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Hey Blotsters,

We've been back on campus and in Moscow for a couple months now, classes are getting busier and people are busting their butts to get everything done, but have you ever stopped to wonder if there is more than stress among us? Rumor has it there are haunted buildings on campus, and with a piqued curiosity, Blot decided to take a look.

Not interested in looking to add "Campus spooks" to your Halloween endeavors? Then take a lighter path ... have a little fun with the University of Idaho marching band's outgoing tuba players. Learn why they wear skirts and what all goes into their wacky stunts and funny traditions.

Music on the streets can be just as entertaining as in the stands, and Moscow has performers who love to play for people who are walking by. All that walking generally leads to a pit stop. Check out some of the funkier bathrooms in the area — and don't forget your reading material.

Happy haunting from Blot.

Elizabeth Rudd Lisa Short

Blot online

Visit Blot's new website at www.blot.uidaho.edu for additional content. Catch the first Blotcast and hear some behind-the-scenes information in a Spotlight interview with cover story author Anthony Saia. Have a little fun with the University of Idaho marching band's wacky and fun tuba players with additional video, audio and photos. Listen to the music of some of Moscow's street performers and their thoughts about the outdoor venue while watching a slide show of photos. And be sure to add Blot's website to your favorites.



Photo by: Steven Devine

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University of Idaho tuba players embody a unique persona that is carried from year to year through outgoing traditions and crazy stunts.

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Without any fancy venues or seated auditoriums, some artists find the streets of Moscow to be some of the most enjoyable places to play.



Kyle Savikko, senior, and the Vandal marching band tuba players perform in the stands after a University of Idaho touchdown during the Sept. 2 football game against North Dakota in the Kibbie Dome.

TRADITIONS WITH TUBAS

Torrey Lawrence, University of Idaho marching band director, said he has been stopped in an airport and asked if his band was the one with the tuba players who wear skirts and run around being crazy.

UI's tuba section has been defined and distinguished by these elements the last 20 plus years. Clay Hanson, one of two tuba section leaders and graduate student, said tuba sections are always kind of crazy, but to say UI's is no different would not be true.

"I think it's great, but it's pretty unique. I don't think you will see that anywhere else that I know of," said Al Gemberling, marching band director from 1988-97.

The distinguishing qualities of the Vandal tuba section mostly come

from numerous traditions that started in the section before many of the current sousaphone wearers ever stepped foot on campus. Lawrence said the traditions usually start as an idea that is wacky and funny, and it grows from there to become wackier and funnier with time and capture people's attention.

Traditions, whether crazy or just fun, have come and gone for the tubas during the years, but some have stuck and become defining characteristics of the shiny brass instruments, including the natural mirror-like visibility. While dressing in drag was once a second game tradition, Hanson said it has fizzled out during recent years, but the skirts live on.

Admitting the story varies each time it is heard or told, Hanson said one

tuba player initially wore the tuba skirts as a dare during a homecoming parade and game. Lawrence said the skirts were those of the former color guard, or flag team, from the '60s, and wearing them became a signature of the tuba section soon after. Gemberling said he recalled the skirts sticking around afterward out of necessity because of a shortage in uniforms.

"What I remember being kind of a pivotal moment in this tradition, was that the tubas had worn the skirts ... and the president of the university at the time, Bob Hoover ... commented, in the program, in front of all these people, how much he enjoyed the tuba skirts, that he thought they were hilarious ..." Lawrence said, "and I remember thinking, 'Oh boy these are going to stick around.'"

The skirts stuck around but Thomas said new ones have been purchased because the older ones are falling apart.

"I'm a big fan of the skirts..." said Kyle Savikko, senior. "It's kind of a status thing, but its also just the fact that you're wearing it. You just always feel awesome basically... It's definitely the icon. The thing that we rally around, that basically we call our own."

Despite their signature attire, the tuba section is also known for building a pyramid, a tradition that started before Hanson joined the band six years ago. He said the group is a good size to build a pyramid, and they practice it on the weekends.

Other traditions include painting their faces and spiking their hair — or

cutting it into Mohawks. Thomas said for the first game they always wear black and white face paint, and they shave or spike their hair into Mohawks for the football games against Boise State University.

"My freshman year, I came and they're like, 'OK, preparations for the first game, be at so and so's house,'" said Kyle Thomas, junior and second section leader. "We ended up showing up at their house four or five hours before the game to do face paint, and I had no idea what we were doing. I just showed up and they were like, 'OK, face paint time.'"

Homecoming is another big event for the tuba section. Lawrence said one of the traditions for the section is to line up on both sides of the road and create a Doppler Effect with their horns as cars go by. Hanson and Thomas said the section creates a float for the homecoming parade and only the tubas work on it. The theme of the tuba float usually doesn't follow the homecoming theme

for the year, Hanson said, and the group is usually up pretty late the night before building it.

"There's a personality that comes along with playing tuba, and every tuba player has it, or the majority of them."

clay hanson

tuba player has it, or the majority of them," Hanson said. "Once you get that tuba on it's like, 'Hey, let's screw around and be awesome.'"

Gemberling agreed, but said he thought all the instruments had tendencies toward their own personality, including the tubas. Gemberling said the tubas were once known for being drunk and out of control, but now newcomers to the section are expected to jump on board with the traditions and be nutty.

"Playing the tuba just fits me better, just my personality," Savikko said. "It's kind of

"Being in the band is awesome, but being on the tuba line is a lot more awesome," Hanson said.

Thomas said to be a part of the tuba line, a person needs to be open and comfortable with him or herself and everyone else. "There's a personality that comes along with playing the tuba, and every

hard to explain, it's just I prefer playing those parts. I prefer being at the base of the foundation of the band."

Savikko said he feels like the section has a lot of passion and energy, and that it helps fuel the band. He said the group tends to recruit mostly outgoing and interesting people who work together and bring out the best in each other. The group realizes they are privileged to be as crazy as they are, Savikko said, and because of that they try their best to deserve it.

The origins of the majority of the tuba traditions are unknown to current line members, but Thomas said they're going to teach the new freshmen about the traditions and let each member of the section know these traditions are just what the section does.

"As directors, I think we just let them do their thing and trust that they'll do the right thing," Gemberling said. "I don't want to inhibit their creativity, and they're creative... Sometimes as a director, we'll shake our heads and kind of just, 'Oh, no,' but in the end, we're kind of chuckling under our breath."

Other tuba traditions

Homecoming serpentine

Kyle Thomas, section leader, said the tubas usually run ahead of the rest of the band, leading the serpentine to the bonfire.

Googley eyes and tuba tongues

The section has a box of tuba tongues they attach to the bell of their sousaphones. Clay Hanson, section leader, said they lost the original googley eyes, so every year they have to make new ones. He said they are just cardboard and black and white paint duct-taped to the horns.

Theme attire for shows

Torrey Lawrence, marching band director, said the section dresses up for themed shows, like when they did James Bond and wore tuxes and gold dresses, and have done other shows in the past as well.

'BeerSong'

Kyle Savikko, senior, said the tuba section tries to get people more involved with the music by dancing and play fighting. He said they also play the "Beer Song" during tailgating because the crowd usually really likes it.

Tubaween

Each year for Halloween, the tubas do a concert performance called Tubaween, Savikko said. The first half is a recital and the second is a skit based on a movie. He said they wear costumes, play music, sing and reenact the plot with some impromptu satire from the year's selected movie. Some past Tubaween themes have included Tubabusters, Tuba Jones and the Origin of the Skirt, and Jungle Tuba.



The Vandal marching band tubas perform in the stands during the Sept. 2 football game against North Dakota in the Kibbie Dome.

IRAQ TO IDAHO



Student veterans adjust to life on campus after war

Leslie Lewis and Beau Tanner are not only University of Idaho students who sit next to you in lab, but they are soldiers fighting for their country.

Student veterans are scattered throughout the campus population, and Tanner said there are about

200 declared veterans at UI.

Lewis was only 17-years-old when she and her twin brother, Robert J. Taylor (see following column), signed up for the military. They grew up in a military family, and decided it was what they wanted to do the day before their senior

year of high school. Lewis left for her tour in Iraq the day after Thanksgiving in 2004.

She was a medic in Iraq until November 2005. She said her experiences from the tour are mixed.

"Everyone wants to focus on the

bad things, but I had a really good time," Lewis said. "The bad times were bad, don't get me wrong. When things were bad they were really bad, but there were a lot of fun times too."

Lewis said during their down time activities, like flying in a Blackhawk

A view from the back of a C-130 plane as it lands in Qatar, Iraq, in February 2005.

helicopter, teaching a class to the British firefighters and shooting a Howitzer, a short barrel cannon.

She said her time in Iraq and her time at UI all worked in perfect harmony. She completed two degrees and will finish a psychology minor in May — all without any debt.

Lewis said she believes everything works out for a reason. She was able to complete her service as a medic and the timing allowed her to meet her husband, who also attends UI. Although she does not plan to reenlist, her husband just signed a contract.

"I'm excited for him. I think it will be weird to be in the opposite boat," Lewis said, "but on the side, I'll have the advantage of knowing what he's going through and what he has to do."

One misperception Lewis said bothers her is when people say Iraqi civilians do not appreciate the military there. Lewis said she had the opportunity to go out with Iraqi medics and care for civilians, and was well received. She said in her experience they communicated and loved having them there.

She doesn't dwell on the tour because it is in the past, and it's not something in her everyday life, Lewis said. As for Tanner, his life has been shaped around his Marine persona.

Tanner finished his eight-year contract with an honorable discharge. Although he didn't reenlist for his Marine Core duties, he said he would in a heartbeat. He completed two tours in Iraq and said his experiences are part of who he is today.

"Combat was a hell of a lot less stressful," Tanner said. "You go from a completely structured and organized world to a completely chaotic world. Even combat is structured, but college is just a chaotic mess."

Tanner is used to the life he lived in the military and has adjusted to life back in Moscow, but he is still transitioning from soldier to student. He said it takes a certain type of person to be in the military and it is a completely different way of living.

"In the big picture of things, does it really matter if you wore a blue shirt or a green shirt?" Tanner said. "When you're in the military, you don't have time to bullshit."

Tanner said his experiences have made him a stand-offish kind of person. He can make quick and precise decision, but he likes to understand and observe the situation before jumping into it.

This, he said, makes his personality a little blunt, and can be perceived by some as condescension. He said it is hard to relate to the common student, but he would rather have them ask him questions than make assumptions.

Tanner said people on a college campus are educated, but ignorant when it comes to veterans. He said he does not see students taking the time to understand what is going on,

and are therefore unable to understand what student veterans have been through.

Tanner's transitions between college and Iraq have fueled him to invest time in UI's veterans club. Lewis is the president of the Veterans at the University of Idaho, a new student organization devoted to assisting veterans on campus and in life. Tanner is the secretary, and said it is great because the only people who can understand veterans are veterans.

He said the military is a completely different mindset and lifestyle, and to transition from the military to college can be a culture shock. Tanner said he is trying to get the veterans club well established, and see that it does provide comradeship.

Right now the club is working on getting a veterans resource center on campus, which would be a specific area where all undeclared veterans could come to meet other veterans and get any assistance they may need.

At the end of the day, there are still soldiers in Iraq and students in the classrooms, but realizing the two can be closely related cannot be taught

"You go from a completely structured and organized world to a completely chaotic world. Even combat is structured, but college is just a chaotic mess."

beau tanner

anywhere.

"When I came back to the university, people were worrying about things that just don't matter, but I had to change my perspective," Lewis said. "I had to realize these people hadn't lived with life and death for the last year."



U.S. soldiers relax outside of their living quarters in Kirkurk, Iraq, in February 2005.



The battle after the war

Taylor, a first-year University of Idaho law student, spent 2005 in Iraq with the 116th Brigade Combat Team, and recounts his first year home.

I walked off the plane and into the arms of my mother.

“It’s over,” I told her as she fought unsuccessfully to hold back tears.

I had just returned from spending 11 months in Kirkuk, Iraq. It was a couple of weeks past my 22nd birthday, and I had no way of knowing at the time just how wrong I was.

I left the flight line surrounded by my family and friends, eager to get back to the life I left behind.

I wasted little time doing so. I finished my associate degree while I was deployed, and was set to transfer to the University of Idaho in less than three months. Thanksgiving was a couple of weeks away and I had a lot to be thankful for that year.

A few days before New Year’s Eve, I had my first nightmare about Iraq. I was sleeping next to my girlfriend and couldn’t fall back asleep. When she awoke, she saw me lying there and asked why I was up so early.

I don’t remember what I told her, but I know it wasn’t true. I didn’t want to tell her the truth — it would have meant admitting it to myself.

The nightmares followed me to my dorm room at UI. I would stay awake until 6 a.m. watching nearly every program on Nick at Nite until I feel asleep for a few hours before my 9:30 a.m. class. The nightmares were always far worse than anything I had seen or experienced there.

Each dream ended the same: Watching someone I knew die before waking up. I was afraid to fall asleep because I didn’t want to keep returning there.

Iraq was where I came face-to-face with my own mortality and said goodbye to whatever was left

of my childhood. It’s where I was awakened one morning by an explosion so loud I could hear it from two miles away. That blast took the legs of a high school classmate.

A few weeks later, I stood at attention as “Taps” followed a 21-gun salute honoring a 19-year-old girl I had met just two days before her death. Her name will forever be worn on my left wrist.

The first person I met upon joining the Army was among those who didn’t make it back alive.

The nightmares stopped sometime that first semester, but my problems didn’t.

I had shut my emotions off while deployed to avoid letting the pain of losing fellow soldiers affect me, and once home, I found I couldn’t turn them back on again. I also acted as if I couldn’t feel anything, so then neither could anyone else.

I pushed everyone important in my life away from me, including my twin

sister, best friend and good friend-turned-girlfriend. I don’t blame them for walking away from me. If it had been possible, I would have walked away from me too. It would be three years before I made amends with my twin.

I kept my struggles from my family, afraid my younger sisters would somehow think less of me if they knew what I was hiding from them.

My friends spent the first summer I was home getting me out of a lot of fights. I was barely old enough to drink and had spent a year in a war zone. I thought I was bulletproof and couldn’t be touched. At five feet, 11 inches and 145 pounds, I’m more Clark Kent than Superman, but fortunately, I have big friends.

That worked well until there came a night when I decided to fight them too. We made up the next day and still joke about it occasionally, but I couldn’t deny I needed a good ass-kicking, and figured my buddies were as good as anyone to get it from.

I returned to campus that fall and met the man who would save me from myself.

On the first day of class, my instructor for introduction to reporting and I took one look at each other and immediately decided we didn’t like each other. I would have dropped his class had it not been required for my public relations major. I hated having to take a reporting class knowing it was the last thing I ever wanted to do (but because of him, became the only thing I’ve ever done).



Two members of NROTC stand with the flag honoring prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action during the POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony on the Administration Building lawn Sept. 16.

Nothing I wrote ever seemed to be good enough for him, and he was the first to call me out on mistakes other teachers had been willing to overlook.

As the one-year mark of my unit returning home approached, feelings that I thought were gone kept resurfacing. I felt guilty I had lived to return home, to spend the past year attending classes, and wanted to know why I got to live and others did not.

I shared these thoughts with a student adviser I became close with during the year, and she encouraged me to seek help at the school's counseling center. She even confided in me she had once visited the center as an undergraduate for help and offered to walk me there.

I turned her down, still refusing to believe I needed help or that I even had a problem.

I'm not sure how much longer I would have believed that, had I not failed miserably on what should have been an easy reporting assignment a few weeks later.

My instructor pulled me out into the hallway for at least the fourth time that semester and told me

my work lacked the emotions and feelings that should have been present in what could have been a warm and friendly piece.

I realized I couldn't express emotions if I couldn't feel them. Then I decided my words weren't all that needed emotions.

I left his class that afternoon and went straight to the counseling center. I scheduled an appointment with the center's director for the following week and met with her weekly the remainder of the semester.

I woke up toward the end of the semester one day and realized there are no easy answers in war — war does not make sense. People die. Others live.

There I learned the feelings I felt were natural, that it was OK to question why I lived and others did not. I woke up toward the end of the semester one day and realized there are no easy answers in war — war does not make sense. People die. Others live.

There is no reason I got to live and others did not, but I realized if I kept living my life the way I was, I might as well have been six feet under as well. But I wasn't — I lived, and it was time to start living my life making each day count.

The hardest step in getting help is often finding the courage to ask for it.

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FUNKY FLUSHES



The University of Idaho has many unique buildings and designs on campus, including the Mines building. Eric Bennett, director of development for the College of Science, said since the 1960s the building has been through little change and preserved much of its original structural integrity. The third floor restroom has been outfitted with a full diamond-shaped black, white and gray tile along the walls and floor to create an eye-dazzling experience when first walking into the restroom. Currently the building contains the offices for the Department of Geological Sciences, research labs and the College of Science.

MINES



JOHN'S ALLEY TAVERN

John's Alley Tavern has been known for hosting live bands on its indoor stage. Creativity, in addition to music and rustic décor, has become something that has found its place in the bar and restrooms. On the walls and ceilings of the men's and women's restrooms, people have been free to write, draw, and even do some chalk drawings in the women's restroom. "Vertical" Dave Sturing, owner, said he has allowed artwork to be put up in the bar, and in 2005, Jeremy Hogan did the tattoo mural in the men's restroom, and the rest of the artwork took off from there, including the purple walls in the women's restroom.

"After we got remodeled in 2000 we just let people do artwork if they came up with a good idea, and when the time comes we white wash it and start over," Sturing said.

John's Alley has incorporated a theme of art throughout the establishment and allowed family and friends to add their personal touches for around eight years. The local live music bar will start fresh with new paint in both restrooms. While not completely eliminating the murals, there will be a clean slate for people to create new memories.



Many cities and towns have a local hangout that holds some sort of tradition, which remains to this day. For Pullman and the Washington State University Cougars, that place is the Cougar Cottage, a local bar and eatery that has been around for 78 years. Current owner Bob Cady has only owned the business since 2004, but knows the establishment holds a special place for many WSU fans and alumni. The carvings and writing covers most every inch of the bar and has been a tradition for years. Cady said he decided to let the tradition thrive at the Cougar and has seen a new generation of students and customers add to the artwork, even making its way into the restrooms.

“People used to carve their names in booths and tables years ago, and tradition has always been a big part of the Cougar, so I decided to just let the spirit continue on,” Cady said. “Renovating or restoring all the work that has been done would be like a slap in the face to many alumni that have been here over the years.”

THE COUG



Larry Swanger, owner of Gambino's in Moscow, has joined the popular lifestyle and business move of "going green" by introducing waterless urinals and sensory sink and towel dispensers into the restaurant. The restrooms are also covered in tile to allow the cleanest situation possible.

The men's urinal has a fly located on it, which is intended to give men something to aim at, said Chris Cliff, assistant manager. He said it is another way for the restaurant to keep the bathroom sanitary. The Urinal Fly website says the fly became well known in the Amsterdam International Airport and will keep bathrooms up to 85 percent cleaner.

"Our goal is to be more sanitary and to allow the customer the ability to touch the least amount surfaces as possible," Swanger said. Gambino's opened in September 2008, and has made it a key point to provide as much quality and comfort to customers as possible. Swanger served as his own foreman, and had friends and family involved with building and designing the restaurant.

GAMBINO'S



CORNER CLUB



Every time the Corner Club's men's restroom is used, there is a reminder of the rivalry between the Idaho Vandals and the Boise State Broncos. The Corner Club has been voted Moscow's best bar in the Best of Moscow survey hosted by The Argonaut in past years, and was featured in Sports Illustrated's Top 25 Sports Bars ranked at No. 21 in February 2005, said current owner, Marc Trivelpiece. The Corner Club, which is adorned with Vandal gear, has its share of regulars and Trivelpiece keeps those traditions alive. Trivelpiece took ownership in August 2007, and after a comment from previous owner Mike Curtis, Trivelpiece placed a Broncos sticker inside the urinal in the men's restroom.

"The old owner thought it'd be funny, so I did it," Trivelpiece said.



GHOSTLY GROUNDS

Investigating
rumored haunting
on campus

■ Shattuck Arboretum: One hanged. Ridenbaugh Hall: One hanged. Brink Hall: One hanged. Hartung Theater: Strange flashes of light. Borah Theater: Unexplainable technical malfunctions. University of Idaho campus: Five locations rumored of haunting.

The Seattle Times reported in March 2007, 12 UI students were arrested while ghost hunting in Colfax, Wash., at a former hospital that was rumored to be a haunted insane asylum. While UI students have shown interest in verifying the rumored haunting off campus, several locations on campus have also been said to have spirits lingering.

The stories sparked an interest in debunking the rumors about haunted buildings around campus. Because of safety issues, Brink Hall and Hartung Theater were off limits for exploration.

Shattuck Arboretum, often referred to as the Old Arboretum, is located near the UI golf course. The trees are thick and the trunks twist into a myriad of directions that reach toward the sky. Richard Spence, chair of the Department of History, said there was a young man of college age who hanged himself from a tree in this area. The Seattle Times reported the incident July 31, 1991. The victim was confirmed as a 21-year-old, male UI student.

SHATTUCK ARBORETUM

One evening, in the pouring rain, I donned a dark-colored poncho to search for the young man's ghost — if he in fact haunted the area.

Outside light was not apparent because of the intense, overbearing canopy created from the trees. The only sound that could be heard was the rain pooling on leaves, hitting the poncho hood and the foliage strewn about the grounds.

It was 11 p.m. and still early. Staying through the "witching hours" started to seem like a horrible idea — especially with the heavy rain. Walking along the wooded floor after a few hours passed, the feeling of being alone started to fade. The feeling of someone in my

proximity was rather apparent. I crouched, turned off the flashlight and looked to the right. There was nothing to be seen in the expanse of twisting tree trunks aside from the reflections off water from the natural light in the area. Slowly turning to the left, the noise of a branch almost inaudibly snapping caught my attention. As cheesy as it may have sounded, all I could muster was, "Hello?" The wind began to shift, and though there was no answer to the question, the air grew noticeably colder around me. Chills rose throughout my body, and the decision to keep moving was hasty. As the wind howled, a reply to the questioned, 'Hello' seemed to be in the breeze, and staying there at 2:30 a.m. was no longer on the agenda.

Ridenbaugh Hall stands not far from the Old Arboretum. The current music hall with Italian Renaissance revival architecture was formerly a female dormitory. The construction of the building was completed in 1902, making it one of the oldest buildings on campus, and it was recognized and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

Despite the creaking floors and discolored walls, members of the music fraternities, Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha, have hosted a haunted house in Ridenbaugh for years.

Brandy Cargo, a geology student, said a young girl hanged herself in Room 225, which is now a practice room for the music students. She said she and a group of friends went in search of the music building's ghost, but all they ended up doing was scaring themselves.

RIDENBAUGH HALL

Walking through the building after the sun started to settle was an intriguing experience. The low ceilings and noises from the building — now more than 100 years old — added to the experience. The hallways are narrow, and even after all these years and vast improvement from technological upgrades, UI's Library of Special Collections notes the façade of the building remains similar to after it was completed June 11, 1902.

A balcony on the fourth floor that overlooks New Greek seemed like a good place to sit for a while. Behind me was a metal door that had been padlocked shut seemed as if someone attempted to open the door or damage it, because there were large dents apparent beneath the door's handle.

Seth Reardon, a fourth-year music student, said at one point earlier in his time at UI, the attic area was open. He said from time to time students would walk around up there. Reardon said he had heard a rumor about Ridenbaugh's haunting, but he never heard specifics regarding the cause of the haunting.

Staying on the landing for a bit, dim light shone down on me while

students occupied the practice rooms, and the flow of different musical parts crept up the stairway. At that particular moment, a student played a selection from classical pianist Franz Schubert. The intricacy of the piece settled in my ears as the surroundings began to look different. Black marks stained the white walls, and there were curious red marks that looked to be pools of some liquid substance, which had faded from time and foot traffic stained on the linoleum.

The building groaned slightly, and an intense chill came across my body. It was apparent none of the windows were ajar, and looking at the fluorescent light again, the hair on the back of my neck stood on end. There was a presence over my right shoulder, and as I looked without turning, a loud knock and hiss occurred. It was time to move. So I stood and went down the stairwell to the third floor. The student hammering out Schubert was still locked in their practice room as I sauntered by, turned the corner and entered a vacant practice room.

There was one window on the far side of the room that was shut, and a piano sat against the wall. Behind the piano, a mirror caught

the reflection of my shoes and shadow on the wall. I felt another chill rush across me. Determined not to be unsettled by cold spots in the building, sitting in front of the piano seemed like a smart move ... at the time. The ceiling was dark, and corners of the room seemed even darker.

Schubert was no longer flowing throughout the halls. Even the knocking from the old furnace system stopped. Breathing deeply, hands on the keyboard, a tune escaped my throat in an attempt to soothe myself. Suddenly, the temperature in the room dropped. Shivers started to form throughout my body and the palms of my hands became clammy. Looking around the room, a hiss sounded in my ears as the cold enveloped me. My arms instinctively wrapped around my chest while my teeth started to chatter.

Sitting at the piano, breathing deep, the cold oxygen filled my lungs. I sat in silence for a few minutes straining my ears for anything more. The silence seemed to be a cue. I moved down the creaky stairs — music flowing again from the rooms above, — and exited the building.

Spence said he feels when it comes to paranormal activity, a person needs to have receptiveness toward it. He said if a person is not looking for paranormal activity, they won't find any. The twisting hallways and low ceilings of Brink Hall make Cargo uncomfortable.

"That place is just creepy," Cargo said. "Then again multiple suicides can never leave good energy."

A column published Oct. 30, 2008, in *The Argonaut* said rumor of a former professor who hanged himself in his office haunts the third floor of Brink Hall.

BRINK HALL

HARTUNG THEATER

Hartung Theater might be one of the scariest areas on campus – and not because it is dark and dreary. Spence said he recalled hearing stories and thought it was curious creepy tales started to circulate so quickly, since the theater opened in 1974. It was originally named The Performing Arts Center.

In an article published in *The Argonaut* Oct. 30, 1979, Steve Remington, the technical director and stage manager, said there were strange flashes of light in the catwalks as people worked on the stage below.

The Borah Theater is another stage that has been rumored to be haunted. Much like the Hartung, Borah has had inexplicable happenings that only happen to projectionists.

Borah Theater is a bone yard for the university's student-operated radio station, KUOI-FM 83.9, and for defunct equipment. It is also where Vandal Entertainment hosts films throughout the semester. Benjamin Aiman, electronic and events specialist for the Idaho Commons and Student Union Building, said eerie

occurrences happen in the theater. It's a small space, and even during the day the room is dark with low light and has several doors that lead to different areas of the theater.

Corbin Hohstadt, a student employee of Sound, Production and Lighting, said odd things happen behind the screen, like the power randomly shutting off. Equipment malfunctions are commonplace when it comes to technology, but in the Borah, it seems to happen more often.

BORAH THEATER

After hours at the SUB is interesting in its own right. There are janitors on all four floors for a period of time, and when they finish an area, the lights are turned off – particularly on the third floor. The Borah Theater proved to be no different. With nothing but a flashlight, I entered the space silently with careful steps. Hohstadt said to walk carefully because the walls and stairs could be difficult to navigate in the dark.

Aside from the ventilation system turning on and off throughout the night, not much out of the ordinary happened. At 2:30 a.m., I leaned back in the chair and woke up around 4 a.m. to the sound of a chair squeaking from behind me. As expected, the room behind me was vacant — just a sea of empty chairs. Investigating the noise led to searching for 10 minutes, only to find the flashlight that rolled down to the open area in front of the stage. I sighed and headed home, disappointed it was such a bust.

Upon leaving Ridenbaugh, the last visited location, I came to one conclusion after all of the investigations were complete: It is obvious any campus that has been around for any substantial amount of time is bound to have some sort of rumors about ghosts. 🌊

CAMPUS RECREATION



Tara Weldon

Life after MTV's 'Made'

■ For Tara Weldon, University of Idaho freshman, her first several times on a mountain led to painful bruises, frostbite and broken boards. She was attempting rails and boxes before she could stand on her board, and inevitably hitting the camera crews who were filming her.

"I would have to go and snowboard to her (a producer) and another would be behind me, or like filming next to me," Weldon said. "It was hard learning how to snowboard and having to do that. I hit my producers like four times doing that. Just ran them over."

During her sophomore year of high school, the Colorado native went from being a prissy, girly-girl to a hardcore snowboarder with the help of MTV's show, "Made." Weldon was working on another episode for MTV in mid-September 2010 with an unknown air date.

"I was really the girl who wanted everyone to like me and would try to be a total people pleaser," Weldon said.

Weldon was labeled a "quitter" on the show, having started softball and soccer and not sticking with it. Even though she never wanted to quit, her family members agreed with the label. When Bob Weldon's daughter told him she wanted to be made into a snowboarder, he was surprised.

"Tara doesn't really finish things. She's a good starter with projects and then has a hard time finishing," Bob Weldon said. "We kind of figured she would quit in the middle of it."

Though the show had its trying moments, including training all day in freezing weather conditions, minimal sleep and no social life, Weldon said there was never a time she wanted to quit. She said she loved every minute of it and only cried at the end because she didn't want to stop filming.

It was her life but based on MTV's agenda and storyline, Weldon said. She spent hours in the New York office recording voice-overs for the show — all of which were scripted and portrayed her as a person who cared most about fitting in and being popular.

"It was hard learning how to snowboard and having to do that. I hit my producers like four times doing that. Just ran them over."

tara weldon

"We had to have reason to get off the mountain and stop filming that day because the people in New York didn't understand how cold it got," said Weldon when scenes were filmed of her walking out of practice.

Weldon's sister said the show did a pretty fair representation, but there were certain twists here and there to make the show more entertaining.

"The boy she was dating, they made it seem like she got left on New Year's and was all sad about it, but in real life she dumped him," Tricia Weldon, her sister, said. "They had to change it and make it seem like she was so upset, but it was fake."

The show centered around and exploited Weldon's dramatic father-daughter relationship.

"My dad and I have always had a pretty rough relationship. We have never seen eye-to-eye and it has made it really hard for us to get along," Weldon said.



Bob Weldon shared his daughter's opinion of their distant relationship.

"The show just reinforced the conflicts that we would have. She is youngest, and with three other daughters, she got away with a lot," Bob Weldon said. "She was pushing the limits and I didn't like that. It showed."

By the end of filming, both agreed their relationship had changed and strengthened.

"The show finally gave my dad and I a common ground," Weldon said. "It was kind of the ice breaker to our relationship because the show revolved around how much we didn't get along. Having to spend so much time with him and fighting was probably the best thing for us, because it forced us to deal with each other's flaws."

Weldon feels "Made" helped her mature and learn to place what she thought of herself above the thoughts of others.

"Before the show, I was pretty immature and cared a lot about what other people thought. But after reading e-mails and hearing all the negative comments people made about the show, it taught me to stop worrying about it," Weldon said. "As long as I am happy, I don't really care about what everyone else says. It forced me to be grown up."

Filming became a part of Weldon's life, and she said she enjoyed the experience.

"I miss filming so much. It was honestly the best time of my life, even though I wasn't really excited about the outcome of the show, I loved every minute of it," Weldon said. "I honestly would try out for anything like this again so that I could have the same experiences that I did. I may have made myself look like an ass, but it was an experience I will never forget." ■



Street performers liven up Moscow

Making music on the streets

Despite Moscow's small size, there is no shortage of musicians in the streets around town, whether it's the main entertainment at Farmers Market or the crowd on the corner near One World Café.

On Sept. 4, a bluegrass band called Forgotten Freight was the main entertainment at Farmers Market. Featuring a banjo, bass, dobro, guitar and fiddle, they sang old-time, toe-tapping country tunes. The group formed about five years ago, and has performed in various places around Moscow since. Lenny Johnson plays the banjo and lends a tenor voice to the vocals, J.D. Wulforst plays the dobro, Tim Kinkeade leads the vocals and plays the guitar, Stuart Osborn is on fiddle and Susan Firor plays the bass.

Several in the group wore straw hats, flannel shirts, blue jeans and cowboy boots to match the mood of the music. A half-eaten bag of shelled peanuts sat to the side of the stage, and one of the instrument cases boasted a sticker that said, "Blue Girl, Red State." They told jokes in between songs and engaged the audience, laughing at the small children who danced in the open space in front of the band.

Firor said performing for crowds out on the street is a special experience

because it allows more interaction with the audience.

"You have to focus on playing the music, but you can also do lots of people watching," Firor said, "and you see all your friends come by and wave, and it's just casual and it's fun."

Firor said she grew up playing bluegrass music, and she "can't imagine a life" without it. She said they have played at Farmers Market three or four times.

"It's not about being good or being fancy, it's about having fun."

susan firor

"In a way, (street performing is) harder, because it's harder to control the sound when the wind's blowing, and kids come and trip over cords," Firor said. "It's more likely that things are going to go wrong, but it doesn't really matter. ... It's not about being good or being fancy, it's about having fun."

Sesithaya Marimba, a community group within Moscow, frequently performs in various locations for small or large crowds, such as the University of Idaho's "Cruise the World" event held annually in the Student Union Building. They also set up on the street at various times of the year, many times in front of BookPeople downtown.

They play Zimbabwean marimba,



Left: Susan Firor, left, and Tim Kinkeade; Middle: Stuart Osborn, left, and Lenny Johnson; Right: Lenny Johnson, left, J.D. Wulfhorst, middle, and Tim Kinkeade are members of the band, Forgiven Freight, perform during the Moscow Farmers Market in Friendship Square.

which was developed in the 1960s by the indigenous Shona people. A specific genre of this marimba, called “mbira,” was used for spirit possession ceremonies and outlawed by the Rhodesian government until the ‘80s. The music is a combination of hardwood instruments played with mallets, drums and a pair of gourds called “hosho” that keep the beat of the music.

Mary Donohoe, a member of the group, said Tendekai Kuture, a University of Idaho master’s student from Zimbabwe, formed it in 2003 while he was here studying. Natalie Kreutzer, who was head of the music education department at the time, wrote a grant to bring Kuture and the instruments to Idaho.

“The thing about this music is it’s very compelling,” Donohoe said. “Sometimes you will feel like the music is in a macro two, sometimes

you will hear it in a macro three ... which is really mesmerizing. And it’s mesmerizing on purpose, because this music is used for spirit possession ceremonies.”

The group also plays modern pieces that are not as rhythmically complex, Donohoe said, and most of the pieces tell stories of people in the villages.

Retired UI professor Elinor Michel, who has been with the group since its inception as well, has a background in piano but no other musical training.

“Everything is by ear, and that was something I was not accustomed to,” Michel said.

Much of the extra income the group makes from performing at events is given to the First United Methodist

Church International Student Scholarship Fund, which is then given to UI international students for

scholarships. A portion is also sent to Kuture, who is still in Zimbabwe. When they perform on the streets, however, they don’t put a hat out for money. The streets are just meant to expose people to the culture’s music, have fun and entertain.

“I love the joy of the music and the fact that you can dance to it, you can clap to it,” Michel said.

In 2005, Donohoe became the group’s hosho player — a position she said many aren’t interested in.

Donohoe said performing on Moscow’s streets is a unique experience she enjoys.

“The street is wonderful because you never know who’s going to come by,” Donohoe said. “... You get people who have never heard this music before, and it’s just a wonder to them and they will sit and listen to it and they will just be entranced by it. ... So it’s not only a way to promote the music ... it’s just a very special joy to be able to share this music with people who’ve never heard it before.”

“I love the joy of the music and the fact that you can dance to it, you can clap to it.”

elinor michel

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