THE MSU
exponent
December 6, 2012
MONTANA STATE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1895

Scholarship Winners

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MOUNTAINS *on the mind* 12

MICHAEL SEXSON: MASTER OF MYTHOS 3

OPINION: LIVING THE MSU FAIRY TALE 10

PLAYOFFS: CATS TO QUARTERFINALS 14

COFFEE: THE ULTIMATE STUDY AID? 20

FLASHBULB



From left: Stevie Jarecky, Rebecca Eberlin, and Sarah Burk de-stress by building architecturally inspired gingerbread structures in the SUB Ballrooms on Wednesday evening.

PHOTO CREDIT: TREVOR NELSON

SIGNIFICANT. FIGURES

WITH MONDAY MORNING MEMOS *Compiled by Eric Dietrich*

Relative frequency of words used in President Cruzado's 15 Monday Morning Memos

ACADEMIC! FACULTY
SERVICE & OUTREACH
LEARNING & EDUCATION
HEALTH
SCIENCE & RESEARCH
MONTANA
MORNING COMMUNITY ASMSU ENGAGEMENT
STUDENTS

DATA

15 Number of memos this semester
7,429 Total number of words
37 Number of exclamation marks
1:201 Exclamation mark-word ratio

Buzzword Count
75 'students'
64 'Montana'
48 'faculty'
23 'community'
22 'morning'
2 'ASMSU'

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HEARD ON THE WEB

@tri_ssarah_tops *I love that even though we're college students when it starts to snow we still go out and play like kids. @MontanaState @MontanaProbs*



sburkk *#SpiritOfTheWest band practice. Be jealous. #montanastate #marchingband*

@NateOrlowski1 *That was the absolute loudest game I've ever heard. happy with #BOBCATNATION and #MontanaState for making me proud to be a student #montana*

@Biglgo *Sitting in the SUB. Three different music sources at once. Somehow, Goo Goo Dolls and psychadelic jazz just dont go together. #MontanaState*



19abcherry93 *Bozeman's Christmas Stroll... I love my College Town! #MontanaState #Bozeman #GoCats!*

The MSU Exponent is Montana State University's student-run newspaper, bringing together more than 70 students of diverse backgrounds and approaches in service of the public interest. We strive to contribute to the university's community by providing thorough, original reporting and creating space for public discussion about topics important to students. The paper is funded through a $4.86 annual student fee and advertising revenue. It is published on Thursdays during the academic year and is available online at *msuexponent.com.*

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FACULTY PROFILE:

Michael Sexson, master of mythos, wins Regents award

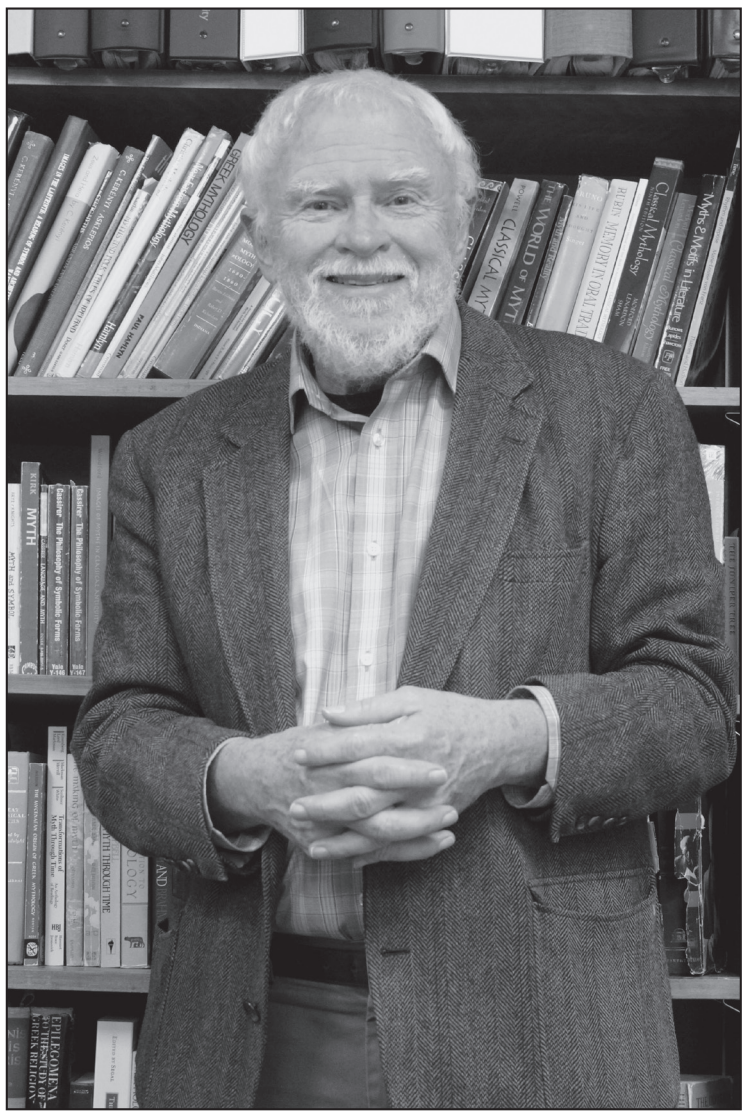


PHOTO BY NICOLE SMITH

DEREK BROUWER

"The instructor has taught us how to imagine," wrote one student.

"His class...has taught me a new way of perceiving the world," wrote another.

When asked to evaluate what the instructor has done well, students routinely respond, "Everything."

There's perhaps no better way to describe Michael Sexson, the MSU English Professor who has made opening students' eyes his life's work.

In November, Sexson was awarded the title of Regents Professor — the highest faculty honor in Montana's university system — along with professor of biochemistry Trevor Douglas.

Only seven MSU professors, including Sexson and Douglas, have achieved this designation, which seeks to recognize exceptional scholars who have made unique and sustained contributions in teaching, research and public outreach.

A professor of literature at MSU for nearly half a century, Sexson has inspired thousands of students as an illustrious storyteller and scholar of myth. And anyone who has studied at MSU will recognize Sexson as the animator of MSU's commencement, where he has been reading the names of graduates for decades.

With the Regents' award, Sexson's voice now joins the public conversation about the university system. Surrounded by books in his Wilson Hall office last week, Sexson said the honor comes with a responsibility to speak "fully and deliberately about the general needs of higher education."

His distinction comes at a time when humanities fields are struggling more than ever to demonstrate their relevance to students and the public. In particular, educators in the humanities "need to better convince students that what we're teaching them is practical," Sexson said. He wants to reinvigorate notions of "practical" and "useful" by expanding their meaning to include imagination, creativity and invention. "Humanities is not a retreat from the world," he said.

To explain what he meant, Sexson reached to his desk for a book, a collection of poetry by Wallace Stevens. Stevens is perhaps Sexson's favorite poet and the subject of one of Sexson's books. He began to recite a poem wryly titled "How To Live. What To Do:" "Last evening the moon rose above this rock / Impure upon a world unpurged. / The man and his companion stopped / To rest before the heroic height."

Finishing the final stanza, Sexson threw up his hands and made a confounded expression. Education, he argued, has more to do with this sort of inventiveness and imagination than with career training.

Sexson then quoted Robert Pirsig, the author of "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" and former MSU instructor, who described his intellectual journey as an ascent into "the high country of the mind." Sexson said he sees echoes of Pirsig's metaphorical relationship in MSU's motto, "Mountains and Minds."

His wife, Professor Emeritus of humanities Lynda Sexson, developed the motto in the 1980s from a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins: "O the mind, mind has mountains; cliffs of fall / Frightful, sheer, no-man-fathomed."

The air is thinner in the high country, Sexson explained, and its cliffs are sheer. Hopkins' poem is one of anguish, just as Pirsig's philosophical endeavor eventually drove him to madness. "The university does not lead us into greener pastures, but offers far greater exposure to what is real," Sexson said.

In addition to his teaching and scholarship, Sexson has developed numerous projects and conferences over his four decades at MSU to bring the study of humanities into the public sphere. These efforts range from a 1979 conference celebrating a total solar eclipse, to his and Lynda's interdisciplinary journal Corona Productions, to this week's Chautauqua honoring Robert Pirsig.

Sexson has also worked with his students to create MSU's list of 100 best books, whose top ten includes Don Quixote, Finnegans Wake, Alice in Wonderland, the Bible and the works of Shakespeare.

In some ways Sexson — with his interest in Shakespeare, religion and mythology — seems like a traditionalist. He often has his students perform daunting feats of memorization and is himself a walking library.

Similarly, he describes his teaching philosophy in simple and elegant terms. "We read to remember how to live in other worlds," he said, "and we write to discover."

Yet Sexson's classical inclinations have not stopped him from finding creative ways to enhance teaching using technology. For the past several years, Sexson worked with former student Rio Gonzalez to visually footnote his lectures. When Sexson or students would reference unfamiliar material during class, Gonzalez could search for information online and instantly display it for everyone. Sexson compares the internet to James Joyce's Finnegan's Wake — another of Sexson's favorites — in that both constitute an enormous "memory palace."

"We read to remember how to live in other worlds, and we write to discover."

— MICHAEL SEXSON, MSU REGENTS PROFESSOR

Likewise, Sexson's students are also required to maintain and read each other's online blogs throughout the semester. Blogging enables students to engage in a "constant act of discovery," he said.

It is not surprising, then, that the scholar of myth is often cast in mythic terms himself. In her letter of nomination to the Board of Regents, President Cruzado called him "a master teacher" who has achieved legendary status within MSU's community. Sexson's students have compared him to the fictional wizards Dumbledore and Gandalf.

But if he is a wizard, Sexson maintains, he is more like the Wizard of Oz. As the man behind the curtain, he sees his role as not to espouse mystical knowledge, but to orchestrate an experience of learning. That method has enchanted three generations of MSU students, helping each to see the world, Sexson hopes, "as if for the first time."

Chautauqua event to explore Zen, motorcycles and Montana

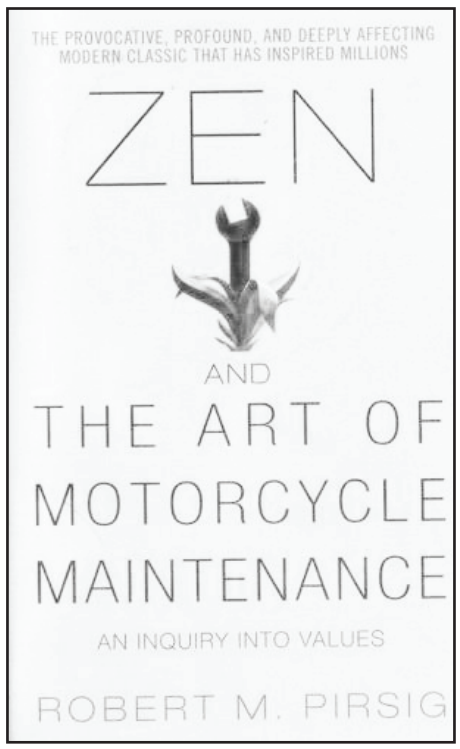


IMAGE COURTESY AMAZON.COM

ERIC DIETRICH

MSU will host a conference exploring the work of "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" author Robert Pirsig Dec. 7-8.

The two-day event will involve lectures by international experts on Pirsig's work alongside talks by MSU faculty and students, and includes a session inviting audience members to speak briefly about the impact of the book in their own life.

Among the featured speakers will be Anthony McWatt, the first recipient of a doctorate in "Metaphysics of Quality" based on Pirsig's work, and Lee Glover, who spent five years developing a documentary film project, "Meridian," inspired by the book. "Meridian" will also have its premiere showing Saturday evening.

Other highlights in the schedule include a speech by MSU President Waded Cruzado Friday evening and a two-hour forum Saturday intended to solicit testimonials about attendees' relationship with the book.

Michael Sexson, an English professor and one of the event's primary organizers, said it coincides with Pirsig receiving an honorary doctorate at the university's inaugural fall commencement Dec. 15. While Pirsig, 84, is unable to attend the conference and ceremony due to ill health, Sexson will accept the honorary degree on the writer's behalf.

Pirsig taught at MSU, then called Montana State College (MSC), from 1959 to 1961, and wrote "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" partly as a result of a colleague's passing comment asking if he was teaching "Quality" to his students.

The book, subtitled "An Inquiry into Values," uses the narrative of a father-son motorcycle trip across the American West to explore themes ranging from mechanics to metaphysics. It was listed in 2011 on Time Magazine's list of "All-TIME 100 Nonfiction Books."

"Zen" is a "substantive book that is also accessible on a popular level," Sexson said. "I can't think of many other books that do that," he added, saying that the work has influenced hundreds of thousands since its publication in 1974.

However, Pirsig's relationship with the school was uneasy, especially amidst the political currents of the late 1950s. He ultimately criticized MSC in the book as a "teaching college" where "you teach and you teach and you teach with no time for contemplation, no time for research, no time for participation in outside affairs." Sexson remarked that the poetic irony of Pirsig accepting an honorary degree from MSU a half-century later would be a focus of MSU student Dustin Dallman's talk Friday evening.

The event's title, "Chautauqua 2012," is taken from a historic style of traveling lecture series that, in Pirsig's words, seeks to "improve the mind and bring culture and enlightenment to the ears and thoughts of the hearer."

IF YOU GO

FRIDAY 7-9 P.M., GAINES HALL 101
Speakers including MSU President Waded Cruzado, Michael Sexson and David Buchanan.

SATURDAY 10 A.M.-8:30 P.M. SUB BALLROOMS
Speaker Anthony McWatt, open forum to discuss Pirsig's work, premiere showing of Lee Glover's "Meridian" and other events.

RSVP and see the full schedule at *montana.edu/pirsig*.

Because the event conflicts with Friday evening's football game, special event parking will be set aside in the 11th and Grant lot.

NEWS BRIEFS

Free parking aims to prevent hazards, fees

Adapted from MSU News:

MSU is offering free, on-campus parking from Dec.10 to Jan.11 for students who live off campus.

Interested students must register their vehicles prior to their departure, said Chelsea Schmidt, assistant director of Business and Community Relations at MSU. Free registration is available at the MSU Police Department, located near the corner of Kagy Blvd. and S. Seventh Ave. After registering their vehicles, students will receive a permit to park on campus and directions to an available parking lot.

Free parking is only available to students who are living off campus.

The free parking was initiated because cars parked on city streets may create hazards for snow plows and can be ticketed and towed, resulting in fees of $100 or more.

Schmidt said the idea came out of the Good Neighbor Committee, which includes representatives from MSU and University Police, the Bozeman Police Department and the City of Bozeman. The committee addresses community issues such as parking that may be affected by the student population in Bozeman.

Schmidt added, "The Bozeman PD came to the Good Neighbor Committee with an issue, and we worked together with University Police to find a solution."

Students who would like to learn more are invited to call University Police at (406) 994-2121.

– JOHN WOODGERD

Celebrate International Mountain Day on Dec. 11

Bozeman will honor International Mountain Day with an event on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. in the Emerson Cultural Center.

The evening's main topic is Mount Everest. It will feature several speakers starting at 7 p.m., including mountaineer and author Conrad Anker, MSU geology Professor Dr. David Lageson and MSU graduate student Travis Corthouts. An exhibitor's fair, featuring various MSU departments and community organizations, will begin at 6 p.m.

Admission is free. However, donations will be accepted for non-profit organizations associated with the speakers.

International Mountain Day was established by the U.N. General Assembly in 2003, and is designed to promote sustainable development of mountain communities. This year's theme is "Celebrating Mountain Life," with an emphasis on the role of youth in sustainable mountain development.

Bozeman's event is sponsored by the MSU Office of International Programs, the Institute on Ecosystems, MSU Extended University and the Montana National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NSF EPSCoR).

– COLIN GAISER

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Project brings together MSU students and senior citizens

JESSIANNE WRIGHT

An intergenerational writing project, entitled Tuesdays with Morrie, is giving MSU students the opportunity to write about history using one of the best sources available — those who lived through it.

Started in 2010 by Jill Davis, and adjunct professor of English, Tuesdays with Morrie is a writing study that Davis offers to her College Writing II classes each semester. Interested students were paired based on their energy levels with elderly volunteers from Bozeman Lodge, an assisted-living home. Tomorrow evening, Dec. 7, the 10 participating students will present a paper to their senior partners recounting the partner's life story — the final phase of the project.

"In addition to social skills, this project gives students a sense of the lineage of time and connects them to the past," Davis said, describing a benefit of the project.

Through Tuesdays with Morrie, she added, former MSU chemistry Professor Charles Caughlan taught his student partner, Cody West, about the women's rights movement on campus while he was a professor, exemplifying how the project engages students on a personal level.

"We have formed a relationship that goes way beyond interviewing," said student Heather Demorest, whose senior is battling Parkinson's Disease. This project has shown her the value in getting to know older generations.

According to Garrett Pewe, a second-time student participant, Tuesdays with Morrie has also taught students the value in knowing their audience, as these papers have real readers: the elderly partners. Davis explained that the students have learned the importance of revision — some have revised their papers up to nine times — and hopes this helps students "realize that they have a voice in their writing."

At this point, Davis said, students have 30 to 40 pages of notes, and that it is an essential skill to learn how to select what is important and what can be left out. They are not simply writing a paper, she explained: "They are crafting a paper."

Each year, Davis tries to focus on a different elderly population. The first year, students paired up with volunteers at Aspen Pointe Retirement Home, and last year the project focused on members of Highgate Senior Living.

Over the course of the semester, students heard from Dawn Tarabochia, MSU professor of health and human development and president of the Montana Gerontology Society, and Bill Serdahley, a Bozeman hospice chaplain. Both discussed topics such as aging and the end of life. These discussions give the students a better perspective on their partners' situations, Davis explained, as most of the seniors are in their late 80s and 90s.



Bill Jensen, MSU student, connects and chats with Bud Kumlien of the Bozeman Lodge. PHOTO BY MATT WIEGAND

Davis also had her students watch "Tuesdays with Morrie," the movie adapted from the novel of the same name. The project carries this namesake due to the similar interview process, which Davis believes makes a great model for the project. Just like in the book, she said, students form a relationship through spending time with a senior and experience themes such as acceptance, happiness and love.

As Davis explained, "It gives students a sense of belonging to something bigger than themselves."

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Parking on city streets over the MSU winter break



If you are leaving your car in Bozeman for an extended period of time while you are away during the winter, please make arrangements for your car to be parked off the city streets in the event a snow storm occurs. Parked cars on a city street which create a hazard to snow plows or passing motorists will be ticketed and towed, resulting in fees in excess of $100.

For Montana State University students residing off campus, Montana State University is offering free parking for those leaving their cars in Bozeman over the winter break, from December 10th – January 11th. This parking is only available to students currently registered at MSU. If you are interested in taking advantage of this free parking, you must register your vehicle at the MSU Police Department on the corner of Kagy Boulevard and South 7th Avenue prior to your departure. There is no charge for the registration. Upon registering your vehicle, you will receive a free permit to park on campus and directions to an available parking lot. For more information, please call the MSU Police Department at 994-2121.

WEB DEVELOPER NEEDED FOR THE MSU exponent

Five things to watch this legislative session

NICOLE DUGGAN & JOSHUA BOTZ

After a rigorous campaign season, the real work is just beginning for elected representatives in the Montana Legislature.

In the 16-week session, the Legislature will determine the policies and practices that Montana will follow for the next two years. For higher education in Montana, and its students, much is at stake during the session. Everything from general funding to new programs to tuition fees will be determined, meriting the attention of MSU students and staff alike.

While there are many bills that affect students directly and indirectly, here are the top five things to watch this legislative session:

71 INTRODUCED BILLS

420 PAGES OF MATERIAL FOR INTRODUCED BILLS

1,276 UN-INTRODUCED BILLS

1 THE STATE APPROPRIATION BILL

This bill determines the amount of state funds that go to higher education. The funds are given to the Board of Regents to split between universities.

2 THE LONG RANGE BUILDING PLAN

The Board of Regents has endorsed the $20 million renovation of of Romney Gym deemed by President Cruzado as the "Romney Renaissance." This proposal would renovate the 50,000 square foot building for student-centered services including, according to President Cruzado, "space for tutoring, mentoring and group study areas." This proposal will compete against building proposals coming from MSU campuses in Great Falls, Billings and Havre.

3 THE STATE EMPLOYEE PAY PLAN

This bill determines the funds from which state employees, such as MSU faculty and staff, are paid. According to President Cruzado, "Wages and salaries make up 88 percent of the university system's entire instructional budget." Montana currently has the worst-paid staff and faculty in the country, according to MSU Student Lobbyist Dani Clark. The Board of Regents, Montana Associated Students and ASMSU all regard this bill as the most important one facing the legislature this session.

4 THE CREATING OF A MONTANA COOPERATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE PROGRAM AT MSU

This bill, if passed, will allow selected students to complete their freshman year at MSU, then transfer to Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. According to U.S. News & World Report, the college is among the top 15 in the country. This program will be available to 10 students per year, who will be offered more affordable tuition during their four years. The program is part of an effort to increase the number of livestock veterinarians, which are needed in Montana.

5 ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

If passed during the legislative session, a five-member board will be established to have authority over the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission and "set the policies and provide direction to the department." The board will meet quarterly and will play a large role in managing Montana's gray wolf population. The state legislature must approve requests made by the board for the acquisition of new state land that has historic value or will be used as a state park.

The 2013 Montana Legislature convenes on Jan. 7 of next year, and will continue for 16 weeks. ASMSU is encouraging students to get engaged with the legislature this session by filling out a survey on their website and writing letters to their legislator about issues that are important to them.

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STUDENT PROFILE:
Veteran advocates for Native American culture

TOR GUDMUNDSSON

After seven-and-a-half years of service in the Air Force, including overseas tours to Japan and England, LeRoy Peters took advantage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill to fund his education at MSU. Enrolled since fall 2009, Peters will graduate this semester with a major in history and a minor in Native American studies.

Peters, who grew up in Maryland, developed an interest in Native American culture early in life; at age 12, he remembers how his half-Cherokee paternal grandmother told him stories of Cherokee culture and people. Later, while stationed in Grand Forks, N.D., and driving to Mount Rushmore with his visiting parents, Peters recalled his father's remark, "Now I know why Crazy Horse fought so hard for this land."

These experiences allowed Peters' respect for Native culture to grow, so shortly after enrolling at MSU he became involved with the American Indian Council (AIC) on campus. Designed to help Native American students transition to college, the AIC also hosts an annual pow wow on campus. Peters makes a point to attend every year, and has even volunteered as a security guard.

Someday, Peters would like to work as a teacher on a Native American reservation, a dream influenced by the time he spent on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, one of the poorest reservations in the country. Driven by his respect for the culture and his Christian faith, Peters witnessed the situation on the reservation and "knew this country could do a lot more to help American Indians."

"I always want to give back," he said. "I try to be unselfish."

Despite his graduation in just a few weeks, Peters is not ready to leave Bozeman. "It's been a wonderful ride," he said, explaining that he has found work at Blackhawk — a company that manufactures military and law enforcement supplies — in Manhattan, Mont. Job security is more important than anything else at the moment, he explained.

A man of ardent faith, Peters considers his church family his biggest support group away from home. "Their emotional and physical support has been the reason my mom and dad don't have high blood pressure," he joked. "I want Jesus to protect all my friends, whether they accept him or not." Peters's family will be coming to Bozeman for the Dec. 15 commencement to show their support.

Reflecting on his experience in the military, Peters said, "It helped me appreciate my family more and made me more responsible." Not only did this time build an appreciation for his life, family and friends, but it also allowed him to come to Bozeman for college. Opportunities like these are why Peters believes "all high school seniors, from all backgrounds, should consider joining the military. For me, it was probably the best decision I ever made."



PHOTO BY EMMA NIELSEN





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EDITORIAL

Fall: Thumbs Up/Down

MSU Athletics and Bobcat Nation

Bobcat football has enjoyed a stellar season this year including recent big wins against the Griz last month and Stony Brook last week in the first game of the FCS Playoffs. With this great success plus a volleyball victory in Missoula, Montana State fans in Bozeman and beyond have cause to celebrate.

Major Scholarship Winners

Two MSU students and one MSU Residence Life staff member received major national scholarships this year. Bryan Vadheim became the first MSU student to be awarded the Marshall Scholarship, while MSU student and Student Regent Joe Thiel along with Billings-born, Langford desk clerk Amanda Frickle (who attended the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho) walked away with Rhodes scholarships. As MSU continues to produce high-achieving students, we pause to notice that UM isn't quite holding up their end of the state.

College of Business Tree Removal

On one hand, the administration held several open forums last spring on the location of the new CoB building; on the other, the public had no reason to think the decision might have controversial . If the administration had stated the million-dollar question (trees or parking spaces) in the invitation, they may have found their forums more populated.

Dead Week and Finals Season

As soon as students returned from Thanksgiving break, final presentations, papers and projects started their heavy downfall, foreshadowing the terrors of dead and finals weeks. Perhaps inspired to pass on their knowledge by the looming shadow of the apocalypse, professors have whipped up a flurry of homework that has left students physically buried in a pile of assignment sheets, empty energy drink cans and broken aspirations.

Enrollment and Residence Halls

Following the temporary housing issue of August and September, we were surprised when the Strategic Plan unveiled this year by Cruzado and her committee set a goal for a 15 percent increase in undergraduate admission by 2019 — without mention of building new residence halls. Those who recall Residence Life's unlikely feat of accommodating all students in the halls this year might start to wonder if they can repeat this in coming years, or if they'll just shove the freshman in the halls, lock the door and let natural selection do its work.

EXPONENT EDITORIAL BOARD

This weekly editorial column represents the consensus opinion of the Exponent editorial board and serves as the paper's official position on published topics. Editorials do not necessarily represent the views of all members of the newspaper.

The board values public input and topic suggestions, and invites readers to attend our public comment period during the first 15 minutes of twice-monthly board meetings.

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Dan O'Neill *MSU student*
Jessianne Wright *news reporter (non-voting)*
Peter Fox *professional adviser (non-voting)*

The board currently has one open seat for an MSU student or faculty member. Those interested should contact us at *editor@exponent.montana.edu*.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

My Route to Pirsig's 'High Country'

Hundreds of people will gather this week at MSU to celebrate author Robert Pirsig at a public Chautauqua on Dec. 7-8 (see pg. 4). Anticipating his reception of an honorary doctorate during this Fall's commencement, the event will provide a forum for readers to share stories and reflect upon the meaning of Pirsig's work.



DEREK BROUWER
Editor-in-Chief

Pirsig's most popular book, "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance," is legendary in some circles — a kind of cult classic. "Zen" has even inspired so-called "Pirsig Pilgrims," fans who can quote the book by verse and retrace the route of the motorcycle trip that frames it. It's a bizarre phenomenon that speaks to the book's lasting impression on so many of its readers.

Though I wouldn't consider myself a pilgrim, Pirsig's work holds special meaning to me. If not for "Zen," I don't think I would have made the journey from my native Pittsburgh to Bozeman to study amidst Montana's mountains.

I came across "Zen" in high school by chance while perusing a bookstore. Around the same time, I think, I had been trying to read a neuroscience textbook, and found Pirsig's struggle to reconcile romantic and classical thought refreshing.

"Zen," I remember, took me into new terrain. I hadn't heard of a Chautauqua, metaphysics or a school named Montana State University. As I came across unfamiliar words in the text, I found myself running Google searches for each.

A year later, I was on a plane to Bozeman.

Ironically, Pirsig does not have great things to say about Montana's land-grant college. He taught here for two years, from 1959-61, as an English instructor. In "Zen," Pirsig writes about the bitter politics surrounding higher education in Montana, the university's commitment to efficiency over creativity and the dull students who "avoided his sections like the Black Death." It is a fairly powerful indictment.

Reading through the book, I found Pirsig's engrossment in his ideas more compelling than philosophical argument itself. Shining through its pages was an impressive sense of the author's earnestness as he recounted his search for quality through mountains and memory.

That struggle took Pirsig into what he called "the high country of the mind." Up there, above the timberline, "one has to become adjusted to the thinner air of uncertainty," he writes, "and the magnitude of the questions asked, and to the answers proposed to these questions." The high country is treacherous, heart-wrenching terrain. In scaling its peaks, Pirsig put all of himself into the book and the trip that defines it.

Pirsig's personal immersion in his project resonated deeply with me as I was preparing to enter university studies. I recall writing to several colleges, explaining my desire to be changed, personally, by my college experience. "I want to leave college a different person than I entered," I wrote.

What I meant, though, was not that I wished change for its own sake, but that I craved the experience, the utter exposure, of the high country. I was ready to ask questions into the abyss and become nourished by the life of the mind.

Through "Zen," Montana became for me a potent symbol of that possibility. Now in my fifth year at MSU, I remember my most transformative experiences here as the moments I have found myself struggling, floundering and climbing blindly, somewhere near the timber line.

But I have also realized that the high country contains more than the threat of sheer cliffs. "Soon stunted pines disappear entirely and we're in alpine meadows," Pirsig writes, describing his ascent along the Beartooth Pass near Red Lodge. "There's not a tree anywhere, only grass everywhere filled with little pink and blue and white dots of intense color."

Pink, white and blue, the high country offers a unique pleasure, a stark beauty. "Wildflowers, everywhere!" Pirsig exclaims. Wildflowers, I remember. Wildflowers indeed.

STAFF COLUMN

Don't be a 'BASTARD'



SHELBY ROGALA
Opinion Writer

Student leaders and senators, it's time to gather around for a little tale from a graduating greybeard.

In my time at MSU, I've had the opportunity to work with a lot of talented students, as well as a fair share of students that were too busy, arrogant, selfish, tedious, apathetic, rude or delinquent to act like human beings. In fact, I have also been a busy-arrogant-selfish-tedious-apathetic-rude-delinquent (BASTARD) at some point or another. We all have.

But that's not the point of this fairy tale. The point is that unlike old and near death BASTARDs, we can change our ways. We are young and energetic. We are privileged. We have blue and gold running through our veins. We are Bobcats, dammit. If we can't turn frogs into princes, I don't know who will.

As with any fairy tale, a happy ending takes work. Sometimes this work involves evil kings and goblins, but more often it just means doing things with a little more thought and effort. To illustrate this, I'd like to tell you of three challenges for many a student: honoring innovation, managing resources and maintaining partnerships.

Innovation. As college students today, we are inheriting a host of problems — from gigantic national debt to climate change, we have our jobs cut out for us. Fortunately, we also grew up in a time and place that gave us food in our cholera-free bellies, the ability to attend an institution of higher education and the freedom to do with our lives what we choose.

We can choose to sit on the couch and watch reruns of The Office (check), we can choose to cut class to ski (check), hell we can even choose to adopt the played-out philosophies of our parents and grandparents (disappointed check). But as immediately gratifying as that may sound, it is not as rewarding in the long run.

Instead choose to engage with a fellow student to start a club, to be a senator that funds those students, to stay in touch with your friends, parents, professors and mentors. Choose to use the education you are receiving for your own benefit. Choose to use it for your family's benefit. Or a stranger's. Choose to use it for something good.

Being innovative means doing these things, but more importantly, it means taking some time to think about what doing good means to you.

Resource Management. If you're a student senator, it can be tempting to be the farmer with the golden goose instead of the hero. Having that big ol' budget all to yourself, you might think you are alone in holding back the hordes of greedy students from their own money. To stem the tide, you might turn to fiscal conservatism.

Unfortunately, I (and most other sentient beings) am not quite sure you really understand what that means. Governmental fiscal conservatism isn't fiscally conservative if you don't cut taxes. Let me explain it more clearly: If you take the money of 200 people to buy 20 pizzas in order to have a pizza party, and then reserve two of the pizzas for next year, you have not saved any pizzas. You now have stinky moldy cheese rotting in a cupboard somewhere.

I understand that money, unlike cheese, doesn't go bad when not refrigerated. And that keeping a healthy reserve account is necessary. But taxing without spending is not fiscally conservative. It is fiscally illiterate. And as a student government, taking money from current students requires that those students see the benefit of said money. (Tailgate bacon is not an adequate path to meet all student needs). If you are not willing to consider lowering student fees, stop considering cutting spending.

Spend responsibly and safely, but stop creating chasms for students and student clubs to jump across in order to fund the activities they are passionate about. Your job is to support students, not put them on a tribunal. You are not the council of evil elders, you are the Knights of the Round Table. So shine up your armor, but step off the high white horse.

Partnerships. If you're a student leader, organizer or friend, choose to collaborate. As brilliant as you are, you can't operate in an ivory tower of isolation, and neither can your friends. Realizing that the fairy tale of self-absorption must come to an end sometime can be jarring, but just because you aren't THE hero anymore doesn't mean you can't be A hero.

It's pretty simple. Just be a reliable, responsible, responsive human being, at least most of the time. Taking the time to respond, attend and contribute to whatever project (or friendship) you are working on goes a long way and can change a mediocre idea into an award-winning task force (just look at EWB).

All jokes aside, none of these three challenges are a piece of cake. Creating — and fighting for — new ideas is hard. It's also not easy to manage a group's budget. Finally, it's not always easy to stay engaged with those around you. But putting in effort and thought to confront these challenges can often be the one thing that saves the day from the ever impending doom of BASTARDs.

CORRECTIONS

Some information presented in a Nov. 29 article about the Junior One Acts ("Students stretch theatre skills") was inaccurate. The story inaccurately described the One Acts as single-student skits. The One Acts are 10-minute short performances written and directed by junior film students in the Studio 304 course. All students in the course participate in the production process, including design, lighting and sound, and they host auditions across campus for acting roles.

The Exponent regrets these errors. The One Acts will be performed at the Black Box Theatre Dec. 6-8 at 7:30 p.m. The cover charge is $8 for students, $10 for others.

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Blood donation ban on gay men outdated

Blood drives are hardly an uncommon sight on the MSU campus. Between the American Red Cross and United Blood services, it seems as though there is always a steady stream of bandaged students woozily leaving the SUB Ballrooms. If you have been one of those students, kudos to you for making a life-saving donation!



SAM MCDOWALL
Opinion Writer

As part of the donation process, every potential donor is asked a series of questions at each donation. These questions include the medications you have taken, the places you have travelled to, your sexual history and if you have used non-prescription drugs.

These questions, though very personal, serve the crucial purpose of screening people whose blood is considered high-risk for carrying infectious diseases or traces of medications that would be dangerous to blood recipients. The questions have been tailored to target a variety of high-risk behaviors — however, there is one question that targets a demographic, not a behavior.

Regrettably, the restriction on gay men from donating blood has remained firmly in place instead of evolving with improved detection methods.

That question asks, if you are a man, "Have you have had sex with another man, even once, since 1977?" or, if you are a woman, "Have you have had sex with a man who has had sex with another man, even once, since 1977?" For women who answer yes, they are deferred from donating for 12 months. For men who answer yes, it is a lifelong deferral.

This policy stems from the HIV/AIDS outbreak in the 1980s. In the early years of the outbreak, there was no reliable method for detecting the virus, which justified blanket bans on high-risk groups — including men who have sex with men (MSM) — who make up a large percentage of those living with HIV/AIDS in the United States. Since that time, tests to detect the virus have improved in leaps and bounds, and can reliably detect the presence of HIV/AIDS antibodies increasingly earlier. Regrettably, the restriction on gay men from donating blood has remained firmly in place instead of evolving with improved detection methods.

Although the concerns of MSM and HIV/AIDS are valid, the policy banning them from donating blood is targeting their sexuality, not the high-risk sexual behaviors associated with HIV/AIDS transmission. Other groups that are excluded for life include commercial sex workers and intravenous drug users. However, their sex partners, including those that pay for sex with commercial sex workers, are only deferred for 12 months.

It is this uneven application of exclusion of potential donors based on high-risk behaviors that should be re-evaluated. It is unfair that a gay man in a monogamous relationship who practices safer sex and gets tested regularly is still deferred from donating for life while a heterosexual man or woman with multiple partners and unsafe behaviors might only be deferred temporarily, or not at all. Many blood collection organizations, including the United Blood Services, agree and have urged the FDA to modify the ban.

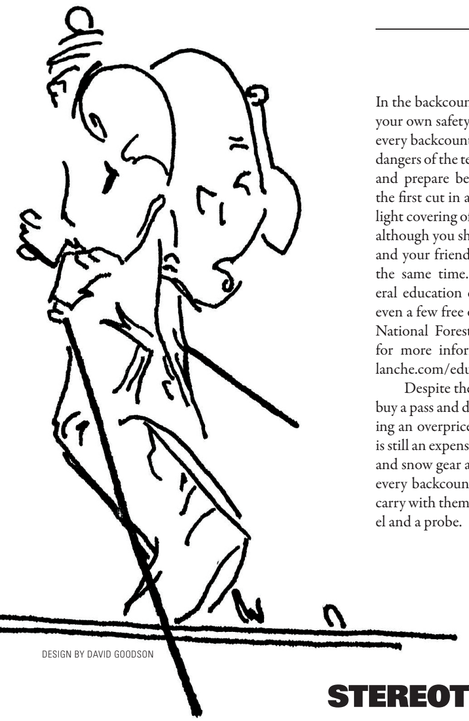
The policy exists to minimize the chance that infected blood makes it into the blood supply. However, it is time to examine outdated blanket ban policies. It has been more than 30 years since HIV/AIDS started being diagnosed in the United States, and since then, the understanding and detection of HIV/AIDS has only increased. The United States should follow the lead of countries such as Australia and the United Kingdom, lift the lifelong ban on MSM and instead apply a 12-month deferral period since they last had a new sexual partner. It is time to stop stigmatizing entire groups of people and start focusing on the unsafe behaviors that are the true root of the problem.



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THE MOUNTAIN VS. MIND CONUNDRUM



DESIGN BY DAVID GOODSON

Skiing Smart and Staying in School

Shelby Rogala and Karen Wilson

We know you told your parents you were coming to MSU for the excellent engineering program and interdisciplinary research opportunities, but everybody knows you really came here for the skiing.

Although you might be tempted to ditch your studies as soon as the first snow falls, the folks back at home might not be too thrilled to hear you have given up your dream of becoming the next Jake Jabs to drink PBR and roadtrip to every ski resort in the Mountain West.

"Mountains" may come first in MSU's slogan, "Mountains and Minds," but that doesn't mean skiing and snowboarding come before academic pursuits.

So for your enjoyment and a potential GPA boost, we offer the student-skier's guide to success:

1) Find a M/W/F or T/R only class schedule for the spring semester. Having at least one extra weekday to devote to skiing cuts down on skipping class — as long as you hold yourself to not cutting class for a powder day (most of the time).

2) Schedule all your classes during the morning or afternoon — ideally, afternoon classes allow you to hit fresh tracks at Bridger or in the backcountry before returning back to campus refreshed and relaxed, if a bit smelly.

3) If you commute to Big Sky, ride the Skyline bus and bring homework.

4) Get a job at a ski resort. It's a good way to get your skiing fix while maintaining some modicum of responsibility and earning a bit of extra cash. Be a volunteer patroller, lifty, ski instructor, dishwasher or server. You usually get a free or discounted pass, rack up some hours on the hill, and get to enjoy all that ski culture has to offer without actually being a bum.

5) Conversely, don't get a job at a ski resort. It may drive you crazy to be on the mountain all day but not have free reign to do as you please — which might only motivate you to spend all of your time off the clock on the mountain and not studying. If you need extra cash, a job that allows you to work at your convenience might be your best option. Don't rule out on-campus jobs — squeezing in an hour or two of minimum-wage slave labor between classes beats devoting an entire weekend day working an 8-hour shift when you could be playing in the snow.

6) And, if all else fails, become a snow science major — skiing literally equals studying.

Disclaimer: Although this feature consistently uses "skiing," "skier," and other such ski-exclusive terms, we do not mean to exclude snowboarders from this discussion and would like to clarify that every time we use a variation of the word "ski" it could be replaced with a variation of the word "snowboard." We all like to slide on snow, bro.

WORDBANK

FRESHIES
GNARLY
STOKED
SHREDTHEGNAR
TWEAKED
STEEZY
BANANA
ROCKER
CAMBER
MAGNETRACTION
JIBBER
PARKRAT
RIDGERAT
CREAMCHEESE
COLDSMOKE
STICKY
GROOMER
BLOWER
FACESHOTS

STEREOTYPICAL SKIER SLANG WORDSEARCH

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BACKCOUNTRY

Elijah Inabnit

In the backcountry you must be the judge of your own safety. Therefore it is essential that every backcountry skier fully understand the dangers of the terrain and adequately educate and prepare before venturing out to make the first cut in an untouched hillside. Even a light covering of snow is enough to slide and, although you should never go out alone, you and your friends should never cut into it at the same time. Luckily, Montana has several education courses for you to seek out, even a few free ones. Check out the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center website for more information: http://www.mtavalanche.com/education/classes/workshops.

Despite the fact that you do not have to buy a pass and do not have the option of buying an overpriced lunch, backcountry skiing is still an expensive sport. The helmets, gloves and snow gear are all very similar in cost but every backcountry skier must also have and carry with them an avalanche beacon, a shovel and a probe.

A decent avalanche beacon will cost around $200 while you can get a good shovel and probe for around $50 each. You will also need a pack ($200-$1200) to carry your ski equipment as well as avalanche safety gear and probably a lunch.

The skis for backcountry are more expensive than regular nordic skis — you would be lucky to get a pair of unused backcountry skis that are a couple of years old for less than $600 while new skis usually run between $800 and $1000. Additionally, they are generally a bit longer and much wider.

In addition, to make the climb easier it is necessary to buy rondenay bindings and skins. The rondenay bindings cost around $400 to $700 and depending on the size of your backcountry skis you may need wider brakes for your bindings that will cost another $30, climbing skins cost between $100 and $200.

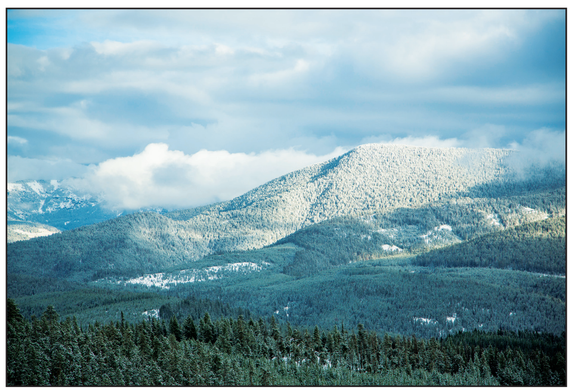
BRIDGER BOWL

Shelby Rogala

Bridger Bowl is a 30-minute drive or free bus ride away — unless it's a powder day, and then expect bumper-to-bumper all the way up the canyon. The "locals mountain," Bridger can't claim high-speed lifts, but the side-country terrain and recently expanded Slushman's lift access to runs that are worth the wait.

Hiking is, at Bridger, a community staple. Boot packing and skinning are essential skills, if one is truly hoping to experience what the resort has to offer. A transceiver, shovel and probe are required to access Slushman's and the boot pack to the ridge, but beginner to moderate terrain allow new skiers plenty of runs to play on.

The low day-to-day costs of skiing at Bridger make it a great place to head for a day or two, while investing in a season pass can be worthwhile, given the close proximity to Bozeman.



Hyalite canyon in October. PHOTO BY MATT WEIGAND

LONE PEAK

Karen Wilson

Let's cut to the chase: Big Sky or Moonlight Basin?

Moonlight offers the cheapest season pass deal in the region, but covers less acreage than its corporate neighbor. Big Sky spans two mountains, dominating Lone Peak and its neighbor Andesite, which means skiers can spread out and lift lines are rarely long when all the terrain is open. Its base area is located in the Big Sky mountain village, with convenient hotels, restaurants and bars within walking distance.

Moonlight offers a more homey vibe, with fewer lifts, a more compact base area, convenient slopeside bar options and lift lines as short as or shorter than Big Sky's.

The real debate between Big Sky and Moonlight has to do with terrain. Moonlight is most widely known for the Headwaters Ridge, a span of steep technical lines for extreme skiers. On the opposite side of the ridge are Big Sky's A-Z chutes, which bake in the sun all day and offer significantly less vertical than the Headwaters on the "dark side" of Lone Peak. But Big Sky operates the Lone Peak tram, which shoots you straight to the peak (albeit after waiting forever to get on the 16-person tram on a powder day).

The high amount of tram traffic means Big Sky's tram-accessed steeps get tracked out rather quickly, but if you can get on the list early enough you can shred the highly visible Big Couloir. On the other hand, if you have both a Big Sky and a Moonlight pass, you can drop onto the north side of Lone Peak and shred the epic North Summit Snowfield, which pops you out on Moonlight terrain.

Tree runs and natural features make exploring both resorts a neverending adventure, and ample high-speed groomers will keep you entertained when untracked snow is hard to come by.

Ultimately, the choice is yours, young powderhound. Follow the snow and explore.

FOOTBALL

Bobcats survive Stony Brook Seawolves

ANTHONY VARRIANO

As expected, the Stony Brook Seawolves (SBU) (10-3, 5-1 Big South) ran the ball, and as expected, the Bobcats (11-1, 6-1) contained the run game and forced the Seawolves to beat them with the passing game. It worked out for Head Coach Rob Ash and the Cats, winning a close game 16-10.

Even the return of Seawolves' senior quarterback, Kyle Essington, who was named the starter in pregame warmups, couldn't lift the Seawolves over the Cats. As predicted in last week's issue, the game was decided by defense and special teams, and the Cats were better at both.

"I was up against the biggest human I've ever seen in my life, and I couldn't go through him, so I went around him."

— BRAD DALY, DEFENSIVE END

The game did not begin well for SBU who started on their own five-yard line after a brilliant punt by MSU kicker/punter Trevor Bolton. The Seawolves then drove 77 yards on their first possession, but SBU kicker Wesley Skiffington missed a 33-yard field goal. In response, MSU struck quickly on the third play of their second drive, as DeNarius McGhee hit wide receiver Tanner Bleskin for a 69-yard touchdown. MSU led the rest of the way.

Skiffington hit a 38-yard field goal early in the second quarter to cut the lead to 7-3, but while driving into MSU territory once again SBU's Miguel Maysonet, the league's leading rusher, fumbled after a tackle for loss by MSU defensive lineman Craig Ashworth. Ashworth recovered the fumble and gave kicker Rory Perez a chance to show off his leg with less than five minutes before halftime, hitting a 48-yard field goal to push the lead back up to seven.

With their first drive of the second half, MSU drove 65 yards to set up Perez again, this time from just 21 yards out, and Perez was good again, making it 13-3.

The fourth quarter didn't start well for McGhee, as he was intercepted by SBU defensive back Davonte Anderson on the first play of the quarter. SBU used the only MSU turnover to pull within three, taking advantage of consecutive pass interference calls on MSU cornerbacks and then hitting wide receiver Kevin Norrell for a four-yard touchdown. MSU would answer on their next drive with Perez hitting another long field goal — this one from 45 yards out — making it 16-10 with just over nine minutes left.

The MSU defense forced a big three-and-out from SBU and then took control of the game on offense, holding the ball for six-and-a-half minutes and setting up Perez for another field goal from 45 yards out, but Perez finally missed one.

"I thought Rory had a fabulous game," Ash said. "Missed field goals happen. I'll take the 10 points he scored for us any day. He was very good tonight."

Luckily, just 1:41 remained in the game, and MSU's defense stepped up again, this time forcing a fumble and turnover on a sack by defensive ends Brad Daly and Caleb Schreibeis.



Deonte Flowers (#37) and Steven Bethley (#1) take down a Stonybrook running back in Saturday's BCS playoff game. PHOTO BY KATE JUEDES

"I was up against the biggest human I've ever seen in my life, and I couldn't go through him, so I went around him," Daly said of 6-foot-8, 345-pound Stony Brook tackle Michael Bamiro.

"He's a magician out there."

— HEAD COACH ROB ASH ON DENARIUS MCGHEE

MSU allowed just 123 yards rushing against two of the best running backs in the league. In fact, SBU's Maysonet is expected to be an NFL draft pick this April. "We'll still get to see him on Sunday afternoons," said SBU head coach Chuck Priore.

McGhee finished as the leading rusher for the Cats with 75 yards. He also completed 12 of 22 passes for 208 yards and one touchdown, but was sacked four times and took a few rough hits while scrambling. "He's a magician out there," said Ash. "If I keep talking I'll only repeat myself."

The Cats face recent FCS rival Sam Houston State in the quarterfinals at Bobcat Stadium on Friday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.

Bobcats to brawl with Bearkats

ANTHONY VARRIANO

The Bobcats (11-1, 6-1) will hardly have to adjust their game plan for the visiting Sam Houston State Bearkats (SHSU) (9-3, 6-1 Southland) on Friday. The Bearkats knocked off Cal Poly in the second round of the FCS Playoffs, 18-16, and play a game similar to Stony Brook's.

SHSU is the seventh-ranked rushing offense in the league, just below the Stony Brook Seawolves' sixth ranking. The Bearkats average 273.9 yards rushing per game, but the SHSU passing offense is not as efficient as Stony Brook's, though they're ranked ninth in total offense and second in scoring offense.

They average 186.6 yards passing per game. That offense certainly didn't show up against Cal Poly considering their 57th ranked defense, so don't expect the Bearkats to blow up the scoreboard despite their 42.3 point-per-game average, especially in front of 20,000 Bobcat fans, in 33-degree weather.

The Bearkat defense may be a problem for MSU running backs Cody Kirk and Orenzo Davis. They're ranked third against the run, so look for the slippery DeNarius McGhee to make things happen with his legs like he did Saturday against Stony Brook. He will once again probably be the leading MSU rusher. There will also be opportunities in the air, as SHSU is ranked just 75th in overall pass defense, so McGhee and the Cats should go to the air early. Look for wide receiver Tanner Bleskin to have a huge game.

The Bobcats and Bearkats are even on special teams, though SHSU may start with better field position due to their return game and MSU kicker Rory Perez has the fourth best field goal percentage in the league.

Expect the game on Friday to be similar to the Stony Brook game. MSU and SHSU have nearly identical time-of-possession averages. Both teams will attempt to win the time-of-possession battle by moving the chains any way they can, and whoever wins that battle may win the game. It is imperative that MSU scores first and plays from ahead, as game time will disappear quickly when the ball is in the hands of the Bearkats.

Prediction: *Cats win, 24-16*

Other Predictions:
Eastern Washington defeats Illinois State, 34-28

North Dakota State defeats Wagner, 28-14

Women's basketball sweeps games

LIZZY NARIGON

Last Thursday brought another victory for Lady Bobcat Basketball, resulting in 81-49 win over the University of Montana-Western Bulldogs. Head Coach Tricia Binford stated after the game that the Bobcats looked tired during the first half — "We didn't have the energy and urgency to control the things we could. I was happy that we hit our free throws and rebounded well."

"We did a nice job getting the ball inside and we finished well, which should help us be rested as we head into a travel day."

— HEAD COACH TRICIA BINFORD

Despite notions of tiredness, the team was leading 40-24 over the Bulldogs at halftime. This spurred confidence for the team and all players were able to become involved. "It was great to get our freshmen some experience. Throughout the game, I thought we did a nice job getting the ball inside and we finished well, which should help us be rested as we head into a travel day," Binford said.

Those who especially stood out with game-high statistics were senior forward Rachel Semanksy, freshmen forward Jasmine Hommes and freshman guard Lindsay Stockton who each scored 12 points for the team.

Saturday brought an away game for the team against Utah State, ending in win of 71-65.

In terms of improvement, junior forward Emily Allen commented on how the team has gotten to where they are today. "Having played a few games already, the team is really starting to connect on the court, understanding what each other does, so we felt very comfortable on the court both games, and we were executing our plays and defense very well."

These admirable skills have the team currently ranked fourth in the Big Sky Conference. Next up for the team is a battle against Wyoming in the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8.



Senior Guard Latisha Adams (#34) keeps her eyes on the prize as she cuts to the basket last Thursday against UM-Western. PHOTO BY KATE JUEDES





Men's Basketball struggling, hurting

ANTHONY VARRIANO

The Bobcats (1-5) had a grueling homestand this week facing the Pepperdine Waves (5-3) on Thursday and the San Jose State Spartans (3-3) on Saturday. Injuries and defensive woes kept the Cats from finishing comebacks in both games.

The Bobcats started strong against Pepperdine, pulling out to a seven-point lead, but Pepperdine closed the gap just before halftime with a 24-8 run. Buckets just didn't seem to fall for the Cats toward the end of the first half, and Head Coach Brad Huse said it was the turning point in the game.

Another turning point was losing forward Flavien Davis to an ankle injury early in the game. Davis tried to continue, but couldn't put much weight on the ankle and sat most of the second half. Losing Flavien's inside presence and Pepperdine's zone defense forced Huse to play four guards and take a lot of threes.

"Our team competes hard and we had our chances with Pepperdine being it was tied late. I think our guys will finish those games on top as we continue to work together and become more familiar with one another."

— HEAD COACH BRAD HUSE

"I thught we played with really good energy, but not having Flavien in the second half affected us," Huse said. "Our team competes hard and we had our chances with Pepperdine being it was tied late. I think our guys will finish those games on top as we continue to work together and become more familiar with one another."

Despite a 10-point lead, MSU started the second half on a roll, pulling to a tie at 50, but couldn't keep it going. With four minutes left to play, Pepperdine used an 8-2 run to take control of the game and hit their free throws to seal it, 76-66. Xavier Blount paced the Cats with 19 points and six boards.

"Consistency on both offense and defense has been an issue early in the season but I'm confident that will improve with more practice and game experience," Huse said.

Another late run by the Cats on Saturday against San Jose St. was a little too late. After trailing by double-digits for 30 minutes, the Cats mounted a run that cut the lead to four, but a botched fast break ruined their momentum, and the Spartans hit all their free throws down the stretch to notch the victory, 82-74.

The Spartans shot 53 percent from the field, and the Cats, missing a healthy Davis, shot just 35 percent. "We've got to figure out the defensive piece," Huse said. "We're a little too porous. This team makes you pay for your mistakes." Huse thinks Davis will be at 100 percent for their next game when they host Montana Tech on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m..



Antonio Biglow (#5) soars through the key against Pepperdine in their November 29 tilt.

PHOTO BY KATE JUEDES

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ATHLETE PROFILE:
Lierin Flanagan sets bar high



PHOTO COURTESY MSU ATHLETICS

When the starting gun goes off, there is always one racer who sets the bar higher for all other runners at the starting line. Her name is Lierin Flanagan, and she is a middle-distance track runner from Kenai, Alaska competing for Bobcat Track and Field.

How did you get started with track and field, and find yourself in the events that you race now?

I chose to run track because I grew up with parents who were passionate about running. As soon as I ran in my first cross country meet in middle school, I loved it. As I got older I began to like the shorter distance races and eventually became a sprinter.

How have you transitioned from sprinting to becoming a middle distance runner?

I definitely was more of a short sprinter type in high school, running the 100m, 200m and 400m races mostly. As soon as I got to college, my coach Dale Kennedy saw that I had more of an endurance type running style rather than a short sprinter. It was a hard adjustment at first because I never imagined running the 800,m but as the training continued, the more I learned about that race, the more I loved it!

What sort of pre-race rituals or routines do you use?

Before a race I like to listen to music while visualizing myself running the race. I start by seeing myself getting into the blocks, the gun firing, how I will approach the corners and straight-aways and finally how I will finish strong, with everything I have.

What are your past accomplishments while running for MSU?

A few of my main accomplishments have been getting 3rd place in the 800m at the Conference Championships in 2012, being a part of the 4x400m team who broke the school record and received 2nd place at the Conference Championships in 2012, receiving the Most Outstanding Freshman of the Year Award Indoor and Outdoor, receiving the Most Improved Performance Award Outdoor, and most importantly, it's been becoming the person I am today. Being a part of this family here has taught me lifelong lessons and I am forever grateful for that.

What do you look forward to accomplishing on the team in the future?

My future goals are to keep working hard to improve my times in every event I run and to eventually become a Conference Champion in the 800m.

BY LIZZY NARIGON

BADASS OF THE WEEK
DREW CARDOZA



PHOTO BY BRANDON KOWALSKI

When I met Drew Cardoza, a junior and an electrical engineering major from Red Lodge, Montana, he was wearing a white hoodie with the popular slogan "Just Do It" printed across the front. Now, I cannot think of anyone who embodies this slogan better.

When Cardoza was 11 years old, his mother was in a serious car accident that left her in a coma for the next five years before she passed away. He struggled with depression and gained quite a bit of weight. "I was just struggling with the depression of [losing my mother], and I ended up at one point weighing 286 pounds," Cardoza said. "At the worst point, I didn't even want to go to college."

After graduating from high school, Cardoza came to terms with the loss of his mother one step at a time. When he visited her grave he came to realize that "My mother wouldn't want me to be upset. So I decided, 'I'm losing the weight, I'm going to be a happier person,' and that is what I shot for." After this realization, Cardoza lost 60 pounds in the three months between graduation and coming to MSU.

"I want to be an inspiration of the week."

— DREW CARDOZA

When Cardoza came to MSU, he found an outlet in the MSU Cycling Club. "I tried out and I didn't really feel like I was strong enough yet so I laid low and just kept working out and working at it and ended up losing about 100 pounds [total]. By the end of it, I weighed about 195 pounds." Cardoza said.

The next challenge for Cardoza was cycling up Beartooth Pass, a 6,000 foot climb. "I decided that I was going to do this and that I needed to do this and as I was cycling I felt really connected with my mother," he said. "It was like she was helping me through [the climb]. She is my biggest motivation and inspiration."

Before coming to MSU and joining the cycling team, Cardoza had never participated in a sport. "What's funny is if you asked any of my classmates who was going to end up in collegiate sports, I would be the last person they would pick," Cardoza said.

"I don't just want to be a badass of the week, I want to be an inspiration of the week," he explained. "When things are hard on you, just keep working at it and you will be surprised at how much you can accomplish."

A strong message Cardoza said he wanted to get across was that, "No matter how hard things get, they get better, and only you can make it better."

BY BRANDON KOWALSKI

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TO RETURN YOUR RENTED TEXTBOOKS!

RENTAL TEXTBOOKS are due to be returned no later than 5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012.

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Seniors to showcase final photo projects

KATE VAN GENDEREN

Many students at MSU publish or exhibit their academic works, complete with bibliographies, hours spent working on citations and research, and sometimes sweat and tears. Instead of defending theses or presenting papers, however, seniors in MSU's photography program will proudly show the more visual results of their time at MSU in an exhibit at the Baxter Hotel.

"[Photography] allows you to put out into the world the stirrings of deeper meaning within yourself."

— MADISON PERRINS, SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENT

The Senior Thesis Exhibit will unveil the years of work students have put into honing their skills, resulting in this final project. Gwendolyn Courtney, a senior who will be exhibiting her work, noted that "these projects demonstrate the most accomplished work we have ever completed." Another senior, Madison Perrins, eloquently stated that photography "allows you to put out into the world the stirrings of deeper meaning within yourself," which these projects express.

Courtney emphasized the omnipresent strain of creating such a project. "Completing these projects is extremely emotionally and financially draining," she said, and pointed out "some of us have travelled miles or spent hours and hours alone to complete our projects."

Courtney credited the photography program faculty as a huge help in dealing



PHOTO AND POSTER DESIGN BY SEAN FAULKES

with the stress and complications that arise while completing these projects. "All of the faculty, especially Alexis Pike and Chris Anderson, our mentors for the semester, have the amazing ability to pull a concise answer out of our seemingly complicated mess of problems," she said.

The Senior Thesis Exhibit will take place at the Baxter Hotel on Dec. 13 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. There is no cost to attend. Appetizers will be served, a cash bar will be available for drinks and a live jazz trio will perform. For more information or to look at each photographer's work, check out their website at *msuphotoshow.com*.

sexPONENT

Sex for the stressed student

Q: I have a high sex drive, but I've been so busy studying for finals lately that I haven't been able to go out and meet people. What can I do to get some sexual satisfaction?

A: Masturbate.

Masturbation — or autoeroticism — is a great option for people who don't have the time to pursue sexual partners. Commonly defined as the touching of one's own sex organs for sexual pleasure, whether it be to orgasm or not, masturbation is practiced by an average of 70 percent of men and 50 percent of women. In short, this behavior is totally normal despite its common "taboo" label in social circles.

Even though some groups see masturbation as an unnecessary or even evil practice, the benefits of autoerotocism are based in scientific research. Masturbation is common in the animal kingdom, and if multiple species adopt a specific behavior, it is usually considered evolutionarily advantageous.

On this note, studies done on men who indulge in autoeroticism show that frequent masturbation results in less genetic damage and a higher overall quality of sperm, as the worn-out sperm are replaced with healthier, stronger sperm. Another specific benefit for males is a reduced risk for prostate cancer.

Other health benefits focus on the reduction of stress. Masturbation contributes to decreased levels of sexual tension, better sleep, low blood pressure, high self-esteem and immediate feelings of calm and focus.

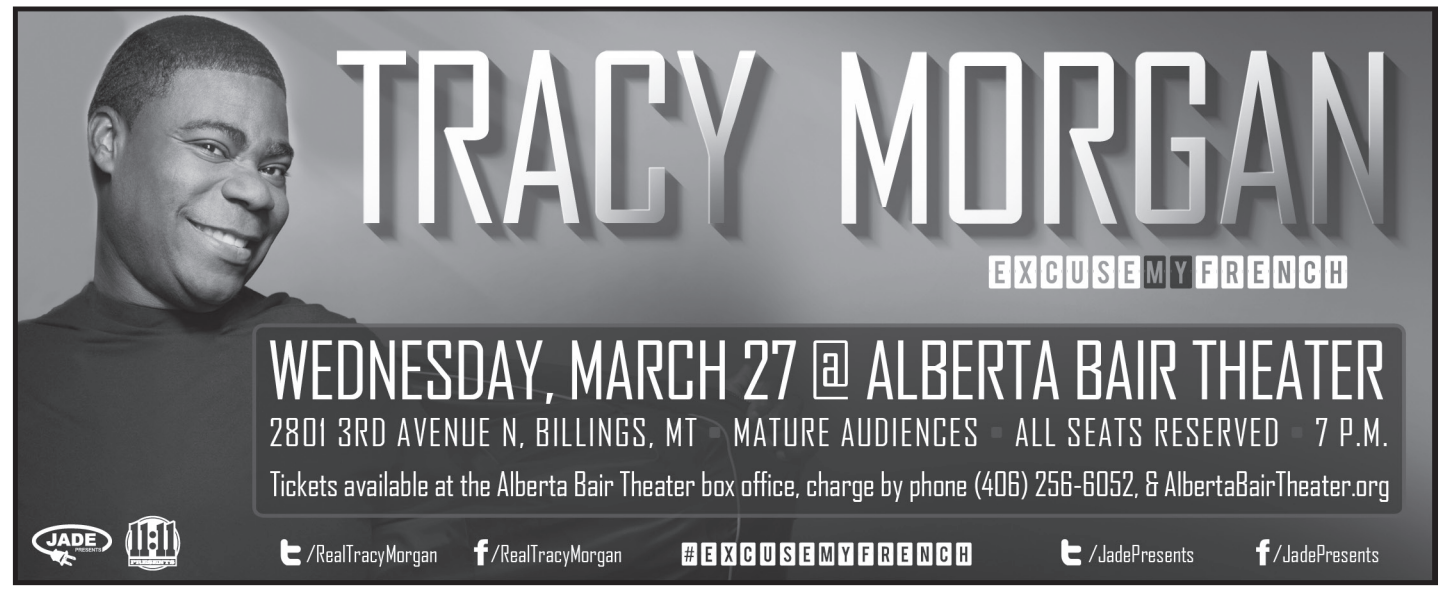
The benefits of autoeroticism are based in scientific research.

Additionally, for women masturbation can relieve menstrual cramps and muscle tension, making it useful when life is especially stressful. The amazing thing about masturbation is that there are no established health risks — not even addiction.

Masturbation is not a long-term solution to loneliness, but for the most part, it has the ability to satisfy your sexual desires — especially if you are pressed for time. So, the next time you sit in your room cramming for a test, stop thinking "why me?" and start thinking "why not me?"

The Sexponent wants all our readers to have a glorious time here at MSU, and in the safest way possible. Got questions? Send them our way at entertainment@exponent.montana.edu.





THE BREWPONENT

BARISTA EDITION

brew·po·nent (**broo**-poh-n*uh*nt) *n.* a person or thing who expounds, explains or interprets drinks for refined palates < Old English *brēowan* + Latin *expōnere* >

Coffee: Poison or Health Potion?

As dead week approaches, many of us begin to wonder, "Can I drink so much coffee that I become hospitalized and delay taking my exam?" The answer is: maybe. The health outlook for moderate coffee consumption is unclear, but too much too fast can definitely do you in.



MATT KENNEDY
Coffee Connoisseur

Before I get started on details, let's get one thing straight — I'm not your doctor and I'm not liable for any advice you choose to take from this column; same goes for the Exponent and everyone associated with it. Now, let's open this can of worms.

In 2010, a 23-year-old British man died after taking two spoonfuls of pure caffeine powder at a party. There have been various deaths over the past century resulting from caffeine overdoses, all of which were attributed to extreme negligence or a previous heart condition. The hard numbers aren't easy to find — so few people die of caffeine overdoses that there isn't a mechanism for reporting them. For some perspective, more people die each year from water overdoses, Tylenol overdoses and lawnmower accidents.

Caffeine is manufactured by plants to paralyze and kill certain insects that feed on it.

Caffeine is manufactured by plants to paralyze and kill certain insects that feed on it. Here's the good news: Your body is well equipped to turn out poison. Well before you reach toxic levels, you will become nauseous and begin to vomit. That's not the case when you take pure spoonfuls of caffeine, but let's hope your study regimen doesn't come to that.

You've probably all had a little too much caffeine before, but in case you didn't know, overdose symptoms include (in no particular order): shakiness, paranoia, anxiety, high blood pressure, breathing trouble, convulsions, diarrhea, dizziness, fever, hallucinations, irregular heartbeat, muscle twitching, vomiting, nausea and insomnia.

None of those symptoms will help you ace your physics exam, so it's best to play it on the safe side if you're on your 15th cup. The average cup of coffee contains between 80 and 200 milligrams of caffeine. In a 200-pound person, a lethal dose is 17.2 grams. However, that number is an overestimate based on rat studies — rats metabolize drugs much faster than humans. People have been hospitalized after consuming as few as two grams of caffeine. In the hospital you will face anything from ingesting charcoal to having a hose shoved into your stomach in a process called gastric lavage. I'll just take a lower grade on the exam, thanks.

Drinking coffee isn't all bad — in fact, a large and growing body of research has associated coffee drinking (even 10 cups a day) with better health. A great article on coffee health benefits with links to peer reviewed journal articles was published by the Atlantic last week. You can easily find the article by googling "The Case for Drinking as Much Coffee as You Like," written by Lindsay Abrams.

To grossly oversimplify her analysis: Coffee consumption is linked to dozens of health benefits including a lower risk of developing multiple types of cancer, Alzheimer's disease, liver problems, type 2 diabetes and high cholesterol. Coffee has even been shown to function as a painkiller and antidepressant. Many of these benefits come from the under-researched chemicals in coffee that give it flavor and aroma such as plant phenols, chlorogenic acids and quinides.

The take-home message is this: Some coffee may be good for your health. Too much will result in a nasty medical bill and a sore stomach, especially if you're using energy drinks or caffeine pills on top of your brew.

Whether you're an instant coffee gulper or artesian Kopi Luwak roaster, Matt wants to hear from you. Email thoughts and questions to letters@exponent.montana.edu.

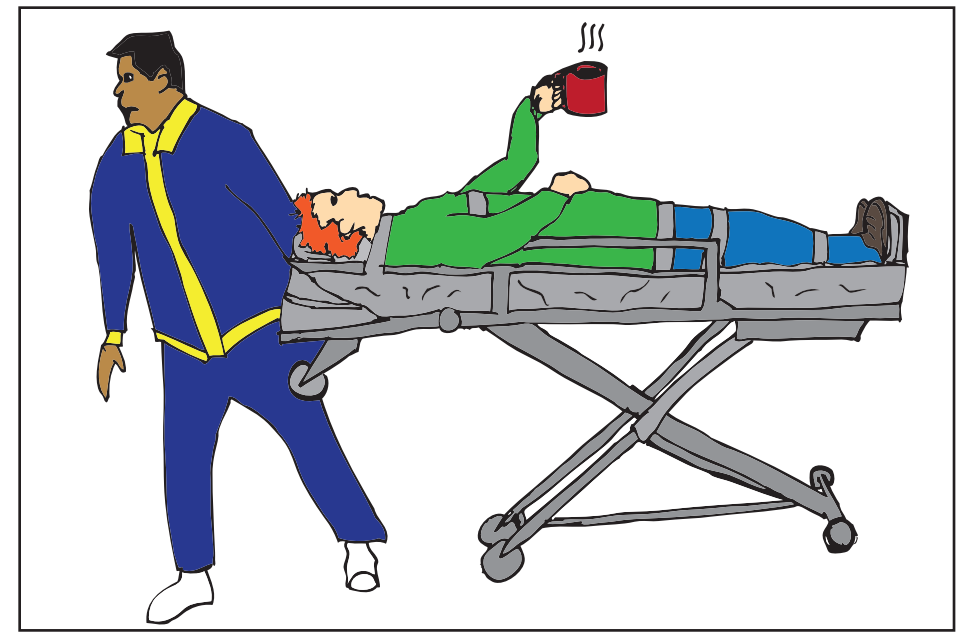


ILLUSTRATION BY MATT KENNEDY



CALENDAR

DECEMBER 6 - 31

Want your event featured here?
Email information to
entertainment@exponent.montana.edu,
preferably two weeks in advance.

FILM, THEATER

JUNIOR ONE ACTS

Black Box Theatre

Thursday - Saturday Dec. 6 - 8, 7:30 p.m.
Cost: $8 students, $10 general

One-act plays created and performed by MSU film students.

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

The Ellen Theatre

Fridays and Saturdays Dec. 7 - 22, 7:30 p.m.
Sundays Dec. 9 - 23, 3 p.m.
Wednesday and Thursday Dec. 19 - 20, 7:30 p.m.
Cost: $14.50

"SISTER MARY EXPLAINS IT ALL FOR YOU"

The Equinox Theatre

Fridays and Saturdays Dec. 7 - 22, 8 p.m.
Cost: $10 students, $12 general

MSU SCHOOL OF FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHY THESIS SHOW

The Baxter

Thursday Dec. 13, 6 - 11 p.m.

"ROCK OF AGES"

Brick Breeden Fieldhouse

Sunday Dec. 16, 7 p.m.
Cost: $45

MUSIC

JAZZ ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Reynolds Recital Hall

Thursday Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.

A MUSICAL TOUR OF SCOTLAND

Bozeman Public Library

Saturday Dec. 8, 4 p.m.

Bozeman musicians play songs and teach the history of Scottish dance music.

H3LLOMYNAMEIS ALBUM RELEASE PARTY

Wild Joe's Coffee

Saturday Dec. 8, 7 - 10 p.m.

Local band releases their first album.

SUNDAY NIGHT MULTIMEDIA SERIES

Reynolds Recital Hall

Sunday Dec. 9, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS BRASSTACULAR

Reynolds Recital Hall

Monday Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Cost: $5 students, $10 general

CONTRA DANCE

The Eagles Lodge upstairs

Saturday Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Monday Dec. 31, 8 p.m.
Cost: $5 students, $9 general

ON CAMPUS

FREE YOGA

SUB 232

Thursday Dec. 6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Active Minds hosts free 30-minute yoga sessions held at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

SHARE-THE-WEALTH SYMPOSIUM

Plant Bioscience Building Room 108

Thursday Dec. 6, 4 - 8 p.m.

Seniors share insights from service-learning project during reception and dinner.

CHAUTAUQUA 2012

SUB Ballrooms

Friday Dec. 7, 7 p.m. and Saturday Dec. 8, 10 a.m.

A gathering to celebrate the works of former MSU professor Robert Pirsig. R.S.V.P. at montana.edu/pirsig.

FALL COMMENCEMENT 2012

Brick Breeden Field House

Saturday Dec. 15, 9:40 a.m.

LIBRARY WORKSHOP: MICROSOFT OUTLOOK

Renne Library Heathcote Classroom

Tuesday Dec. 18, 12 - 1 p.m.

SPORTS

BOBCAT ATHLETICS TOWN HALL MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE

Procrastinator Theatre

Thursday Dec. 6, 3:30 - 4:20 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. MONTANA TECH

Brick Breeden Fieldhouse

Thursday Dec. 6, 7 p.m.

MSU FOOTBALL VS. SAM HOUSTON STATE

Bobcat Stadium

Friday Dec. 7, 6 p.m

See page 14 for the game preview.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. WYOMING

Brick Breeden Fieldhouse

Saturday Dec. 8, 2 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. NORTHERN ARIZONA

Brick Breeden Fieldhouse

Sunday Dec. 22, p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. MSU BILLINGS

Brick Breeden Fieldhouse

Saturday Dec. 29, 2 p.m.

COMMUNITY

ALL THESE THINGS

Culture Frozen Yogurt

Friday Dec. 7, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Art show reception with local artist Rob Rodgers.

MY SKELETONS PREFER GRANDMA'S KITCHEN

Others Art Gallery

Saturday Dec. 8, 7 - 9 p.m.

Reception for a print-stallation by local artist Jordan Thornton hosted by Others: Bozeman Contemporary Art Coalition, 95 Spanish Peaks Dr.

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY

The Emerson

Tuesday Dec. 11, 6 p.m.

Speakers, including Conrad Anker and David Lageson, talk about mountains and the highlands.

ART AND MUSIC CONVERGENCE

Main Street Arts & Entertainment Complex

Thursday Dec. 13, 9 p.m.

A diverse night of art, music and self-expression to fundraise for Theory Magazine.

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the SUGARBEET
Take a break,

The Sugarbeet is a biweekly satire page. It falsely quotes figures and non-existent people and sometimes completely makes stuff up in the name of stimulating discussions around critical community issues.

What it's like to date a Rhodes Scholar

BRENT ZUNDEL & BIZZ BROWNING

Last month, MSU student Joe Thiel, a senior in chemical engineering and liberal studies, and Billings native Amanda Frickle, a College of Idaho graduate and current MSU ResLife employee, were named Rhodes Scholars. One of the most prestigious scholarships awarded, the Rhodes offers both of them the chance to study at Oxford next year.

"Nothing beats a night at the library reading textbooks with my sweetheart."

Bizz Browning, Rhodes Scholar wife

The Exponent caught up with Bizz Browning, Joe's wife, and Brent Zundel, Amanda's boyfriend, to see how they were dealing with their newfound fame.



Amanda wears the pants in the relationship; Brent wears the aprons.

PHOTO BY BRENT ZUNDEL

Exponent: How has your life changed since your significant other became a Rhodes Scholar?

Bizz: Being married to a Rhodes Scholar like Joe is pretty neat. When he's not going to board meetings or working with clubs, I get to watch him study — during meal times, before classes, after classes, at the movies. If I'm lucky, I get to study with him during date nights. Nothing beats a night at the library reading textbooks with my sweetheart.

Brent: It's really been a whirlwind of change. Amanda proposed a master's in genders studies at Oxford, so I've tried to be supportive of that decision and make our relationship as progressive as possible. Amanda spends her time autographing copies of her personal statement for old professors, while I browse baby name books, write my first name and her last name all over my school binders, and frequently ask for reassurance about whether my new jeans make my butt look big.

E: What do you think of all this publicity surrounding the Rhodes Scholars?

Bizz: It's unbelievable — so great. People stop him all the time to congratulate him. And I get stopped too, because they know I'm with him. It's like being married to a celebrity. We both hope it will never end.

Brent: It's great! Amanda has been receiving a lot of Facebook messages and emails from people we've never met. The men seem especially heartfelt in their congratulations, even asking her to "friend" them or maybe meet up for coffee or a drink.

E: Really? I would think they'd be tired of it by now.

Bizz: Oh, no. He loves it, and I do too. I mean, I basically married Joe for his looks, and now I see his face everywhere I go. All over the internet, newspapers, television. The only place I haven't seen him is on a billboard. Hey — maybe someone at the Exponent could help us get one put up?

Brent: You know, I think Amanda might be getting a little tired of it, but I could go on in the limelight for ages. Every time I show her another news article, she just glares at me and says, "Sweetie, I'm trying to read."

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 full of surprises

PAT HESSMAN

When director Bill Condon promised that part two of the adaptation of Stephenie Meyer's genius novel "Breaking Dawn" would surprise those who read the book, I had no idea how true that statement was.

I sat down expecting mopey teenagers and demon vampire babies, but was astounded to instead see the film open on a Civil War battlefield and proceed to detail passage of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Werewolf hunk Jacob and vampire half-breed Renesmee are nowhere to be seen. I could only guess the older gentleman spearheading the fight for the amendment's passage was Edward Cullen and the bipolar harpy constantly yelling at him was Bella.

It is never explained in the film, but my assumption was that the vampiric lovers escaped to the 19th century and were stripped of their immortality as a side effect of time travel. Ever since coming to the 1800s, Edward has become President of the United States and has taken up the cause of freeing the slaves. To do this, he has to team up with a gay Tommy Lee Jones and that guy who played Mr. Pendanski in "Holes" to convince a gang of racist rednecks to vote to pass the 14th Amendment.

It is was a stroke of genius to cast Daniel Day Lewis as Edward. For the first time we get to see the vampire in a truly vulnerable, almost human light. I never expected him to make a poop joke to the House of Representatives, but perhaps this shows the true scope of his character arc. Sally Field's Bella seems capable of emoting, unlike Kristen Stewart, but I can't help but note how much easier the old Bella was on the eyes.

Haters of Twilight will be pleased by the ending, though. No spoilers here, but Edward is shot in the head while watching a play. The ending ties off the saga quite well; I'm not the only one who has been waiting for someone to inflict grievous bodily harm on the emo vampire since the first film. The film takes many risks and most of them pay off, creating one of the most surprising cinematic experiences of the year.

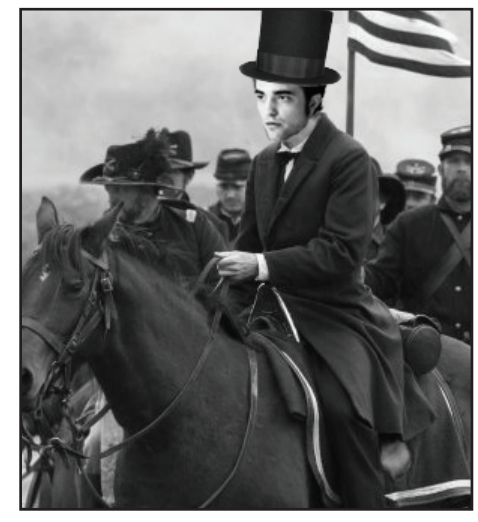


IMAGE BY PAT HESSMAN

Make sure to stick around after the credits. Edward is resurrected by Nick Fury in the present to tell him about the Avengers Initiative. It seems the saga isn't over after all.

This Week in Exponent History

Dead Week Through the Ages

December 6, 1912: Finals are upon us, and morale is low. Plate tectonic theory has yet to be invented, there are no computers, and our professor expects a term paper in tomorrow. All of the pertinent journals are in German and nobody has an app for that shit. Luckily, there is a new energy drink out, called "Coca-Cola" that has the caffeine of coffee but the cocaine of cocaine. Jim died of polio.

– NATE CARROLL

December 2, 1966: One of the most confused ducks in the world is now living in the MSU psychology lab. Seymour, the duck, is very confused. Seymour is firmly convinced that he is a person. He is imprinted to Dr. Gray, a psychology teacher. Seymour is a poor father and a poor mother, and a poor lover.

– "DUCK IS POOR LOVER, PARENT"
THE EXPONENT, VOL. 38, NO. 9

more SUGARBEET

read some satire!

The Sugarbeet is a biweekly satire page. It falsely quotes figures and non-existent people and sometimes completely makes stuff up in the name of stimulating discussions around critical community issues.

Bozeman man changes life for Mayan calendar apocalypse

MATTHEW KENNEDY

After watching a History Channel special titled "Mayan Galactic Alignment," local Brett Erikson has renounced his Bozemanite lifestyle to pursue more indulgent ends. Citing the impending armageddon of Dec 21, 2012, Erikson no longer sees value in maintaining his Bozeman reputation.

Erikson's first move was to trade in his hail-dented Subaru Outback for a certified pre-owned 2006 Hummer H2 so when disaster strikes he can "go where nobody else can." He is still in the market for an ATV and a snowmobile so he can have "the ultimate transportation setup."

> "I'm looking into training a mountain lion as an armageddon companion."
>
> **Brett Erikson**

Erikson reportedly left his black lab, Bridger, in the back seat of the Subaru when he traded it in. "Sure, it was hard to leave her, but I'm looking into training a mountain lion as an armageddon companion," Erikson explained.

Erikson plans on shopping less at the Co-op and mainly eating at McDonalds. Financial reasons did not influence this decision, "it just tastes f—king good. I've been lying to myself for years about fast food," Erikson said.

Some habits aren't easily broken — Erikson says he will continue to drink Pabst Blue Ribbon beer and he won't be getting rid of his skis. "I need the skis to get to my underground bunker, and besides, I paid more for these skis than my old Subaru," he said.

Erikson's bunker, camouflaged with bags of dirt but thoughtfully decorated with prayer flags on the inside, is located at his "sick backcountry spot." He would not disclose the location of his hideout, even if we weren't facing impending doom. The bunker is full of a five-year supply of Big Macs and PBR.



Erickson in his secret bunker. PHOTO BY MATTHEW WEIGAND

Erikson also managed to make use of his engineering degree by turning his old road bike into a stationary man-powered electrical generator.

Not everyone agrees with Erikson's end-of-days prophecy. MSU anthropology professor Mary Brooks says the Mayan long-count does not imply a cataclysm.

"The Mayan calendar is a wheel. It will turn to the beginning again this December, just like our calendar starts over every January," Brooks said, adding "Did he seriously leave his dog at a dealership? I would never do that to my Madison."

Erikson said Brooks is naive. "Look it up; Nostradamus prophesied this," he said. "The earth is going to be caught between the sun and a black hole, causing a polar shift and complete chaos. It's just science."

At press time, Erikson was reportedly hospitalized after attempting to collar a wild mountain lion.

SHELBY THE WORD NERD

Dead Week

1) Week preceding finals week at American universities, used in reference to the calm before the storm when classes are cancelled. "This year for dead week I am going to catch up on all seven seasons of Weeds, and maybe spend some time studying."

2) Week preceding finals week at American universities, used in reference to the storm before the storm. "I have five papers due during dead week and five tests during finals, but at least it will all be over after these two weeks."

3) Week used to signify two weeks before the end of the world, occurring on Dec 21, 2012 "Dead week is coming up, better stock up on canned goods and battle axes."

Synonyms: Life-ending crisis, zombie apocalypse, dementor, soul-sucking, clusterf—k

Etymology: Administrators founded "dead week" out of compassion for students, cancelling all classes and activities. But professors complained the semester wasn't long enough to accommodate all of the content they wished to teach, and students clearly wouldn't need to study more if professors had an extra week to shower them with wisdom.

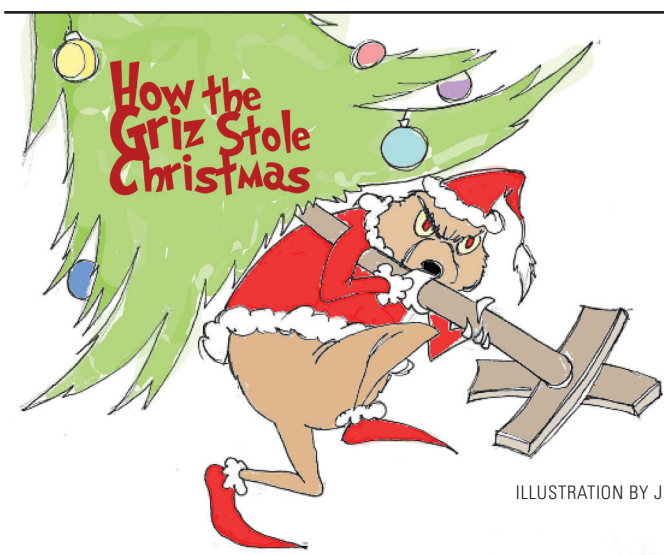


ILLUSTRATION BY JEN ROGERS

PAT HESSMAN

All the Cats up in Bozeman
Christmas joy filled their town.
But just over in Missoula,
It was nowhere to be found.
They were knee-deep in scandal,
Enrollment was down.
Monte's big mascot smile,
Was a big Christmas frown.
The Griz hated Christmas,
the whole Christmas season!
Now please don't ask why,
we don't want to get into the reason.
Monte wasn't a Scrooge,
No, not at all.
The Griz team's big problem?
Their ethics were two sizes too small.
From atop Mount Sentinel,
In a house filled with rats,
He stood there on Christmas Eve,
Hating the Cats.
Those Cats down in Bozeman,
Honored traditions of old,
Decking the halls
With Champ's blue and gold.
"And they made the playoffs!"
He snarled with a sneer.
"And too soon it's Christmas,
"It's practically here!"
No longer could he stand,
To hear the Cat-kids sing.
He thought to himself,
"I must stop this whole thing!"
'Twas not very long
Before the Griz had his scheme:
Oh this Christmas caper
Would involve the whole team.
As the Bozeman sun set,
They crept into town.
The Griz smiled, for he knew
Those Cats were going down.
Into our campus those mean ol'
Griz snuck.
They stole presents and egg nog
and even the ducks!
They took stockings and Santas
and all of the beers.
"Come Morning," said Monte,
"We'll bathe in their tears."
Their steal spree went on, the
Griz hubris stemmed.
No one would guess it would
come to an end.
On a house on Koch Street they
filled their karmic cup.
Outside there were sirens,
"Come out! Hands up!"
But that Ol' Monte he could only
guffaw.
"We're a football team, above
the law!"
The cops charged the house,
but Monte yelled, "Fight to the
death!"
"Those pigs won't stop us, until
our last breath!"
And though they fought back,
Oh they fought tooth and nail,
That Monte spent Christmas
In a stone cold jail cell.

Welcome to The Box, a fun place for fun stuff. Have suggestions for content to be published here? E-mail us at: *editor@exponent.montana.edu.*

Creative ways to fail a final

Complete your entire exam in crayon. This is an especially good option for essay tests or high-level mathematics.

Staple $20 to the exam and leave all of the questions blank. Wink knowingly when you hand your exam to the professor.

Wear a Superman costume under your real clothes. A half-hour into the exam, rip off your clothes and yell, "I'm on my way!" as you run out of the classroom.

Before the exam, pencil Jack Nicholson's crazy eyebrows onto your face. Shoot your instructor deranged glares throughout the exam. Then, cover the entire exam with the phrase "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

Cry.

Sing "Blue Bobcat Cup."

Begin an "Eat shit Grizzlies, go Cats go!" chant.

Halfway through the exam, whip out a Red Bull and shotgun it.

Correct the grammar in the exam questions with a red pen.

Rip the paper to shreds, stand up and throw them in the air, and yell "Merry Christmas!"

Arrange a flash mob.

As soon as the instructor hands out the exam, eat it.

Read the Exponent instead.

Comic

Illustration by Louie Whiteford



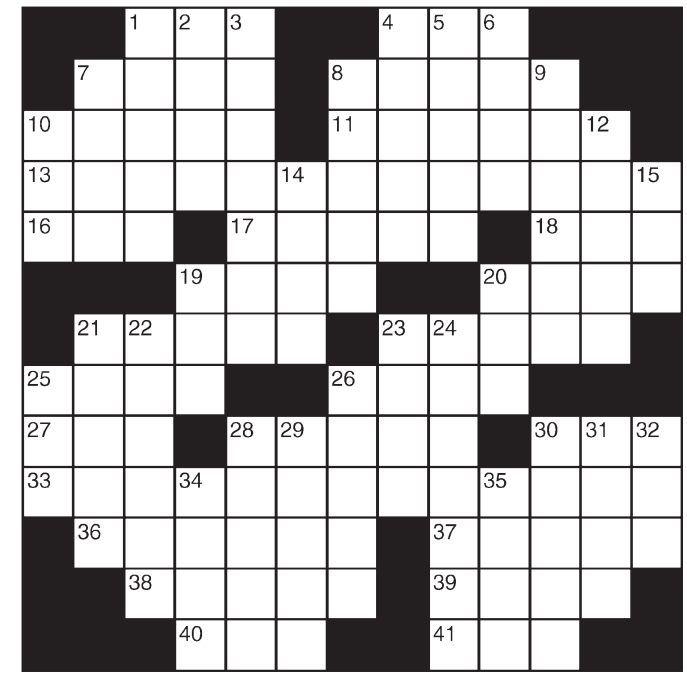
SUDOKU

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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

CROSSWORD

ANSWERS AT MSUEXPONENT.COM/CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 "Bam!"
4 Altar affirmative
7 Consequently
8 Dodge
10 Decorate
11 Eateries
13 Good thing with a bad element
16 Pigpen
17 Beethoven's "Für —"
18 Slithery squeezer
19 Chow
20 Galley supply
21 Nervous
23 Move laterally
25 Humdinger
26 Finished
27 — Baba
28 Accumulate
30 Witticism
33 Ambivalence of a sort
36 Sir Isaac who developed a short hand method
37 Finish
38 Archaeologists' meccas
39 Best pocket pair
40 "Monty Python" opener
41 Beavers' creation

DOWN

1 Substitute
2 Shrek is one
3 Is curious (about)
4 Wall-climbing plants
5 Thickly populated
6 Mined-over matters
7 Rewrite, maybe
8 Forgo the cue cards
9 — Council ("Survivor" meeting)
10 Mornings (Abbr.)
12 Sleep soundly?
14 Sad
15 Petrol
19 Wildebeest
20 Praise in verse
21 Dutch flower
22 Panacea
23 Mediocre
24 As an alternative
25 Felon's flight
26 Curses
28 Fess up
29 Wherewithal
30 Web surfer's need
31 Responsibility
32 Recipe meas.
34 Needle case
35 Bygone Peruvian

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