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### Montana Kaimin, March 11, 1997

Associated Students of the University of Montana

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# The University of Montana Montana Kaimin

Our 99th year, Issue 79

Kaimin is a Salish word for messages

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

## UM groups to receive less money

Jennifer Brown  
Kaimin Reporter

Nearly every ASUM-recognized group from big agencies like ASUM Child Care to small clubs like Habitat for Humanity had their budgets slashed by the ASUM Senate Saturday.

With about \$40,000 less to dole out this year than last year, the senate struggled to satisfy more than \$850,000 worth of requests with only \$525,000.

Last year's senate zeroed out the Montana Kaimin's \$40,000 budget and gave the extra funds to other organizations. But students later voted to reduce the activity fee by \$2 and create a separate Kaimin fee to fund the student paper in the future, leaving the senate with \$40,000 less to hand out this year.

**Complete listing of group's budgets on page 3**

The senate also cut travel fund requests from each group's budget and put the money into a separate travel fund, making final budget allotments look even more meager.

"Budgets were so padded last year because we had \$40,000 to play with," said ASUM Business Manager Jeff Merrick. "We were trying to use up all the money, and we just handed it out left and right."

Merrick said a \$26 activity fee wasn't enough to support campus organizations, and said he hopes the fee will be increased by \$2 by fall of 1998.

ASUM Child Care received about \$94,000 from ASUM, more than \$5,000 less than what Program Director Marcia Ronck said it needed to maintain its current level of service. Because of the cut, and Montana's new minimum wage law, Child Care will have to either eliminate programs or increase rates next year.

Ronck said Child Care will probably eliminate its after-school program, and possibly even its summer program.

Annie Hamilton, a lawyer at ASUM Legal Services, tells the same story. Charging students \$5 to mend a DUI or get a divorce will probably become a thing of the past, she said.

Hamilton said as much as she hates doing it, Legal Services will probably raise fees by at least \$5 or \$10 next year.

"A lot of people are very, very poor," she said. "If we raise fees we'll eliminate help for some of the poorest students. If we keep raising fees, at some point we'd get too expensive even for most students."

With little money to spare, senators punished groups that

See "Cuts" page 8

## Travel funds cut from club budgets

Jennifer Brown  
Kaimin Reporter

The ASUM Senate voted Saturday to strip requested travel funds from every recognized club's budget.

Instead of receiving travel allowances in their yearly budgets as they have every year, clubs walked away from the budgeting process with no money to attend conferences or take recreational trips. Beginning next fall, groups will have to ask the senate for travel money on a case-by-case basis.

At the start of the final budgeting process, the senate zeroed out the requests for travel money valuing nearly \$20,000 and created a separate travel fund.

ASUM administration, Child

Care, Legal Services, the Sports Union and UM Productions were exempt from the cut.

Gilly Glaes, co-coordinator of Advocates, said she thought the senate's last-minute decision was a bad one. Because travel money for their annual spring retreat wasn't set aside during this year's budgeting process, Advocates coordinators won't be able to plan the event ahead of time, Glaes said.

"It's kind of like changing the rules in the middle of the game without telling the players," she said.

ASUM Business Manager Jeff Merrick said the new system will save money in the long run because groups will be forced to present exact travel costs to receive a travel allocation. At the time of the budgeting process,

groups can only estimate how much tickets will cost or exactly where they will be traveling, and budgets might not be accurate, he said.

"By setting up a travel fund, it gives (the Budget and Finance Committee) a chance to make a decision with all the travel information right in front of them," Merrick said. "The bottom line is there's too much ambiguity as a whole."

Merrick added he thinks groups will fare better this way than they would have if a travel fund wasn't created. He said the senate as a whole wasn't in favor of funding travel, and many travel allocations would have been eliminated in the budgeting process.

"A lot of people were planning on drastically cutting travel any-

way," he said. "We wanted to still give those groups a chance."

But ASUM President Jason Thielman said the change was made too late in the budgeting process to be fair to students.

"After you've told groups how the process works, and then you go back and change it, that's wrong," he said. "Even though your intention was a good one, that is not a good way to go about business."

Thielman also criticized the new system for its lack of rules. He said next year's group leaders, who won't be familiar with the process, will have to lobby for travel money without much information.

Other senators who dissented were Jennifer Gardner, Michelle Gradnig, Kristy Krinock and Vinny Iacopini.

## Talking about Tibet



Tucker Brooks/Kaimin

Demonstrators gathered in front of the Missoula County Court House Monday to protest China's presence in Tibet. There are approximately 26 Tibetans in Missoula who came here when China took control of their homeland.

## Speakers address protest concerns

Kim Skornogoski  
Kaimin Reporter

Laissez-faire economics has helped American companies make millions in China, said two speakers visiting UM Monday as part of the Mansfield Spring Forum.

Both the Minister of the Chinese Embassy, Shao Wenguang, and one of the top American businessmen in China, Jerry Norskog, said because China is still a developing nation, its people are looking for the goods America is selling.

But 13 Tibetans and 10 members of the Students for Free Tibet club protested the lecture outside the Gallagher Business Building, saying that money has kept the

United States from ending China's mistreatment of Tibetans.

Monday also marked the anniversary of the only Tibetan uprising against the Chinese Government, which entered Tibet in 1949.

The protestors held signs reading "Boycott Chinese Goods," "Long live his Holiness the Dalai Lama" and "China out of Tibet," while the Mansfield speakers talked to nearly 70 business students.

The speakers responded to the human rights concerns, saying Americans had a limited understanding of life and business in China and said what they do know is negative.

"The U.S. lost any mandate to carry the flag (uphold-

ing human rights)," Norskog said. "If you want to look at human rights problems you can just look outside your door."

The protestors said they were trying to grab the attention of Shao, a prominent Chinese official. Shao briefly addressed the issue, saying American companies must adapt to the Chinese rules or lack there of.

"A lot of companies come in and decide their way is the only way and then expect their business to be done in two days," Shao said. "Rules and regulations have always been a challenge."

"The government supervision and red tape make it difficult for even the most experienced business to succeed in China," he said.

## SARS, Women's Center to host vigil

Jennifer Brown  
Kaimin Reporter

To ease the community's "general sense of unrest," Sexual Assault Recovery Services and the Women's Center will hold a candlelight vigil Tuesday in memory of Ginny Hann, the 19-year-old woman who was found dead near Blue Mountain Road March 1.

"Mostly we wanted to provide a venue for the campus and the whole community to grieve," said Eliza Donley, SARS coordinator. "I think there's a general loss of security among people."

Participants should gather at Jacob's Island near the south side of footbridge at 7 p.m.

Donley said she doesn't want to create more media coverage about Hann's death, but she felt the vigil was necessary for grieving women, especially those who are survivors of sexual assault. The SARS office has been busier than usual since Hann's death, she said. "For anyone that is a survivor of sexual assault, this kind of tragedy really brings up their deepest fears and anxieties, whether they have nightmares they haven't had for a while, or just a general sense of insecurity," Donley said.

Although authorities have not determined whether Hann was sexually assaulted, Donley said the circumstances surrounding her death are enough to prompt a scare among women.

"It's such an obvious illustration of the seriousness of violence against women," she said.



# Opinion

## Letters to the Editor

### Senate dives into new budget policy

The ASUM Senate acted too hastily Saturday when it rewrote its budgeting policy minutes before its annual budgeting session.

The senate opened the budgeting marathon by voting to establish a special travel fund for student groups. In the past, this money was given to groups during their regular budgeting session as part of their annual allotment.

Under this new policy, travel money is set aside in a separate \$20,000 fund, requiring groups to now get two nods

of approval before they can get travel dollars. Both ASUM's Budget and Finance Committee and the Senate will have to approve the groups' travel requests, creating another layer of bureaucracy for students.

Though this new policy might be good in theory, the route the senate took to put it in place is questionable.

The senate passed the measure Saturday without letting groups know about this proposal ahead of time. In its haste, the senators also failed to develop a clear-cut structure they can follow when they hand this money out.

Already the new policy is striking fear in some groups. UM's Advocates are concerned about the policy, saying in the future they can't plan much ahead of time for their annual spring retreat because they won't know for sure if ASUM will give them the money to go.

"It's kind of like changing the rules in the middle of the game without telling the players," Advocate Coordinator Gilly Glaes said.

Even though the new policy was pushed through the Senate without warning, the new plan might also have its advantages. Instead of having to make a ballpark guess of their travel costs for the entire year all at one time, groups can now estimate how much money they need on a trip-by-trip basis.

But while in this respect the policy might make things easier on these clubs, it could make life a lot tougher on the Senate. Since ASUM will have a specific amount of travel money to stick to each semester, the senators will have to be careful they don't dish out too much money too early in the semester, leaving groups high and dry by the end.

The ASUM budgeting process is an ordeal that can make or break these groups, and one they don't take lightly. If ASUM plans to make drastic changes to the process, the senators better make sure they have a specific plan in mind and let students know about it ahead of time. Otherwise they are just creating more policy, and more student apprehension.

-Kevin Crough and Matt Ochsner

### NLP alternative to party bickering

Editor,

I attended a forum March 6 at UM featuring speakers from the Democratic and New parties which was intended, I had understood, to examine third-party politics. What I witnessed was mainly a doctrinal dispute between Democrats. The difference between the two parties appears minor.

The spokespersons for the Democrats, state Rep. Carolyn Squires and former congressman Pat Williams, demonstrated no willingness to work with other points of view and resorted mainly to worn-out rhetoric in defense of the Democratic Party and its traditional alliances with special interest groups. Both made it clear that they see no useful role for alternative parties. The only path to political fulfillment is through the Democrats, they intimated. As usual, Republicans were demonized and alternative parties ridiculed as impediments to Democrat advantage. Even New Party spokesman Joel Rogers could not resist dismissing any party other than his own as having no realistic chance of electing candidates. In particular, the new Natural Law Party was mentioned by the speakers as an example of how the alternative party movement, which is now flourishing, can get out of hand.

This arrogant display of political fundamentalism was not lost on several members of the audience, who attempted to jerk the speakers out of their dreamworld into the reality of voter dissatisfaction

with the two-party dog and pony show. The microphone was abruptly cut off by moderator Eric Johnson when it was my turn to speak. So, I was unable to point out to Mr. Rogers and the others that Natural Law Party candidates drew 1.4 million votes in the 1996 election, including nearly 59,000 in Montana for Secretary of State candidate Martha Oas. And, unlike the New Party, we qualified for ballot status in the 1998 Montana elections. Rather than siphoning votes away from worthy Democrat candidates, as Mrs. Squires and Mr. Williams contended, NLP candidates offered voters a real choice with a new vision, innovative ideas and proven solutions.

While these two parties quibble over who best represents "progressive" ideology, the NLP will work for significant changes in society, politics and government.

-Michael Sullivan

### Hann remembered in vigil

Editor,

I am deeply saddened by the recent murder of Ginny Hann. Hearing the news, not only left a devastating impact, but a gaping hole in my gut. I can't help but wonder how others are experiencing this loss.

The media painted an all too true image of a young woman laying dead by the side of the road. She was not only made vulnerable by the person(s) who murdered her but by the vision our community must hold of her as naked and motionless. This

haunting image is bound to trigger a deep sense of vulnerability in us all.

The truth is we are all vulnerable to both random and premeditated violence. We can master methods of self-defense, we can suggest that by making different choices than Ginny we are somehow less likely to be victims ourselves, we can pretend this is an isolated event but in reality everyone of us could potentially be victimized at some point.

People often ask me if my job is depressing; generally I answer no. At SARS we see many survivors of violent crime, and we celebrate their ability to be brave, to face shame, to break their isolation, to ask for help, to strive to heal and most importantly to survive. We don't see the Ginny Hanns of the world, we are left only with the still black and white pictures printed in the paper and worse yet the image of her death.

In an attempt to create a venue for our community to acknowledge and grieve Ginny Hann, SARS and the Women's Center have organized a candlelight vigil to be held at Jacob's Island, Tuesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. This vigil will provide the opportunity for affected campus and community members to gather and share the varying losses we experience surrounding tragedy. All are welcome, please bring your own candle if you are able.

-Eliza Donley  
SARS Coordinator

## Montana Kaimin

The Montana Kaimin, in its 99th year, is published by the students of The University of Montana, Missoula. The UM School of Journalism uses the Montana Kaimin for practice courses but assumes no control over policy or content.

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## Concerning U

legislators from the table.



**President's open office hours-** 3-5 p.m., appointments appreciated, Call 243-2311

**Lecture-** "Electronic Teaching Initiatives through Information Power and Cyberspace," 7-9 p.m., Journalism 304, free.

**Drama Production-** "Our Country's Good," 7:30 p.m., March 11-15 and 25-29, Masquer Theatre, PAR-TV building, call 243-4581 for tickets.

**UC information table-** Student Legislative Action Movement (SLAM), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., students can call

**Open House-** UM Zoological Museum, 12-6 p.m., University of Montana Health Sciences Building, rooms 201 and 212. See specimens being prepared, visit a live beetle colony and view collections from Montana and around the world. Call 243-4743 for information.

**UM Public Forum on U.S.-Chinese Relations** "The Rule of Law in China," by Gerry Norskog, 3 p.m., law school Castles Center, free.

**Opera Theatre-** "Ruth," a world premiere by UM's Director of Choral Activities, Dr. Gary Funk, the story of a family's flight to freedom and their battle for survival during the last days of WWII, Music Recital Hall, 7:30

p.m., \$3 general admission, \$1 students and seniors.



**Women's Studies Brown Bag Lunch series-** "Nervous System Injury and Repair," by Diana Lurie, research assistant professor of pharmacological sciences, Liberal Arts Building room 138, noon-1 p.m. free.

**Graduate Student Association Meeting-** Legal Service discussion led by UM Anne Lewis Hamilton,





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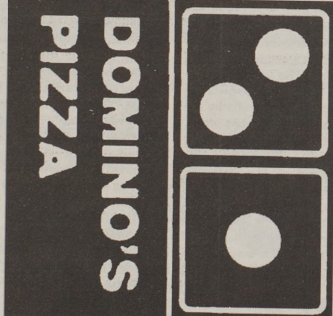
## Group budget allocations

The first figure after the club name is the dollar amount (rounded to nearest whole) allocated by the ASUM Senate for the 1997-98 fiscal year and the second is the amount allocated for the 1996-97 fiscal year. An asterisk means the club's travel budget was zeroed and put in a separate travel fund (see story on page 1 for explanation). N/A means the club was not ASUM-recognized last year.

ASUM Administration-86,719; 95,339  
ASUM Child Care-94,271; 88,165  
ASUM Legal Services-93,580; 95,869  
Advocates\*-2,668; 6,209  
Ask An Alum\*-0; 320  
CAMS-2,155; 1,625  
Cutbank\*-7,104; 1,625  
Escort Services\*-0; 0  
Peer Advising Program-2,873; 984  
Peers Reaching Out-460; 500  
Students Tutoring Students-13,916; 13,103  
UM Productions-83,568; 82,774  
Ad Team\*-1,900; 4,386  
Alpha Lambda Delta-120; 144  
American Chemical Society-150; 75  
American Indian Business  
Leaders\*-1,725; 2,161  
AISES-745; 995  
Anthropology Club\*-510; 707  
Artist's Collective\*-160; 991  
Beta Phi Alpha\*-45; 285  
Biological Sciences  
Organization\*-50; 1,550  
Buttered Toast Society-203; 1,160  
Chamber Choral-330; N/A  
Corps of Cadets-425; 858  
Composers-3,100; N/A  
Counselor Education  
Graduate Students\*-1,202; 924  
Edna Rankin Law Society-260; 50  
Environmental Organizing  
Semester\*-0; N/A  
Flora and Fauna Society\*-331; 729  
Forestry Students Association\*-676; 1,190  
Geography Club\*-25; 349  
Geology Student Association\*-559; 349  
Golden Key Honor Society-455; 335  
Honors Student Association-400; 600  
International Wildlife Film  
Festival-1,325; 1,552  
Jazz Band-1,950; 5,000  
Le Cercle Francais-605; 610  
Montana Model UN\*-620; 50  
Mortar Board-720; 742  
Orchestra\*-100; 950  
Phi Alpha-40; 160  
Physical Therapy Student  
Association\*-625; 1,425  
Physics Club-340; N/A  
Pi Sigma Alpha-2,029; 336

Pre-Health Club\*-254; 371  
Society of American Foresters\*-94; 979  
Student Recreation Association\*-210; 1,081  
Student Social Work  
Association-373; 1,064  
Symphonic Winds\*-370; 2,000  
University Choir\*-350; 1,054  
Vocational Industrial Clubs  
of America\*-200; 2,197  
Wildlands Studies and  
Information-428; 0  
Wildlife Society\*-337; 1,455  
Women's Law Caucus-0; 1,062  
Woodmen Team-189; 3,001  
ADSUM-5,932; 7,230  
AAUW-572; 152  
Amnesty International-320; N/A  
Campus Christian Club\*-300; 550  
Campus Crusade for Christ\*-906; N/A  
Catholic Campus Ministry\*-299; 53  
Chinese Student Association-955; 1,015  
Circle K Club-190; N/A  
College Democrats-463; N/A  
Druids-298; 229  
Graduate Student Association-3,179; N/A  
Habitat for Humanity\*-216; N/A  
Hmong Student Association\*-360; 719  
IPC-5,350; 6,703  
ISA-6,578; 6,487  
Intervarsity Christian  
Fellowship\*-311; 1,309  
Japan Club-831; 658  
Kyi-Yo Native American Club-6,263; 1,082  
Lambda Alliance-6,359; 5,984  
Malaysian Students  
Association-1,925; 1,600  
National Student Exchange-0; 1,050  
Native American  
Student Association\*-420; N/A  
Panhellenic-4,922; 6,618  
Phoenix-6,648; 6,760  
Spurs\*-215; 364  
Student Activist Videos for  
Environment-200; N/A  
Students for a Free Tibet-421; N/A  
University Christian Fellowship\*-640; N/A  
Volunteer Action Services\*-1,168; 2,597  
Women's Center-10,314; 9,486  
Young Life Support\*-400; 683  
Sports Union-20,890; N/A

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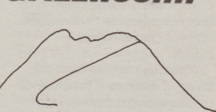
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# eyespy

The Montana Kaimin Weekly Arts and Entertainment Section • March 11 - 24, 1997

## New art program debuts

Art Museum of Missoula sets up 'open mic' for artists

**Cara Grill**  
Eye Spy Writer

A new monthly art event will give visual artists the same kind of "open mic" opportunity that musicians and writers have utilized for years, according to one of the events' curators, Kathleen Stone.

The Slide Share program makes its debut at the Art Museum of Missoula Wednesday, when three local artists will show and discuss slides of their work and have a question-and-answer session with the audience.

Francis Pearson, a sculptor and painter who integrates found objects into his work, will give a slide presentation, as will Kim Hamblin, an artist who combines industrial materials with natural ones (one of her works contrasts metal with real rose petals), and Dyna Kuehnle, who casts bronze sculptures that include bits and pieces of found objects.

The three artists have one thing in common — their use of unconventional materials in their creations. Hence the name of the program, "Material Matters," where the artists will discuss why one person's junk is another's treasure.

Kuehnle said there is a need for programs like this one because there aren't many large galleries in town, and few feature contemporary artists.

"It's going to make the whole art scene feel a little more accessible," she said. "More people can get in on a slide show than a gallery show."

The curators, Stone and Toni Matlock Taylor, came up

with the idea for the program when they noticed the many community activities based around writers, like readings at the university and poetry open mics at downtown bars, and a lack of opportunities for visual artists.

"We're taking the richness of the literary scene here and thinking 'let's do something like this for artists'" Stone said.

Stone and Taylor are both artists themselves, both doing mixed-media installations and volunteering at the Art Museum. They said they see

**"It's going to make the whole art scene feel a little more accessible."**

—Dyna Kuehnle  
local artist

the monthly slide presentations as a way to give artists the chance to talk about their work and get feedback from an audience in a setting more relaxed than a typical gallery art showing.

"When you engage each other, that's crucial to create a supportive art community. It's also a venue for artists to have a voice...there are other ways for artists to be active than just showing work," Taylor said.

Kuehnle said the shows also will get artists to test out their speaking talents.

"Art is about communication. It's important to communicate verbally as well as visually," Kuehnle said.

Taylor said that although she sees the program as mainly a community service, there's

also a self-serving element involved.

"We're new here, so we don't really know many artists yet. This way, we get to meet artists in the community, and see what they're doing," she said.

The program will be held the second Wednesday of each month, and artists will continue to be chosen based on that month's theme, which is thought up by Stone and Taylor. This month, they chose to concentrate on strange material use, but they said they foresee topics like figure study, humor and any number of things in the future. Next month, they are concentrating on artists whose works are "environmentally based."

Publicity costs money, and the program isn't getting much funding. Stone said she hopes to see it be a success through word-of-mouth, so that local and regional artists will send a "flood of slide submissions."

"It'll just become a permanent feature of the community," Stone said of the program's future prospects.

Established artists and students alike are invited to participate. The only real guidelines for artists are that they have good slides and a "cohesive body of work," Stone said.

Stone and Taylor are now accepting any and all submissions sent to the Art Museum, not just those for next month's program about environmental issues.

This month's program is from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, March 12, in the Art Museum of Missoula, 335 N. Pattee. It's free, and the public is invited. For information about submissions, call Kathleen Stone at 728-3790, or Toni Matlock Taylor at 542-9450.

## A saint of (many) saints

*If we honor St. Patrick, why not honor all the others?*

Here's a novel idea: instead of dissolving yourself in a pool of Gaelic vomit this St. Patrick's Day, why don't you toast a good dental checkup, a recently-ached midterm or your healthy low-fat diet? Personal goals and achievements are the ones to take pride in; being proud of where your grandparents came from is like being proud of the weather. You didn't have much say in the matter, did you? I wonder where all the shrunken-head deifiers will be this Monday? Probably shelving their hard-line stances long enough to indulge in another display of repugnant nationalism.

Kidding! I'm just kidding! I love St. Patrick's Day. You don't even have to be Irish to get into it, as long as you throw around a few stock phrases and remember to take a swing at anybody wearing orange. Erin Go Bragh! Bap! Much cooler than Thanksgiving. What a bunch of shit-talking squares, those pilgrims.

The Finns, of all people, have the second-coolest holiday, which is actually the day before St. Patrick's Day. It's called St. Urho's Day, and it's supposedly named after the patron saint of Finland, whose notable achievement was to drive all the grasshoppers out of the country. Sound familiar? That's because it's total bullshit. The legend of St. Urho is a complete swiz, fabricated in the 50s by a bunch of department store secretaries somewhere in Minnesota. That doesn't much perturb the Butte Finns, however, who turn out in droves at the Helsinki Bar on March 16 to crown their king. Finland, by the way, has never had its own king.

The Christian calendar is heavy with saints' days, actually, and a number of St. Patrick's martyred cousins were considerably cooler than him. Chased the snakes out of Ireland? Big deal. In the seventh century, St. Modwenna (July 5) sailed to Wales on a piece of land that had broken off of Ireland. She will grant children to childless couples in exchange for a sacrificed pig! When St. Kenelm (July 17) was slain by his sister Quendreda in the ninth century, a dove flew from his split-open skull and flew to Rome to squeal to the Pope. After Kenelm's corpse was found, Quendreda's eyes

exploded when she tried to curse his funeral procession by reading Psalm 108 backward! St. Vitus (June 15) not only got a day named after him, but a band and a disease besides (That's, um, St. Vitus and St.

Vitus' Dance — Sydenham's chorea — respectively!) St. Sigebert (Jan. 16) was one of the most awesomely martyred saints of all, cut down in the seventh century by the army of King Penda of Mercia, after marching into battle carrying nothing but a stick. Kind of makes spooking a few snakes look like a booger, doesn't it?

Too bad we can't rally alongside every saint on the calendar...we'd never have to stop drinking! We'd also have an excuse to absolve ourselves of any responsibility by blaming our drunkenness on some alleged national characteristic. If only I had a few shilling for every time someone's told me "I'm supposed to be drunk...I'm Irish!" The first three rounds would be on me.

That particular stripe of ethnic determinism (or whatever you want to call it) really tans my hide. Just the other day, some artist friend of my roommate's was attributing his peace-loving and beatific nature to "...my Swedish ancestry. I'm proud to be part of that heritage." Come again? That's learned behavior, doofus. Just because the Swedes were too chickenshit to fight in WWII doesn't mean they're some sort of BIOLOGICALLY PREORDAINED PACIFISTS. Remember the Vikings? They were Swedes, and they whaled on everybody...including the Irish. If the Irish get to be drunk, and the Swedes get to be peaceful, what kind of genetically-programmed behavior is expected of other nationalities? What if my ancestors came from Belgium? Does that mean I'm supposed to love waffles and have my port cities sit up from time to time? How about the Czech last name? Does having Czech ancestry make it OK for me to start silly wars by tossing people out windows?

Lucky for me, everyone's got some Irish in 'em on St. Patrick's Day. Or however that old joke goes. And I know what I'll be doing. I wonder why they call it Dutch courage?

Column by

Andy  
Smetanka

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# Samurai wars?

Who does George Lucas have to thank for the inspiration behind his monumental trilogy pitting good vs. evil? Read on...

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... It's not quite that far away and that long ago, but about 20 years ago in a small Japanese theater, a Japanese boy watched a space opera made in the United States.

"Star Wars" landed in Japan when I was around 8. It was the first American movie I ever watched, and it was my first encounter with American culture. I was stunned by the first scene - a big white spaceship appeared on the big screen. The movie was showing in English, and I was too small to understand the Japanese subtitles, but that didn't matter to me because it's a story of good versus evil. I was mesmerized.

"Star Wars" appealed to the



A SCENE from Akira Kurosawa's "Seven Samurai" a 1954 film that was a prelude to the epic struggle of good and evil, and the violence that goes along with it, in George Lucas' "Star Wars" trilogy.

universal audience and the Japanese were no exception.

Japan is a big film market for Hollywood and has contributed enormously to its success. While "Star Wars" grossed \$323 million and "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi" totaled \$487 million in domestic box offices, foreign receipts for the three were \$500 million. Although exact figures are unavailable, much of this was

contributed by the Japanese audience, and "Star Wars" still remains one of the highest grossing American films in Japan.

I enjoyed this simple hero story 20 years ago. However, as I look back, it seems to me that "Star Wars" contains more than a typical Hollywood science fiction film. There's something familiar, almost Japanese about "Star Wars".

For example, the Jedi's light saber is similar to a Japanese sword, and Darth Vader's outfit resembles the armor worn by a Japanese samurai. Princess Leia's hairstyle is reminiscent of an ancient Japanese hairdo, and Luke's white cloth is the garb of someone who practices Japanese martial arts today.

The idea of a "Force" also

comes from a mixture of Japanese martial arts philosophy, Shinto religion and oriental myth. A master-student relationship between Yoda, Obi-Wan and Luke has roots in Japanese martial arts and Japanese culture in general.

Story by

Hideto Masukawa

I practice the martial art of Aikido, and I sometimes lose focus when working on my sword technique. It helps to think of Luke fighting Darth Vader, hearing Obi-Wan's whisper of "use the Force" to regain concentration.

The great popularity of "Star Wars" in Japan might owe much to this oriental factor. Here is some evidence:

When making "Star Wars", Lucas was inspired by many different sources such as Joseph

Campbell's "The Hero with a Thousand Faces." However, his space opera was also influenced by Japanese samurai films and directors like Akira Kurosawa.

According to authors Gerald Mast and Bruce Kavin, (Kurosawa's samurai films also had a significant effort on another genre, and the plot of George Lucas' "Star Wars" owes as much to Kurosawa's "The Hidden Fortress" (1958) as it does to "The Wizard of Oz." Even the editing and pace of both "Star Wars" and "The Empire Strikes Back" were strongly influenced by the editing of "Seven Samurai".

Several of Kurosawa's films have been redone. "Seven Samurai" was remade as "The Magnificent Seven" by John Sturges and "Rashomon" was remade as "The Outrage" by Martin Ritt.

"The Hidden Fortress" has been acknowledged by Lucas as a primary influence for "Star Wars." R2-D2 and C-3PO are based on the combination of Taihei and Matsushichi, the Laurel-and-Hardy-like farmers in the film.

Even the Philadelphia Inquirer recently noted that "George Lucas envisioned his space opera about a young hero battling galactic evil starring an entirely Japanese cast."

Lucas apparently offered the role of Obi-Wan to Toshiro Mifune, a famous Japanese actor who played one of the seven samurais in Kurosawa's film. Of course, Alec Guinness ended up with the role.

When "The Empire Strikes Back" came to Japan, my grandmother gave me some money, and I used it to buy the soundtrack. It was a big decision for me at that time, and my grandmother has since passed away. However, she reminds me of Yoda because she was short with bad posture and looked like a 700-year-old Jedi master.

My childhood was influenced by the three "Star Wars" films and by the country that produced them. It's ironic that I now can watch the trilogy in a country that I used to think was as far away as a galaxy.

The force has always been with me.

-Hideto Masukawa is a graduate student in journalism and a native of Japan

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# Sports

## Lady Griz begin long road home

Bill Foley  
Kaimin Sports Editor

Two games away from returning home. That's how the Lady Griz basketball team is thinking heading into the NCAA tournament this weekend in Stanford University's Maples Pavilion in Palo Alto, Calif.

Two tough games. With the ninth seed in the West Region, 25-3 Montana will battle eighth-seeded Texas Tech (19-8) Saturday at 10:06 p.m.

The winner will most likely battle 30-1 Stanford Monday night for the right to play in the West Regionals in Missoula March 22-24.

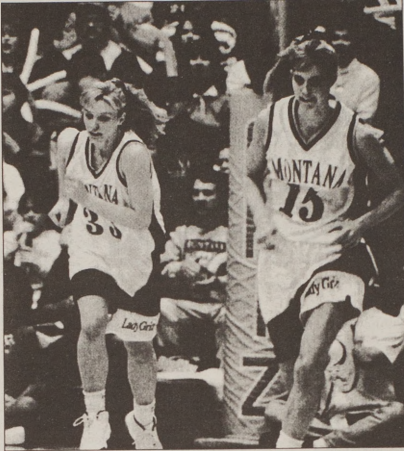
"I thought it was a fair seed," UM head coach Robin Selvig said Monday. "The bad part of that is that you're at a number one seed's site, but if you're thinking to get back here (for the regionals) you have to go over Stanford, Connecticut, or someone like that anyway."

Saturday, the Lady Griz qualified for the NCAA tournament for the fourth year in a row and the 12th time in 15 years by beating Montana State 52-49 to win the Big Sky Conference tournament in Dahlberg Arena.

Friday night the Lady Griz pounded Northern Arizona 73-42.

Junior forward Allison Turner led the Lady Griz in scoring both nights and totaled 26 for the tournament. For her effort, Turner was named to the all-tournament team along with senior forward Greta Koss.

Koss, who set a new team and tournament record with 20 rebounds against MSU, won the tournament MVP award for the second straight season.



Dave Steele/Kaimin

Allison Turner and Greta Koss help to lead the Lady Griz to the 1997 Big Sky basketball championship. Koss was named Most Valuable Player and with Turner was selected to the all-tournament team.

Junior point guard Skylia Sisco, who scored 20 points and dished out 10 assists in the tournament, was noticeably absent from the all-tournament team.

Texas Tech, one of six teams from the Big 12 Conference to make the NCAA tournament, comes into the game fresh off an upset loss

to Kansas State in its conference tournament. Tech was ranked 15th in the nation in both the AP and the coaches polls.

Selvig said the game should be a pretty equal matchup.

"Looking at their scores and stuff, it should be a good game," he said. "They are one of the premiere women's basketball powers right now."

**The Lady Griz are headed for the NCAA tournament and a showdown with 1993 national champions Texas Tech. Tipoff is Saturday at 10:06 p.m.**



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## Big Sky Tournament results

### • Women's tournament

#### 1st Round

Montana State 66 Cal State-Sacramento 55  
Northern Arizona 67 Weber State 62

#### Semi-Finals

Montana State 72 Idaho State 61  
Montana 73 Northern Arizona 42

#### Championship game

Montana 52 Montana State 49

### • Men's Tournament

#### 1st Round

Cal State-Northridge 74 Montana State 56  
Weber State 68 Idaho State 58

#### Semi-Finals

Montana 81 Weber State 56  
Cal State-Northridge 93 Northern Arizona 84

#### Championship game

Montana 82 Cal State-Northridge 79

# Griz draw Kentucky in first round

UM saddled with 16th seed in West region of NCAA tournament

**Steven Parker Gingras**  
*Kaimin Sports Reporter*

Montana's men's basketball team had little time to savor their Big Sky Conference tournament championship Saturday night learning Sunday it will face Kentucky in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Tipoff is set for 6 p.m. Thursday in Salt Lake City. Kentucky is the defending National Champion, the number one seed in the Western region of the tournament and the winner of the Southeastern Conference.

"If you take the name off the uniform," UM head coach Blaine Taylor said, "they're just another team, a lot of the awe is all just mental."

The game will be televised live on CBS in the prime time.

"We just want to enjoy the crowd, the television coverage, the notoriety of it all," Taylor said.

Montana gained the right

to play the Wildcats by defeating Weber State Friday night and Cal-State Northridge Saturday in the championship game of the conference tournament this past weekend.

"We showed up in

"We just want to enjoy the crowd, the television coverage, the notoriety of it all."

—Blaine Taylor  
*UM basketball head coach*

Flagstaff to play some ball," junior forward Ryan Dick said. "We weren't going down without a fight."

The Weber State game was more of a redemption than anything else. After being swept in the regular season, Montana held the other Wildcats to under 34 percent from the floor all night.

Five Griz players scored

over 10 points in the game. Dick and senior guard Kirk Walker both put in 16. Dick also grabbed nine rebounds.

Now the Griz are going to be taking on an offense that boasts two players with professional hopes.

Derek Anderson and Ron Mercer both average over 18 points a game. Kentucky is also 9-1 in their last 10 games.

Dick, who was born the same day the Grizzlies almost upset John Wooden's UCLA Bruin's 1975, said, "Only a coward wouldn't take the opportunity to play the best."

Montana last played a top seed in the NCAA tournament in 1990. Undefeated UNLV beat the Griz 99-65. UNLV went on to lose to Duke in the Final Four.

That experience, however, will not help anybody except Taylor.

"It gives me more experience than the kids," Taylor said. "I just want them to forget about who they're playing."

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# Independent staff slashed

Owner fires publisher; editor and five employees resign

**Neomi Van Horn**  
Kaimin Reporter

Missoula Independent owner Jeff Smith said the weekly paper will continue to hit the newsstands, even though the paper's publisher was fired and the editor and five employees resigned last week.

"It's going to continue to be the paper it's always been," Smith said Monday.

"Everything's going to be fine," Editor Eric Johnson resigned Monday and publisher Erik Cushman was fired last Thursday, almost six years after they started the weekly community paper together.

Owner Jeff Smith said he fired Cushman because of "severe differences in business thinking." Smith has since assumed publisher duties.

Thursday morning, Smith entered the Independent offices with a lawyer and a locksmith and told Johnson and Cushman they had one hour to clear their desks and leave the paper.

"This all came out of the absolute blue," Johnson said. "I can't sort this out yet," he said. "At the Christmas party two months ago in December we were all having beers together with our arms around each other."

Smith decided in January to make changes in management after the paper lost 12,900 that month.

Former associate editors Dan Oke and Andrea Barnett will share editorial duties.

While Smith said the paper's content will stay the same his former employees said it will change now that the founders are gone.

"The heart of the paper really has been messed with here," Johnson said. "I can't see how this group is going to carry on."

"The paper (people) have known and come to love is going to change," said Jamie Lennox, the Independent's front office and circulation manager who also resigned Thursday.

Lennox, two ad reps, an ad assistant and the photo editor also resigned in support of the former owners.

**"Cuts," continued from page 1**  
they said were poorly prepared for budgeting. The senate voted to decrease the Buttered Toast Society's budget by more than \$1,200, leaving it with about \$200.

"They had no clue what money was going where," Sen. Tom Wenz said. "We were in shock. I mean, the money was kept in a shoe box."

Smith, owner of J.S. Marketing and Communications in Missoula, bought the paper in August to help it recover from financial losses. Smith said the Independent has lost between \$50,000 to \$80,000 every year.

Johnson said "things deteriorated" soon after Smith took over management of the paper.

Cushman said Smith criticized him publicly, undermined his decisions and refused to

acknowledge his authority or listen to his financial advice.

Smith made Cushman the scapegoat of the Independent's financial problems, Johnson said.

Smith admits their relationship was "stressed" in the past few months, but said he has no hard feelings now.

"I'm not sure it ever would have been able to have been done differently," Smith said.

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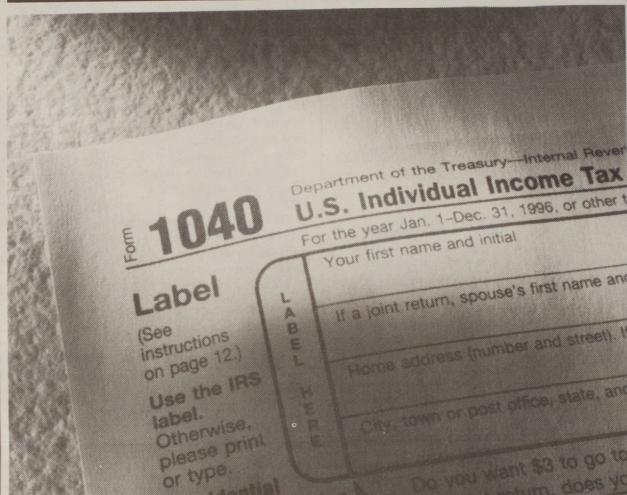
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