

THE ASMSU

January 28, 2010 • Vol. 104, Issue 16

exponent



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LETTERS

Dear Editor,

The recent article entitled "The Song of the South" by Trudi Mingus was, unfortunately, an uninformed and heavily one-sided argument of the negativity and her personal dislike towards the so-called "Rebel Flag." Miss Mingus' perceptions towards this emblem are, in my opinion, heavily biased and uneducated. I do understand Miss Mingus' personal affiliations to the South and her own beliefs, but as a son of the South, I believe that I have a greater and more in-depth history and meaning of this symbol.

Although this article claims to be riddled with "the true history of the flag," it in fact never once actually mentions the flag's origins. Did you know that this flag was never used as a national flag for the Confederate States of America (C.S.A.)? The "Rebel Flag" was actually the battle flag for the Army of Northern Virginia, and was designed as such to avoid battleground confusion with the "Stars and Stripes" flag of the Union. In fact, the Union "Stars and Stripes" flag and the "Stars and Bars" flag of the Confed-

eracy are nearly identical. However, in 1863 and after, the Army of Northern Virginia's battle flag was incorporated into the part of the flag called the "Union" (the blue square with star in our modern flag), in both the second and third Confederacy national flags, the so-called "Stainless Banner" and "Blood Stained Banner." And after the war, the battle flag was adopted as the emblem of the United Confederate Veterans.

With a proper history now highlighted, the remainder of Miss Mingus' article deals with the modern social dilemmas with this flag. It is true that organizations such as the Klu Klux Klan and several white supremacist groups have adopted this flag as their own symbol; and Miss Mingus does point out that the swastika was originally the Tibetan symbol of good luck. However, condoning a historical or spiritual symbol as an "emblem of hate" because someone else ignorantly and wrongly uses it for their own devious intentions is blatantly wrong. By attempting to destroy "their" symbol, one only fuels the fire.

Miss Mingus, I am fully aware and understand the hardships the African American people have suffered and continue to suffer through today, but the "Rebel Flag" is not a racist badge. Yes, unfortunately some racists attempt to use it as such, and to be completely honest, I do not understand all of these people in Montana who have no history to the South, but still proudly display this flag. In fact, it infuriates me. But for those of us who do have a real connection to the South and are not racists or bigots, the Confederate Battle Flag is a symbol of our history and a reminder of our post-Reconstruction perseverance. But maybe the ones who judge us for our continuing pride of our homeland are the real bigots.

Cary Woodruff
Sons of Confederate Veterans
Bridger Mountain Friends of the NRA
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"The United States is a nation of laws: badly written and randomly enforced."

- Frank Zappa

NEWS 5 NEWS SPOTLIGHT: CAMPUS RESEARCH

What do the Internet and anthropology have in common? Nothing, you say. Well, JOE THIEL is here to report on one MSU student's research concerning the Internet and identity.

DISTRACTIONS 5 FEELING DOWN? READ "TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE"

Now you may not believe it, but that professor that you really can't stand right now could end up being a lifelong friend. Don't believe me? Well something like that happened in "Tuesdays With Morrie" and LEXIE LAMOTHE believes it, so it must be true.

6 THE BOB-KITTYCAT

JOSEPH WIRTZ is back, wondering how Haiti was able to get disaster relief so quickly when New Orleans was not. Did we mention he is wondering this in the way that only he can? "

6 SHERLOCK HOLMES: "MOST ENGAGING"

If you haven't already been to the theater to see the movie, MARY BIEHL is here to tell you if it is really worth your time and money. She gives show times, so that must be a sign.

REC[REATION] 10 SUGARY SLOPES

Now that there is fresh powder on the ground, everyone is talking about heading up to the mountains to catch some much needed rest and relaxation. JULIA DAIGLE, however, will be heading for Volcom's Peanut Butter and Rail Jam.

10 HITTING THE ROAD

A few weeks ago, the Exponent ran an article describing what types of things were acceptable on a road trip. This week, NATE COX is here to tell you what kinds of things are best left out of your next journey.

12 MY TAKE

So the Super Bowl is just around the corner, and ERICA KILLHAM is convinced that it couldn't have ended up any better. Read on to see what she thinks will happen next Sunday.

STATIC 12 BUILDING ON THE WRECKAGE

According to NICK HOWARD, last week was a great week for America. I am pretty sure he is referring to all the great snow we have, but I guess you will just have to read and find out what has him so excited.

13 THE JERSEY SHORE OF EVERY CAMPUS

So I guess you could say that TRUDI MINGUS is not a fan of "Jersey Shore." Read on to find out why.

13 HELLO, I'M A CORPORATION

MATT SMITH is angry. This week, he is angry with the Supreme Court's decision regarding financial restrictions placed on corporations in elections. Actually, he is a little more than angry, but I will let you find out for yourself.

ABOUT THE
artist

After the devastation of World War II, Berlin became a city on the frontline of a struggle between two great superpowers. This tale of political unrest, dominance and oppression played out over the next four decades between the powers of East and West in the city of Berlin. In 2008, following nearly two years of research, Kelly Gorham set out to explore the neighborhoods of former East Berlin to create images for "The Stones Have Memories." With guidance from historians at home and in Berlin, and from friends who lived on both sides of the Wall, Gorham traced back history and photographed a dramatic story.

In a professional career that spans nearly twenty years, Kelly Gorham has worked for clients such as AAA, Bentley Motors, Holiday Inn and Harley Davidson, and his images have been featured in the New York Times, Sports Illustrated, Forbes Life, Skiing Magazine, Robb Report and GEO.

ABOUT THE
Exit Gallery

ASMSU Campus Entertainment presents, "The Stones Have Memories," a photographic exploration of Berlin's Cold War landmarks by Kelly Gorham. The exhibit will be in the Exit Gallery Feb. 1st through 12th. There will be a free public reception on Wednesday, Feb. 4th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Come check out this exciting new exhibit while meeting new people who love art! The Exit Gallery is located in SUB room 212. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

boilerplate

The ASMSU Exponent prints approximately 5,000 copies every Thursday and is free of charge at nearly 65 locations, limited one per reader. Additional copies of the current issue of The ASMSU Exponent may be purchased for \$1.00, payable in advance.

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NEWS

Outdoor Recreation Program Opens In New Home

WORDS BY
 Ashley Wheeler
 ASMSU Exponent

The ASMSU Outdoor Recreation Program has moved into a new \$570,000 building freeing its long-time location in the SOB Barn for renovation into office space. Built specifically to house the program, the new building has a variety of advantages.

According to Mike Cavaness, the Outdoor Recreation Program's director, the new building has better visibility, improved access, more storage and is more comfortable than the previous location. Now, instead of being hidden behind dorms and family/graduate housing, anyone driving down West Lincoln can see the building. Additionally, there is now a "loop driveway," providing easier access for rafts, canoes and other bulky equipment.

Storage has been greatly improved, as well, with both indoor and outdoor storage areas, all on location. Space constraints no longer force the program to store equipment at various locations around campus. Finally, employees are no longer exposed to the cold, as the building has reliable heat, whereas the previous barn location gave them little protection from Montana's winter.

Another drawback to being in the barn, according to Cavaness, was when large groups, particularly dance groups, would hold events in the second floor space. This often meant a lot of extra noise in the building.

The new building, located behind Roskie Hall, is situated on the intramural fields, allowing Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to maintain a trail there for anyone interested in taking a quick study break to go skiing.

The new building was primarily funded by MSU Auxiliary Services, at a cost of \$570,000. Financial responsibility has now been shifted to ASMSU, which the Outdoor Recreation Program is a part. This responsibility includes operations and upkeep of the building.

The now vacated SOB Barn will soon undergo renovations. These renovations include a major roof repair and bringing the building up to current building code which state law requires due to the large

The new building has better visibility, improved access, more storage and is more comfortable than the previous location.

scale of the renovations. These improvements include installing insulation, fire sprinklers and an elevator to make the second story handicap-accessible. The estimated cost for these renovations is \$3 million.

Once complete, the first floor of the SOB Barn will be used as office space for Auxiliary Services, the department responsible for managing, in part, the dorms and food service on campus. This renovated space will allow Auxiliary Services to consolidate its main employees, rather than having them spread around campus in locations like the basements of the SUB and Miller Dining Hall.

The Outdoor Recreation Program offers many resources to the MSU community's outdoor enthusiasts. In addition to the improved cross country ski track, the program offers equipment rental, group outings, instructional classes, a resource center and a bicycle and ski workshop.

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Spotlight: Campus Research



CREATING AN IDENTITY ON- LINE: MSU STUDENT RESEARCH LOOKS INTO THE INTERNET'S ROLE IN IDENTITY

WORDS BY
Alex Thiel
ASMSU Exponent

Research by MSU anthropology se-
arch Alex Manigault explores how the
Internet can be used to form personal
identity, social class and cultural capital.
The work attempts to show how the web
has been a game-changer in how social
identity is constructed.

Manigault, working with anthropol-
ogy Professor Tomomi Yamaguchi, re-
searches how the Internet age and the
phenomena of social networking have
changed how people gain and display
personal identity and social class. "Ev-
eryone uses internet now," said Mani-
gault, and often "perception of social
class changes with the use of on-line ma-
terial."

Nowhere is this more evident than
on popular social networking sites like
Facebook and Myspace. Typically, social
class perception is based on the likes and
dislikes of groups and the subjects they
are knowledgeable about. A typical "low-
class" person may know more about
baseball and enjoy drinking beer, while
someone perceived as upper class will
be well versed in theater and enjoy wine.
Social class is then about possession of
cultural capital, or knowledge that you
can use in the social sphere.

The beauty of social networking is
that few people present themselves as
they really are. Instead they tend to pre-
sent themselves as more "upper-class" or
"cooler" than they are in reality. "People
hide identities online," Manigault said.
They present an idealized version of
themselves that skews or distorts the
way people have traditionally formed so-
cial classes. "The lower class now is the
one who puts absolutely what he thinks
out without changing a thing," he added.

In fact, Manigault theorizes that the
convergence of Internet and social networking
has created a new "techno-class"
a class that has inherent advantage
because of their knowledge about the In-
ternets. In a typical social class structure,
wealth is often a telltale sign of where

you sit on the social ladder, but with the
Internet, your income matters very little.
Instead, your ability to use the web to
your social advantage has more effect on
how you will be perceived.

According to Manigault, the Internet
also creates opportunities to gain cul-
tural capital (socially applicable knowl-
edge or skills) for people who could not
afford them otherwise. The mass of in-
formation on the Internet about music,
politics, culture, language and a host of
other topics brings upper-class knowl-
edge to the masses, who previously
could not afford to educate themselves
on such social niceties.

Finally, Manigault suggests the Inter-
net by its very nature tears down social
walls. "Online it doesn't really matter if
people are similar to you." The typical
social cues that people often use to de-
termine who to spend time with in the
real world are absent on-line. Instead,
people on the web present themselves
as they want to be seen, and associate
with different people than they are likely
to in real life.

To further investigate these phe-
nomena, Manigault performed surveys
of almost 200 MSU students and several
in-depth interviews to determine how
college-students use the Internet and
social networking. "I tried to figure out
how they are meeting friends and how
they are spending their time on-line." He
discovered that students spend as much
as two and a half on-line a day, but re-
latively little is spent doing school work.

Manigault theorized from his results
that younger students are more likely to
create an identity that "makes you look
good to the girl next to you," while older
students focus their identity building on
prospective employers, toning down the
emphasis on being "cool" and stressing
desirable work-related qualities.

Through future research Manigault
hopes to answer other questions about
on-line identity building, such as wheth-
er it varies by gender, or how the influx
of older social networking users affects
the system.

DISTRACTIONS



Book of

WORMS

Your monthly book review

FEELING DOWN? READ "TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE"

WORDS BY
Lexie Lamothe
ASMSU Exponent

With classes back in session many
MSU students are meeting their new pro-
fessors for the first time and getting to
know what they expect and how harshly
they grade. Without knowing it, this pro-
fessor, whoever he or she may be, and
whatever subject they may teach, could
end up being a lifelong friend or mentor.
Don't believe it? Just pick up a copy of
"Tuesdays with Morrie," and read the
inspiring story of a student's bond with
his professor.

Author Mitch Albom tells the story
of how his college professor taught him
the greatest lessons, many years af-
ter college. Although Professor Morrie
Schwartz taught Albom in many differ-
ent subjects through his college career,
it was what Albom learned from him
while Morrie was lying on his death bed.
Albom sees a news special on "Night-
line" with Ted Koppel interviewing his
favorite professor in a wheelchair. Af-
ter being diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's dis-
ease, and given his death sentence, the
upbeat Morrie decides he isn't going to
let his death ruin the rest of his life, even
if it is short lived.

After hearing the "Nightline" special,
Mitch gets in contact with his profes-
sor and makes visits every Tuesday. He
flies thousands of miles to sit and listen
to his old professor talk about life and
all it throws our way. The book is set up
like sections, as a class would be. Each
chapter revolves around a lesson such
as love, acceptance, happiness, moral
values and many others.

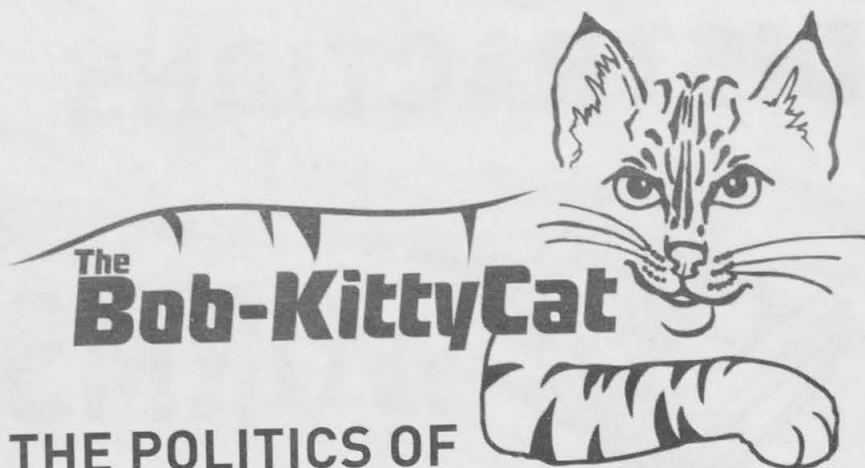
In opposition to these uplifting top-
ics, Albom discusses the evils of suicide,

homicide, violence and hatred, especial-
ly through the media's eyes. Morrie has
the positive outlook on each depress-
ing topic that Mitch tries to explore. It's
Morrie's optimistic views that keep the
visits bright, and his outlook on death
sends an encouraging message to read-
ers and to Mitch as well.

Morrie is a realist. He sees the world's
good and evil, but chooses to focus on
the wonderful things, rather than dwell
on the pessimistic world the media por-
trays. He knows those evils are in the
world, but chooses to disregard them.
He even takes his own death and with-
ering body, and turns that into a good
thing. Through his death, he opened up
his world to half of America and Mitch.
Instead of lying in bed all day, miserable
and mad about the hard life had dealt
him, he decides to spread his wisdom
and knowledge on to Mitch.

Morrie isn't almighty though. He tells
Mitch that when he is upset about his
condition, he lets himself cry it out, or
lets his anger come through, but only for
a half an hour, then he moves on to bet-
ter thoughts. Morrie's strength and cour-
age are inspiring to any reader, and his
wisdom helpful and useful. Morrie often
quotes his favorite poet, W.H. Auden, by
saying, "Love each other or perish." He
applies this to all different aspects of life.
His words are touching and true, leaving
the reader feeling uplifted, with a little
more insight into life than before they
turned the pages.

If you're looking for an inspiring,
heartwarming story, "Tuesdays with
Morrie" is just that. It's a quick read, so
don't worry about it getting in the way of
your studies. Mitch Albom opens us up
to one man's world, who so clearly can
see the beauty in ours.



THE POLITICS OF CATASTROPHES REIGN SUPREME

WORDS BY
Joseph Wirtz
ASMSU Exponent

Haiti continues to receive supplies this week to help with the growing humanitarian crisis following the devastating earthquake. Marines continue to off-load food and medical supplies by the truckload, and people are even being flown to U.S. hospitals to receive additional treatment for their injuries. While this is going on, let us reflect on another crisis.

Reporters, some of whom have longer memories than goldfish, started to wonder what happened to all the quick response and aid so many Americans didn't receive in their own country during, oh yes, Hurricane Katrina. I'm sure you all remember that little enjoyable episode in government ineptitude.

While lessons were learned, they came at the price of people's lives and the destruction of a major U.S. city, but hey, the government thought it was a justifiable price. Some government aides, wishing to remain anonymous, stated that many senators thought the price was perfectly reasonable compared to his kids' college tuition at MSU. That senator is from California, by the way.

Reporters were still wondering how a U.S. city couldn't get aid from its own government, but a city in another country could receive aid the next day. One theory was that when Katrina hit they sent the supplies through the U.S. Postal Service rather than cough up the extra \$0.10 per pound and send it FedEx. While that is a plausible reason, it doesn't explain how the Marines got there so fast. I mean, really, they only sent National Guard troops to New Orleans.

Then, everything made sense late last night when secret voting documents were uncovered in one of the multiple lost computers the FBI can't seem to keep track of at all times.

The documents give the breakdown of voting groups throughout the United States. This alone is not a big deal but what accompanied the breakdown

was stunning. Reports in the computer showed that the then-President Bush saw that a majority of New Orleans residents had voted against him in the last election and calling God on his direct line in the oval office. (It's hidden under the Bill Clinton Lube dispenser, for all your White House lube needs, you know, to slide your way out of tight or sticky situations. In Clinton's case it was always into not out of those types of situations.) Bush got the OK to smite sin on the Democratic-enabled welfare system. (Or as the Republicans call it: the too damn lazy to get a job but I have money to buy beer program.) And it came to pass that New Orleans was smote by FEMA, so sayth the Lord (and Bush).

It was also discovered that the current president, after the decline in his popularity and the impending doom of the healthcare bill, was trying to get more voters into Massachusetts to turn the tide of the upcoming Senate race. Haitians were to be flown to New York for "medical care" and given U.S. "birth certificates" so they could vote for the Democratic candidate.

The plan would have worked too, but the mistake was made to use Dick Cheney's old company, Halliburton, to transport the first shipments of aid. It so happened that plenty of dehydrated food got to Haiti and the Haitians were informed that they would be able to get clean water to rehydrate the food next month.

Needless to say, the Republican candidate won in Massachusetts. Just remember, if you are worried about getting aid from the government, make sure you're in an area sympathetic to the current president. So all you people, mostly Democrats, in San Francisco make sure you move to Salt Lake during the next session of congress, because odds are there will be an earthquake sooner or later that will give your part of the state a dunk in the ocean. For all you Republicans...you can live wherever you want. You probably already have a shotgun, a rifle and a four-wheel drive. I'm sure you'll be able to survive.

Tastes Like

Butter & Popcorn

Sherlock Holmes: "Most Engaging"

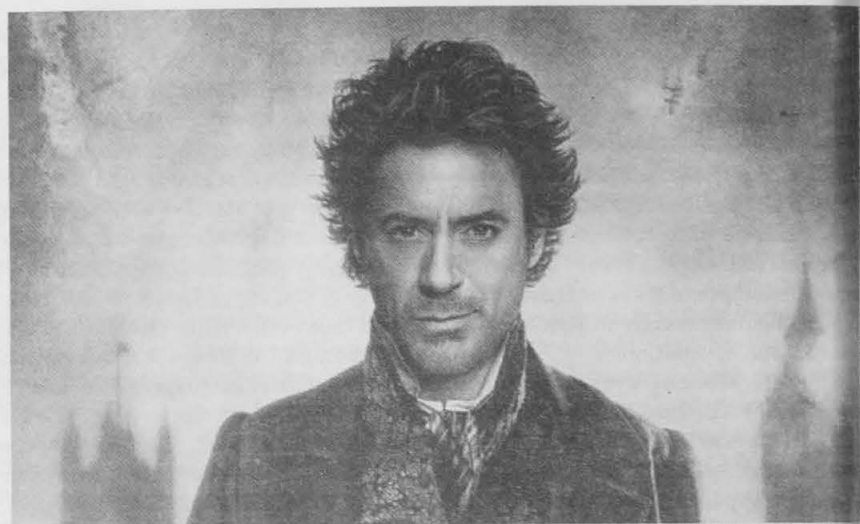


PHOTO COURTESY OF IMPAWARDS.COM

WORDS BY
Mary Biehl
ASMSU Exponent

In 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a Scottish author and physician, first published his stories with the detective Sherlock Holmes as the hero. I wonder what Doyle would have said if someone told him that his character would someday jump from the page to a screen of moving pictures, in a film directed by Guy Ritchie? Perhaps something like, "Most engaging."

The quirky Robert Downey Jr. plays detective Sherlock Holmes; the ever-handsome Jude Law (even with a moustache) plays his friend and colleague, Dr. John H. Watson, and Rachel McAdams (of "The Notebook" fame) has the role of Irene Adler, a beautiful and cunning former flame of Holmes who has something of a criminal record.

Mark Strong ("Stardust") is Lord Blackwood, the villain of the story, whose menacing goal is to take over England with his "black magic" powers.

I saw this movie prior to the Golden Globes, and even without knowing that Downey Jr. would eventually win Best Actor in a musical or comedy, I thought he was perfect for the role.

Unlike other American actors who

struggle with dialect, his accent was perfect, and it seemed as if, for two hours he became Sherlock Holmes, a brilliant detective with a heightened sense of deduction. I was surprised by how much I enjoyed watching Downey Jr. in the film, even though, isn't that what actors are supposed to do? Make us believe their characters are real?

The screenplay also attempts to stay true to Doyle's stories by utilizing some celebrated phrases as "the game's afoot" and making it a point to show that Holmes' residence is at 221B Baker Street.

Though the story line is for the most part mediocre in its creativity, the film shines in its actors, visuals and soundtrack. Guy Ritchie's usual fast-paced style in films such as "Snatch" is evident, particularly in the boxing match scene showing a bare-chested Holmes engaging in rounds of fisticuffs for money.

Music by The Dubliners and a score by Hanz Zimmer complement the playful nature of the story. Also of note, Zimmer has been nominated for a Critics Choice Movie Award for his score of "Sherlock Holmes."

"Sherlock Holmes" is playing at the Gallatin Mall Cinemas at 2825 W. Main Street. Showtimes are 1:20, 4:15, 7:10 p.m.



The Cat Calendar

COMPILED BY
Katie Sharp

01 28 THURSDAY

HUNGER FOR CHANGE FAST-A-THON

WHERE: Strand Union Building, Ballroom A
WHAT: The Montana State University Muslim Student Association will hold a Hunger for Change Fast-a-thon, followed by a meal and a presentation to draw attention to the hunger problem in the U.S. The club is suggesting that members of the Bozeman community voluntarily abstain from food and drink from dawn until sundown. In the evening, participants are invited to join in a meal to break their fast and be audience to a presentation about the relevance of fasting in Islam and the issue of hunger in our own community. The presentation will be held at 5 p.m., followed by a meal at 5:30 p.m. to break the fast. Participants attending the community meal are encouraged to bring a donation to help cover the costs. All additional funds raised will be donated to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. The MSA encourages participants to donate to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. Participants and supporters may wear an orange ribbon to raise awareness of hunger on that day. To sign up for the fast or become a sponsor, visit the MSU Diversity Awareness Office.

BOBCAT BASKETBALL (WOMEN)

WHERE: Brick Breeden Field House
WHAT: The 'Cats will host Northern Arizona University at 7:05 p.m.

BOBCAT BASKETBALL (MEN)

WHERE: Flagstaff, Ariz.
WHAT: The men's basketball team will play Northern Arizona University at 6:05 p.m.

01 29 FRIDAY

BOBCAT TRACK AND FIELD

WHERE: Bozeman
WHAT: The men's and women's bobcat track and field team will host the Montana State Open.

BOBCAT TENNIS (WOMEN)

WHERE: Pullman, Wash.
WHAT: The women's tennis team will play Washington State.

"EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE AND COMMUNICATION IN THE COSMOS"

WHERE: Hagar Auditorium, Museum of the Rockies
WHAT: Shane Larson of Utah State University will deliver a lecture, "Extraterrestrial Life and Communication in the Cosmos," at 7 p.m. The presentation, which is part of the Museum's winter lecture series, is free and open to the public. Funding for the winter lecture series is provided by the Museum of the Rockies, Montana Space Grant Consortium and Southwest Montana Astronomical Society.

01 30 SATURDAY

CPR, FIRST AID AND AED COURSE

WHERE: Bozeman Deaconess Hospital
WHAT: Participants will learn CPR, AED use, relief of choking and use of barrier devices in adults, children and infants, as well as first aid skills for shock, blood loss and environmental issues. All classes at Bozeman Deaconess are taught according to American Heart Association Guidelines. Following successful completion of this course, participants will receive a two-year certification. The cost for this class is \$85. To register, call 522-1644. The classes will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

BOBCAT BASKETBALL (WOMEN)

WHERE: Brick Breeden Field House
WHAT: The 'Cats will host Northern Colorado.

01 31 SUNDAY

BOBCAT BASKETBALL (MEN)

WHERE: Greeley, Colo.
WHAT: Northern Colorado will host the 'Cats at 2:05 p.m.

"JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR"

WHERE: Brick Breeden Field House
WHAT: "Jesus Christ Superstar," presented by American Bank Broadway in Bozeman, will come to MSU at 2 p.m. Tickets will be available at the Field House box office, all Ticketswest outlets, online at ticketswest.com and by phone at 800-808-5940. Tickets are \$47.50, \$42.50 or \$37.50 plus applicable convenience fees. Set in two acts, "Superstar" tells the story of the final seven days in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. "Superstar" dramatizes Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the unrest caused by his preaching and popularity, his betrayal by Judas, the trial before Pontius Pilate and his ultimate crucifixion. Featuring such songs as "Superstar," "Everything's Alright" and "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Superstar" earned five Tony nominations. Ted Neeley, best known for his Golden Globe-nominated role as Jesus in the Norman Jewison film of "Superstar," will be headlining this performance.

02 01 MONDAY

HEALTHY HEART WALKING PROGRAM

WHERE: Gallatin Valley Mall
WHAT: Bozeman Deaconess Hospital and the Gallatin Valley Mall together formed a new walking program for early morning mallwalkers. Stop by the mall before going to work and walk a mile or two for your heart. Free blood pressure checks, courtesy of Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, will be offered between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

FLIGHT GROUND SCHOOL BEGINS

WHERE: Bozeman
WHAT: Whether you want to fly commercial airliners or a small private plane, you must start with a basic ground school. At the completion of this course, you will be fully prepared to take the FAA written exam for the private pilot certificate. Learn basic aerodynamics, aircraft performance, aircraft power plant systems, airspace categories, flight instruments, meteorology, weight and balance, airborne emergencies, Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs), navigation and flight physiology. The cost is \$345 for no credit and \$397.80 plus additional fees for credit.

02 02 TUESDAY

DYSLEXIA LECTURE

WHERE: Bozeman Public Library
WHAT: At 7 p.m., Elsie Johnson will present "Dyslexia - A New Understanding" for no charge. Elsie Johnson, Learning Options director and Certified Davis Dyslexia Association International Facilitator, has helped many adults and children in Montana - not only to read, but to understand and view their way of learning as a talent and natural creative ability. Drawing on her experiences working with students in both public and private schools in New England, at Landmark College for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities in Vermont and in her practice in Kalispell and Churchill, she answers questions about learning differences and how and why smart students struggle with learning. Unlike traditional methods, many of which employ repetitive drills on the dyslexic's weaknesses, Learning Options works in harmony with the natural learning style of each individual. Pre-registration for this lecture is recommended. To pre-register, call 406-282-7416.

02 03 WEDNESDAY

SACK LUNCH SEMINARS

WHERE: Strand Union Building 168
WHAT: February is Sexual Health Awareness Month. Join us for a fun, interactive and lively session with Bridger Clinic Male Outreach Team that encourages healthy sexual relationships, awareness of sexually transmitted infections (STI's) and HIV/AIDS from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. The public debut of Birth Control Jeopardy will follow Condom Bingo. Come and learn lots and win fabulous prizes.

MONTANA ECONOMIC OUTLOOK SEMINAR

WHERE: Best Western GranTree Inn
WHAT: The 35th Annual Economic Outlook Seminar "Economic Recovery - What's Ahead for Men and Women Workers?" is presented by The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research. This half day seminar and luncheon (8 a.m. to 1 p.m.) will feature keynote speaker Wendy Stock, department chair of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University, along with Bureau economists Patrick Barkey and Paul Polzin. Industry experts will provide the outlook for Montana's important industries: non-resident travel, health care, agriculture, manufacturing and forest products. Also included will be an update on Montana home sales and a presentation by Montana Kids Count.

02 04 THURSDAY

THE STONES HAVE MEMORIES

WHERE: Exit Gallery
WHAT: ASMSU Campus Entertainment presents "The Stones Have Memories," a collection of photographs by Kelly Gorham showing at Feb. 12. There will be a free public artist reception on Feb. 4 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. After the devastation of World War II, Berlin became a city on the frontline of a struggle between two great superpowers. This tale of political unrest, dominance and oppression played out over the next four decades between the powers of East and West in the city of Berlin. In 2008, following nearly two years of research, Kelly Gorham set out to explore the neighborhoods of former East Berlin to create images for "The Stones Have Memories." With guidance from historians at home and in Berlin, and from friends who lived on both sides of the Wall, Gorham traced back history and photographed a dramatic story. In a professional career that spans nearly 20 years, Kelly Gorham has worked for clients such as AAA, Bentley Motors, Holiday Inn and Harley Davidson, and his images have been featured in the New York Times, Sports Illustrated, Forbes Life, Skiing Magazine, Robb Report and GEO. Gorham has earned many honors and his work has been exhibited at several galleries. "The Stones Have Memories" began its tour Nov. 9, 2009.



One Year Greener

Student-Funded Sustainability Center brings action, awareness to MSU

Derek Brouwer

PHOTO BY BRUCE MUHLBRADT

This month marks the one year anniversary of MSU's Sustainability Center, an ASMSU committee established in 2009 to manage the student-funded campus recycling program and "promote ecological responsibility at MSU."

Last year the Sustainability Center was created as an ASMSU Committee upon campus approval of a \$3.50 per semester "sustainability fee" that the student body voted to impose upon itself. In 2009, this amounted to \$72,000, most of which was used to implement the ASMSU Recycling program.

Since assuming responsibility for recycling last year, the Sustainability Center has expanded collection sites and upgraded existing locations. As a result of these efforts, ASMSU Recycling has diverted 109 tons of material from the landfill since January 2009.

Recycling as a Student Initiative

Located in some of the most heavily utilized spaces on campus, MSU's distinctive recycling centers for plastic, aluminum, paper and newspaper are hard to miss. The Sustainability Center also maintains several outdoor cardboard recycling dumpsters. Cardboard makes up about three-fourths of the volume of recycled material on campus, most of which is associated with Auxiliary

Services, which operates MSU Food Service, ASMSU Sustainability Center Director Gretchen Hooker said.

One of the key challenges facing the recycling program, according to Hooker, is the lack of funds to purchase new recycling bins. "We're ex-

panding as we're able to," she said.

Students in many residence halls have acquired funds to purchase the bins for each floor through each dorm's Residence Hall Association. Once these new locations are in place, Sustainability Center student employees administer the pickup and maintenance in the residence halls. "It's encouraging to be able to partner with Reslife," Hooker said.

Hooker was hired by ASMSU in March 2009 as a full-time professional staff member to coordinate sustainability operations. A classified university employee, Hooker is in an odd position as director of a student-funded and student-centered ASMSU committee. Yet she sees this arrangement as a way that the Sustainability Center can better advocate for stu-

dent interests. "I feel like what I can add is to help assist in continuity and maintain relationships," she said.

Blake Bjornson, president of the student group Network of Environmentally Conscious Organizations (NECO), was initially wary of the decision to hire a classified employee, he said, because "one of ASMSU's missions is to provide leadership opportunities for students." However, he said he now recognizes the inherent advantages of the position and supports it.

The Sustainability Center does also provide opportunities for student employment and volunteering. Two student employees assist Hooker in developing events and outreach, while three others maintain the recycling program.

"If we want to lead, then we lead by example." — Blake Bjornson, NECO President

Electric Truck and Economics

These student Recycling Associations drive a unique solar-powered truck on their collection route around campus. "Sparky" was originally created as a class project and eventually provided to ASMSU last year by Facilities Services. Unfortunately, Sparky is as impractical as it is cool, Hooker suspects that the recycling program may soon need a bigger vehicle.

"Sparky" seems to represent the tension between going green and being practical that plagues sustainability efforts everywhere, particularly regarding recycling. Given the cheap landfill rates in the region (MSU pays only \$27 per ton, whereas many cities must pay over \$100), Hooker admits that justifying recycling can be hard on the surface.

"I'm not going to claim that recycling is saving the university money yet," she said. However, Hooker points to energy and environmental benefits, noting that creating virgin materials often uses more energy and produces more pollution than recycling existing ones. "I feel like we're doing the right thing even if it doesn't pencil out economically."

The Sustainability Center is interested in being practical as well as responsible. At a presentation to the MSU Senate on Jan. 21, Hooker explained that her recycling associations have noticed an abundance of reused Exponents being recycled each week. They conducted a one-day audit and found over 900 surplus copies of the Exponent left on lawns, nearly 20 percent of the

number printed. Hooker said that the Sustainability Center has noticed a similar problem with copies of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle in dining halls.

A Wider Vision

While recycling is the Sustainability Center's core program, Hooker sees opportunities to promote broader change. Shortly after coming to MSU, "it became clear to me that there were a lot of other things I could help with," she said.

"Sustainability isn't recycling," Bjornson said. "Recycling is only part of it."

Over the past year, The Sustainability Center has sponsored and organized events to help build a culture of sustainability on campus. In October it worked with NECO to provide student scholarships for the Northern Rockies Bioneers Conference. The Sustainability Center has also teamed with NECO to hold a series of "Sustainability Luncheons" to promote awareness and involvement.

The Sustainability Center is also looking to one day establish a student-run thrift store on campus. However, arrangements to acquire property for the store have recently collapsed, Hooker said and the project is at "square one." Other efforts include a local foods sustainability luncheon in February and support of the local "Take Back the Tap" campaign to advocate reduced use of bottled water.

With organizations from NECO to

Facilities Services involved in issues of sustainability, collaboration between groups is necessary to achieve tangible results. "It's easy to criticize others," Hooker said, "but people in all of these organizations are committed to sustainability even if it doesn't result in immediate action."

"No one is saying 'you can't do that,'" she said.

Though not directly involved in executing recycling program, Facilities Services has offered support to the Sustainability Center. In addition to providing "Sparky," Facilities Services recently provided outdoor recycling bins in front of Montana Hall. The heavy duty receptacles, which match the style of other outdoor garbage cans, carried a price tag of \$2,000, according to Hooker.

Comparisons to UM

MSU's recycling program remains smaller than that of The University of Montana, whose program has been around for a decade and is funded by a similar student fee. Recycling at UM is administered by their Facilities Services Department, which has more tools and resources to put toward the program.

According to the UM Web site, their recycling program has resulted in an 18 percent decrease in solid waste sent to the landfill. MSU does not yet calculate recycling statistic in this manner, but Hooker said that upcoming participation in a recycling competition will allow MSU to directly compare its pro-

gram with other schools across the country, including UM.

Bjornson said that he hopes ASMSU may eventually transfer recycling duties to Facilities Services, because it has the equipment necessary to carry out recycling on a large and efficient scale.

Hooker agreed, noting that recycling is essentially a waste management issue. "Facilities has the expertise and will to do this," she said, "but for years has lacked the necessary funds to do so. With funding secured for recycling by the student fee, we may have the opportunity to address that issue."

Toward A Greener Future

The success of conservation initiatives such as recycling may hinge upon developing a more environmentally-conscious campus culture.

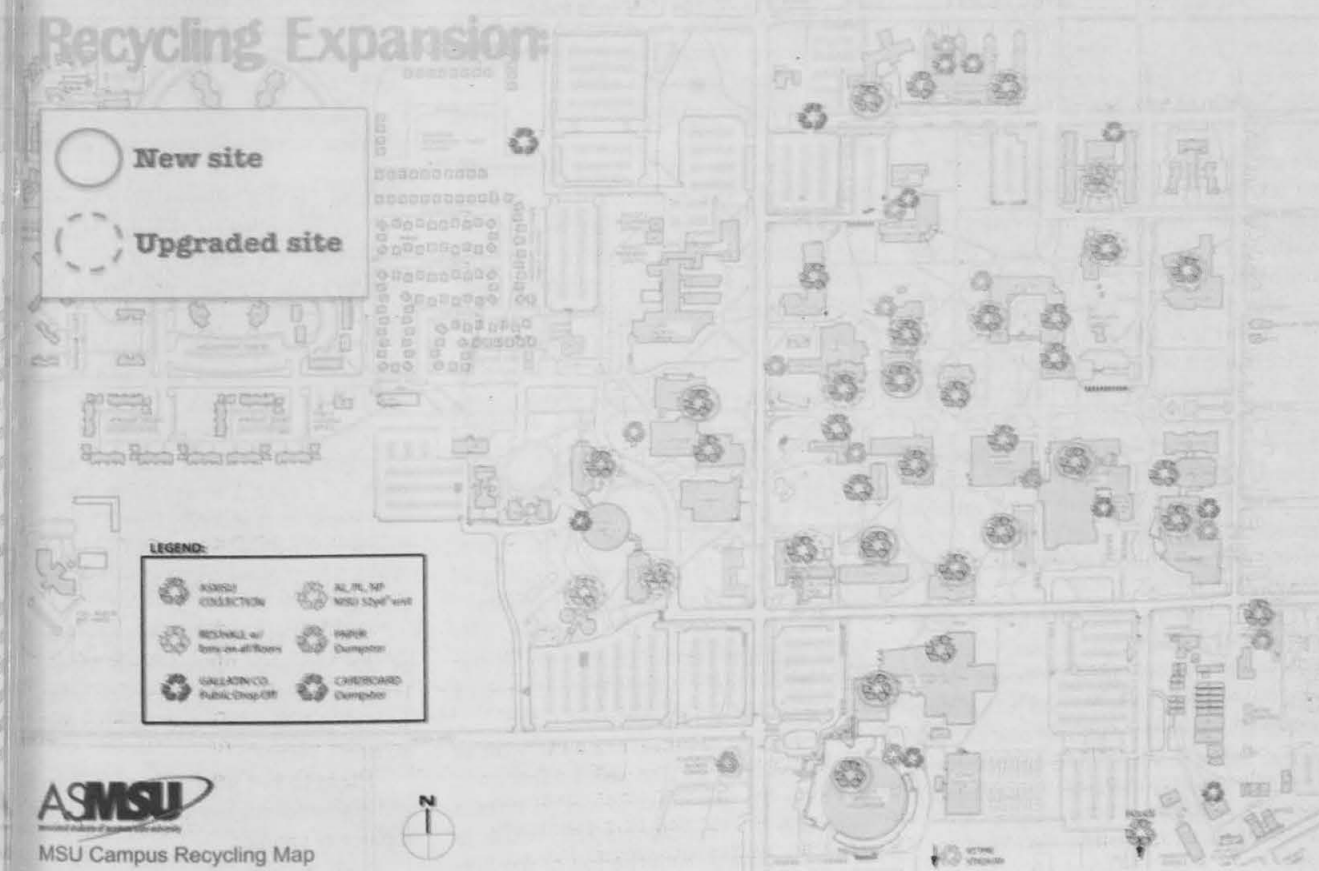
"If immersed in a culture which values these things, then by and large people will [recycle]," Hooker said. This is one reason why she chose to reinvest last year's surplus funds directly into extra recycling bins: If students and faculty work in an environment where recycling bins are side-by-side with garbage cans, Hooker said she believes that most people will choose to recycle.

The Sustainability Center has used the Leadership Institute, a division of ASMSU established to help develop student leadership skills, as a model for the organization. Hooker said she wants the Sustainability Center to serve as "a resource for student involvement," a group that can "help nurture what students want to see happen."

Though noting that some groups consider the student body apathetic toward sustainability, Hooker said that the number of students on campus who care is growing. "The students I work with are exceptionally aware [of environmental issues]," she said. "More and more students are saying environmental issues factor into their college decision." In her eyes, this makes sustainability a "recruitment and retention issue."

Bjornson offered a different perspective on campus culture, stating "I do think the student body is a little apathetic." While he said he would like to see the Sustainability Center work to inform students of environmental issues, his goal is not necessarily to make everyone an ecological advocate. "Not everyone is going to be active in sustainability issues," he said.

Looking forward, Hooker said that the Sustainability Center is "working on the sustainability of ASMSU as a body." Bjornson, who is also the assistant president pro-tempore of the ASMSU Senate, echoed this opinion. "If we want to lead, then we lead by example."



MSU Campus Recycling Map

REC[REATION]

Hitting the Road

ALREADY PLANNING FOR SPRING BREAK?

WORDS BY
Nate Cox
ASMSU Exponent

A few weeks ago, the Exponent featured an article about road trips, which mostly informed the reader of what they should do on a long distance trip in the winter. I've been on a few road trips myself, and enjoy telling the few stories I have about them, partially advising the reader of what they shouldn't do on a road trip. Whether you take the advice or not, I hope you enjoy the stories.

I've been on four drives that were more than 1,000 miles each way. The first was a family trip to Phoenix when I was thirteen. I wasn't old enough to drive yet, so I spent the vast majority of the trip sleeping, and the rest staring out the window at the less-than-spectacular Utah scenery. We drove through Vegas at 7 a.m., without a doubt the least exciting time to be in Sin City.

The second time I drove to Phoenix was a very different experience. A friend and I drove there for spring break 2007. We left early in the morning and went through West Yellowstone and beyond on very icy roads. We were eight hours into our trip and a few miles past Salt Lake City before he let me drive.

The roads had cleared about midway through Idaho, so by then we were practically flying. About halfway through Utah, the climate changed dramatically and we were cruising with the windows down all afternoon. This was a welcome change from the Bozeman winter we had left behind.

My travel buddy was the best that could be hoped for. He was basically my chauffeur, because he had driven the 5,000-mile Boston-to-Bozeman-and-back trip five times, and 1,000 miles in a day all by himself was easily shrugged off. He was happy as could be switching between NPR and whatever few CDs he had in his car, chain-smoking and working on his trucker's tan for 1,100 miles.

Instead of the longer interstate route through Vegas and the northwest corner of Arizona, we took the more direct and scenic, two-lane highway through central Utah and Arizona. That highway took us through Kanab Canyon in extreme southern Utah, which glowed red as the sun set. Once we reached Paige in northern Arizona, my friend took over the driving again and we charged our

way through Flagstaff and on to Phoenix, arriving late in the evening.

I met him in Vegas a week later for the return trip, which went much the same as the drive to Phoenix. We rumbled back into Bozeman at 1:30 a.m. and it happened to be St. Patrick's Day. Pita Pit was the only establishment open that appealed to us and despite being the only sober people in the place, we were by far the most haggard.

I drove to Salem, Ore., just six weeks after the second trip to Arizona. This drive, however, was with family so it featured 100 percent less chain-smoking. We took the Lochsa River highway instead of taking the interstate through Spokane. The geography of eastern Oregon and Washington along the Columbia was also a sight to see.

Most of it was farmland and ranchland, and the fields were so steep that I wondered how trucks could traverse them, let alone tractors. The scenery of this trip, especially the Lochsa, was enough to recommend that particular route to anyone traveling between Bozeman and the Oregon coast.

The last trip took my dad and I to Pella, Iowa, in January 2008 for a service and maintenance school for hay equipment dealers. The 1,320-mile drive took the first time. The going was slow because of the 124 hours, 500 lbs. of steel we were hauling, but the occasional stretches of ice and dense fog didn't speed things up either. The scenery of eastern Montana and South Dakota in mid-winter was nothing to dwell on, especially during the night.

My dad and I aren't the chattiest people in the world and this fact became quite evident when silence filled a truck for dozens of hours of driving. Satellite radio was a sanity saver. The return trip however, presented a new challenge. We hauled home a pallet of plastic-covered round bale net-wrap. Not many annoyances can fray your sanity like the sputtering and flapping of heavy saran wrap for 22 solid hours.

Even after the tough trips, it only takes a few weeks to recover and the itch to get on the road again starts to begin. Buckle up, tell some bad jokes, cuss about the weather, tan only one of your arms, listen to music and collect some stories. There are an awful lot of places to see, but trust me, skip Iowa.

Sugary Slopes

CHECK OUT VOLCOM'S PEANUT BUTTER AND RAIL JAM FEB. 6



Our Outdoors Editor explores Moonlight's recent fresh powder with a view of the Headwaters

PHOTO BY SAM THOMAS

WORDS BY
Julia Daigle
ASMSU Exponent

Weaving through the great outdoors of Southwestern Montana, I found myself passing creeks donning names such as "Moose" and "Swan." An immature bald eagle gliding effortlessly overhead and a group of mountain goats idly passing their time were just a few attractions that accompanied my Saturday morning drive.

My destination is Lone Mountain. Particularly the northern face: Moonlight Basin Ski Resort. I arrived, admittedly green on what types of sugar the mountain had to offer. Fortunately, I was in good hands, being chauffeured around the mountain by the adult snow sports-supervisor, Christo Pierce. He was able to shed some light on some of the mountain basics.

With 1,900 acres of rideable terrain and a summit of 11,166 feet, the mountain boasts a landscape of groomers, a freestyle terrain park, moguls, open bowls, tree skiing, steep chutes and gullies that could satiate most any rider's appetite.

We spoke of the Headwaters, the more extreme terrain on the top of the face, accessible by hiking from the top of the Headwaters Lift along the ridge.

The Six-Shooter is the primary lift at Moonlight, rising 1,850 vertical feet from the base. For the most advanced terrain you take the Headwaters Lift, which is a short walk up from the top of the Six-

Shooter. It sends you up an additional 850 feet, to the boundary line between Moonlight and Big Sky Resort.

Incessantly gobbling up these bits of information was overshadowing my skiing apparently, and it was suggested that I put my notepad down and work on my feeble turns. With my pride at stake I spent the next hour, as instructed stretching my turns out like "saltwater taffy." And low and behold, a skier began to form, with the help of two little metaphorical words of instruction: saltwater taffy.

Besides the breathtaking views and the equally alluring terrain, Moonlight Basin offers a plethora of events on a regular basis. On Saturday, Feb. 6, Moonlight Basin is hosting the Peanut Butter and Rail Jam, the eighth stop of Volcom's amateur snowboard tour and Volcom's only stop in Montana.

The layout of the event is freshly formatted, with three rails dug side-by-side to create a single large rail zone. The event is absolutely free. There are a bounty of prizes, free PB&J sandwiches and a free Volcom PBRJ shirt just for entering.

You can sign up the day of the event at the Madison Village Base Area or at www.volcom.com. Note: space is limited to 200 contestants and fills up quickly so don't delay.

Hope to see you there. I will be the girl transitioning my ski moves to that piece of candy.

Track and Field, Men's Basketball Have Great Success

WORDS BY

Josh French
ASMSU Exponent

MSU men's and women's track and field teams both competed in the Montana State Dual Meet on Friday, Jan. 22. MSU had a successful meet ending with 21 Big Sky Conference qualifying performances.

Allison Jones and Amanda Murphy finished with two qualifying performances each, both qualifying in the shot put and weight throw. Teammates Kirstin Schaffer and Kristin Schaffer also qualified in weight throw and shot put, respectively. Stacey Irvin qualified in pole vault, while Sadie McMillan and Katie Niemeier finished in the 55 meter hurdles. Also qualifying in the 55 meter hurdles was Camille Arcchard as well as in the 200 meter. MSU's Heather Haug was the last female qualifying who did so in the 3,000.

Men's qualifiers included Casey Clausen and Morgan Norgaard who both qualified in the shot put while David Phillips qualified separately in the weight throw. Qualifying in the triple jump was Justin Cichosz and Adam Hutter in the high jump. Asa Staven who already had medals for the heptathlon and high jump qualified in the pole vault. Teammates Patrick Casey and Matt Atkinson-Adams both qualified in the 3,000 while Nick Atwood did so in the mile.

The MSU ski team finished up their season with the Invitational with the Nordic portion of the invite on Jan. 22 through the 24th. The team entered the Nordic events after finishing last with the conclusion of the alpine events taking place two weeks ago. The team finished up well ending with 638 points, giving them a sixth place finish in the seven-team field.

On the women's side of the event, MSU was led by Corrine Malcolm who finished the 15K race in the ninth overall position. Kaelin Kiesel finished close behind Malcolm in the 11th spot while Melina Park finished in 14th. The men were led by Tyler Reinking who placed sixth overall in the 20K freestyle event. Bernard Roenning finished the race in 23rd and the 'Cats closely followed by Drew Cott in 24th and Ryan Scott in 25th.

Previous Friday races included a second place finish for Roenning in the men's 10K classic followed by teammates Reinking in 17th and Luke Bro-

mley in 22nd. Casey Kutz was on top for the MSU women, finishing in eighth in the 5K classic. Kutz was followed by Rachel Kanady in 13th and Kiesel in 16th.

MSU women's basketball team had their first meeting with the in-state rival UM Grizzlies Saturday afternoon here in Bozeman. The Lady 'Cats entered the game after coming off a strong conference win over Sacramento State and looked to tip-off the game versus the Griz with high intensity.

The game ended in a 76-67 Griz victory that was brought on by 21 MSU turnovers, a seven-minute first half scoring drought, and only 33 percent shooting for the game. MSU jumped out to an early 16-8 lead but their scoring drought allowed the Griz to come back and take a lead of 30-19. The Griz would continue to build on their lead throughout the remainder of the first half and into the second. MSU battled back to cut the Griz lead to two (66-64) with just over a minute left but Griz free throws down the stretch sealed the MSU defeat.

'Cat standouts in the game included Lyndi Seidensticker with 21 points followed by Sarah Strand with 16 while Rachel Semansky and Katie Bussey each had 11. Strand also posted 11 rebounds and Semansky added eight.

The men's team had a better outcome in their dual with the Griz. MSU took the game with a final score of 61-52, led by Bobby Howard and Marquis Navarre. While MSU had four players in double-digit scoring, it was their defense in the game which led to their success. MSU kept Griz top players from high point values and rebounds along with providing their own highlight defense.

MSU scoring was led by Howard and Navarre who posted 12 apiece, closely followed by Erik Rush and Branden Johnson who bucketed 11 each. Will Bynum added six points for the 'Cats along with Cameron Henderson who tacked on five.

Both tennis teams were on the court over the weekend with two matches apiece. The women were in Bozeman for both, hosting No. 34 Boise State on Saturday and MSU-Billings on Sunday. MSU fell to Boise State 0-7 in their opener, being swept in doubles and only taking 13 games in singles.

Ali Griffin was the top 'Cat performer, winning three games at No. 1 singles

against BSU's top ranked player Pichitra Thongdach who ranks in the top 50 players in the nation. The match set against MSU-Billings on Sunday was cancelled due to traveling weather.

The men's tennis team had two away matches, the first taking on Northern Arizona on Saturday and Arizona on Sunday. Corey Smith and teammate Pawel Turzanski were victorious at No. 1 doubles which proved to be MSU's only win. Smith fell in No. 1 singles 2-6 and 1-6 while Turzanski lost at No. 2 singles 3-6, 7-6, and 3-6. MSU fell 0-7 to NAU at the end of the day, opening their season on a rough note. MSU fell to Arizona 0-7 as well, being swept in all three of the doubles matches and six singles.

Women's basketball will next host Northern Arizona, Thursday, Jan. 28 followed by another home game against

Northern Colorado on Saturday, Jan. 30. The men's team will take to the court Jan. 28 as well as they visit Northern Arizona Jan. 31. Both track and field teams will participate in the Montana State Open on the Friday, Jan. 29. Women's tennis has two away matches set for Jan. 29, the first against Washington State and the second taking on Lewis-Clark State. Men's tennis has a layover until Friday, Feb. 5 when they will travel to play Portland State followed by another visiting match on Feb. 6 against Portland. The ski team will next be on the slopes when they compete in the New Mexico Invitational which takes place Feb. 5-6.

Discretions Need Equal Penalties in the MLB

WORDS BY

Kyle Reynolds
ASMSU Exponent

Last week, Mark McGwire came out and admitted a few things, conveniently right before he starts his new job.

He first admitted to using steroids beginning in the 1989 season and continuing on through the 1998 season when he hit 70 home runs in a single season. The second thing he admitted to was that he failed physics in high school, claiming that he took steroids only to help himself heal faster and that he doesn't believe that they helped him hit more home runs.

Come on Mark, really? So, what you're saying here is that you took steroids to heal faster, but then you're going to try to tell me that even though those steroids made you look like you bench press Volkos on your lunch break, they didn't help you hit the ball farther at all?

It's easy Mark. Pre-steroids, ball goes 280 feet, post-steroids, ball goes 320... home run. So, does he seriously believe this? No, of course he doesn't. However, just as he sat in front of Congress and refused to speak of the past, Mark is out there again insulting every fan of the game and making a mockery of our, the fans', collective intelligence.

So where is this rant going exactly? To the credibility of our current baseball commissioner, Bud Selig, who was dumb

enough to allow the steroids era to erode what's left of the game of baseball.

Bud Selig won't reinstate Pete Rose to the game of baseball and/or lift his permanent ban from the hall of fame because Rose bet on his own team, the Cincinnati Reds, but McGwire hasn't been punished in anywhere near the way Rose was, and it's scary.

The game of baseball will always have a black scar on its record from the steroids era, but even worse than that, they can't even clean the situation up correctly. These players who have intentionally broken the rules and undermined the game's integrity to a degree Pete Rose never even came close to should at the least be getting lifetime bans just like Rose, or Rose should be allowed back in.

The insincerity the game is showing its fans right now is scary. Of course we can't ban Alex Rodriguez and Manny Ramirez for life for doing steroids, but Pete Rose? Who cares about him? He's been out for years; he's not making the league any money or bringing in fans.

Bud Selig should have learned by now that integrity is the most important thing for the success of the sport for which he carries the torch. And if he wants to save baseball from its popularity slide he needs to either start punishing these guys like McGwire and Rodriguez, who've admitted to using steroids and undermining the game with worse punishments than Rose got, or just let Rose back in. Pure and simple.

STATIC

Building on the Wreckage

WORDS BY
Nick Howard
 ASMSU Exponent

It has all the ingredients for a great movie: The good guys are hopelessly outnumbered, the bad guys are using every dirty trick available, and the climax draws near while victory remains all but impossible. Still, the good guys dig in and prepare to fight to the last man as the orchestra starts to play "Adagio for Strings." All is lost. Then, at the last moment, the hero arrives out of the blinding sun and the day is saved. He rallies the troops, the battle turns and the good guys triumph.

Last week was a great week for America.

Last week was a great week for America. While Scott Brown's victory may be the celebratory cake, last week gave conservatives frosting and ice cream to go along with it. To enumerate: Scott Brown's Senate victory in Massachusetts feels suspiciously like pulling out the last necessary piece on the Democrat's Jenga tower; healthcare begins its death throes; Air America files for bankruptcy; and the Supreme Court takes on McCain-Feingold.

Since Air America has been inconsequential and ignored since its inception and the Supreme Court is hardly a body in which to put faith, the Scott Brown victory has by far the most substance. Coming from 30 points behind to win the seat made vacant by Ted Kennedy's death and held by Democrats since 1953 is a huge achievement, and it couldn't come at a better time. Brown's victory provides Republicans with a 41st vote and effectively kills healthcare reform as it stands in Congress.

The implications for the Democrats are obvious. They have an unpopular platform that they must rush through to avoid scrutiny, but rushing through an

agenda looks shady and underhanded to American voters.

The implications for Republican are less obvious, although they may seem obvious. The Republican Party is the party of consistency. They are not a Frankenstein's monster of constituencies, with opposing groups all trying to get a piece of the action. This makes them the status-quo party, the party voters return to when the Democratic Party has disappointed again.

Unfortunately, that won't carry them for long. Voters are obviously looking for real hope and change, and the Republicans are temporarily benefiting from

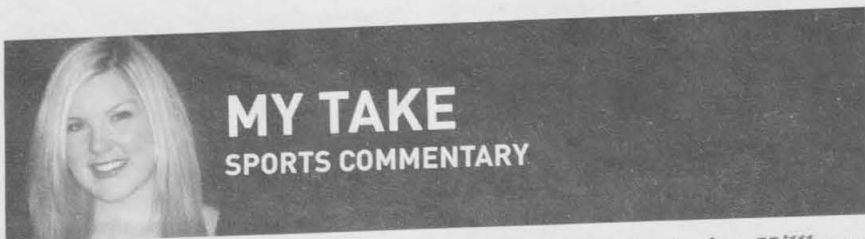
backlash against radical liberalism. If the Republicans want to gain and hold majorities in Congress, they need to actually implement the things for which they are voted into office.

American politicians have spent the last few years flipping back and forth like a teeter-totter as Republicans compromise their values, Democrats

sweep in, voters are disenchanted with the devastation of liberalism and return to the Republican Party, and the cycle starts again. The good news is that Democrats cannot break the cycle; their current goals and ideals of the party are incompatible with the vast majority of Americans.

Republicans can break the cycle and they need to before the Democrats do permanent damage to the country. By electing small government conservatives, cutting taxes and carrying through on fiscal responsibility, Republicans can create an enduring voter base that can relegate the Democratic Party to the history books.

It is easy to think that the defeat of healthcare is enough, for now. It isn't, and the Republican Party needs to campaign on values rather than simply mourning 2008 and running against an unpopular president. If the Republicans get in office with no plans and no convictions, they will fail just as soon and fast as the Democratic Party has failed this cycle, and the balance will swing away again.



MY TAKE
 SPORTS COMMENTARY

by Erica Killham

SUPER BOWL XLIV: THE RIGHT MATCHUP

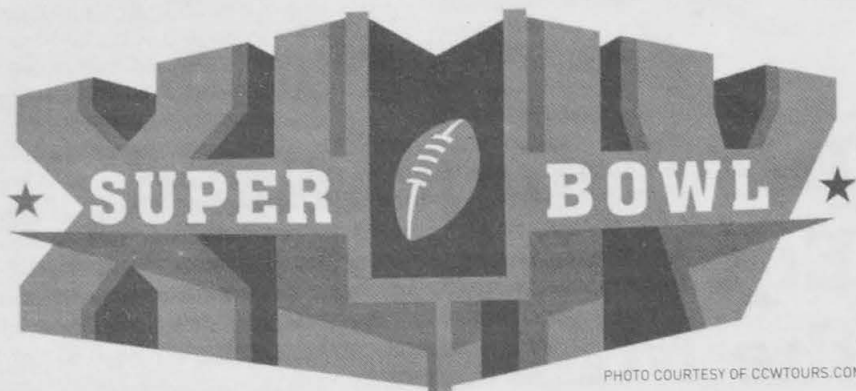


PHOTO COURTESY OF CCWTOURS.COM

This is really how it should have happened all along. The two teams that dominated the first part of the regular season, the Indianapolis Colts and the New Orleans Saints, are in the Super Bowl together a week from Sunday in Miami.

The first game of the day, the AFC Championship between the Jets and Colts, was much more calm than the NFC championship game later in the afternoon. After a no-score first quarter and a second quarter that was mostly led by the Jets, Peyton Manning and his Colts rallied to a 30-17 victory and a ticket to Miami. Manning did what he does best, and threw laser-accurate passes throughout the second half to lead them to victory. The Jets had the best defense in the NFL, but it's just an example of Mannings' talent that they managed to gain 461 yards on that defense.

The NFC Championship was much more of a nail-biter, going into overtime at 28-28. With just seconds left in regulation, the Vikings had a chance to get the ball into field-goal range. Then, Brett Favre did something he's no stranger to in clincher moments. He threw a pick, of course. How poetic that Favre ends the championship game for the Vikings with an interception. Classic Brett. Regardless of who threw an interception or who scored the winning field goal, this was one heck of a game. The Super Bowl will have to be pretty great to beat it.

However, it just may be that good.

The meeting that everyone has had on their minds since October is about to happen. So, how will these teams fare against each other? Both teams are primarily offensive, with some really fantastic power on that side of the ball. Two of the NFL's top quarterbacks are finally going head to head. Peyton Manning is arguably the best quarterback the NFL has seen in recent years. However, Drew Brees has the speed of Reggie Bush and the Saints' lightning-fast offense, which is No. 1 in the NFL.

So, we've got the NFL's best quarterback on one team and the No. 1 offense on the other. With two great offenses, the real game is going to happen on defense. The Colts have a faster defense than the Saints, but do they have the speed to shut down the NFL's best offense? Can the Saints keep Mannings' passing game under control? The defense that can get the game under control is probably going to be the team that's going to win.

This is going to be a Super Bowl for the ages. These two teams really deserve to be facing off in the Super Bowl. Teams like the Dallas Cowboys, the Baltimore Ravens, and of course the New York Jets and the Minnesota Vikings made some great pushes in the playoffs. However, whatever happened in early playoffs and regardless of who could have played better on Sunday, this is a great way to end this NFL season. Super Bowl XLIV is going to be great.

Hello, I'm a Corporation

WORDS BY
Trudi Smith
ASMSU Exponent

Have you ever had a conversation with Microsoft? I'm not asking if you've ever chatted up the Windows operating system that consistently freezes and deletes your data or called the help line to see how "John" on the other end is doing. I wonder if you have had an interaction with Microsoft the individual since the corporation is, after all, an American individual just like you. It has the rights that you do, and as such has the same right to free speech.

The precedent of legal protection of a corporation's civil rights was set in the 1887 Supreme Court Case of Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad. The context of the situation is irrelevant, as the rights and liabilities were being denied. What is relevant and enormously significant is what happened before the case was called into session. The Supreme Court Justice Morrison Remick Rand commented: "The court does not need to hear argument on the question whether the provision in the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits a State to deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws, applies to these corporations. We are all of opinion that it does."

What the court reporter recorded was an unofficial remark, one offered by a Justice who had neither the intention nor comprehension of how far his comment would carry. The court reporter, incidentally enough, was the former president of the New York Railway Corporation, J.C. Bancroft Davis, a man that undoubtedly understood the gravity of the records, as he and his peers were the ones that would enjoy centuries of benefits.

This 19th century precedent is one that has set the groundwork for the majority of 14th Amendment cases. Despite the amendment's explicit intention to protect the rights of post-Civil War ex-slaves, it has been used in far more corporate rights cases than ones concerning its intended purpose. So after nearly a century, the U.S. Supreme Court has decided that a corporation has every right you hope up as you do, specifically when regarding politics.

Last Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that corporate campaign finance restrictions, which were mandated through bi-partisan efforts in Congress decades ago, were unconstitutional. Voting down conservative lines, the Supreme Court decided that the potential billions of corporate dollars that, without a doubt, change the political world, are not only legal, but ethical and in the best interest of the American

public.

What we can expect now are more candidates like George W. Bush, whose sole interest is in his friends from Enron or Exxon, rather than the vast majority of the American public. If you don't have several million dollars to make your right to speech resonate, why would any candidate listen to you? Can you blame them? The benefit of this ruling will unambiguously be in the Republican Party's favor, as the right-wing has for decades been the champion of big business and corporate interests. An example is the Republican economic model, which is to help out the CEO's and their companies, through massive tax-cuts or government contracts; eventually, the middle income American will get to see the benefits trickle down in the form of a \$50 bonus while his CEO receives a bonus that is roughly 150,000 times larger.

Some might say, "Well, maybe it's the right of a corporation to be able to voice its interests. I mean, they have employees and shareholders, so why can't they have a say?" Good point. You might forget that every actual person who makes up a corporation has a vote and voice himself.

Corporations' interests are what are especially interesting about them, though. Unlike any living individual or corporate employee, a corporation has only one function: to maximize profit. We eat, breathe and die; a corporation does none of these and can't die, as under the law a corporation exists in perpetuity and has the sole function of maximizing profit under the sole constraints of law and competition. In fact, the only desire a corporation has, if it could generate a human emotion, is to benefit itself, and will only do so much as to benefit itself economically. A corporation is actually bound only to maximize profits. It is impossible for a corporation to act altruistically, that is, to act in a way that doesn't benefit self, as non-selfish action is against a publically traded corporation's founding and operating principles.

So unless you are Microsoft, or Exxon or Wal-Mart, don't count on your voice carrying very far in the halls of Congress anymore. It was hard enough before Thursday to capture your governmental representative's attention; now, you'll need to be able to leverage millions of dollars worth of "free speech" through prime-time commercials and full-page Wall Street Journal ads. Due to this 19th century remark, solely what will resonate is a message coming from purely selfish individuals, ones that have no concern for the American dream, the poor, patriotism or morality. From a corporation to a Republican to the American people, the message that I hear is unequivocally, "F--- you, America!"




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The Jersey Shore of Every Campus

WORDS BY
Trudi Mingus
ASMSU Exponent

Everyone knows that girl, or at least of her: the one with the Uggs boots (overpriced boots with no traction -- perfect for the icy hills on campus) and the "Tiffany & Co." earrings with the matching ring and necklace (looks expensive because of the name but actually costs about the amount one could gain over a week of summer work).

She has attitude and tries too hard to appear as though her parents have money and lots of it. Most likely, however, she either is simply a girl from an upper-middle class family who has only one child or she whines enough to get an extra couple hundred dollars every month to pay for those "must-have" jeans that are only \$170 instead of the normal \$300 (what a deal!).

Dining out with her may be the experience of your lifetime, however, with allergies and complaints about everything from the timeliness of the wait staff to the quality of her overcooked vegan dish. She can give you the best advice of your life, you see, because she knows more than you could ever hope to -- she has learned many a life lesson in her hard life with parents who don't always see eye to eye with each other and refuse to fund her into her adult life.

She won't ever change her ways and has no reservations about telling you bluntly that she deserves it; she has been victimized her whole life, and now is the time to let people know she is done making concessions for them. If they don't like the way she does things, tough because that is how it is.

And you know that guy, the one who has a normal-sized head -- until you see

his overly massive biceps, which instead of looking even semi-attractive, shrink his head to a cartoonish appearance and render his feeble-looking legs simply laughable. He uses "vitamins" to enhance his workout and is constantly womanizing any girl from the age of puberty to that of all his friends' mothers. This particular "dude" shows the depth of a wading pool.

He brags about banging pretty much anything that breathes and knows without a doubt that all females want to be with him and all males want to be him (obvious by the judging glances he casts over all other beings). He spends his free time in the gym, with the bench press and curls as his main workout. More likely than not, people roll their eyes when they see him because if they have had a class with him, he is always that guy in the middle of class making smart remarks about the dumb professor (articulating his own inanity with brighter contrast, due to poor grammar and sentence structure).

People in all stations of life, every gender and persuasion, have similar encounters with that one person who is too self-entitled for his or her own good. If this sounds like you, I'm really sorry for you, and hopefully it is not too late for you to cash in your hate chips and exchange it for some honest to goodness hard work and care for really any other person in the world. I guarantee that if you do, you will like yourself better and the people around you will start approaching instead of avoiding you.

*A particular person was not used as a model for this article and the use of gender references does not necessarily imply that someone of the other sex is not just as suspect in problems with undeserved entitlement.

The Nature Conservancy's Pine Butte Guest Ranch in Choteau, Montana is currently hiring seasonal positions for the summer of 2010. We are looking for qualified, friendly people to fill positions as kitchen staff, wranglers, wrangler/naturalist, and in guest services. To see complete job descriptions and apply, please visit www.nature.org/careers and complete an online application by February 14, 2010. Please call (406) 466-2158 if you have any questions.

Sudoku

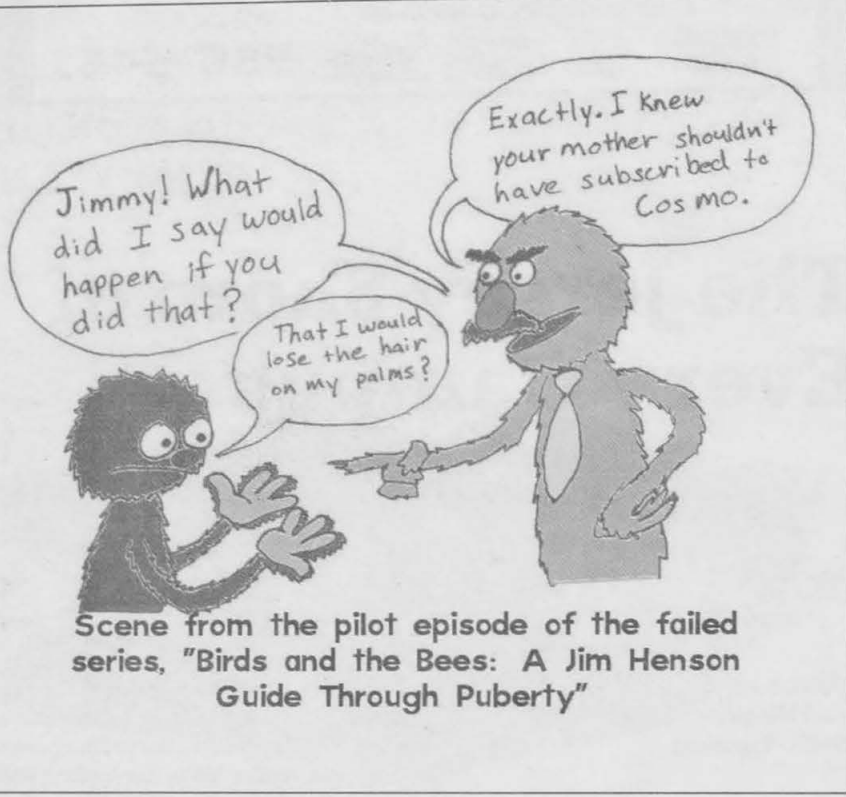
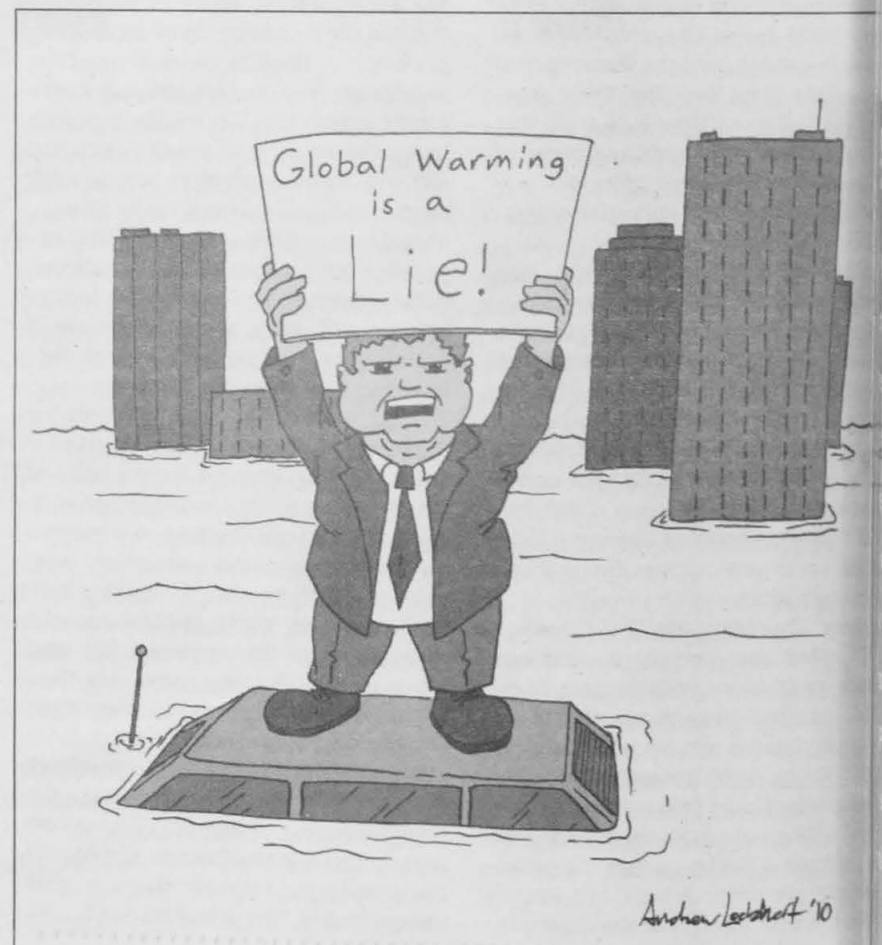
1			3					
	4	2	8			9		
6				2		7	8	
			7					
5		8				2		9
					6			
	7	1		8				2
		4			2	6	3	
					3			7

DIRECTIONS: FILL IN THE GRID SO THAT EVERY ROW, COLUMN, AND 3X3 BLOCK CONTAINS THE DIGITS 1 THROUGH 9.

SEE SOLUTION IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER!

6	8	7	1	3	4	9	2	5
4	1	2	9	5	7	6	3	8
3	5	9	6	8	2	4	7	1
9	2	3	7	4	1	5	8	6
7	4	8	5	6	3	2	1	9
5	6	1	8	2	9	3	4	7
8	9	4	3	1	6	7	5	2
2	7	5	4	9	8	1	6	3
1	3	6	2	7	5	8	9	4

Last week's solution:



Scene from the pilot episode of the failed series, "Birds and the Bees: A Jim Henson Guide Through Puberty"

OBSERVATIONS

Girls Who Act Dumb

I like intelligent girls. I like to be able to hold fulfilling conversations with women. I might even go so far as to say I'd prefer they know what marginal utility means, but that may be pushing it too far in a nerdy fashion (my editor didn't know what it means either). Point being: Girls who seem dumb lose massive amounts of sex appeal, especially with compounding uses of the word "like."

There are some girls who really just are dumb. I don't mean that to be demeaning; it's a fact of life. I've come to accept it. It can't be changed. They didn't decide to act dumb, they just are. I can make allowances for that.

However, I think these girls are in the minority of the umbrella term "dumb girls." There's a much bigger demographic of girls who think it's somehow attractive to act like they have lower intelligence. Maybe this increases the frequency of their sexual activity (Sexual regrets? Mistakes? Oh wait, her image says she can't comprehend that idea), or possibly the attention they gather (i.e., simple math now takes group help).

If you're struggling to come up with a mental image, think of a frequent sight on campus: She has cake-like makeup with too much mascara and a poofy parka over her sweat pants and Uggs. (Who tricked you into thinking those look good? And why did you all flock to buy Uggs in cow herd-like fashion?) She is

walking awkwardly -- as if she has something stuck up her rear -- right down the middle of the sidewalk. You can't pass her because she hogs too much room, and she's unaware that you're trying to pass her because she has that cellie glued to her ear ("Oh my gawd!!!").

I've tried to understand these girls. I've pondered why the hell they think acting half retarded makes them more attractive or desirable. I feel like a relationship with a girl like this would be one-sided and draining. I could only take so much balancing her checkbook, showing her how to turn on appliances, and dealing with that characteristic dumb girl I-have-nothing-going-on-in-my-noggin laugh.

Oh sure, it may be easy to get this girl into bed, or to trick her into doing whatever you want, but that'd only be fun for maybe a week. So in short: She'd be easy to singar (that's Spanish), but nothing more. Why would a girl purposely act dumb in order to be treated like a piece of meat?

Girls, use your brains. Acting dumb doesn't elevate you in anyone's eyes. If you want me to treat you like a lady and not a piece of meat, you have to show me that you deserve it. Show some intelligent light in those eyes and I may even tell you about marginal utility.

Reading increases intelligence and even leads to real sex appeal. This week, read: "Ballad of the Whiskey Robber," by Julian Rubinstein.

- Mike Tarrant

Please note that the Sexponent is intended for entertainment purposes only, and is not intended to replace or serve as serious medical or emotional help. Before attempting any medical act, all parties involved should give their voluntary and enthusiastic consent. Featured questions are either submitted anonymously by students and community members to ask.sexponent@gmail.com or dredged from the depths of our dirty minds. Resident sexperts do consult with local professionals before going to print, but doing so should not construe their answers as anything other than what they are: fun and entertaining.

Readers needing assistance with serious sexual and emotional issues should contact Student Counseling and Psychological Services at 211 Swingle Hall or call 406-994-4531.

Sexponent

Sexponent is dead! No, that is a lie, but she is no longer with us. Bad for us, but good for you. We still have questions trickling in from all across campus, but we have nobody to answer them. Consequently, we have decided to print our Sexponent questions for you, the readers, in hopes that you will send us your replies for us to print for the improvement of mankind. Answer this question and send it in to letters@sexponent.montana.edu, and you may see your response in the Feb. 11 issue of Sexponent. Thanks for the help.

Dear Sexponent,
I really like this girl in my class, but I have only talked to her a couple times. I was hoping that Valentine's Day would be a great time to make my move. I want to do something big and surprising, but I don't want to get shot down or come across as weird... I need help! Please!
Anna-Be Romeo

A Present For You!

As you may or may not be aware, Valentine's Day is fast approaching, and we thought we should give you a little present to celebrate. Don't worry, we weren't expecting to receive anything, but that sure would have been nice. Normally, we run classified ads free for students, but this year we are going to offer free personals to any student who would like to place one in our Feb. 11 issue. As always, keep it under 30 words, unless you feel like paying. Personal submissions will be taken on a first come, first serve basis, so get them in quick. Please send all submissions to letters@sexponent.montana.edu.


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10am - Noon

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Groups of 10 or more please RSVP
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<p>Habitat for Humanity Restore</p> <p>It's time for a mid-winter cleaning and organization of the Habitat Restore in Belgrade! Wear closed-toe shoes and come prepared to work hard!</p>	<p>Mental Health Center Moving</p> <p>Assist the Gallatin Mental Health Center with their move to a new location. Pack items, donate extra materials and clean.</p>	<p>Wellness Community Cleaning</p> <p>The Wellness Community is about to move to a fresh location and they need their new facility cleaned and prepared before making the move. Please note that this project requires some physical strength. Work gloves will be provided.</p>	<p>Children's Museum Decorating</p> <p>The Children's Museum needs volunteers to help create and hang decorations for their Candy Heart Contra Dance taking place on February 6th and their 8th annual Chinese New Year Festival on February 14th.</p>	<p>Valentine's Card Making for Youth</p> <p>Show your care by decorating Valentine's Day cards and brightening the lives of children in Bozeman!</p>
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Questions? Contact Us!

Office for Community Involvement: 994-6902
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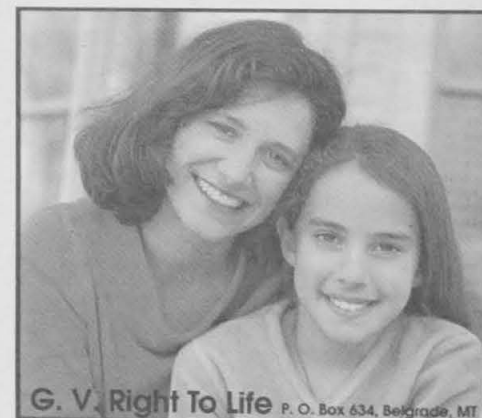
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