

March 2020

BLOOT

A black and white photograph of a person wearing a hooded raincoat and dark gloves, holding an umbrella. They are holding a large, crumpled white sign with handwritten text. The sign reads: "#FridaysForFuture", "CLIMATE ACTION", "NOW", and "#ChangeNow". The person is looking slightly to the right. In the background, there are other people and a sign that partially says "Gal".

#FridaysForFuture
CLIMATE ACTION
NOW
#ChangeNow

Editor's Note

Readers,

Soon enough it will be spring starting March 19. Flowers will be blooming from the ground and a blue sky will cover the Moscow campus.

This issue, we are celebrating spring by featuring stories dedicated to nature, and what makes up the Moscow community.

One topic a writer explores surrounding Earth is climate change.

It seems these past few months I've heard so much about the topic from speakers on campus to students speaking their mind. Political debates have occurred where politicians either put climate change at the top of their agenda or the bottom.

Climate change activists are around campus in places students don't really know about, and there are also non-believers saying that climate change doesn't exist at all.

But besides climate change, we should celebrate how Mother Nature and UI students make their mark on campus. One of our photographers took to campus and interviewed students to see where their favorite spot is at UI. This campus is beautiful in so many ways, but this gives you a close up into the little things that pass our eyes on a daily basis. Another reporter explored student's strides to make campus more sustainable.

And of course there are other stories in the Moscow and campus community worth telling.

Give a read of our profile featuring two color coded sisters who are Instagram famous. It's pretty impressive if I do say so myself — maybe someday I can be a famous influencer too.

As a Blot team we've collaborated this issue to bring you even more engaging, interesting content that will both inform you and entertain you. This is just a glimpse of what's in store before you flip the page.



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Humans of Moscow

STORY BY | *Dani Moore*
PHOTO BY | *Dani Moore*
DESIGN BY | *Lindsay Trombly*

You might have seen Marvel Harper as you walk through The Hub, a student favorite for nearly 13 years. She has been a memorable face for many students as they swipe in for a meal, greeting them with a warm smile.

Read the full Q&A
at [blotmagazine](#).

Q: Where did you work prior to the University of Idaho?

A: “I’ve lived in Spokane, Pullman and grew up in a really small town called Mansfield, Washington. I went to school in Whitworth and then worked at Gritman hospital for a while here in town. I thought about going back to school to become a dietician, but decided to get involved with the food industry

Q: What makes UI a good place to work?

A: “It’s smaller here, and easier to get involved and familiar with faculty and students. They have a good community here not just at UI, but in Moscow. People here care about you not just because of your job, they’re interested in getting to know you.”

Q: What makes you keep coming back?

A: “The students. I enjoy learning their names, and their stories and going to their events when they invite me. That’s how I started getting involved with athletic events on campus. Some of the players and athletes would ask me if I was going to their home games, and if I wasn’t working a late shift, I would.”

Q: Any life advice or anything you’ve learned over the years?

A: “Have a good outcome on life, do the best you can and take pride in your work. Get involved in different organizations, or church life because you can make good friends for life who can help you out along the years.”



IMAGE RIGHT

Marvel Harper stands outside
the entrance to The Hub.

Q: You’re quite popular on campus and the students who come through the UI dining hall really like you. I’d say you’re a grandmother away from home for them.

A: “Yes, definitely. I guess you could say the students are my family.”

The coffee bean breakdown

An opinion analysis of where coffee and community collide

STORY BY | *Abby Fackler*
PHOTOS BY | *Abby Fackler*
DESIGN BY | *Trent Anderson*

For Vidi Kaufman, being a barista at Red Star isn't just a job — it's a passion.

"I drafted out so many applications and resumés before I ever got a call back. But I love working with coffee and working at the stand is so much fun. It's the best job ever," Kaufman said.

Living in a college town like Moscow, it's no surprise that coffee shops like Red Star are such a hit. Tired university students need to get their caffeine fix somehow. What better way than to make a trip to a local coffee shop?

While this is a no-brainer, what may not be as obvious is why people seem to enjoy the actual coffee shops just as much — if not more than — the coffee they provide.

Walking into a coffee shop, it's usually not too hard to pick out who's been there for a while based on the workload in front of them, or by the empty coffee cup at their side as they catch up with an old friend.

Even Red Star, a drive-thru location, has their regulars.

"We have one older couple that comes in and they always get a 32-ounce caramel latte," Kaufman said. "They just talk to us and are super friendly."

To get a firsthand look into what it is that makes a coffee shop so appealing to its customers, I went to four locally owned shops, hung out for a while and talked to people.

A major draw for coffee shops is, obviously, their coffee — which is especially important at a drive-thru like Red Star where the judgement of the shop is primarily based off of the quality of the drinks.

"I absolutely love Doma Coffee; it's a Post Falls coffee company, so Red Star is supporting local businesses which is super nice," Kaufman said.



IMAGE ABOVE

Two students study at a local coffee shop in town.



Along with integrating local coffee roasters, like Doma, into their business, Red Star has a wide variety of drinks to choose from.

“We have Zipfizz (an energy drink), lotus, cold brew, coffee, chai, and we also have a lot of alternative milks,” Kaufman said.

At Red Star, you don’t have to leave the comfort of your vehicle to get local, high quality coffee on the go. It’s an aspect that’s extremely convenient for college students and anyone else that have tasks to juggle.

While some get coffee in a pinch for the caffeine boost, others go for a very different experience.

“I come here a lot when I want to do homework or think or chill out, because it’s a very quiet place since people are working on things,” Johanna Kasper, a University of Idaho student catching up with a friend at Bucer’s Coffeehouse Pub, said. “It’s a good place to come and to focus because you get good coffee and comfortable chairs — it’s very much the vibe I come for.”

Located on Main Street, Bucer’s is a cozy establishment with an impressive menu. Customers have the ability to order anything from an Americano, to a beer and even a six-layer Guinness chocolate cake. But their staple item, is their house roasted Arabica coffee.

“We have an official roast master,” Sarah Miller, a barista at Bucer’s, said.

She pointed towards a large, old-looking metal machine.

“The roaster is in the middle room back there,” Miller said. “And it’s really cool...the roaster really adds to the atmosphere.”

Even on a busy Saturday afternoon, Bucer’s is comfortable, dark and quiet — the perfect study space that locals in Moscow have utilized for years.

“Bucer’s is kind of fun for me, because when my brothers came to college this was the coffee shop they hung out at. 20 years ago my brothers were here,” Kasper said.

Sentimentality for a place turned out to be a common theme that I hadn’t anticipated. While visiting Steam Coffee, John Miller, a bartender and barista, discussed what motivates him to come to work every day.

“It’s different from my other job — I used to run a kitchen here in town. It’s a change of pace,” Miller said. “I missed working with people instead of for people. People here actually like coming back for me, or the other kitchen staff, or my other bartenders.”

Steam is probably the least conventional of the four coffee shops I visited. Sharing a space with Slice and Biscuit Pizza, it’s a lot louder than a typical coffee shop, with ESPN playing on multiple TVs. Families giggled and chatted over pizza while drinking beer. But with that came a powerful sense of community.

I watched Miller make his way through the place, stopping to catch up with multiple customers and families as he did so. It’s evident that what keeps people coming back to Steam — besides the coffee — are the people like Miller who work there. Miller on the other hand, credits it to the building’s atmosphere and history.

“The ambiance is nice. It’s a historic building that’s been around since 1954, I believe,” Miller said. “It used to be an auto body shop, that’s why we stick to the cloth napkins — they’re all shop towels — and we have Pennzoil oil cans where you put them in when they’re dirty. We definitely tried to keep it original, while also just making it our own.”

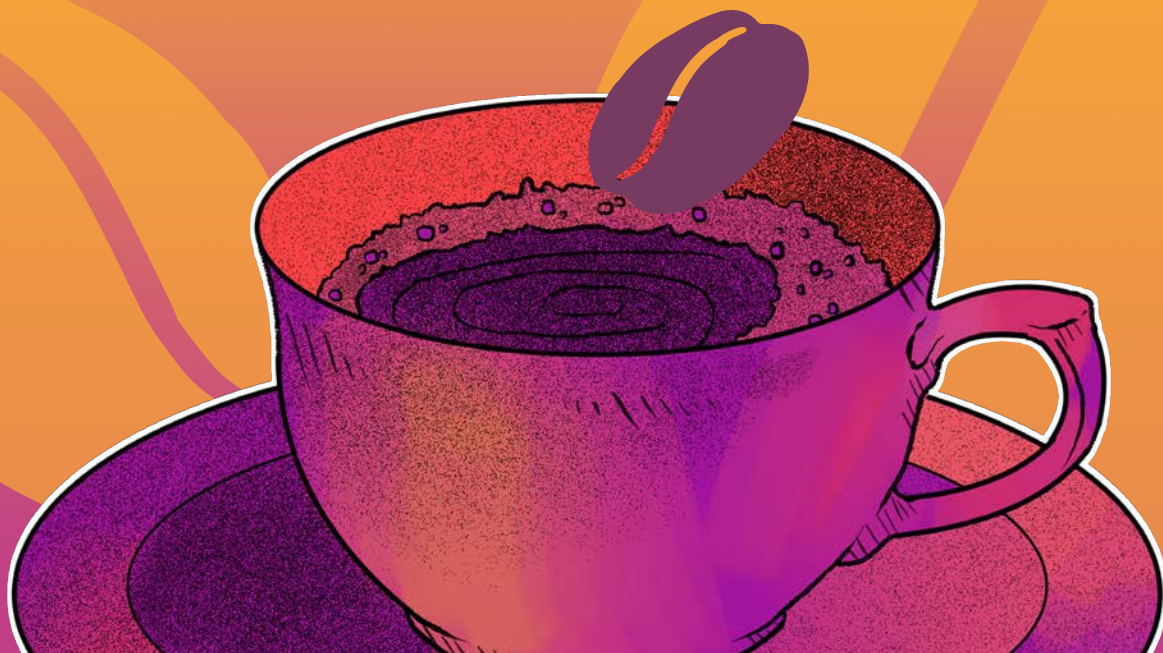




IMAGE ABOVE
The counter of Steam Coffee inside Slice and Biscuit Pizza.

Atmosphere, as my trips to Steam and Bucer’s made clear, plays a huge part in a coffee shop’s success – and visiting Café Artista just brought this point home.

“We joke and we’re all like, ‘this is our second home basically.’ Sometimes we just find ourselves here,” London Wray, a barista at Café Artista, said. “It’s very calm and relaxing – I can do the most work here and I love doing homework here.”

With its big windows, comfortable couches and the lingering smell of fresh coffee cake, it was easy to see where she was coming from.

“I really love this place because they’re quite eco-conscious,” Wray said. “They’re very good at keeping things sustainable – we have for-here cups, so people don’t have to use paper waste. Our boss does all she can to make it the least impactful, which is really cool.”

Wray is an environmental science major at UI, which makes Café Artista’s environmental emphasis all the more important to her. That said, she’s just as passionate about the coffee.

“Kamiak (the roaster Café Artista uses) really makes quality coffee, and they roast their beans really nicely where you can actually taste the flavors of each different roast. They do a really nice job,” Wray said.

After exploring Red Star, Bucer’s, Steam and Café Artista, it’s obvious there are multiple elements that draw people in. When asked what she thought kept people coming back to coffee shops, Natalie Wiley, a customer at Café Artista, put it simply: “You can come and do homework, you can come and socialize – you can pretty much do anything you want in a coffee shop.”



IMAGE ABOVE
Vidi Kaufman makes a drink at Red Star Coffee.





Ali's Instagram: @kawaiiconic.ali

Josie's Instagram: @igiko_pop

IMAGE LEFT
Ali and Josie Jones reflect on their college experience in Ali's art studio.

STORY BY | *Stevie Carr*
PHOTOS BY | *Dani Moore*
DESIGN BY | *Taylor Lund*
VIDEO BY | *Mason Handy*

Flashes of pink and green

Sisters on UI campus strive to inspire others

Telling twins apart can be a challenge, as any parent of twins will probably tell you with a sigh. So often, parents resort to the same strategy students use to find a section in their notes at a glance — color-coding.

As the babies grow up and develop their own personalities and style, the complementary colors usually fade from their wardrobes. But twins Ali and Josie Jones found their pink and green color code never left, and they're keeping the colors bright as ever by bringing a bit of the rainbow to screens across the world.

Instagram famous

Two twins became well known around campus, not just for their color-coded attire but for their social media feeds. For Ali and Josie, their lives changed with social media. Ali has over 28,000 followers on Instagram and Josie has almost 1,000.

Ali said the motivation to create her page was providing a place for inspiring others to embrace who they are.

"I'd spend five hours a day on my couch just networking for hours and hours — just on Instagram meeting people, making friends, making connections — and then with that, it just built up this following," Ali said.

Now, three years later, Ali has grown her profile exponentially and has created a place where she feels she finally belongs.

"It's really cool to just finally feel like I belong somewhere even if it is online," Ali said.

Ali and Josie said they both try to encourage others on their platforms to embrace themselves and be transparent.

They said they want people to feel accepted for their love of Japan, and to alter the stereotypes that exist about being interested in Japan and anime.

"Liking Japanese culture as a western person is difficult because you have two different spectrums of it, for me at least," Ali said. "With how I present myself and do my platform, I do my best to make things very positive and free and open, so people feel secure in liking that."

Ali said that although she's now comfortable embracing her interests, she still feels she stands out.

"It's strange being fascinating, but it's also sad seeing how people are hiding themselves," Ali said.

Josie said she uses her music and platform to show others you can be who you want — do what you want, wherever you want.

"Too many people are too afraid to be

themselves and unfortunately life's too short not to," Josie said.

Through their profiles, Ali and Josie said they have not only created a life for themselves in Moscow, but it has opened up opportunities.

Ali said her platform provided her with her first trip to Japan, modeling opportunities in Harajuku and in Tokyo Fashion Magazine, a collaboration with Japanese fashion brand ACDC Rag as a designer and she's acted in 13 Japanese TV shows.

Her sister, Josie, said her own platform allowed her to go to Switzerland, where she performed opera, and to Japan to network. Josie said she also modeled for Tokyo Fashion Magazine, and has appeared on four TV shows.

"When you've lost everything, you have everything to gain," Josie said. "Even when one feels at the lowest point, it's always possible to make something for yourself. Even if it's on your apartment couch."

Where it all began

The twins haven't always been known for their bright pink and green hair or the clothes in their closet on social media.

This fascination with color began at birth for this pair. According to Ali, she was designated the

color pink, whereas Josie got the color green. Ali said they've always had a fascination with their color, but this isn't where their story began.

Both sisters grew up in Kenai, Alaska, a place that felt very isolating.

Ali said while growing up in Kenai, liking Japan and anime made them stand out. The isolation made them afraid to open up about their interests.

This fear followed them throughout middle school and high school. Ali said she felt pressure to find her place and fit in, this stemmed from bullying that followed her through school.

This fear of fitting in followed Ali and Josie as they made the next step in their life — college.

After arriving at the University of Idaho, they decided to join a sorority, something that seemed like a good way to find their path in college.

However, Ali and Josie said their ability to stay in sorority life was short-lived, due to financial complications. This resulted in them having to figure out a new path.

“I loved everything about the Greek life, and when I lost that, I was like, ‘Well, now I have myself and I need to celebrate it,’” Ali said. “So, I finally did.”

Josie said she endured a lot of the same internal struggles as Ali. After bullying in high school, the first few years of college required her to figure out where she belonged.

“Because we went from having this support system to literally nothing, I was just tired of trying to be somebody that I wasn’t,” Ali said. “I was really focused on fitting in and feeling comfortable and being digestible, but I just didn’t feel like myself fully.”

This search for self pushed Ali to make a decision — to embrace her love of Japan, anime and pink.

Josie on the other hand, said she was hesitant to ‘go green’ because of her profession as an opera singer. She started to train in opera her first year of high school. She always knew she wanted to do music and singing as a profession.

In 2018, after training in Switzerland and living in Tokyo, she made connections to perform. Since her tour in March 2019, she said she got the push she needed to embrace her love of green to create her own platform when the sisters decided to travel to Tokyo.

“I had already started doing shave designs on my back (of her head) so I was like ‘You know what? I want to do something fun,’” Josie said. “Dyeing my hair green made it even better in Japan.”

Watch our video featuring Ali and Josie Jones on Vimeo at blotmagazine.

IMAGE BELOW

Ali and Josie Jones showcase their strong connection on the Admin





IMAGE ABOVE

The Hydroponics Club grows flowers in the Sixth Street Greenhouse.

LIGHTS, PLANTS, WATER

The Sustainability Center awarded grants to several students last year at UI

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

Turn off the lights, don't unnecessarily run the water and eat local. These are all tips on how one person can save energy, water and the planet.

But doing all these things on a large scale can take time, resources and someone to lead them. The University of Idaho allows students to be sustainable, leaving their own imprint on campus.

How do they do this? By applying for a grant from the Sustainability Center.

Every fall semester, the Sustainability Center on campus awards about 10,000 dollars in grants to UI students, bringing their sustainability projects to life.

The first set of grants were given in 2006 with projects ranging from handing out reusable travel mugs, to promoting the use of double-sided printing. Another project focused on locations of sustainable resources on campus.

The center encourages students from across the university to apply for a grant, and this year's winners are as diverse as their projects.

This past year the grants continued, the winners' projects ranged in topic. One centered around a competition between sororities to see who can conserve the most energy, while another focused on a hydroponics wall.

Lettuce grow local

Madigan Hawkins and Celine Knudsen, both seniors, in the plant science department, are members of the Hydroponics Club. The pair received a grant to build a green wall in the Integrated Research and Innovation Center (IRIC).

The wall, Hawkins said, was used to grow herbs and other vegetables which have a short shelf life.

"What we want to do is educate people that they can grow their own food hyper locally," Hawkins said. "So, we're not talking like 'we're going to grow watermelons,' we're going to grow things that have a short shelf life so lettuce, herbs, those are always really popular."

The wall, once built, will be about 5 feet by 3 feet. It will be easy to put up and take down so, in the summer when students leave, it can be stored elsewhere, Hawkins said.

“Imagine a wall, we’re calling it a green wall, and there are these hanging towers. From these towers, there are plants growing up so their growing towards you instead of up like a normal plant would,” Hawkins said.

Hawkins and Knudsen, designed the wall to be freestanding. They said it should be ready and growing plants by the end of February.

The educational part of their proposal comes in every two weeks after the wall is installed, Hawkins said.

They plan on selling the plants, which are ready to harvest, and talk to anyone who wants to learn more about hydroponics.

After Hawkins and Knudsen graduate, Hawkins said the Hydroponics Club will oversee the wall.

“Once the project is completed with Celine and I, we’re handing it off to the club,” Hawkins said. “It’s simple enough that it can be taken down and stored really easily, looking at longevity that was something we really considered.”

What is hydroponics?

Hydroponics is a way of growing plants, Hawkins said. It involves using water and nutrients plants would usually obtain from soil — minus the soil.

“When you think about a plant, you usually think, it’s growing in the soil and it grows up towards the sunlight,” Hawkins said. “Well plants don’t actually need the soil, they need what’s in the soil.”

Hawkins said hydroponics use the nutrients plants need, dissolving them in water. This is combined with aeration so the plants don’t drown.

“What we do with hydroponics



IMAGE RIGHT
Madigan Hawkins
checks on the club's
flowers.

is we take out the soil. Basically your tower is like a gutter,” Hawkins said. “So, we put water in at the top, and that water has nutrients mixed into it, and then it drips down this tower.”

Lighting the way

Menard Law Building’s library has been home to many UI law students, and Riley Newton is no different.

As a third-year law student, he’s spent many late nights in the law building studying for tests and classes. Newton said he noticed after leaving the building those late nights, he was never able to turn off the lights. This began to bother him, eventually turning into a need for action.

Newton said he had always grown up making sure lights were turned off in a room before he left, most likely a concern that stemmed from his dad and previous supervisors. It was this habit of saving energy which led him to explore ways to make this change happen.

It was during a field trip for a natural resource and

environmental law class where a PhD student spoke about the grant, where Newton found a way to make this dream a reality.

After hearing about the grant, Newton got to work, researching previous grants that had been awarded by the Sustainability Center. After finding that the Wallace Resident Center had received a similar grant the previous year to put in occupancy sensors — Newton got his idea.

Newton didn’t just want regular occupancy sensors, he said he wanted sensors that would fit the needs of law students who study there.

“The biggest thing is just we didn’t want to lose students in the dark, so we need to get occupancy sensors that were receptive to the sound, like of the clicking of something,” Newton said.

Currently the sensors are installed in the library, and Newton said they are going through the process of working out how to set them up with the electrical system.

In late February, Newton said they plan to start collecting

data about how much energy this could save, and will have the results in March.

One drop at a time

Sierra Brantz, an international studies and environmental science major at UI, wanted to help Moscow conserve water.

Brantz applied for the Sustainability Center grant to turn this passion for water conservation into a viable project. Specifically, Brantz developed a project to install facets containing water sensors in order to conserve water. This sensor faucet allows other faucets to turn off the water when an object, like hands, are not in the way.

“We have ordered the sensor faucets, began our research and will be installing them within the next month,” Brantz said.

Plans change, Brantz said, and the project she originally proposed has had to be altered to fit the needs of the project. She said being adaptable during projects like this is a must in order to be successful.

Brantz said when they are done collecting data in the Idaho Student Union Building (ISUB) she will give a presentation to the ISUB administrators about how much water they could save by switching to sensor-based faucets.

“Once this report is created, we plan to give it to the administration at the Commons to show them how much water and money they could conserve if they switched to using sensor faucets,” Brantz said. “We will also be giving a copy to the city of Moscow. Throughout this research project, I am hoping to learn more about how to improve our public health and how much water is actually being saved by having the sensor faucets installed.”

A COMMUNITY DIVIDED

STORY BY

ILLUSTRATIONS BY

DESIGN BY

Lizzie Holdridge

Trent Anderson

Trent Anderson

The polarizing debate of climate change broken down



The snow piles up on Moscow city sidewalks. Cars drive by, splashing dirty slush as they pass. Meanwhile, Logan Heflin sits outside city hall, an umbrella in hand and a sign sitting in front of him. This is just one individual's way of expressing his thoughts on climate change.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Heflin, a former ASUI Senator and climate change activist, stands alone on this corner every Friday. When he's not protesting, he chooses to live a sustainable lifestyle through, eating a vegan diet, walking everywhere and using reusable bags and straws.

He said even these small acts can have a large impact, but when a community works together substantial change is created.

"Just normal people have more power together than the people we think have power right now, so I think it's important for all of us to utilize the voice that we all have because it carries more power than we think," Heflin said.

He participates in Fridays For Future, an international movement where students skip class every Friday to demand climate change action from political leaders. He said, in this movement, anyone can go protest outside of a government building to demand climate change action.

"I'm out here protesting for climate action and making sure the people in power know we have to bring down greenhouse gas emissions to safeguard future generations," Heflin said.

Jennifer Ladino, an expert in the human dimensions of climate change, also has a personal connection to the topic. Ladino recalls developing strong feelings about climate change during a heatwave in Moscow during June of 2015.

"Temperatures reached almost 90 degrees inside our house, and we slept in the basement for several days. My two kids

set up what they called a 'tent village' and my heart stopped, and I immediately jumped to a vision of them as climate refugees," Ladino said. "I don't know if I ever stopped being anxious since that day."

Following this experience, she has implemented new strategies to combat climate change on a personal level. She said they are a one-car-family, she is in the process of completely eliminating the use of plastic bags and she contributes to various environmental organizations.

"I think the more we can do to bring the issue close to home, to make it real for people, the better," Ladino said.

One University of Idaho student's realization of climate change started a little further away from home.

Dylan Porter, active member of the Center for Volunteerism and Social Action, studied abroad in Costa Rica. She said she experienced the effects of climate change first-hand. During her time in Costa Rica, she said she noticed more tropical storms and extreme pollution on their beaches.

"There's so much trash on their beaches and in the small town I was in, we would play games to see how many straws we could pick up from their beach," Porter said.

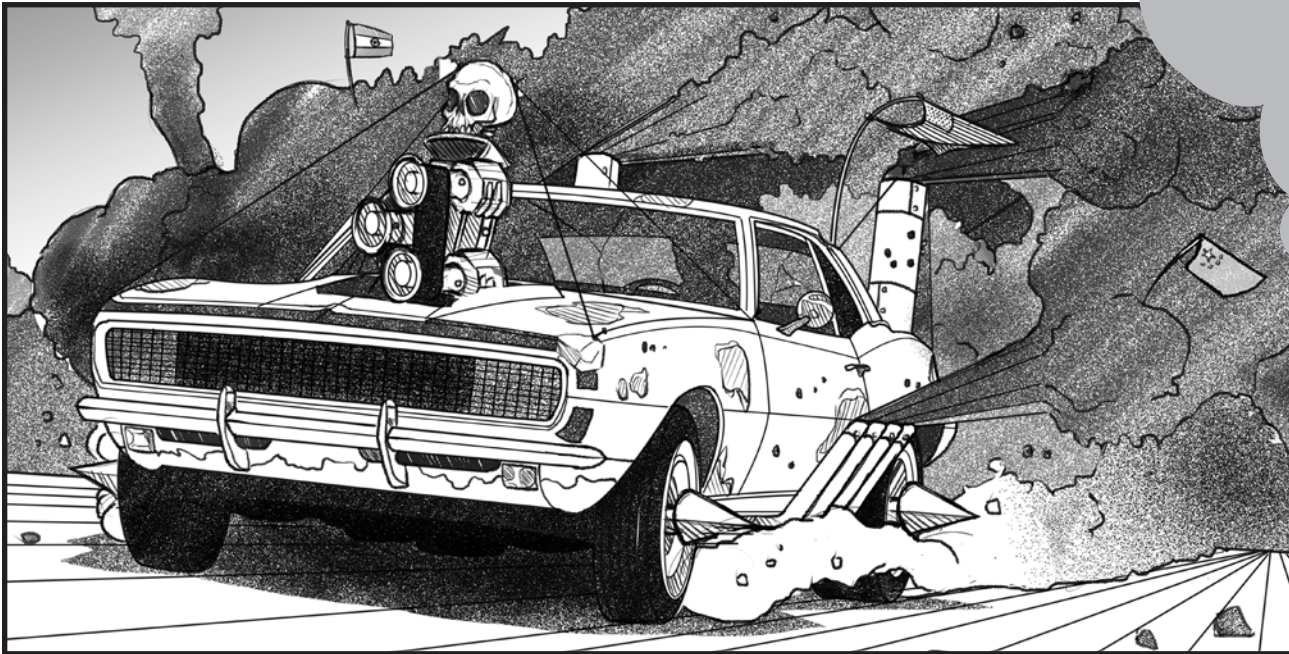
After seeing this impact in Costa Rica, Porter said her mindset on climate change was altered, making her a firm believer of its effects on the environment.

"We're not facing the consequences at the extent that it could be, so let's try to fix it before it gets even scarier," Porter said.

THE EVIDENCE

Experts on campus have strong opinions towards climate change and it's all because of research. Ladino, a UI English professor, researches emotions around climate change such as fear, anxiety, nostalgia, solastalgia (form of emotional distress caused by environmental change), resilience and ecological grief.

Through her own research, she found



that emotions play a big role in climate change action.

“Most people agree that finding local communities and taking action are the best ways to deal with negative emotions, such as grief and anxiety,” Ladino said. “Positive emotions such as wonder can also be helpful, as they rekindle our love for the more-than-human world and make us want to protect it.”

She said the humanities and arts have a unique set of resources at their disposal to change feelings and mindsets about climate change.

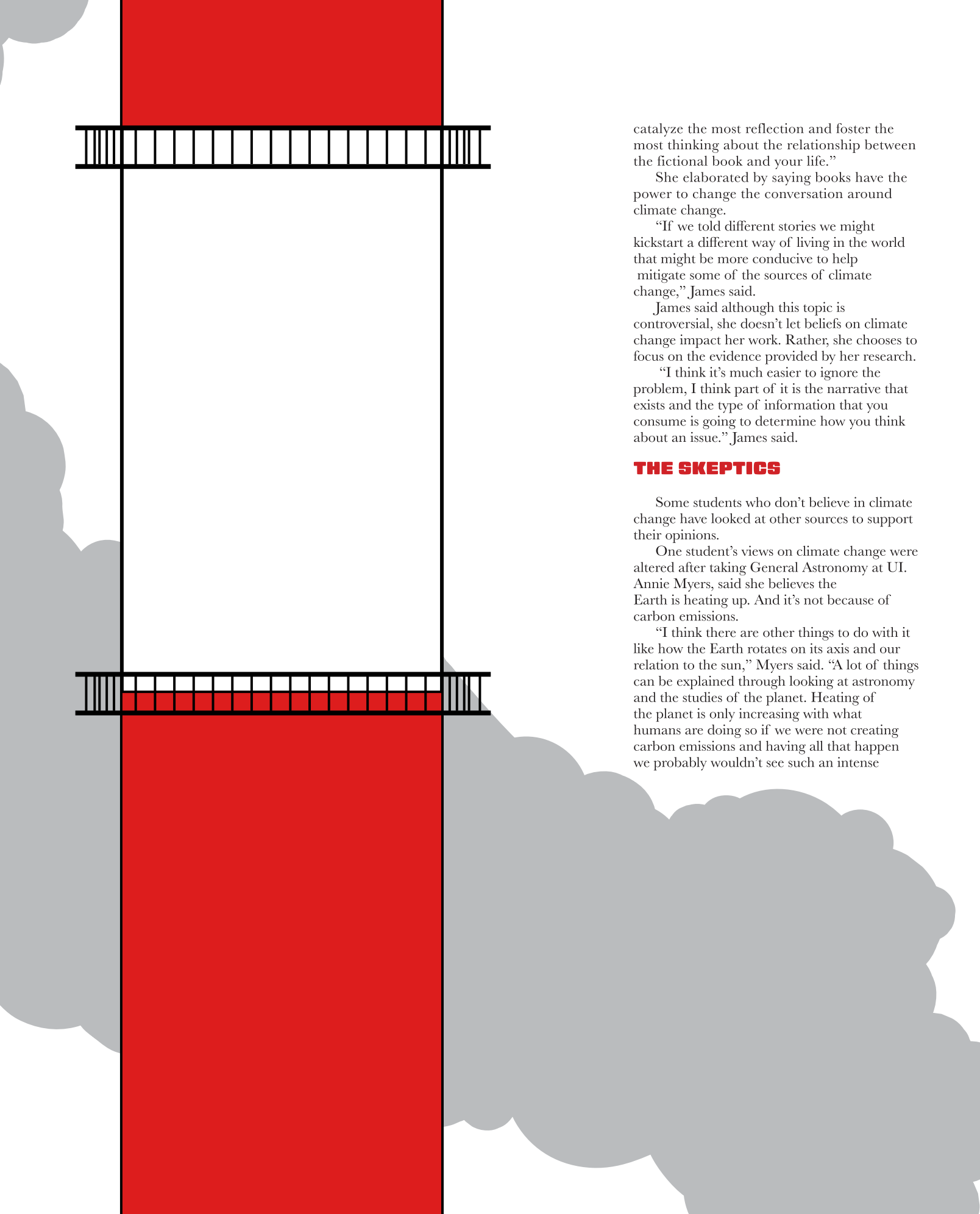
The same philosophy motivates Erin James, a UI English professor and faculty expert on cultural aspects on climate change.

“Climate change is not just a scientific or environmental problem, it’s first and foremost a cultural problem in that it’s a certain lifestyle that has produced this issue,” James said. “That lifestyle is informed by ideas about how we live in the world and what our relationship to the world is.”

She said in her Studies in Environmental Literature and Culture class, she has noticed literature reflect the way people understand climate change.

“I find that the scarier books tend

to have less of an impact because they tend to be a little bit familiar, and it’s very easy to say well this is not gonna happen, or its not going to be that bad,” James said. “I think the weirder books that make you slow down and struggle to understand tend to



catalyze the most reflection and foster the most thinking about the relationship between the fictional book and your life.”

She elaborated by saying books have the power to change the conversation around climate change.

“If we told different stories we might kickstart a different way of living in the world that might be more conducive to help mitigate some of the sources of climate change,” James said.

James said although this topic is controversial, she doesn’t let beliefs on climate change impact her work. Rather, she chooses to focus on the evidence provided by her research.

“I think it’s much easier to ignore the problem, I think part of it is the narrative that exists and the type of information that you consume is going to determine how you think about an issue.” James said.

THE SKEPTICS

Some students who don’t believe in climate change have looked at other sources to support their opinions.

One student’s views on climate change were altered after taking General Astronomy at UI. Annie Myers, said she believes the Earth is heating up. And it’s not because of carbon emissions.

“I think there are other things to do with it like how the Earth rotates on its axis and our relation to the sun,” Myers said. “A lot of things can be explained through looking at astronomy and the studies of the planet. Heating of the planet is only increasing with what humans are doing so if we were not creating carbon emissions and having all that happen we probably wouldn’t see such an intense

acceleration in heating.”

She said the Earth is moving in ways we have never experienced before, which is why people are uncomfortable and wanting to relate it to humans. She said she believes humans are not the sole cause for climate change, but do increase the severity and acceleration of its consequences.

“I think blaming humans for climate change is an easy way to explain it and an easy way for people to grasp it,” Myers said.

Another student, Kyli Pierson, said the thought that humans are capable of causing such destruction to the Earth is a little far-fetched.

“I totally think the climate is changing, I just don’t think it’s completely human caused. I’m not saying all the things humans are doing have no effect, I just don’t think all the terrible huge disastrous things that people talk about could happen, I don’t think we have that much control over it,” Pierson said.

Both of these students said pollution is an issue, but have different views on its importance.

“The drastic change in ecosystems is for sure an issue and I think that that has a lot to do with human footprint, carbon footprint, single use plastics and not disposing of our materials in the proper ways...it is killing animals and I 100% believe that,” Myers said.

While Myers believes pollution should be addressed, Pierson said she doesn’t think it’s the government’s job to fix it.

“I do think we should take care of the Earth, but I just don’t think it’s something that the government should be pouring a lot of money into,” Pierson said.

The skepticism surrounding climate change extends beyond UI. Griffith Richter, who attends Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, has different reasonings as to why he doesn’t believe in climate change. One of those, he said, is how scientific opinion is constantly changing.

“My skepticism is caused by the fact that scientists are often wrong, the classic example being the many truths of where the sun has been located in our solar system,” Richter said. “Many theories were accepted, and people believed that the sun revolved around the Earth for a time until proven wrong.”

Richter said he does believe pollution has an impact, but more so on people than the planet.

“I do not like trash in the oceans simply because it harms wildlife. I have seen China’s polluted air and have come to understand that while I want to deny it, pollution is certainly a problem,” Richter said.

THE ADVOCATES

For some students, evidence of climate change is impossible to ignore.

UI student Chayce Reynolds, was introduced to climate change through The Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

“We studied climate change because of the refugees coming in,” Reynolds said. “Indigenous people are getting moved because they can’t survive where they used to.”

What solidified her opinion was when she traveled to Europe this summer and experienced one of the hottest heatwaves in a century. She said this proved to her the evidence of climate change is real.

A first-hand experience also shaped UI



student, Cameron Weller's beliefs on climate change. He said after visiting Montana's Glacier National Park he was surprised to see the impact climate change had on the park.

"Glacier National Park has almost lost its namesake, wildfires are more abundant, snowpack is less abundant, sea levels have risen and storms are becoming more tempestuous," Weller said.

Besides student's experiences, politics also play a role in their opinions.

Reynolds said she believes if political leaders, such as President Donald Trump, did believe in climate change, they still wouldn't do anything about it.

"He (Trump) has no concern to anyone outside of himself, so to ask him to care about the environment is not gonna happen," Reynolds said.

A similar point of view was shared by UI student Audrey Lodge.

"If Trump doesn't believe it, or it's a Democratic thing to believe in climate change, then if you're a Republican you're automatically just not going to care about it," Lodge said.

She said there needs to be more drastic changes on a larger scale than just at the individual level. She agrees we need to change policies that restrict people.

"The most important issue we should be looking at in political candidates is if they care about climate change and if they're going to do something," Lodge said.

This firm belief that politics influence climate change is what drives Reynold's to also believe capitalism is a contributing factor.

"I think capitalism allows for us to view people as labor and for the environment to be viewed as resources instead of our home, which means human lives and Mother Earth are expendable in the pursuit of progress, power and wealth," Reynolds said.

Resolving this issue is tough she said. Reynolds said, the people who have the privilege, money and power to fix the issue are not concerned about it.

"It's hard because that structural change wouldn't have to just be from the bottom, but from the top as well, and they're more worried about evading taxes than helping people and the planet," Reynolds said.

Lodge has a similar point of view and said nothing will happen unless there is a major change.

"This is literally where we live. We are literally sinking, and burning on fire. No one gives a s**t," Lodge said.



The close up

PHOTO STORY BY | *Cody Allred*
DESIGN BY | *Lindsay Trombly*

Sometimes college life can seem like a slew of classes, tests and homework assignments for students. An endless cycle of stress, anxiety and course work all leading up to the rest of our lives. Sometimes the worries can seem so big, so catastrophic, it takes over all other aspects of our daily lives. However, between these stressed-out moments are places and people which make up our college experience. These moments define who we are. This is a focus on those places, this is the close up.



“One place that immediately comes to mind is the Hello Walk because it is really nice and peaceful. I really like the campus because it’s just so vibrant when the sun is out, it’s very nice and I really like it,” Julena Le said. “I always tell everyone who asks about U of I that the campus is gorgeous and the perfect size. It’s one of the things that I like about being here.”



“The arboretum is really special. It allows you to kind of get away from stuff and relax, to get back into nature without having to leave campus,” Megan Dalton said. “I like being outdoors, so it’s nice to be able to see that. I go with other people from my major and we will go explore.”



“I’ve been here for one semester, I really like the old arboretum, it is really beautiful, it’s like a big forest,” Alex Pape said. “I think it’s just super pretty and it’s something that a lot of college campuses don’t have like a miniature forest in the middle of them.”

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STANDING OUT

UI students reflect on the challenges of diverse hairstyles in Idaho

STORY BY | Brianna Finnegan
PHOTOS BY | Brianna Finnegan
DESIGN BY | Bonnie Lengele

A young black man stands in front of his peers as a woman in a blue tracksuit puts on gloves and hastily cuts away at his hair. After being confronted by a referee, the high school wrestler had to make a decision — cut his hair or forfeit the match.

In 2019 a video of a New Jersey high school wrestler being forced to cut his dreadlocks in order to compete in a match went viral. As a result, there has been a national conversation surrounding hair discrimination, specifically amongst ethnic hair styles. The state of Washington is considering a bill that would expand the current law against discrimination to include the discrimination of hair styles and textures. They would be the fourth state in the United States to do so.

MEET SHALOM

Shalom Masango, an international student at the University of Idaho from Zimbabwe, has struggled finding products that work for her hair. Having naturally curly hair, she said hair care can be a struggle.

When Masango first came to the US she wasn't able to bring her hair care products, due to weight limits on the plane. Afterwards, she relied on a friend who also has a curly hair texture to help her find products that would work with her.

"I used to call her and ask her if I should buy a certain product because she had better input," Masango said. "Even though she's white, she also has curly hair, so she knows the struggle."

Masango said that while there are stores, like Walmart and WinCo, that carry hair products for hair with a texture like hers, she tends to look to Amazon for her products.

"Amazon is my favorite to find (hair care products)," Masango said. "I know for my next hairstyle I've already started looking at extensions on Amazon and I'm just keeping that on my favorites list so when the time comes, I just look."

Last year Masango had tightly braided box braids. During Thanksgiving break, Masango decided to change to faux locs, a protective hairstyle that looks similar to dreadlocks. When she went to visit her aunt in Texas, they bought faux loc extensions.

"In Texas there are more black people and you have more shops, so I wanted to get my hair done there," Masango said. "Initially I talked to my aunt and she bought a hair stylist for me so I could do my hair, but then I said, 'it's expensive, it's something I can do by myself or my aunt can help me'."

Masango and her aunt put the top section of her hair into cornrows and used crochet faux loc extensions to loop the bottom portion of her hair through. The whole process took around three hours. The amount of time Masango spends on maintaining her hair is long, but necessary with the type of hair she has.

"It takes patience that's for sure," Masango said. "It's a learning process you learn every single day."

"It takes patience for sure ... It's a learning process you learn, everyday."



MEET JOSEF

Josef Jaroski, an art student at UI, has known he's wanted a mohawk since he was a kid, first considering it after a trip to Spokane, Washington with his mother.

"It's one of the most vivid memories I have," Jaroski said. "We were driving around in a minivan and I looked out the back window and as I was looking out, there was a woman who had a two-foot mohawk. She was walking down the street and I didn't know why but I really wanted one."

Despite being interested in the style since the age of six, Jaroski didn't start styling his hair in a mohawk until a year and a half ago. For many years, Jaroski was not allowed to style his hair this way.

Instead, his mother — an Austrian immigrant who grew up in conservative Texas — had him style his hair in a comb over.

"A lot of the values and stuff that (my family has) are based around what my grandfather would instill," Jaroski said. "I had to slowly show (my mom) as I got older that you can still be a good person and look different."

Jaroski has had mixed reactions from the public as well, he said. Most people expect a mohawk to be standing up, Jaroski explained that he doesn't often style it that way.

Jaroski grew up in Nez Perce, Idaho, surrounded by Native American culture. Mohawks, originating in the Native American mohawk culture, are traditionally seen down rather than pointed up, only to be put up when going to war.

"I think people do see you more aggressively," Jaroski said. "When I wear it down, I'm definitely the dude with the man bun and a lot of people don't realize it is a mohawk when it's in a man bun."

Jaroski explained that due to his hair as well as his tattoos and piercings, he feels people tend to label him as aggressive.

"It's not easy getting a job looking like this," Jaroski said. "You don't get a firm job with a washed-out red mohawk."

Jaroski is an artist, and while many recognize him in the art community due to his hair, he doesn't feel it truly reflects his art style.

"I'm a landscape and portrait painter," Jaroski said. "You don't expect to see a dude with an ear tattoo, hand tattoos and a red mohawk to be outside in nature painting landscapes."

While Masango and Jaroski have very different experiences with their hair, both feel the way they style it is a part of who they are.

"If you get going too fast in life it will all start looking the same," Jaroski said. "Nobody really expresses something that they feel deep down inside it's like it all becomes a giant blur and I don't want to be a copy, as much as it sucks sometimes."



“It’s not easy getting a job looking like this ... You don’t expect to see a dude with an ear tattoo, hand tattoos and a red mohawk to be outside in nature, painting landscapes.”



Lost?

POETRY BY | *Austin Emler*
PHOTO BY | *Cody Allred*
DESIGN BY | *Lindsay Trombly*

An endless fog in the base of the tallest wood on the clearest night.
Trying to find a destination with nothing but a blank map.
Wandering endlessly and lost with only the moon's light.

Someday found, someday alright.
Longing for a deep and fulfilling sleep.
An endless fog gliding through the tallest wood, this clearest night.

In a sea of redwoods with no shore in sight
Exhausted from trudging on through swamp sap.
Wandering endlessly, lost in the moon's light

Surroundings perceived, not through one's eyes.
Only the pounding heart makes the slightest peep.
A tallest wood surrounded by an endless fog hiding a clear night.

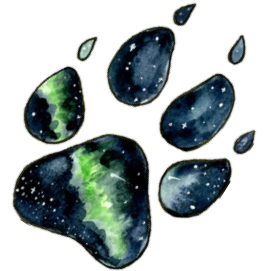
This day alone, next to reunite.
The stars creating a beautiful trap.
Lost, endlessly, wandering in the moon's light

Lost spark waiting to reignite.
A fire in the haze is hard to keep.
Endless fog, tallest wood, clearest night.
Endlessly lost and wandering; Only guide is the moon's light.

From Friends to Foes

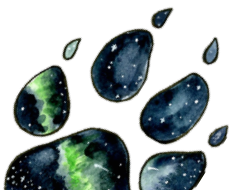
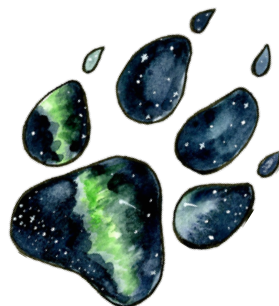
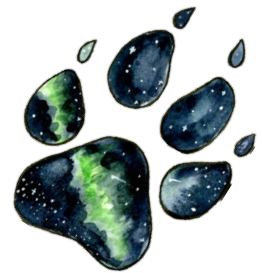
FLASH FICTION BY | *Dylan Foster*
ILLUSTRATIONS BY | *Kristen Lowe*
DESIGN BY | *Lindsay Trombly*

Lips curled back over deadly fangs. Powerful jaws snapped open and shut between yips and snarls. The gazelle's heart slammed into its ribcage and adrenaline filled its veins as it ran, surrounded on all sides, through the tall, yellow grass of an open prairie. It searched wildly for an opening, but found none. Its strong legs grew heavier with every leap and bound. The four canines, distinguishable from wild wolves only by their shorter snouts and smaller frames, knew that their prey was tired. They pursued the faltering animal ruthlessly, nipping and biting at its calves and thighs. Finally, the largest of the predators, the Alpha, sank its fangs deep into the tan thigh of the fleeing animal.



The gazelle was dragged, stumbling, to a halt, and half-a-dozen thin sticks adorned with feathers and tipped with stone, penetrated its quivering flesh from neck to chest. In releasing their arrows, the hunters, who had trailed the canines closely during the chase, were careful to avoid injuring the Alpha, whose fangs still gripped their target. As the gazelle fell, lifeless, to the ground, yells of victory rose up amongst the tribe. They would eat well that night. Their wolf-like companions added their voices to the celebration, for they would share in the spoils of the hunt. The Alpha released its deathly grasp on its now still victim, and the canine's tail swung as the hunters patted the head of their furry ally.

Thousands of years later, on the other side of the world, lips curled back over deadly fangs. Powerful jaws snapped open and shut between yips and snarls. No wild chase was necessary. The young calf was not swift like a gazelle, and it was surrounded in all directions by wooden fencing. The young animal could not have run far. Under the cover of night, the wolf pack singled out its target, and in the darkness, devoured it. Human yells followed the hunt, but the cries were not those of celebration. In the following days, the blades of helicopters whipped calm mountain air into a great, angry gale, and men hung from the metal sides with long range rifles at the ready. Old and great pine trees bent and shook as the wingless birds swept over the forests in search of their prey.





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