

# the coyote

c of i campus newspaper issue no. 4

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harm reduction, resume tips

### features

love and relationships, its  
heated

### opinions

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pared for post-grad?

### media

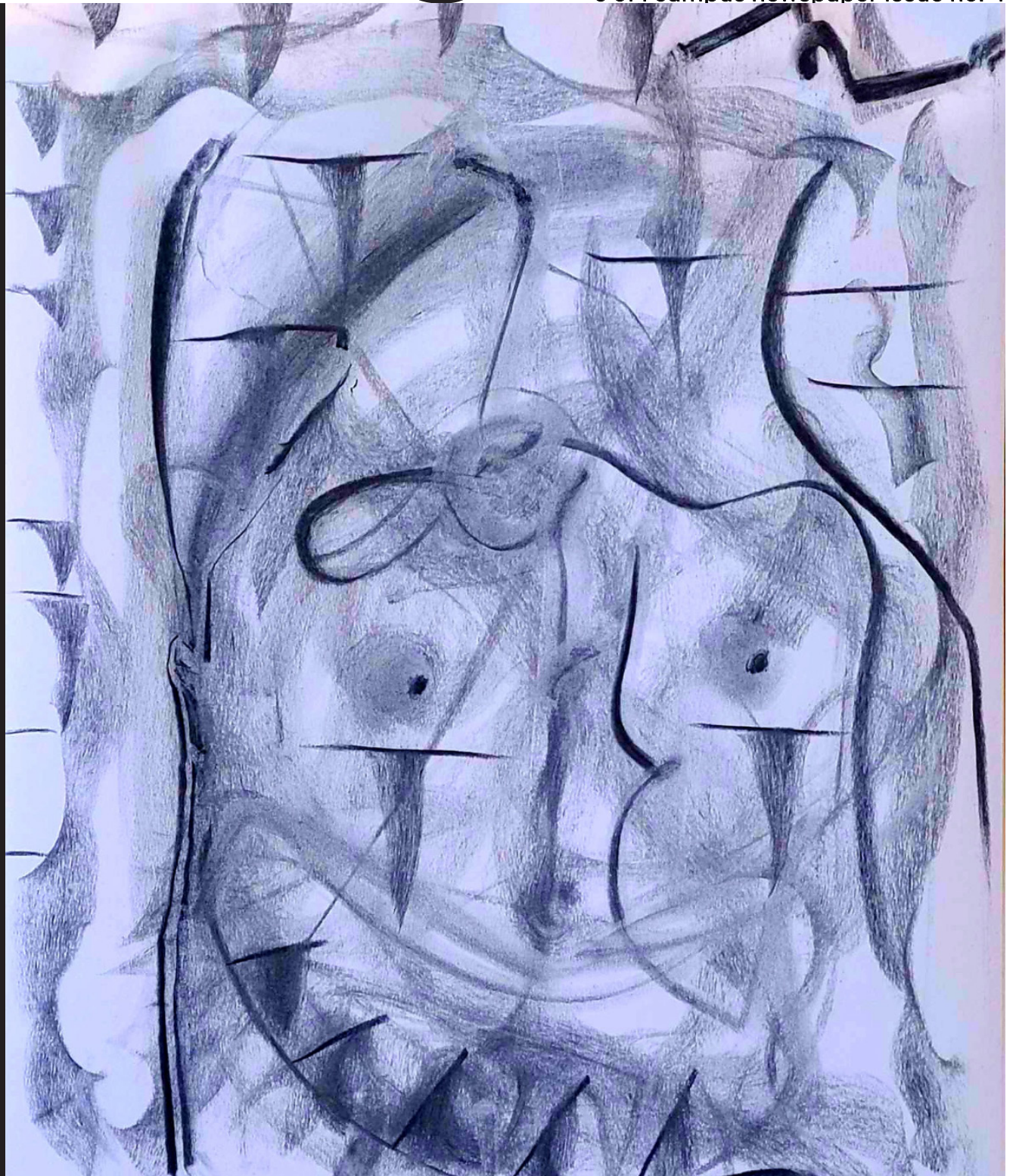
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






march.1.2024

cover art by margo harness



# editor's note

I already have a ton of writing in this edition so I honestly don't know what else to say. This year has been quite climatic for The Coyote and it has already been a lot of fun. We really enjoyed making the zine and embracing a full creative endeavor - but we are back to journalism for the time being. Thank you to everyone who has supported The Coyote and sent in a submission. Treefort is coming up. I have been staring at my computer for god knows how long. Rather than ramble on, I will offer some songs to fall in love to, going with our theme of love.

1		<b>First Day of My Life</b> Bright Eyes	I'm Wide Awake, It's M...	3:09
2		<b>Pale Blue Eyes</b> The Velvet Underground	The Velvet Undergroun...	5:40
3		<b>Automatic Stop</b> The Strokes	Room On Fire	3:27
4		<b>Just like Heaven</b> The Cure	Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss ...	3:32
5		<b>Anyone Else But You</b> The Moldy Peaches	The Moldy Peaches	3:00
6		<b>I Felt Your Shape</b> The Microphones	The Glow, Pt. 2	1:55
7		<b>Say Yes</b> E Elliott Smith	Either/Or	2:19
8		<b>Brite Boy</b> Alex G	Beach Music	2:31
9		<b>Fade Into You</b> Mazzy Star	So Tonight That I Migh...	4:56
10		<b>Paul</b> E Big Thief	Masterpiece	3:04

Stolen from Spotify. Credit: my insufferable music taste? idk how to cite this

## the coyote

The Coyote is the student publication of The College of Idaho. We provide a forum for student, faculty, staff, and administrative voice. The opinions presented here are not necessarily those of The Coyote's editorial staff.

Submissions can be sent as word documents to coyote@collegeofidaho.edu. Write with brevity - must be under 2000 words. Going rates are 6 cents per word, 5 per photo, 10 per original artwork.

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# Letter to the Editor

Dear Coyote Staff,

Please start incorporating photo credits in your paper. Though you credit student work, there are multiple art images and photographs that are blatantly stolen (i.e. photos of world events, celebrities, album and movie covers). All you need is small text indicating where the image was sourced, nothing extensive. As of now, this paper is riddled with plagiarism.

Students are currently not notified if their article will or will not be published in the paper. Any respectable publication would let submitters know why their pieces were not included. Simple feedback, such as the piece not fitting the style of the paper or poor writing quality is not difficult to let students know. Multiple students of color, with articles and an about their respective identities, are not being told why their pieces are being rejected. The impact feels discriminatory, even if the intent is not. Please fix this organizational oversight so students do not feel silenced.

Your feedback surveys should be anonymous, or names should be optional to include.

This school is too small, and relationships are too personal. With a non-anonymous feedback system, some voices will certainly be prioritized over others. That is why we have written this as an anonymous, paper letter- we do not want our complaints overlooked because of who we are as students.

We hope that you will address and formally respond to all of these issues in an email to the students, in an address to the ASCI Scoate, or in the next edition of the Coyote. If you choose to say nothing, we know where you stand on stealing art, voices of students of color, and respecting the time and effort put into student work.

We want to see a paper that means something and is representative of the students more than being curated to look like a "cool" magazine for a select circle of people. We hope this will cause change for the better in the Spring versions of the Coyote. Mistakes can be made, as this is an institution for learning. Mistakes should also be fixed when they are pointed out.

Sincerely,

Some Concerned Art Majors

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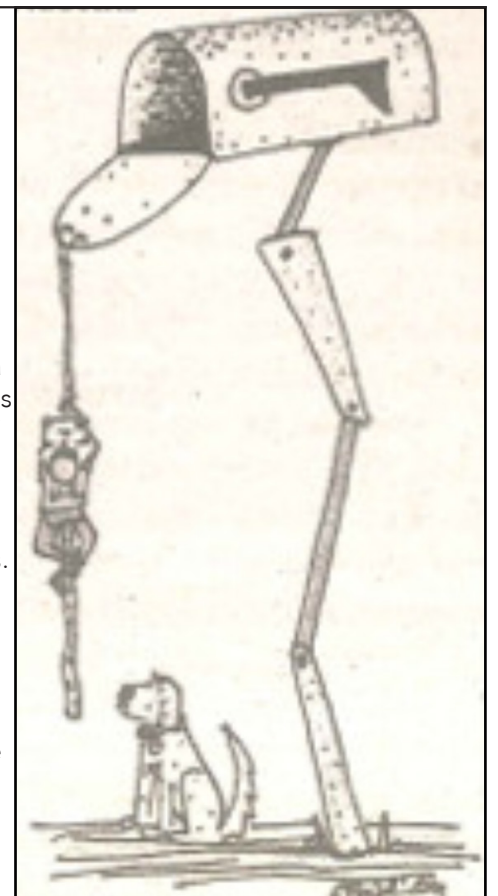
## Response

To the Concerned Art Majors –

As concerned students ourselves, we would like to thank you for sending us your comments. The discourse that your letter has produced—particularly after our own artistic first engagement with your concerns—is exactly what a healthy, informed student body requires. In this brief note, The Coyote would like to engage with your concerns, as well as clarify some of our own beliefs.

Inclusion, equity, and ensuring whose voices are heard is something we always keep in mind. Before you pen a letter making assertions about the representation and voices of students of color, we urge you to take a moment to thoroughly peruse the newspapers we've published. It feels as if there is this ignorance of what has gone into the Coyote from the concerned art majors. We have countless articles and artwork from students of color. One look at each edition shows that we are not for silencing students - articles are not being rejected because of identity. These are not claims that can be casually thrown around for the sake of dramatic writing. I request that whoever authored this letter truly takes into account the implications of these statements. Ultimately, we promise to take this issue with the attention it deserves, and we will continue to implement this.

We think that several of the other issues noted in your letter can be better explained, if we tell you a little about the process of creating an edition of The Coyote. With each edition, we publicize the upcoming submission deadline. Articles trickle in sporadically throughout the month, accompanied by numerous emails seeking clarification about the publication. However, owing to the fact that our contributors are college students, a significant portion of submissions arrives right before the deadline. Once the deadline passes, the layout designer and I are thrust into a time crunch to compile the entire newspaper using Adobe InDesign. We have to create the layout, review the articles we've just received, and make decisions about publication—which can include fact-checking, reaching out to solicit a response to something, as well as copy-editing all



writing. Every month, I dedicate at least 24 hours of my own time solely to just layout and assembling the newspaper. This is the same for our designer as well. It's a workload that is a lot more than many would expect.

Our newspaper team is likely the smallest in the entire country. For instance, Whitman College in Washington, which is comparable in size, boasts a newspaper team of 45 individuals. In contrast, we operate with just six staff members. Given our limited resources, mistakes are inevitable, and for this we ask for grace. I would like to share one of my favorite quotes from Communications professor, Kyle Cheesewright: "It is not a crime to be seen learning in public." And that is what we are doing. I was handed the baton of Coyote editor with little guidance, just like the last two editors, and we all then, had to learn on the job. We are learning as we go, crafting our own process along the way.

We receive a lot of emails, and it is hard for us to reply to every single one. We admit this is an ongoing issue and we are working on it – but to say that "any respectable publication would let submitters know why their pieces were not included," is one of the erroneous things within your letter. Typically, submitters are only notified of their inclusion in esteemed publications after acceptance. Many are fortunate to receive any acknowledgment from outlets like NYT or WJ. We've intensified communication efforts since your letter, delegating tasks more efficiently to ease the burden. Juggling an overflowing inbox with newspaper production is undeniably challenging.

Article selection depends on a couple of factors. As stated in our various emails, I have expressed why many articles have not been included in the physical version, an example from a November email sent out:

Not seeing your article in the paper? We have an extremely limited amount of space available, and we choose on a first come first served basis - the earlier an article is submitted the more likely it will make it into the paper. We also are adjusting the maximum word count of articles as well; we cannot accept those essays or extremely long pieces anymore! Questions, comments, and concerns can be emailed in.

Excerpt from an email sent out December 12th

Guided by a former Coyote editor, Erik Henriksen ('01), I consider if the piece is, "important, intelligent, and well-done." I have yet to reject an article based on quality. More often than not, the decision hinges on factors such as the timing of submission, the length of the piece, and the lack of space within Adobe InDesign. This is the standard program for newspaper layout (otherwise we would use something different) and it is honestly quite limiting. We have tried to express these reasons via email but seeing as it is not reaching everyone, we are implementing stronger communication strategies.

Finally, we simply disagree with your argument that The Coyote is riddled with plagiarism. If anything, and we even think this is a stretch, there are copyright infringements. However, The Coyote is a student-run, non-profit publication. The legal doctrine of "fair use" in the United States allows for the limited use of copyrighted material without permission under certain circumstances like criticism, commentary, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and/or research. The Coyote is covered by educational fair use, which does provide some protection. At the same time, no editor of The Coyote has received copyright training, and we're a small team with numerous responsibilities. This is an entirely new territory for the paper, and we promise to keep exploring it, and will encourage future editors to do so as well. Most importantly, in our minds, is that we credit student artwork; and, for a school newspaper, that seems more important than if we pull a band's album cover from Wikipedia (which, btw, is copyrighted under Creative Commons BY-SA license, and uses digital images on the US website based on "fair use" doctrine).

We work incredibly hard each month to deliver this paper and will continue to do so. Thank you for your letter, it has been a lovely chance to do some public learning.

Best,  
Editor in Chief Melanie Dawson



**Write for The Coyote**

**We do pay.**

**Send us your thoughts.**

**Next Deadline: March 18th**

# What to Expect for **SPRING SEMESTER**



by Staff Jayden Bodey

With another spring semester just beginning, there's lots to look forward to. Outside of classes, the college has a variety of events that you can expect. In my opinion, one of the best ways to be involved as a Yote is to be at all the events you can balance in your schedule. With that being said, in my subjective experience, the spring semester feels harder and longer. As you see the light at the end of the tunnel it, drags on and more responsibilities and commitments begin to compound. It's important to give yourself breaks to maintain sanity in your educational career. So, here's a non-exhaustive list of what you can expect; the good, the bad, and the dirty.

If you're one of the lucky few, you'll receive an invite to the famed **Scholarship Gala**. Held on March 1st, the event is best for networking and to raise money for the college. This year it's held at the Symposium in Boise. It is known for the auction portion of the evening, where in past years items such as a \$25,000 Golden Retriever have been bid on. The event's dress code is "Black Tie and Blue Jeans," which highlights formality with a sense of casualness.

Throughout the semester, emails from HIP will be sent out about **summer internships**. You've probably already gotten a few. You should expect to see students looking through Handshake for different summer opportunities. If you want to build your resume and get relevant work experience, now is the time to start looking.

**Greek Formal** is a night that is reminiscent of high school dances, but with a fun flair to make it a truly enjoyable evening. It is one of the events that Greek Life holds for all students to join in. Dress formal or risqué, get responsibly tipsy, and dance with everyone else.

**SPRING FLING!!!** This is a truly wild event that you do not want to miss. For me, it is a highlight of the spring semester. Similar to the Howl or Winterfest, with plenty of reason to get out and let loose.

Saying goodbye to the seniors, or if you're a senior, saying goodbye to everyone else. **Graduation** ends the semester with a bang. Watching your friends walk the stage and receive their diploma holders (the real thing isn't in that, and we know the truth) is a bittersweet experience.

It's going to be a great semester Yotes. So, get out there and have fun in between applying for internships and grinding for classes.



## Police Raid Idaho Harm Reduction Offices

by Staff Brayden Paslay

Earlier this month, the Boise and Caldwell Police Departments secured certain paraphernalia from the offices of the Idaho Harm Reduction Project (IHRP). Armed with a warrant, rumors swirl regarding the nature of the items seized and the reason for this raid. Local news outlets such as the Idaho Stateman, Idaho Weekly, and KTVB among others are all in possession of different pieces of the puzzle. Confounded by the awkward overlap in reliable information regarding the motives behind the police raid, the seized items, and where law enforcement and the IHRP will go from here, I spoke with the College's own Prof. Sean Blackwell who, although not officially involved with the IHRP in any capacity, has more than a passing familiarity with what their purpose as an organization is.

In my talk with Blackwell, he wanted to dispel any misconceptions regarding what exactly the IHRP is about. According to their official website, harm reduction in and of itself is "a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs." With a more concrete explanation, Blackwell defines the IHRP better than their website's homepage currently does. Blackwell elaborated to me that the IHRP and their intentions with enacting harm reduction means that "at the center is the person in the process instead of top-down approach. Instead of a criminal justice approach [...], they focus on reducing harm to the individual, to the community." The IHRP supplies drug users with clean, safe, and easily accessible apparatuses such as needles and crack pipes to mitigate the spread of Hepatitis-C among other communicable diseases. Through these and other more therapeutic means, the IHRP helps drug users. Somehow, the Boise Police Department does not understand this.

The local news outlets have reported on the Boise Police Department seizing either the crack pipes that the IHRP would distribute to drug users, the personal laptops and cell phones of the IHRP's employees, or some odd mixture of both. We reached out to members of IHRP for a comment and did not receive, which is valid given the trauma of a police officer entering your place of work to raid. From what Blackwell and I have discussed regarding the experiences of those who wish to remain anonymous, it is apparent that the police raid has taken some great toll both on the individuals employed by the IHRP and the organization itself. To refer to their homepage again, at the time of the writing of this article, there is an update that reads as follows: "Due to unforeseen circumstances, IHRP will no longer be providing services as of 2/13/24." This alone is a great tragedy for all involved and the Treasure Valley at large.



march 1, 2024

# Sigma Chi: The Last Fraternity

a Deep Dive

by Melanie Dawson

news & campus

Coming off of the highs of their Rush Week, I caught up with Chapter President Ahmad Hammoud to discuss their events and overall standing as a fraternity. Hammoud, who studies both Computer Science and Business, has been in Sigma Chi for 2 years.

**Why did you join Greek Life?**

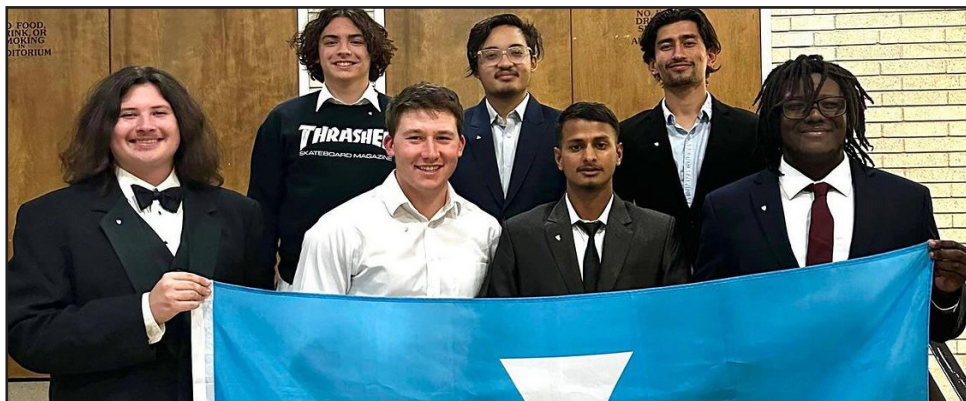
AH: Initially I was approached by a friend who introduced me to the fraternity. At first I was hesitant because paying dues as an international student can be difficult, but I realized there is a lot I can get out of Sigma Chi, which justifies the cost.

**What have you gotten out of it?**

AH: We're lucky to receive scholarships, easing the burden of tuition costs. The fraternity sponsors conferences, broadening our network globally. Sigma Chi Academy offers transferable academic credits. We also connect with chapters nationwide, fostering communication and collaboration. This exposes us to diverse university operations, cultures, and memberships, providing valuable insights.

**How was Rush Week?**

AH: This year, we organized various events, including a soccer tournament where we faced tough competition from freshmen. We also collaborated with PC and the Outdoor Program for a memorable bonfire, providing a cozy atmosphere. Additionally, our renowned 7-course meal treated potential recruits, thanks to Keion's dedicated efforts involving extensive preparation and hard work.



**How has the year been for the fraternity?**

AH: As you're aware, Greek Life has declined significantly at our school, having previously boasted seven fraternities and six sororities. However, we're seeing a gradual increase in membership, with our chapter growing from four to

around 14-15 members. *Our goal is to revive Greek Life in a more positive and safe manner, moving away from frat-bro stereotypes. We are not just a party house.* We're committed to upholding a reputation that emphasizes the genuine benefits of Greek Life.

**What is it like being the last standing fraternity on campus?**

AH: It's a little bit fresher. There's a lot of expectations

college sees us in good standing, keeping that working relationship with administration, involvement and hosting social events. Hosting a party is the easier part, keeping them safe for everyone is the harder aspect, but I think we have really worked towards that.

**How can a positive party culture be formed?**

AH: It all boils down to mindset and perception of the parties. If attendees aim to socialize and make connections, that's the atmosphere we strive to foster. We maintain open communication with neighbors and campus safety to ensure events are monitored effectively, aiming to prevent any regrettable incidents.

Contrary to what some might think, organizing a party involves a lot of preparation. This includes cleaning the space meticulously to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone. Additionally, we develop a risk management plan, overseen by our risk management chair, which includes decisions on sober attendees, emergency contacts, rotation schedules, and staffing arrangements.

and a lot of work. At the same time, we have all of the tools and freedom to shape how we want frats to look. Everything we do right now, we are doing as the last standing fraternity. It's kind of nice how we can uphold Sigma Chi's image without the need to contend with other fraternities or manage their reputations.

**What pressures do you face?**

AH: Making sure the

*If interested in receiving scholarships, opportunities to network, creating life long connections, reach out to Ahmad or follow on Instagram @cofi.sigmachi*



who also currently  
enrolled as a part-

# Resume Tips From The White House

By Staff Melanie Dawson



Art by Mia Tsuchida

This last summer, I secured an internship in Washington, DC, working for Congress. The internship, facilitated by the Victory Institute, included weekly sessions covering topics ranging from queer history discussions to the resume tips detailed below. The guidance I received from Jonathan Dromgroole,

whose entire job was reviewing resumes at the White House. This completely transformed my approach to resume writing and changed how I view the document. I believe this advice could greatly benefit individuals preparing to apply for their inaugural professional job or internship opportunity.

anyone wants to come talk to us,

we're more than happy to have

people come by and just hang out because we want you to feel

safe or just because we want

2. You should be editing your resume for nearly every position you to hang out have another place to hang out so our door is

always open."

3. Take necessary experiences from your CV, your resume serving as a working document of sorts

4. Experiences need to be in reverse chronological order with most recent activity at top

5. Consistency is key for a resume - anything that can be distracting will be distracting

6. Your resume should be seen as a storytelling document, people should be able to learn who you are through it

7. Remove your address, include your city/state at most

8. Quantify – if you "led a team" or "created a budget" quantify the exact numbers

9. Remove your college email from your resume, use a personal email instead

10. Your education experience should be at the top of the resume

11. DON'T waste space

12. Rather than have an awards section, include a skills section: social media skills, tech skills, etc. You have more skills than you realize! Canva is a skill, Microsoft products

13. GPA does more harm than good – take it out unless it is a perfect 4.0

14. Careful with hyperlinks, make sure they work

15. Seasons are not a time frame, use months! (Say June-August 2023 rather than Summer 2023)

16. Include your publications on your resume only if you're going into academia

17. Verb tenses – make sure these are consistent throughout (prefer past tense)

18. Do not include references – say available upon request because most applications have a reference section anyways

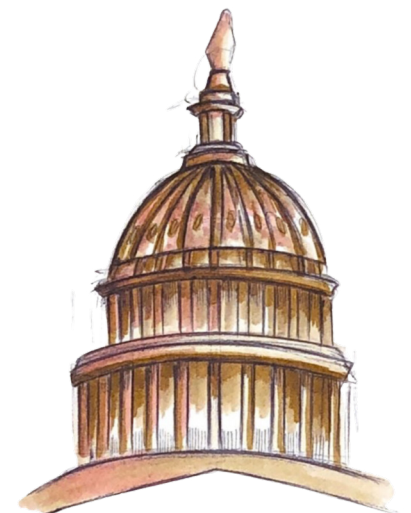
19. Delete unnecessary adjectives

20. Unpaid work is still experience, include it (unpaid internships, etc)

21. Activities, volunteer work, etc indicate your identity and shows who you are

22. Activities section/leadership roles – ask yourself how does this add to your story?

Take these tips and run, good luck applying for internships and opportunities!



Art by Mia Tsuchida



# The Great Scouring for Grad Schools

By Staff Brayden Paslay

Are you a procrastinating senior who wholeheartedly feels that once you are handed your diploma and ‘cheese!’ for the camera that your body will disintegrate with the camera flash? Are you a junior who is considering diving deeper into the murky depths of higher education? Are you an overzealous underclassman who wants to delay partaking in life outside the classroom as long as possible? Then grad school may be the option for you!

As a senior who himself is currently investigating potential grad school programs, I wish to share what little knowledge I have accrued in my many weary and sleepless nights searching for direction. For your consideration, here are a handful of tidbits you may wish to keep in mind:



Art by Mia Tsuchida

## 1. Apply Early (Or Don't, It Depends)!

It's never too early to start thinking about grad school! That said, every school and every program have different deadlines. If you have any specific ones in mind, the first thing you ought to do is take note of when application deadlines are so you can begin researching requirements and procuring the necessary documents and other materials to apply.

## 2. Apply For Specific Programs!

I myself am an English major, but that does not mean I am only looking at “Englishy” programs. First you must consider what it

is you wish to do after grad school and find a school or program that aids you in realizing that goal. If I want to go into teaching, I can go into a program centered around literature in which I would demonstrate my mastery of my field. It is not enough to have a certain field in mind, but what you want to do within that field.

## 3. LinkedIn: A Stupid Necessity

I personally abhor LinkedIn mostly because I do not have too many workplace photos of myself. That said, if you can use one of the tables in Hayman as a backdrop for a fake ID to get alcohol, you can borrow a button-up shirt from your roommate and cobble a LinkedIn profile together. Having a well-polished LinkedIn profile also facilitates much warmer interactions compared to cold calling any potential mentors or advisors.

## 4. Have a resume ready!

Do not wait until your capstone professor asks you for your resume! As soon as you start your college career, you should be

writing down every club, program, sports team, and organization you are a part of. In concept, this is fairly like what you may have done in applying to the College of Idaho. Get involved and brag about your doing so!

## 5. Use Your Resources!

The College of Idaho has a crack team of academic advisors whose entire job is to help you plan out your time here and after for success. Setting up an appointment with Kate Everett, Aleah Mendiola, or Dani Carmack through Calendly is incredibly simple. Often, they are also available for walk-in appointments. I can verify that they have helped me greatly on numerous occasions.

## 6. Letters of Recommendation

Depending on your field and desired program, you may only be allotted two or so letters of recommendation. This means you must choose wisely who you ask to write letters for you. And ask for them in advance – many profs take at least a few

days. Don't expect to get one in time to meet an 11:59 deadline.

## 7. Don't Go to Grad School Just Because!

In the intro to this little piece, I jokingly called out anybody who hopes to delay transitioning out of the classroom into the ‘real world’ by way of getting into grad school. That is not a sound idea. Graduate programs are not for the faint of heart and should not be treated as mere escape hatches. If you are plotting to go into grad school because every other option seems infeasible, please, reconsider! Do not wait tens of thousands of dollars on a master's program that will not ultimately benefit you.

All of us here at The Coyote wish everyone who is considering grad school and all other post-graduation ventures the very best!



# Lunar New Year

## DRAGON

-2024-



### Lucky Charts

#### Numbers

1

6

7

#### Colors

red

yellow

gold

#### Years of the Dragon

1952

1964

1976

1988

2000

2012

2024

### ASA Celebration

The Asian Student Association facilitated a Lunar New Year celebration for all students at The College of Idaho. This celebration included traditional Asian foods and fun trivia games questioning students knowledge on Asian culture. Students had the opportunity to write their 2024 wishes on beautiful lanterns. The lanterns symbolize driving out darkness and bringing hope to a new year. The event ended with the lighting and safe releasing of the lanterns, marking the beginning of the year of the Dragon. What an amazing inclusive celebration, keep your eye out for more events to come!



### History

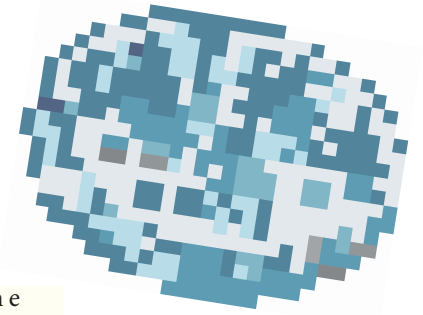
The Lunar New Year is one of the most popular holidays in China, though it is celebrated all across the Asian continent and in pockets of ethnic communities around the globe. The holiday marks the arrival of spring and the start of a new year under the lunisolar calendar in a celebration that dates back to the Chinese agrarian tradition. Dragons have a special significance in China. They are the only animal of the zodiac that is mythical, and the creature largely symbolizes luck, strength, ambition, and charm.





# Stamps in My Passport

by Irene Bauer



I want you the reader to stop and think for a moment what is the bravest or scariest thing you have done in your life? Was it driving a car for the first time? Was it applying for college? Was it getting your first job? For me, it was deciding to travel to South America for 3

Our trip started off with just a quick 14 hours of travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina, arriving around 1pm. In the evening, we were taken to the part of this trip that I was anxiously awaiting and that was the homestays. Living with a stranger in a new country on a completely different continent is something you just don't do every day. Luckily, I was blessed with the best housemate I could ever ask for, Maria Aquino! So yes, I was living with someone I never met, but had an amazing friend from school to be by my side. Our host grandma Betina Levin was a nationally known artist who loves to cook, loves to be with young people, and was the nicest, most caring person to take care of both of us. Our days started with breakfast in the morning (toast with either cream cheese or dulce de leche and coffee), and going to school every morning at 9:30, and ending at 1:20 with some breaks in between. Then we were on our own for lunch and had time to explore the city. Dinner was also made by the host families and usually wouldn't start until around 8:30 or 9:00 pm!

I will say that it is quite scary trying to navigate and go from place to place in a city that never stops. We were trusting Google maps and relying on the Wi-Fi from the

router that our friend carried in his backpack as we made our way around the Paris of Latin America. Boarding the buses, trains, and subways feeling like you are in a can of sardines is strangely something that I miss. These things didn't stop me from trying, but if anything, empowered me with knowledge on how to try and live the Argentinian life. I will say that several things surprised me and forced me to become more accustomed to the Argentine culture very quickly; here are the top ten things that surprised me:

1. Taking the public buses and transportation everywhere!
2. Walking with a purpose and having my backpack in front of me.
3. People in need asking for our leftover food, money, or selling chocolate on trains.
4. At restaurants you are asked if you want water with or without bubbles (it's not free).
5. Consistent cups of mate throughout the day!
6. Spraying bug spray all over so I wouldn't be eaten alive!
7. The fact that food there isn't spicy, and quite frankly needs salt on pretty much everything!

8. The party life doesn't start until 1 or 2 am!!

9. Dinner starting at 9 pm.

10. The hot humid climate in January - there were times I missed the snow.

Each of these things was new and strange to me, if anything this allowed me to be more open to change and new things. Remember how I said I had the best housemate? Maria also had the same mindset as me. There wasn't a day we didn't try something new. Whether it was leading a group of people to the Japanese Garden via bus, organizing an adventure to La Boca, going out and enjoying the night life, or simply going to Barrio Chino (China Town) -our favorite place- to have a drink or a cup of coffee, she was by my side through the thick and thin of our adventures. She and I were pretty much inseparable and became fearless in every endeavor we put our minds to. Fittingly, Maria gave us a nickname, and we officially became the "Baddies in BA (Buenos Aires)." If she wasn't on this trip, I honestly don't know what I would have done! She showed me how to go about seizing the day every day and how it leaves you with the

feeling of no regrets! Our day trip to Uruguay, lunch on a balcony, rooftop bars, learning and dancing tango, going to a percussion concert called "La Bomba del Tiempo", and experiencing the people and chaos just by crossing the street, has truly helped shape me into a new and improved Irene.





Jayne Saunders, The Coyote 2006

# Love and Relationships

# What is Love?

by Yaxeny H. López

I spent weeks thinking whether whether I should care or mind my remains on whether anyone will actually wish that no one has to endure the pain of heartbreak. Navigating the complexities of dating, emotions, and situationships can be challenging.

It can take numerous conversations with your friends, life experiences, and courage to truly comprehend the essence of Love. Even in my own journey, I'm continually discovering what unconditional Love truly means. So, here's my unsolicited advice on love, offered to those who, like me, may be pondering the question:

## What is Love?

1. I asked once a professor what her advice on Love would be and she said "Love doesn't hurt. Who loves you wouldn't hurt you". And I think, well, words are up to the reader to understand and make conclusions. But I also think it is obvious. LOVE DOES NOT want to hurt YOU.

2. Love doesn't make you cry or make you wonder if they love you in the first place.

3. Love doesn't make you settle for less than what you deserve.

4. Love doesn't make you think you are not enough.

5. Love doesn't take you for granted.

6. Love is not only words, but also actions.

7. Love is being there and loving the good and the bad. And by bad I don't mean the toxicity of some people.

8. Love is not somebody you need. Love is a partner, a friend, and somebody that accompanies you in life.

9. Love brings you flowers, remembers the special dates, and shows you how much you really mean to them.

10. Everyday Love reminds you of your intelligence, your strength, and your beauty.

11. Love is your biggest cheerleader.

12. Love knows how to listen and allows you to be vulnerable.

13. To Love and to be Loved is to feel the sun from both sides.

14. Love gives you peace.

15. Love takes more than the cheesy couples goals post for Instagram.

16. Love makes you smile. Your happiness makes Love happy.

17. Love sometimes hurts when you know it's time to make the right decision for yourself.

## QUICK TIPS FOR YOUR NEXT HOOKUP

By Coyote Staff

1. Ask yourself why you are about to do this - is it fun? Are you in a good state of mind? Will you regret this later? Are you just trying to feel something?

2. Once intent is determined - CLEAN YOURSELF UP. Do more than just Old Spice and Axe. Scrub with a loofa, take an everything shower, put on some lotion and cologne. Get an altoid. Trim your nails.

4. A big turn off is a messy room. Curate the vibes with a neat space and LIGHT A CANDLE.

5. If music is your thing, have a playlist ready to go. The

worst thing is when you're getting into it but you have to change the song because Spotify is evil.

6. Communicate. It's not weird to ask what your partner likes. Makes it more enjoyable.

7. Wear PROTECTION.

8. If you are going to them, tell your friends.

9. Let them know what you are looking for from the start, to avoid messy feelings.

14. Confidence is hot or whatever.

15. Lastly, have fun. Do it for the plot. Be safe.

# How to Kiss pt. 2

By Staff Jayden Bodey



Yotes, I heard your complaints. I've thought long and hard about them. In the October edition of the Coyote, I wrote an article titled "How To Kiss." However, I didn't actually tell my fellow Yotes how to kiss. My list was entirely about how not to kiss. And for that, I apologize. I wronged you all. I hope you can accept my apology, and in return, I will give you an actual how to kiss guide.

**1. Put on a little Aquaphor.** The tube that reads "HEALING OINTMENT" is seriously the best thing I've ever put on for having soft, kissable lips. It's also the sexiest way to let everyone around you know you have lips ready for kissing.

**2. Hands are important** in the beginning, but as you fade into each other, keep calm about where to put 'em. It's all about rhythm and where the moment takes you. Go with the flow of the kiss.

**3. Ask for consent!** It sounds so dorky, but in the moment asking, "can I kiss you?" is a crowd pleaser. It also lets the person know you care about making sure they want to be actively involved in that moment, making it all the better when they are.

**4. Compliment your kissing partner.** Tell them they're beautiful or that they have gorgeous eyes. This sincere moment might let it go further ; )

**5. Take some calculated risks.** Take the lead or try out a few new things. It's just dipping your toes in the water to better gauge what your hot date likes. This can mean biting a lip or potentially introducing a little tongue. Paying attention to if it's going well on the other person's end helps better this. Always remember, follow the other person and their flow.

I'm putting trust in you with this information. I hope it helps those still lost after the first edition of this article. And again, it is with my most sincere and deepest apologies that I give you this advice. As I left you last time, I wish you the best of luck on your kissing endeavors, and I certainly hope that the College kissing standard can be improved. Best of kisses, Yotes. xoxo

# Romantic Advice for College Singles:

*From A College Single with No Romantic Experience*

By Luke Elmer

I know that judging by the title, I might seem like the least qualified person to talk about this sort of thing. And yes, I am, in fact, an asexual college single who's still questioning. That said, I wanted to give some advice to all the other Yotes out there who are single and potentially looking for that special someone. College life can suck sometimes and feeling lonely can make it substantially worse. Adding a romantic relationship to a crowded schedule sounds complicated, but I can assure you that it's not as complicated as people make it out to be. The big rule of thumb here is to do as I say, not as I do.

My first big piece of advice is never feeling like you must find a romantic partner during college. I'm no stranger to feeling left out of my core friend group because my experience with romantic situations is akin to a series of dial-up internet noises. Yes, people don't like experiencing FOMO, but sometimes, doing things out of FOMO instead of a genuine desire for connection can end up causing bigger problems. Ending up in a one-sided relationship won't have any benefits, especially if the relationship is a thinly veiled means for social validation. Besides, if the relationship isn't fulfilling, is it even worth having to begin with?

Don't pursue a relationship unless you're committed. College schedules can be tough, and relationships can add stress. Quality over quantity is key. Communicate and prioritize personal time. There are many ways to show affection, even when busy. Elvis Presley once said, or rather, some unnamed wise man he referenced, said "only fools rush in." You might ask how this ties into anything I just said. This brings up another point of advice: don't try to rush into a relationship. Relationships usually take time to fully develop. If you find yourself attracted to someone in some way, don't try to spontaneously dump everything onto them. If you really want to develop that connection, get to know the other person as a friend first and let the bond strengthen over time. Avoid the trauma dumps when first getting to know them.

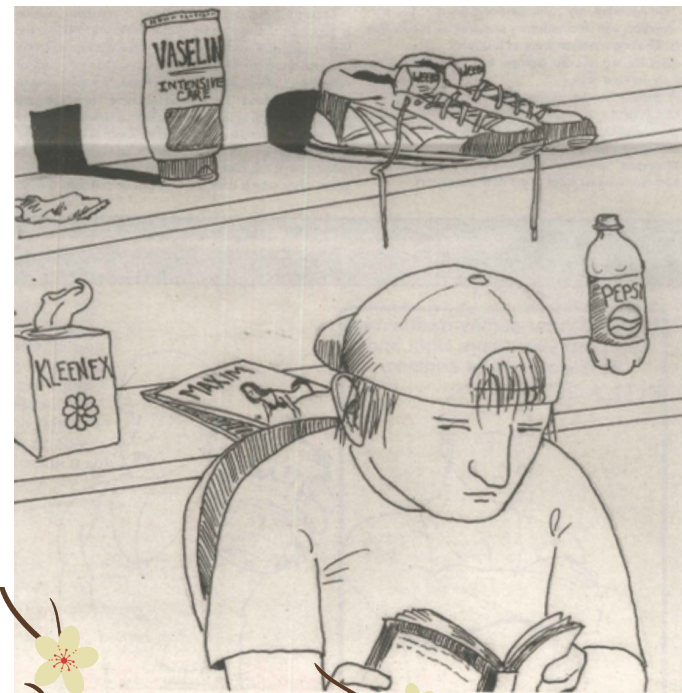


march 1, 2024

Without effective communication, your relationship will end up going nowhere. As I previously mentioned, you don't have to pour your heart out all at once, but it's still crucial to be open with your potential partner. That way, you can easily define what kind of connection you feel to them and what boundaries you have. Admitting to someone that you like them isn't always an easy feat. I've spent far too much time worrying about what to say and when to say it that I ended up taking my proverbial shot directly into my own foot. While these are important things to consider, what really matters is that you're open. Even if you end up getting friend zoned, you can still say that you tried. Besides, there's never anything wrong with another close

friend.

College romance can be about as complicated as a high-level physics or mathematics course, only with the complex equations being replaced by even more complicated emotions, but having some points of advice is the best supplement for a textbook in this circumstance. Even if you don't have much in the way of self-esteem, taking my advice will eventually find a way to make you happy in some way. You don't have to follow my advice to a T, but hopefully it'll help you in some capacity. Hell, maybe it'll help me as well.



Jeff Diteman, The Coyote 2002

## How to: DATE AN ASIAN

By Chloe Sunthornsanit

Ever seen a cute Asian girl and not sure how to navigate through the courtship? This guide is here to save you from the misery of not getting the girl you want.

### ***Grab yourself an Asian woman***

Whether it is in class, in a seminar, in McCain, or in the toilet stall, as long as you are confident, she will definitely pay you attention. Be confident and know that she is in the minority group, not you. She must appreciate your tiny bit of attention.

### ***Tell her she's the most beautiful ASIAN you have ever seen***

Trust me, we, Asian babes, appreciate people being specific. We feel weird when no one asks us "But where are you REALLY from?". When complimenting her, be precise and genuine. "You're the most beautiful Asian girl I have ever seen" & "You're already so pretty for an

Asian" will take you a long long way.

### ***Pick a random language to greet her friend and family***

It does not matter whether she is Thai, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, or Japanese. Your parents are only going to know that she's oriental anyway. So do yourself a favour and show her how much you know about Asia. Greet her Japanese parents with "Lei Ho. Ngo hai gwai lo."

### ***Never fail to compliment her English***

It doesn't matter if she is a 3rd generation American or grows up in Mayfair, London, you should always show her appreciation for her hard work in perfecting her English. Tell her "Your English is very good!" will make her appreciate how attentive you are.

### ***Show her you're the dominant one***

We, Asian women, already know how to be submissive. We need you to take control. At the end of the day, there are no fetishising Asians. You just have a strong preference in having a girl who follows your lead

### ***Now, go out there and blast "Yellow" by Coldplay 24/7!!***

If you have not figured out and this point, take all advices in this article and **DO THE OPPOSITE**

XOXO,

Chioes



# A Seat at the Table: International Treatment

by Aimee Ishimwe & Daniella Manirakiza



Graduation is often hailed as one of life's happiest moments. It is marked by immeasurable joy and a profound sense of fulfillment, representing the completion of four years of dedicated effort. Students eagerly anticipate their next step in life, poised to contribute to their communities. However, not every graduating student shares in these positive sentiments. For some, i.e., international students who typically have no family or friends in the US, graduation evokes feelings of stress and anxiety! These students have limited time to either find jobs related to their major or get into a graduate program. Now imagine waking up to rumors that, in addition to the fear of an uncertain future, you are expected to leave right after graduation. Just for a bit of context, students were normally not supposed to stay on campus once they graduated, prior to the COVID-pandemic. However, during the pandemic, the college allowed international students to stay on campus for 1 to 2 months after graduating. This has been the case for the past two years now. During an OPT meeting last November, a DSO faculty member stated, in a subtle way, that current graduates would be expected to leave campus the day after graduation. You can only imagine the shock that students felt upon the sudden change! We had the chance to talk to one of the seniors who attended the meeting, and she shared her genuine reaction.

"To me, it was all bad news, and hearing about this three months into the semester didn't help at all" - Anonymous

To confirm the rumors, we interviewed Co-president Jim.

"What happened this year is that we have groups that are coming in to use the dorms so that's really the change, it brings in revenue"- Jim Everett.

Technically, after graduation, seniors are

not entitled to stay on campus, and we get that. In fact, it is a privilege for a senior to be accommodated by the college upon completion of their program. However, it does not justify the poor delivery and timing of such news.

A few days after the interview, a meeting was held to clarify housing arrangements. Some of the school officials and international students met to discuss this issue and to reach a mutual agreement. Fortunately, something positive came out of it. So, to all anxious seniors, there will be available dorms to accommodate you for a certain period of time.

BUT, as much as this is good news, this shouldn't have been a problem in the first place if we had efficient and timely communication. That is only possible if there is effectual representation for international students. We feel like we are kept on edge; in a state of unpredictability, never quite certain what to anticipate.

What kind of representation, you might ask? For those who don't know, there is this decision-making "Table" on which critical decisions are made. People on this table are usually representatives of various groups and strong affiliates of the college. Unfortunately, so far, there has been little to no representation of international students.

We strongly believe that the "Table" should mirror the community it serves! Additionally, decisions made have a robust impact, making a representative's voice crucial. This matters profoundly because without this representation, efficient communication wavers, a factor that carries its own set of drawbacks.

This is yet another concern we have. We understand that things change, and no one person gets to decide what will or won't happen, however, timely communication would be appreciated. This whole situation

caught students off-guard since they had not received any clear announcement explaining the housing changes. We had the chance to talk to another senior to know how she feels about this situation.

It felt as if they had just dropped a bomb, since I hadn't heard a word from any administrative official before. Again, we fully understand that changes do happen, however, a little heads up is all we're asking for. - Anonymous

Additionally, the lack of representation and communication breeds poor preparation. Preparation that would make the transition a little smoother. You might wonder, how did graduates manage it before? Well, just because they "managed" to do it doesn't necessarily mean it was easy.

"I knew people who had to sleep in their cars before finding a place to stay."- Anonymous.

We spoke to Chapo, the Assistant Director of Inclusion and Intercultural Engagement. He believes the college can do a better job at preparing international students for the transition that awaits them after graduation. As someone who works with international students daily, he's heard about most of their struggles and what they wish they knew before graduating.

"One of the alumni told me that they wish they had known how important credit building was before they started hunting for a place to stay"-Chapo.

He is certain that better and timely communication, and having programs that equip students to deal with the outside world would be beneficial. This might come in the form of workshops for finding employment, resume and credit building to name just a few. Diversity comes with a cost.



# Campus Safety for You

by Asta Sharma

## opinion

Campus Safety, one of the departments under Student Affairs, helps keep the campus safe is much more than what it displays on the outer surface. Campus Safety is the heartbeat of the College of Idaho, the only department working 365 days 24/7 under every circumstances. Campus Safety came to life in the spring of 2000 when the college administration hired a full-time Director and three security officers to manage the security and safety of the campus. The title of the department was selected to emphasize that the safety of the members of our community would always come above the security of property, and it established the approach that this department would be service oriented.

Director of Campus Safety Ben Mosley quotes Sir Robert Peele, "People doing the policing should be members of the community and it should be in partnership with the community." And adding to it he says, "Criminal justice is becoming known as procedural justice and the idea is that you partner with the community to solve problems, and everybody gets a fair shake and there's some transparency as well. Here at the college, our goal is to keep students safe and keep them out of trouble. College should be a place where you can make mistakes, up to a point, obviously, because there's very serious crimes, that's an issue. You can make mistakes and learn from them and not be coupled with lifelong consequences."

Senior Sargeant John Duncombe says, "Since I started, we have grown with like better training, more knowledge about things like mental health and just like a better way to do our job through community policing. We need to get back to things we did before covid like more programming and stuff and get back to which is part of our job here is like going to the dorms especially like push back over the weekend, so you'll contact RAs and kind of like be seen more. You know we don't have anybody ever call us to go get food when we are not busy, or for safety escorts. I don't think a lot of them know the stuff that we do here."

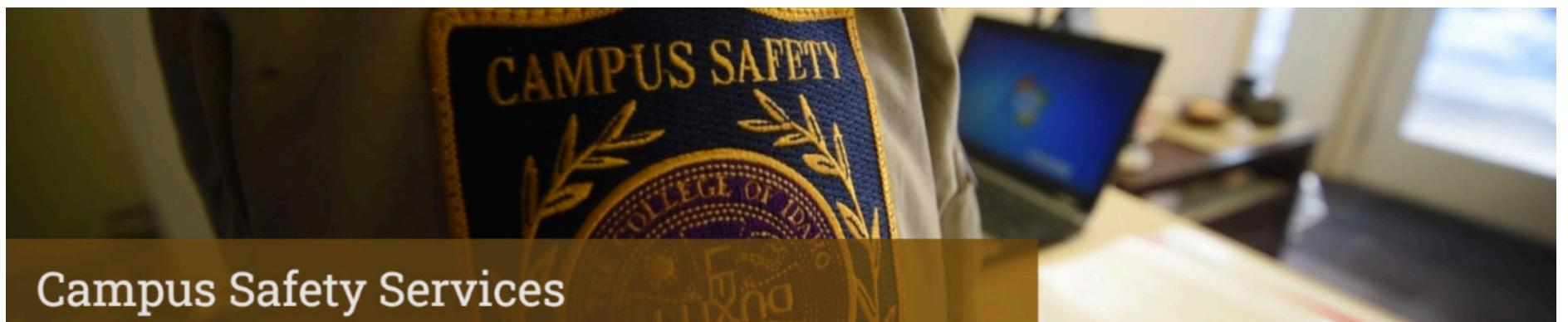
Chapo De La Cruz, assistant director of inclusion and intercultural engagement, who was also the former assistant director of campus safety expressed his take on the campus safety philosophy that has been a great help in his life alongside work, "I started as a part time officer and quickly worked my way into a full-time position. I'm a people person, I can read people very well and am very approachable, open minded and that was a big part in campus safety and you know how as an individual in uniform when you show up to incidents and what not you got to diffuse the situation you know and me being a student full time I really knew a lot of my students and a lot of my fellow peers students and that also helped diffusing of this situations a lot."

Campus Safety provides several services to the campus community, including first aid, welfare checks, routine patrols, parking enforcement, safety escorts, jump starting and unlocking vehicles, creating/maintaining campus ID cards, issuing parking permits, locking/unlocking buildings. Clubs and individual students can make vehicle requests for college-related activities on a first-come, first-serve basis. Department head/ Club faculty advisor approval is needed before vehicle reservations can be made. The request form is available on the college official website and on emails by campus safety.

"We're not police officers but we're here to enforce the campus laws that were told that we were supposed to enforce which mostly it's simple everyday life things that you should know are right or wrong and we're just here to make sure you understand." – Manny Benavides,



Campus Safety team from 2018 with Former Director Allan Laird and Current Director Ben Mosley.



Campus Safety Services

# Have you Heard of Semester at Sea? (SAS) a Journey of Global Discovery

by Sangita Jimba



I recently had the extraordinary opportunity to participate in Semester at Sea, a transformative voyage that transcends traditional education. This floating campus became more than a program; it was a quest for knowledge, an adventure, and a commitment to personal growth.

Imagine having breakfast amidst the sea, bathed in the glow of a breathtaking sunrise, or enjoying dinner while witnessing the hues of a mesmerizing sunset. Picture having lunch accompanied by dolphins gracefully dancing in the vast ocean. Envision working out in the gym, surrounded by the serenity of the sea. Beyond these moments, Semester at Sea unveils a world of beauty, historical wonders, and breathtaking landscapes, creating a global adventure where every meal, workout, and scenic view is a unique part of your journey.

As we sailed through three continents, visited 11 countries, explored multiple cities, and docked at 12 ports, our voyage became a symphony of experiences. We navigated calm and rough seas, crossed four oceans, and encountered the diverse cultures that make our world so rich.

Whether you're familiar with Semester AT Sea or discovering it now, let me share

my firsthand experience. As a 2023 fall Voyager, being selected for this dream program was a surreal moment to me. Operated by the Institute for Shipboard Education, SAS takes place on a specially equipped ship serving as a

floating campus,

accommodating around 1,000 passengers. Colorado State University sponsors the academic aspect, making it a unique program connecting students globally and collaborating with colleges.

During the semester-long program, I lived and studied on the ship, immersing myself in diverse courses, field programs, group, and individual travel. This experience goes beyond academic credits; it's a transformative journey that broadens worldviews. It has been a pivotal experience for me, creating lasting memories, fostering friendships, and contributing to a more interconnected world. Beyond the educational aspects, I had the unique opportunity to participate and even lead various programs in the middle of the ocean. Celebrating Neptune Day, Halloween, Christmas, and more added an extra layer of excitement and camaraderie to this exceptional voyage.

Embark on the Semester at Sea adventure—a journey that offers not only education but a life-changing exploration of the world. The credits earned during this voyage are transferable to your home institution, ensuring that your academic

journey sails smoothly. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all my friends, family/host family, The College of Idaho and SAS for their invaluable support in making this journey a reality. If you want to know more about SAS, feel free to reach out, I am more than happy to share/support.

## **Global Classroom:**

Experience a floating classroom, making every inch of the ship a vibrant space for learning beyond textbooks.

Immerse yourself in coursework across diverse countries, gaining insights ranging from anthropology to environmental science.

## **Cultural Immersion:**

Dock in various ports, exploring cultures, foods, traditions, and lifestyles.

Engage in hands-on experiences and cultural exchanges that deepen global understanding.

## **Experiential Learning:**

Seamlessly integrate academic learning with real-world experiences.

Explore marine biology in the Pacific or delve into history in Europe/Asia/Africa, enriched by field excursions and expert insights.

## **Personal Growth:**

Navigate challenges, adapt to diverse environments, and build resilience.

Forge lifelong friendships with a diverse group of students, Professors, lifelong learners, and ship-kids fostering a global network.

## **Adventure and Exploration:**

Experience once-in-a-lifetime adventures, from ancient ruins to wildlife encounters.

Discover hidden gems off the beaten path, creating lasting memories.

## **Global Awareness:**

Develop global citizenship and cultural competence.

# The Journey is Not The Drive

a poem by Bree McMaster

Driving up the valley I was filled with fear

The kind of fear that makes your eyes fill like a pool

The kind that makes your stomach ache

And let me tell you why...

I was in a new town, in a new (incredibly old) truck, working a new job

I was not the first pick for this job

But like the barbies my mom kept on layaway, I was a last-minute addition to the party

I had worked with children before in a day care, in soccer camps, schools,

and every other job I have had since I was twelve years old.

And the thing that had scared me the most was my rejection email

making me feel beneath my peers

And let me tell you why...

Years of experience had not prepared me for this program, the bureaucracy, or these children.

Growing up in a failing school district for my K-12 Experience,

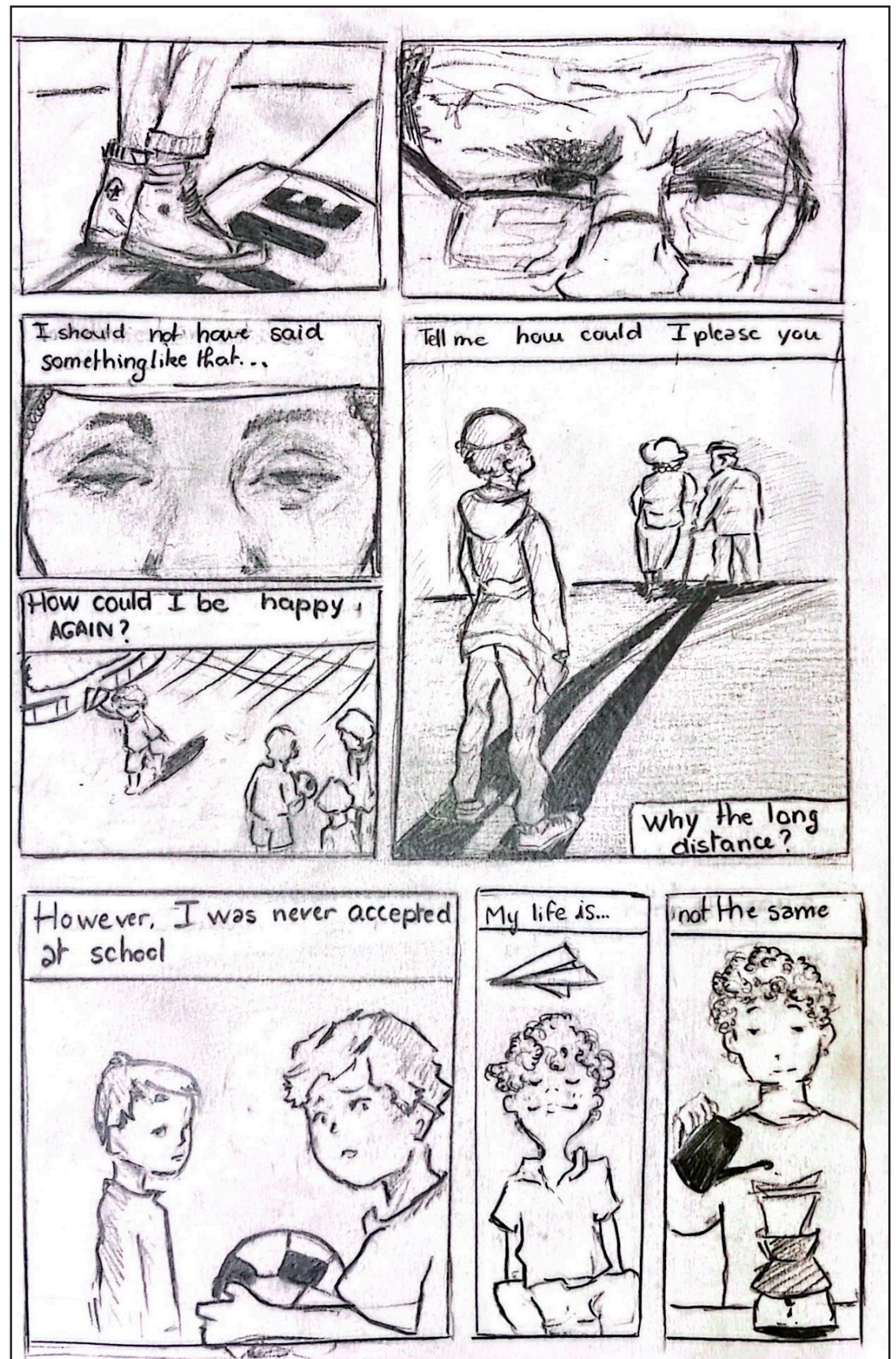
I had seen several students who never spoke a lick of English,

Who on top of the parents were working to support their families at just 15,

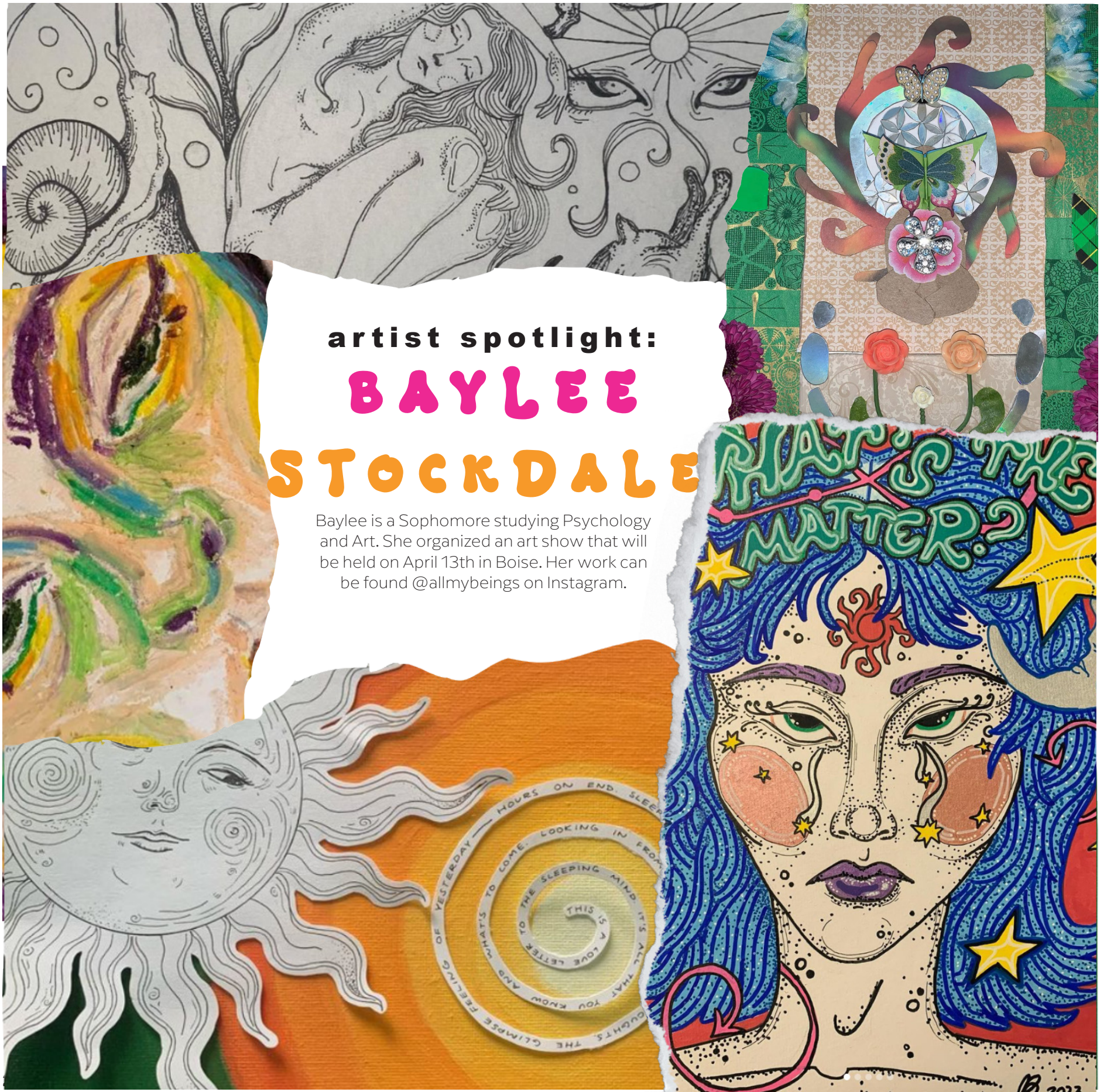
Hell, I had been that student.

None of that prepared me for anything I have experienced in this valley

And let me tell you why...



by Zaynab El Hakour



**artist spotlight:**  
**BAYLEE**  
**STOCKDALE**

Baylee is a Sophomore studying Psychology and Art. She organized an art show that will be held on April 13th in Boise. Her work can be found @allmybeings on Instagram.

# Album Review: The Last Dinner Party – *Prelude to Ecstasy*

by Staff Brayden Paslay



With a meteoric rise fueled by widespread popularity on TikTok and Instagram, British indie five-piece The Last Dinner Party released their full-length debut album *Prelude to Ecstasy* already feels like one of the most ambitious releases of the year. The Last Dinner Party's unexpected runaway hit "Nothing Matters" is cathartic in its admission of desperately seeking the kind of sexual and emotional solace that is no longer attainable. "And you could hold me/like he held her/ And I will fuck you/like nothing matters." Every other song, like "Nothing Matters," is similarly electric.

From the first minute of the album, The Last Dinner Party unfurls a sweetly menacing baroque pop firestorm of strings, woodwinds, and church bells demonstrating their reverence for their sonically dense art pop forebearers like Kate Bush and Florence + The Machine. The album's dramaturgy persists into songs like "Burn Alive" and "Sinner" as a pastiche of sexual and religious imagery pulses through the lyrics. These lyrics, as emotionally intense as they are, are amplified by nimble guitar and bass lines and stunning five-part harmonies. When lead singer Abigail Morris sings "so turn and face me/ turn to the altar of lust" on the latter, one cannot help but feel compelled.

The outpour of frustration is most poignant in "The Feminine Urge" which explores the tender complications of mother-daughter relationships. With lyrics that referencing the myth of Prometheus, the song's narrator grapples with how to repair wounds she inherited from her mother and how to heal them – a deeply empathetic tune. The glam rock-tinged "Caesar on a TV Screen" not only has the most danceable pre-chorus on the album, but functions as a satire of male power fantasies. Similarly, the deep cut "Beautiful Boys" both envies and laments male privilege, making the commentary the album constructs more expansive and empathetic.

In a moment where music fans are being bombarded with an overabundance of admittedly talented boygenius acolytes, The Last Dinner Party have shined up the artsier aesthetics of 70s and 80s rock and pop with the aims of finding their own sound. The band has made multiple press statements stating that they have exerted all their efforts into making this album and it shows. As high effort and undeniably well produced as this album is, I hope their listeners stick around after the TikTok hype dies down and they band continues to refine their music.

the coyote

With a meteoric rise fueled by widespread popularity on TikTok and Instagram, British indie five-piece The Last Dinner Party released their full-length debut album

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From the first minute

# *Saltburn*: Beautiful, Lacking Nuance

by Staff Melanie Dawson

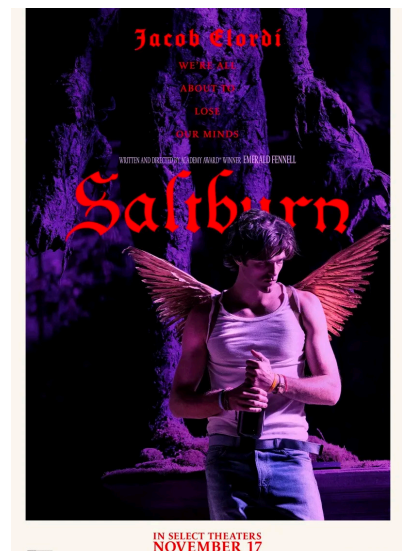
I think pouring salt onto an open wound and giving myself salt burn would be more exciting than watching *Saltburn*.

In all seriousness, this film was disappointing given the absolute hype on social media and the praise for Emerald Fennell's second directorial. It's a "dark comedy," about a debauched young man who is obsessed with wealth and will do anything to life the excessive lifestyle. This surge in popularity has elevated Jacob Elordi's (Felix) star power and propelled Barry Keoghan (Oliver) into the limelight. Additionally, its soundtrack, which includes tracks by MGMT and "Murder on the Dancefloor," has skyrocketed to the top of the Billboard charts. I'll start with the good:

This film perfectly depicts the 2000s indie aesthetic, summoning a vivid sense of nostalgia, as if drawn from a memory of a not-too-distant past. Captured on 35mm film, the shadows ripple with grain, while rich, saturated colors bloom amidst the film's darker themes. The intimate aspect ratio draws the audience's focus to the center of the screen, compelling them to delve deeper into the narrative. MGMT's "Time to Pretend," makes me want to put on a fur coat and prance around the field with the characters, the soundtrack truly being the backbone of this aesthetic. While the visuals are impressive, they alone cannot rescue this endeavor to convey depth.

The first hour of the movie

left me bored, scrolling on my phone while vaguely following the development of Oliver's character and his homoerotic friendship with Felix. Although Keoghan's portrayal of Oliver occasionally made me cringe and Elordi's performance was captivating, both fell flat at times. The plot finally gains momentum when we reach Felix's family castle, *Saltburn*. While there are a few 'disturbing' scenes that contributed to the film's virality, I found them underwhelming and merely provocative for the sake of it. The bathtub scene was mildly uncomfortable, the blood scene was just Oliver breaking down period stigma while delivering the cringiest line, and the grave scene was pure comedy. It appears that Fennell has crafted a film addressing toxic elitism, but it's done in the way that Ikea gives you assembly directions. Do yourself a favor and watch *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, the film that *Saltburn* is so clearly ripping off.





# Set the Mood: The Beauty of Ambience

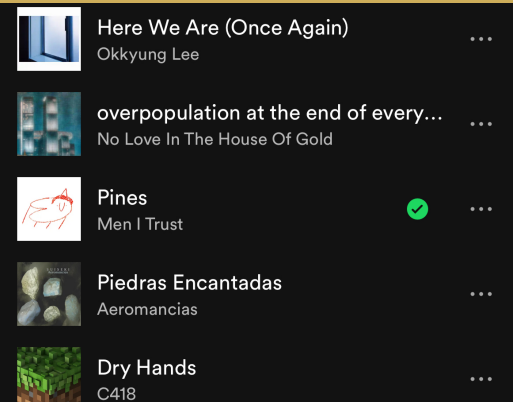
by jj maxwell

Will a slur of notes become faded into the cacophony of noise, if not for a saving voice to sanctify it? Can a song truly “be” without language to build it? The answer that most people would give would probably be yes, giving the reasons of “oh, I liked the music in the background of this movie scene... it really helped build it up!” or “it helped to fill the awkwardness.” And they would be correct. However, I think that instrumental music, especially ambient music, has enough to earn its own merit. Ambient music is music that emphasizes tone and atmosphere over traditional music structure and rhythm. It can include vocals, but they are usually backing or overpowered by the instrumentation; i.e., not the main focus. The main purpose of the genre is to evoke an atmosphere, a visual, and encourages active or passive listening. Ambient music does not need to serve as just a background complement to a scene or portrayal. The landscape that ambient music paints itself is enough to be.

The other day, I had a friend text me about a song they had listened to, called “Untitled #9 - Smáskifa 1” by Sigur Rós. I had heard of this artist before; a group of people from Iceland that has some overlap with the Björk landscape (if you get it, you get it... if not, please listen to her). This song had no words, but it had a unique feel to it. Something irradiated, wilting, yet distinctly queer, religiously tainted, and hopeful. It was a beautiful song that painted a tortured landscape, that told a novel with no words spoken. This song led me down to seek out some of the old ambient music I hadn’t touched in years.

“The Crow Flew After Yi Sang” is an experimental cello piece by Okkyung Lee, a Korean artist. In it, there are harsh scrapes against the strings, a rough tinge, and dread all around the edges of the song. It depicts anxious fear, an overarching “crow” observing the tone from above, and an unknown, drawn out ending. “Lewis Takes Off His Shirt” by Owen Pallett has vocals, but they are close to unintelligible over the luscious musical scene, a queer, teasing, crush-on-a-straight-boy story of development. “I like it when you sleep, for you are so beautiful yet so unaware of it” from The 1975 feels like the middle of the night, thinking and clicking through thoughts of another.

Ambient music may mostly be for a background complement, but it can be so much more than that. It can tell a story with minimal language, if any. It can be impactful and important, and it can be more than a mood fixer. It “sets the mood,” but in a subversive, multiplexitous way.



# Resolutions and Revelations: My Love for Documentaries

by Barrett Coyle

I am the type of person who makes resolutions and then follows through on them. In 2019, I vowed to do one new thing every day. Completed that! Last year, I wanted to Leave People Wanting More, and although I’m still not totally sure what that means, I think it is safe to say that I did that purely by maintaining my impeccable charm and radiant personality. Everyone always wants more of me. Okay I digress; ego-trip over. But this year, I wanted a resolution that didn’t only make everyone else’s life better (okay last time, I swear), but also made my life better. I wanted to do something this year that enriched my mind, changed my perspective on different areas of the world. I decided a good way to do that would be to watch more documentaries. One new documentary a week was the goal I set myself.

So, on January 7, 2024, the first Sunday of the New Year, I sat down and scrolled through Max, Disney+, Netflix, trying to find the documentary that would be gracing my screen tonight. I finally landed on Operation Odessa on Paramount+. The poster for this film piqued my interest. It felt The Interview-esque, with a USSR flag prominently placed as the focal point, echoing the North Korean symbolism and representation in The Interview’s poster. Movies like The Interview and Pineapple Express are my comfort movies. The crass, chaotic, and criminal situations in those movies remind me of nights during COVID when I would sit on the couch and watch those movies with my sisters. So, seeing the poster for Operation Odessa, I was interested if this documentary would be entertaining like Rogen-Franco movies.

This documentary did not disappoint. It describes the tale of a Russian mobster outmaneuvering the mafia, the Cali cartel in Colombia, and the acquiring of a decommissioned Soviet submarine for ultra-covert drug smuggling. I watched the doc with wide eyes and curiosity bubbling in my stomach.



My roommate slowly drifted asleep, but my interest in the film proved a good fighter against the heaviness of my eyelids, and I was happy about that. Minutes after my roommate turned in for the night saying, "let me know if anything interesting happens," one of the main characters said one sentence that had my jaw open for a solid two minutes.

After watching this film, I was so pleased with my resolution. I feel like it is common for documentaries to be seen as boring, so they pile up in the watch list, always waiting patiently while action, drama, comedy, and romance movies are selected over them. But documentaries can provide these things and more while telling true stories. What could be more compelling than that?

I am now writing this in the seventh week of 2024. I have watched more than seven documentaries, and what I can take away from the documentaries that I keep choosing is that I am obsessed with learning about drugs. Only two or three of my picks have not been drug related. I have learned about the business that started the opioid crisis in the US (American Pain, Max), meth usage in the Bible Belt (Meth Storm, Max), and the behind-the-scenes stories of the marijuana business in Humboldt County, CA (Murder Mountain, Netflix). Why these stories and these documentaries? I do not know. Maybe next week I should look for a documentary examining the human psyche. What about me makes me so interested in the world of illegal drugs? Hopefully I'll find out.

My advice to the readers: watch a documentary. You might find a new interest or want to get into a new hobby (please God, don't let it be drugs). I didn't regret it. You won't either.



## Aries

Tired of carrying around so many things? it's alright to let some of them go. Put down your horns, and express yourself.



## Taurus

The world isn't against you, but it's okay to still be prickly. Just don't go too far with it. (Maybe take time for yourself).



## Gemini

Blessings shall be upon you! But only if you learn to admire yourself too. Take pride in your work, and don't forget to thank those around you for their kindness.



## Cancer

You are what you eat. But don't be too full of yourself. Seasons going to be bountiful, but that means your worries will be too.



## Leo

Less of a lion this month, and more of just someone in a wig. Still, it's a good wig. Don't be afraid to flaunt it.



## Virgo

TRENDSETTERS, BEAUTY, GORGEOUS. It's a great year for you. All of your manifestations will come true (even the bad ones).



## Libra

The only balance rn is the emptiness of both of your pockets. Time to start saving up instead of spending.



## Scorpio

Guess you're out of your comfort zone. A little late in the year to be making new friends, but it's okay. What becomes of it depends on how much caffeine you have.



## Sagittarius

It's a new chapter, so start some new adventures! Try things you wouldn't normally, it could be fun.



## Capricorn

More one dimensional this month for you, sorry. Going through the motions? Maybe cuz I forgot to add something here, don't worry about it!



## Aquarius

You are not immune to marketing propaganda. But you're hydrated, so who's winning? Capitalism? Maybe.



## Pisces

It's your season! Make the most of it! Feelings may be a bit stronger but that's okay, just do you best.

# Coyote Quiz

By: Mac Stockdale

## Are You a Closet Commitment-Phobe?

1. On the way to a blind date, you're most likely thinking:

- A** "If nothing else, at least I'll be honing my flirting skills."  
**B** "Ugh, setups never, ever work. This is going to be a total waste of time."  
**C** "Hmm... I wonder if he's a good kisser."

2. In a relationship, you tend to be the type who:

- A** Keeps it in when you're annoyed with your partner. Why bother arguing?  
**B** Can get a little emotional when you're upset, but what person doesn't?  
**C** Thrives on drama. Loud fights are just fine because they lead to better intimacy

3. You have plans with a person you're dating on Friday evening, but your closest friends schedule a night out at the same time. You:

- A** Reschedule with the date. People come and go, but your friends will last forever.  
**B** Are tempted to cancel but don't. After all, you made plans with the date first.  
**C** Nights out are boring compared to spending it with a date. No way you're bailing

4. You've lived in your apartment for nearly a year. How would you describe the decor?

- A** You buy something nice each month to try to make it even homier.  
**B** You have everything you need and not much else.  
**C** It's full of expensive things you love... and will keep forever.

**SCORING:** 1. a-1,b-2,c-0 2. a-0,b-1,c-2 3. a-2,b-1,c-0 4. a-1,b-2,c-0

("Cosmopolitan.com - the Women's Magazine for Fashion, Sex Advice, Dating Tips, and Celebrity News")

### Forever a Free Agent

7-10 Points

You're about as likely to settle down as serial flaker George Clooney. "People with grass-is-greener syndrome thrive on uncertainty," says Diana Kirschner, PhD. "But this often indicates fear because they've been burned in the past." Ask yourself what incident may have caused your reluctance to commit. You have to be willing to stick around long enough to profit emotionally from situations that seem promising. Try setting a non-bailing rule-with new dates, a month; with a new job, four months-and enlist a friend to talk you off the ledge when you get flakey.

### Steadfast and Savy

4-6 Points

Equal parts balanced and bold, you usually know when something's right for you... and when to pull the plug. "You get that life is about trial and error," says psychotherapist JoAnn Magdoff, PhD. "Your thoughtful nature keeps you focused." Maintain your life equilibrium with the same coolhead, and don't let your friends' relationship issues or job drama color the way you respond to your own situations.

### Way Too Attached

0-3 Points

"While your loyalty is endearing, you're so desperate for security that you maintain it at the expense of getting what you want," says Kirschner. Plus, Magdoff points out, your passivity can allow people to walk all over you. To avoid being clingy or getting stuck in an unhealthy rut, make a list of what you want-both in love and life- and highlight where either area may be falling short. If the gaps between reality and your goals are huge, develop an exit strategy.