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### Technology threatens liberal arts education says mindpower panelists at Homecoming

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# University of Montana

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### TECHNOLOGY THREATENS LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION SAYS MINDPOWER PANELISTS AT HOMECOMING

MISSOULA--

Our technological culture is tending to make a liberal arts education obsolete, Phillip Fandozzi, associate professor of humanities at the University of Montana, told a gathering of over 50 alumni, students and faculty Oct. 22 during a panel discussion on the viability of a liberal arts education held at the University Center.

"We have lost our faith in knowledge and in the power of the mind," Fandozzi said. He said society does not know how to cope with some of the advances of technology, such as genetic manipulations, and that a liberal arts education should provide the "ideas, values, and inspiration" that will speak to our times.

The discussion was put on by the Montana Mindpower Committee as part of a nationwide campaign to reaffirm the value of a college education. Other members of the panel were Maxine Van de Wetering, UM professor of philosophy, and Mark Pepler, class of '73, a former UM Rhodes scholar who is a research microbiologist at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton.

Van de Wetering said liberal arts were criticized in the 1960s for being too fragmented and not being relevant to the political and ethical problems of society. She said courses in the '70s and '80s still have to be relevant to everyday life.

But, she said, "A Liberal arts education helps us to prepare for Sundays. Knowing how to read well helps make life worth living."

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