

THE Filthy Lucre

Rah Rah, Sis Boom Bah

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A Mascot For Northern No, It's Not a Stupid Lightbulb!

Lupé Tragedia: Editor

We have to apologize for not hitting this story sooner; between Prez Clinton wanting to have a scotch'n'poker party with the Lucre staff and the vast amount of work surrounding the Student eXcellenze Awards, it almost slipped through the cracks.

But let's back up for a moment. The April 4 edition of the Northern Network News announced that, "*The MSU-Northern Student Senate is working on selecting a mascot for Northern,*" and, "*are requesting that people submit their ideas for a mascot.*"

Now, Northern has long been obsessed with a particular wavelength of electromagnetic radiation that is visible to the human eye. Our male and female sports teams are the Lights and Skylights respectively, the "official" newspaper is the Northern Light, the seal -slash- trademarked logo of our beloved university is meant to represent Aurora Borealis†, and on and on.

As inspiring as that concept is, it's difficult to convey in the form of a mascot. Should students shine laser pointers into the faces of opposing team members? Perhaps every event should be preceded by a PowerPoint presentation explaining how our school mascot has the characteristics of both a particle and a wave.

Exciting stuff, to be sure! But now it's time to choose a more appropriate (and corporeal) mascot. Now, the traditional method is to create an anthropomorphized version of a local or regional animal.

† The Filthy Lucre 1.9, "Logo Redesign"

More Blind Items!

Which ex-Admin is finally moving out of the Chancellor's Mansion (maintained out of Northern's budget), four months after his retirement? We hear that a garage sale was held at the mansion over the weekend; a friend got us a poker set! Current Chancellor Groseth and family have been relegated to a hovel on the 1400 block of Fifth Avenue since their arrival in December, and we're pleased to hear that they finally get to experience the *dulce vida*.

With all the sightings of nocturnal birds around campus in the last several semesters, the *Northern Owls* could be a possibility. And there's another regular visitor to our campus; could we end up embracing these the *MSU-N Fightin' Squirrels*? We've heard someone suggest a Moose, but there are about as many moose in the Bearpaws as there are Sasquatch; only three.

The area also has an abundance of gophers and elk, all of which could be potential mascots. Sadly, all of the more intimidating fauna of Montana has been taken; the *Bobcat*, the *Timberwolf*, the *Grizzly*, the terrifying *Sugar Beet*, all have been claimed by a high school or university in the region.

At the Filthy Lucre, we advocate thinking outside of the box. We hate the box. That box has been flattened, shredded, and recycled. We suggest that Northern abandon the clichéd idea of an animal mascot, and go for something with real guts. Or lack of guts as it were... Northern's mascot should be the laughing skeleton, or *Calavera*!

You see, back in the late 1800's and early 1900's, there was a Mexican engraver and broadsheet printer by the name of José Guadalupe Posada. Posada was famous for his "calaveras" prints, illustrations of festive, laughing skeletons dressed in fancy clothes, dancing around and having a fine old time. In fact, the Filthy Lucre's now-iconic logo is based on one of Posada's engravings.

We're sure that some artistically inclined students would be able to construct an oversized, grinning skeleton head of Styrofoam, to be worn by an enthusiastic and athletic volunteer. The Calavera would

Were two hard working students kicked out of the Electronics Building at 9 o'clock on Friday, despite having a building pass from their professor? We hear that these boys were trying to burn a little midnight oil (figuratively speaking; the weren't actually trying to start a fire) and get some work done leading up to finals week, but were exiled from the grounds by maintenance-turned-security staff. Is this a sign of things to come? More coverage of this chilling subject in the next issue!

cavort up and down the field or court during sporting events, energizing the home team and demoralizing the opposition with slapstick comedy. The Calavera would wear a fedora or top hat (though for political correctness' sake, would have to forego the cigar), and could be decked out in a "Northern maroon" jogging suit, for added mobility and team spirit. Northern's new mascot would be funnier, stranger, and edgier than anything another school could throw at us. Creating this mascot would be cheaper than other options as well, so the Cheerleading budget need not take another hit. And let's not forget the fortune that could be made in Calavera-themed apparel! Are you hearing us, bookstore?

We will be sending this suggestion to the Student Senate's special "Mascot Suggestion" email, and hope to see it appear on the ballot near the end of the semester. Of course, submissions will be "screened and compiled" by the Senate, but we hope that our entry will remain intact and can be voted on by the student body.



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