

# Colorful way to honor hometown heroes

## *UI students paint the town for homecoming*

**Shanon Quinn, Moscow-Pullman Daily News**

Windows throughout downtown Moscow were Vandal-ized Monday afternoon by dozens of University of Idaho students working to spread their school pride throughout the community.

Dressed warmly against the October chill, the artists carefully daubed paint on shop windows in order to create tributes to heroes of all kinds.

With and without capes, the works of art served not only to remind community members of the superheroes who work and play among them, but to inform them of the UI's homecoming theme: A Hero's Homecoming.

"This is the second year we've gone ahead with the window painting. It's a way to reach out to the community and make the community part of our homecoming celebration," Homecoming Activities Chair Emily Rasch said.

Two members of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity played catch-up to the rest of the painters, having been in class until the event was halfway through.

With green, brown, black, red, white and blue pigments, the men outlined and then carefully filled in the blanks to create the image of a rifle standing upright with its butt in a combat boot and a helmet over the barrel.

"This is a fallen soldier tribute with the gun, the helmet and the boots. It's going to have the American flag waving in the background," freshman Cole Lickley said.

Lickley dipped his brush into a forest green paint as he spoke, while his companion, UI junior Dan Heikkila, stepped carefully around him, preparing a baseline for the flag.

"Every guy in our house respects those who serve," Heikkila said.

The students said they were inspired to paint the tribute due to their brothers in Alpha Gamma Rho who have military connections.

"We have quite a few guys in our fraternity who are ROTC members and have had members of their families serve in different branches of the military," Lickley said. "With this year's homecoming theme ... we decided to pay tribute to those who have fallen and those who are still serving."

Further down the block at The Breakfast Club, sophomore Chase Macaw put the finishing touches on his fraternity's artwork - a portrait of Marvel comic's Deadpool, a superhero with healing powers in a doctor's labcoat.

"We chose a hero who's not very well known. We're saying that anyone can really be a hero as long as you do the right thing," said Macaw, a member of Kappa Sigma.

The women of Alpha Gamma Delta had a similar idea with their window.

"We decided to focus on hometown heroes, specifically with doctors," Jocelyn Schelske said.

The group also incorporated the names of local health care facilities in their work.

"We wanted to incorporate some close hospitals that really affect our lives as students. We wanted to point out that anyone can be a hero, especially those doctors that cure us. It's kind of a shout out to our local community," she said.

Rasch said she hopes the window painting will go on to be a homecoming tradition for the university and community, especially after its success last year.

"We got tremendous feedback and we're so excited the community enjoyed it as much as us," she said.

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