

**60TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY**

Helena, Montana  
January 4, 2007

Senate Chambers  
State Capitol

Senate convened at 1 p.m. President Cooney presiding. Invocation by Father Jerry Lowney. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call. All members present. Quorum present.

Yeas: Bales, Barkus, Black, Brown, Brueggeman, Cobb, Cocchiarella, Curtiss, Elliott, Esp, Essmann, Gallus, Gillan, Hansen, Harrington, Hawks, Jackson, Jent, Juneau, Kaufmann, Kitzenberg, Laible, Larson, Laslovich, Lewis, Lind, McGee, Moss, Murphy, Pease, Perry, Peterson, Ryan, Schmidt, Smith, Squires, Stapleton, Steinbeisser, Story, Tash, J.Tropila, M.Tropila, Wanzenried, Weinberg, Williams, Mr. President.

Total 46

Nays: Balyeat, Gebhardt, O'Neil, Shockley.

Total 4

Absent or not voting: None.

Total 0

Excused: None.

Total 0

**MOTIONS**

**SEN. JIM ELLIOTT, SD 7, TROUT CREEK** moved SB 127 presently in Taxation Committee be placed in Business and Labor Committee. Motion carried.

**SEN. JESSE LASLOVICH, SD 43, ANACONDA** moved SB 49 presently in Education Committee be placed in Judiciary. Motion carried.

**SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Sandra Alcosser, Poet Laureate, presented the following poems for the Senate:

**WHAT MAKES THE GRIZZLIES DANCE**

June and finally snowpeas  
sweeten the Mission Valley.  
High behind numinous meadows  
lady bugs swarm, like huge  
lacquered fans from Hong Kong,  
like serrated skirts  
of blown poppies,  
whole mountains turn red.  
And in the blue penstemon  
grizzly bears swirl  
as they bat snags of color  
against their ragged mouths.  
Have you never wanted  
to spin like that  
on hairy, leathered feet,  
amid swelling berries

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as you tasted a language  
of early summer--shaping  
lazy operatic vowels,  
cracking hard-shelled  
consonants like speckled  
insects between your teeth,  
have you never wanted  
to waltz the hills  
like a beast?

Sandra Alcosser  
from Except by Nature

Approaching August

Night takes on its own elegance.  
The catenary curve of snakes,  
the breathing, pentagonal-shaped  
flowers, the shadblow pliant  
and black with berries. Orion  
rises in the east, over  
fat green gardens, and all meanness  
is forgiven.

We canoe the river  
in the amethyst hour before dark.  
Two billion beats to each heart.  
Two passengers fish, two paddle  
past the chalk caves, the banks  
of aster, the flood plains dense  
with white tail and beaver.

We are lost near midnight, a moonless  
summer evening, midseason in our senses,  
midlife. The sky overhead like glitter ice.  
The water round swollen cottonwoods  
pulls like tresses and torn paper.

Today I had a letter from France.  
"What a truly civilized nation," my friend wrote  
as she drank her morning coffee with thick cream  
in a country cafe near Avignon. "To my right  
a man in a black tuxedo sips raspberry liqueur  
and soda."

Here on the same latitude we lie back at dawn  
on the caving bank of the Bitterroot.  
A shadow slips through the silver grasses.  
And then a moth.  
And then the moon.

Sandra Alcosser  
from Except by Nature

FOXFIRE

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Once I thought we would know everything,  
that's what this was for, this fox fire,  
this fragrant energy like nighthawks  
screaming at dusk.  
All winter I stalked elk that were down  
from the mountain and starving.  
I walked the low places where they galloped  
through slush, the rocks where they wallowed  
and pawed for new grasses, the tooth marks  
on aspen, the mineral lick, the creek  
where the water was roiled and milky.  
I sweated through immovable snow  
and fell down exhausted, but when I imagined  
I'd stand in a thicket, my eyes glazed over,  
my sharp breath, and know the cold  
communion of elk, I was wrong.  
Once I thought we were all gods  
blessed and strutting this lovely planet.  
The earth was a minor passing, like the path  
down to our ditch for water, pretty  
with serviceberry, but transient.  
As a young girl I swung upside down  
with other girls as we hung by our heels  
from a jungle gym and contemplated heaven.  
It was a silky place. I preferred  
purgatory, like a dark café,  
retrievers curled about the table legs  
and the warm abraded doors.  
At thirty-eight I'm still the babe  
of my family. Once I thought they would teach me,  
that even their last breath would be a key,  
but now I see them drifting off from their easy chairs  
like a tribe leaving shore together, the television  
blaring, their mouths sagged open, and when they  
return for brief moments, they stare at me  
as if I were a stranger.  
All that I will ever know is right here  
in the wash and till of these few acres.  
Frost tonight and behind it the whole summer  
so brief I can still see the bronco-faced calf  
born to the bloody pasture and the brown trout  
suspended in its first glittering insect hatch.  
There will never be more than twilight, a valley  
receding to glass. In this tiny paradise  
of common flowers, the waist-high marigolds  
blaze up like golden dowagers. Venus rises alone  
and early to a cold black sky.  
Sandra Alcosser  
from A Fish to Feed All Hunger

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**FIRST READING AND COMMITMENT OF BILLS**

The following Senate bills were introduced, read first time, and referred to committees:

- SB 181**, introduced by Cobb, referred to State Administration.
- SB 182**, introduced by Cobb, referred to Public Health, Welfare and Safety.
- SB 183**, introduced by Laible, referred to Judiciary.
- SB 184**, introduced by Hawks, referred to Local Government.
- SB 185**, introduced by Hawks, referred to Highways and Transportation.
- SB 186**, introduced by Lewis, referred to Public Health, Welfare and Safety.
- SB 187**, introduced by Bales, Tash, referred to Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.
- SB 188**, introduced by Tash, Ross, referred to Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.
- SB 189**, introduced by Kitzenberg, referred to Natural Resources and Energy.
- SB 190**, introduced by Lewis, Ryan, Brown, Stahl, Schmidt, Franklin, Ripley, Cooney, Musgrove, referred to Highways and Transportation.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Correctly printed: **SB 181, SB 182, SB 183, SB 184, SB 185, SB 186, SB 187, SB 188, SB 189, SB 190.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Committee meetings were announced by the committee chairs.

Majority Leader Williams moved that the Senate adjourn until 1 p.m., Friday, January 5, 2007. Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

JOHN MUDD  
Secretary of the Senate

MIKE COONEY  
President of the Senate