

# BL\*RT

TREEFORT

LUCKY NUMBER

13

Pg. 30

MOSHING IN  
MOSCOW

Pg. 4

SPRING 2025 ISSUE

ARTIST BABYTAKE PERFORMING AT TREEFORT 2025

# Blot Magazine

SPRING 2025

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## Editor's Letter

Dear Reader,

I've been with Blot for four semesters now, and every semester, we've started our first meeting with a staff-wide conversation on what Blot is. Words like "art" and "student" and "Moscow" and "lifestyle" get thrown around a lot, and I think they're all accurate. I certainly see all of that in this edition. I think that, on top of all of these words, Blot is also innately human.

With the rise in AI-generated content, it's getting harder and harder to trust what you see online. That's why, for me, it has always been so refreshing to come to every meeting and know that I'm working on something inherently human. Humans have always wanted to tell stories and create art; at Blot, they're able to not only create, but also share their work with the students at UI, with the Moscow community, and even with the world.

In this edition of Blot, there are beautiful pieces of flash fiction and poetry. Stories highlight things like thrifting and going to local events and making music. Gorgeous illustrations decorate the pages. Photos immortalize parts of someone's life. There are 60 pages of human activity catalogued here, and I can't think of a better way to spend 60 pages than telling stories.

I don't know what the future will hold, but I know that, with publications like Blot around, there will always be a place in that future where human creativity is valued.

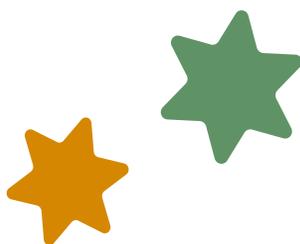
Never stop making art!



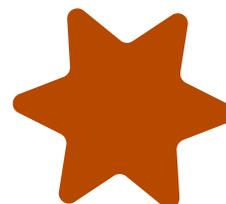
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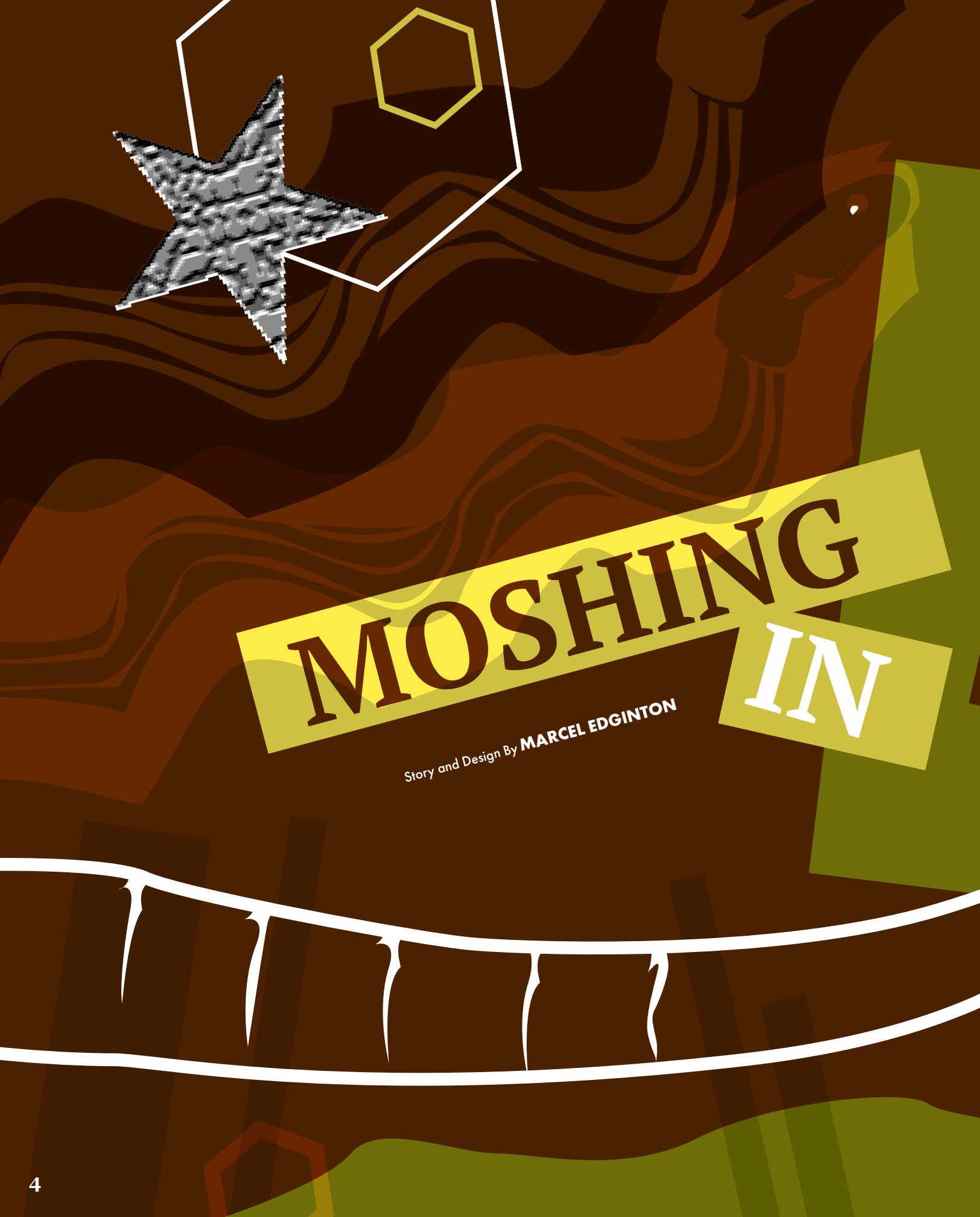
Editor in Chief

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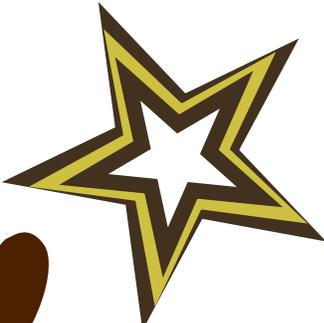
# MOSHING

Story and Design By **MARCEL EDGINTON**

# IN

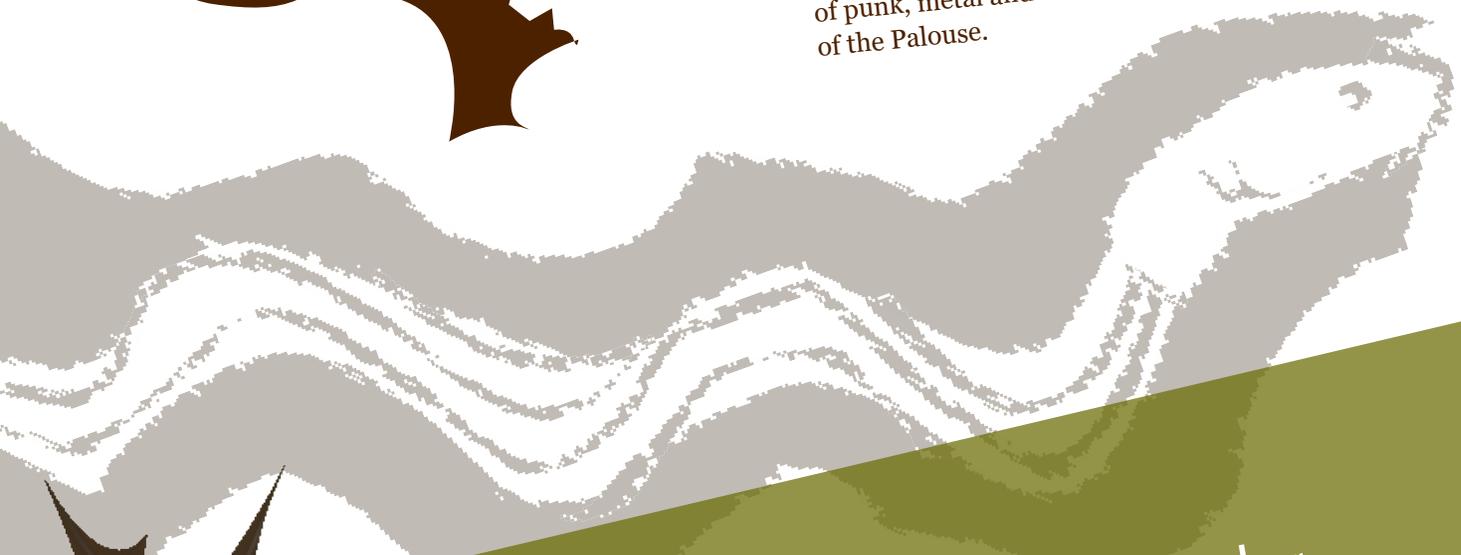


**MOSCOW**



The first sharp whine of the electric guitar strum reverberates in the room, slicing through the chatter and blaring everyone into silence. For regulars, this is the cue to shove bright orange earplugs into their ears and huddle even closer to the band. The air buzzes. At Mikey's, the back of the room serves as the stage for the groups, at the same level as the crowd. The audience is on equal footing with the bands, physically and emotionally. The room swells with adrenaline. Anticipation. Angst.

Giant Palouse Earthworm (GPE), named after one of the many squirmy creatures that inhabit the Washington-Northern Idaho area, is a local promotional group for the plethora of punk, metal and hardcore bands of the Palouse.



“ When kids aren't excelling in school or sports, what else do they have? This is their creative outlet. ”



**O**n Feb. 8, Mikey's Gyros hosted the first show of 2025 presented by GPE: A REAL ROCKER GIG.

After the deafening warm-up rattle and noisy amp tests, Aiden Cook, lead vocalist of Public Apology, introduced themselves as the first group of the night. Cook thanked the crowd for attending the show, then after a sincere apology, unleashed a ferocious, gravelly howl into the mic. His low growls were backed by Matt Logan's rumbling drums, the searing guitar of Tristan "Nailgun" and the racing bass of "Rotten Rob." According to Cook, one of Public Apology's biggest influences is Nuclear Death, which shares the rapid tempo and guttural shrieks that characterize their sound.

Following Public Apology, came the chaotic, rhythmic aggression of It's A Setup, featuring Hayes Noble as lead vocalist next to his bandmates Parker and Mason.

Throughout the set, Noble dedicated songs to various social, political and economic issues that have visible impacts in the U.S. Among these, Noble addressed the number one cause of death among kids and teens: gun violence. Appropriately, Noble's screeches vibrated with a visceral, writhing anger that encapsulated a pain and fear that is shared by many in the US.

Another issue Noble spoke on was exclusion within the punk community, where he stated that "21+ shows are an oxymoron." Having grown up in small-town Illinois, Noble had limited access to local punk shows in his area. One thing that made it even harder to join the scene, he said, was when punk and metal gigs were often 21+ only, which further narrowed his chance for community as a minor.

"When kids aren't excelling in school or sports, what else do they have? This is their creative outlet," said Noble. In conversation after the show, Noble described the concept of 21+ clubs as being hypocritical and lazy. In his opinion, by creating spaces that limit attendees on the basis of age, bands are preaching inclusion while promoting exclusion. To Noble, it's unfair for these bands to choose convenience over accessibility because it hurts the young people that rely on these shows for support and community.

Exclusion might be a larger concern within the punk community as a whole, but A REAL ROCKER GIG felt everything but exclusive. The night was full of energy from the bands and the sea of new and familiar faces. It's no doubt that the rest of the Giant Palouse Earthworm shows will be a hit for 2025.

# NEW TO THE SCENE?

## GETTING INTO THE PIT

Being new to the punk/metal scene can be intimidating, but the best way to get started is by jumping into the deep end of the pit, fist-first!

**KEEP UP** with promotional groups like Giant Palouse Earthworm. Follow their social media platforms (@giant.palouse.earthworm on Insta) and keep an eye on show postings!

**GO WITH A GROUP.** Invite friends to go with you to try something new together. If the night's a dud, the GrubTruck is always there to save the day.

**PREPARE** for the show by bringing earplugs (sometimes vendors will hand them out, but it's a good idea to bring your own). You can't enjoy the tunes with tinnitus.

**MOSHING** isn't for everybody, so don't feel pressured to jump in if you're not ready. Have fun bobbing your head or pushing derailed moshers back in.

**DON'T** bring jewelry or headphones that can get lost, broken, or poke someone's eye out. Youch!



## PIT PET PEEVES AND PRO TIPS

The mosh pit is one of the few places where people can physically express their anger and frustration by consensually bashing into each other. So, here are some tips to make the experience as fun and painless as possible:

**PICK UP THE FALLEN.** It's easy to get swept away in the current of the mosh pit. So, pick people up when they fall and try not to fall yourself! Beware of the undertow, or you might end up with a mouth full of Doc Martens.

**DON'T STAND STILL** and keep moving. Go with the flow!

**AVOIDING HOPPING.** Jumping in the pit is a great way to lose the fight with gravity and fall. Instead, try to distribute your weight evenly and keep your feet on the ground for ideal rough housing.

## SUPPORTING THE BANDS

The best way to support local bands is just by showing up to their gigs. But here are a few other ways to show support for those that want to go the extra mile:

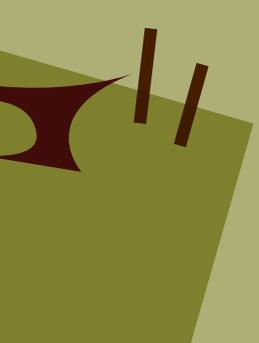
**BUY MERCH** from the bands you see and make non-attendees jealous.

**HAND OUT FLYERS** to everyone. Invite friends, family, roommates, lab partners, weird coworkers, shady old ladies, anyone!

**MAKE ZINES.** Zines are mini magazines that have been a staple of the punk community as early as the 1970s. Tutorials are everywhere, so make some zines to share with friends and spread the word about GPE.

DIY is the backbone of punk and metal, and battle vests are a great way to show support for your favorite bands. They're also perfect for making friends without a single word. So, find (or make!) epic patches to rep your favorite bands.

**TAKE PICS** to show people what they're missing!



# Dear Dorm Room Philosopher

A College Advice Column

Story By **MAYA MCBRIDE**

Illustration and Design By **CHLOE HARDMAN**

Dear D.R.P,

It's my second semester of college, and I feel like I haven't made any friends. Am I the problem? How do I meet more people?

Best,  
The Ghost

Dear Ghost,

I'm sorry you feel this way. As lonely as it can feel, you aren't alone. Nobody really talks about how isolating your late teens/early twenties can be. There are people around at all times: the dorms, class, campus, dining hall – but they may not be your people, if you know what I mean. Making friends can really take you out of your comfort zone, but it is so worth it! If there's a classmate you get along with, ask if they'd like to go to the ISUB or study with you after class. If you live in the dorms, attend your floor traditions or any events going on. There are also tons of clubs on campus – see if any interest you! I believe in you.

With love,  
D.R.P

Dear D.R.P,

I really like this girl in my psych class. We've been texting for a while, and I want to ask her out. The problem

is, I have no clue where to take her. Any suggestions?

Sincerely,  
Romeo (hoping to swoon Juliet)

Dear Romeo,

Lucky for you, there are many places in Moscow you could take her! My first piece of advice is to learn what she would like to do. What are her hobbies or favorite foods? It all depends on what you would enjoy and the level of casualness you'd like to have the date be. Going to a local café, thrifting, or simply walking around campus/downtown are all great options for a relaxed springtime date. (Fun fact: the One World on campus in the Jansen Engineering Building accepts dining dollars; so, if you're really strapped for cash, take 'Juliet' there!) If you want a more formal date, (and your wallet is willing), take her out to Maialina or Nectar, or another sit-down restaurant. All said, the most important thing is that you have fun and learn more about each other. If your intentions are in the right place, it should be a good time either way!

Best of luck,  
D.R.P

Dear D.R.P,

I matched with this guy on Tinder, and he wants me to come to his apartment in Pullman for our first date. My friends tell me it isn't a good idea, but he seems nice over D.M.s and he's a



really cool person (I stalked his Instagram). Should I go?

Sincerely,  
Smitten

Dear Smitten,

Don't. Hope that helps!

(But if you think he's really that cool, suggest a meeting in public. Let your friends know where you are and when you expect to get back. If he's disappointed by that, major red flag.)

Be safe,  
D.R.P



Dear D.R.P,

My roommate and I are freshmen. They don't have a car, so I've been driving them around everywhere. I'm fine doing it, but they've never offered to help pay for gas. I haven't said anything because I don't want to ruin our friendship... but it's gone on for too long and it's starting to bother me. What should I do?

Please help,  
Free Uber

Dear Uber,

Before sending that Venmo request, consider having a conversation about it. These things can be awkward and scary, but in order to preserve relationships, boundaries are necessary (and healthy)! Next time they ask to

go somewhere, ask them if they mind pitching in with gas, since you're driving places you typically wouldn't be going. I suggest having this talk in a calm, relaxed setting and using the handy dandy "I" statements so that it doesn't seem accusatory. Something like: "I love hanging out and being able to help you, but I'm realizing that I'm paying a lot of money in gas that I wasn't anticipating on. Do you mind helping me out a little bit?" If your roommate is truly a friend, they will understand. You've got this!

Sincerely,  
D.R.P



Dear D.R.P,

I've been in a 'situationship' for about a month and I feel so confused. I think about him all the time... I am catching more feelings than I should. When do I have the "what are we" conversation? Do I even bring it up?

Sincerely,  
Worried about ruining things

Dear Worried,

In 'situationships,' even specified noncommittal elements can still leave you with confusing feelings. It's really difficult to dance the line of caring just enough, but not too much about the other person. If you find yourself thinking about them very often, it might already be a faux relationship: keeping one another at arm's length but still being intimate and vulner-

able. That is neither fair to you nor them. Commitment is scary... but life is too short to be nonchalant. Take those risks! Loving is not embarrassing; it is the crux of humanity. If the other person isn't in the same place, that's okay—you didn't fail by showing interest. If you've treated this situation with consistent communication, a conversation about future expectations might be in order to protect both your feelings (and sanities). Be honest about your development of feelings.

Live your truth,  
D.R.P



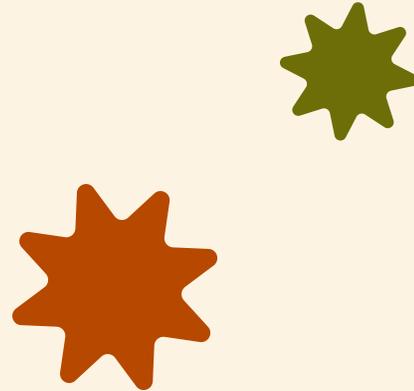
# Sharing is Caring

Libraries shifting to mixed media.

Story By **SYDNEY KELSO**

Illustrations By **CARSON HENDRICKSON**

Design By **SASHA SMITH**



Libraries have been around for almost as long as civilization itself, and throughout history they have served many purposes. Public libraries are commonplace in towns with some cities having multiple locations and they are a staple of college campuses.

The University of Idaho's library is the largest library in the state of Idaho, and it is also home to over a million books, including: rare books, historical documents and jazz collections. In fact, it is the leading collection of Jazz archives in the Pacific Northwest.

Ben Hunter, Dean of the UI Library, noted that, while libraries started as a way to share content due to the scarcity of resources, today they are used to share content in many different sustainable ways.

"When libraries started, it was because there were only so many scrolls you could do something with," Hunter said. "The more contemporary incarnation of libraries, though, comes from the realization that there is this huge amount of materials that might as well be shared, rather than bought individually, because it's simply not sustainable to do that."

Hunter noted that this is especially true in the context of an academic setting.

"It just doesn't make sense, especially in an academic setting such as a library, for everyone who needs to do research to buy each textbook individually."

With the fairly recent pivot from libraries simply a place to share content to a place that supports sustainability, the rise of technology has only helped libraries in their

sustainability efforts.

"The vast majority of our traditional library materials are going to electronic formats; eJournals and eBooks are on the rise. Still, making those online resources available to everyone, rather than having one-off copies, is helping with sustainability in that it's another way to share materials. Additionally, with the rise in digital publishing, we now have a more sustainable method of scholarly communication. Instead of requiring all students to either buy textbooks or print course packets, they can simply access something online."

Of course, looking at screens all day is not ideal, and thus, print copies can be favored in that sense.

"Alternatively, there are specific eBook devices, like Kindles, that can help combat eye strain because they are not backlit," Hunter said. "I do think there is a difference between squinting at a phone screen all day and taking time to sit down and read something on a tablet or computer. Additionally, electronics have the ability to make text larger, making books in general more accessible."

At the end of the day, both eBooks and print copies have their pros and cons, but altogether with the efforts of libraries, they are only helping the planet.

"Libraries are simply here to foster an environment where people don't need to rely on buying books they'll only read through once," Hunter said. "At their core, libraries are about having a community band together to purchase materials that we can all share."





# Ya Like Jazz?

How University of Idaho student performers prepare for the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival.

Story By **SYDNEY KELSO AND EMILY SCHAUER**

Design By **CATHERINE GALBRAITH** Photos Courtesy of **JOHN KEEGAN**

Every year, thousands of people from near and far flock to the city of Moscow, Idaho to listen to, or even play jazz hits at the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival (LHJF). While many bands are comprised of students from high schools, there are also a large number of bands that are made up of University of Idaho students.

This year marked the 58th year of the LHJF. The Festival ran from April 15 to Apr. 18, with concerts, workshops and other events lasting all day. Next year's Festival will be taking place April 22 through April 25.

Katie Seelmeyer is a senior who performed in both Jazz Choir 1 and Chamber Jazz Choir.

"...Jazz Choir 1 always does a combined piece with our World Music Festival guest artists, and I very much enjoyed that," Seelmeyer said.

Collaboration between groups is a classic aspect of the festival, with pieces chosen specifically to highlight what each group does best.

Jacob Brotman, a junior, is in Jazz Band 2 and assisted in judging and volunteer work. Brotman reflected on last year's Jazz Fest, saying that, "There was a Brazilian vocalist and flautist, that performed with us. We did some traditional samba music... We were just sort of the background for the main [performer]."

Another student is an integral part of not just one of UI's amazing jazz bands, but three.

"I'm in Jazz Band 1, Jazz Choir 1 and Chamber Jazz Choir 2," they said. "The Jazz Band [performed with] lots of featured artists. The Jazz Choir 1 normally performs with Navin Chettri and the featured world music artist.



Chamber Jazz Choir 2 [usually] does a fun spin on a classic Lionel Hampton tune in collaboration with the Jazz Band. This piece is often arranged by Dan Bukvich.”

Lots of preparation for LHJF is needed, as without it, the event would never come together smoothly.

“I prepared by not breaking my finger, like I did last year,” one student lightheartedly mentioned. “Most of the musicians don’t receive music until a few weeks beforehand. I am involved in a group called SPEC Crew, which is responsible for putting together every single performance site across campus. This includes putting together every little piece of each drum set and getting bass and guitar amps into each room.”

“I did my best to make my schedule open for any volunteer opportunities that present themselves,” Seelmeyer said. “Whether that’s performing or assisting at a master’s class or helping to ‘herd’ high schoolers, I wanted to make sure I was doing my part.”

Behind-the-scenes work is the cornerstone of LHJF, and along with musicians helping each other out, volunteer work is crucial. One volunteer, Samuel Cooper, was able to speak a bit about his experience.

“It depends on what job you are given,” Cooper said. “My first year volunteering, I was a runner, so I ferried supplies, lunches and sometimes even communication from the main office to anywhere on campus. Sometimes I took messages and other times I fetched people themselves, because when the festival is happening, people don’t always notice messages on their phones. Last year, I was a driver, so I ferried artists and presenters from their hotels to the campus and back.”

As for volunteering at LHJF, the process is quite simple. Cooper explained that there was not much prep work done on his end before the festival.

“You sign up, then go through a short training course on the UI website,” Cooper said. “Since the festival heavily involves high schoolers, volunteers need to be aware of how to protect minors, and that’s mainly what the training course is for.”

Volunteering is not only immensely helpful for the musicians who perform at the festival, but it can also be quite rewarding. If you volunteer for a certain number of hours, you get one free ticket to any concert of your choosing. For the past couple of years, four hours of volunteering has yielded one free concert ticket, with the maximum number of free concert tickets being three. They are always in need of volunteers and seeing a crucial aspect of the university’s community from another angle is rewarding in and of itself.

“Volunteering is quite relaxing if you have the right frame of mind, because in the overall scheme of things, it’s not your problem if something goes wrong,” Cooper noted. “You’re just here to help out, and there’s really no pressure.”

If you decide to volunteer for the 2026 Festival, be sure to sign up as soon as possible. Doing so guarantees you get to help with something fun while also lightening the load on the organizers.

Because the festival is so beloved, it is no surprise that LHJF has been a tradition for almost 60 years. With the music and energy of jazz that overtakes Moscow, it is hard not to enjoy at least one aspect of the festival.

“I’m looking forward to sharing music with a huge audience of people from different backgrounds,” one student said. “I’m also excited to experience live music for myself. I always love meeting the visiting artists and having conversations with them about their life and experiences.”

Seelmeyer shared excitement for the guest artists

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as well.

“I always look forward to the guest artists,” she said, “but this year specifically I was looking forward to Take 6 and Jamie Baum. I love a cappella vocal music, and Take 6 are legendary for their work with Stevie Wonder and others. I also love seeing all our high school/other guests get excited about the music.”

All performers would agree that there is no better feeling than seeing people get excited or emotional about what you perform. Coupled with the energy of a week out of the ordinary, Jazz Fest is the place to be if you wish to lighten your mood.

“I personally love the complete change of pace,” Cooper said. “The whole week is thrown up into the air and juggled about, with classes canceled and volunteering and going to concerts, so it provides a nice change of atmosphere.”

“I [was excited for] the volunteering that I got to do,”

Brotman said. “I loved seeing the adjudicators work with the students because oftentimes they don’t just give them a lesson that’s super invaluable, but they also really encourage the young musicians. And you can just see how excited they are to be getting this really intelligent and experienced feedback from professional musicians.”

During Jazz Fest, clinics were hosted by experts to teach the visiting high school students’ critical techniques that they might not have been taught otherwise. Brotman gave an example, explaining that if a big band wasn’t in sync during rehearsal, a clinic may be had to help them sync with each other. One part of the volunteering experience is assisting with those clinics.

There are many more events that make up Jazz Fest, and a seemingly endless amount of fun to be had. If you didn’t attend, it will be back next spring, so be sure to stop by and see what all the buzz is about.

# Rebuilding COMMUNITY

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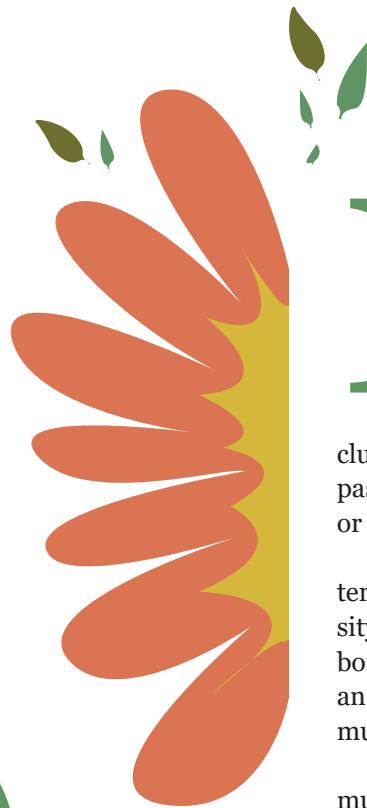
Story and Illustrations By **LEXY HOWARD**  
Design By **MARCEL EDGINTON**



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How the DEI ban is affecting the students at the University of Idaho and how we can build community in the wake of these changes.





# H

aving spaces where people can show up and be seen and accepted is important. You can go to multicultural organizations to be seen in culture, churches to be seen in faith, clubs to be seen in interests and classes to be seen in your passions. Would you enter a space where you are not seen or not welcome?

Unwelcome is how many interviewed students feel after the diversity, equity and inclusion offices at the University of Idaho closed. Community acceptance creates strong bonds and a sense of belonging. Idaho's movement toward an increasingly conservative state eliminates those community spaces for many UI students.

"It's affected me and a lot of people around me, community wise," said Anthony Gonzales, President of the Organization de Estudiantes Latinos Americanos and UNITY. "The resolution basically just stripped the office of any ability to put on cultural events."

These events help the students of UI create a strong community within an educational





environment. According to the American Psychiatric Association, one in three Americans feel lonely most of the time. In an increasingly divisive social climate, the importance of community becomes known.

In the Fall of 2024, the Idaho state legislature passed a resolution that bans diversity, equity and inclusion operations within public universities in Idaho. As a result, the Women’s Center, the Multicultural Center, the LGBTQ+ Center and the African American Center were closed.

“[DEI] is spoken about as if it’s illegal,” experimental psychologist and Moscow resident Gretal Leibnitz said. Leibnitz works to support women in STEM through federal DEI grants. “But it’s not illegal. There’s been no federal laws that have been created yet. It is simply an executive order.”

Diversity, equity and inclusion frameworks support those who do not have the same societal opportunities as those who historically did – those who are white, cisgendered and male. This language to some, however, can appear exclusionary and was the main reason for the dissolution of diversity, equity and inclusion groups within Idaho. This is part of a movement towards the federal dissolution of DEI groups.

“Language alienated the

people that had the greatest power to affect the change by not bringing them into the conversation,” Leibnitz said. Because of this exclusion, those with the power challenged DEI. In this overwhelming time, we must understand the task of community and the gift that we create by coming together.

What can we do to create community? Some suggestions are to give back to yourself and to your community, stand with those who want to speak out about the many issues that face us, elevate the voices of marginalized communities by correcting harmful language when you hear it and do your research about the movements that occur within the country.

“I say just stand with your community,” Gonzales said. “It is a very scary and sad time, but I think now more than ever is the time that we should be coming together in unity.”

Find your community: what are your values and why do



you speak out? These questions can help you build a solid foundation of values to allow you to keep your momentum in aiding those around you.

“If there’s something that makes you cry, or if there’s something that makes you rage, you must listen to that,” said Chelsey Lewellen-Byrd, community member, author and UI Apparel Textiles and Design instructor.

If you are curious about what challenges marginalized communities face, look up podcasts and TED Talks, or ask a willing friend to speak of their experiences. Listen to people who have views that differ from yours, be open to misunderstandings and learn tolerance.

*“If there’s something that makes you cry, or if there’s something that makes you rage, you must listen to that.”*

Leibnitz says that by doing so, we “create vehicles to bring us back together... we have historically been able to tolerate political differences and still love our neighbors and care for them.”

You don’t have to change people’s minds on a given topic; there is a good chance you won’t be able to. However, by listening to other perspectives, you have the opportunity to broaden your knowledge and capacity for understanding. And by doing so, this opens doors to growing a new

community.

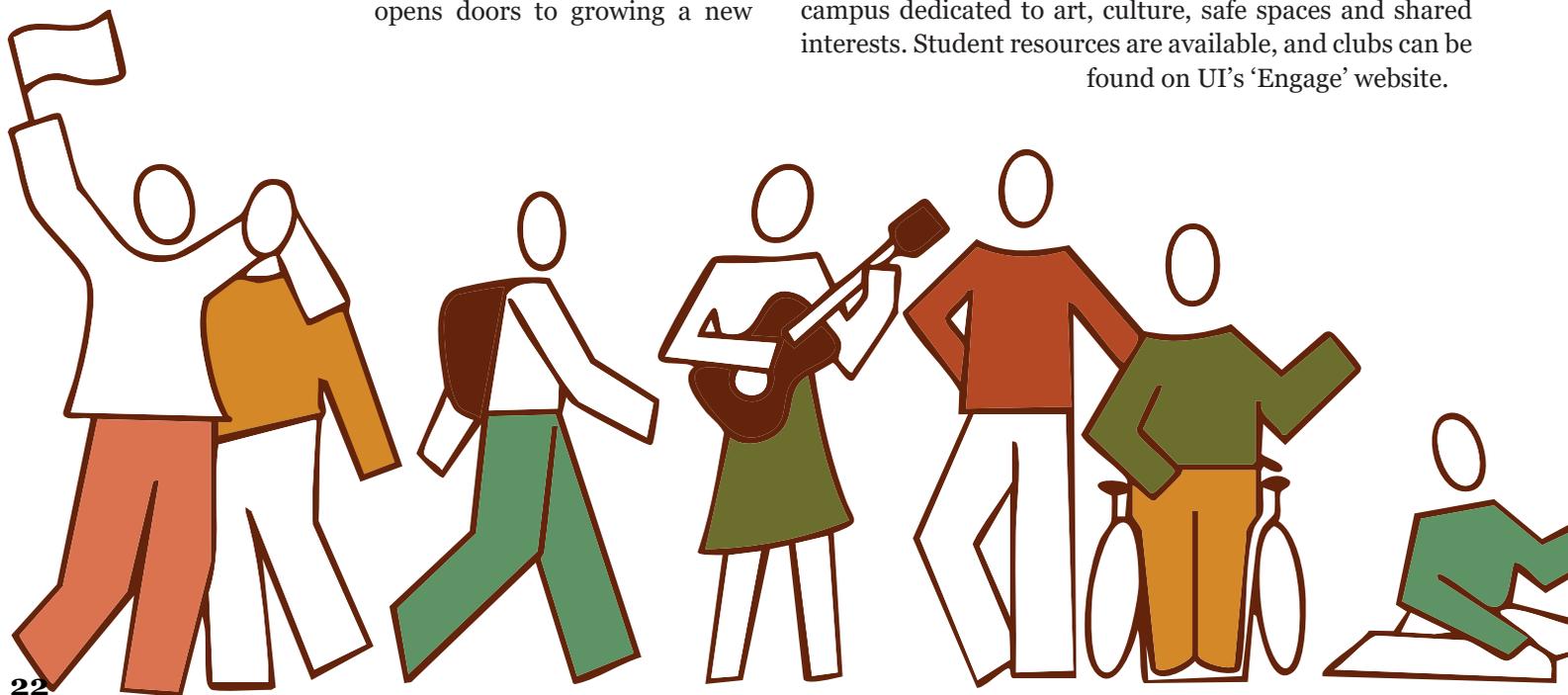
Another good way to build community is to reach out. Sharing space with those around us creates a moment for empathy and broader understanding. Let a friend know that you are there for them and can offer a space to talk. Grab a coffee, go for a walk or plan a party to take that extra step. Social media sites like Instagram and Pinterest are good resources for what to do if you get stuck.

Moscow boasts a strong community with many resources to support engagement, unity and creativity. Creativity in times of hardship brings us back to our feelings and thoughts about our experience.

“I think that we must go back to the analogy of the oxygen mask on an airplane,” Lewellen-Byrd added. “I think the first thing that you need to do is put on your own oxygen mask, and for me that means making art and music.”

The group UNITY held a protest when the closures of the DEI spaces became known. The protest showed the decision would impact the student body of UI. Even with the DEI spaces already closed, it is important to gather friends, put up posters, speak up and let your voice be heard.

Now that there are no specific DEI offices, students are looking for other options. Student organizations on campus can freely plan activities. There are many clubs on campus dedicated to art, culture, safe spaces and shared interests. Student resources are available, and clubs can be found on UI’s ‘Engage’ website.



“Creating this club was a way for us to build community,” said Debbie, Secretary of, and Kai, Vice President of, the SOGI-A a LGBTQ+ activist club. “So, [there was] starting it, and [now we are] trying to keep it flowing and getting more people to join... we have [found] community in our club and found other likeminded people.” The responsibility falls to the student body to take over the safe spaces; by joining in, you can come together and lighten the load.

Through community, we create hope and wellbeing. The resounding message from the students and faculty that contributed to this article is that you are not alone. You only need to take the first step – send that text, email, letter. The first step can lead you on a journey of hope, and you’re taking that journey alongside many others.



# Renewal in the Renaissance

Learn about the Moscow Renaissance Fair, a celebration of the renewal of the season of spring.

Story By **SYDNEY KELSO**

Graphics By **CHLOE HARDMAN**

Design By **CONNOR ANDERSON**



With spring upon us, we're fully in the season of renewal, and one excellent way to celebrate that is by attending the Moscow Renaissance Fair. The first Moscow Renaissance Fair was hosted in 1974 in East City Park, where it continues to be held to this day.

This year, the fair will be held on May 3 from 10 AM to 7 PM and on May 4 from 10 AM to 5 PM. Admission is free.

Attractions include a dragon parade, a variety of live musical performances, a petting zoo, costume contests, a Maypole dance and, of course, booths featuring local businesses selling food, crafts and art.

While the event is simply a celebration of spring, it is not unusual to see people in typical Renaissance Faire attire; pirates, fairies, lords and ladies roam the aisles, browsing shops for treats and trinkets.

"I love the shops," said Alli Sturdivant, a student at the University of Idaho who attended the 2024 Renaissance Fair. Sturdivant was invited to go to the Renaissance Fair by a friend. "It's so cool to see some of the things people were making and selling."

Anna Pawlak was another UI student who was invited to go to the Renaissance Fair by a friend last year and enjoyed her time there.

"I thought it would be fun to not only hang out with her but also see a part of Moscow that only happens once a year," Pawlak said.

With the Renaissance Fair taking over all of East City Park, walking is necessary.

"Be ready to walk around and maybe get a little wet since it was rainy when we went," Pawlak said. "I would wear comfortable shoes, and bring water and a tote bag or backpack to carry anything you might want to buy."

Sturdivant encourages people to check the weather, too, but to also not let that hinder them.

"Create an itinerary and pick out an outfit that fits with the Renaissance Fair theme," Sturdivant said. "Also, be open minded and go with the flow, because sometimes it can be a bit overwhelming."

Of course, this extremely popular two-day event could never come together without proper behind-the-scenes work. One facilitator of this is Daria Winterer, a craft booth coordinator.

"As craft booth coordinator there is work sprinkled through the year," Winterer said. "In October, the park map, craft booth

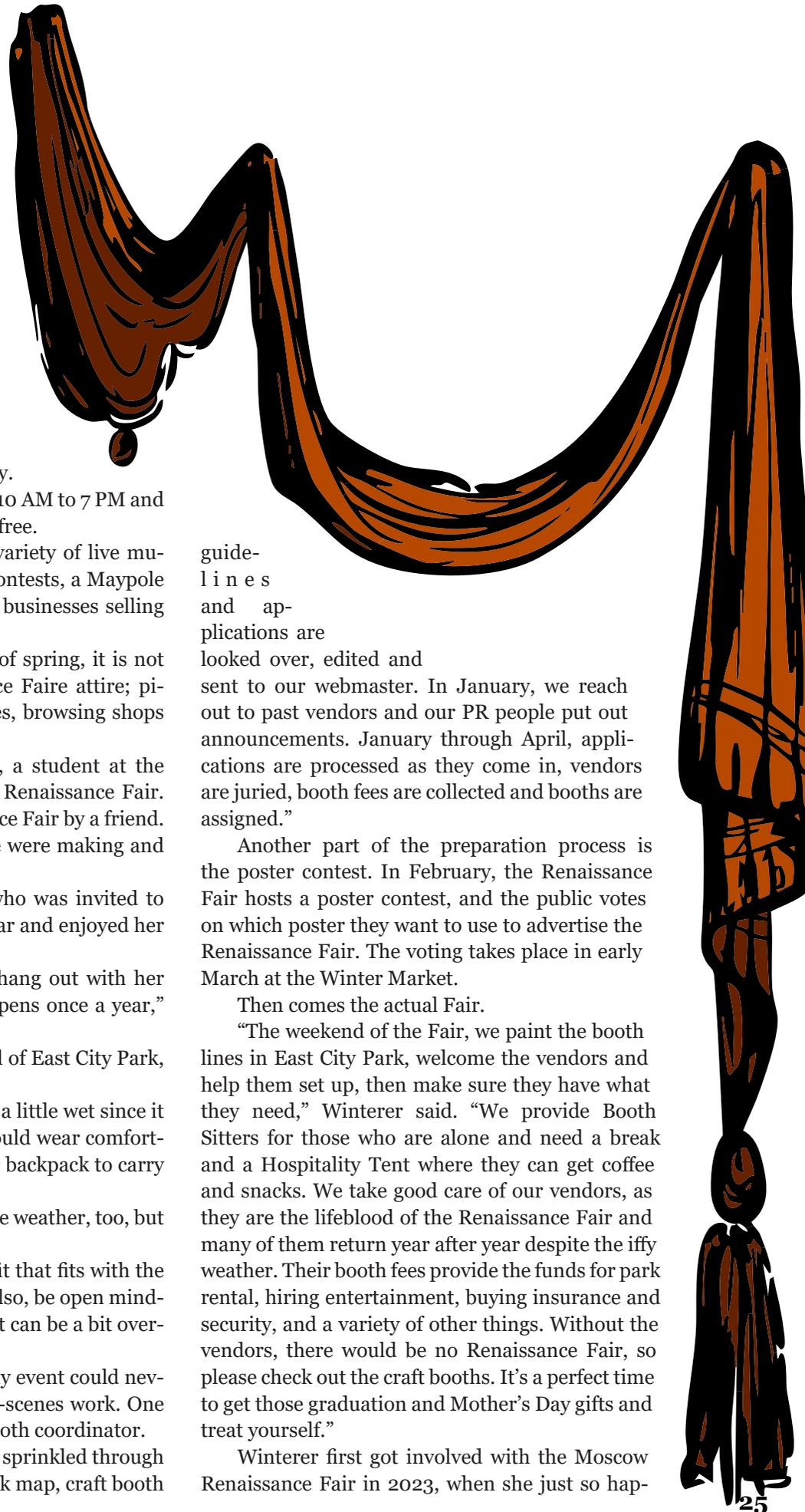
guide-  
lines  
and ap-  
plications are  
looked over, edited and  
sent to our webmaster. In January, we reach  
out to past vendors and our PR people put out  
announcements. January through April, appli-  
cations are processed as they come in, vendors  
are juried, booth fees are collected and booths are  
assigned."

Another part of the preparation process is the poster contest. In February, the Renaissance Fair hosts a poster contest, and the public votes on which poster they want to use to advertise the Renaissance Fair. The voting takes place in early March at the Winter Market.

Then comes the actual Fair.

"The weekend of the Fair, we paint the booth lines in East City Park, welcome the vendors and help them set up, then make sure they have what they need," Winterer said. "We provide Booth Sitters for those who are alone and need a break and a Hospitality Tent where they can get coffee and snacks. We take good care of our vendors, as they are the lifeblood of the Renaissance Fair and many of them return year after year despite the iffy weather. Their booth fees provide the funds for park rental, hiring entertainment, buying insurance and security, and a variety of other things. Without the vendors, there would be no Renaissance Fair, so please check out the craft booths. It's a perfect time to get those graduation and Mother's Day gifts and treat yourself."

Winterer first got involved with the Moscow Renaissance Fair in 2023, when she just so hap-



pened to strike up a conversation with the right person at the right time! While spending time with friends at the 2023 Renaissance Fair, her and her friends approached an interesting looking man in the beer garden, who ended up being the MC.

“[He] invited me to the post-Fair party,” Winterer said. “Since I had just graduated from WSU and had no plans of moving away, I decided that I wanted to get involved with my community, and David Vollmer, the man I cherry picked, had the perfect opportunity for me: the Renaissance Fair, which is always looking for volunteers. I went to the party and introduced myself to everyone and agreed to do anything they needed. That year, I mentored under the president and the previous craft booth coordinator. This year, I am happy to again be working closely with our fearless

leader LuAnn Scott, as well as a new volunteer, Ana Blaisdell, who is my craft booth co-coordinator, among the other vital volunteers that help put on the show.”

Winterer has found the role of volunteering at the Renaissance Fair to be very fulfilling.

“By far the most rewarding experience is seeing the vendors at the actual Fair,” Winterer said. “Placing a human face to an application is just marvelous. The weekend of the Fair is a working experience; however, it is delightful to be among the first to arrive and last to leave, and helping this event go on with as few hitches as possible has proved to be an entertaining and challenging endeavor.”

Because the event is so large, it requires as many volunteers as possible. Winterer encourages those interested to go and volunteer.

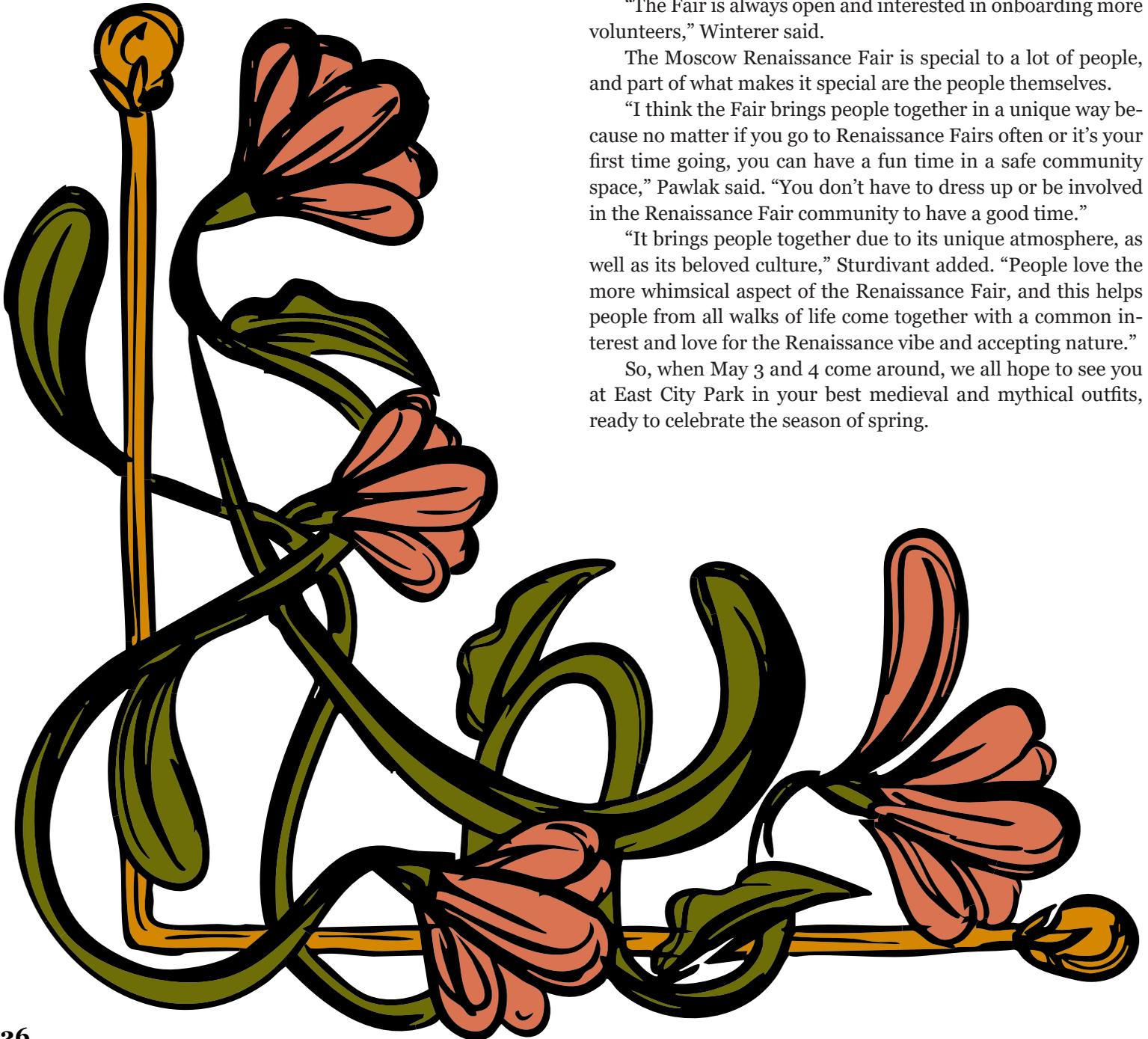
“The Fair is always open and interested in onboarding more volunteers,” Winterer said.

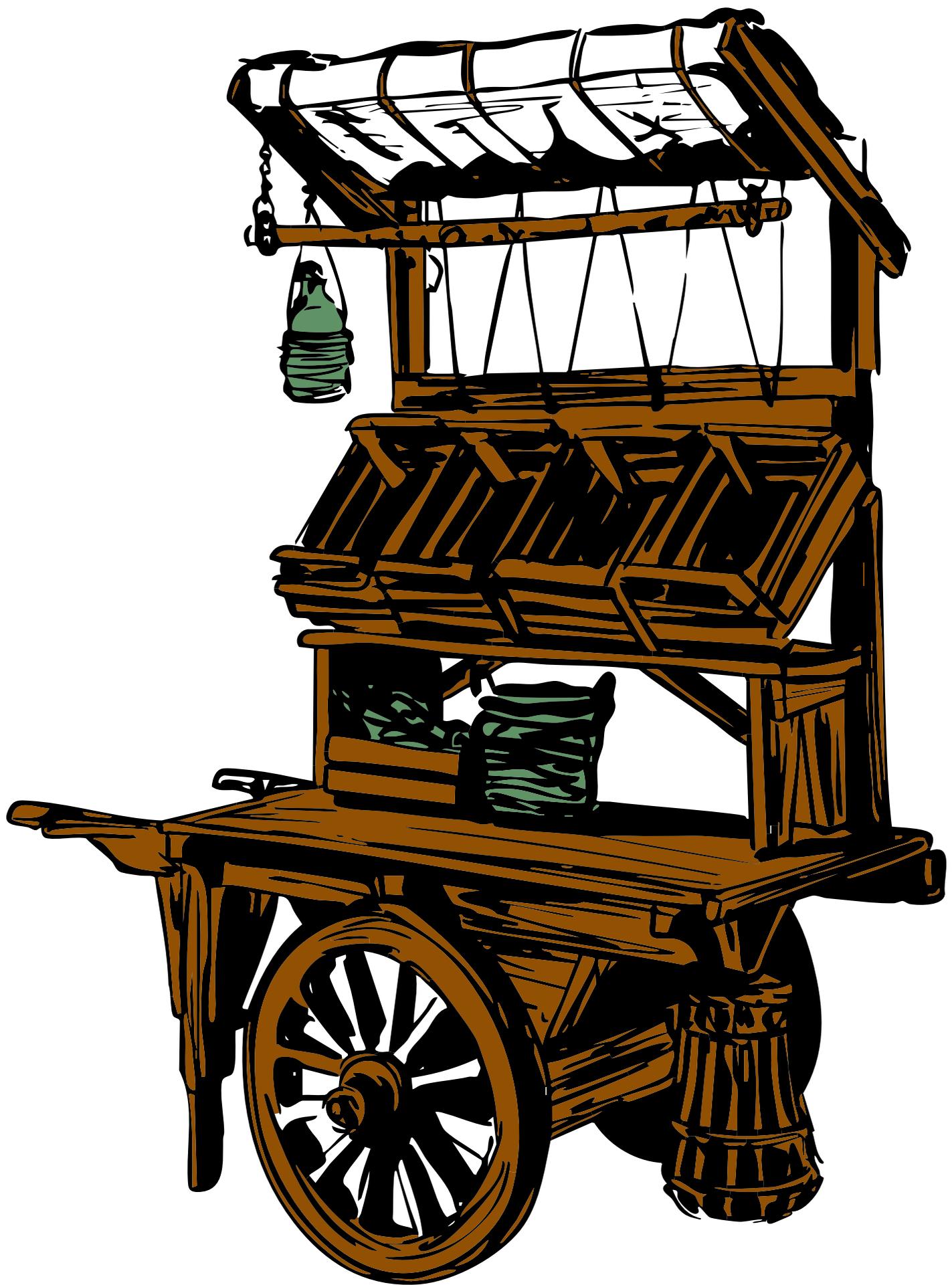
The Moscow Renaissance Fair is special to a lot of people, and part of what makes it special are the people themselves.

“I think the Fair brings people together in a unique way because no matter if you go to Renaissance Fairs often or it’s your first time going, you can have a fun time in a safe community space,” Pawlak said. “You don’t have to dress up or be involved in the Renaissance Fair community to have a good time.”

“It brings people together due to its unique atmosphere, as well as its beloved culture,” Sturdivant added. “People love the more whimsical aspect of the Renaissance Fair, and this helps people from all walks of life come together with a common interest and love for the Renaissance vibe and accepting nature.”

So, when May 3 and 4 come around, we all hope to see you at East City Park in your best medieval and mythical outfits, ready to celebrate the season of spring.





# Leila's Closet

Story By **CARSON HENDRICKSON** Photos Courtesy of **UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO** Design By **CATHERINE GALBRAITH**

**Editor's Note:** Author Carson Hendrickson is an employee of the Leila Old Historic Costume Collection.

Leila Old joined the University of Idaho Home Economics (now Family and Consumer Science) faculty in 1967, collecting historical garments as a teaching resource to show her students sewing construction. While the first gift of historical clothing made out to UI was in 1938, the collection was finally named after Leila Old in 1981.

Located on the first floor of Hays Hall, the Leila Old Historic Costume Collection, or the LOHCC, is one of the largest university-run collections in the Pacific Northwest, housing over 10,000 catalogued items, dating from the 1850s to the present day. Archived in the collection are items such as clothing (including head and footwear),

accessories, toiletries and item documentation—many of which reflect the history of Idaho, and our university.

Included in the collection are pieces owned by early faculty members of UI, one such member being Sarah Annette Bowman. Bowman was hired as UI's first professional librarian in 1905. The next year, the library was destroyed in the Administration Building fire. Bowman immediately began rebuilding the book collection, resulting in the gain of 1,000 new books, and nearly \$2,000 in donations for the library. The Leila Old Historic Costume Collection has been gifted many of her's, and other past faculty member's, clothing for preservation.

*"Ideal conditions require a room blocked out of natural light, with temperature control and acid-free packing material, all of which needs ample space."*

Professor Sonya Meyer has been the most recent curator of the collection, taking on the role in 2018. She came from the University of Wyoming, teaching textiles and running their collection, to becoming the director of the Margaret Ritchie School of Family and Consumer Science here at UI.

Meyer has different favorite pieces for different reasons. She likes a pair of 1950s work overalls because of how rare and unique pieces like that are. They are worn, ripped and patched up, but the fact that they exist at all is a miracle. Work clothes don't usually survive because they tend to be used until they are unsalvageable, but the pair in the LOHCC, while not in pristine condition, tells more about Idaho farm culture than they would have if they were pristine.

Another of Meyer's favorites is the 1850's Mother Hubbard dress. While the design itself is not too eye catching, its story is, coming across the Oregon Trail by the donor's grandmother.

The least favorites she has are not in specific pieces, but in the duplicates. Clothing is part of the material culture we leave behind, and it helps tell the story of our lives. That being said, there can be only so much of a single kind of garment that can tell the same story before it becomes repetitive. The space where the collection lives is already too small for the over 10,000 pieces it houses.



**Mother Hubbard Dress from the 1850s**

Caring for historic clothing can be demanding. Ideal conditions require a room blocked out of natural light, with temperature control and acid-free packing material, all of which needs ample space. The collection grew rapidly after Leila Old's retirement in 1981, and unfortunately the space has not grown with it, causing issues with providing the proper resources for care, storage and conservation.

Meyer plans on retiring after the Spring 2025 semester. Running a collection, especially one the size of the LOHCC, is no small feat. A collection takes time, resources and direction. When her position is filled, ideally it will be by someone whose time is mainly focused on the collection. Consistency is also important, especially in workflow.

As of now, there are three student employees working under Meyer: Ethan McIntosh, Lucinda Meshberg and Carson Hendrickson. She explained that having student employees in the collection has been a godsend. Not only does it provide her with help, but it also trains students for future employment in conservation careers.



**Sarah Annette Bowman's Dress**



**Work overalls from the 50s**



**Forester's Jacket from Moscow from the 30s**

# Lucky Number 13

From music to art, Treefort has plenty to offer.

Story, Design and Photos By **CONNOR ANDERSON**

Treefort is a huge music festival that has happened for the past 13 years in Boise, Idaho. Recently, though, it has grown into so much more than just music, as in recent years, show-runners have added in different forts such as Filmfort, Alefort and Yogafort.

The main focus of Treefort, however, is music. This year, Treefort had big artists like Remi Wolf and Bright Eyes, but like every year, the biggest draw is the massive amount of smaller bands. By taking over a majority of downtown Boise, Treefort is able to have an insane amount of bands come and play.

The venues at Treefort range from basement shows where only about a hundred people can come and watch to huge outdoor stages where over a thousand people are watching.

The difference in venues is almost as extreme as the difference in the genres that are played. For example, there were shows that had huge mosh pits forming in front of the stage just after a nice calm jazz show played, featuring a crowd of gently-swaying people.

With 437 artists over the course of five days from Mar. 26 to Mar. 30, there was a lot to see. Running around from venue to venue is one of the best parts of Treefort because by the end of the five-day festival, your legs can barely move any more.

Treefort will carry on next year with the dates being set for Mar. 25 through Mar. 29, with artists and venues yet to be announced.

**Left Page:**

**Matthew Paige of DeeOhGees balances his guitar above his head during a show at the cyclops stage**

**Right Page:**

**Top Left-Rhodes Hull performing in the Shrine Basement on the first night of Treefort**

**Top Right-Pearl Dickson of Sex Week performing in the Shrine Basement**

**Bottom Left-Jay William Miller singing in Pengilly's Saloon**

**Bottom Right-Jack from Moon Owl's Mages breaking it down at the Basque Center**







**Top Left-Vika from Vika & The Velvets performing at the Treefort Music Hall**

**Bottom Left-Aidan Fox jamming at Treefort Music Hall**

**Bottom Right-Ray Holmberg of the duo of brothers Ray & Paul performing on the Boise Brewing stage**



**Top Right-Alex gamble of Loom adjusting his effect pedals at The Shredder**

**Bottom Left-Grady Bell of MÔS Bending over backwards as the drummer looks on in amazement**

**Bottom Right-Ethan Williams of Shower Curtain performing at the Neurolux Lounge**



# Memory Mementos

How to preserve your study abroad memories through multiple means.

Story, Design and Illustrations By **LEXY HOWARD**



In the Fall of 2024, I studied abroad for a semester in Florence, Italy. That experience helped me create memories with new friends that I will cherish. The question was, how do I keep these memories so I can return to the moments I experienced over my time abroad? Everyone has a different method; some focus on photos, others on knickknacks to mark their time abroad. In these small, ways you can preserve your time abroad and have more room for future travel!

## Postcards

My personal favorite! On average, everywhere you go when you travel will have postcards. You can collect a postcard from all the places you visit during your study abroad journey, then write your favorite memories on the back. This keeps track of all your adventures. These moments will be the ones you'll want to look back on in the future.

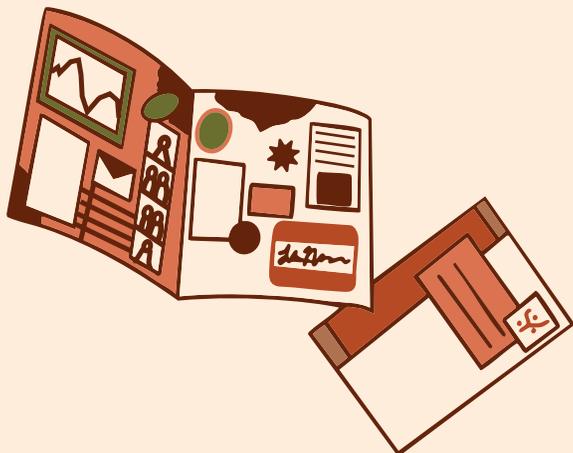


## Photos

We all have access to a camera these days, so taking photos is an excellent way to preserve memories. A point-and-shoot or film camera can add to your experience, creating a layer of nostalgia and capturing moments more accurately. Cameras with an SD card make it easy to upload photos to your computer to print.

## Scrapbooking and Collage

A great way to preserve moments! This method can either be analog or digital. You can combine your photos, travel tickets, receipts from your favorite restaurants, doodles, stickers, wrappers (bonus points if it's the language from the area you're visiting) and more into personal spreads.

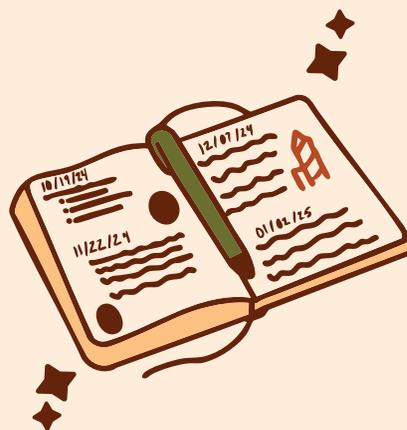


## Trinkets

Collect a niche item: labels, magnets, charms, shot glasses or jewelry; something small that can fit into your suitcase on the way home. They would be perfect to display your travels for everyone to see!

## Tattoos

To commemorate your travels abroad you can source a tattoo artist from the country or city that you're staying in. You can start by looking up general artists and following recommendations on social media until you find an artist or style you like. If they're far, it's just another excuse to travel. Choose from flash or custom designs to remember your travels forever.



## Journal

Another great way to preserve memories is to write down your experiences daily, or whatever stands out to you. Free journaling is another option when you write whatever comes to mind. Journaling creates a nuanced view of your time abroad, bringing you back to your mindset and lessons you've learned. When you're abroad, you're in a new place, and learning lessons big and small!



# Thrifting For The Aesthetic

Cool and easy outfits based on popular aesthetics you can easily throw together on a budget.

Story By **CARSON HENDRICKSON AND EMILY SCHAUER**

Photos By **SYDNEY KELSO**

Design By **SASHA SMITH**

Fast fashion is the term used to describe how clothing sold in many chain stores and malls nowadays is being mass produced at a rapid pace and often doesn't hold up to the test of time. So, when one item of clothing inevitably becomes unusable or undesirable after a couple years, consumers head straight back to the stores to replace it, thus continuing the cycle.

Thrifting not only saves you money in the long run, but because new items are constantly being added, each trip holds something different for thrifters to find. It is easy to grow overwhelmed by the large number of pieces to sort through when going thrifting for the first time. The

*"The COVID-19 pandemic, while devastating, turned out to be something of a cultural hinge for thrifting."*

best piece of advice is to go in with an idea of what you want to find. If you don't have a specific intention, it's easy to spend hours upon hours pushing hangers

on racks and examining every little thing. Each thrift store tends to have the same arrangement: shirts, pants and skirts, dresses, jackets and shoes, all assorted by size.

Beyond that, it's anyone's guess as to whether any intention lies within those racks. So, start somewhere, find your size and go from there.

Besides finding individual pieces to spice up your wardrobe, you can also thrift for specific aesthetics, which is what this article will be covering. For this purpose, we went to the Goodwill located on Warbonnet Drive in Moscow, Idaho, to search for items in a few popular aesthetics

Despite its recent rise in popularity, thrifting is not a revolutionary concept. For years people would excitedly share their finds from stores like Goodwill or the Salvation Army, adding pieces to their own wardrobes once beloved by others, cultivating their own style at a cheap price.

However, for some people, thrifting is something to look down upon. Due to their affordability, donation centers are popular places for people with low incomes to shop from. As such, if, for example, a child is seen wearing a clearly second-hand item of clothing at school, they might face bullying and harassment for not having as much money as their peers.

The COVID-19 pandemic, while devastating, turned out to be something of a cultural hinge for thrifting. With so many people spending time inside, social media grew exponentially in popularity. Everyone was online, sharing and talking about anything and everything. TikTok was among the most popular apps to be used. People would post videos on how it is more sustainable to thrift or make your own clothes rather than take part in the "fast fashion" norm.



TOP LEFT **THE FIRST AND FOURTH OUTFITS**  
TOP RIGHT **THE FIRST OUTFIT**  
BOTTOM LEFT **THE FOURTH OUTFIT**  
BOTTOM RIGHT **THE FIRST AND FOURTH OUTFITS**

“Scroll through Pinterest for inspiration on how to spice up that wardrobe, or get creative and wing it, but no matter how you approach the task of the adventure of thrifting, just remember to have fun!”

The first outfit we have can be described as a simple whimsigoth look. With the stars on the sweater coupled with the skirt, you can embody the feel of the night sky in this fabulous outfit. As for shoes, anything goes with this one! These boots tie the whole thing together nicely, putting the “goth” in “whimsigoth.” Any potential makeup and accessories are up to your discretion, but silver is always a good option for an outfit like this. The components for this outfit were purchased at the Goodwill here in Moscow.

The second outfit puts a spin on the grunge aesthetic, cleverly described as “business grunge.” Taking the star sweater and boots from the previous outfit, this one adds a maroon blazer and boot-cut black jeans for a more personal swing on a classic aesthetic, thrifted or not. Fashion is a form of self-expression, and what better way to self-express than by adding your own beloved pieces to the mix? The tops for this outfit were purchased at Goodwill in Moscow. The black jeans were purchased at Walmart in Boise.

The third outfit gives the feel of an authentic vintage look. With this look inspired by the 1930s and 40s, you too can look like you just stepped backwards in time, right in time for the second Great Depression! Creating a historically inspired outfit is not as daunting and difficult as it seems.

A plain or neutrally colored button up shirt and high-waisted, wide-legged slacks are all you really need. Jazzing it up with a sweater, blazer—or in this case, a sweater vest—can add some extra flair. Doing your hair in a vintage style and wearing a pair of vintage round glasses

are optional, but they help to communicate the time period you are trying to convey. The pants, sweater vest and boots were purchased at Goodwill in Moscow. The shirt was purchased at the Hope Center in Moscow.

The fourth outfit is somewhat in the same vein as the last, with a “dark academia meets The Hobbit” vibe. The elements are essentially the same as the last – button up, slacks, vest – except this outfit plays with texture. A natural fiber, linen shirt, paired with green corduroy pants and corduroy waistcoat give a soft, natural, almost fantastical feel to an otherwise distinguished academic look. The waistcoat, pants and loafers were purchased at Goodwill in Moscow. The linen shirt was purchased at the Hope Center in Moscow.

The fifth outfit is a contemporary breath of fresh air, giving a slightly retro, artsy hipster vibe. A pair of wide-legged jeans and a quirky graphic tee are the base for this aesthetic. Paired with a colorful rusty corduroy jacket and teal Chuck Taylors gives the outfit an “I’m not like other girls” feel. Now you are ready to go take pretentious photos of the clouds to post on your MySpace in the Year of our Lord 2025! The jacket and shirt were purchased at Goodwill in Moscow, the shoes at the Hope Center in Moscow, and the pants at Ross in Moscow.

With the right attitude, a caffeinated drink in hand and a friend or two to accompany you, you can make your thrifting trip one to remember. Scroll through Pinterest for inspiration on how to spice up that wardrobe, or get creative and wing it, but no matter how you approach the task of the adventure of thrifting, just remember to have fun!

“The fourth outfit is somewhat in the same vein as the last, with a ‘dark academia meets The Hobbit’ vibe.”



TOP LEFT **THE THIRD OUTFIT**  
BOTTOM LEFT **THE SECOND OUTFIT**

TOP RIGHT **THE FOURTH AND SECOND OUTFITS**  
BOTTOM RIGHT **THE FIFTH OUTFIT**

# Hungry Creatives: Starving Artist Sale 2025

Story By **EMILY SCHAUER** Photos By **SYDNEY KELSO**

Updated and improved for the 2025 sale. Design By **CONNOR ANDERSON**

Last semester, I wrote a piece covering the Starving Artist Sale back in April of 2024. This semester, the Sale was held on April 12 in the Pitman Center from 10 AM to 5 PM. The turnout on all fronts was very high, and I was able to speak with a few vendors, as well as some returning interviewees: Julie Tennant and Ella, who both participated in last year's sale. I hoped to get some expansion from last semester's article, especially while at the event itself, on how they prepared for the Sale and what their overall thoughts were.

Expectations for this year's Sale were high. It was held in the Pittman Center this time as opposed to the ISUB, where it was last year. It was also held during Parents' Weekend, ensuring more foot traffic as well as a bigger space to hold it all. And

that extra space was needed on all fronts, not just considering all of the shoppers. Tennant said that 65 artists signed up to participate this year, which was "a big jump in participation from the vendor side of things."

One important aspect of participating in a sale such as this one is the amount of preparation that goes into getting ready for the big day. For Ella, this process is extensive.

"Prep for me looks like a lot of crocheting," Ella said. Ella runs her crochet business, The doodle bee crochets. "I usually start with a list of things I would like to get made for the sale, take inventory and see if I need to buy any supplies."

Additionally, she said she did a test run of how she wanted her table to be set up. All of this ensured that there was no unnecessary hassle when the event began.

As for Tennant, her time was spent taking inventory as well, along with ordering prints of artwork and drafting a plan for her setup.

"It's important to get the word out both in person and on social media well beforehand," Tennant added.

There is only so much that flyers and a location change can do to promote the event. Hearing about it firsthand from a participant by word-of-mouth is always a great way to go.

With each new year comes a renewed opportunity to improve on the past. Tennant and Ella kept some things the same, but they also made some small changes based on how 2024's Sale went.

"I made some of the same things I sold last year, like the little potatoes, but I also had a bunch of new stuff," said Ella. "I also had the mystery bags again because they did pretty well, and they are pretty fun! Technical things like the payment methods I kept the same, as it worked pretty well last time."

As for Tennant, her plan was to keep a similar table setup from last year. No need to change what works, is there?

When asked what she did differently, Ella gave some exciting information.

"I had a bunch of new items I'm doing this time! I had things that were more interactive, like squeakers and magnets. [I also had] a bigger table this time, a full instead of a half. I had new displays and a new tablecloth!"

"[I was] excited to offer some new artwork and items this time around!" said Tennant. Last year she offered hand-drawn stickers and prints in various sizes, among other things. Keeping the products fresh and new is something every vendor should be mindful of. The last thing you want is for buyers to grow bored and expectant with what you are selling; so keeping your table



**Katie Slade posing with one of her pieces of art that was for sale**  
**40**

updated with new and exciting items is key.

As always, when faced with the opportunity to do something again, you take what you learned from the first try and apply it to the second. The only way up is to grow, and when it comes to the Starving Artist Sale, it is beneficial to learn from the first try and build from that.

When asked what knowledge she applied from last year, Tennant said, "I've made some changes to my prices and how I accept payment to more accurately reflect the prices on my website and sales from the past year."

Another piece of advice: Know your worth as an artist! Art takes time. It is often expensive, depending on what it is you are making. Knowing how to price products fairly is a crucial skill to have when selling your art. Everything from the amount of time spent to the cost of materials to what you made the last time you sold art—if at all—goes into knowing how to price correctly.

As for Ella, she focused on another part of the technical aspect.

"I learned how to do the taxes portion of the Sale, as it is a registered event. I figured out how to do payment methods, like having change for cash and a card reader that connects to my phone. Last year they were helpful and asked any pro vendors for tips to give to the new student vendors. Hopefully they do that again."

The most important part of events like the Starving Artist Sale is to have fun and enjoy yourself. With so many vendors to see, it is almost impossible to be bored at an event like that.

"I think my favorite part [of the Sale] was seeing everyone else's art," said Ella. "Though I will say, I didn't do as well this year compared to last year."

Several other vendors agreed that they enjoyed seeing new art, as well as partaking in art trades.

As always, if you are interested in participating in the Sale next year, keep your eye out for any news and sign up sooner rather than later. If you are on the fence about it, jump in and try anyway! We hope you made it to this year's Sale and enjoyed what it had to offer.



A mushroom crocheted  
by Ella  
(@TheDoodlebeecrochets)



Duck (@ye.onge) holding up some of the art they are selling at the Starving Artists Sale

# Celebrating Culture

A look at some of the University of Idaho's cultural highlight events.

Story By **SYDNEY KELSO** Photos Courtesy of **NEPALI STUDENTS ASSOCIATION AND THE ARGONAUT**

Design By **CATHERINE GALBRAITH**



The University of Idaho is home to a wide array of students from various sorts of backgrounds, and as such, there is no shortage of events celebrating cultures from all around the world. Read on to learn about a couple big events from the Spring 2025 semester, as well as a few to look forward to during the Fall 2025 semester.

Last winter, the Nepali Students' Association (NSA) spent months preparing for the Taste of Nepal event, which took place on Sunday, Feb.

2 from 5 to 7 PM.

"We started preparing for this year's event back in November 2024," said President of the NSA Sashwot Niraula. "During the December break, we made significant progress. The Performance Team began rehearsing cultural dances and music, the Food Team brainstormed an authentic Nepali menu and the Promotion Team worked on early outreach efforts."

*In reflection on the event, Niraula noted that, "For many of us, Taste of Nepal is more than just a cultural event—it is a reminder of home."*



“This year’s event was especially meaningful because it marked the 20th anniversary of Taste of Nepal, and we celebrated it with the theme ‘Flavors, Feelings, and Festival,’” Niraula added. “Everything, from performances to decorations, centered around the festivals celebrated in Nepal during October and November, such as Dashain and Tihar.”

The event featured an array of dances celebrating the festivals. The night started out with Ganesh Vandana. “This is a traditional invocation dance dedicated to Lord Ganesh, symbolizing good fortune and the removal of obstacles,” Niraula explained. “It is performed at the beginning of the event to seek blessings for a successful and joyous celebration.”

Next came the Chhath Festival Song, “a tribute to the Chhath festival, which is dedicated to the Sun God and is a celebration of gratitude, prosperity, and purity,” Niraula said. “This festival is particularly important in the Terai region of Nepal.”

After that was Maha Puja, “a ritual celebrated during Nepal Sambat, the Newar New Year,” Niraula contin-

ued. “This act represents self-purification and renewal, emphasizing the importance of one’s well-being and prosperity.”

Then came a performance celebrating Dashin. Dashin is Nepal’s biggest festival, and it celebrates the triumph of good over evil.

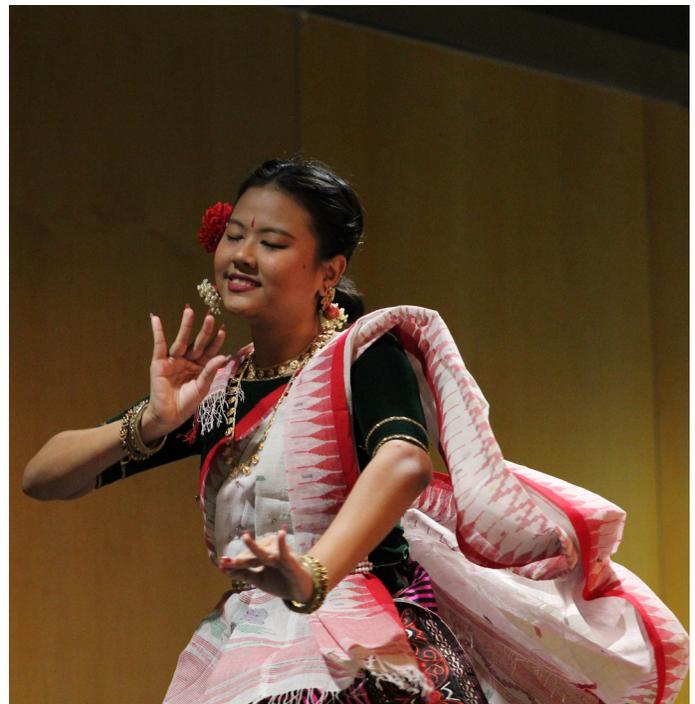
“Then came the Tihar Deusi/Bhailo Performance,” Niraula said. “Tihar, Nepal’s festival of lights, is celebrated with Deusi and Bhailo, where groups sing traditional songs, dance and receive blessings in return. This year, the Deusi/Bhailo performance was led by Navin Chettri, a renowned musician and lecturer at the Lionel Hampton School of Music.”

Chettri is experienced in world music, and much of his work consists of promoting Nepali music.

Authentic Nepali food was also served at the event. During the performances, Nimki (Fried tortilla-like chips) were served at tables.

Once the performances came to an end, attendees were treated to a Nepali buffet featuring homemade Nepali meals. Featured was Basmati Rice, Chicken Curry, Chana Masala (Chickpea Curry), mixed vegetables cooked with herbs and spices, Aloo Achaar (a dish made of potatoes, cucumber, and spices), Mo:Mo (Nepali Dumplings), Tomato Achaar (a dish made of tomatoes, serrano peppers, and spices) and Khurshani ko Achaar (a dish made of jalapeno peppers, cilantro, and yogurt).

“Dessert featured Dudh Bari, a sweet dish made with ricotta cheese and sugar [as well as] Mango Lassi, a refreshing mango and yogurt-based drink,” Niraula said. “Each dish reflect[ed] the flavors of Nepal, showcasing



the depth of Nepali spices, culinary techniques, and food traditions.”

In reflection on the event, Niraula noted that, “For many of us, Taste of Nepal is more than just a cultural event—it is a reminder of home. For Nepali students and the broader Nepali community, this event provides a way to stay connected to our roots while being far from home. It is also an opportunity to educate and inspire. Nepal is a small country, yet it is home to over 120 ethnic groups and more than 100 languages. This event gives attendees a glimpse into Nepal’s diversity, whether through the performances, music, or the food they enjoy.”

Niraula also reflected on his own experience as the NSA President. “Being the President of NSA has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my time at the University of Idaho,” Niraula said. “Whether it’s through Taste of Nepal, Dashain, the Welcome Back Orientation, soccer tournaments or other events, NSA brings together students from diverse backgrounds, creating an environment where cultural exchange thrives.”

“One of the most unforgettable moments for me was seeing Taste of Nepal come to life after months of preparation,” Niraula added. “When I saw all the pieces come together—the performances, the food, the decorations and the audience engaging with our culture—I literally got goosebumps.... Seeing the excitement of attendees as they experienced Nepali culture firsthand made all the hard work worth it.”

With the event being such a success, it is no surprise that it was awarded the Best Program award at the Student Achievement Award Ceremony on Friday, April 4.

“The Nepali Students’ Association (NSA) at the University of Idaho was founded in 2001, making it one of the oldest international student organizations on campus,” Niraula said. “Over the past two decades, the NSA has grown into a thriving community that welcomes students from all backgrounds while serving as a home away from home for Nepali students.”

Along with cultural events, the NSA works with many philanthropic organizations, as well as other colleges’ NSA chapters.

Niraula encouraged readers to get involved with the NSA. “The NSA welcomes all students, regardless of nationality, who are interested in learning about and engaging with Nepalese culture,” Niraula said. “There are several ways for students to get involved; they can attend NSA events, volunteer, join the Executive Committee, collaborate with the NSA and follow us on social media. We post regular updates about events, volunteer opportunities and community activities on Instagram (@uidaho\_nsa)

**For Nepali students and the broader Nepali community, this event provides a way to stay connected to our roots while being far from home.**

and other platforms.”

Another wildly popular cultural event was the Cruise the World event, which took place on Sunday, March 23 from 11 AM to 4 PM. The event featured cultural foods and dances from a wide variety of cultures and countries. Each country represented had a table featuring information about the culture. Some tables, such as Morocco and Azerbaijan, offered desserts alongside with their traditional foods. Others had trinkets, pins and activities to get involved in; for example, Bangladesh’s table had people creating beautiful henna tattoos.

Along with specific countries having tables there, some student groups and associations had tables as well, such as the Native American Student Association and Club de Hispanohablantes.

The event was, as always, a huge success, with all five hours being packed with students and community members alike.

Emily LaGrone, a senior at UI, was particularly excited about the event.

“This was my first Cruise the World,” LaGrone said. “My favorite part was trying the food from Nepal. I have

a close friend from that country, and she recommended the Chicken Mo:Mo. It was amazing.”

LaGrone was also excited to learn about all the cultures represented.

“I... really enjoyed the performances,” she said. “Seeing how different cultures like to express themselves is cool to see.”

LaGrone wished that there was more information on the traditional foods, though.

“I think it would be interesting to learn the traditional foods used in each country,” she said. “I’d love to learn about the preferred protein, common food preparation and spices. I think that would be so fun, to learn what common spices are used and how spicy they are.”

At the bottom of the steps, there was a wall of sticky notes asking for suggestions, so be on the lookout for those changes at next year’s Cruise the World.

Along with Cruise the World to look forward to in the Spring semester, the UI community will host plenty of cultural events in the Fall semester.

“Looking ahead to the Fall semester, the NSA is planning several exciting events, including our Dashain Festival, Welcome Back BBQ and more,” Niraula said.

Along with these unmissable NSA events, UI will feature events such as Bangladesh Night and India Night. Be sure to keep an eye out for more opportunities to learn about and experience different cultures!



**Curry**  
Chicken thighs, onion, garlic,  
salt, pepper, paprika,  
turmeric, ground coriander,  
lemon juice (mixed spices)

# A Different Take on Prom: Punk

Fundraising for Punk Palouse Fest began with a moshing success!

Story and Design By **LEXY HOWARD**

Photos By **CONNOR ANDERSON**

With Photos Courtesy of **CORY SUMMERS**

Highschool prom: a night of dancing, memories and teen angst. The fundraising event Punk Prom brought back prom night with an adult twist and plenty of punk music to go around. With performances by local cover band Covergirl, Spokane's The Dilrods and Moscow's DJ Dave, the event was an amazing success.

Punk Palouse Fest, a local summer punk festival organized by Alica Gladman, Alli Curet, Drew Schuldt and Chris Proctor, relies on community fundraising to fund the events of the festival. Concert fundraisers are held in the months leading up to the festival itself, and Punk Prom was one of them.

Last year was the first year of the festival and the committee put on three fundraising events; this year they aim to put on two. Titled "Bloody Valentine – Punk Prom," the Feb. 14 fundraiser at John's Alley had a great turn out.

"These events bring people together from all different backgrounds," said one crowd member. "Super diverse. It's kind of like 'anti-everything' but also a lot of love."

The beginning of the night began with the set-up: Curet and Schuldt put together the photobooth, decorations and band set-up, which was directed by Gladman. Everything was black and red, with both hearts and skulls present in the decorations. The doors to the event opened at eight and people began to flow in. The crowd was steady the whole evening. Locals, alternative folks, the punk crowd and every group in between were accounted for; all came to gather and enjoy the punk music.

"It's also part of this bigger social movement, which I think is really important to be aligned in this time," one concertgoer said on the necessity of these spaces to come together and share both joy and anger.

Covergirl took the stage, fronted by Alica Gladman, Alex Connors, Bill Tracy on guitar and Joel Knisely on drums. Covergirl came together as a collaboration specifically for this night. The band performed pop-punk covers of songs such as "Teenage Dirtbag" by Wheatus, as well as other mainstream pop-punk. Gladman took to the stage wearing their original cream-and-red tartan prom dress, tucked into their belt.

"[Playing and performing for Punk Palouse Fest] fulfills all my teenage dreams of community and music," said Connors. "It's great to come together and be around people hav-

**PUNK PALOUSE FEST**

FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>5-8 (21+) at John's Alley</b> Demps • DotGov • Talon Smartt • Last	<b>1-4 at the Kenworthy</b> Railing • Bad Trip Motel Proxi • Blood Cannery
<b>9-12 at Mikey's</b> Dirt Russell • Storm Boy Hayes Noble Portal to the God Damn Blood Dimension	<b>5-8 (21+) at John's Alley</b> Oliver Elf Army • Dilrods Blunt Skulls • Puddy Knife <b>9-12 at Mikey's</b> Spring Bake • Peru Resh Love in Hell • Subsumer

**MAY 23-24, MOSCOW ID**  
TICKETS AND DETAILS @PUNKPALOUSE ON INSTAGRAM

MONARCH motel KENWORTHY Performing Arts Centre

ing a good time." Covergirl set the high energy for the night with their attitude and musical performance.

Dilrods band members Bobby, Dean and Dusty began the mosh. The Dilrods write and perform short high energy, original songs that are a mix of conventional and hardcore punk.

"We're definitely leaning more towards old school punk, like skate rock; [we like] the 80s Orange County punk rock... stuff," explained Dilrods band members. The band brought rock to John's Alley; the front of the crowd was dedicated to the mosh and full of a diverse array of people. Whether you like to mosh or not, you can't help but feel the shared joy and power of a mosh pit. To end the night, Moscow's own DJ



Dave set up his turn tables and curated an atmosphere for dancing and conversation.

Punk Prom was the first fundraiser for Punk Palouse Fest, a passion project that brings an intentional focus of punk music to Moscow.

**“Punk Palouse Fest is a part of this bigger social movement, which I think is really important to be aligned with in this time.”**

“There was a little bit of a vacuum after a lot of venues closed after or during COVID,” said Gladman. “There was a reviving energy to make music and put shows on.” 2024 was the first year of the festival and it had a successful turn out with a diverse array of musicians and bands. The weekend was dynamic, with a celebratory, inclusive atmosphere.







This year, they're excited to grow the Fest by adding age-inclusive shows and more bands. Over 44 bands applied to be a part of Punk Palouse Fest this year. Last year's lineup included The Himbos, Lipstick and Ideomotor. This year's event boasts five shows over two days with a lineup of 20 bands such as Talon, Portal to the God Damn Blood Dimension, Subsummer and the returning Dilrods.

Spaces such as Punk Palouse Fest are important to bring the community together. With the punk community's DIY roots, activism and community-oriented focus, Moscow is a great place to host a festival such as this one.

"I do feel like it's unique to any town I've worked in," Gladman said. "There's enough happening that like it feels... [there's a] really community-oriented scene here... everyone comes out to support."

Musicians and concertgoers come to celebrate art, joy, anger and most importantly, punk music. Punk Palouse Fest offers a wide range of punk music, catering to diverse tastes. This summer, come to party on May 23 and 24.



# Vying to Be the Best in the U.S.

Get ready for the Farmers Market

Story By **SYDNEY KELSO**

Photos By **CHLOE HARDMAN & CONNOR ANDERSON**

Design By **CHLOE HARDMAN**

Get ready, because the Moscow Farmers Market is just around the corner! Come May 4, the Moscow Farmers Market will be in full swing every Saturday morning, with vendors featuring a variety of handmade goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, ready-to-eat snacks and so much more.

The Farmers Market runs from the first Saturday in May to the last Saturday in October. It is open from 8 AM to 1 PM, so there is plenty of time to hit it up. There's also plenty of vendors to hit up. According to Community Events Manager Amanda Argona, the Market hosts over 80 vendors, with some traveling 200 miles to set up shop.

With the Moscow Farmers Market being just a year away from hitting its 50th birthday, it is no surprise that it is a fan-favorite among new students and Moscow residents alike.

"I love seeing the people of Moscow enjoying the Market," Emma Freitas, a third-year student at the University of Idaho, said. Freitas goes to the Market most weekends when it's open. "As a college student, I don't really see a lot of people who aren't also students. I also love the food."

Freitas encouraged all Market-goers to try the food at the Market.





“A lot of it is fantastic! The first time I went to the Market with friends we discovered the crepe stand. We decided to give it a try and we’ve gone to it every visit since.”

Sofia Strilets, a second-year student at UI, has been going to the Market since she first moved to Moscow a couple of years ago. Strilets agreed that the Market’s treats are a need.

“My favorite part of the Market is definitely the food,” Strilets said. “I bought my first tamale there and came to find out [that] they’re incredible! The Market also has grocery foods like bread, jam and produce. One time, I went with a friend to Panhandle after walking around the Market and I put some of the jam from the Market on my ice cream. Wow, it tasted good.”

The Moscow Farmers Market is a wonderful place to make memories similar to the one Strilets made.

“I encourage everyone to bring a friend,” Strilets said. “Even if you don’t want to buy anything, just walking around with a friend and looking at all the stuff there is incredibly fun. Last summer, one of my friends and I biked to the Market and spent almost the whole day there. We ended the day with ice cream. It remains a treasured memory to this day.”

The Market is also notable because of the differences which separate it from other farmers markets.

“I’m from a bigger city than Moscow, so the farmers markets are very different from where I come from,” Freitas noted. “The Moscow Farmers Market has always seemed more personal to me.”



“I’ve been to some pretty small farmers markets from the rural areas of California, and they’re quite different,” Strilets said. “There, you drive up to a field or a patch of farmland with just a few stands and you can go pick the produce and berries yourself. In Moscow, they bring the food to you, while keeping it fresh. Moscow also has more food trucks and more opportunities to support small art or jewelry businesses.”

Strilets has also been to Moscow’s Winter Market, which she noted is quite different from the Farmers Market, but still a lot of fun and something worth checking out when it comes around again.

“I was able to get some cool books, as well as some Christmas gifts for my roommates,” Strilets said.

Along with books, the Winter Market sells a variety of crafts and foods. It is open from 9 AM to 1 PM on most Saturdays in November, December and February.





“Our favorite things about the market are the live music & getting to know our customers and neighboring vendors,” Kelly said. “Also, the Moscow Farmers Market features products that are local, handmade or homegrown. In fact, Alpine Chai is based out of Moscow.”

Alpine Chai isn't the only Moscow-based business.

“Over 70 percent of vendors are [based] right here in our community's backyard of Latah and Whitman counties,” said Argona.

Alpine Chai, like nearly all other vendors at the Market, is a small business. Because of that, it is crucial that Market-goers take their time going through the Market so that they can support as many local businesses as possible.

As mentioned earlier, the 50th anniversary of the Moscow Farmers Market is coming up. Argona believes that it is the consistency of the vendors and the community that have let the Market stay so strong for so long.

“Year[s of] commitment of vendors attending the Market have created a strong foundation for continued customer engagement,” Argona said. “Consistency matters, and because of that vendor commitment, customers who value supporting small, independent, local and artisan products know that they can rely on the Market for such goods. We... have big plans in the works for the 50th

Both Markets are integral to Moscow, and the Moscow community is just as important to small businesses. Whether it be the summer or winter, small businesses know they can thrive in Moscow due to the overwhelming local support.

“The Market is a clear demonstration that we can put aside our differences and come together in the interest of fresh food and supporting local and regional producers,” Argona said. “The Market has an economic ripple effect that is felt not just in the neighboring downtown businesses, but [also] throughout our community.”

With the Farmers Market being so diverse in the goods it sells, it also makes it a wonderful place to sell goods as a vendor.

“The Moscow Farmers Market is unique from other Markets... in that it has high standards for the products being sold,” said Kelly of Alpine Chai LLC. Kelly requested to keep her last name anonymous.

Alpine Chai started in 2021, and while they have had a booth at the Moscow Farmers Market for just one year, they enjoyed that year and are excited for the upcoming Market season.





anniversary, including some giveaways and our own twist on a commemorative calendar, to name a few.”

Argona encouraged UI students to support the Market in any way they can.

“If cost is an issue, students can still support the Market and our vendors through social media engagement, word-of-mouth advertising, e-newsletter sign-ups and still visiting [the Market], even when the weather is less than ideal (a great way to get some fresh air and your daily steps in),” said Argoda. “A big way to show up for the Market each year is to vote for us and support our online campaign efforts during the ‘America’s Farmers Market Celebration,’ where we participate in a friendly competition with Farmers Markets across the U.S. to find out which are the best at state, regional and national levels.”

The Moscow Farmers Market is one of the best around. This year, be sure to go down to the Farmers Market and see for yourself everything that makes our Market the best in the U.S.!

# Fern

Flash Fiction; a letter from mother to calf

Story By **MAYA MCBRIDE**

Illustration and Design By **CHLOE HARDMAN**



Little one,

The snow has thawed, revealing tufts of moss. Gone are the days of eating bark; Iris and Forsythias greet you. Though you're only a month old, and will be living off milk for a while, the dandelions invite you to graze. You are asleep. I've been thinking about your name. I want it to be special; I want it to hold weight. You are my first calf.

I was born tickled by juniper, which my mother found symbolic enough to name me as. Brother was born after me and named Aspen. We were raised on the edge of a meadow, close to human habitats. While Mother slept, Aspen and I would walk the solid gray path to what we considered to be Eden. The grass was lush, the birds had manmade homes. We played chase and snacked on flowers that grew in uniform rows — unique from the wild ones we knew. Everything was enchanting.

I remember Mother's low, threatening call one summer's morning as Aspen and I jumped through lawn sprinklers. She reprimanded us for being so foolish, for ignoring our wild intuitions. Aspen, always a little nervous and craving approval, refused to come back with me each time I suggested we go. I don't think he has been near humans since. Mother was always upset with me — I think because she loved Aspen, as the male, more,

but mainly for my lack of trepidation — which at the time, I didn't understand. Now, with your soft breath cooling my side, I feel the same uneasiness.

Last night, a human approached us. I don't think she knew we were lying in the canopy of pine. My muscles felt heavy, tensed into a stillness I had never felt before. I was going to do what my body taught me to do in danger: charge. But something stopped me. The human smelled of a scent so oddly familiar; that of milk and sleep. It wasn't until I stood that I saw a calf of her own — small and pink — clutching to her leg's blue hide. I heard her heart quicken to the pace of a hare's. I looked at the human calf and then down to you. I let my breath fossilize into the air between us as she slowly picked up her child and left.

I tell you this not to make you afraid, but because you must understand my choice to stay and raise you here. I wonder if I made the right choice, to keep you in a place so full of mankind. Will you understand the dangers? Will your future mate scoff at your worldliness? I hope you know that I chose this place, our own Eden, for your little body to flourish. You will be on your own in a year, but for now, you will live among abundance. Despite the risks, I want you to thrive.

The sun is embracing the land as you wake, spurring the intoxicating smell of hot, thick ferns. I think I will name you so. Fern.



# Flora & Fauna of the Arboretum

Haikus & blackout poetry.

## Stream

seep into groves &  
clovers & moss & give drink  
to migrating geese



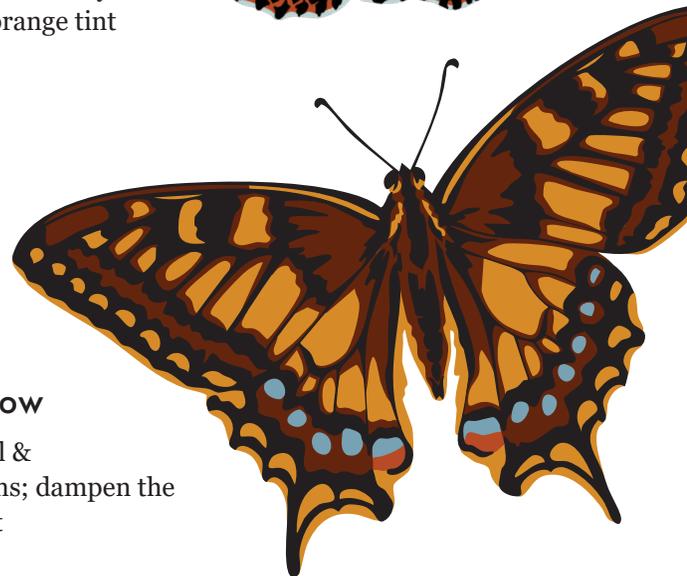
## Lilac

bunched up purple hues  
scent singing odes of distant  
warm childhood summers



## Butterfly

take delicate flight  
watercolor the sky with  
vibrant orange tint



## Weeping Willow

your soft tears fall &  
caress earth worms; dampen the  
petals at your feet

# Echos from the Arb

A blackout poem consisting of quotes from the  
Arboretum commemorative benches.

I came, I saw, and became every flower  
"The fragrance harmony  
between men and land.  
The foundation  
sweet and wholesome  
It is the marriage of the soul  
with Nature that makes  
Idaho..."  
the seeds of time Speak  
future  
promises. In wildness is  
sap and leaf and wood, love of home and loyalty.  
Shine alone in the sunrise ancient star  
! Genius  
of  
the rosebug...  
"...to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to  
leave the world a bit better..." there is a season,  
you have everything you need.  
thrusting branches  
singing around me.  
I will touch a hundred flowers I will look at cliffs and  
clouds with quiet eyes,  
an active participation in Discovery consists of  
seeing  
Arboretum and Botanical Garden Commemorative Granite Benches and  
the last leaf of fall ask the first snowflake to dance.





# Argonaut

FOR, OF AND BY THE  
STUDENTS SINCE 1898



**YOUR SCHOOL  
PAPER IS AN  
INSTRUMENT OF  
FREEDOM THAT  
WE ALL TAKE  
FOR GRANTED!!!**

**LISTEN IN**



**KUO189.3**

**WHERE  
DIVERSITY  
REIGNS**

**LISTEN IN**

