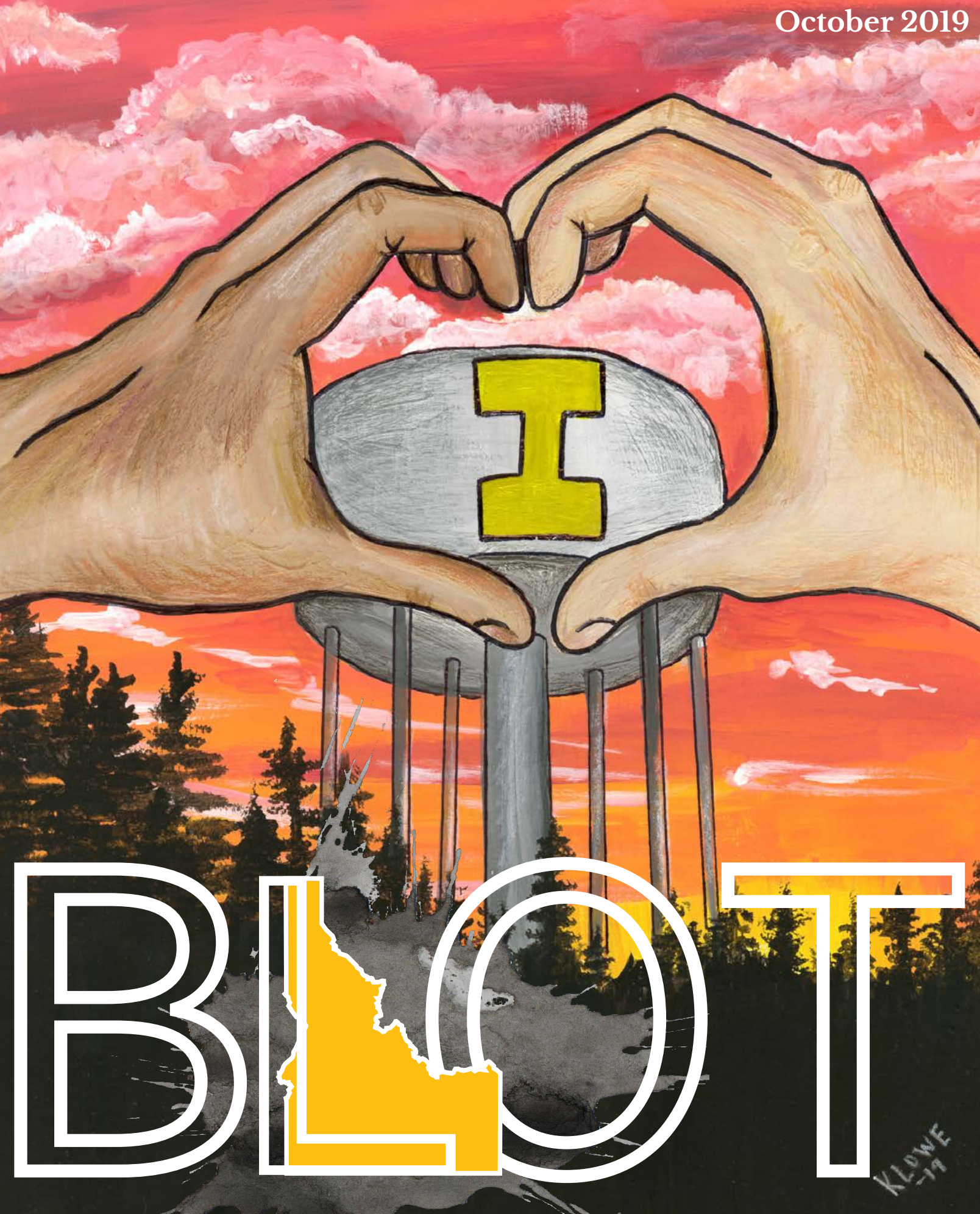


October 2019



# BLOTT

KLOWE  
-17



# Editor's Note

Readers,

This year you will see many changes to Blot. From the logo, the quiz on page 19 and even the redesign.

What you don't see behind the magazine, is the talented new Blot staff I am lucky enough to work with.

It might have been because of the staff turnover, or the fact that I was ready for Blot to change — all I knew was it was time to focus on the University of Idaho. What a better time to do that than Homecoming week?

You'll see many stories in this issue that focus on what it means to be a Vandal. Check out our photo story on page 12 to see how our photographers decided to tackle this topic.

Make sure to read the rest of the magazine focusing on various topics including a staff member's coming out story on page 4, how students' fashion styles have changed since coming to college on page 6, how to handle a school shooting on page 8, the 100th anniversary of the UI Marching Band on page 10, President Scott Green's homecoming experience on page 17, two features of various classes on campus starting on page 18, the Humans of Moscow feature on page 22 and even a creative writing piece on page 23. They all encompass one thing.

Being a Vandal.

Lindsay Trombly  
Editor-in-Chief

# The Team

Lindsay Trombly	Editor-in-Chief
Allison Spain	Associate Editor
Hagen Hunsaker	Creative Director
Brianna Finnegan	Photo Editor
Elizabeth Marshall	Copy Editor
Cody Allred	Marketing Manager

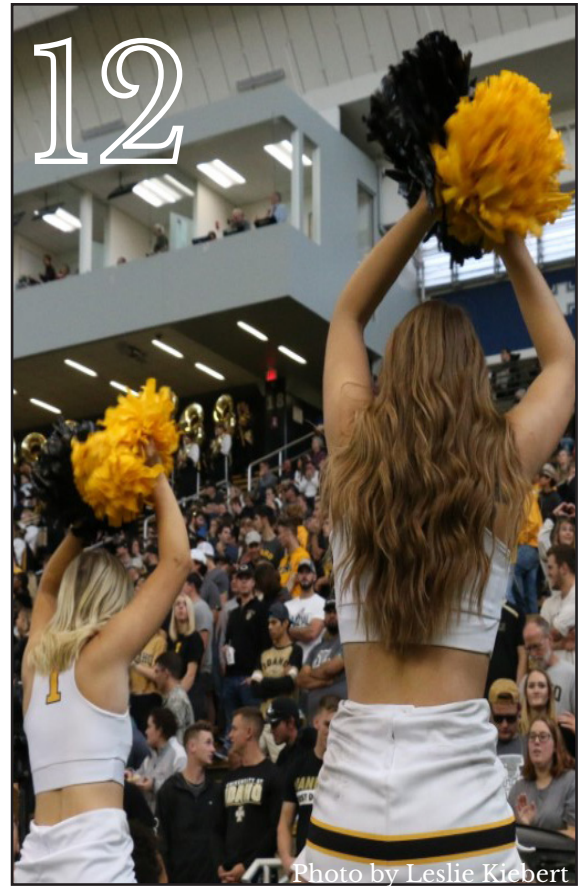
Trent Anderson  
Saydee Brass  
Stevie Carr  
Alexis Cortez  
Ellen Dennis  
Austin Elmer  
Nicole Etchemendy  
Hatim Eujayl  
Emma French  
Riley Haun  
Leslie Kiebert  
Autumn Myers  
Kali Nelson  
Bailey O'Bryant  
Mary Phipps  
Jasmine Rokovitz  
Dylan Siegel  
Alexis Van Horn  
Rachel Wiedenmann

Thanks to all who entered our cover contest. Look at the back cover to see other submissions.  
Blot is a registered trademark of the University of Idaho Student Media program. All rights reserved.  
Blot Magazine is published twice a semester and printed in Spokane, Washington.

Front Cover | Kristen Lowe  
Group Photo | Brianna Finnegan



# In This Issue





# More Than A Word...

The scene in “A Cinderella Story,” when Chad Michael Murray’s character runs up the bleacher steps to kiss Hillary Duff resonates with me in a different way. That scene was one of the first times I realized I wanted to kiss the guy — not the girl. Growing up in a small conservative town, I pushed down those thoughts and feelings for years. I never met an **openly** gay man until college. After avoiding my feelings for years, I met someone that was out and **proud** — it was the first time I didn’t feel crazy. I always thought something was wrong with me for liking guys over girls. I was lucky. The first person I told I was **gay** was extremely supportive and understanding. She said the best thing someone could have said to me, “Cool. I love you. Do you want to go to McDonalds?” I still text her every March 26 and remind her that she helped me start a new chapter of my life. For two years, I lived a somewhat double life. Kind of like Kim Possible — but not nearly as cool. College was a new world for me where I was out, proud and finding myself. But, at the same time, when I went home I was terrified of my family’s reaction — if I ever even decided to tell them. I left for my final semester of junior year of college from home and put my coming out letter on the kitchen counter for my parents. I didn’t hear from them — for three months. My brothers called me three days after they read the letter. They said everything I could have hoped for, “I don’t

care, you are my brother. I **love** you.” My parents and I still haven’t talked about it, but they still tell me that I am loved. I hope one day if I meet someone and I bring them home to my crazy family, they at least embarrass me so I know everything is “normal.” Coming from a small town and attending colleges in two not so “gay friendly” populated states, means that I have been a lot, I mean *a lot*, of people’s first openly gay **friend**.

Through these friendships, I get many questions. Some funny, some inappropriate, others that I don’t know the answer to. Whether it is someone asking if I am sure I am gay because I don’t “look gay,” or someone wondering which one of us pays for a date, which is a ridiculous question — if I ever go on a date, I will get back to you.

I am just one version of a gay man. There are a thousand stereotypes that apply to gay men. Some of them fit, whereas others are far from the truth. Just remember, not everyone is comfortable in their skin or themselves as a whole. A stereotype can be empowering to me and hurtful to the gay guy next to me in class.

If you ever get to experience someone coming out to you, it can be just as special to you as the person that is telling you their **truth**.

I am out and proud! If you want to talk to me about my experience — feel free. But, always remember that everyone is different and they are more than just their sexual orientation.

STORY BY | *Hagen Hunsaker*  
PHOTOS BY | *Brianna Finnegan*  
DESIGN BY | *Lindsay Trombly*

***Dear Younger Self,  
The world of high school does end. I promise.  
Every place is different. Going away to college is going to work out.  
The main thing I want to tell you is that you, are just you. Trust me — I know that  
hiding who you think you are is the safest thing to do. Staying in the closet until  
you are ready is going to save you. I promise.  
Waiting until you are ready? Well honestly, you will never be completely ready.  
Wait until there are people in your life that you know will love you for you.  
You are gay. I promise you. Do whatever you need to do to survive. High school  
sucks. College is so much better.  
When you choose to come out, do it for you. Don't do it for anyone else.  
One day it will be a part of you like it is now. It won't define you.  
You are gay! Who cares?***

***A Somewhat Wiser,  
—Hagen Hunsaker***





## Mary's Top Place's to Shop!

1. Hope Center
2. Palouse Treasures
3. Good Will
4. Storm Cellar
5. Flirt
6. Tri-State Outfitters



# Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes, Changes in Fashion

STORY BY | *Mary Phipps*  
PHOTOS BY | *Saydee Brass*  
DESIGN BY | *Hagen Hunsaker*

Fashion can be anything—from floral prints, to shoes, to an everyday grungy sweatshirt. For University of Idaho freshman Chelsea Bence, it is a simple staple she has gotten attached to.

“When I see something I like, I want to wear it,” Bence said. “I’m going through a Snooki phase right now with my cheetah print.”

Always influenced by trends, Bence said she has felt less judgment from

her peers in college than in high school. Today, her style is dictated simply by what she likes and how she feels. Like many UI students, Bence has found a new sense of identity through her clos-

et, making her imagination endless.

Imagination inspired Bence and even senior Ramiro Vargas.

The move from southern to northern Idaho was the opportunity he said he needed to experiment more with his clothing choices.

“I’m definitely more daring than I could have been, or used to be, back in high school — or just at home,” Vargas said. “I’m in an environment where I’m able to express myself and just have more freedom to do whatever I want in that sense.”

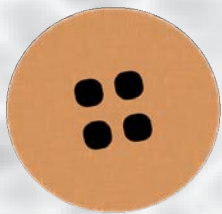
Influenced by friends and his own fashion style, Vargas said he has enjoyed taking advan-

tage of the freedom to dress as he pleases, something he didn’t have while adhering to a strict dress code at his high school.

“Obviously, at school I couldn’t wear jorts (jean shorts). But now I can, so I try to keep that consistent,” Vargas said. “These jorts have seen everything.”

While he has always tried to remain an authentic person, Vargas said he has elevated his style with a sense of wanting to stand out in his own way.

“(In high school), I did what I could within the confines of what I was given,” Vargas said. “The environment changes when you go to school with 300 or 400 people to 8,000 people, and so you definitely have to find a way to stand out.”







For UI senior Jacob Stagge, the lift of the social pressure from high school impacted his style by wearing what he feels truly reflects his personality, rather than appeasing his peers.

Turning away from his original skateboarding style, Stagge now wears tie-dye and fraternity shirts regularly.

“In high school, I was kind of anti-social,” said Stagge. “I finally figured myself out my freshman year (of college). That’s when I started choosing the things that I liked to wear.”

For some students, a move from their hometown to living on their own is enough to spark growth and change. For others, such as UI senior Trinity Carpenter, it takes several moves to learn more personal identity through fashion. She grew up in Moscow, but said she developed her unique style during

an extended stay away from the Palouse. While attending school in Colorado, Carpenter said her fashion sense evolved working in a coffee shop with coworkers that experimented with their own fashion. After returning to Moscow for college, she was encouraged by a professor to add an apparel, textiles and design major to her accounting degree.

After adding her second major, she said she realized that she could wear whatever she wanted without worrying about what others thought. With a mostly thrifted closet, Carpenter said she feels most comfortable wearing whatever she wants based on her mood.

“It’s really hard, at least for me, to describe my style. I think it’s such a huge part of me, and at the same time, it’s very fleeting,” Carpenter said. “I don’t think there’s really any boundaries on what someone’s style can be.”

# STAY ALERT, STAY AWARE, STAY ALIVE

STORY BY | *Alexis Van Horn*  
DESIGN BY | *Emma French*

## What UI would do in a school shooter situation

We have grown up with school shootings. We were too young to be shaken by Columbine, but as children we saw Virginia Tech ravaged by the firepower of a single sick soul. We watched children barely younger than ourselves massacred at Sandy Hook. As we prepared to leave high school, 17 students in Parkland, Florida, were gunned down before they ever had a chance to graduate.

Mass shootings in schools are a fact of life now. Yet we've remained untouched here in Idaho, an oasis in a sea of bloody statistics and candlelight vigils.

What would we do if the carnage came to Moscow?

"When I see (school shootings) on the news, it kind of scares me, to be honest," University of Idaho student Chase Janett said. "It could happen anywhere."

While he has never been in an active shooter situation, gun ownership is commonplace in his hometown of Royal City, Washington.

"I'm from a small town where everyone owns a firearm and everyone's really smart and really safe with them," Janett said. "Firearm safety is a huge deal. We're taught from a young age to be safe with firearms."

As a mostly rural state, Idaho has had a widespread range of gun safety education. There are certain procedures UI and the Moscow Police Department are prepared to follow if the unthinkable happened.

"Police first address the threat to the campus," Campus Security Manager Bruce Lovell said.

"Security would be involved because we monitor radio traffic. I would ensure that my boss, the director of public safety, was aware of what was going on and would set up the emergency management component. Then, the dean of students and president's office would be notified directly, along with the general

counsel and University Communications and Marketing."

Lovell believes Moscow and UI are as prepared as any institution can be for an active shooter. The Moscow Police Department is trained to respond to active shooter situations through simulations with the local SWAT team.

But, adding Homeland Security's Stop the Bleed program to active shooter trainings can keep the city even safer, Lovell said. He is working with the Moscow Fire Department to implement the program, which could help bystanders save the lives of those around them by ensuring survival until first responders can arrive. Lovell hopes the in-person program will become active in the coming year, but anyone can access the training online in the meantime.

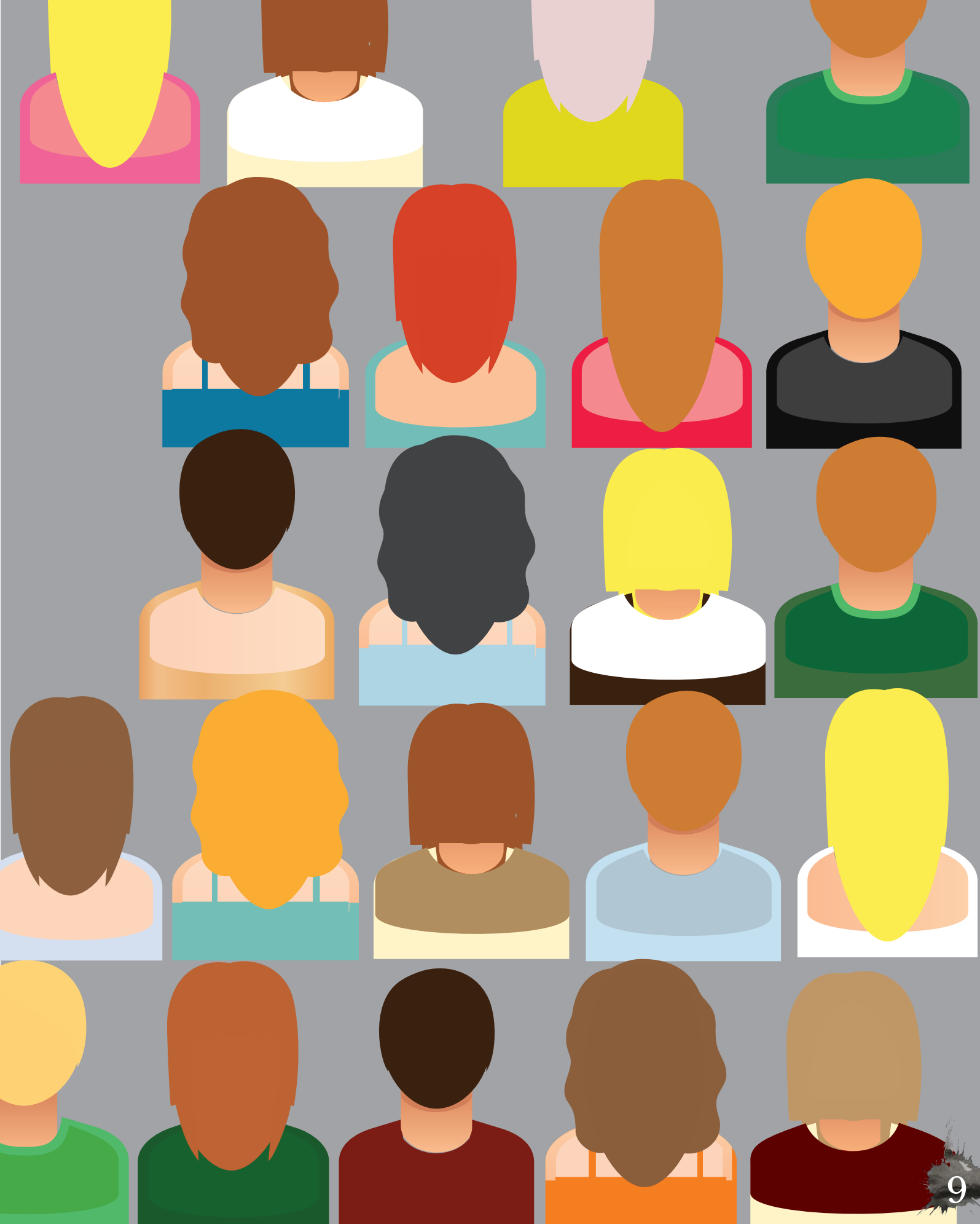
Besides doing a training, Captain Tyson Berrett of the Moscow Police Department said the most important thing people can do to prevent a shooting is to recognize the warning signs. Berrett said while one report may not be cause for concern, several reports about one individual may raise enough alarm to stop gun violence — or other crimes — before they happen.

UI aims to encourage reporting through VandalCARE, a program that allows people to file a report with concerns — anything from emotional difficulties and bizarre behavior to dangerous actions — through the university's website.

Berrett and Lovell agreed that even a simple step people can take is to be aware of their surroundings. It can help people get to safety in the event of an emergency.

"Trust your gut," Lovell said. "If you've got a bad feeling, then maybe go park somewhere you're going to feel more safe or call somebody."







1927



1943



1973



1978

STORY BY | *Kali Nelson*  
PHOTOS BY | *Saydee Brass*  
DESIGN BY | *Hatim Eujayl*

# 100 YEARS OF

The University of Idaho Marching Band knows the Kibbie Dome turf better than most — watching fans and students alike sing along as they’ve orchestrated the thundering acoustics to the Vandal Fight Song for the last 100 years and many more to come.

## THE HISTORY

The UI Marching Band can trace its long history back to the earliest days of the university, beginning as a military band in the late 1800s. But it took many decades and band directors to take it from a military drum corps into the Sound of Idaho.

“It kind of began to evolve more into what you know now, and it was really in the ‘60s that the band exploded,” Band Director Spencer Martin said.

With Homecoming right around the corner, Martin said they plan to have all the band directors from the past 50 years return to help celebrate the centennial of Idaho’s longest continuously running college band.

“We have a very special relationship with the students of the University of Idaho. In 1977 all three state universities — Idaho



1977

State, Boise State and University of Idaho — cut their marching programs,” Martin said.

But it did not end the legacy of UI’s marching band. The Associated Students of the University of Idaho joined together, voting to allocate a portion of student activity fees for the band’s use. While the other Idaho bands went dormant — the Vandals played on.

“We have never forgotten that in 40 years. And that’s the reason why we do all our shows — except for Homecoming — towards the student side — because it’s the students’ band,” Martin said.

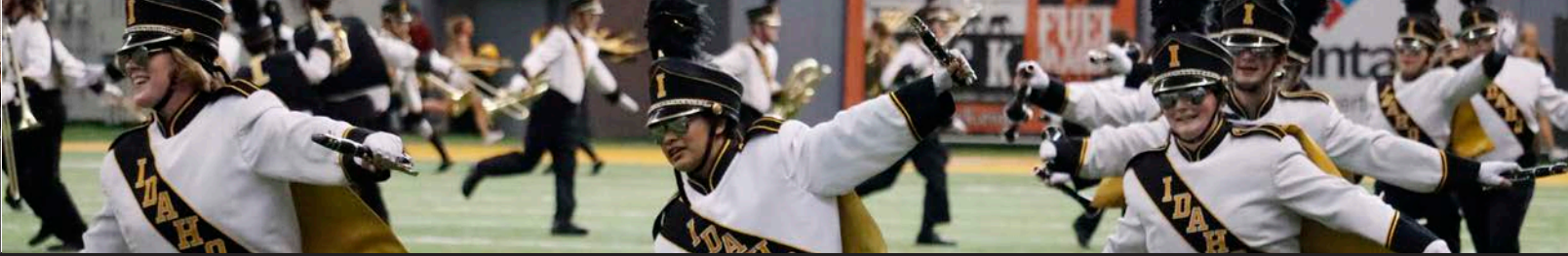
## FACES BEHIND THE INSTRUMENTS

Senior Lucas Jackson plays the trombone in UI’s Marching Band. His passion for joining the group at UI stemmed from high school.

“I watched them perform my junior year of high school and could immediately tell they were a fun band,” Jackson said. “They did a prop show with a bunch of chairs and all these extra dances. I could tell they were having fun and I wanted to be part of that.”

As he learned more about them, he kept coming back. “The leaders here, within all





# 'GO VANDALS'

Past and present Vandals reflect on their UI band career

Courtesy Photos from Shannon Kelly



2019

the instrumental sections, Spencer Martin, and all of the staff really make this a great environment,” Jackson said. Other students feel the same way as Jackson, coming from high school band, they were ready to take that next step in their music career. “I did marching band in high school and I thought this would be a great way to make new friends and get an experience a little different from high school,” sophomore Maddie Jeans said. “It’s always so much fun coming and performing with everyone. The section leaders really know how to push us to the next level.”

Previous experience playing an instrument is not a requirement for joining the band, Martin said. For sophomore Cole Vanhorn, this rings especially true. He had never played an instrument before taking on the tuba this semester. “My friends in the tuba section said it was really fun and I thought I would try it out,” Vanhorn said. “It’s difficult at times — definitely difficult. And it was overwhelming at first. The first day of band camp was a lot, because I don’t know how to read music. I’m just learning the basics and it’s actually really fun.”

## THE ALUMNI

Every Homecoming since 2004, UI professor Barbara Kirchmeier has brought together the Vandal Alumni Marching Band (VAMB). The former students only appear during Homecoming week, marching separately from the band and accompanying them in the stands at the game.

Kirchmeier said VAMB was created to give marching band alumni the chance to relive the fellowship and excitement from their college experience.

“As someone who had been in the band since I was a sophomore, I didn’t want to think 2004 was the last chance I would have to be part of the Sound of Idaho,” Kirchmeier said.

Kirchmeier, working with past-director Torrey Lawrence, got the band back together. VAMB continues to grow with over 70 members. “The alumni band is full of wonderful folks who really love being a part of the U of I community,” Kirchmeier said.

Read the full story at [blotmagazine.com](http://blotmagazine.com)









# What Does It Mean To Be A *Vandal?*

This week we forgo traditions such as the Homecoming football game, the annual serpentine, the bonfire and other countless Homecoming rituals that have been on our campus for decades. This week we celebrate being Brave and Bold. We celebrate being Vandals. Even though this week only occurs once a year, we need to remember that we are Vandals every day, even outside of attending these school spirit events. We are Vandals not just when attending class, or while on campus. We are also Vandals wherever we go out in our communities. Whether that is in the residence halls, Greek organizations or among a close group of friends. Be-

ing a Vandal is bonding over the small things in life such as going to eat at your favorite Moscow spot or adventuring in the arboretum. It is attending countless sports games, getting chills listening to the marching band and finally getting your photo with Joe Vandal. It is the simple things, such as getting that daily dose of caffeine for your morning classes at Einstein's. In this issue, I presented the question of what it means to be a Vandal to our Blot photographers. The truth is — there is no concrete answer. But, that is the beauty of it — our differences, which make this question so difficult to answer, are what unite us and make us Vandals.

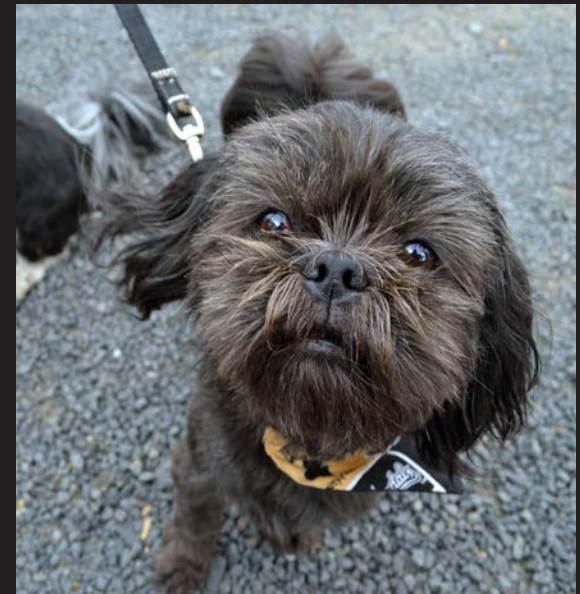














# COMING HOME

President Scott Green believes Homecoming offers fun traditions for everyone

STORY BY | *Allison Spain*  
PHOTOS BY | *Leslie Kiebert*  
DESIGN BY | *Rachel Wiedenmann*

For President Scott Green and many others, University of Idaho Homecoming traditions are more than just hooting and hollering at the football game or parade — but rather a sense of coming home. Green grew up on the UI campus with a grandfather who was the athletic director and a department head. He realized at a very young age, the university was a special place — there was no doubt he would go to school here.

One of his favorite experiences as a student was always the Homecoming Parade. Specifically, helping create the parade float for the 75th anniversary of his fraternity, Kappa Sigma.


“The theme was something like ‘Sailing for 75 years,’ and we were terrible at it (making the float), but it was a lot of fun,” Green said.

That anniversary doubled as a reunion for all the fraternity alumni, and now reunions are even better because he has kept in touch with many of his fraternity brothers, Green said. He has visited campus many times over the years, and upon his arrival back this summer he still feels it’s the people who make UI special.

“I hope Homecoming is the same experience as when I went here,” Green said. “The only difference will be getting to spend more time with students — which is great. I am going to participate







in Homecoming the same way as any other alumnus.” He said students should participate in Homecoming events simply because traditions are fun to be involved with now and are something to appreciate even more as an alumnus.

Compared to other universities, UI Homecoming is special in Green’s eyes because the campus has so much energy from being inundated with Vandals of all ages. It’s always a lot of fun to see people he hasn’t seen in a while when everyone comes back, he said.

“Homecoming is a great time to connect. As a student, I always enjoyed hearing the stories from alums regarding their time on campus,” Green said. “Homecoming brings together alumni who had amazing experiences here and blends them with our current and future Vandals in a shared experience.”

Newer traditions, like serpentine, are something Green is looking forward to because he has not experienced them in the past. He said he is excited for his wife, daughter, brother and niece to visit for Homecoming this year. “It’s a place I care deeply about and I’ve stayed involved in even after I left,” Green said. “One of my professional mentors tipped the scale for me applying as president. He said, ‘Scott, when you look back on your career, do you want to say you made lawyers more money or would you rather like to say you helped educate 100,000 students in your home state?’ The answer was obvious.” Mary Kay McFadden, the vice president of university advancement, said Green used his

network to explore his current job as president, making his UI experience more multidimensional. She knows Green from planning Homecomings as the associate alumni director back when he was a student.

Homecoming is really about coming home, McFadden said. She feels the university experience is a formative time of life unlike any other, when students are growing into adulthood — making consequential decisions and living on their own for the first time.

“President Green wouldn’t have come back if he didn’t have an attachment to this place,” McFadden said. “I know one of his greatest pleasures of coming back is connecting with students.”

She said students at UI are lucky Homecoming does not just revolve around football, but holds the ability to bring so many different groups together under the same umbrella for one big school spirit event.

“It is the college experience and alumni experience coming together, and that is where the magic happens,” she said.

Courtesy Photos  
from Gem of the  
Mountains 1983



# What Kind Of Vandal Are You?

1. What are you doing on a Friday night?
- a) Going to a Vandal sports game
  - b) Binge watching Netflix
  - c) Working, studying or sleeping
  - d) Hanging out with friends

2. Where do you study?
- a) At home
  - b) At a coffee shop or bar
  - c) The library
  - d) Who studies?

3. Favorite thing to do on campus?
- a) Sing the Vandal fight song
  - b) Leave campus
  - c) Spend time in the ISUB
  - d) Go to Chick-fil-a

**Quiz Disclaimer: You can be whatever Vandal you want to be.**

4. What is your favorite thing to wear on a school day?
- a) My Vandal sweatshirt – DUH!
  - b) Whatever is clean
  - c) Whatever works for the weather forecast
  - d) My WSU gear

**Mostly A's**  
You are the  
Die Hard Vandal

**Mostly B's**  
Who is  
Joe Vandal?

**Mostly C's**  
The Everyday  
Vandal

**Mostly D's**  
Do You Even  
Go Here?



# UI STUDENTS DIVE INTO SOMETHING DEEPER THAN WATER THROUGH SCUBA CERTIFICATION COURSE

Kiera Hauck has always felt safer underwater.

Growing up, her family found a pool, lake, river or ocean wherever they were. And wherever she was — Hauck felt more at ease with waves crashing over her head than anywhere else.

“Water really became a second home for me,” Hauck, a secondary education major at the University of Idaho said.

“Whenever I would jump in, all I wanted was to stay submerged and weightless forever.”

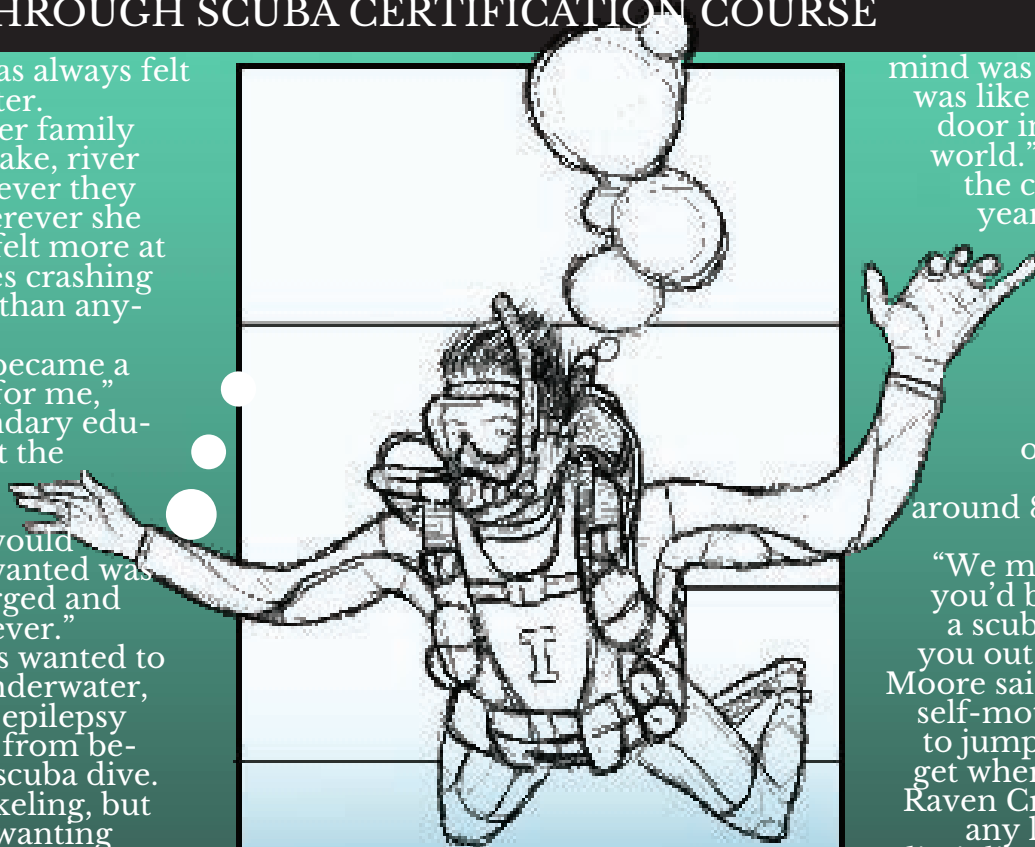
She had always wanted to dive deeper underwater, but childhood epilepsy prevented her from being cleared to scuba dive. She tried snorkeling, but found herself wanting more.

On a Thursday night under the fluorescent-lit and chlorine-scented university swim center, she hefted 45 pounds of steel and oxygen behind her, jumped in and became indefinitely weightless — at home in the water.

For students in UI’s scuba diving course, scuba is more than a quick check off a bucket list — they come away with not merely the ability to breathe underwater, but with newfound power and confidence, according to Barry Moore, the course’s instructor.

Moore has been teaching people to scuba for 30 years. But he still remembers the first time he went below the surface, and the realization he could stay below.

“I had this epiphany of ‘God, I don’t have to surface,’” Moore said. “My



mind was just churning — it was like walking through a door into this whole new world.” Moore has taught the course at UI for ten years, and before that,

taught it at

Washington State University

for close to 20.

Despite being hundreds of miles from the nearest ocean, he estimates

he is certified

around 8,000 scuba divers

on the Palouse.

“We might be inland, but you’d be surprised where a scuba certification gets you out in the real world,”

Moore said. “It shows you’re self-motivated and willing to jump through hoops to get where you want to be.”

Raven Crossley didn’t have any lofty goals for self-discipline or hoops to jump

through when she signed up for the course two years ago. Mostly, it was because

she didn’t realize Physics 112 wasn’t offered in the fall semester. “I needed those extra credits to graduate, and

I thought it might be a fun thing to take my mind off the harder classes,” Crossley

said. “I always liked swimming, but I guess I didn’t really know what to expect.”

Now in her second year as a veterinary student at WSU,

Crossley returns every week as a teaching assistant for Moore’s class. At the end of her certification, she completed an open-water dive

in the Hood Canal and has wanted more ever since.

“Being out in the real underwater world was such an eye-opener,” Crossley said.

“I felt so powerful being able to just float there weightless, just because I decided to.”

“I had this epiphany of ‘God, I don’t have to surface,’” Moore said. “My

# DIVING DEEPER

STORY BY | *Riley Haun*

PHOTOS BY | *Cody Allred*

DESIGN BY | *Trent Anderson*

Read the full story at [blotmagazine.com](http://blotmagazine.com)



# UI STUDENTS EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF ARCHERY

STORY BY *Brianna Finnegan*  
PHOTOS BY *Leslie Kiebert*  
DESIGN BY *Trent Anderson*

Eureka Joshi notches her arrow, fingers gripping the bow string. She draws the string back, as the feathers of the arrow brush her cheek. Her eyes focus on the target in front of her as she catches her breath, sending it flying to hit the target with a loud thud. Through the University of Idaho's archery course, students like Joshi, who have no previous experience with the art of archery, have been given the opportunity to explore a new hobby. "It helps me think better and cope with the everyday stress of graduate life," Joshi said. "It's good to be able to participate in a sport and also enjoy it at the same time without any pressure." Each student in the class has a different experience with archery. While some students, like Joshi, have no previous exposure to the recreational activity, others have been doing it for years. Justin Doyle, an avid bow-hunter for most of his life, uses the class as a means to experiment his hobby — from learning different types of bows, to just getting to know other students with different experiences. "It's a fun course," Doyle said. "It's a great opportunity to practice with different types of bows and to learn more about the history of shooting bows." Instructor Josie Jensen separates the bows by specific type, recurve or compound, and by the

amount of force needed to tug on the string. The variety of equipment benefits both experienced archers like Doyle and beginners such as Joshi. The various targets sit 20 yards across its competitor. With all the different elements involved in archery, Jensen said the class is a great way to relieve stress. "To get an A in the class you literally just show up and participate and have a good time," Jensen said. "I have heard students say it's a great break from exams and a break from studying for hours." Even though archery is not a new course at UI, this is Jensen's first semester teaching at this university. Jensen was introduced to archery through 4-H as a child. Later, she was certified through the National Archery in Schools Program while teaching at South Dakota State University. Through teaching the class, Jensen aims to share her love of archery with her students. She hopes to demonstrate ways students can lead an active lifestyle outside of traditional environments. "I hope that they try something new," Jensen said. "Some of them are avid archers, but most of them are beginners and they took this course because it is something different. I just want to help instill that curiosity."



## AS THE ARROW FLIES

# Humans of Moscow

STORY BY  
PHOTOS BY  
DESIGN BY  
VIDEO BY

*Nicole Etchemendy*  
*Nicole Etchemendy*  
*Alexis Cortez*  
*Bailey O'Bryant*

Alondra Biberos graduated from the University of Idaho in May 2019. She is 23 and her degree is in Art and Design with an emphasis in Sculpture and Ceramics. She is originally from Twin Falls, Idaho.

**Q:** When did you realize art was going to be your main outlet?

**A:** “I want to say, I think I just knew my whole life. Not on purpose — it was something that just sort of happened. I feel like every artist starts out as that kid in class who can just draw really well, or is described as really artistic by their teachers and their friends, and they are like, ‘Oh that is so cool, can you draw me that?’ I think it just started from a really young age where it’s like ‘Oh, well if I am good at this thing, and I like this thing then maybe I should keep doing it.’ Ever since I was little, I wanted to be an artist, and I wanted to go to college for art. Specifically, I wanted to get my master’s degree in art.”



**Q:** What would you say your art has done for you personally?

**A:** “My art has really just created me as a person. I honestly don’t think I would be who I am if I wasn’t in art. I would say that it gets me excited in the morning. It’s what I want to do everyday. It’s just really what makes me happy and I think it keeps me going. It gives me an outlet for my ideas and my feelings. It helps me say the things I need to say.”

**Q:** What is your favorite piece of art and how has it impacted you?

**A:** “It’s hard to choose from something I’ve created because I feel like each piece is a different experience, so it’s hard to just pick one. I would say that ‘Toothbrushes’ has definitely triggered some really big ideas. So I think that is the one that I am most excited about, because it’s a direction with my art that I’ve never gone before. So after I made it, I was like ‘Oh my gosh’ there is a whole other world that I haven’t really gotten into yet. And I think it’s funny because when we are in school we take classes and really just learn how to use tools and do assignments. And now, being out and being able to use those tools, I can be as free as I want.”

Check out our  
Human of Moscow  
in video form on  
Vimeo at  
blotmagazine



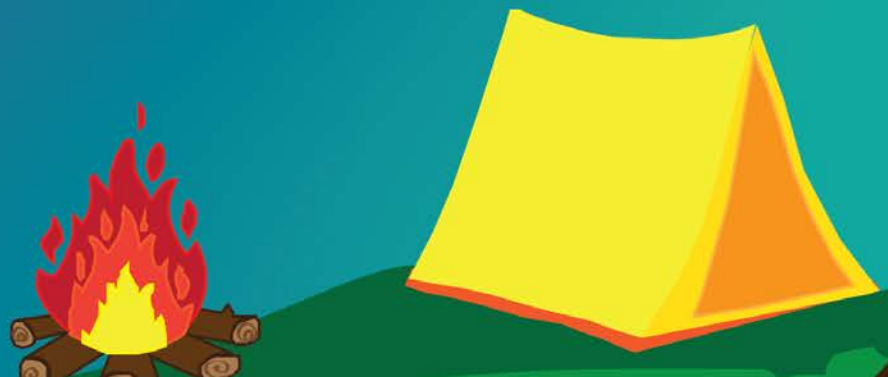
# FIREWOOD

STORY BY | *Dylan Siegel*  
DESIGN BY | *Hagen Hunsaker*

You never asked me how I felt about our camping trip. I was afraid to go camping, but I went with you anyway. I hated the cold, disliked bugs, and never understood what to pack and what not to pack. That's why my Swiss army knife was right next to my portable DVD player, which I had forgotten to bring movies for. It was one of our first dates, but it was unlike our previous ones. We had gone to Luigi's, coffee shops, and my apartment once, but this one was a whole night alone away from any other distractions or comforts.

When you asked me if I wanted to go camping, I was reluctant to say yes. Where would we go? What would we sleep in? What would we do? Set up camp and wait all day to start a fire because we all know that's the best part of camping. At least that's what my dad's goals always were when we used to go. Back when I was a kid, before he died when I was in high school. You assured to me though that you had it all covered. You had a spot, all the gear, and firewood. My nervousness for this trip was put to rest that night when we sat by the fire. You told me about high school and how you played soccer, and I told you about my dad's numerous attempts to teach me masculinity. That night, when the fire died down and you wrapped your body around mine — I knew I wanted to take this plunge. When we looked into each other's eyes. Your little pools of honey and my dirty emeralds reflected one another. I loved every moment.

You didn't feel the same. That night was nothing special for you. I was just another log in your fire pit-shaped loin. At least that's what I told myself when you broke up with me once we got back. At least that is what I told myself when I saw you the other day with another man. He was walking out of Rosauers with you under one arm and a roll of wood under the other.







Because  
stories are  
worth telling.