

PAYDIRT

Who is the SGA President?

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Who is the SGA President?

By: Haley Cordova

So if you are one of our faithful readers, I bet you are wondering who even is in control of Paydirt. Are we just a lawless group of individuals and our readers are at the mercy of reading whatever we choose to write about, and there are no consequences if we choose to write something so terrible?

Well no, we are actually part of the Executive Branch of the Student Government Association (SGA) which our elected president, Elijah Collins (call him Eli), is in charge of. As funny as it would be to slander President Eli and talk about all the SGA corruption, I can't. Many good changes have happened and I believe it is because of the individuals in charge.

HC: So how long have you been a part of the SGA?

Eli: This is my fourth year in the SGA. I started as a sophomore, and I was a senator for two years then vice president for a year and now I am the president.

HC: What got you into the SGA?

Eli: Its kinda a funny so story when I was a sophomore, it was basically like my freshmen year because it was after everything was super shut down from covid in 2020 - 2021 school year, so on campus meeting a bunch of people and the sga advisor Michel Voveral had mentioned during orientation something about waffle club (at the time) was a club that used to exist here and this guy that I had just met, he was like 'I am going to restart waffle club' so as part of it Michel the SGA advisor was like 'ok you guys show up at the senate meeting to talk about it' so we show up at the senate meeting after quickly writing a club packet, we didn't need to have a club packet for this. We talk about how we are bringing Waffle club back, I watched (at the time) the current vice president Dallen Sobers announce that the President had left in the summer and now he was the new president and the guy they just nominated to be president pro tem was now the vice president and his name was Dillian Nellson. And I

was like 'oh wow this is super cool, it is nice to meet you, I am thinking about running for student government.' So I technically took a freshman senator spot because they needed people.

HC: Well what is keeping you in the SGA?

Eli: Well now, it's because I like to know things and I want to make Tech better for students in any way that I can, some days I feel as though I am not doing a fantastic job about that but I believe that I have the knowledge and experience that I can use to further benefit the students. And I like it, cool people, fun stuff, it is really nice to just be behind the curtain. I am doing it even more so now since I am involved in hiring committees, at the border regency meetings so I just get to see more and more how the school operates.

HC: So you mentioned fixing things, so what was something that you walked into the president position wanting to improve?

Eli: It's the student activities board, it was one of my main motivators to run for president, was that I did not like the state of the student activities board last year, I didn't agree with the leadership. I had repeated civil conversations about stuff. And being like 'hey this is the way I should do it I think we would get more positive responses this way' there was no agreement between us all. I wanted the events that they did, because that was when TnT Thursday was a thing last year, and a lot of little things were not working together and I thought those should be condensed into three or four bigger things that take more time and more effort. There was an emphasis on high budget giveaways. We gave away a lot of PS5s, which I thought was kind of ridiculous and not a good use of money, because \$500 of a PS5 could be distributed to a different type of event that would benefit so many more students then just one random person who just happened to show up and get a PS5. So as a part of that I was complaining about that to my wonderful fiance Alayna, telling me that I should run for president then so I did. It does not help that I am a bad event planner

Who is the SGA President? (cont.)

but I just thought I could put the correct people in place so I did.

HC: Oh, so what are some things that you notice that are different from last year now that are different. The changes that you made

Eli: mostly it's been staffing stuff. I definitely did something similar to what previous presidents have done. Usually it's inferred that when a new president is elected the old staff leaves and the new people are hired on. I kept as much of the same staff as I could to cultivate the skills and the generational knowledge, I put people in place so that maybe they could run to replace me or they will have a good idea of how things operate and they will have a much better time training their replacements when they leave. So I tried to rehire a lot of the same people, just for the benefits of their experience. Then move up people to better positions who I agreed with mostly in the student activities board. I hired people who agreed with my vision of student activities at tech. And since then it has been interesting, I definitely feel like there has been a lot of more specific directions like I could be more direct in telling people 'ok this is what we're doing this is what i think should happen. This is what we need to do' it's something I don't think i am super great at its something I thought I should improve on. So I can narrow down our focus and make us even more productive.

HC: So what are some events that you are looking forward to?

Eli: So what I have been looking at doing is, so I got all these posters on my wall from previous 49ers and Spring Fling. So one of the things I was interested in was looking at them and seeing what things we used to do a lot in the past and what we could bring back. So for the 49ers, we kind of had a rough start with hiring and getting the student activities board moving so we are sticking to our basics comedy night and casino night but in the spring we are looking at doing more interesting stuff. We are

going to bring back the ski trip because apparently a crap ton of people want to and we figured out a cheaper way of doing it last time. I want to bring back other stuff we used to do, one of the ones I am looking forward to in the spring for spring fling is Mud Bog. There is this big dirt field up by emmer tech and we will just flood it with water and it will get super muddy and then we will just have like three legged races tug of war because we can. That was a really popular one even before I was here and so I am looking forward to it coming back.

HC: Is there anything else you would like to talk about? Or anything you would like to inform the student body about?

Eli: If you have anything to complain about please tell us, especially if it is a specific thing that is not just a general concern, but specific to you. If we can help you solve it, you can come and talk to us and at the very least we can direct you to the right place especially if it is a thing that the SGA is tangentially related to but it's not our direct thing. DONT just put it in the complaints form, use the complaints form yes but if it's like a thing that you actually want help with, talk to us in person. We cannot solve a lot of the problems that come up like 'I had this specific individual problem' and then they are not at the sennet meeting for us to talk about it, which it is at a 8:00 on a Tuesday I wouldn't be there if I didn't have to be it makes it kind of difficult in terms of resolving complaints and cleaning up any misconceptions or issues, just cause like we are announcing it to people who already know this and could guess about how this actually worked. Come talk to us I beg you I promise we are not difficult, I am just tired.

All of the College Movies Lied

By: Rosa Maria Trujillo

I was walking around campus on move in day and found out that this is nothing like Pitch Perfect. There was no one handing out whistles, there was no acapella club and worst of all: there was no one playing hacky sack.

It got me to think about how inaccurate movies were for the “college experience” and how it was so silly that many movies have hyped up the socials and parties. When in reality parties are kind of lame and a bit overrated and the socials are fun but they are few and far between. Media show that many things in young adulthood are supposed to be the highlight of life. High School is supposed to be the highlight of your life, then college is supposed to be the other highlight of your life and after that it all goes downhill. At least that's what all the movies I've watched as a child seemed to have said.

Now I am not saying these movies are not enjoyable. I watch a handful of college movies all the time and I enjoy them quite a bit. The thing is when you see the movie leads party and only party it leads you to forget that the people in the movie are in fact in college. (accept Legally Blond, Elle Woods does have to work very hard on her studies and you see her in her class a lot in order to show her educational growth) Seeing college students party and only party is such a big thing in college and coming of age movies that there are satire movies that make fun of all of the weird and silly things that happen in all of these movies.

The hook- up culture in college movies is very weird to watch. America is very prushish but also very over sexualized (which is another issue to talk about but is for another maybe time) which leads to hook- up culture being such a big thing in college movies, and this includes the walk of shame.

Roommates are also a very big thing in these college movies where the roommate is evil or the lead and the roommate are best friends. Rarely are the roommates at a

mutual level of understanding. It is also a thing where the normal lead is put up with a very weird roommate who is also a complete jerk and social outcast.

I do understand that it is just a movie so of course it will be very inaccurate but there could also be some more movies that are slightly more accurate like Legally Blonde where you can see a good social life and a good academic standing. College movies like any other coming of age story are filled with unusual stereotypes and very inaccurate things that happen but they are a very fun watch and as long as nothing is taken to heart then it'll be quite enjoyable.

I am very sad that hacky sack is not a common occurrence on college campuses and I will forever be let down by this fact.



Bathroom Review: Macey Center Lower Floor

By: Sawyer Solfest

Two Stars / Five Stars:

This bathroom is whack. You walk back into the liminal dungeon that is the Macey armpit. Then you open it and you see the sinks and you're like, "Ohhhh, okayy, there's a vibe in here." Then you turn to the left. Then you see the yolk-colored dungeon.

Then you smell this bathroom. It's like someone taped down an old spice container and tossed it in there like it was a goddamned grenade. It was relatively clean for a tech bathroom which was more frightening due to its vibe. What ghosts, goblins, and or ghouls haunt this bathroom? Who's to say? It's probably haunted by the grad students we used for wall installation in 2008.

Point is the upstairs bathroom is better, you should go there instead.

Also, for whoever the original bathroom reviewer is if you want your cape and cowl back call me. Until that happens I now steward the bathrooms. I am no mere reviewer! I am the bathroom sage! <3



Sawyer's Science Horror: Radiation

By: Sawyer Solfest

The lethal radiation dose for the average human being is roughly 3-5 grays of radiation. Today we're going to look at several real horror stories about radiation so be warned.

Radiation affects people in a way completely contrary to our survival instinct. We will survive if we can make it past the initial damage and infection. That is not what happens when you are irradiated. Your DNA is shattered by high-energy particles and your cells can no longer correctly reproduce. Unfortunately, that does not stop them from trying.

Case One: The Manhattan District Experiments

In 1945, several medical investigators took a path they had often tread before. This time they walked this path with radioactive material in hand. Elements like plutonium and polonium were a novelty, it was only natural we expose humans to it. After two whole administrative scientists decided it would be beneficial to expose a human to plutonium, they began intravenous exposure. Placing the element in a man's blood. They did this without the patient's knowledge of course.

The first subject was Mr. Cade. The Department of Energy states that the researchers discovered their first victim close to home. Mr Cade was, "already in the Oak Ridge Army hospital, a victim of an auto accident that had occurred on March 24, 1945. He was a fifty-three-year-old "colored male" named Ebb Cade, who was employed by an Oak Ridge construction company as a cement mixer;" (DOE ACHREE Report). On April 10th, 1945 the name 'Cade' was replaced with "HP-12" (the code name HP--"human product"[26]--was later assigned to this patient and to patients at the University of Rochester)," (DOE ACHREE Report).

Cade was unknowingly dosed with almost 5 micrograms of plutonium. While unsure how much, the researchers knew that some of the plutonium would never leave him. Cade then left the hospital and due to several factors,

died of heart failure years later. We are unsure how the radiation may have affected him as he never consented to an autopsy.

The experiments of 1945 culminated in one Albert Stevens designated CAL-1. Albert was believed to have advanced and thorough stomach cancer, leading him to be chosen for a plutonium injection. This was incorrect. Later, "a biopsy revealed a benign gastric ulcer instead of the suspected cancer," (DOE ACHREE Report). Steven's received almost one whole microgram of an isotopic species of plutonium. This effectively makes him the most irradiated human being in history. He miraculously survived and lived to 79 years old when he died of heart failure.

Case Two: Anatoli Bugorski

Anatoli arrived at work on the 13th of July in much the same way he would every day. Anatoli was a high-energy particle researcher at the U-70 Synchrotron in Protvino, Russia.

The facility was of a utilitarian design having been, "created with partial use of the existing infrastructure," (A.V. Maximov et al.,). After climbing several meters below ground level Anatoli began his work on the collider. Anatoli's work for the day was to make adjustments to the detection system. He alerted the operating staff that he would need to be in the injection tunnel to make adjustments.

The beams detector sat offside the synchrotron in the experiment hall, passing protons through the air. Normally the beam would have been passing through the accelerator when Anatoli entered. It was not.

While running, there would have been both a locked door and a sign alerting technicians. There was not.

The beam was on, the door was unlocked, and the bulb had burned out. The next thing Anatoli saw was "a flash brighter than a thousand suns," (Gessen, 1997). He immediately fell to the ground. A proton beam traveling-

Sawyer's Science Horror: Radiation (cont.)

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-a majority of the speed of light had slowed to just above the speed of sound before passing through the front of the left half of his face. It entered level with the nose and exited the back of his head. He felt no pain whatsoever.

Anatoli's face quickly swelled beyond recognition, but only in the region struck by the beam. It stretched and bloated his visage to a frightening degree. The immediate numbers did not look good.

Anatoli had just come in contact with 3000 grays of radiation. The only question was how much of it he had absorbed.

The only path anyone predicted for Anatoli was a clinic in Moscow where he could die. According to Gessen, "Over the next few days, skin on the back of his head and on his face just next to his left nostril peeled away to reveal the path the beam had burned through the skin, the skull, and the brain tissue," (Gessen, 1994). He began to acutely die, cell death slowly radiating away from the beam site.

The human brain and body are extremely resilient. Anatoli recovered and despite losing a huge portion of his brain he managed to achieve his doctorate. He is still alive at age 82.

Case 3: The Irradiated Man

Those in the previous stories were subjected to more radiation than Hisashi Ouchi. However, they absorbed less at any one time or all of it in one contained area. This is a true radiation horror story.

Often when we look at health and medicine, we see it as a system. We look at a body like a machine made of several key pieces. A car has several systems that work together to move it toward its goal. The issue with applying this model to a person is the complexity of cellular life,

When someone is sick we can add elements or replace pieces to "fix" them. This is not true. We have to guide one's body toward recovery. Radiation sickness directs our regeneration toward killing us. In September 1999, humanity attempted to fight this fate via one man named Hisashi.

Hisashi Ouchi was a worker in a plutonium production facility. Hisashi and several others were operating a sedimentation tank that nitrogenated plutonium. They added far too much plutonium to what was essentially, "a stainless steel bucket," (Lamar, 1999) filled with nitric acid. The 16kg mass went critical within a meter of Hisashi.

Others were hit, but none like Hisashi. Cherenkov radiation emitted a blue glow through the room as the workers collapsed from nausea. After being taken to a specialized hospital in Chiba, the symptoms were mild. The staff knew this was just the start as they prepared for the storm of symptoms headed toward Hisashi.

It takes time for your body to run out of the cell types which you can no longer create. This creates a grace period where all you feel is nausea and an intense sunburn. Then your white count and platelets plummet.

They used a myriad of medical techniques to keep Hisashi alive. The worst comes when tissue stops regenerating. You can no longer create new tissue layers. Hisashi was given countless skin grafts. Imaging and karyotyping of Hisashi chromosomes revealed a structure not recognizable as human DNA. A stem cell transplant should have repaired these structures but they were so destroyed that the fragmentation spread to the new material donated by Hisashi's brother. Hisashi passed away after 83 days.

Resources

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Stock

The Body Found in West

By: Rosa Maria Trujillo
(Special thanks to Vincent for helping me)

It was move in day and many people were moving into West Hall. There was a smell in the dorms, but that was the smell that everyone smelt for years upon years. So the newcomers thought it was normal. There were some cockroaches in the dorm and they would go back into the walls. Many students tried to kill all of the roaches but did not succeed. There was a rumor going around that there was a dead body in the walls and that's why there were so many roaches.

The rumors got worse once there were ants in all of the dorm. They would leave and stay periodically. Many people thought it was gross and did not have any food in their dorm due to it and as more time went by the more the smell grew and the more bugs were in the dorm.

Due to the growing smell concerns and the vermin in the dorm. The police had become involved and all the residents in West Hall had to leave. Everyone would try to look and sneak past the crime scene tape but they would always be caught. The police started with looking in all of the unoccupied dorms first, then they started to break down the walls. It was a long and tiring process and they still found nothing.

The smell only got worse and worse. And the vermin seemed to have multiplied. The more they broke down the walls the worse the smell got.

This eventually led to them checking the ceiling because they had realized that all of the vermin were coming from the inside of the ceilings.

What they found was truly disturbing and the worst thing a man could find. It was a sandwich that had been there for so long. The meat had into a shade of color not even named. The new color was named rott and it was a mix between fuschia green, dingey yellow and light pink. The bread had spots of green that had been tested to see if it was mold but a new biological kingdom was made

just for it. And the vegetables had coagulated together becoming an unholy amalgamation of human hubris and time. Worst of all there was no cheese or honey mustard put on the sandwich to rot with the rest.



Stock

What Even is the 49ers?



By: Haley Cordova

As we approach next week, we notice these strange fliers talking about the 49ers. I'm sure all the returning students know what this means, but to you freshman and transfer students, this is quite a big deal here at Tech.

According to an old Tech yearbook, one of the big events we hold every year is called, "Paint the M," which started in 1910, and was recognized in 1916. The first 49ers were held in "abbreviated format" in 1921 and in 1924 was recognized as a traditional event. So, this year, we're celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the 49ers, pretty cool if you think about it. The first 49ers was a method of raising money for its class as a gift, there was dancing, a small carnival, costumes, and gambling.

Unfortunately, after the war, the celebration was changed, and most of the events moved to the Socorro Plaza, and maybe the event was really small. The school officially canceled the event in 1960. However many students at Tech were very resilient and brought back the 49ers in 1967. Bringing back the parade, gambling, and costumes.

So the year is now 2024 and I have already seen one 49ers come and go, but now I am even more excited for this year's 49ers.

First off, the theme is Greek, which is so exciting at the

symbolism of what the 49ers represent. For those of you who are new to campus or haven't experienced a 49ers yet, here is what to expect for this year.

First off, you are going to make sure that you are not doing anything the 16th through the 20th of October.

Wednesday, October 16th

4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Make sure you're in the Fidel Atrium for cookies! Student Access Services is hosting an event to decorate (or just eat) cookies! Also giving tips to be a "smart cookie" and study better with having ADHD.

7:00 p.m.

Glow-in-the-Dark Golf Tournament! Over by the New Mexico Tech Golf Course, the Golf Club is hosting a-competition! If you don't participate at Halloween, we recommend just to go watch!

Thursday, October 17th

7:00 p.m.

Comedy Night with Adam Grabowski! If you think that name sounds familiar, then you've probably seen him on America's Got Talent! Getting compliments from Simon Cowell saying, "He was the funniest one." This will be at

What Even is the 49ers? (cont.)

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Macey Center if you would like to attend.

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Ballroom Swing Dance Club will be hosting their event in the Sac. At seven, the lessons will start, and the social dance will be at 8.

8:30 p.m.

Uncle Dave's Large Band is going to be performing at the Bar! The band has 12 members, and they will be performing that Thursday as well as Friday.

Friday, October 18

7:00 a.m.

Painting the M. So in case you haven't noticed the giant mountain with the M on it, it is called M Mountain. Every year we go up and paint it with limestone, it's a pretty steep hike, and there is a race in some aspects. Usually after the hike, they serve burgers then they drive you down. If any of this sounds interesting to you I would highly recommend registering, registration closes on the 17th.

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The Annual Block Party is held on campus Drive, there's all types of food trucks that show up, games, and club booths. There are a lot of cool things to buy, look at, and eat!

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Rabbit Hole Tattoo Studio Flash Booth. Yep, we have a real tattoo artist coming to Socorro! If you're interested, I highly recommend going to the Fidel Atrium! (Ask)

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Heritage Mining Events near the athletic field and on-campus Drive. If you've noticed any of the rocks with big holes in them, this is the event to see how it happens. There will be Gold panning, Swedish Saw, Single-strike

drilling, and Jackleg Drilling!

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Driscoll Hall Open House!! You can come and see all the handprints that have been on the wall! The tradition is 20 years old! As a past resident of Driscoll, the room is one of my favorite places on campus and I would highly recommend going to take a look at it!

4:15 p.m.

Miner's Rugby game. The current rugby players versus the alumni rugby players as a traditional game! It's always exciting to go and watch the rugby games. I would highly recommend it.

6:00 p.m.

Rave III, which will be held in Macy centerstage! There will be a bar and student artist Yucca will be featured!

7:00 p.m.

Stargazing at the Observatory. This one speaks for itself. A very fun way to end the day.

Saturday, October 19th

11:00 a.m.

49ers Parade!! It's very exciting that they brought this tradition back! If you are interested, the event will be held at the Socorro Town Plaza!

7:00 p.m.

The annual Casino Night will be held in the student activity center! It's very fun to show off your gambling skills, and card skills.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Comet Viewing Party at the Observatory! A comet that was discovered in winter 2023 will be in the line of sight, it will not be seen again for a long time!

You Kids and Your Cellphones

By: Brayden Sealy

So everyone is familiar with the age-old saying, “That there phone’s gonna rot your brains.” Right? I’m not interested in rotting brains, I am interested in how it rots your education.

I will shamefully admit that I frequently peruse my phone during class. It’s a bad habit. Though, I wanted to draw some evidence from an article to prove to you, reader with your phone in your other hand. I propose the natural and obvious thesis that not having your phone in class will naturally increase learning and maybe even makes the environment safer.

The lovely people at Study.com have pretty much already done the work for me. They surveyed teachers from seven different states across the country about a cell phone ban in classes. They asked teachers for their opinion on the ban. They also asked teachers who had already enforced a ban about the results from the ban. I’m essentially going to spew this information at you, alongside my witty commentary.

Alright so naturally, the teachers reported that there was increased engagement, aided in classroom management, and ensured student safety. Additionally, there was time wasted in class trying to police phone usage (go figure).

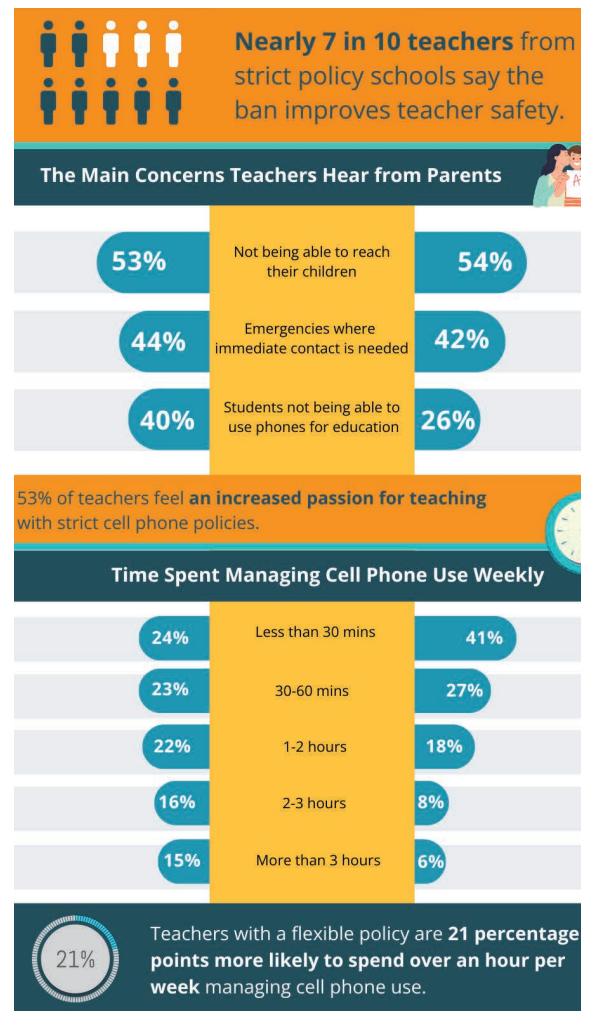
Could we imagine a life without our cellphones? I am sure some people might be able to. Though, it is difficult to imagine life without the Instachat and Snapgram or whatever you kids are using (go follow the Paydirt Instagram).

Now, this study was focused primarily on high schools. Naturally, this is because a cellphone ban can be enforced on high school grounds. Try taking a cellphone away from a college student faking attention in Physics or Chemistry. Ain’t gonna happen. Despite this, I’m sure if there was a graph that grades vs phone usage, there would be a negative slope.

All of this to say, what? I’m glad you asked. All of this to say, paying attention in class will probably result in you learning something. Shocking, I’m well aware. Don’t just take it from me, read the study attached that Study.com sent to Paydirt directly (popular, aren’t we).

Here it is:

Mecom, Khristian, and Alina Lehtinen-Vela. “Teacher Survey: Cell Phone Bans Lead to Safer Environment and More Learning Time.” Study.Com, 6 Aug. 2024, teachinglicense.study.com/featured-insights/mobile-bans-increase-engagement-and-learning-time.html.



Study.com



If you would like to enter your pet in Choice Pet of the Month contest, please scan the QR code and fill out the form! Remember to choose a good quality photo and provide as many details as possible about your furry, feathery, or scaly friends!



Do you have any kind of creative material that you want to see featured in the latest issue of Paydirt?

Scan the QR code below and fill out the form!

Please pick a quality photo if submitting photography, pottery, artwork, etc.



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YOUR AD COULD BE HERE

Contact paydirt@npe.nmt.edu
for more information.

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