

blot

**Something old,
Something new**

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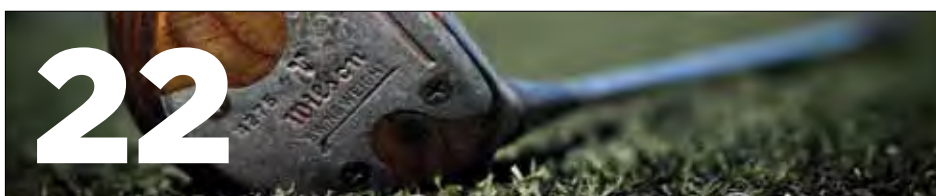
Something old, Something new

Being raised during a time when the personal computer was starting to hit it big, when cell phones were on the edge of controlling how we communicate and when video games overtook bike riding as a way of hanging out with friends — college students have lost touch with all things old.

The idea of nostalgia is often stifled in our generation, so in this issue of Blot we are taking a look at how the current cultural landscape would crumble if not for the strong foundation laid by ideas and innovations of the past.

This is a look at something old and something new. Enjoy.

— MM



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THE GOOD OLD DAYS

GUEST COLUMN BY LOIS LOVE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEX AGUIRRE



Were the good old days good? Yes and no — but mostly yes in my case. I was blessed with a father who loved me enough to keep my sister and me with him when our mother died.

The Depression days were not easy, but we made it. Grandparents who farmed were a life saver. We had a source of food that others did not have. Basically my early years were secure because of family who surrounded me with care.

The biggest changes in our world have been scientific and medical discoveries (oh yes, and television!).

The time from World War II until the Space Age opened the doors to the development of new and useful tools for mankind. My favorite thing is the ease of communication between individuals. Unfortunately, moral values have deteriorated with the plethora of television shows and movies that depict



Writer and life enthusiast Lois Love shared treasured photographs and stories of "the good ol' days" in her Moscow apartment.

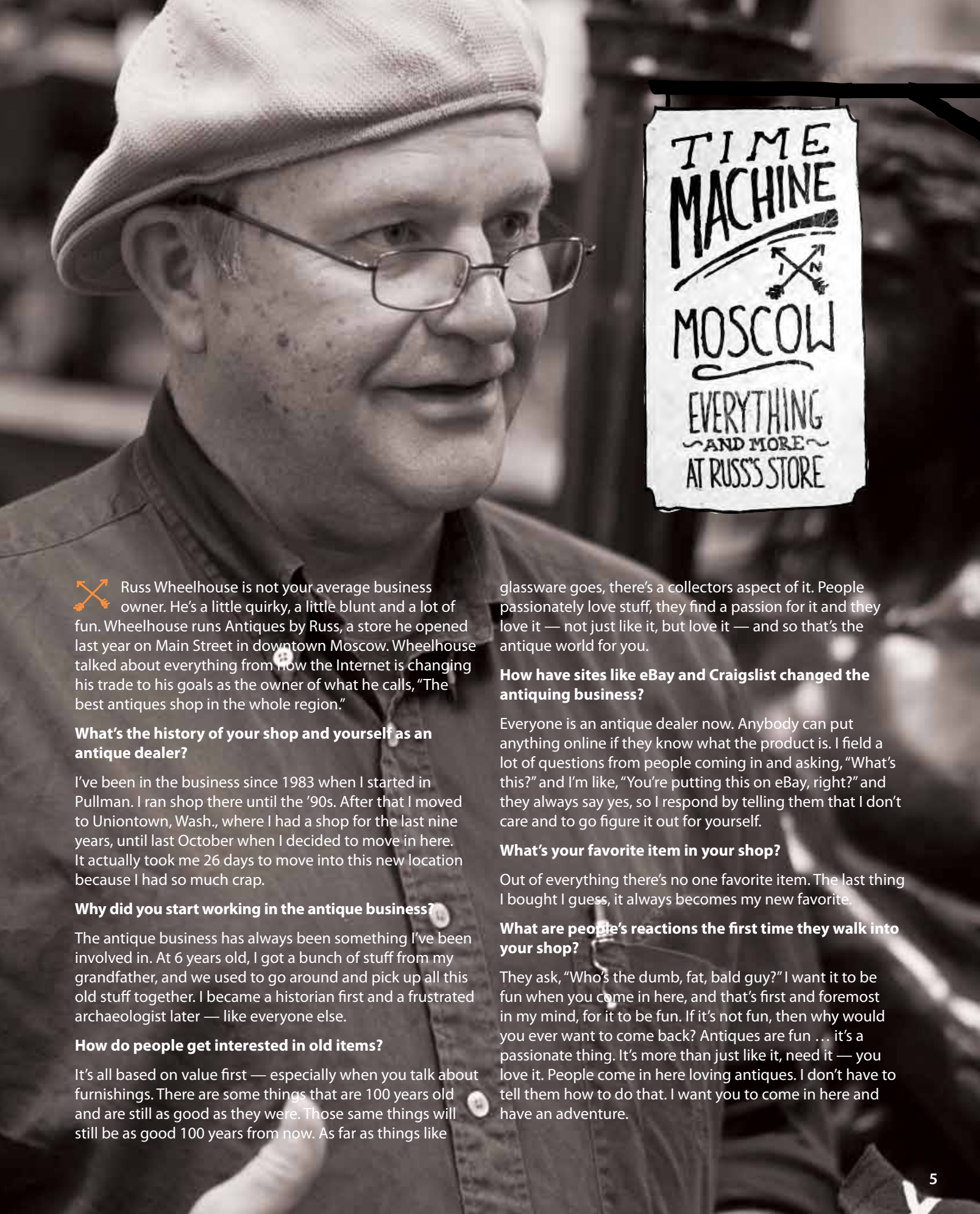
the seamier side of life. I don't have to watch these things, but I shudder at the influence on our young children.


The best decades of my life have been the 1940s to the present time. In those years I married a very nice man who loved to joke. My three daughters are the joy of my existence — and they have added sons-in-law, grandchildren

and great grandchildren. Each year is a precious gift.

Now retired and past 80, I hope to keep going so that I can look forward to more "good old days."

Sure there were bad things — lots of them. But to me the good outweighs the bad, and I still love my life!



 Russ Wheelhouse is not your average business owner. He's a little quirky, a little blunt and a lot of fun. Wheelhouse runs Antiques by Russ, a store he opened last year on Main Street in downtown Moscow. Wheelhouse talked about everything from how the Internet is changing his trade to his goals as the owner of what he calls, "The best antiques shop in the whole region."

What's the history of your shop and yourself as an antique dealer?

I've been in the business since 1983 when I started in Pullman. I ran shop there until the '90s. After that I moved to Uniontown, Wash., where I had a shop for the last nine years, until last October when I decided to move in here. It actually took me 26 days to move into this new location because I had so much crap.

Why did you start working in the antique business?

The antique business has always been something I've been involved in. At 6 years old, I got a bunch of stuff from my grandfather, and we used to go around and pick up all this old stuff together. I became a historian first and a frustrated archaeologist later — like everyone else.

How do people get interested in old items?

It's all based on value first — especially when you talk about furnishings. There are some things that are 100 years old and are still as good as they were. Those same things will still be as good 100 years from now. As far as things like

glassware goes, there's a collectors aspect of it. People passionately love stuff, they find a passion for it and they love it — not just like it, but love it — and so that's the antique world for you.

How have sites like eBay and Craigslist changed the antiquing business?

Everyone is an antique dealer now. Anybody can put anything online if they know what the product is. I field a lot of questions from people coming in and asking, "What's this?" and I'm like, "You're putting this on eBay, right?" and they always say yes, so I respond by telling them that I don't care and to go figure it out for yourself.

What's your favorite item in your shop?

Out of everything there's no one favorite item. The last thing I bought I guess, it always becomes my new favorite.

What are people's reactions the first time they walk into your shop?

They ask, "Who's the dumb, fat, bald guy?" I want it to be fun when you come in here, and that's first and foremost in my mind, for it to be fun. If it's not fun, then why would you ever want to come back? Antiques are fun ... it's a passionate thing. It's more than just like it, need it — you love it. People come in here loving antiques. I don't have to tell them how to do that. I want you to come in here and have an adventure.

TRUE TRADITIONS NEVER DIE

STORY BY MICHELLE GREGG
PHOTO BY STEVEN DEVINE



The "I" bench is outside the Admin and is traditionally reserved for seniors.

**"I GREW UP
AROUND UI
TRADITIONS
AND THE RICH
HISTORY THAT
SURROUNDS
THEM."**

— MARIE DUNCAN

Whether it's the year 1911 or 2011, University of Idaho traditions connect past, present and future students to what it truly means to be a Vandal.

"Tradition has always been a huge part of this university," said Marie Duncan, a UI graduate and current faculty member. "It's a place where students can get a real college experience and show their pride as a Vandal."

Duncan, a third-generation UI graduate, said attending Idaho was a welcome expectation.

"I grew up around UI traditions and the rich history that surrounds them — Vandal Friday, homecoming, moms and dads weekend — tradition is huge as a Vandal and I'm glad I was a part of it," Duncan said.

Because of societal standards more than falling school spirit, older traditions like the 'green beanies' that all freshmen males were required to wear in 1911 have faded into nonexistence.

During the 1920s, the I Bench in front of the Administration Building was strictly reserved for seniors, and underclassmen who sat on it were pushed into a fountain which was replaced by a flagpole and garden around 1960.

One tradition students often find themselves walking on is the path to the Administration Building known as "Hello Walk." It received its name from Alfred Upham, president of UI in 1920, who encouraged students and staff to greet everyone they passed with a friendly hello.

Katherine Aiken, dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences, said she still practices greeting students on Hello Walk, which leads up to her office.

"Students give me curious looks sometimes," Aiken said. "But I still enjoy practicing traditions that are closely tied to the university."

Aiken, who graduated from UI in '73, became the first woman history professor in 1984.

"From when I studied at UI as a student until now, UI has had continuous traditions that connect a lot of people. It is what makes us such a special institution," Aiken said.

Homecoming has been a significant and constant tradition since 1909, and it continues to unite the community, faculty, alumni and students.

According to the "University of Idaho Traditions" book, earlier homecoming football games were played against UI's rival, Washington State University, but were

changed to feature various opponents.

The annual Serpentine, led by The Sound of Idaho marching band, winds its way to the Friday night pep rally and bonfire, another staple homecoming tradition. The Serpentine was originally a "Pajama Parade," where all female students trekked across campus clad only in pajamas.

Aiken, who participated in the walk, said it went on until the early 1970s.

"That was a custom I am glad UI got rid of," she said. "We didn't like walking around campus wearing only pajamas, it was embarrassing."

UI's Joe Vandal mascot and the "Vandal" nickname are vital to UI culture. In 1917, a writer for The Argonaut labeled fans as "vandals," and in 1921 the university officially adopted the nickname.


Joe Vandal was introduced in the late 1950s after an enthusiastic yell-team leader created a homemade mask and ran up and down game sidelines rallying fans. Joe's appearance has changed over the years and is largely integrated into every area of the university.

Duncan said being a Vandal gives people a sense of "pride as well as belonging," and shouldn't fade — that's a tradition that should never stop.

Story by Dylan Brown,
Photos by Philip Vukelich

Wheat land REV OLU TION

*FARMING ON THE PALOUSE HAS A
LONG HISTORY, BUT ONE FAMILY IS
ADVOCATING A NEW APPROACH*

 The corn atop a hill near the Aeschliman family farm is wind-beaten by late September, but remains a miracle in wheat country for the past 14 years – a monument to the evolution of farming in one of the most distinct agricultural areas in the world.

John Aeschliman, the third generation to farm the now 4,000 acres outside Colfax, said visitors still don't believe it.

"You can't raise corn, it takes 32 inches of water to raise corn," Aeschliman said visiting experts tell him. "We are going to do it anyway."

Corn on the Palouse was a pipe dream when Aeschliman's family arrived from Switzerland in 1883, but things have changed since Grandfather Aeschliman dragged his horse-drawn plow over 320 acres of the Palouse hills.

Farming in the Palouse is almost strictly dry-land — the topography won't allow irrigation — so farmers have chosen crops that survive on 15 to 20 inches of rainfall a year.

Traditionally, farmers planted, harvested and plowed every year, but the Palouse loess — a dark, rich soil ideal for agriculture — was washing away. Aeschliman points to a hillside above his house.

"When I was a kid, every one of those dips would have a big ditch in it from erosion coming down," he said.

Catching the bus in springtime, he trudged through sometimes knee-deep mud. The 60 percent grade of plowed Palouse hillsides were washing into flats, streams and rivers. It simply wasn't going to last.

"If you are going to lose tons and tons of soil every year, how long is it going to be before there is no soil?" Aeschliman asked.

The true gift of the Palouse is the soil, Aeschliman said, blown into its signature drifts eons ago. Atop a hill, he stands on nearly 300 feet of soil, an astounding amount to farmers worldwide who use

only inches. The only comparable soil is found in China.

"You can't make this stuff, it takes thousands of years," Aeschliman said. "It's precious stuff the rest of the world doesn't have."

Since Aeschliman abandoned conventional soil tilling more than 30 years ago, the loess has held and thrived. The worms and microorganisms that recycle nutrients and aerate the soil have returned to create a soil that retains nearly all the year's rainfall.

When Aeschliman stabs a soil probe to six feet below the surface, the soil core is saturated all the way down, three months after the last rain. Soaked soil means more water-intensive crops and the potential for corn on the Palouse.

"The only way we do it is because we have more water. The only reason we have more water is because it doesn't leave the ranch anymore, not one drop," Aeschliman said.

Aeschliman is one of the original practitioners of "no-till" farming, a system of directly seeding this year's crop into last year's stubble. The process began in the 1970s, but has already revolutionized how local farmers get food to plates.

Aeschliman uses a "drill," which is a giant contraption of tubes, blades and tanks, to plant. Pulled behind the tractor, the drill digs, plants the seed and applies fertilizer in one

pass, minimizing soil disturbance.

No two drills are alike, and Aeschliman and his son Cory have modified theirs to fit the rugged Palouse terrain.

"We are all about sustainability, we are all about doing it with less chemicals, less fertilizer, maximum efficiency," Aeschliman said.

Aeschliman's 12-wheel mammoth levels itself on the hillside, and the wheels steer independently to keep it and the drill from sliding.

While some machinery may be old, the technology on modern farm equipment is state of the art. A closed-circuit television allows the operator to see every inch of the drill. A GPS shows the operator exactly where to go, calculates how much fertilizer is going into the ground and produces data farmers can use to make their acres more efficient. In fields farmed since the first pioneers, a wireless broadband tower powered by a solar panel connects the wheat fields to the world.

These advents have made no-till the wave of the future, and the system is constantly being improved.

"We are still evolving, we are still rebuilding, we are still changing things," Aeschliman said.

Farmers are making the switch, but Aeschliman



"We have a responsibility to take care of (this land) as a steward to pass it on to the next generation."

— John Aeschliman, third generation farmer

doesn't blame older holdouts, who have farmed the same way all their lives. After the initial investment, however, no-till just makes economic sense.

"We have learned to farm without the tillage. Everything's going for you because we quit screwing with it," he said.

Education, Aeschliman said, is the key. He has taken it upon himself to give countless talks until the entire world has heard the message.

"What we are trying to do is get people educated, so they can see the value," he said.

Visitors have come from across the U.S. and 24 countries worldwide, including Australia, France and Iraq. A delegation from Afghanistan is paying the Aeschliman farm a visit in early October.

Agriculture has made the Palouse a breadbasket for wheat and innovation, and America's predominately family-owned farms a global leader in food production.

"Our livelihoods are important to produce food for the world and we literally do," Aeschliman said.

Thanks to a wealth of farmable land, food prices in the United States are the world's lowest, enabling people to spend the rest of their disposable income on boats, TVs, and second homes, Aeschliman said. While Europeans spend upwards of 40 percent of their income on food, Americans pay less than 10, he said.

Despite their vital role, farmers are gradually becoming "extinct" in the U.S.

"If you throw them all together, every farmer, if you threw them into one group, you would be less than 1 percent of the

population of the U.S.," Aeschliman said.

The grind of long days and hard work just doesn't appeal to most people, Aeschliman said, and the number of farmers has plummeted since he was a boy as America urbanized.

"We have generations so far removed from the farm they haven't got a clue what goes on out there," he said.

And that confusion leads to a lack of understanding about how things really work.

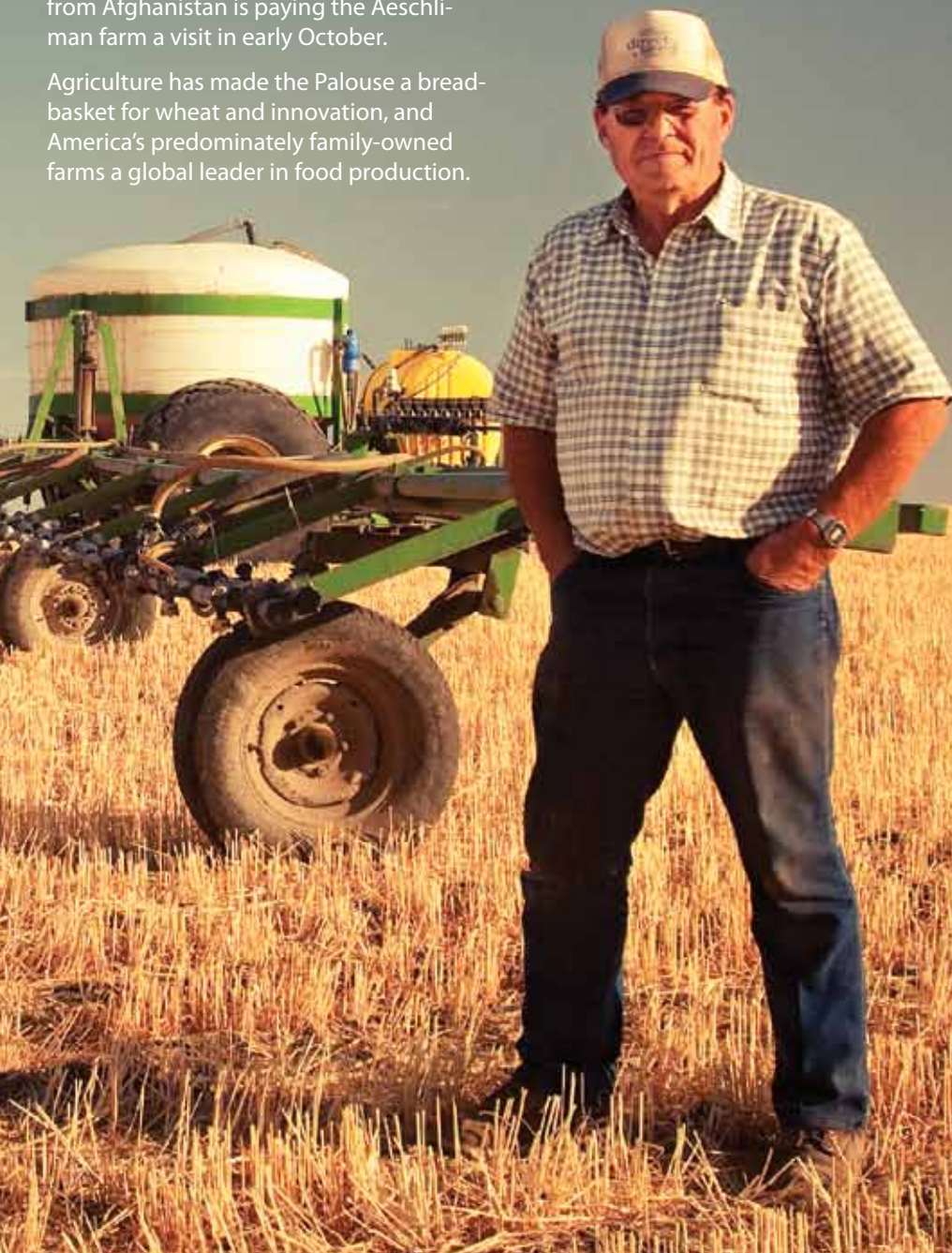
"(People say) those farmers are ruining the environment — they're just big 'HAZMATs' waiting to happen," Aeschliman said. "It isn't true."

With his livelihood dependent on the environment, Aeschliman said it just doesn't make sense to destroy it. And he will prove that to anybody.

"Come to my farm, I will show you," he said. "We have a responsibility to take care of (this land) as a steward to pass it on to the next generation."

Aeschliman has thrown himself at the role of no-till prophet, trying to keep the Palouse and world producing sustainable food and pushing the evolution of farming.

"I could make a believer out of you," he said. "I specialize in that."



FATHERHOOD

THE NEXT STEP

Story by Anja Sundali, Photo by Alex Aguirre

Logan Morris has lived all across the U.S., traveled the world and been a dog musher on an Alaskan glacier. He served in the U.S. Army and is double majoring in operations management and managerial accounting at the University of Idaho, while holding down a full-time job as a video conference technician for Video Communication Services. But his greatest adventure, and challenge, is yet to come. Morris, for the first time, is staring fatherhood right in the eye.

Morris and his wife, Nicole, expected their first child, a boy to be named Dalton Logan Morris, on Sept. 29, something Morris says he's wanted all his life.

"I wanted a family when I was 18 — when I was 16, 14. I just wasn't smart enough or mature enough to do so, so I took my time," he said.

Now 28, Morris said the ride to fatherhood has had ups and downs.

"It's a rollercoaster. You start with, 'I'm really, really excited,' to 'I'm really, really nervous,' and now I'm at the stage where I don't believe it's really happening," Morris said. "Sometimes I feel like it has hit me, but I really don't think it has yet. I don't think I'm

prepared yet. I don't think anyone can, there's just too many variables."

Morris said when he and Nicole, a 2010 UI graduate and ninth grade earth science teacher at Moscow Junior High School, found out they were pregnant, they utilized all their resources to learn everything they could.

"We read all the right books and all the wrong ones, too," he said.

Morris's physician said one of the most popular baby books around, "What to Expect When You're Expecting," is not always a good read because it contains every worst-case scenario and can worry new parents. The Morris family faced a scare early on in Nicole's pregnancy when she started having contractions in her second trimester.

"We were scared at first, but it's not entirely uncommon for this to happen. Because we went on bed rest, it's not that dangerous," Morris said.

However, as Nicole neared her due date, she began to move around more. She returned back to teaching and even enjoyed the Latah Country Fair, although she couldn't go on any rides.

New mother Nicole Morris and husband Logan Morris share a brief quiet moment outside the TLC. The two anxiously awaited the birth of their first child in late September.



Morris, who will take care of the baby once Nicole goes back to work after maternity leave, said he's happy to have a boy.

"Every guy wants a boy — I think it's bred into us so we have a way of passing along our name," he said.

Morris views fatherhood as a manly duty, and intends to embody that charge in any way he can.

"I wanted a masculine diaper bag, so I found a website called 'Diaper Dude.' It's got all the same components as a regular diaper bag but it looks like a regular messenger bag," he said.

He also searched his iPhone for baby apps and parenting apps, but said he was surprised by the selection he found.

"I wanted an app on fatherhood — I found one. Everything else is for women," Morris said. "There's very little information out there on being a father."

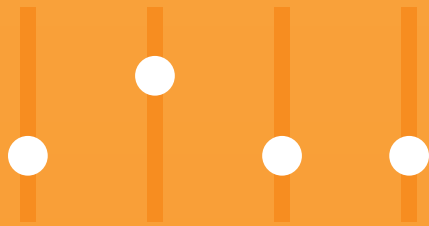
Morris said he didn't have a very prominent father figure in his life, but has plenty of other people he can turn to for help.

"I helped my sister raise her daughter, so I got a lot of babysitting experience," Morris said. "Every one of my siblings already has a family. I'm the baby and the last to start a family of my own."

Morris and his wife are both members of the LDS Church, and he said there are plenty of new fathers in the LDS community who help each other through this new experience. In the end though, Morris said there is no way of knowing what to expect.

"This is going to change my life," he said.

Dalton Logan Morris was born on Sept. 24, 2011.



A LITTLE TECHNO, A LITTLE TWANG

Story by Molly Spencer | Photos by Steven Devine

● For Mike Siemens, today's music is limitless.

Since he was 15 or 16 years old, he's been playing guitar, bass, drums and synthesizer — "kids' toys," he called them.

"I had a really good upbringing musically. We had 'Talking Heads' playing around the house, you know, all the time," Siemens said.

Siemens, a digital media major in his last semester at the University of Idaho, said to this day his dad introduces him to a lot of really good bands.

"The music scene growing up was kind of shit ... not a lot going on in (Coeur d'Alene)," he said.

Inspiration is an interesting thing Siemens said, and music has become more of a craft than inspired art.

"It's not something you can really work off of because it just takes rubbing information off of other information to build something," he said. "I don't think there's such a thing as inspiration."

Siemens said he is interested in the state of music today because it has been expanded greatly by the Internet and has become easier than ever to create.

"Any dork-dog with a laptop can sit down and write a full composition with as many instruments as they want — any kind of timbre or tone ... and they can make sounds that nobody's ever heard before," Siemens said. "We're not restricted to acoustic sounds anymore. I think that electronic music is kind of taking over."

Siemens has participated in bands, "RythmmemorY" with his friend Ian Corrigan, and "This Kid's not supposed to be in the family portrait" with his sister Rachel and their friends.

Siemens plans to stay in Moscow for a year after graduating because it's affordable, and he will have more time to work from his at-home studio.

Siemens has made seven guitars and said he sells them every once in a while, but he doesn't plan to go into it for trade — at least not right now.

"If you don't have anything better to do it could take you just a couple months to build a really nice guitar," he said.

Like Siemens, Ted Kelchner was also trained in a variety of instruments and spends his free time creating his own. For 25 years, the banjo has been Kelchner's instrument of choice.

Kelchner started taking piano lessons in second grade, and his musical education expanded from there.

"I played the saxophone in the school band for a while and I got onto guitar when I was probably 13 or 14 years old, and then got on the banjo," he said.

Kelchner, a 42-year-old musician originally from Kutztown, Penn., said banjos are fairly simple to make, requiring only a tin can, a two-by-four and some fishing wire.

"I probably spend two to three months of free time. I think I've made about five or six banjos," he said.

He's sold them before, but not on a regular basis.

He called the banjo a folk instrument and said it's part of our culture. Kelchner said he feels it really embodies a lot of the American story, because the banjo was brought to America and first used by slaves in the South on plantations.

"It was distributed around the country during the Civil War and it became sort of a parlor instrument, you know, sort of the metropolitan trend around the turn of the 19th century," Kelchner said.

He believes it became popular again when radio was introduced.

"Bluegrass music became a thing where isolated mountain people heard jazz on the radio and the banjo entered back into a popular culture," he said. "Before the electric guitar was invented, the banjo was used in jazz because it would carry over an orchestra."

Kelchner is part of a heavy metal and psy-



Members of Catchy Tuna (left to right) banjo player Ted Kelchner, fiddler Noi Yocom, guitarist Dean Pittneger and Cleve Yocom on the Anglo Concertina spend a September evening jamming out together. The group performs occasionally at Moscow restaurants.

chedelic radio show at KUOI with his wife. The show is called "Confinement Loaf."

"I have always been interested in that kind of music," he said. "I like that the banjo is an acoustic instrument that has a certain kind of twangy and sort of cutting tone like an electric guitar."

As a musician, he said he can go between both worlds with the banjo. Kelchner said the banjo is a comfortable place for him, even though it's a unique instrument.

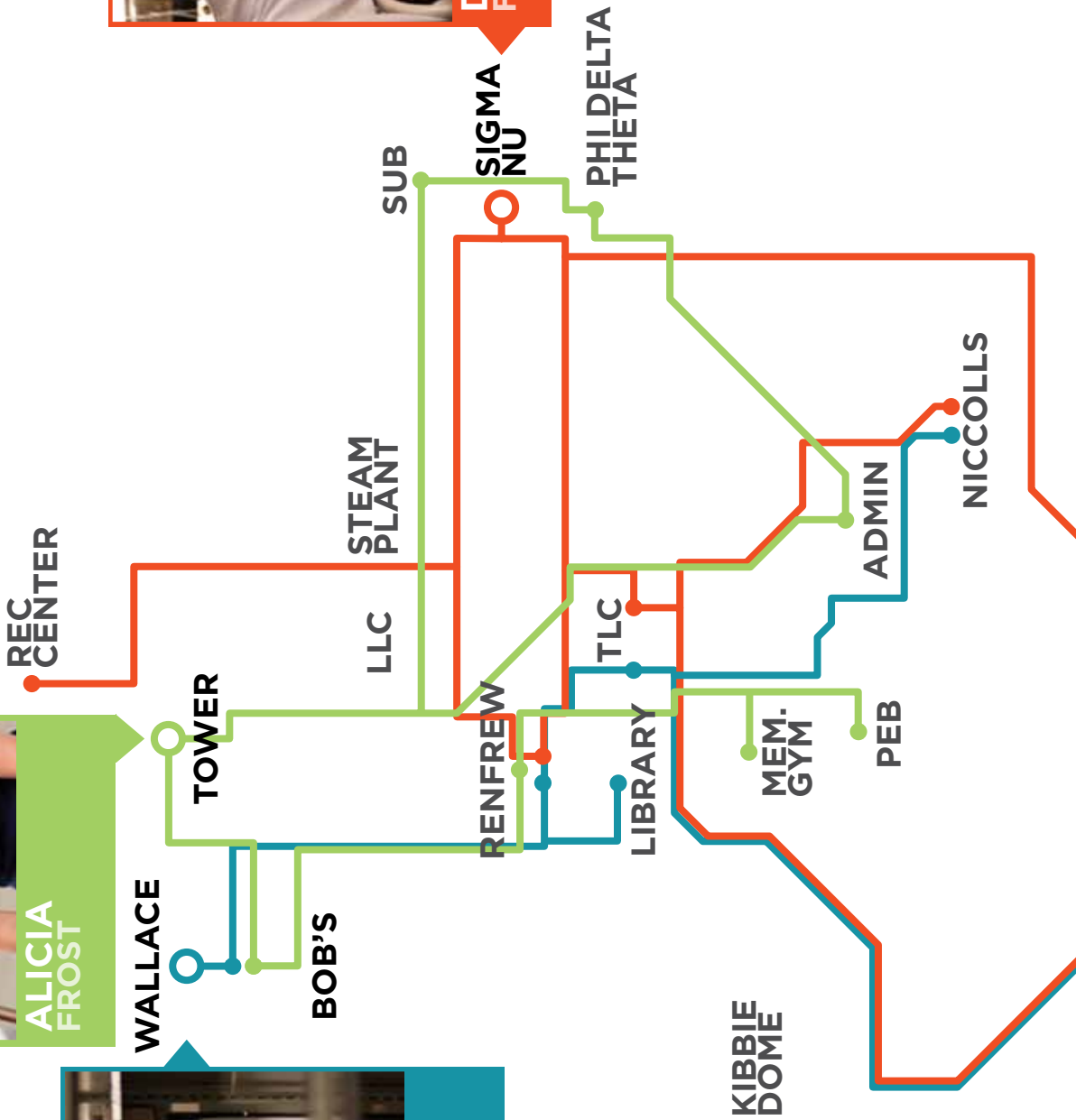
"I am currently in the process of building a solid-body electric banjo," he said. "Physically it will work like an electric guitar. The body of it looks like a banjo and it's made from ... some walnut trees people gave me wood from. It's kind of cool to know where your materials come from."

He feels collecting his own material is in the "vernacular" of the folk tradition: To gather his own materials and do everything himself.

"An acoustic instrument has a lot of limitations," Kelchner said. "It's difficult to amplify the instrument enough that you can play live with other amplified instruments. Still, I am going to have to do a lot of work on the electronics to make it sound like a banjo and not just like an electric guitar."



Senior Mike Siemens mixes custom music at Mikey's Gyros during a free concert he helped organize. Siemens creates a unique sound with mixers, samplers, key boards and a vocal modulator.



ARBORETUM

A DAY IN THE LIFE

STORY BY VICKY HART & PHOTOS BY KATHERINE BROWN

At 8:30 a.m. every Monday morning, a herd of University of Idaho students file into Tom “Doc” Bitterwolf’s honors chemistry 111 class.

Among them are three 18-year-old first-year Vandals: Alicia Frost of Alamo, Calif., Daniel France of Cheney, Wash., and Autumn Denyou of Hinsdale, N.H., who have more in common than a new zip code. Their experiences in the first several weeks of college include all the hallmarks of a new stage in life.

On Sept. 12, Daniel France,

an environmental engineering major, woke up on Sigma Nu’s sleeping porch ready to fulfill his daily pledge duty of cleaning the house. France said it only takes about an hour when all 20 of his fellow freshman chip in. Lately, though, he said that hasn’t been the case. And that Monday, instead of diving into cleaning at 7 a.m., the pledges were reminded of their collective responsibility as a class.

“We’re learning how to deal with people who don’t want to help out or think someone else will do it,” France said. “But as long as

we do everything as a class, eventually we’ll get it all taken care of.”

Across campus in Wallace Complex, biology and agricultural engineering student Autumn Denyou had been awake since 5 a.m.

“I really don’t like people when I first wake up, so it’s better to give everybody a couple of hours’ clearance,” she said.

She was one of the first breakfast-goers in Bob’s Place and she left 15 minutes later to study for what she thought would be a stoichiometry quiz.

Shortly after Denyou left Bob’s Place, Frost, who claims three majors — international studies, environmental science and Spanish — entered with her twin sister Erica and another friend, both of whom are members of UI’s color guard team.

By 8 a.m., France, Denyou and Frost had printed notes, studied relevant topics and readied themselves for Doc’s high expectations. Following a quiz on nomenclature, which Denyou said “is not stoichiometry,” they listened to a lecture on neutrons and binding energy.

Denyou said the class is pretty awesome, but France recognized the challenge posed by an honors science course.

“On the first day he asked how many had a 4.0 in high school, and a quarter of the kids raised their hands,” France said.

All three students are members of UI’s Honors Program and are used to excelling academically, but the transition to a college workload took time.

“Once you get a few weeks of it, you see that it is hard and you have to put some

time into it," France said. "Then you can get in the groove and do the time, and you can finally pull the grades."

Frost said she feels less compelled to outdo her classmates than in high school because the field is larger and more varied.

"I could look at anybody here and know that you guys are good at what you do. I don't want to compete with anybody and I don't have to because we're all very unique," she said. "Everybody has something they're really good at. You get to enjoy everybody else's accomplishments and they get to enjoy yours when you share them."

At 10:20 a.m., Denyou headed for the Teaching and Learning Center to do homework and France went back to Sigma Nu. After her aerobics class, Frost returned to her dorm room in McCoy Hall, the freshmen Honors living group on the top two floors of Theophilus Tower, to organize her schedule for the day.

"I write everything I do during the day in my planner, as well as everything due that day and everything that's assigned that day — color-coordinated and whatnot," Frost said.

By 11:30, Denyou was in literature of Western civilization, soaking up the verbal wonders of Tom Drake. She said she loves listening to him because he says the weirdest stuff and is creative with the class website.

France called his dad and retold the many thrilling stories of a house-wide raft trip the previous weekend, then rallied his pledge

class to haul 2,000 pounds of rafts back to the Student Recreation Center.

The annual trip is a favorite of alumni, France said, and the experience helped him bond more closely with his fellow Sigma Nus.

"I've gained 20 brothers, just in my class," France said. "I've been living in a house of three guys, so living in a house of 40 is really different."

At 2:30, France accidentally arrived an hour early for his ISEM class, "War in Our World," so he called his brother and relived the adventures of his weekend once again. Denyou arrived at 3 and texted her mom while waiting for class to begin.

"My mom's been texting me all the time," Denyou said. "I think the 2,300 miles thing really gets to her sometimes."

Denyou was ready to get far away from the southwestern New Hampshire town she said was small enough to fit in the university.

After an abbreviated class session, Denyou and France strolled toward the arboretum with a group of peers. Denyou left the group and returned to Wallace, but France said he lost track of time giving a classmate a tour of the arboretum.

"She'd never been there before ... and she's distracting," he said.

In the meantime, Frost went to Bob's again for dinner. She said eating every meal in a public place is new to her because she usually brought a sack lunch to school.

Denyou also ate her third Sodexo meal of the day and said her Idaho dining experience has been starchy to say the least.

"I've never eaten this many potatoes in my life," she said. "I have potatoes like four times a week here."

France's wandering in the arboretum was cut short when he realized he was past due at his house for dinner hashers duties. A dinner hasher, France said, gets money taken off his bill by helping prepare the meal. On Monday nights, when Sigma Nu has formal dinner, this is an especially important chore.

"Monday night's a sit-down dinner so it's all very, very formal," he said. "We're not even allowed to wear flip flops."

Denyou spent her post-dinner hours studying with friends in an environment she called semi-productive.

"I've done (homework parties) two or three times now," Denyou said. "People sometimes focus, but when they stop focusing it's a good break for everyone."

Frost deferred homework in favor of a beginning ballroom class she attended with her roommate and a few friends from McCoy. When it concluded at 8:30 p.m., they skipped and sang their way back to the Tower. She said random adventures and unflagging acceptance have highlighted her time at UI.

"If you're extremely bizarre, weird, cool, whatever, everybody likes you anyway," she said.

Upon returning to her room,

Frost Skyped her boyfriend, who is still a senior at their high school in California.

Denyou's homework party concluded at 9 p.m. with a fourth trip to Bob's for Late Night followed by perusal of a library book. Denyou holds a work study position at the library and said her learning curve for the Library of Congress filing system has been a sharp one.

France escaped the late summer heat with a post-study shower, and at 9:30 he watched "Band of Brothers" with his fraternity brothers, visiting Alpha Gamma Delta members and lots of popcorn in Sigma Nu's chapter room.

By 10:15, Frost finished video chatting and went to the 11th floor to

hang out with fellow McCoyans. She said they had fun listening to music, watching videos and making all sorts of random jokes.

"It's very cool to sit and do homework with people and enjoy their company," she said. "I never hung out in high school ... There's a lot of semi-casual, but not organized on-campus stuff."

France sings with an unofficial a cappella group and goes swing dancing weekly. Frost plays club water polo and said she has frequent movie nights in her hall. Denyou attended several Honors Program-sponsored events and plans to join the Gay-Straight Alliance.

As the evening wound down, each fell asleep in his or her respective

beds. Denyou at 11:30 p.m., Frost at midnight and France at 1:30 a.m., after finishing homework he neglected at the study table.

What do a fraternity pledge, a self-declared oddball and an athletic socialite have in common? One chemistry class, the UI Honors Program and the enthusiasm that only comes with being a newborn Vandal.

"There's definitely a variety of people here," France said. "The only pattern I've seen in them is that they're all very nice and they have respect for each other."

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THE BEST BARBER IN TOWN

STORY BY ELISA EIGUREN, PHOTOGRAPHY BY AMRAH CANUL

CUTTING FOR COMFORT, NOT STYLE

A non-descript building with a dusty blue awning adjoined to the Colfax Chamber of Commerce houses Terry's Barber Shop. The tinted windows are too dark to see through, but the trademark pole with faded red, white and blue stripes rotating outside reveals its purpose.

"We all have a role to fill in life," owner Terry Vietz said. "I found mine."

Even though Vietz has worked as a barber for almost 30 years, cutting hair and shaving faces wasn't always his profession. Vietz said he was employed as a logger, but the high physical demands and low pay led him to change jobs.

"I had an uncle who was a barber in Spokane," he said. "I figured I was going to change occupations or starve."

After a one-year apprenticeship under a master barber at the Cougar Barber Shop in Pullman, Vietz purchased the barbershop down the street and opened for business in 1983. The previous owner had run the shop for about 30 years, and Vietz said he had more customers than he could handle. He recruited his friend Mark Scalise to help in the endeavor, and together they operated The Barber Shop in Pullman for 14 years. While Scalise went on to work at Bill's Barber Shop in Moscow, Vietz said a mid-life crisis led him south.

"I went to Mexico and cut hair on the Mexican border for awhile," he said. "Found out I didn't like the summers down there too much."



Terry Vietz closes up shop by 3 p.m. which he said leaves him time to run errands around town while his farming clientele are at work.

Vietz returned to Washington, where he opened his current shop in Colfax in 1994 and has stayed ever since. After almost 30 years, Vietz said he still enjoys the freedom of owning his own business and being able to come and go as he pleases.

"I get up at 4:30 in the morning and get everything done that I'm supposed to do around the farm here," he said. "When I go to work I already know it's going to be fun ... I like people, I like going to work."

The personal friendships between Vietz and his customers are part of what makes working as a barber so enjoyable, Vietz said.

"Most of my guys, they've had more wives than they've had barbers," he said. "If I have a flat tire, someone is going to stop and fix it for me. When they pass away it hurts me. They call me in the middle of the night — I'm there. Same with them and me."

Each morning, Vietz opens the barbershop at 7 a.m. to accommodate the farmers who come in to get a haircut after their morning coffee. Townspeople generally come later in the afternoon and he usually closes shop around 2 or 3 p.m., Vietz said. If you want to make an appointment, don't bother trying to call, because there is no phone.

"MOST OF MY GUYS, THEY'VE HAD MORE WIVES THAN THEY'VE HAD BARBERS."

— TERRY VIETZ

"Word of mouth," Vietz said. "I've got 30 years behind me. Anyone who wants to find me knows where to find me."

The outside of the building may not be remarkable, but the inside of Terry's embodies the rural lifestyle he loves and reflects the decorative taste of his clientele.

A mounted chukar, wood burnings and black and white photographs decorate the walls, and were all gifts from various customers, Vietz said. But the pocket gopher skin is a personal trophy proudly displayed by Vietz as a prize for



trapping the most gophers among his friends. Hints of the past are visible in an old-fashioned red bubble gum machine and a radio on the shelf.

Foam peeks out through the cracks in the armrests of a black barber chair, the material worn away by countless visits. Located in the center of the black and white checkered floor, surrounded by four mirrors, is the chair where Vietz cuts and trims the hair of each customer: Those who've died, those who are graduating from high school and those who are going to war.

The barbershop is a spot where farmers sit and visit while they wait to get their hair cut. With his tanned skin, dark blue Wranglers and black button-up shirt, it might be hard to tell the difference between Vietz and his customers. The small interior doesn't have much seating, and Vietz said in the morning people spill out the doorway into the waiting room of

the Chamber of Commerce.

"(The farmers) sit around and lie to each other," he said. "It's a fun place when it gets going. It's the best."

Although his shop has sentimental value for himself and his customers, Vietz said it's only a matter of time until barbers are completely replaced by modern hairstylists.

The main difference between his haircuts and those of hairstylists is that while he cuts mostly for comfort, a hairstylist cuts for effect and the way the haircut will look, Vietz said. The second difference, Vietz said, is about \$15.

"I charge 9 bucks for a haircut," he said. "If I wanted to get rich, I would be in Seattle or Washington, D.C., or something."

However, in the same way some people prefer chocolate to vanilla, Vietz said some people will always prefer barbers to hairstylists. He also said being a barber is a profession that's recession proof.

Terry Vietz gives Dan Carter, a 15-year customer, a trim Sept. 16 in his Colfax barber shop. Vietz said his shop, adorned with gifts and trinkets, holds many memories.



“You’re never going to go hungry,” Vietz said. “They might pay you in chickens, but you will never go hungry. And you’re providing a service to the community that is definitely needed.”

Vietz said his youngest son, Samuel, plans to take over the barbershop in the future. The thought of being the last barber in Colfax was an unhappy one, and for the sake of his customers and his profession, Vietz said he hopes his son can keep the shop open for another 30 years.

As the only barbershop in town, his services are appreciated, and Vietz said his customers share their gratitude for his work every day.

“I always tell them I’m the best barber in town ... True story,” he said.

CAMPUS RECREATION



Equipment INNOVATION

MAINTAINS TRADITION, IMPROVES SPORT

STORY BY THEO LAWSON, PHOTOGRAPHY BY ZACH EDWARDS



Pig bladder to cowhide

Potentially the nation's most famous prolate spheroid, the "pig skin" tossed today was part of a medieval sport now known as football. The football itself has undergone a series of dramatic makeovers since its days as an inflated pig's bladder.

The transition to a less spherical, more pass-friendly ball didn't occur until the late 1800s, when players decided inflating the ball into a sphere wasn't worth the effort. The advent of the forward pass required a slimming down of the ball by 1.5 inches, and professional and collegiate regulations concerning the ball's dimensions were formed. Ball technology has improved the game, but certain aspects have been preserved.

A leather surface was introduced in the early 1900s, and while the quality of the cowhide is often altered, both NFL and NCAA regulations require a leather skin.

"I think the quality is better, you don't see oval balls getting out of shape like you used to. I think that was the big thing that all of the sudden you would notice that a football would have a bubble on it or a bulge on it and of course you wouldn't use it anymore, you would throw it in the kicking bag for kickoff practice and things like that," said University of Idaho football coach and offensive coordinator Steve Axman.

Axman, a 63-year old veteran of the game, has witnessed modifications to the size and shape of the football, which has benefitted his players, especially quarterbacks.

"The bigger the hand, the more the quarterback can hold the ball towards the middle, and as a result have more of his fingers on the laces, which can be a

great assistance to a quarterback," he said. "It helps grip and it helps to get more rotation, more spin on the ball when they release."

As schools began to sign contracts with equipment companies, players were no longer given the freedom to select the ball that best suited them. Quarterbacks who were accustomed to fatter balls have been forced to adapt to narrower ones, and vice versa.

Consistency and quality are two reasons the Super Bowl turns to the Wilson Factory in Ada, Ohio, year after year for official game balls. The NFL has utilized a Wilson football known as "The Duke" since 1941.

Club fitting and customization

When James IV of Scotland requested a set of golf clubs in 1502, he wasn't given a typical set of irons. James' set consisted of longnoses, grassed drivers, spoons, niblicks and a putting cleek. However, this set doesn't differ much from its modern counterpart. The longnoses became drivers, grassed drivers became fairway clubs, spoons — short-range clubs, niblicks — wedges and the putting cleek — a typical putter.

Club heads were carved from sturdy woods like beech, apple and pear, while shafts were hickory, which was readily available in the 19th century United States.

Iron club heads were adopted later, but players often opted for traditional wooden ones because iron damaged the soft, expensive "Featherie" golf balls.

PGA-certified golf pro Doug Tyler said golf balls often influenced the performance of wooden clubs.

"The balls had a lot more spin than they do now, and so you had to be much more precise with the woods and if you were just a little bit off, it would have a much bigger influence on the ball going left or right," Tyler said.

Innovation during the early 1900s produced the sand wedge and steel shafts. Players gained accuracy and durability from recently legalized steel shafts, but a more precise and controlled swing was required to master them.

Tyler said he believes fundamentals will always take precedent over expensive clubs.

"The bottom line is, regardless of what materials are used and all this kind of stuff, you still have to deliver the club from the right path, and the club face has to be at the right angle at impact to get the ball flight you're looking for," he said. "There's no substitute for a good golf swing."



Metal frames revolutionize the game

Feeble, powerless and simple wooden racquets ruled tennis until the mid-1900s, when Wilson introduced a metal-framed racquet. Early racquets followed a pattern similar to the earliest golf clubs. Wooden frames were often maple, sycamore and hickory, which provided both stiffness and power.

For almost 100 years, players used traditional wooden racquets and were often skeptical about metal frame technology.

Jimmy Connors, one of the world's top players during the 1970s, tested and eventually initiated the craze over metal frames. Connors promoted the Wilson T2000, the first successful metal frame of the century, and proved the future of the sport lay in metal frames when he used one to capture the 1974 and 1981 Wimbledon titles.

University of Idaho director of tennis Jeff Beaman said although recent racquet technology has produced the lightest and most powerful racquets to date, it isn't uncommon to see players stray from the newest models.

"Many top players do not use some of the new technology, as the racquets can be too light and too powerful," he said.

According to Beaman, new-age racquets offer lightweight, high-speed power, and longer-lasting strings that generate more power and spin. In addition, serving and the return game have reached "levels never seen before."

Unlike football, hundreds of racquet manufacturers produce frames and string for players worldwide. The world's top 10 men's players use eight racquet models from four different brands.

"Players can find a racquet that meets their exact specifications in terms of stiffness and weight. In the '80s, even the top technology was heavy and not that powerful. Now a player can customize their racquet to their game," Beaman said.





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