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University of Montana becomes aerial target

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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NEWS

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MISSOULA, MONTANA 59801

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MISSOULA--

UM BECOMES AERIAL TARGET

Missoula motorists who traverse Arthur, Beckwith or the new road east of the UM campus at the foot of Mount Sentinel, may have been puzzled by the curious markings to be found on those streets.

UM students may have been equally at loss to explain the curious markings to be found on sidewalks and others, in cloth, nailed to the turf on the campus. In some places manhole covers have suddenly blossomed out in white paint.

It's not a college prank, the mark of the beast or the sign of a new cult, but it is a sign of the time.

The University has hired a Spokane firm of engineers to provide a topographical map of the campus needed for planning the expansion of utilities.

Most of the work is done by aerial photography. The strange markings are called "ground control" which provides known elevations and distances to be used as reference points on the photos.

J.A. (Ted) Parker, UM physical plant director, states that the paint used for the targeting contains a low grade pigment designed to naturally erode away within a reasonable time.

Other targets, such as the cloth spiked into the grass, will be removed after the photos have been checked for accuracy.

Parker said the campus was photographed on Thursday, April 18, and he expected the cloth targets would be gone within a week or two.

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