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Montana Kaimin, March 1, 2007

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MONTANA KAIMIN

Thursday, March 1, 2007

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Volume CIX, Issue 70

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Discussion continues on death penalty bill

CHANDRA JOHNSON
MONTANA KAIMIN

In a historic move, the Montana Senate passed a bill late last week that would abolish the state death penalty and replace it with a life prison sentence without parole. It was the first time such a measure has passed either house of the Legislature.

"We're supporting this bill because we don't feel the death penalty is a deterrent," said bill sponsor Sen. Dan Harrington, D-Butte.

So as the bill is transferred to the House for readings and debate, the question looms: Does Montana need a death penalty?

Scott Crichton, executive director for the Montana chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the compelling evidence presented during debate was what swayed the Senate.

"We need to abolish the death penalty because it's an imperfect system that is sometimes wrong in terms of elevating the state to say it has the authority to kill people," Crichton said. "Life without parole is a big deal to inmates. Dying of old age in prison is a bumper."

Sen. Corey Stapleton, R-Billings, voted against the bill because he said there's nothing

See PENALTY, Page 5

Aber-Bound



Kevin Hoffman/Montana Kaimin

Freshman Jordann Lankford and sophomore Stephanie Sherman react Wednesday to the news that they will have to move from their rooms in Miller Hall due to moisture left in the walls from water damage caused by last week's fire. At least a dozen students will be temporarily displaced until contractors can repair the damage.

Some in Miller forced to move

SEAN BRESLIN
MONTANA KAIMIN

Students whose rooms were damaged during last week's fire in Miller Hall will have to move out of their dorms for part of the spring semester, said Ron Brunell, director of Residence Life.

Brunell met Wednesday with students who live in the 13 rooms affected by water damage on the fifth floor of Miller to discuss Residence Life's plan to repair the damage and prevent mold from forming. Early Friday, a bulletin board was set on fire, causing the sprinkler system to turn on. Several rooms on the fifth floor suffered water damage.

Starting Monday morning, con-

struction crews will have to remove portions of the wallboards to clean and dry them before replacing them, a process that could take about five weeks, Brunell said. In order to start the project on time, students will have to move out of their rooms Sunday afternoon.

"We'll do what we can to accommodate you," Brunell said. "I hope you understand this is not our first choice, either."

While some students will be relocated to other rooms in Miller Hall, the majority of students will be moved to clusters of empty rooms in Aber Hall, Brunell said. Residence Life will provide packing materials for students to use

and will arrange with custodians to help move students across campus, Brunell said. He did not specify how much the moving expenses would be, but he said students will receive a partial refund for the time they have to spend in the substitute rooms.

Although students expressed disappointment about having to move midway through the semester, several saw the solution as the best of a bad situation.

"I'm just glad that we get to stay together," freshman Jordann Lankford said.

"Yeah, that's a big plus," added fifth-floor resident Stephanie Sherman, a sophomore.

See MOVE, Page 8

WPA to stay put for now

JAMES LABER
MONTANA KAIMIN

The University of Montana's general education requirements are being reworked, but, much to the chagrin of many students, the Writing Proficiency Assessment will be staying for now.

Allen Szalda-Petree, chairman of the Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee, said that the committee is drafting a new set of GERs, but as it stands now UM will continue to require students to pass the WPA.

Szalda-Petree added that the current draft includes changes to the GERs, but it will likely be altered again before all is said and done. There is no timetable for when the changes would be implemented, he said.

Jean Luckowski, a member of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, said that the current GERs are "cumbersome" and the major motivation to change them is to clarify and simplify the process.

Perhaps the current draft's biggest change, according to Luckowski, is the change to require all the GERs, except the Upper Division Writing Course, to be 100- and 200-level classes.

Luckowski said the change would allow students to complete most, if not all, of the GERs in their first two years, and this experience could even help them choose a major.

"The idea behind the change is to give incoming students an introductory experience across a broad range of subjects to build on," she said. "But, it's not a major, dramatic change."

Szalda-Petree said another important difference between the current requirements and the new plan is the elimination of the symbolic systems requirement.

The symbolic systems competency allowed students to take computer or mathematics courses to fulfill the foreign language requirement.

He said that drafting a new set of requirements is a challenge in that he has to work with a diverse campus community and the process has been ongoing for more than a year.

"It's a challenge to create a one-size-fits-all model, so we are leaving the communication channels open with everyone," Szalda-Petree said. "We want everyone to have a fair chance for input so that no one is disenfranchised."

EDITORIAL**University has dug itself into a hole
with the WPA**

It's unfortunate that the committee revising the General Education Requirements at the University of Montana hasn't thrown out the Writing Proficiency Assessment, but not for the reason you think.

The WPA is an exam that asks students "to think critically about the ideas presented in an assigned text and to craft a well-supported argument in the form of an essay," according to the UM Writing Center's Web site. All undergraduates earning their first bachelor degrees must pass it to graduate.

The WPA is the bane of many UM students, and it puts graduation plans in jeopardy each year as people struggle to pass it. The Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee at UM is revising the GERs, but its current plans don't include scrapping the WPA, committee Chairman Allen Szalda-Petree said.

Most UM students are likely disappointed by the decision, just as I am. But while most students dislike the WPA because they think it's a nuisance, I dislike it because it's unfair and points to a bigger problem in higher education.

The exam is unfair for this reason: I know several students who passed ENEX 101 – even some who earned an "A" in the class – and have trouble passing the WPA. ENEX 101 is the course freshmen take to learn how to write solid essays, yet many come out of it with good grades and not even basic writing skills.

UM is doing a disservice to people by making ENEX 101 so easy to pass. Aside from learning to think critically, learning to write clearly is the most valuable skill a student can obtain in college. They should learn it at the beginning, in ENEX 101, instead of being herded through the course, thinking they can write, only to learn when they take the WPA that they can't.

But making ENEX 101 more difficult, and therefore useful, isn't really an option, and the reason why is one of the biggest problems facing colleges today.

Universities used to be places for those interested in learning, but now they're just the next step after high school for most people. They don't come here to learn skills traditionally associated with a liberal education, skills applicable in any job – how to think critically, write and communicate. They come because it's what their friends are doing, or for the parties. Learning is an afterthought.

As a result, required classes like ENEX 101 must be dumbed down and easy to pass, to keep everyone in school and enrollment up. Let them wait until their junior or senior years to fail the WPA instead of failing ENEX 101 as freshmen, when they're in a class where they can get the writing instruction they need. Nobody learns much, but the money keeps coming.

I have a sneaking suspicion that this is the sad truth behind the WPA and why it's still around. To get rid of it would require a tougher freshman writing class, and that in turn would make college more selective again. The end result would be fewer students and therefore less money for an already cash-strapped University.

So to all the undergrads out there dreading the WPA: Start preparing yourselves now, because UM isn't going to give you much help.

–Peter Bulger,
editor

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Montana Kaimin

More than words.

GUEST COLUMN**Can politics get away from American Idle?**

JASON BELSTON
FOR THE KAIMIN

Last year more people voted for the next "American Idol" than for the president of the United States. This may come as no surprise to those of you who religiously watch the greatest show of our time, but are we really more concerned with Simon Cowell and Ryan Seacrest than we are with the state of our country? I like to think not. Rather the problem lies with the registration process.

Consider this: What if you had to register 30 days prior to voting for Clay Aiken? Sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? No, not voting for Clay Aiken – the registration part. Unfortunately, that is the system we have in most states. In the majority of the states you have to register 25 to 30 days before the election. Studies have shown that most people don't even start to think about the issues until a few weeks before the election.

Early registration also discourages young people and students, who often move several times a year, from voting. In 2000, 3 million would-be voters had registration problems nationally and were not allowed to vote. This included tens of thousands of potential voters in Florida, a state that decided the presidency by a few hundred votes. It hurts the democratic process when those who show up at the polls can't vote.

Luckily, there is a simple and effective solution to this problem. It is called Election Day Registration, or EDR.

EDR, also known as "same-day voter registration," permits eligi-

ble citizens to register and vote on Election Day. Seven states, including Montana, currently use EDR and have had no major problems. In fact, they have had a much greater voter turnout than non-EDR states. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that during the last presidential election, states with EDR had a 12 percent higher voter turnout than states without it.

In 2004, the top four voter turnout states were Minnesota, Wisconsin, Maine and New Hampshire – not surprisingly, all are EDR states. In 2006, Montana implemented EDR for the first time and nearly 4,000 voters took advantage of the system – people who otherwise wouldn't have been able to participate in the democratic process. When senatorial races are decided by a few thousand votes, it becomes very important that everyone who shows up at the polls is allowed to vote.

What makes EDR even more appealing is the low cost of implementing the system. It doesn't cost any extra money to register someone on the same day as it does in a registration office. The only cost associated with EDR is implementing the system in new locations. DEMOS, a nonpartisan policy research organization, analyzed the cost for the 2004 election and discovered that the price was between \$0 and \$250 for implementing the system in new locations. This is a small price tag for giving people the freedom to vote.

One concern has been the possibility of voter fraud. This has not

been a problem for other EDR states and wasn't a problem in Montana. Election officials vigilantly check proof of identification and proof of residency. Election officials are just as thorough on Election Day as they are in the registration office.

Unfortunately, EDR is under attack in the Montana Legislature. Tom McGillvray, a Republican from Billings, introduced House Bill 281. HB 281 is designed to eliminate EDR. What's disappointing is that HB 281 has become political – with all Republicans and Constitutionalists voting in favor of HB 281 and all but one Democrat voting against it. This gave HB 281 a narrow victory in the House. Now the fate of Election Day Registration rests in the hands of the Senate.

Despite political differences, everyone agrees that voter turnout is important for a democracy. Election Day Registration will make it easy for people to get involved. We need to encourage voting, not only in rhetoric, but in policy.

Until Clay Aiken announces his bid for presidency, getting people interested will be difficult enough. Let's not discourage those who are interested. Let's keep EDR in Montana – so that everyone who shows up at the polls will have the right to vote.

Jason Belston is a recent graduate of the University of Montana. He is currently an intern at Forward Montana, a nonpartisan organization aimed at getting young people more involved in politics.

More attention needed to nuclear weapons treaties

My association with the subject of nuclear weapons started in the late 1950s when radioactive fallout was poisoning the planet. Along with colleagues in Missoula and around the country, we tried to educate the public about the biological and health effects of radiation so that individuals could make informed decisions about such matters as whether to construct home fallout shelters.

In late 1963, Bert Pfeiffer, a zoologist, and I attended a conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, D.C. At the end of the day, we struck up a conversation with a senior official of the National Institutes of Health. He inquired about our connection to the nuclear question. After describing our educational work, his immediate rejoinder was "... you know, you guys created the

public environment which made it possible for the U.S. Senate to ratify the LTBT (the Limited Test Ban Treaty, which banned weapons testing in the atmosphere)."



However, that treaty left unresolved the problem of underground testing. Fortunately, that task was taken up with characteristic energy by President Clinton. Along with representatives of the other major nuclear powers, in September 1996 he signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which would ban underground testing as well. Of course, ratification still required action by the

U.S. Senate. Although the American people overwhelmingly supported the treaty, as did the U.N. General Assembly, the Senate rejected it, 48 for, 51 against, on Oct. 31, 1999.

When the Bush administration took the reins of office in January 2001, it immediately took the CTBT off the table. This was via a statement by Colin Powell, who publicly announced that "the administration would not ask for CTBT ratification during this session of Congress" Needless to say, no future Bush Congress was asked to do so. His anathema to international treaties, such as the Kyoto Protocol on Global Warming, is legendary.

This story should be told since we are now hearing the drums of war against Iran.

–M. Chessin, Ph.D.,
professor (Emeritus), botany

MONTANA KAIMIN

Our
109th
Year

The Montana Kaimin, in its 109th 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.

Send letters to the editor to letters@kaimin.umt.edu or drop them off in Journalism 107

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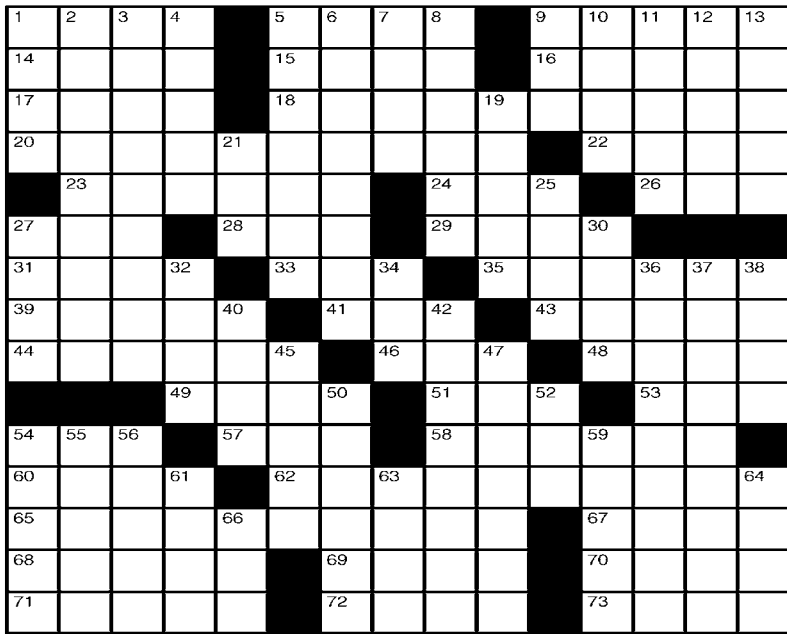
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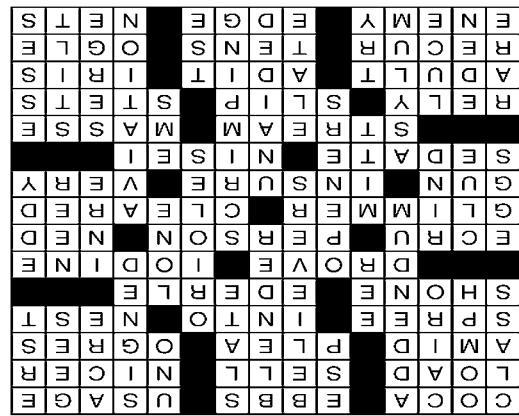
- ACROSS**
- 1 Bronco prodder
 - 5 Wound reminder
 - 9 Put to shame
 - 14 Johnnycake
 - 15 Plus
 - 16 "Fame" singer
 - 17 Curving courses
 - 18 Certain military officer
 - 20 Ecdysiast's act
 - 22 Jacob's twin
 - 23 Assign to a feedlot
 - 24 Fraction of a joule
 - 26 Part of a pelvis
 - 27 Tyke
 - 28 Knack
 - 29 Stalemate
 - 31 Landed
 - 33 Houston or Rayburn
 - 35 Faces the day
 - 39 Drama dialogue
 - 41 Cut back
 - 43 Haircare tool
 - 44 French brandy
 - 46 AEC's replacement
 - 48 Mrs. Peel of "The Avengers"
 - 49 Tap problem
 - 51 The Greatest
 - 53 Ryan or Foster
 - 54 Actress Novak
 - 57 JFK notice
 - 58 Nextel Cup org.
 - 60 Operatic song
 - 62 Ran like blood
 - 65 Antagonistic reactions
 - 67 Incite anger
 - 68 Tear open
 - 69 Trifling
 - 70 Ore deposit
 - 71 Serengeti cats
 - 72 Give guff to
 - 73 Ginger cookie
- DOWN**
- 1 Health resorts
 - 2 Paper tote
 - 3 Doing a mailroom job
 - 4 Go back to committee
 - 5 Preservers of a sort
 - 6 Of customers
 - 7 On the Aegean
 - 8 Stirred up
 - 9 Homer's dad
 - 10 Marrow container
 - 11 Flooded
 - 12 Biblical mount
 - 13 Overly excited
 - 19 __ firma
 - 21 After-sch. grp.
 - 25 Characteristic clothes
 - 27 Body powder
 - 30 Finish line
 - 32 Watch over
 - 34 Calendar abbr.
 - 36 Concluding remarks
 - 37 Alice Ghostley on "Bewitched"
 - 38 Uneven hairdo
 - 40 Poet Teasdale
 - 42 Springing horses
 - 45 Approximately
 - 47 Contract provisions
 - 50 Spectrum makers
 - 52 Small pc. of land
 - 54 Capital of Afghanistan
 - 55 Shiraz resident
 - 56 Computer classification
 - 59 Reiner and Jung
 - 61 Related (to)
 - 63 Ostrichlike bird
 - 64 Profound
 - 66 CDs' ancestors



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3/1/07

Solutions



- 47 Contract provisions
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Accuracy Watch

The Montana Kaimin is committed to accuracy in its reports. If you think the Kaimin has committed an error of fact, please call us at 243-2394 or e-mail editor@kaimin.umt.edu and let us know. If we find a factual error we will correct it.

Expansion won't make UM campus beautiful again

Re: the editorial Feb. 22, "South campus expansion means UM can be beautiful again."

So getting rid of the UM golf course and various other amenities on the south end of UM will mean the return of "the scenic glory that once graced UM campus."

Grow up. Once the south end of campus is "improved" (with class-

rooms, you think), the powers that be will return to main campus and fill in the Oval and any other empty space that still exists with money-making buildings. Plus, there's also bulldozing those ugly houses that UM owns off campus, so that the roads can be improved. Oops, that means a decrease in housing. Well ... You get the point.

—Marguerite Munsche, staff, KUFM

'Nay' vote was reasonable

"The minimum wage increases are tied to the cost of living index," claims ASUM senator Ali Tabibnejad, in defense of his vote for a resolution that will tie annual student wage increases to Montana's annual minimum wage increases, always keeping the former higher (Nay vote for wage increase is ill-reasoned. Kaimin. Feb. 21, 2007).

to argue your resolution is arbitrarily contrived. For the same reason, Ms. Harrison is right to argue that these wage increases are irresponsible. Tying student wage increases to minimum wage increases that are tied to an index that fails to reflect actual cost-of-living changes for Montana is indeed "fiscally irresponsible." The high yearly increase in the amount of money urban consumers spend on all items (at 4 to 7 percent annually) far outpaces the marginal yearly decrease in the amount and quality of utilities, goods and services Montanans can get with their dollars to reach or maintain a decent standard of living.

Have you, Mr. Tabibnejad, estimated the costs university students will have to shoulder if, as your vote will have it, over the next 10 years student wages are raised 4 to 7 percent every year? I have. And the pay increases would be absurd for the mostly low-skill jobs you'd be paying for. Pay increases done on a case-by-case basis is far more responsible in that ASUM wouldn't have us students making financial obligations that we might not be able to afford. Or is it that ASUM just plans on milking the billion-dollar state surplus and the Montana taxpayer over the next decade?

—Erik Hurd, senior, liberal studies



There is no easier way to say this, Mr. Tabibnejad: You're wrong. The minimum wage increases cannot be tied to the cost-of-living index because there is no cost-of-living index.

What the increases are tied to is the Consumer Price Index. The CPI in no way reflects the yearly cost-of-living changes for Montanans (particularly ones earning minimum wage). Rather, it reflects the yearly percentile increase in the amount all urban consumers spend for all items (including a grocery list of superfluous items). In that way, Ms. Harrison is completely in the right

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Faces of UM One-time numbers nut finds new life in Buddhism

MIKE GERRITY
MONTANA KAIMIN

Editor's note: Reporter Mike Gerrity is currently enrolled in Justin Whitaker's Intro to Tibetan Buddhism course.

Justin Whitaker came to the University of Montana headed for a life of hard numbers. What came to him instead was a love for an ancient philosophy.

At the age of 15, Whitaker began designing a future for himself as an accountant.

"I took accounting classes in high school and did really well, and it was like I was on a fast track," Whitaker said. "Business Professionals of America kind of stuff."

It was only after getting to college that Whitaker began to question the career path that lay before him.

"I had lost interest in it and I didn't want to be doing it, yet I still had the idea that I should be and trying to do my best anyhow. So there was that internal conflict of 'I don't want to do it, but I feel like I should because I'm here,'" Whitaker said.

His tormenting dilemma prompted him to take a year off from school in 1999 to reevaluate his plan that had been in the making for several years.

"I really built up this idea of myself becoming an accountant and needed to let that kind of fall away and try to find something else," Whitaker said. "I realized this is not the life I want to live

long term."

When he returned to UM, he continued to string along a couple of accounting courses, but he also began to dabble in new fields like ethics, philosophy, anthropology and, eventually, Buddhism.

"It just clicked with me," Whitaker said. "For me it was the meditation, and that's where I could see we were actually learning a philosophy at one time and then seeing how that philosophy worked in practice and what it actually did to your mind and how you view life."

Whitaker pursued his newfound concentration until he graduated with a degree in philosophy in 2004. He is now in the midst of his second semester of instructing the Intro to Tibetan Buddhism course at UM while working toward his master's degree in philosophy.

Whitaker's teaching style relies on a higher principle of trust than the traditional lecture-based course. In a discussion-based platform, students are assigned sections of the course readings to present in lectures of their own.

Aside from brief introductions and fielding questions, Whitaker hardly lectures at all.

"I don't want to put myself up there as an authority figure lecturing and having all the answers, because I'm not," Whitaker said. "I don't have all the answers. I really want to teach the class as if we're all going through this material together. We're all going to

have different perspectives."

The class he teaches now is quite the opposite of what he had last semester. Rather than the intimate discussion circle of a couple of dozen students that he oversees now, he used to lecture to a hall of about 150 students in the shadow of a PowerPoint outline.

Whitaker says he favors his current method much more because of the personal aspects gained from the students.

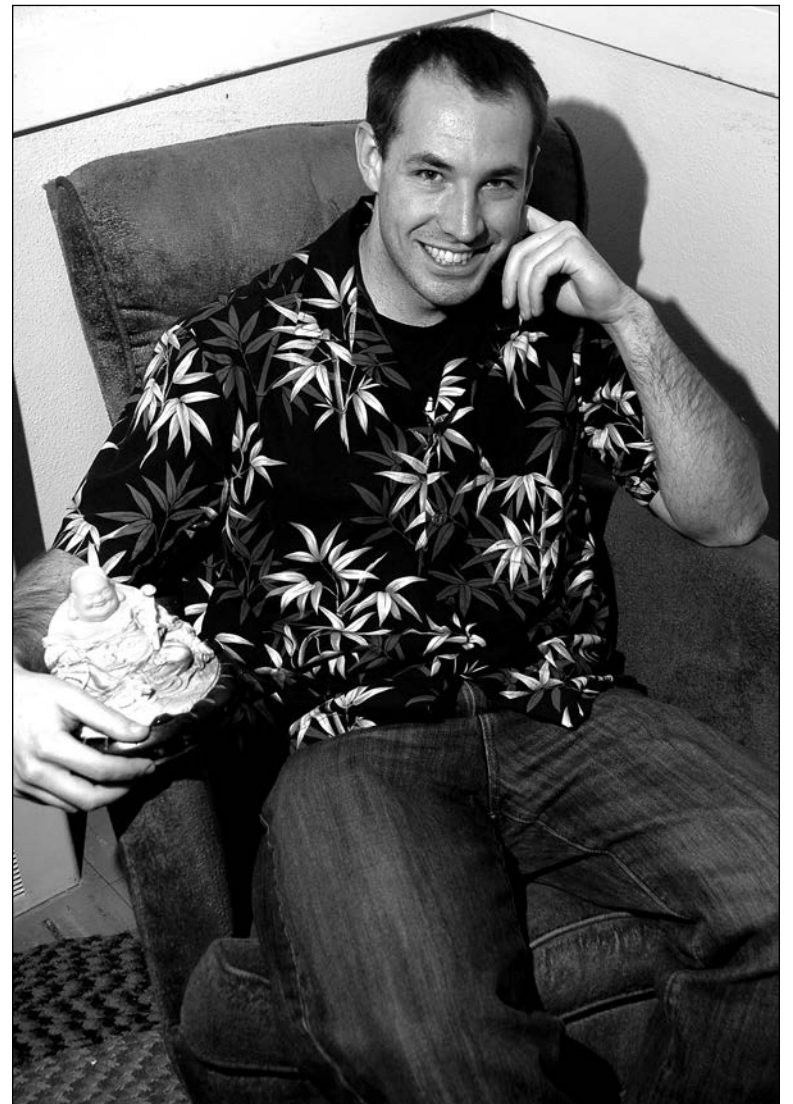
"The thing I'm interested in is that people are going to be bringing different perspectives to it — your own interests and backgrounds — and I want to see how that influences the way you take up the Tibetan Buddhist material and how you react to it," Whitaker said.

Though UM sophomore Mark Dostal feels the platform would work better in a smaller classroom setting, he says that Whitaker has succeeded in compensating for a high density of students.

"I think he has done a pretty good job of figuring out how to make it work in a larger setting," Dostal said.

UM sophomore Zach Wheelihan says that based on what his classmates have demonstrated thus far, Whitaker's system seems to be working.

"I think it's good if you have the right group. He seems to have the right group and it works well," Wheelihan said.



Kevin Hoffman/Montana Kaimin

Graduate student Justin Whitaker sits in his office Wednesday with a small statue of Buddha. Whitaker began his college career in accounting, but after becoming involved in philosophy he decided to follow a more personally fulfilling line of work teaching Buddhism.

Bush administration defends potential talks with Iran

ANNE GEARAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration says it's not going soft on Iran, but Washington's new agreement to talk to the clerical regime about violence in Iraq could crack the door for other discussions with the last holdout among President Bush's old axis of evil.

Iraq said Wednesday that its neighbors, including U.S. adversaries Iran and Syria, will attend a March 10 session on the country's security crisis. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made the surprise announcement Tuesday that a U.S. diplomat will also be there and that she herself will go to a later session.

It wasn't exactly an olive branch, but Rice's mild overture looked dramatic after escalating U.S. allegations that Iran is contributing to the spreading chaos in Iraq and a calculated show of U.S. military might in the Persian Gulf.

Bush administration spokesmen were quick to note that the talks are at Iraq's invitation, not Washington's. And the sessions are supposed to be about Iraq, not Iran.

"The Iraqis are putting together a meeting, and it's going to be a businesslike meeting," White House spokesman Tony Snow told reporters. "If you're expecting, suddenly, new chummy relations, you've created a scenario that is not justified by the facts on the ground or the precedents."

"Going wobbly, shift, turnabout, change," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack mocked, using several terms pulled from the morning newspapers. "Look, the administration has continued to act on a certain set of principles that it has outlined," and will keep doing so, he said.

Yet there were hints that the administration is testing Iranian, and domestic American, willingness to go further. In the diplomatic world, tough talk can sometimes be a cover for more conciliatory gestures.

"While I'm not going to point you in the direction of any particular engagement with any particular delegation ..., I'm also not going to exclude any particular diplomatic interaction," McCormack said when

asked about prospects for U.S.-Iranian contact at the meetings.

The subject of sophisticated homemade bombs might come up, McCormack said. The Bush administration claims that at least one element of the Iranian regime is supplying Iraqi insurgents with especially lethal bombs that kill U.S. troops.

As for Iran's disputed nuclear program, the subject of U.S.-backed efforts to apply punishing international sanctions on Tehran, the United States won't bring it up, McCormack said.

If the Iranians want to talk about it?

"I'm sure that people would listen politely," McCormack offered, before adding that the United States is not backing off its insistence that Iran drop its uranium

enrichment program as a price for escaping sanctions.

Ahmad Bakshayesh, a Tehran Allameh University teacher in politics, said the nuclear issue probably sinks any chance of a short-term improvement in U.S.-Iranian relations from the upcoming Iraq conferences.

"However, it may lead to a broader path for negotiations between the two countries," said Bakshayesh.

Associated Press writer Nasser Karimi in Tehran contributed to this report.

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GLIMPSES OF GHANA

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SHANE McMILLAN
MONTANA KAIMIN

The most economical way to travel in Ghana is by tro-tro, a privately owned mini-bus that one can buy a spot in for a few dollars. On longer stretches — especially those bound for the city — people might not be the only passengers. Most often it is fruits or vegetables that people ride along with, and sometimes it may even be a goat or chicken. Though it may not seem efficient, this system of transportation provides an important service to farmers and sellers.

Exact numbers aren't easy to pin down, but estimates show that 60 to 70 percent of Ghana's work force is in agriculture, accounting for about 40 percent of the economy. Compare that to the United States, where about 3 percent of the population is directly involved in food production.

Before Ghana's modern economy, agricultural laborers were subsistence farmers, growing what they needed for their families and for trade within their communities. Since independence, that role has been changing.

Though Western values and conveniences have improved living standards, they have given life a price tag. In many cases that tag is too high and farmers must find ways to make money to pay for electricity and medicine, or to buy clothes.

In the face of high costs for trucks and transport companies, farmers instead make deals with taxi and tro-tro drivers to deliver their goods. This arrangement allows the driver to make some extra cash by using the bit of extra space in his vehicle.

Because most farmers in Ghana work small plots, they don't produce enough to make mass transport with trucks profitable. Some cooperatives have cropped up that work to move mass amounts of produce, but they must overcome several hurdles.

The biggest obstacle may be that gasoline in Ghana is around \$4 a gallon, making transport costs very high. Four bananas in the city sell for 15 or 20 cents (American), but near the fields, 20 cents can buy 12 to 20 bananas. That price difference might have to do with the market and the living costs of the sellers, but it does provide a glimpse into the gap between farms and urban markets.



A pile of bananas fills the back of a passenger van from Hoehoe, bound for Accra. Africans have found many creative solutions for cheaply transporting their goods.

Photo by Shane McMillan

vide a glimpse into the gap between farms and urban markets.

In the coming years, Ghana will grapple with creating efficiency in many sectors. With a rich agricul-

tural history, it will continue searching for ways to hold onto that tradition while streamlining it and working toward equity. For now tro-tros will continue hauling

bananas and farmers will keep looking for ways to make a buck in a system that is often working against them.

PENALTY

Continued from Page 1

wrong with Montana's system.

"In Montana, it's not like in Texas where the death penalty is used all the time," Stapleton said. "I think most of the people who voted against the bill voted that way out of confidence in the system we've had so far."

Montana State Prison warden Mike Mahoney agreed, saying that Montana was lucky to have such low numbers.

"I don't think it's fair to compare Montana to some facilities that have 100 people on death row," Mahoney said.

Crichton said it was sometimes the system that was the problem, especially when deals are cut during the court process.

"We're relying on the testimony of people who are not Boy Scouts," Crichton said. "I'm not convinced. To say that we know the system will always work is blind trust."

Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Jesse Laslovich, D-Anaconda, said something in his conscience made him vote against the measure, but he wasn't sure what.

"There was something inside that was telling me to vote against it," Laslovich said. "I represent a lot of people who work for the Montana State Prison. After talking to many of them, the main concern is that if the death penalty came off the books, inmates could

do whatever they wanted."

Mahoney echoed that concern, saying his primary consideration was his staff's safety.

"If you have people who are in a situation where the only imminent threat is another life sentence for abusing or killing a staff member, that's not necessarily going to stop them," Mahoney said.

Mahoney also said his concern wasn't whether there was a death penalty, but merely to carry out the law.

"I think that as a state, we always need to examine the ultimate sanction society can impose," Mahoney said. "But the bottom line is, as long as the citizens of this state say the death penalty is necessary, the warden will stand prepared to carry it out."

In recent years, cases regarding lethal injection as a form of execution have climbed as high as the Supreme Court. In December, lethal injection executions were put on hold in two states after the execution of a convicted murderer in Florida took 34 minutes and two injections.

The lethal injection process currently involves administering three drugs. The first, sodium pentothal, induces unconsciousness. The second, pancuronium bromide, causes paralysis of all muscles except the heart. The third drug, potassium chloride, causes cardiac arrest.

Some say that lethal injection qualifies as cruel and unusual punishment (and therefore is uncon-

stitutional) because although the recipient's reaction may be limited, it is unclear whether the drugs used inflict significant pain to the recipient.

But it is not these issues that had the Montana Senate concerned enough to vote in favor of abolishing the death penalty.

"In no way are we working on this bill because we feel sorry for the people who commit the crime," Harrington said. "It's more cost-effective. And it varies from case to case, but it's very expensive to kill people."

Mahoney said he was confident that the executions he has dealt with during his tenure were handled well enough that the inmates had not suffered.

"The cases we've been involved with were done as professionally and compassionately as possible," Mahoney said. "When my time comes, I hope I can die as quickly and peacefully as these individuals did."

Crichton said it's not just the pain that makes the death penalty inhumane.

"You never see any rich people on death row," Crichton said. "Often it is applied unfairly to people who don't have ties to a community; the homeless, the poor and often people of different races."

Montana currently has two inmates on death row. Montana has sentenced 13 people to death since 1973.

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Lady Griz host last pre-tourney game

SARAH SWAN
MONTANA KAIMIN

It's all smooth sailing from here for the Lady Griz basketball team as the players take to the court tonight for their final Big Sky Conference game against Sacramento State.

Montana (26-2, 14-1 BSC) has already clinched the regular season Big Sky title and will host the conference tournament next week.

"It's a lot nicer to know you're not playing to have to win to get a certain place in the tournament or something like that, that's good," University of Montana head coach Robin Selvig said.

With all the buzz surrounding the upcoming tournament, Montana, however, is maintaining its focus on Sac State.

Sac State (3-25, 1-14 BSC) is at the bottom of the Big Sky, but the Lady Griz aren't expecting the Hornets to roll over.

"They have some great players and I think it's just a matter of mentally getting ready for it and not thinking that they're one of the last-place teams, overlooking that and playing like it was the biggest game of our lives," UM junior forward Johanna Closson said.

Sac State senior guard Kim Sheehy leads the Hornets in the scoring department with 11.3

points per game, while sophomore center Atty Boyer mixes it up in the paint by grabbing 5.1 rebounds per game.

When it comes to playing defense against Montana, Sac State head coach Dan Muscatell said the Hornets can't really focus on one person.

"They have a good cast," Muscatell said of the Lady Griz.

Despite struggling throughout their season, Muscatell said the Hornets are looking forward to playing in Missoula.

"I think it's a great chance for us to go there, especially knowing that we'll not be in the tournament," Muscatell said.

Sophomore guard Mandy Morales leads Montana with an average of 20.2 points per game, while fellow sophomore guard Sonya Rogers is contributing 11.7 points.

With the Big Sky Tournament just a week away, the Lady Griz are pumped up and ready to go.

"Tournament time is my favorite part of the year," Closson said. "The end of the season is so exciting and it's just awesome that we can have it here and all the fans can see."

Montana is currently on a 10-game winning streak, its longest streak since the 2003-2004 season.



Hugh Carey/Montana Kaimin

Sophomore Sonya Rogers drives through defenders during a game against MSU earlier this season. The Lady Griz, who will host the Big Sky Conference Tournament next week, close out the regular season against Sacramento State tonight at 7 p.m. in Dahlberg Arena.

Looking back to the beginning of the season, Closson said she never would have thought the Lady Griz would be where they

are now in the standings.

"We didn't have everything together at the beginning," Closson said. "I never would have

dreamed of having this great a record, but now that we're here it's amazing and I don't take it for granted at all."

Griz basketball lineup unchanging

Tinkle to use same rotation in Saturday's home playoff game

BILL ORAM
MONTANA KAIMIN

Despite recently experimenting with playing time, University of Montana men's basketball coach Wayne Tinkle said he is planning to stick with essentially the same eight- to nine-man rotation for Saturday's home playoff game against Idaho State that he's used for most of the season.

Whereas some players, notably year-long starters junior Matt Martin and senior Matt Dlouhy have, at times, seen a decrease in playing time, other bench players have seen a spike in time on the court.

"It's showing starters that if they're not playing well they're coming out," Griz senior forward Stuart Mayes said. "They know there's guys playing off the bench that are capable of providing a spark."

Lately, however, Tinkle has been looking even further down the bench than usual. Freshman Ryan Staudacher – as well as sophomore Greg Spurgetis and junior Gus Chase – have all provided boosts in recent games.

The rotation for Saturday's game will include the usual suspects – starters Cameron Rundles, Andrew Strait, Jordan Hasquet and Dlouhy – with Bryan Ellis likely starting at guard in place of Martin, who was recently converted to a bench player.

Tinkle, however, said that the final decision whether Martin or Ellis will start probably wouldn't be made until Friday. Rounding out Saturday's rotation figures to be Martin, senior Mike Chavez and Mayes.

Ellis, who started 11 games at

the beginning of the year, moved back into the starting lineup following a string of games in which the Griz fell into big holes early.

"We were getting out of the gates kind of slow there for a while," Tinkle said, adding that the team has been trying to use Ellis' ability to break down defenses to bust out of that disturbing trend.

Tinkle didn't rule out the possibility that other bench players – specifically Staudacher and Chase – could still play a role throughout the Grizzlies' playoff run.

"We've got a deep team and no guy can have a great night every night out," he said. "If somebody, for whatever reason, doesn't have it, you bring someone else in, they're playing well, you have to stick with them."

Dlouhy said it doesn't matter who starts, thanks to the Montana's solid bench play of late.

"I think whatever we put on the floor is going to work for us," he said.

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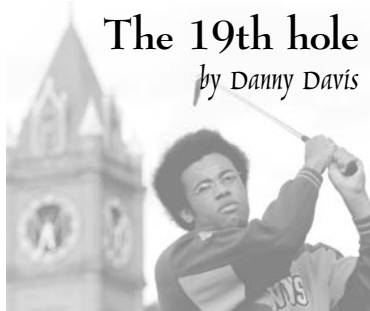
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Top Grizzlies honored with the first-annual 'Holeys'

Job Note: I wonder if Jerry Glanville, the former NFL head coach bringing his professional connections to the mighty Big Sky Conference, as he was hired Wednesday to lead the powerhouse program that is Portland State, cries himself to sleep at night. What's next, Bill Parcells calling the shots for Northern Arizona?



The 19th hole
by Danny Davis

Well, the 79th Academy Awards came and went, and all I really got from the experience was learning that Al Gore suddenly became cool and that, nearly eight years later, Will Smith is still paying for his starring role in "Wild Wild West."

On the heels of the aforementioned Academy Awards and the Grammys, and with the NAACP Image Awards set to air this upcoming weekend, all I can say is that awards shows are what the kids would refer to as "hip," and since the 19th hole always aspires to be "hip," we are going to have

an awards show of our own. Let's call this shindig the Holeys, given annually to the Griz athletes who have made us laugh and cry throughout this magical past year. And by annually, I mean this is a one-shot deal, because if I am here to give these awards again next year, something went horribly wrong.

So now to present the first annual batch of Holeys is Academy Award-winning actor, and all-around good guy, Denzel Washington, and rookie Sports Illustrated swimsuit hottie Selita Ebanks. Ahhh, the power of imagination.

Best Picture: UMass 19, Montana 17

One of the wonderful things about the state of Montana is Friday nights at various prep football fields across the state. Sure, Montana lost this playoff game, but how often do you have a night game in chilly December that has most fans keeping warm by reminiscing about their high school glory days?

Best Supporting Actress: Laura Cote

The 19th hole is a big fan of Lady Griz ballas Mandy Morales and Britney "Call Me" Lohman, but all the praise in the world goes to the 5-foot-8 junior from Gardiner who is the definition of the word "hustle."

Best Original Screenplay: The UM Coaching Carousel

In a situation that seemed either straight out of a Jerry Springer taping or an awfully bad chick flick, Montana seemed poised to lose two head coaches in the span of six months.

It was a big enough tearjerker when Larry headed off to greener pastures in Milwaukee and told Montana that this long distance thing wasn't going to work, but surely we all thought things were going to work out with Bobby. But then Montana found Bobby's cell phone and learned that he had been thinking about leaving her for that bitch Stanford. When that mess got sorted out, that home wrecker Minnesota reportedly tried to seduce Montana's main man. What's a program to do? Luckily, Bobby came to his senses and came back to Montana, but girl, you need to get yourself a stable man because that Bobby has a wandering eye and will probably try to leave you again next year.

Best Director: Jerry Wagner

The former Gonzaga assistant did something some had begun to think would never happen: putting "University of Montana volleyball team" in the same sentence as "post-season tournament." Using a much more balanced offensive attack than in years past, Wagner,

in his first year as head coach, led Montana to its first Big Sky Conference Tournament since 2000. Now if Wagner can find a way to replace all-Big Sky outside hitter Claudia Houle next year, Montana has a legitimate shot at being one of the three best teams in the conference.

Best Foreign Language Holeys: Houle

We're giving this Canadian export a Holeys for pretty much the same reasons we're giving one to Wagner. That and her 4.39 kills per game. She's a hammer.

Worst Dressed: J.D. Quinn in a University of Montana football jersey

A University of Oklahoma hand-me-down going on his third strike gets a scholarship to play football at Montana while genuinely good kids across campus drop out every semester because they can't afford increasing tuition costs. I've said it once and I'll say it again - it just doesn't make sense to me. Even Joan Rivers thinks that's a bit tacky.

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Dean urges ASUM diversity

ASHLEY ZUELKE
MONTANA KAIMIN

Dean of Students Charles Couture challenged ASUM to become a more diverse student government body at its Wednesday evening meeting.

Couture said he sees a lack of cultural and gender diversity in ASUM. He urged senators to speak with students from diverse backgrounds and encourage them to run for senate, creating a better "cross-representation" of the campus community.

"I can't remember a year we've had so few females on the senate," he said.

Couture, who attends all ASUM meetings and swears in new senators, made his comment after the appointment of freshman Eric Fulton to replace senator Rikki Gregory. Gregory resigned her senate position at the meeting after ASUM appointed her to

direct the Student Political Action committee.

ASUM Vice President Cedric Jacobsen said finding a candidate to fill open senate seats at this time of year, during second semester midterms, is difficult.

However, he said, "We'll do our best to reach out to more diverse candidates for next year.

"As a senate, we should always strive for diversity."

Including executives, five women and 18 men currently serve on the senate.

ASUM President Andrea Helling was absent from the meeting as she was attending the Board of Regents meeting in Helena.

Fulton, an information systems major, filled Gregory's senate seat. Fulton said he is confident in his ability to do a good job. He has prior ASUM experience as a student-at-large and plans on forming a new student group to bring more student activities to campus.

Senator Jose Diaz was the only dissenting vote in Fulton's appointment. Diaz said he has nothing against Fulton, but "felt like the decision was hot-shotted," during the interview process.

Jacobsen said the interview committee met earlier this week to interview applicants for the SPA director position. When they knew Gregory was their choice, he added, the committee wanted to appoint a new senator to replace her.

SPA is an ASUM committee that oversees student participation in political affairs.

Jacobson said ASUM's interview committee decided to choose from last month's pool of recent applicants to replace Gregory. He also said he and Helling thought it best that Fulton was sworn in before budgeting begins next Monday.

MOVE

Continued from Page 1

But freshman Jake Griffith, who will remain on the fifth floor, isn't so excited about construction crews on his floor. Though he acknowledged the need for repairs, he said he's worried about the mess the project will create,

and how the atmosphere of the floor will change once his friends move.

"Everyone I know is getting the boot," Griffith said.

Brunell worked quickly to assign rooms to the students who had to move, and updated students on the details of the investigation into the fire. He said police, fire officials and the Office of Public Safety are reviewing security

cameras and conducting interviews.

"Pranks are one thing, but endangering the health and safety of students is quite another," Brunell said.

Freshman Kim Whiting agreed. "It's not (Residence Life's) fault that people lit things on fire," she said.

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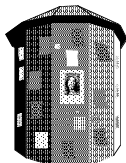
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