The “M” at MSU
History, Meaning, and Future

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Dress suits are not worn by underclassmen at College functions.

Saturday, October 16th, an underclass mix is to be staged between the classes of 1924 and 1925.

The Fangs will police the underclass mix.

From time to time throughout the year athletic contests are held between the Freshmen and Sophomores and the winners of the majority of these events have their numerals engraved on the cup in the trophy case.

The members of the Sophomore class insure the challenge for the underclass mix.

Green caps are worn by all Freshmen boys and green ribbons are worn by Freshman girls as a distinguishing mark until after the underclass mix. Caps and ribbons must be worn again in the spring at the time the seniors wear their derbies, providing the Freshmen lose the Freshman-Sophomore athletic contests.

October 12th is set aside as a holiday for the purpose of painting the "M" and the annual Frosh picnic in Bridger canyon.

All Freshmen are expected to respond to calls of athletic managers for help when necessary.

Freshmen shall not enter college buildings through front doors until after the underclass mix.

Freshmen supply wood for rally bonfires.

No "mates" are allowed Freshmen previous to the underclass mix and no "fussing" on the campus is allowed.

Freshmen are to identify themselves at all times and must use the campus bell.

No high school jacket is worn by Freshmen.

No high school hat is worn by any college student.

Freshmen are to join the September mixture.

Senior advisors are provided every year and are to serve in each college class.

It is intended that Freshmen co-operate with the Sophomore students in all athletic contests for the purpose of bettering themselves as sportsmen.

Students will wear and customarily don uniforms appropriate for the occasion.

September mixture was organized for the purpose of perpetuating, creating and governing the customs and traditions of the Montana State College and of handling other like student affairs which would come under the jurisdiction of such an organization.

The membership of this organization is limited to seven active members who are chosen from the Junior Class, being elected by a committee of the faculty during the spring of the college year on a basis of one hundred points: Scholarship to count fifty, activities thirty, and personality twenty.

The desire of this organization is to support first, last and all the time the traditions of fair play on which all of our college activities are based and, further, to be useful to the institution in every possible way. We wish to be regarded by new students, particularly Freshmen, as a committee of friends to whom they may come at any time in search of information, advice and assistance.

TO THE FRESHMEN CLASS OF 1921-1922.

TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS OF THE MONTANA STATE COLLEGE

By agreement of the Associated Students smoking on the steps of buildings on the campus and in buildings is prohibited.

Every second year the girls of Hamilton Hall entertain the other College women at a formal dance and the alternate years the party is returned by the "Down Town Girls."

Regular assembly is held each week on Friday morning. Every college student is expected to attend and sit with his class in the assigned seats.

From time to time rallies are held for the purpose of working up "pep" for athletic contests and it is the duty of all students to attend.

Caps and gowns are worn by the Seniors at assembly and during graduation exercises beginning with a specified date in the Spring quarter.

During Commencement exercises a senior wand dance is given by the senior girls after which the wands are turned over to the girls of the incoming senior class. On this same occasion the Senior President's robe is turned over to the incoming senior president.

Derbies and canes are used by the Seniors after May first.

The Seniors are the traditional guardians of the Sophomores.

The Alumni at Commencement give an annual banquet in honor of the graduating class.

Junior girls act as ushers at Commencement and Baccalaureate exercises.

The Juniors are the guardians of the Freshmen.

A formal dance is given by the Juniors in honor of the Seniors.
All Students Will Whitewash “M” In Annual Event This Saturday

Students! Here it is! This is your day! The entire MSC student body will demonstrate their school spirit October 20, when they give the M its annual fall clean-up.

M-Day activities start Friday morning with an 11 o’clock assembly sponsored by the senior class. Plans for all M-Day activities will be explained at this time.

Exponent, 1945 Oct 17; Image parc-2337, Archives and Special Collections, MSU Library, https://arc.lib.montana.edu/msu-photos/item/2337
"...some question was raised on "M" Day when J.R. suggested that "M" Day begin without wake up at 8:00 A.M. Paul talked a little about "M" Day procedure and a decision was reached to have "M" day wake-up in the dorms at 7:00 A.M. Brooms will be gathered as usual on "M" Day Eve, Wednesday, May 11. Whitewash will be mixed that afternoon."
"The lighting of the 'M' has been cancelled."

8/9/99 - KTVN, KCTZ, KXLF, KULR, KTVQ, KTVH, KFBB, KXGN

CONTACT: Julie Hutchinson/MSU Broadcast Media Editor

SUBJECT: Reconstructing the “M”

LEAD-IN: The “M” site on the southern Bridger Mountains in Bozeman is a popular place for hikers. But, after 84 years of use it’s showing its age. More from MSU’s Julie Hutchinson

VTR
Time: 2:02
OC: “...JH for MSU-Bozeman.”

CG: Stuart Jennings/MSU Reclamation Spec.

VIDEO

Wide shot of hikers making their way up the trail that leads to the “M”

AUDIO

One of the most popular trails in the Bozeman area that leads up to the “M” is falling apart. MSU researcher Stuart Jennings, who is coordinating the effort to fix up the “M” says the land is eroding, there’s an abundance of weeds, and a number of safety problems.

VTR
CG: Stuart Jennings/MSU Reclamation Spec.

Medium shot of hikers on the trail

Jennings says the first phase of the renovation plan is completed with other work planned for the near future.

VTR
CG: Jennings

Various shots of the “M” from the base and from the air

Through grants and donations, Jennings and volunteers have come up with about $20,000. Another $50 to $75,000 will be needed to complete the project which Jennings says could take another two years.

VTR
CG: Jennings
BOZEMAN HIKES: HIKING THE "M"

Look Inside!
for Outside Bozeman's 2014-15 MSU Pocket Guide

Bozeman Hikes: Hiking the "M"

Posted by Kali Gillette on Jul 9, 2020 10:30:00 AM

Welcome to Bozeman

Your Guide to Bozeman, Montana and the Surrounding Area

This blog offers a variety of content to help you plan your visit to Bozeman and the Yellowstone area. Get inspired to hit the slopes, cast your fly rod, or just take a stroll down Main Street. There are a lot of reasons to love Bozeman, and we want to share them all with you.

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Perfect for a Quick Hike or Outing with Visiting Friends or Family

Exponent 2014 August; GVLT website; Bozeman CVB website
[Hillside letters] seem to capture and elicit fond recollections of school days or sweet memories of home. These giant emblems are symbols of local identity, silently announcing to all:

this is my home, my school; this is the place I love.


Flickr: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/mteric/3564019931/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mteric/3564019931/)
Current practices, involvement and challenges on the "M"

- **Chris Pruden** – Office of Student Engagement
- **Kim Cleary** – Office of Student Engagement
- **EJ Hook** – Grounds and Facility Services

Photo by Jodi Allison-Bunnell
Practices

4 Days of work each year
• "Rock corral" construction and upkeep
• Weeding and vegetation control
• Painting (known as Rockin' the M)
• Lighting of the M
Involvement

Campus Partners:
• Grounds and Facility Services
• Office of the Dean
• University Athletics
• Army and Marine ROTC
• Office of Student Engagement

Student Involvement:
• Service Saturday
• MSU Debut
• ASMSU Student Leaders
• ASMSU Events Team

Community Partners
• Bozeman Brick and Stone
• Local first responders
Challenges

• Weed control
• Structure of border and rock barriers
• Lack of rocks
• Lack of signage
• Seating area and overlook
• Social trails - erosion
What is our collective vision for the future of the M?

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