

U NEWS

Sub-Standard Subs at Ole Miss

YOU POUND YOUR ALARM INTO OBLIVION, WIPE the crust from your eyes, throw on the nearest clothes and trudge to class — only to find that your prof canceled.

But forget the extra sleep. You have to sit through "Dr. Feelgood's condom application and 101 fun things to do with latex" seminar."

Welcome to the U. of Mississippi. Thanks to the new Alternatives to Canceled Classes program, extra morning naps are no longer an option.



OK kids, today we'll be learning about the body...

Desert Waterfare

THE LAND IS KNOWN MORE FOR SCORPIONS THAN skis, but a lack of water isn't enough to dry out the Arizona State U. water skiing team.

After surfacing in the desert just a year ago, the Sun Devils are among the nation's best college squads.

"It's pretty bizarre," says freshman skier Kelli Garrett, a California native. "I've been skiing all my life, but where I come from, we have trees and grass and rain."

Last fall, arid ASU left its oppo-

nents all wet. The Sun Devils washed out the U. of California, Sacramento, for their first Western Regional Tournament title. They later finished seventh out of 12 teams at the October nationals.

"We've been on fire," says sophomore Todd Phillips, the club president. "Things have just caught on here so quickly, and we've done so well."

Phillips can thank his dad for that. After skiing at the U. of Central Florida, Todd wanted to attend ASU. The school had no water skiing team, so his father, David, went to work.



Waterworld, Arizona style.

If an Ole Miss prof skips class, the college version of a substitute teacher from hell takes over. The "alternative" class topics are usually wellness or health-related issues like stress management and drug and alcohol abuse.

Lloyd Holmes, wellness center coordinator at Ole Miss, started the program in fall 1994 to teach students healthy, responsible lifestyles. He says learning about topics not directly related to class material is a positive change of pace.

So, students paying to learn 18th century English literature or biological chemistry must instead sit through lectures on how to avoid peer pressure. Valuable information? Yes. Required knowledge for final exams? No. Conducive to a little bonus shut-eye? Definitely not.

Ole Miss students are understandably peeved that they can no longer legitimately miss that 8 a.m. physics lab.

Sophomore Kara Keller sat through two such presentations last year. "One was about job opportunities," she says. "I was a freshman at the time, so I didn't find it very interesting."

Senior Rebecca Lauck says many of her friends don't think the program is such a good idea. "They don't want to put up with [the lectures] and would rather go back home to sleep some more."

* Not a real seminar. Inserted for comedic effect.

Susanne Stewart, Marietta College, Ohio / Photo by John Cox, Eastern Illinois U.

"I tried to get the kids a place to ski, some corporate sponsorships and some coaches," the elder Phillips says. "We've got the climate here. We found the water, and we got the skiers."

Did they ever. ASU held tryouts in the spring of 1994 and had to cut almost 60 people. Since only one experienced skier came out that first year, Phillips was looking for good athletes who could learn the sport.

He ended up with people like senior Jill Williams. She had never gone off a ski jump before, but after a year of work, she finished second in the region in that event.

She honed her skills on ASU's two unofficial practice lakes — Crystal Point and Buchli Lake. The skiers make the 45-minute trip from school to the lakes for unstructured practices.

"We're going to get even more good recruits in here," coach Phillips says. "We're expecting to have a very good team for years to come. Our goal is to finish in the top three in 1996 and to win nationals in 1997."

They just might do it, too — if the lakes don't dry up first.

Nicholas J. Cotsonika, U. of Michigan / Photo by Crystal Armstrong, Arizona State U.

It All Adds Up



WHILE MOST OF US SPENT THE SUMMER OF '94 slathered in suntan oil and draped on a deck chair, Meredith Bagby was spending the summer before her senior year at Harvard U. poring over statistics and figures.

Why? She was writing *The First Annual Report of the U.S.* — a book that provides basic, comprehensive information about government and finances. Bagby says the report is modeled after a corporate annual report and includes an income statement, balance sheets and information about government spending for Medicare, abortion and education.

"It was a project I did over the summer," she says. "I wrote it with the intention of trying to distribute it to people. I wanted to have a pretty concise basic idea of how the government was spending money."

Bagby shelled out \$2,500 — from her own savings — for the first printing of the report. But even this go-getter says there were

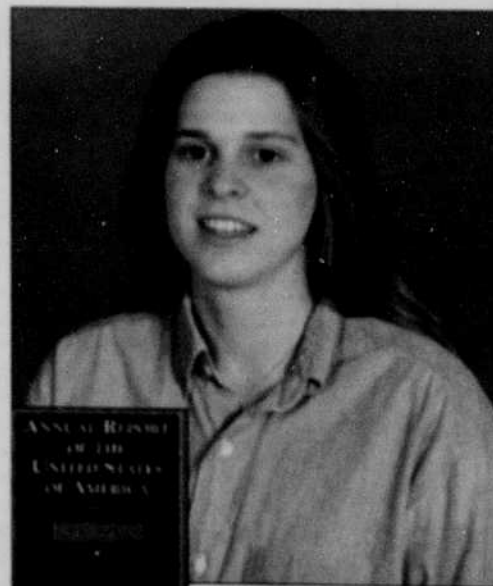
times when she just wanted to hide the project under her bed and spend the money elsewhere.

Her investment paid off when a copy of an article about Bagby's book landed in the hands of H. Ross Perot. "He liked it so much he took it to the Senate Banking Committee," Bagby says. "That got the ball rolling, and then it got published by Harper Collins."

Perot was so impressed with Bagby, he invited her to take the podium at one of his political rallies. She spoke about how current trends could affect our children and about the media misconceptions about our generation.

"The media describe us as lazy, like we're a lost generation," she says. "By going out and doing things and setting an example, we can prove the stereotyping wrong."

Bagby is definitely not lazy. The '95 grad landed a job in the mergers and acquisitions department of an investment bank in New York City. And she just published her *Second Annual Report* (Harper Collins, 1996) in January. Slack that.



Meredith Bagby: author, banker, X-er

Christie Midthun, U. of Iowa

The Buzz

- The proposed California Civil Rights Initiative would prohibit the use of race or gender in hiring in all state agencies. The California State U. system and California Community Colleges, which were not affected by the U. of California regents' decision to abolish race-based admissions, would fall under this policy if passed in November.
- Eleven-year-old brainiac Michael Kearney started graduate school (yes, grad school) in January at Tennessee State U. Kearney set his first Guinness world record when he completed high school in one year at age 6. He set another record when he graduated from the U. of South Alabama in '94 at age 10.
- First the Berlin Wall, now the Pomona Wall. For 20 years, students at Pomona College, Calif., have expressed themselves freely on a 5' X 20' wall designed to encourage free speech. But messages have gone from "Relax" and "Remember AIDS Day" to "Kill O.J.," and the university wants to tear it down to prevent it from turning into a forum for antagonism.