

The Retort

THE VOICE OF MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

October 9th, 2013

msubretort.org

Vol.90, Issue 3

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GOVERNEMENT SHUTDOWN

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WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

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CAMPUS COFFEE PRODUCT OR PERSONALITY?

CULTURE P11



IGOR & RED ELVISES YOUR FAVORITE BAND

STUDENT POLL

If MSUB offered Honors Programs for specific majors, would you participate?

VOTE @ poll.msubretort.org

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LIKE A HIKE: POMPEYS PILLAR

By **TABBY MAUST**
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The rolling plains, the towering mountains, the lush forests—the fact that we are blessed with the great outdoors is pretty obvious no matter what corner of Montana you look at. However, our rich history, which is just as abundant as our wilderness, is not quite as obvious.

That doesn't mean you can't hunt it down!

Thirty miles outside of Billings, a mere half hour drive, stand Pompeys Pillar, a very solid example of our state's vast history while also getting a chance to stretch your legs.

Certainly anyone who has grown up in Montana or lived here for an extended time has learned the history of the Lewis



and Clark expedition. By 1805 the Corps of Discovery had made it to our great state with their interpreter Sacagawea and her young son, Pomp. Well, in all reality the baby was actually named Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, but with a name like that, you'd want Pomp too!

See **PILLAR P.15**

THE HONORED PIANIST EMILY WALKER

By **ASHLEE TWIFORD**
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Emily Walker, a first year student pursuing a degree in music, had a calm way of speaking when she talked about her recent success in the Montana Association of Symphonic Orchestras Competition. Her demeanor contrasted with the piece she played. "Saint Sean's Piano Concerto in G Minor", is filled with boisterous musical crashes nestled into more flitting melodies. Still, she picked it because she loves how flashy it is.



Walker and her mentor Dorothea Cromley started preparing a year and a half ago when she began to study the concerto. The MASO competition occurs every two years and consists of two parts.

See **P.10 EMILY**

TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE

By **PATRICIA HAMPTON**
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Throughout years of schooling, students adhere to the rules and regulations handed down by the administration, faculty and staff and their individual elementary, middle, and high schools. Students at these levels do not often have much say in how they are educated, rules are generally decided by the school district and the parents within the district. Many students continue in this passive role once they reach the university level as can be interpreted



by the 5.6% voter turnout in September's student government elections.

A majority of students are unaware of the democratic foundations of their academics and student life on campus, and are unaware that they have the right to make their voices heard. Low participation

at the university level leads to low participation of students at the community, state, and national levels as they are not learning to apply democratic understandings.

See **P.4**

CONTROL

MSUB ALUMN DIGS WITH SACRIFICE CLIFF THEATRE CO.

By **ASHLEE TWIFORD**
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The thrifted-looking couches and pallet background of the garage-theater's stage served as a surprisingly warm welcome for Sacrifice Cliff Theatre Company's debut of their new program "Dig".

Patrick Wilson, who co-founded Sacrifice Cliff Theatre Company with partner Shad Scott, describes their brand as communal gardening for performers, where work and artists are being cultivated right in front of you. The company's latest project,



Dig, brought performance poet Dave Caserio onto the creative center stage.

The essence of "Dig", as Wilson describes it, is hearing from artists that are already established—like eavesdropping on a wine-soaked conversation about art and life. Wilson picked Caserio to launch the program because,

"Dave will do anything." As a popular local performance poet, Caserio has watched the Billings art scene change. When Wilson approached him to participate in "Dig", he was eager to start the conversation.

See **P.10 THEATRE**

ZOMBIEWALK

By **HOLLY DANIELS**
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Every year for the past seven years Downtown Billings has been invaded by vicious zombies who want to eat your brains, or at least pretend to eat your brains. These zombies are comprised of Billings

citizens of all ages and backgrounds, nobody is excluded from their creeping plague and many are more than willing to convert the unprepared to join their masses. That's right, its time for the zombie walk again!

See **ZOMBIE P.11**



CAMPUS COFFEE FIX

By **PATRICIA HAMPTON**
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Caffeine drinkers – junkies and novices alike – across the MSU Billings campus are experiencing a different realm of flavors this fall. Over the summer the transition was made from City Brew coffee to Starbucks coffee on the MSU Billings Main Campus.

The adjustment is most notable in Stinger's Bistro in the Student Union Building. Sodexo has experienced an increase in coffee sales since the transition. While some ask "is it personality or product that has increased business?" Sodexo employees Kelly Sather and Kelsie

Whisler are not new to the Bistro. Their friendly personalities certainly are not hurting business, but they too recognize the increase in business

since the change in product came about. "It seems like people are really enjoying it," commented Sather.

See **COFFEE P.5**

