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Main Hall ^{to} Main St.

Vol. 5, No. 6

Connecting Campus and Community

June 1999

Talking Ted

Media mogul discusses business, journalism with UM students

Nuclear war is a real possibility, the planet's population is out of control and the United States hasn't owned up to its history of ethnic cleansing, according to media mogul Ted Turner, who spoke last month at The University of Montana.

The high-energy vice president of Time Warner Inc., the nation's largest media company, visited UM's business and journalism schools on May 24.

At each school, Turner viewed presentations of student work, answered questions about his experiences at the helm of a communications

empire and shared his views on a variety of topics.

Turner and his son, Beau, were on campus at the invitation of their friends, Dennis and Phyllis Washington, who are strong UM supporters.

In front of a packed audience in the Journalism Building auditorium, the billionaire activist and Montana landowner described his three passions: peace, population and the environment.

Following a presentation about the journalism school's Native News Honors Project — a newspaper supplement and television documentary that investigate Indian issues in Montana — Turner noted the hypocrisy of the United States.

"We are fighting to prevent ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia, but we were guilty of doing the same thing to

Native Americans for 400 years," he said. "We are holding ourselves up as paragons of virtue at a time when we haven't properly dealt with it."

Turner appeared impressed with the journalism school's attention to Indian issues and efforts to recruit Indian students.

"Thank you for trying in your way, at this university, to (give) Native Ameri-

ing CD-ROM design, a virtual tour of the building, videoconferencing and Internet courses.

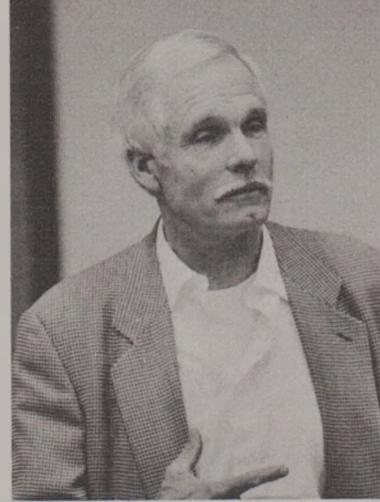
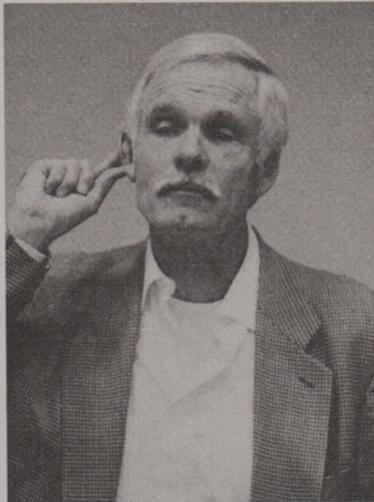
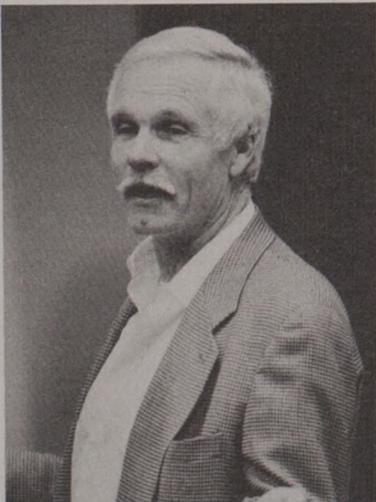
Turner said the Internet is having a big influence on traditional media.

"We are wrestling with what the impact will be," he said. "We think the fastest impacts will be in newspapers."

Technology is making modern life go too fast, Turner said. "I'm glad I lived in

the generation I did."

Worries about future generations spur Turner's renowned philanthropy. Through the Turner Foundation, he has given millions of dollars to environmental causes and charities. In



cans an opportunity to come into journalism," he said. "(The presentation) was very interesting, and I applaud you very much."

Though he said he is not a journalist, Turner gave journalism students some advice: "Take whatever job you can, and do the best you know how. And like cream, if you are good you will rise to the top, and if you're not, you will sink to the bottom. Work hard and don't accept failure as an option."

Turner also provided advice during his visit to the School of Business Administration, giving away his secret of business success: "Have your expenses be less than your income."

While in the Gallagher Building, Turner watched student presentations on experiential learning and types of technology used in the school, includ-

1997 he announced a \$1 billion gift to the United Nations for programs that benefit women, children and population programs.

"Every species that gets out of control is brought back into line by disease and starvation," he said. "And that will happen to us. It's already happening to us. Half the people in the world are going to bed without a full caloric content."

Turner fears a future that resembles the movie "Road Warrior," where humans fight "over the last tins of food and gas in the desert," he said.

"It's not a scenario I would like to see for the future of humanity. We are so smart and so brave, and have done so many incredible things. We have it in our power to be better than we are."

—Patia Stephens

Students dirty hands in service-learning project

The sun is making an uncharacteristic late spring appearance, casting its brilliant warmth over the half-acre garden that sits on the flat plain of the Rattlesnake valley. Next to rows of cool-weather vegetables — spinach, lettuce, kale — a group of students sits companionably on the ground, running their hands through beds of rich, dark earth.

The students are weeding the beds to fulfill a service-learning requirement in Kathy Humphries' summer semester nutrition class at UM. The class, HHP 236N, is one of about two dozen each year at the University that ask students to learn, in part, by providing volunteer labor in the community.

"We use the community as our laboratory," Humphries said. "You come out here and you can feel the sun and the heat and the humidity. You can see how the plants are doing the work."

During the students' eight-hour service-learning project, they will have the chance to relate what they learn in class to the real world. Here, in one of Garden City Harvest's community plots, the students learn firsthand where food comes from. They learn about the relationship between nutrition and good health, about phytochemicals and vitamins. And because Garden City Harvest provides fresh produce to the

Missoula Food Bank, the students also learn about issues of hunger.

"The idea with service learning is not to just go do the project, but to help the students make the connection with what they're doing," Humphries said.

Initially, some students are not thrilled about the prospect of doing volunteer work.

"They say, 'I'm paying tuition and you're making me dig in the dirt,'" Humphries said.

But digging in the dirt eventually wins them over, as they see how the hands-on labor adds to their learning experience.

"By the time the students are done with it, they are almost all excited about it," Humphries said. "Last year we had a lot of students who kept on after the class was over. They liked it."

Ginny Kokorudz, her fingers sifting soil as she culls out weeds, said she has previously done volunteer work, but never understood the full meaning until she took a class that included service learning.

"I think it's the best way to learn," Kokorudz said. "Getting out and putting your learning to work is most helpful. And it gives you a feeling of giving back to the community."

The garden's supervisor, Greg Price, said the donated time makes a big difference in the community.

"It certainly benefits the garden,"



Student volunteers from a UM nutrition class pitch in to pull weeds at Garden City Harvest's Rattlesnake plot.

Price said. He also said it's important for young people — many of whom have never grown anything themselves — to make the connection between food and the earth.

"They get to see where nutrition comes from — which is dirt," he said. "I don't think people make that connection. We just know we go to the supermarket and pick things off shelves."

—Patia Stephens

Pros say J-School makes the grade

The UM School of Journalism produces excellent graduates who are "soundly trained in the fundamentals of print journalism," according to a recent evaluation issued by the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association.

The organization backed up its vote of confidence with a \$10,000 award to the journalism school.

Four representatives of PNNA were on campus in early March to evaluate the journalism school's program and success at turning out students well-prepared for newspaper jobs.

"The school's commitment almost exactly matches PNNA's philosophy," the report said, adding that UM "continues to be a model for journalism programs that meet or exceed PNNA expectations."

The journalism school will use the award money to upgrade computer labs so that it can better train students in reporting, editing, design and photojournalism.

The report noted that classes at UM provide hands-on opportunities and make real-life demands.

"Teachers stress deadlines," it said. "And

many of the teachers were described by students as tough, but compassionate, great role-models for the real world where the best city editors exhibit both qualities."

The report singled out the "impressive effort" of the continuing Native News Honors Project, in which top students produce a 32-page newspaper supplement on Indian issues in Montana.

Areas of concern mentioned in the report included diminishing levels of state funding, the danger of faculty burnout due to a high student advisory load and increasingly inadequate facilities.

UM is well ahead of the curve in some areas, including teaching design, photojournalism and computer-assisted reporting, the report said.

PNNA represents about 60 newspapers in the Pacific Northwest region, which comprises Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Utah and British Columbia. Along with promoting the newspaper industry, it evaluates schools and provides financial support to those that uphold its high standards.

—Patia Stephens

Who's paying for the construction?

The President's Office has compiled a list of the most frequently asked questions and answers about the University, including the following. Future newsletters will carry others.

Question: The University has spent more than \$130 million on building projects during the last five years. What percentage of that money came from the taxpayers, from University bonds and from private donations?

Answer: \$145 million has been spent for construction and renovation of facilities on UM's four campuses. Of that amount 24 percent came from state funds, 11 percent from private donations, 62 percent from the issuance of revenue bonds and 3 percent from University local funds.



Bear Briefs

KUFM Kudos—UM's Broadcast Media Center and KUFM-TV Montana Public Television collected eight national awards for television programs in two awards competitions. Producer John Twiggs won two awards of excellence from the Videographer Awards for his productions "Growing Up in Japan," featuring a Missoula middle school's trip to Japan, and the continuing series "How the West Is Fun: Artists in the West," which featured Missoula middle school students interacting with Montana artists Beth Lo, Monte Dolack and Larry Pirmie. The "How the West Is Fun" series also claimed three Telly awards. In addition, UM television producers won awards for "Backroads of Montana: Pancakes and Polo" and for an informational video on the Montana Freedom of Information Hotline.

Outdoors Programs—Outer space, forensics and lasers are just a few of the areas kids can explore this summer during a host of programs offered by the Montana Natural History Center. The Summer Science Discovery Program and Nature Discovery Day Camps let children of all ages experience the fun and fascination of the natural world. The Montana Natural History Center has recruited experts from UM and the Missoula community to teach a variety of nature- and science-related topics. The Summer Science Discovery Program features more than a dozen weeklong, half-day sessions for students ages 8 to 15, depending on the class. Most classes cost \$52 for MNHC members and \$60 for nonmembers. Nature Discovery Day Camps are for children ages 7 to 11 and feature six weeklong sessions from July 5 through Aug. 13. The cost per week is \$100 for members and \$125 for nonmembers. For a catalog and registration form, call (406) 327-0405.

Panamanian Ties—The UM-based Montana World Trade Center has received a \$6,000 grant to establish relations with trade and environmental officials in Panama. The U.S. Trade and Development Agency grant will be used to bring the Panamanian ministers of commerce and environment to Montana this summer. During the visit Panamanian officials will have opportunities to meet with Montana leaders and environmental companies. For more information, call MWTC's Phil McCreedy at (406) 243-6983.

Folk, Blues—Legendary folk singer Joan Baez will bring her distinctive acoustic sound to a Missoula audience this summer when she performs at the University Theatre Thursday, July 27. Special guest Chris Smither will kick off the Baez concert at 8 p.m. Two nights later, on Thursday, July 29, musical legend Taj Mahal and the Phantom Blues Band will appear at the theater at 8 p.m. Tickets for both shows cost \$21 in advance and may be purchased at all TIC-IT-E-Z locations or by calling (888) MONTANA or 243-4051 in Missoula.

Funding Boost—In support of groundbreaking research on a vaccine against HIV, the privately-funded American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) has awarded UM virologist Jack H. Nunberg a second grant for \$142,000. With another recent grant of \$192,000 from the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, the total research funding for Nunberg's lab has risen to more than \$2 million for his novel approach to creating a way to protect people from AIDS. Nunberg's experimental vaccine involves capturing HIV protein in the midst of binding and fusion with cell-surface receptors. When genetically engineered mice were inoculated with this "fusion-competent" cell complex, they produced antibodies that were able to prevent HIV from infecting other cells in culture. This is the first vaccine to prove capable of inducing high levels of antibody activity against virtually all HIV subtypes in the world.

Busting Prejudice—Confronting and preventing prejudice against members of diverse groups will be the focus of upcoming workshops in Missoula this summer. The half-day and one-day prejudice reduction workshops are led by UM staffers trained by the Washington, D.C.-based National Coalition Building Institute. The workshops will teach participants to challenge offensive comments without being confrontational and to act as constructive allies on behalf of other groups. Workshops will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, July 23, and from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, Aug. 19. Registration for the July workshop is \$30; the August workshop costs \$10. Locations will be announced later. Call University Center Programming at (406) 243-5776 or (406) 243-5754.

Link Down Under—The University has finalized an accord with Australia's Charles Sturt University to support an exchange of students, faculty and staff. UM President George Dennison and CSU Pro Vice Chancellor Peter Hodgson signed an exchange agreement earlier this month. Students from Montana will study at CSU while paying their fees at UM and vice versa. CSU was named Australia's University of the Year in 1997 and is known for its outstanding programs in environmental studies, natural resource management and journalism. Each of its four campuses — located in the countryside a few hours from Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra — provides all of the facilities and services of a larger city but without the traffic, pollution, high costs and other problems associated with a metropolitan area.

Undergrad Research—Ten undergraduate students in the Division of Biological Sciences have received funding for summer research projects. The students are all seniors, and they were funded through the Integrated Biological Science Courses Organized Around Research Experiences project (Project IBS-CORE), which is intended to involve more undergraduate students in biological research. Project IBS-CORE is funded by a prestigious \$1.4 million grant that was awarded to UM last year by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a nonprofit medical research organization. The 1999 IBS-CORE Undergraduate Research Fellows are: Sandra Beirne of Walla Walla, Wash.; Vanessa Groves of Helena; Levia Jones of Ashland, Ore.; Maryann Hubbard, Suzanne Cox and Todd Osmundson of Missoula; Bethany Poulin of Hollis, N.H.; Davin Ringen of Yuba City, Calif.; Robert Scalise of Springfield, Va.; and Morgan Valiant of Bloomington, Ind.

High Marks—UM student athletes had one of the best academic seasons on record. Athletes scored well in the classroom spring semester, with more than 55 percent achieving grade-point averages of 3.0 or better. The average cumulative GPA for student athletes was 2.92, compared with 2.85 for the general student population. Forty-one student athletes made the Dean's List, and 12 earned a perfect 4.0. More than half the football team carried 3.0 GPAs or better.

Flathead Lake Biological Station Plans Centennial Birthday Bash

UM's Flathead Lake Biological Station will commemorate its 100-year existence with a centennial celebration, including an open house, special guests and birthday cake on Sunday, July 11.

The public is invited to the celebration and to learn about the station at Flathead Lake's Yellow Bay, located roughly halfway between Polson and Bigfork on Highway 35.

Those who attend the celebration will be eligible to win a door prize, and their names will be placed in a time capsule — with other memorabilia — that will remain buried until the station's bicentennial.

From 1 to 5 p.m. the biological station will hold an open house. The public can meet with students, faculty and researchers to learn about the station's education program and current research projects.

Guests also can explore the station's history in the museum.

Station tours and short lake tours on the research boat, the *Jessie B*, will be scheduled throughout the afternoon. Vintage boats, such as the old Waterton Lake vessel, also will be at the station. Birthday cake will be served at 3:30 p.m.

From 2 to 3:30 p.m. guests will hear about the station's history, future and significance from various speakers, including George Dennison, president of UM; Jack Stanford, director and Jessie M. Bierman professor of ecology at the biological station; and Lloyd Chesnut, vice president for research at UM. Professor Charles Goldman from the University of California, Davis, will discuss "Science, Economics and Common Sense," and Bruce Young, president of the Friends of the Flathead Lake Biological Station, will talk about the importance of the station to Montana.

Other special guests scheduled to speak — though subject to change — are U.S. Sen. Max Baucus; John Lithgow,

star of NBC's "3rd Rock from the Sun"; and Phil Jackson, former Chicago Bulls head coach who now coaches the Los Angeles Lakers. Lithgow and Jackson are both members of the biological station's centennial advisory council and have homes on Flathead Lake.

Goldman, a world-renowned limnologist who has researched Lake Tahoe extensively, will speak again at 7 p.m. about "Lessons Learned and Lessons Lost: Science and Lake Tahoe." It is free and open to the public.

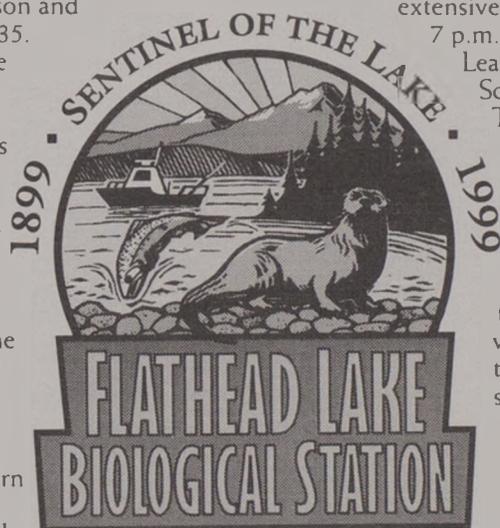
Morton Elrod established the Flathead Lake Biological Station in 1899 on the bank of the Swan River, where Bigfork stands today. Elrod taught science in the field each summer, while also pioneering the area's scientific research and influencing the

establishment of the National Bison Range and Glacier National Park. By 1912 Elrod had moved the biological station to Yellow Bay, onto land granted to UM by the federal government. There the station's summer program continued until 1922, when the station closed for financial reasons. It wasn't until 1948, with the help of World War II surplus, that the biological station reopened.

In 1977 it became a year-round research facility. Since then the station — dedicated to education, research and community outreach — has become internationally recognized for its expertise in limnological study, particularly the limnology of Flathead Lake. Station scientists use their knowledge of the Flathead system to inform the public and regulatory authorities about the ecosystem's health.

For more information about the station or the centennial celebration, call (406) 982-3301 or visit the station's Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/biology/flbs>.

—Janelle Lamb



UM Calendar

Wednesday, July 7

Summer orientation—through Friday, July 9. Call Admissions and New Student Services at (406) 243-6266 or (800) 462-8636.

Saturday, July 10

Family outing—"Collecting Wildflowers and Native Grass Seeds" will teach participants to identify wildflowers and grasses on Mount Sentinel and how to grow local plants from seed, 9 a.m. to noon, meet at the M Trailhead. For more information, call the Montana Natural History Center at (406) 327-0405.

Monday, July 26

Summer Science Discovery Program—"Journey Through the Universe of Chemistry," for ages 8-12, through July 30. Kids will experiment with chemical processes and both natural and human-initiated reactions, 10 a.m. to noon at UM. Also July 26-30 is "Exploring the Brain," for ages 11-14. This class will explore how we gather and process information about the world around us, 1-3 p.m. at UM. For a catalog and registration form, call the Montana Natural History Center at (406) 327-0405 or e-mail mnhc@montana.com.

Tuesday, July 27

Concert—Joan Baez with special guest Chris Smither, 8 p.m., University Theatre. Tickets available at all TIC-IT-E-Z outlets, \$21/advance reserved (plus applicable ticket outlet charge). Call (888) 842-4830 or 243-4999 for more information.

Thursday, July 29

Concert—Taj Mahal and The Phantom Blues Band, 8 p.m., University Theatre. Tickets \$21/advance, \$23/day of show; call (888) 842-4830 or 243-4999 for more information.

Sunday, August 1

Electronic commerce course—"e-Business: Opportunities, Challenges, and Winning Strategies," through Aug. 4 (Aug. 6 for three graduate credits). Senior executives from a cross-section of industries explore a diverse range of topics including: the dynamics and secrets of e-business, global e-marketing, e-legal and payment issues and successful and effective Web-site development. Cost is \$995 for regular registration, and \$900 for graduate credit. To get more information or to register online, visit <http://www.e-win.org> or call (888) 773-2703.



The University of
Montana

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