced Teens" and decided to organize. Graduate student Thys Ballard, one of VLOP's organizers, said the group also held protests on the lawn Aug. 19 and outside University of Idaho President C. Scott Green's university house Aug. 20-23.

"We want online classes, at least for the time being," Ballard said at the Aug. 19

protest. "I think we should be online until the pandemic is under control, personally."

The protesters said their concerns about in-person classes include people not following COVID-19 safety protocols correctly, inefficient on-campus testing, campus becoming even more of a "petri dish" and the university prioritizing budget concerns over student, faculty and staff safety.

"I guess I get that there are budget constraints, but I'm not willing to sacrifice me or anyone else just so the university can stay solvent," Ballard said.

While the Aug. 19 protest was small, hosted by only six people, it did not go unnoticed. Several students walking by stopped to chat with the protesters about their opinions on in-person and online classes.

Students attending the Vandal Walk and President's Barbecue during Sunday's protest approached Ballard and took pictures with

him as he wore the grim reaper costume. VLOP members hoped students who took pictures with Ballard would help spread their message across campus.

So far, VLOP has received mostly supportive comments. Those not in favor of the group's cause were polite about it.

"It is hard to find people who are willing to admit to supporting our cause out loud," Chris Ward, another VLOP protester, said.

One of the protesters, graduate student Jordan Hardy, said he is teaching a math class and is required to teach with the hyflex model this semester, rather than online like he preferred. Hardy is concerned about the mixed feedback he will be getting from students both online and in-person while he is teaching.

SEE PROTEST, PAGE 3

LGBTQA

Local group pushes for gender-neutral bathrooms

The Human Rights Commission approached Moscow City Council to add gender-neutral bathrooms to public spaces

Carter Kolpitcke
ARGONAUT

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) of Moscow is requesting the Moscow City Council make public bathrooms gender neutral.

The motion was sent to the city council, which is being analyzed to see if the action is feasible, if the city has money available to make the changes and if there are any additional restrictions in place. While HRC had been planning this request for some time, HRC of Moscow Chair Ken Faunce said an ad released by New St. Andrews College depicting and encouraging transphobia is what made the group jumpstart the process.

The advertisement depicts two people, one cisgender man and one cisgender woman, going into respective male and female restrooms. Text on the screen reads, "We're not science majors but we know science even better than the supreme court."

The ad ends with the statement "Accepting students who know the difference."

"We have to hit on this because they have been using it as a selling point to promote anti-transgender ideas," Faunce said.

Starting with Friendship Square and Moscow City Hall, Faunce theorizes some bathroom conversions could be as easy as removing urinals, adding a lock and changing the sign. However, other restrooms would require more renovations.

funding for these changes would primarily come from Moscow's city budget and the budget of the group which oversees the public bathroom. For example, a park bathroom could draw on the parks and recreation budget.

There is no motion for similar changes in Pullman, but Faunce said other groups are also supportive of gender-neutral bathrooms and combating transphobia on the Palouse. While gender-neutral bathrooms can greatly aid transgender and non-binary individuals, the bathrooms also benefit people who have children or a care attendant of a different sex than themselves.

Whatever changes the city council decides to make will be independent of any changes the University of Idaho decides

to make to campus bathrooms. There are already 14 gender-neutral bathrooms located around campus.

Julia Keleher, the director of the UI LGBTQ office, provides input as requested on how to implement gender-neutral bathrooms as well as which buildings need gender-neutral bathrooms and why.

"We've kind of slowed down our talk of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus," Keleher said. "(But) with the new building creations and new renovations, we are adding gender-neutral bathrooms on campus."

UI's gender-neutral bathrooms can be found on a map under the "Coming Out" tab of the LGBTQ office's website.

The city council will begin reviewing the HRC's request when the analysis is complete, which should be within the coming weeks. If passed, public gender-neutral bathrooms would begin to be converted and added in the following months.

Carter Kolpitcke can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu.

IN THIS ISSUE



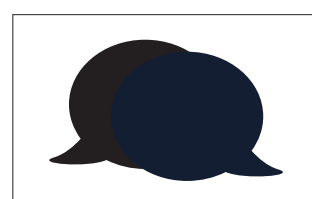
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RECREATION & WELLBEING

Vandal Health Education

HEALTHY VANDALS

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face mask



buff



bandana

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Intramural Sports

Upcoming Entry Due Dates

Kickball	Tues, Sept 1
Whiffleball	Tues, Sept 1
Cornhole League	Tues, Sept 8
Doubles Tennis	Thurs, Sept 10
Flag Football	Thurs, Sept 10

For more information and to sign up: uidaho.edu/intramurals

Outdoor Program



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Vandal Health Education

Vandals for Recovery

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Outdoor Program



MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPT. 3 COST: FREE

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Vandal Health Education



Register at uidaho.edu/5k

Saturday, Sept. 12

In-person or virtual fun run/walk

Cost: \$7 | U of I Students \$10 | Non-Student

Find What Moves You



University of Idaho
Recreation and Wellbeing

uidaho.edu/recwell



UI Rec Well

A Crumbs recipe

Greek yogurt fruit bites

It's hot and cravings for sweet treats are hitting us all. This recipe will tame your sweet tooth and help keep you cool on those hot summer days. It's also a healthy alternative to popsicles.



Nicole Hindberg | Argonaut

Ingredients:

- Greek yogurt
- Fruit of your choice

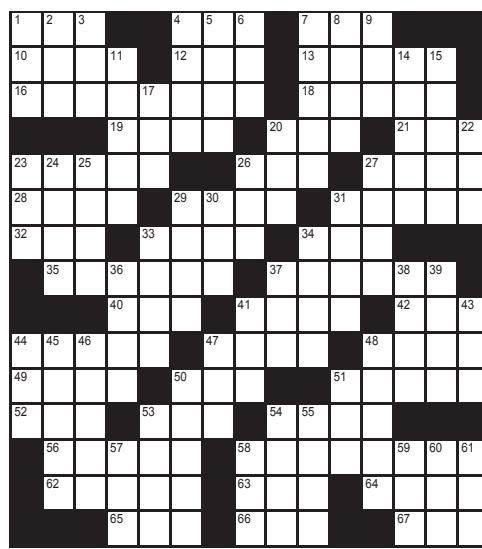
Directions:

1. Mix together your desired amount of yogurt and fruit together in a bowl.
2. Spoon the mixture into an ice cube tray.
3. Place tray into the freezer for around four to five hours.
4. Remove from the tray and enjoy.

Nicole Hindberg
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or on Twitter @HindbergNicole

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CORRECTIONS

In a previous article The Argonaut incorrectly stated One World was hosting Salsa Night. One World is not currently hosting events due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

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 on the Bruce Pitman Center third floor.

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

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PROTESTS

FROM PAGE 1

"I think the HyFlex is better than just everyone being there, but it's still risky," Hardy said. "I don't think it's fair for the university to force me into a position where I have students angry at me for trying to stay safe."

Hardy said there is one way to teach an in-person class and one way to teach an online class, but teaching them together will not be a good mix. He said he thinks HyFlex is a weak model of teaching and he isn't confident about using it in his classroom.

Even though online classes can be boring, they are better than in-person for now, Ballard said.

Many of the protesters said they seriously doubted everyone living in on-campus housing, whether they are in residence halls or Greek houses, will follow COVID-19 safety protocols perfectly.

Zach Sugano said the few times he has been on campus so far he watched large groups of people moving about, not social distancing and some not wearing face masks.

"I try to avoid going out at all, but when I do, I see people going to eat in restaurants

without social distancing," Sugano said. "I know I have several friends that continue to throw parties even while there are (city) orders telling them not to."

Sugano said he thinks in order for people to not gather together, measures need to be taken to eliminate the reasons for people to group up. The university is doing the opposite of putting these measures in place by offering in-person classes this semester, he said.

"I think that in-person classes are a bad idea no matter what at the university, but the university's way of doing in-person classes is especially bad," Hardy said. "I feel like they are trying to mislead us."

The thermal scanners are not that helpful because people are contagious with the virus before they get a fever, Hardy said. In addition, he said the current classroom seating arrangements have every other seat covered, which is not six feet apart.

"The university made lots of noise about test results being done in two days," Hardy said. "Some have waited a week and a half to get their results."

VLOP members want students to call for remote and online classes because they are concerned about the health of students and the broader community,

especially the elderly.

"One death, in my view, is devastating and it is irresponsible of the university to expose students to the virus," Ballard said.

Other universities around the U.S. have tried opening for the fall semester but had to close because outbreaks occurred early on.

On Aug. 17, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill moved to entirely remote instruction after more than 135 students tested positive for COVID-19 and 349 were in quarantine. On Aug. 18, the University of Notre Dame announced it would halt in-person classes for two weeks when there were 255 cases of COVID-19 on campus.

VLOP believes UI is not any different than the universities which have closed this year.

"Many people were tested two weeks ago, but they could now have (COVID-19)," Hardy said. "Other students haven't been tested yet, so they could spread it too. It is only a matter of time before it spreads."

UI students are not eligible to attend classes until they receive a negative COVID-19 test result or are cleared by a healthcare professional, according to the most recent Talk with Torrey. If an ineligible student shows up to class, professors are expected to subtly ask them

to leave. If they do not comply, campus security may be called. Further escalation could require the involvement of the Moscow Police Department.

VLOP members are disappointed in the university shifting the responsibility of keeping campus open onto students rather than the university administration taking responsibility for it.

"The students have to take responsibility, but the University of Idaho should too," Sugano said.

VLOP encourages students to keep their distance from each other and stay safe, but they hope the public listens to their cause as well.

"I don't like to put myself out there or put myself in the spotlight, but if an issue is important to me, then I will," Hardy said.

VLOP is planning future protest events, but no specific dates and times have been set yet. Although the group members hope to do protests in Friendship Square in the future.

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TESTING

FROM PAGE 1

Freshman Alyssa Hamburger was tested last Thursday, before her scheduled time to move into university housing. She received her results in two days. While it took longer to receive her results than she expected, she said the turnaround time seemed fast compared to other people. Hamburger's roommate, tested only one day later, received her results as classes began Monday.

"It was a really streamlined process," Hamburger said. "The people who did the tests seemed experienced doing it, so it went pretty well." Walker said over 95% of test results have been received and university employees have been trying to return results faster.

Swabs from the testing site are not received at the lab in the same order they were taken. This means students tested earlier in the day may receive results later than students tested later in the day, although this isn't always the case. Regardless, students have still been receiving results days later than expected.

UI students on the social media platform Wildfire also reported late results. Despite being tested Friday, some received results after classes began. Others are still waiting for results.

Despite classes being in session, Walker did not know how many students are ineligible to attend in-person class. Students ineligible to attend in-person classes may have tested positive for COVID-19, may be waiting to receive COVID-19 test results or may have not yet taken a COVID-19 test. Once or twice per day, professors are sent a list of students ineligible to attend classes. "Students and their faculty are working together to make sure those students that are not yet eligible to be in person are participating," Walker said.

Faculty are expected to pull aside ineligible students if they show up to class, requesting they participate from home instead. Students may be sent to the Dean of Students Office to discuss their eligibility status. Work study students have been hired to help faculty within the classroom, Walker said.

After these lines of defense, it is up to the students. "When it comes to a large class with 100 people, it can be hard to track," Walker said. "I certainly hope students can be honest, and I don't have any reason to think they are not."

After the on-campus testing site closes this Wednesday, testing will be available at Gritman Medical Center's Martin Wellness Center. UI's Parking and Transportation Services has arranged to shuttle those who need to be tested to the center this Thursday and Friday.

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EVENT

Ramps, rocks and representation



Disability Action Center NW Building Aug. 24, 2020

Kim Stager | Argonaut

Celebrating the Disability Action Center NW's 30-year anniversary with a rock hunt

Emily Pearce
ARGONAUT

Established in 1993, the Disability Action Center NW (DAC) has worked on making Northern Idaho a better place for disabled people. In the past five years, Marketing Specialist Vicki Leeper has seen several positive changes from the border down to Riggins, Idaho, including accessible ramps and trails.

One recent project DAC has been working toward was recently awarded a quality of life grant of \$94,458. The money, which comes from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation National Paralysis Resource Center 2020 Expanded Impact grants program, will be used to expand DAC's Ramp Up Project to the Moscow area by purchasing aluminum modular ramp systems to loan to people with paralysis.

This type of ramp can be

temporarily installed until purchasing a permanent ramp. They are easy to assemble and can be installed within a couple of hours. In addition, they are safe to use in rain and snow and do not require a permit to install or use.

The biggest impact these ramps will make is getting people back in their own homes. Those in nursing facilities may not be able to return home because they do not have ramps installed in or around their homes. Introducing these temporary ramps will give people the opportunity to return home.

This year marks DAC's 30-year anniversary of service to the community. To celebrate, the center is hiding rocks around Moscow area on Aug. 26. Rocks can be turned in at the DAC office from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The rocks are painted and have specific designs with instructions on how to return the rocks on the back. DAC hid the rocks in popular locations around Moscow, including public access features, parks and curb patches. DAC will give away free

hotdogs, chips, drinks and masks near the office's drive through. T-shirts and hand sanitizer are among the prizes which will be offered to those who return rocks. The idea was found by stumbling upon a Facebook group called Moscow Rocks, where people paint rocks and hide them around Moscow for others to find. DAC decided to paint 50 rocks to hide around town as part of its celebration.

"You can keep the rocks, or you can re-hide it, and it's open for everybody," Leeper said. "It is a way to make it fun to get people outside with a positive activity, you can do even during COVID-19."

At the end of the event, DAC will put together a photo montage to present to the mayor of Moscow, who has made sure Moscow is accessible and friendly for people with disabilities, according to Leeper.

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www.uidaho.edu/vandalhealthclinic



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STARBUCKS

Community Calendar

Take a look at some of the events in Moscow this weekend

Nicole Hindberg
ARGONAUT

Virtual Craft Fair

Time: 12 a.m. Aug. 27 to 11:30 p.m. Aug. 30
Date: Thursday through Sunday
Place: Craft Fair USA website

Handmade arts, crafts and goods from artisans across the U.S. will be sold on Craft Fair USA's completely virtual craft show. Crafters and artisans can apply to become vendors on Craft Fair USA's website as well.

Kickin' Up Dirt Barrel Race

Time: 7 p.m.
Date: Friday, Aug. 28
Place: 6601 Tammany Creek Rd, Lewiston, ID

The 49er's Saddle Club will host a weekend of barrel racing starting Friday. Sign-ups begin 5 p.m. and races start at 7 p.m. Prices are \$5 for peewee competitors, \$20 for youth and novice competitors and \$45 for open competitors. Contact Lisa Hawkins at (509)-780-1828 for more information.

Drive-In Concert Experience: Metallica and Three Days Grace

Time: 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Date: Saturday, Aug. 29
Place: Kibbie Dome

Metallica's first show of 2020 will air as a one-night-only event at drive-in theaters around the U.S. and Canada, including in Moscow. Tickets, which are available online, will include four digital downloads of Metallica's S&M2, an album documenting the two concerts which reunited the band and San Francisco Sympony. Encore drive-ins will include a guest performance by Three Days Grace.

Vandal Day on Coeur d'Alene Lake

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Date: Sunday, Aug. 30
Place: Harrison City Park, Coeur d'Alene

Those interested in spending a day on Coeur d'Alene Lake can pick up Vandal-themed merchandise and enter competitions for best boat decoration and most spirited Vandals this Sunday. Before attending, send an email to Kristi Overfelt or go to the Eventbrite page to RSVP and receive additional information.

Alexis Van Horn can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu or on Twitter @AlexisRVanHorn

COMMUNITY

Education as enforcement

More severe violations could result in fines, jail time, if deemed necessary

Alexis Van Horn
ARGONAUT

Since July, the Moscow Police Department (MPD) has worked to enforce Mayor Bill Lambert's order regarding face coverings. As the academic year begins for the University of Idaho, however, both university officials and MPD are working on how to enforce this order on campus and in the community.

According to the Moscow Public Health Emergency Order 20-03, "every person in the city of Moscow must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth when in any indoor or outdoor public setting where the six foot physical distancing is not able to be maintained with non-household members," with the exception of children under five years old, incarcerated individuals or those with a medical condition or disability preventing them from wearing a face covering. The order began July 1, but has been extended to Oct. 6 with Resolution 2020-17.

Before students returned to Moscow, UI created the Healthy Vandal Pledge to inform students, staff and faculty of the university's expectations regarding health and safety standards.

The pledge states "all faculty, staff, students and visitors across all (UI) locations must use face coverings whenever in any (UI) building" and in outdoor settings where social distancing cannot be maintained, unless

the individual is working alone in an enclosed space, in an office with social distancing constantly maintained, in an exercise or dining facility or in a space with adequate barriers.

As students arrived in Moscow, UI Dean of Students Blaine Eckles, MPD Campus Captain Tyson Berrett and UI Director of Security Bruce Lovell visited students who had hosted social events. These conversations were cordial and helped the students understand the importance of their behavior, Eckles said. This was partially in response to concerns with off-campus parties as students returned.

"Not every time someone has a violation will it ever reach (the Dean of Students Office)," Eckles said. "Discipline starts with education. It starts with a 'hey, you're not wearing your mask. Do you mind wearing your mask?' We get great compliance that way."

So far, both MPD and UI have used an education first style of enforcing face covering mandates. MPD Captain James Fry said while police officers could have issued citations about the mask order as soon as it was implemented, officers have instead reminded citizens of the order and requested compliance. Now, MPD is moving towards verbal and written warnings. If non-compliance continues over time, the department could issue citations over the ordinance.

"(Officers) could have issued a citation from day one," Fry said. "But we leave that up to the discretion of the officer because every situation is different."

Violations of the mask order would be considered a misdemeanor citation. Fines for first violations are \$257.50, second violations are \$357.50 and third violations are \$557.50. Arrests are another possible consequence of breaking the city mask order, but this would be a last resort. A judge could issue jail time on any violation if deemed necessary.

Most infractions in the community so far have occurred around midday and dinner time in downtown, Fry said. However, most community member and student infractions have been due to forgetfulness, not maliciousness, both Fry and Eckles said.

According to Eckles, students found in violation of the city mask order off campus could receive disciplinary action through the university as well. Repeat offenders of the campus mask order could also receive disciplinary action if the Dean of Students Office deems it necessary.

"The Student Code of Conduct applies to behavior both on and off campus, so students can be found in violation of the Student Code of Conduct when they're in violation of city, state or federal laws and ordinances," Eckles said. "So, we work closely with the city of Moscow. They give us their police reports, they give us the information for students that are in violation of the city and state laws and we like to hold them accountable as well."

Alexis Van Horn can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu or on Twitter @AlexisRVanHorn.

ACADEMICS

Online course fees waived for Fall 2020 semester

The University of Idaho has waived fees for Virtual Meeting, Hybrid and Online (Web) courses

Angela Palermo
ARGONAUT

The University of Idaho has waived online course fees for the Fall 2020 semester, according to an Aug. 21 email sent to students, faculty and staff from Interim Provost and Executive Vice President Torrey Lawrence.

While the university continues to offer a variety of delivery methods, online course fees will be waived for courses with delivery methods marked as Virtual Meeting, Hybrid and Online

(Web), according to Lawrence.

"We recognize that students have many challenges to finance their education during these difficult times," Lawrence said. "Course fees add to this challenge, so in June we reduced the online course fee from \$35/credit to \$25/credit. We know this was not enough."

Adjustments to student accounts have already started and will be completed as soon as possible, the email stated. For the Spring 2020 semester, course fees will be reviewed prior to registration. According to Lawrence, colleges and units which rely on online course fees will not be adversely impacted, but information

about budgets will be communicated in the next few weeks.

"I am excited to see our students return to campus," Lawrence said. "Please remember — to be at UI this semester you must do your part to follow the Healthy Vandal Pledge and our health and safety guidelines. Our success this semester is dependent on your actions."

The Argonaut will provide updates as more information about course fees for the Spring 2020 semester becomes available.

Angela Palermo can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu or on Twitter @apalermoo

SRU MBS
Recipies and More!
PAGE 2

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Norman Fowler, Pastor

Lutheran Campus Ministry
at the University of Idaho in The Center at 882 Elm St
Our usual events - dinners, bible studies, worship, and conversation - will be adapted this year due to Covid-19. Follow us on social media or contact us for current information
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If you would like your belief-based organization to be included in the religion directory, please contact Student Media Advertising at arg-advertising@uidaho.edu

Life

LIFESTYLES, INTERESTS, FEATURES AND ENTERTAINMENT



Students walk through campus on Monday to get to their classes.

Saydee Brass | Argonaut

MARCHING BAND

COVID-19 can't stop the music

The University of Idaho marching band adapts to the challenges of COVID-19

Ryan Hill
ARGONAUT

The University of Idaho has mellowed out this fall semester compared to recent academic years. Events have been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns and the fall sport season has been moved to the spring. The absence of fall football games and UI Marching Band performances for the masses have put semester activities in perspective. However, the band will not let the virus stop them from being creative.

The marching band has always been known for its over the top, clever performances to entertain the crowds. This year they still seek to provide the UI campus amazing music and unique performances, just as they always have.

"Being like every other marching band is boring," said Marching Band Director Spencer Martin. "We want to be good and be unique. So, this isn't that far out of the ordinary for us."

The marching band has felt the effects of COVID-19. According to Martin, there are only 150 marching band members this year, compared to 250 members in past seasons. Due to concerns of spread, members can't play their horns for now. Social distancing is also difficult because there isn't much distance between performers. Yet, they are adapting to the restrictions.

"If we were to have a theme for this year, it would be do not let what you can't do interfere with what you can do," Martin said.

The marching band will be performing using percussion, buckets, keyboards,



The Vandal Marching Band practices in the Kibbie Dome during the first week of school.

Ryan Hill | Argonaut

guitars and even their bodies. The idea is to adapt and change, according to Martin.

Some members of the band are disappointed that they can't play their instruments. Ryan Egan, a junior and a tuba player for the marching band said it's going to be a letdown for those who find out they can't play their instruments this year in the band. Guinevere Richmond, a sophomore and an alto saxophone player says its disappointing they won't be able to play their horns for the season but remains hopeful they will play eventually.

"If the conditions get better, we might be able to have one last performance where we're able to spread 15 feet apart and get our horns," Richmond said. "But even without our instruments, I'm still looking forward to how things are going so far."

The marching band has also taken

extreme precautions regarding COVID-19 to ensure their members will be able to practice and perform. According to Martin, each student will get a storage container that will hold their safety gear, such as face masks and face shields, which can double as an instrument for them. All equipment is provided by UI. They will have plenty of hand sanitizer and wipes to disinfect their hands and instruments. When performing they will have a six-foot radius around each student to meet social distancing requirements. They will make sure every student has what they need so they don't share anything. This is all to ensure they can do what they love safely.

Fans will unfortunately not be able to see the band in-person. Due to most events being canceled and COVID-19 concerns, Martin has decided to put in-person events



The Marching Band performs during the Idaho versus Eastern Washington game in the Kibbie Dome on Sept. 21, 2019.

Saydee Brass | Argonaut

on hold for now. Yet, it doesn't put a damper on the performers' spirits. Liam Robert Marchant, a section leader and a senior at UI, is excited to show what the band has been working on.

"I think a lot of ensembles like the university marching band are putting as much effort as they can into making a really incredible product," Marchant said.

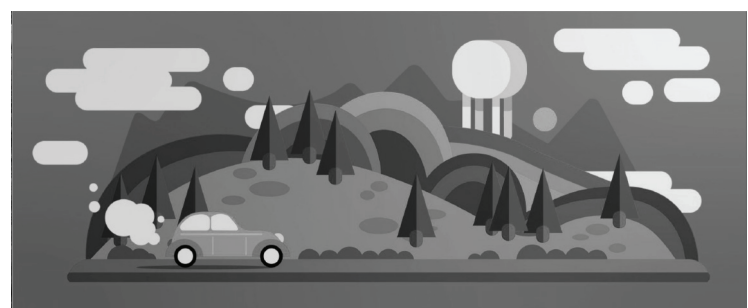
Brandon Webb, a senior, said this is an exciting opportunity to think outside the box and this pandemic is a good way to push the band in a creative direction.

Martin said the band will still showcase their performances online. Using drones and cameras, they will film the performances and post them online, allowing everyone to view their hard work.

Martin said eventually the band will be able to use their horns, though extra precautions will be taken, such as covering the holes of the tubas, trombones and trumpets with a specially designed mask. However, Martin is excited to show off what the band can work with even without the horns.

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LIFE Hacks



Wander the Palouse this week and see what you find

Emily Pearce
ARGONAUT

Mask-less in Moscow is an unfathomable sight to see, which is why we should all wear masks when heading to in-person events around the community. This week, paint in the park, go on a rock hunt and play video games on the big screen with friends. Here are the best things to do on the Palouse this week.

ADA Rocks!
Time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Date: Wednesday
Place: Disability Action Center NW's office
Price: Free

We know how much ADA rocks, so why not celebrate it? The Disability Action Center NW is celebrating their 30-year anniversary by hiding rocks throughout the city. Keep an eye open around curb cuts, playgrounds and businesses. Those who find a rock can return it to the Disability Action Center's office for a free t-shirt. The event will be held by drive through and will also be giving away masks, hand sanitizer, a free hotdog, chips and drink.

Video Gaming Night
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Date: Wednesday
Place: ISUB Atrium first floor
Price: Free

Show your skills on the big screen this week. Student Involvement is playing games and wants you to come and watch – and play too. On the screen, those who come will race in Mario Kart and fight in Super Smash Bros. All controllers will be sanitized before and after game time and is free to play.

Screen on the Green
Time: 8:45-11 p.m.
Date: Thursday
Place: Theophilus Tower Lawn
Price: Free

Come and view the last show on the green this weekend with friends, classmates and those who feel like family. "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" (PG) will be showing on a beautiful night on campus. Bring blankets, snacks and masks to reminisce a childhood favorite.

Outdoor Art Market
Time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Date: Saturday
Place: Artisans at the Dahmen Barn
Price: Various purchasing

Take a drive to Uniontown and view art that is worth the trip. At the market: pottery, leather work, sculpture and jewelry may catch the eye. Local artists will be setting up their stands with plenty of room outside. As the market continues, listen to live music, support artists and come to the barn.

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VIDEO GAMES

Nerd out

Welcome activities make way for video games on the big screen

Emily Pearce
THE ARGONAUT

The big screen is coming to the green with video games and a clip to welcome students to campus. Vandals can come spectate and play Nintendo classics on the Theophilus Tower Lawn free of charge and risk. Saturday, the screen will open to those to show their skills and have fun.

Using the same LED screen from past events including the Moscow drive-in, the large screen opens opportunities to take advantage of, Vandal

Entertainment Supervisor Laurel Meyer said.

“Because of COVID-19 precautions, the welcome activities we normally do have had to change a lot,” Meyer said. “We still wanted to do something.”

The screen will be put up for a welcome presentation during the beginning of Vandal Walk and is too big of an opportunity to pass up. Along with video games and a welcome clip, the screen will be used for screen on the green Friday and Saturday night.

“We should come up with something to utilize while we had it available to us,” Meyer said.

The team wanted to pick games that were equally fun to play and watch. Students can compete with each other



Saydee Brass | Argonaut

playing Super Smash Bros. and Mario Kart. Both these games are well recognized and not too complicated that people will feel uncomfortable getting up and joining, Meyer said.

“We thought it would be really fun to promote our eSports a little bit, but also give people something to do,” Meyer said. Games will be played on a

Nintendo Switch and controllers will be available. The game’s input will be split onto a separate TV for players and the big screen for viewers. Switch controllers only have a 40-foot output and would require players to sit close to the screen. For the player’s comfort, a smaller screen will be available to watch the game instead of cranking heads to view

the large screen.

While switching off players, people will follow disinfecting protocols. The controllers will be disinfected in between turns, and the hard plastic and buttons will be easy to clean. Among CDC guidelines and COVID-19 protocols, patrons will be required to wear a mask and social distance at the event. Washing hands afterward is recommended.

“This is the first time we’ve done anything like this and we’re pretty excited to see how it goes,” Meyer said.

Those who were unavailable to join the event are in luck because student involvement is hosting another video game night at 6 – 8 p.m. Wednesday. The event is open for all and everyone is encouraged to join. The same games will be up and ready to play at the ISUB on the first floor.

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DONATIONS

Vandal Food Pantry Curbside Pickup

The Vandal Food Pantry Curbside Pickup is open to the community and students during the Fall 2020 semester.

Kim Stager
ARGONAUT

Vandal Food Pantry Curbside Pickup is open to the community and students this fall.

Vandal Food Pantry cabinets are not operating because of COVID-19,

but Vandal Curbside Pantries will be available.

The pickup is located at the loading/unloading zone at the Pitman Center. The pickup will be moved back to the west side of the building when the construction is complete.

<https://www.uidaho.edu/current-students/student-involvement/volunteer/food-pantry>

On the Center for Volunteerism & Social Action’s (CVSA) website, the last day for the

TO READ THE FULL STORY VISIT UIARGONAUT.COM

STUDENT LIFE

Metallica is coming to Moscow

Metallica is coming to the Kibbie Dome and tickets are available

Emily Pearce
THE ARGONAUT

We’ve heard them on the radio, seen their name on classic t-shirts and know their nearly four-decade career. This week, a once in a lifetime experience presents itself to everyone in the Moscow area. Metallica will be performing on the big screen 9 p.m. this Saturday at the Kibbie Dome.

The combined effort of the Department of Marketing and Encore Life made the event possible.

“We did the first one with them back in July which was Garth Brooks and that sold out,” Jeremy Barron, director of administrative operations, said. “When they came to us with

this Metallica option we figured we should start doing it again.”

By using the same LED screen in other events like the Moscow drive-in, Metallica’s concert will be broadcasted to the audience.

Patrons who come to the event will be able to watch the performance while in their cars, tune into FM radio and watch the show. Metallica will be playing popular material in their music career and Three Days Grace will give a special guest performance. The concert will be shown across drive-in theaters across the U.S. and Canada.

The event will have contactless payment and ticketing systems, will be entirely socially distanced and a viable pastime.

“At the beginning of COVID-19 we started doing drive-in movies,” Barron said. “It’s an entertainment option where people can be socially

distant. And this concert’s the same, people can stay in their vehicles.”

Tickets can be bought for \$115 per car, up to six people per vehicle and all guests must have a seatbelt. Up to 125 cars can fit at the event. Parking will be provided on a first-come-first-serve basis and gates will open an hour before the show. The show will go on rain or shine and there will be no refunds. Once a vehicle or patron leaves the theater they cannot re-enter.

To prepare for the event, bring a battery-operated radio to listen and limit car battery use. The station and other information will be provided later.

Emily Pearce can be reached at arg-life@uidaho.edu or on Twitter @Emily_A_Pearce.

Programming activism Social justice feminism self empowerment Betsy Thomas
leadership equity create advocacy mentoring Connecting Title IX sharing Students Voice
diversity community HERstory Idaho Vandals

I

University of Idaho

Women’s Center

The Women’s Center promotes and advocates for gender equity on campus and in the community. We facilitate opportunities for learning and activism to support and empower all individuals in building an inclusive and compassionate society. EVERYONE is welcome in the Center!

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- FEMFest - Aug. 28
- Get the Scoop! Open House - Sept. 2
- Take Back the Night - Sept. 17
- Virginia Wolf Awards - Oct. 15
- F-Word Live! Poetry Slam - Nov. 5
- Friday Crafternoons - Twice a Month

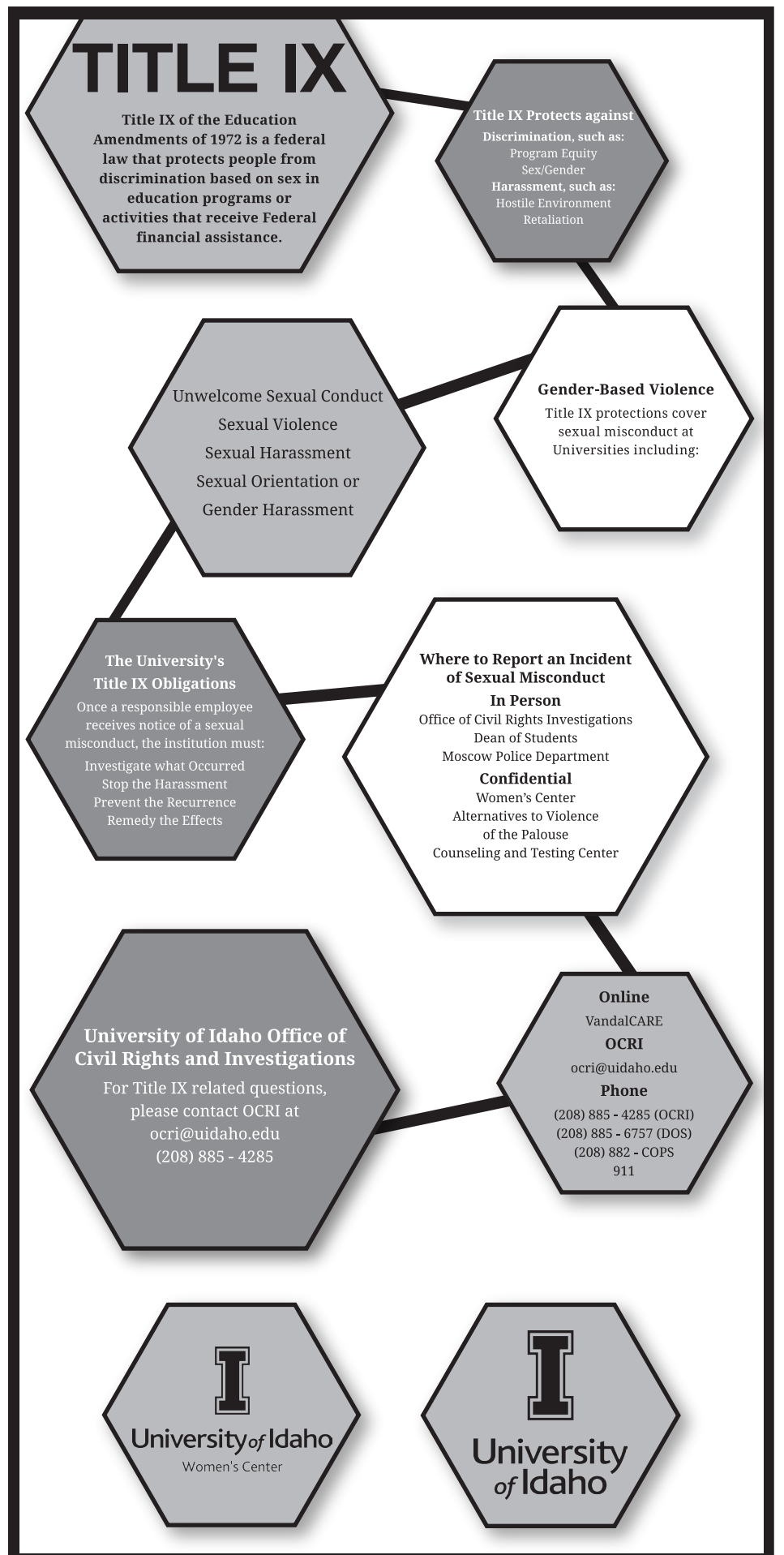
RESOURCES

- Comfortable lounge and study space
- Study with computers and printer
- Kitchenette (limited use)
- Vandal Food Pantry satellite location
- Lactation area and baby changing station
- Scholarships
- Friendly, knowledgeable staff

GET INVOLVED

- Credit-bearing internships
- Home base for Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies
- Service-learning & volunteer opportunities
- Women’s Center blog
- Affiliated student groups
- Leadership opportunities
- Engagement and activism

Find us on the ground floor of the Memorial Gym, Suite 109!
www.uidaho.edu/womenscenter | wcenter@uidaho.edu | (208) 885-2777
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Sports

FOOTBALL

Vandals push toward spring



UI football team continues to practice hard as they prepare for action in the spring

Armin Mesinovic
ARGONAUT

The University of Idaho football team saw its season cut short as the Big Sky Conference (BSC) pushed fall sports to the spring. The team had been practicing for weeks before the cancellation in order to prepare for their fall camp.

"I'm very proud of how they've handled themselves through this and we'll keep getting better," Head Coach Paul Petrino said.

The team finished the 2019 season with a 5-7 record, winning four out of their six home games. The Vandals finished sixth in the conference to end the year. Graduate wide receiver, Jeff Cotton, pushed the offense towards success. Cotton signed with the Los Angeles Chargers after the NFL draft back in April. Cotton also earned All America honors as a wide receiver.

In the 2020 preseason, the Vandals finished signing day with 27 signees and were ranked with the fifth best recruiting class in the Football Championship Series (FCS) and third best in the BSC. In the 2020 BSC

Preseason polls, the Vandals were picked to finish eighth in the media poll and the ninth in the coaches' poll.

Junior linebacker Christian Elliss and sophomore linebacker Tre Walker were awarded Preseason All-Big Sky Conference honors. Both athletes were All-Big Sky a season ago. Walker finished last season with All America honors as a linebacker as well.

After the fall season was postponed, the team continued to participate with team Zoom calls, agility drills and walkthroughs.

"They've been very positive, very upbeat and worked their tails off," Petrino said.

Recruitment is still in a dead period as it was when the pandemic started and Petrino is unsure if it will return in the spring.

"Getting to know recruits and their families will have to be over Zoom during this time," Petrino said. "We'll have to stick to watching tape and talking to athletes over Zoom for now."

At this time no new information has surfaced about Idaho fall camp previously scheduled to start on Aug. 14.

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(Left) Idaho football player DJ Lee puts his arms in the air after a successful play by Idaho in the Dome in Sept. 2019. (Right) Idaho lines up against Weber State in the Kibbie Dome on Oct. 5, 2019. (Bottom) Junior Linebacker Christian Elliss throws his hands up in the air after a successful play by Idaho against Eastern Washington in the Kibbie Dome on Sept. 21, 2019

Saydee Brass | Argonaut



COMMUNITY



The Student Rec Center is located on campus and provides an outlet for students

Saydee Brass | Argonaut

Student Recreation Center prepares for upcoming semester

The SRC opens with a mask mandate that all students and staff must follow

Armin Mesinovic
ARGONAUT

Facilities like the Student Recreation center have played a role in welcoming students back to the University of Idaho. The SRC changed their guidelines for the 2020-21 school year by implementing a mask requirement.

The SRC also changed how the building will socially distance its equipment. The center will also be setting up sanitization stations throughout the facility. A maximum of 70 patrons are allowed at a time, and there will be no temperature checks in the building.

"We trust that individuals will make the right choice not to come in if their temperature is high or if they're feeling sick," Rusty

Vineyard, executive director of the SRC, said.

The SRC changed their hours of operation to close throughout the day for two to three hours in order to clean used spaces. On weekdays, they will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. On the weekend, they're open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

They will no longer be taking reservations for equipment and use of multiple pieces of equipment is allowed. Showers will be closed in all restrooms.

The climbing center will be available for seven people at a time. It will be open on weekdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. On Saturday it will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on Sundays.

"Our goal is to be able to stay open and offer Vandals the option to participate in activities and stay

healthy," Vineyard said.

Even though the SRC is open, there are still certain items that are unavailable for use. Locker rooms, basketball courts, equipment rentals, fitness studios, sunset lounge, rowing cave, stretching areas, medicine and bosu balls are unavailable. WellSpace and the classrooms are closed as well.

Social distancing is required in the building at all times and group gatherings are not allowed. Vineyard said patrons can talk to one another for a short time but once a group starts to gather the SRC staff will ask them to break apart. The SRC will continue to stay open after classes go completely online after Thanksgiving.

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A student walks to the Rec Center after a day of classes.

Saydee Brass | Argonaut

INTRAMURAL

Kickball and wiffle ball arw the first intramural sports of the season

Kickball and wiffle ball entries due on Sept. 1 as they close in on starting their season

Armin Mesinovic
ARGONAUT

Although athletic teams will not compete against other schools this fall, the Student Recreation Center's intramural sports offerings will continue.

A variety of sports will be available to students, staff and faculty interested in participating under the new COVID-19 guidelines.

These guidelines include mandatory face coverings during and after competition, using hand sanitizer

before and after competition, disinfecting equipment before and after competition as well as during breaks, providing a delay between games to allow for cleaning and more.

Patrons can compete once they fill out an entry form and online waiver, both available on the SRC website. Some sports also require a fee as part of the application, though prices vary by sport.

Competition is available for kickball, wiffle ball, cornhole, tennis, frisbee golf, team tennis and spikeball for the fall. The earliest deadline for entries is Sept. 1, for kickball and wiffle ball participants.

The kickball league will compete round-robin style, with a single-elimination post-season tournament. Play will begin Sept. 8 in the Kibbie Dome.

Wiffle ball follows some of the same

entry guidelines and play style as kickball, although wiffle ball will begin Sept. 9 in the SRC Gold Gym. Kickball offers a co-ed league, but wiffle ball will only offer men's and women's teams.

More details on kickball and wiffle ball will be available after the captains' meetings Sept. 2. Information on these and other intramural sports can be found on the SRC website.

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BASKETBALL

Kickoff to the NBA playoffs recap

Some NBA teams have already advanced to the next round, others are getting close

Armin Mesinovic
ARGONAUT

The 2020 National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs are almost completed. 17 teams will advance to the postseason to compete but only eight teams will advance to the semifinals.

In the Western Conference, the Portland Trail Blazers defeated the Memphis Grizzlies in order to qualify for the playoffs, where they will play against the Los Angeles Lakers.

#1 Los Angeles Lakers vs #8 Portland Trail Blazers

The Lakers dropped the first game against the Trail Blazers with Blazers' guard Damian Lillard scoring 34 points to give his team a 100-93 win. The Lakers won the next three games, giving them an edge in the series.

Forwards LeBron James and Anthony Davis led the way, securing a 3-1 lead.

The Lakers honored Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gigi Bryant, who both died earlier this year, with custom uniforms worn during the game.

#4 Houston Rockets vs. #5 Oklahoma City Thunder

The series between the Rockets and the Thunder is a highly contested one as they sit at a 2-2 series tie. The Rockets won the first two games of the series earning an early advantage but the Thunder would come back to tie it up with Thunder's guard Dennis Schroder scoring a floater to tie the series.

Both teams have former star players competing on opposite sides as former Thunder star, Russell Westbrook, now plays for the Rockets and former Rockets star, Chris Paul, now plays for the Thunder.

#3 Denver Nuggets vs #6 Utah Jazz 4

The Nuggets captured their second win of the series after dropping three straight. Nuggets' guard Jamal Murray has been leading the charge but even after scoring 50 points in game four, the Nuggets still trail 3-2. Jazz's guard Donovan Mitchell also scored 50 points in game four and is one game away from leading his team to the conference semifinals.

#2 Los Angeles Clippers vs. #7 Dallas Mavericks

The Clippers and the Mavericks have gone back and forth in the series with both teams securing two wins to tie the series. Clippers' forward Kawhi Leonard has led the way for the Clippers but Mavericks' guard Luka Doncic has also been a driving force on offense and defense. In game four, Doncic led the Mavericks with 43 points, 17 rebounds and 13 assists along with a step back three pointer to tie the series. In game five, the Clippers went on to secure another win, one shy of advancing to the next round.

On the Eastern Conference side, the #5 seed Miami Heat upset the #4 seed Indiana Pacers by sweeping them 4-0. The #2 seed Toronto Raptors accomplished the same feat against the #7 Brooklyn Nets. The #3 seed Boston Celtics easily dismantled the #6 seed Philadelphia 76ers 4-0, as they move on to face the Raptors in the East Conference Semifinals.

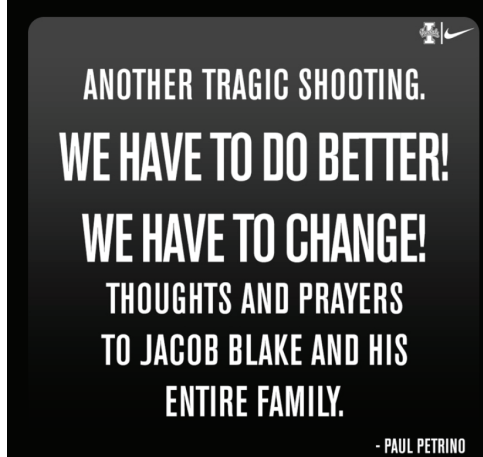
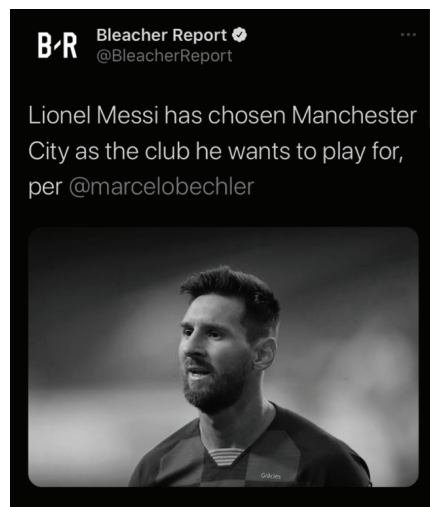
#1 Milwaukee Bucks vs #8 Orlando Magic

The Bucks currently have a 3-1 lead in the series as they look to move on to face the Heat in the East semifinals. Bucks' forward Giannis Antetokounmpo led the way for the Bucks to win three straight games after losing game one. Magic's forward Nikola Vucevic has led the way for the Magic after scoring 35 points in his first game.

As the NBA playoffs continue, more games are to be played as we get closer to see who will end up playing for the title.

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Tweets of the week



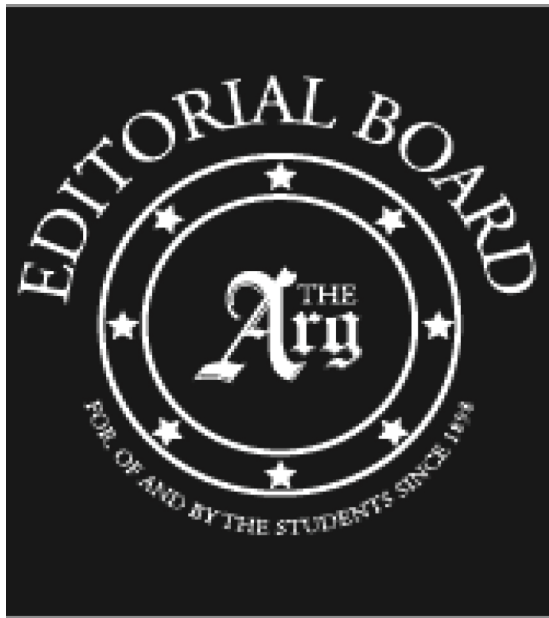
- PAUL PETRINO



Opinion

EDITORIAL BOARD

Holding authority accountable



We don't only tell the good stories; we share what's important

Journalists aren't always liked. It is our job to tell the truth, but the truth isn't always easy to hear.

As the staff of The Argonaut, we value the role of local journalism in holding authority figures accountable. It is an honor to tell the stories of our fellow community members and provide answers through these trying times, and we take it seriously.

The Argonaut exists to provide experience for student journalists, but it also holds the University of Idaho accountable. It is our job to seek answers to the questions students, faculty, staff and community members are asking right now.

UI faculty, staff and students accomplish many great things, but unfortunately, we won't be able to cover them all. We wouldn't be doing our job if we only covered the good things. We share stories about what most impacts our communities, both the good and the bad.

Our staff members are dedicated to their craft, but we are students as much as we are journalists. We are your sorority sisters and fraternity brothers, your classmates, your teammates and your fellow students. We want to serve our community to the best of our ability, but we won't always get it right.

The point of our newsroom is to provide a learning opportunity for our young writers, photographers, designers and editors so we can learn the ethics and expectations of journalism better than we could just sitting in a classroom.

Our coverage will not please everyone. No news outlet's coverage can please everyone. But we want the information we provide to be fair to all parties involved. If you think we are misrepresenting you, if you think we have missed something—we want to know. Your feedback not only informs our current and future coverage, but helps shape our staff into journalists better prepared to enter the post-college world. All feedback, from tips or corrections to questions and concerns, can be sent to argonaut@uidaho.edu. We want to make sure you're heard.

It's been a rough year, and the challenges we've faced aren't going anywhere. No matter what curveballs this semester throws at us, The Argonaut will continue to provide the UI community with the best coverage we can.

-Editorial Board

COVID-19

UI sends a message, not the right one

With mixed messages and hybrid classes, how much more confusing can 2020 get?

Anteia McCollum
ARGONAUT

When University of Idaho President Scott Green announced on July 16 classes would be moved completely online after fall recess, I was a little shocked and very confused. I didn't see a point in having students, faculty and staff return to Moscow if they were just going to go back to learning remotely for the latter part of the semester.

As if to add to my befuddlement, it was announced on July 28 UI would remain unwavering in its decision to move forward with in-person classes. The world was, still is, in the middle of a pandemic and the United States is nowhere near seeing the end of it, especially in Idaho.

The message coming from Green earlier in the summer was one that said the Vandal community will be well prepared to conquer any threat COVID-19 could throw

at us, drenching the fiery division that the virus has intensified in our communities.

Now Green is adding more fuel to the flames. On Aug. 18 he sent out an email titled "Our Success Begins with Your Leadership" detailing our responsibility as Vandals to keep the university open for in-person classes.

"For our campus to remain open, we all need to take responsibility by showing our leadership, taking action when poor decisions are being made and looking out for the health of our fellow Vandals and those in our community," Green wrote. "To be clear, if we fail, we will close the campus and students will be sent home."

That last bit was highlighted with bold letters, as if to emphasize the future we all know is coming. Whether we are all sent home before or

after fall recess is not the largest issue on my plate; that is for sure.

The messages coming from Green are no longer "Our success hinges on our ability to be thoughtful and flexible," something that Green said in an email on May 22.

What I am now understanding from his more frequent mass emails is something along the lines of if people cannot adhere strictly to the rules and regulations put in place by university leadership, they will be rejected. This was clarified in an email on Friday.

"Frankly, if you are not willing to support our university and those who want an in-person instruction environment, you should not be here, and we will take the necessary steps to remove you from our community," Green stated.

The flexibility Green preached seems to no longer be as large a part of the picture as it was in earlier months. The flexibility we see now is coming from the professors teaching students in-person and online simultaneously.

Along with all of the new normalcies, like social distancing, constantly worrying about wearing a mask, protests of all kinds everywhere, trying to figure out how to balance work life with home life and so many other complicated stressors, the last thing the Vandals need are mixed messages coming from their leadership.

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COLUMN

Carefree classroom capacity

Parents should be putting their children's education before their own conveniences or stress relief

Rebecca Pratt
ARGONAUT

Being stuck at home with your kids can be really stressful. After months of shutdowns, stay-at-home orders and quarantine, parents have had this daunting realization.

My main job for the last five years has been, in one capacity or another, involved in private childcare. That includes anything from private swim lessons to a live-in nanny.

During the summer, the family I currently nanny for was entertaining the idea of placing their children in the full-time kids camp they normally attend on school breaks.

The idea was quickly squashed as infection rates in Spokane, a city only 24.6 miles away from where I live, skyrocketed and childcare facilities continued to have intense outbreaks of COVID-19.

The parents I work for are facing a decision just as challenging as staying home for months on end — whether they should

send their children back to school or continue at-home learning.

As previously noted, parents know, now better than ever, their children can sometimes be the worst company.

Rivalling the nature of your spawn, however, is the frustrating and jaw clenching task of assisting with your child's long division homework and spelling rule breakers.

But when you decide to send your children back to school because it's easier for your work schedule, it lessens your stress levels, or even just because your kids miss their friends and teachers so much, I'd suggest you step out of your own bubble for a moment.

I would implore you to, first, look at your bank account and then look at the families who have no other option than to send their young children back to school. The parents down the street may be unable to afford private childcare, tutoring or other

alternative learning.

Think of the parents who aren't given the option to work from home and, like you, have a mortgage or rent, among other bills, to pay. Many parents cannot come up with payment for a babysitter to ensure their child is on their zoom classroom calls, not chatting on Google Classroom or sneaking onto YouTube to watch cat fails when no one is looking.

If you are one of these exceptionally privileged families that can afford private childcare during this pandemic and are choosing not to do so, for whatever reason you have so acutely justified, I would ask you to reconsider.

If you can afford the time or money to stay home, or if you figure out alternative learning for your children, you should be doing so. This is not only for your child's health and your own, but for the families who have no other options. As cold

as it may sound, if you are sending your kids to school when you could find other options easily your children are now just taking up valuable space and resources.

Think of it as emergency kits in an earthquake. If we were to send limited care and aid packages to families whose home's worst damage was a few broken glasses and some picture frames knocked off the walls before families without food or water, we would condemn the decision as poor and impractical with huge fallout. To those ignoring the fallout of sending their children to take up much-needed space by other less-fortunate families, I'd like to say your decision is no different except that it may be even more short-sighted than a poor disaster relief program.

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GREEK LIFE

New rush system has a good starting point

In an abnormal world – an abnormal approach succeeds

Teren Kowatsch
ARGONAUT

It's no secret – we live in an atypical world right now. It's yet to be seen if the abnormal will become the new normal. For now, an unfamiliar environment is what we can expect going forward. Such a bizarre environment is the university's Fall 2020 rush.

Sororities took a completely virtual approach while the fraternities had an in-person process, just in a different format. Allowing summer bids was the first change.

In previous years houses have not been allowed to officially give out bids during the summer. Each house this year could give out a maximum of five summer bids to Potential New Members (PNMs) registered for rush. In a pool of roughly 100 people, this approach increases the rush pool by almost half, potentially. These numbers would never be reached, but it's a good first start.

The next thing to change for

fraternities and sororities was the mandatory COVID-19 tests given to all Greek Life. If anyone were to test positive, they would be moved to a location set aside by the university for quarantine. Students would proceed to quarantine for two weeks and then be welcomed back onto the property. Every house also has their own individual COVID-19 guidelines to follow while on property and living in-house.

Now comes the guidelines for rush itself – every member of fraternities and PNMs were mandated to wear facial coverings. No more than 50 people were allowed on an individual property at one time. Rush blocks consisted of 25 people.

This allowed 25 people from the house to be on property at a time. Several houses had someone with a counter monitoring how many people were on the property. Most – if not all – houses also had hand sanitizers, provided from the university, along with gallons of it bought on their own. Rho Chi's added to their already extensive list of responsibilities by making sure safety was maintained

via masks being worn properly and the closest semblance to social distancing that could be maintained.

Now it's time to go over what went wrong. First, there were inconsistencies in social distancing policies. Handshakes and physical contact were off limits. That was maintained for the most part by all houses. The social distancing was almost impossible to do. There is no possible way six feet of distance can be maintained while multiple house tours are going on at once and there are members trying to connect to PNMs. This led to an inconsistency in what social distance policies applied to. Things like kiddie pools were not allowed, but 10-15 people sitting around a fireplace with little distance between them was somehow fine. Masks were enforced outside within Rho Chi view, but PNMs and initiated members alike were taking their masks off or uncovering their noses as soon as they stepped inside the house. I've yet to hear any house that was talked to for that reason during rush.

These inconsistencies and lack of

clarity within social distance and mask-wearing rules were not (thankfully) widespread, but the lack of consistency does more harm than good. It can also create contempt between the houses and the Interfraternity Council over what is allowed and what isn't. Aside from those problems, this new system of rush went as well as one could have hoped. It wasn't perfect by any means. PNMs and house members were fatigued and tired as a result of the long rush days. The problems previously mentioned created unnecessary stress that could've been avoided by consistent and concise rules and enforcements. With that being said, the system was new. We're in the midst of a pandemic. Hopefully this isn't a system that needs improved on and is only a one-off thing, but if this is the new normal, this year was a good starting point.

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THE ARGONAUT
LETTERS
to the editor

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**EPIC
GEAR
EVERY DAY**

MAN I SURE DO FEEL SAFE HERE ON CAMPUS! THIS MASK MANDATE WILL HELP REDUCE THE CASES IN NO TIME! IT'S ALMOST LIKE MASK ARE AN EASY WAY TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID!



ME TOO! BTW DID YOU GO TO THAT PARTY LAST NIGHT? IT WAS SO FUN. BUT MAN WERE THERE A LOT OF PEOPLE. WE WERE PRACTICALLY RUBBING AGAINST ONE ANOTHER...BUT THAT MAKES IT EVEN BETTER RIGHT?



Mic Dougherty | Argonaut

COVID-19

Beginning classes with a touch of pandemic



Engineering/Physics Building Aug. 24, 2020

Kim Stager | Argonaut

Starting off the first week of classes was not too stressful.

Kim Stager
ARGONAUT

Fall 2020 semester classes began on Monday with a variety of teaching styles and new experiences. As a senior majoring in broadcasting and digital media, I need to take the remaining required Journalism and Mass Media (JAMM) credits to earn my degree.

The classes I am enrolled in consist of three hybrid classes and one in-person class. Both pose their own sets of unknowns and complexities in the age of COVID-19.

On top of my classes, I will be a work study as a JAMM office assistant as well as a reporter and photographer for The Argonaut.

Here is a sneak peek into the beginning of my semester.

Monday morning, I woke up at 9:30 a.m. and ate breakfast. Then, I took a walk around downtown Moscow to take photos for some Argonaut articles.

I got back to campus around 11:30 a.m. and went through The Hub Express Lane to grab a to-go lunch for

later. When I got back to my room, I started reading over my class syllabi and checking my emails.

I appreciate that my professors are taking this week slow to help everyone adjust to the new normal as time goes on.

Teachers are learning how to make the hybrid, hybrid and in-person classes work for themselves and students simultaneously. They want to make sure the students receive a good education, but also stay safe while doing so.

I have only one in-person course this semester, which I began attending on Monday. I am used to being mostly in-person, but that was before the pandemic.

I was a bit nervous to arrive to class early Monday afternoon, but when I got inside the room there were about 10 students already there.

I noticed there were cleaning supplies on a table in front of the class. A few other students and I used them to clean off our workspaces before we took our seats.

Every other chair was closed off, so I set down my backpack in the unavailable seat. Since my class has fewer students, it is easier for us to

keep the recommended six feet away from each other, rather than four feet, because we have more room to spread out. The students were respectful toward each other and the teachers.

I am glad teachers are willing to help make this semester as smooth as possible for us.

If we are nervous or just not having a good day because of things concerning the pandemic, my professors told me that our health is a priority to them. I was told as long as they were contacted before class starts, they will help you catch up on what you missed.

We are all working together to make the best out of the Fall 2020 semester. Physical and mental health are a priority to faculty, students and staff.

Everyone will have their own varying opinions on how the university is running things this semester, but I hope we can all try to work together to make this semester and the ones to follow a success for everyone.

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