

MONTANA KAIMIN



DEFERRED

A man's journey from addiction and imprisonment
to recovery and college

Story by Ethan Jamba



6 Trouble with FAFSA

13 Mean girls: Fetch or flop?

15 Lady Griz spark

Cover photo illustration featuring Shawn Roe by Ethan Jamba and Chris Lodman

January 25, 2024 | Volume 126 | Issue No. 16



The Montana Kaimin is a weekly, independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. The Kaimin office and the University of Montana are located on land originally inhabited by the Salish People. Kaimin is a derivative of a Salish language word, "Qe'ymin," that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means "book," "message" or "paper that brings news."

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Emily Tschetter

BUSINESS MANAGER
Caden Fox

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
Haley Yarborough

NEWS EDITOR
Claire Bernard

SPORTS EDITOR
Max Dupras

AUDIO EDITOR
Clayton Murphy

COPY CHIEF
Chloe Olsgaard

DESIGN EDITOR
Mackenna Gleave

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Caydence Martin

ONLINE EDITOR
McKenna Johnson

FEATURES EDITOR
Christine Compton

PHOTO EDITORS
Chris Lodman
Ava Rosvold

VIDEO EDITOR
Ethan Jamba

NEWSROOM STAFF

NEWS REPORTERS

Sav Chavez
Elle Daniel
Melissa Dickson
Vivianne Ostheimer
Andy Tallman
Corbin Vanderby

SPORTS REPORTERS

Maxwell Johnson
Holly Malkowski
Will Thomas
Sophia Ward

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTERS

Kairi Lising
Keely Proebstel
Lauren Reinhart
Kate Widmer

AUDIO REPORTERS

Bayliss Flynn
Elinor Smith

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Renna Al-Haj
Maddie Crandall
Walker McDonald

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Rally Belcher
Jessica Henderson
Katy McCumber
Lily Meskers
Christina Rodriguez

COPY EDITORS

Brandon Clark
Mariah Henry
Leah Welch

DESIGNERS

Justin Bangtson
Julia Branen
Madeline Staples

CARTOONIST

Barrett Clement

SOCIAL MEDIA ASSISTANT

McKenna Johnson

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Drew Craig
Madeline Grebb
Noah Kyhl

ADVISERS

Jule Banville
Erin Trieb

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@Montanakaimin



@Montanakaimin

@Montanakaiminsports



@Montanakaimin

@Kaiminsports



@Montanakaimin



@ Montana Kaimin

@ montanakaimin203

For comments, corrections or letters to the editor, contact
emily.tschetter@umontana.edu
or call (406) 243-4310.

For advertising opportunities, contact
caden.fox@umontana.edu
or call (406) 243-6541.



Can't get enough? *Start listening.*
Scan the QR code to the left for
THE KAIMIN CAST. New podcast
episodes out every other Monday.

Need a lawyer?

You already have one.

***ASUM Legal Services provides FREE legal services for
University of Montana students only!***

Call 406-243-6213

Or email ASUMLegal@mso.umt.edu

DETECTIVE SQUIRREL: SE 1 EP 9



THE BITTER COLD BITES WITHOUT MERCY. THE STUDENTS BEAR IT JUST LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THE TREK BETWEEN CLASSES. EAGERLY, THEY SEEK THE WARMTH THAT WALLS PROVIDE.



I, HOWEVER, CANNOT AFFORD TO SEEK SUCH COMFORTS. NOT WHILE SO MANY MYSTERIES STILL PLAGUE THIS CAMPUS. BESIDES, I AM ALREADY WARMED BY THE FIERY THRILL OF JUSTICE.



THE GAME IS A-PAW, AND NO AMOUNT OF SNOW IS GOING TO STOP—



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

BARRETT

Advice from the trenches of a flooded apartment

I was in bed when my home became a hot spring. Half-asleep and half-naked, I peered out my door to see a fountain of steaming water flooding into my living room. I froze, unsure of what to do. At first, I was shocked, but my initial surprise soon became guilt.

For the last year, I'd disregarded Lewis and Clark Village's barrage of emails warning us to avoid destroying our apartments when Montana becomes a tundra. God, I wish I hadn't. In a rush to meet up with friends, the door to outside of my apartment accidentally got stuck open in sub-zero temperatures and now I was wading barefoot through burning-hot water to rescue my hamster, Peanut, from a small rodent's equivalent of a biblical flood. Knowing of the many morbid ways hamsters usually die, it would be fitting, but I didn't want to be the one to cause my fur baby's demise.

My roommate and I spent the next two nights in temporary housing at University Villages, unsure when we'd move back in and overwhelmed by the prospect of school starting in two days. In short, it was hell. But now that I've moved back into my musty apartment I have some words of wisdom for students to avoid the same fate in their apartments and

how to deal with the all-too-frequent flooding on campus.

My first word of advice: Check your god-damn emails. University students frequently receive winter weather alerts about how to deal with and/or prevent flooding in campus housing. These usually detail ways to prevent property damage and loss, like opening cabinet doors to circulate heat. But, if you don't want to go digging through your inbox, you can always read my bullshit advice below.

The most obvious is don't leave your fucking windows open. If you do, open it just a crack for a short amount of time and make sure to close it before you leave or go to sleep. I get hot at night and am always tempted to open my window, but I would much rather be sweating in my bed than using it as a raft. My door often gets stuck open when I try to close it, so be diligent when you're heading out, too.

Another recommendation is to make sure your apartment is well-heated. The first red flag when I got back the night of the flood was that my living room was bone-chillingly cold. Sure, it turned into a sauna later that night, but that was only after Peanut and I were swimming in hot tub water. Of course, we can't

always prevent our apartment from flooding, but knowing what to do when it does is very important.

On Jan. 13, a pipe in the University Center burst, followed by Don Anderson Hall flooding on Jan. 14. The amount of damage done to the journalism school building may amount to nearly six figures, according to Kaimin reporting. While you can't prevent that degree of property damage in your space, you can try to minimize the damage being done to your belongings in the case of an apartment flood. I have a PlayStation and, at the very least, could rush to move it off the floor before my room was soaked. Avoiding leaving expensive items on the floor, as I learned the hard way, might be a good idea.

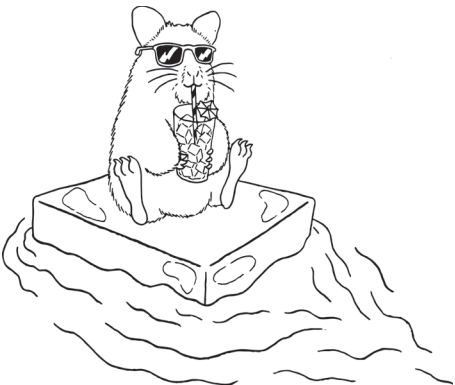
Also, make sure to pack an overnight bag. You never really know when you'll get to return to your apartment, or if you will get to at all. Making sure you have the necessities is important, especially if you're going to be staying somewhere else for a few days or weeks. Reach out to whomever you can, whether that be neighbors, friends or family, in case you need a place to crash.

With all this in mind, the most important

point is to remember to prioritize. I am so glad my hamster, and my roommate's bunny, did not get swept away in a torrential flood. So please, for my sake and yours, be diligent, check your emails and close the fucking door.

- Haley Yarborough, Arts & Culture editor

Like it? Hate it? Let us know.
Email us your opinions at
emily.tschetter@umontana.edu



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN



Elliott Village fire

Firefighters respond to a structure fire in the Elliott Village apartment complex around 11 a.m. on Jan. 22. Lindsey Thompson, a single mom, lived in the apartment that caught fire with her two children. They made it out uninjured, but they could not rescue one of their dogs from the fire. **ELLE DANIEL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

		1					3	
	5	6	2					
				1	3	7	8	
					8			9
	7	3	6					4
		4			2	8		
	2		9		5		1	
					4			5
			3	2			4	

Copyright 2024 by The Puzzle Syndicate

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

5	1	6	7	2	9	4	3	8
4	8	9	3	1	5	7	6	2
7	3	2	4	8	6	1	9	5
1	4	7	2	5	3	9	8	6
6	2	8	9	4	7	3	5	1
9	5	3	8	6	1	2	7	4
3	6	5	1	7	4	8	2	9
8	9	4	6	3	2	5	1	7
2	7	1	5	9	8	6	4	3

Briefs & Blotter

UM and MSU trade basketball wins, Griz football welcomes eight new transfers, MT Supreme Court denies pause on landmark climate case

UM MEN'S BASKETBALL BEATS BOZEMAN 87-77, MSU BESTS LADY GRIZ 64-55

The University of Montana men's basketball team snatched an on-the-road rivalry win 87-77 over Montana State in a game defined by electric shooting from both teams on Jan. 20.

UM broke its two-game losing streak to the Bobcats in front of 6,648 fans at Bozeman's Worthington Arena. According to 406 Sports, both of the rivals' matchups in 2021 were canceled due to COVID-19.

Both teams kept up the back-and-forth with explosive shots to leave the game at a close 38-36 Griz lead at halftime. Aanen Moody, a UM seventh-year senior, built the Griz momentum in the second half, scoring 16 points total with three 3-pointers and a long two in just three minutes. The Cats couldn't get closer than a seven-point deficit the rest of the game.

UM's 61.5% field goal percentage marked its best in a single game since 2021, according to UM sports information. Nap scored 17 points in his 22 minutes on the court, and fellow bench player Te'Jon Sawyer showed up with 16 in 14 minutes, making 7 of 8 field goal attempts.

The MSU women's basketball team, however, beat the Lady Griz in a comeback victory. Montana built a double-digit lead in the first quarter and MSU couldn't close the gap by halftime, leaving Lady Griz with a 29-25 lead.

The Cats regained momentum in the third quarter, going on a 13-3 run. The fourth quarter saw the teams trading 3-pointers and MSU pull ahead for good, but Montana State couldn't rejoice for the win. MSU senior Katelynn "K.J." Limardo took a foul and hit her neck and head on the court. Medical staff took her out on a stretcher, and an MSU spokesperson said Limardo will be okay, according to MTN Sports.

Limardo put up 10 points, 10 rebounds and three assists before leaving the game, helping MSU lock in its 10th consecutive home win over the Lady Griz. Dani Bartsch led Montana with 11 points and 11 rebounds. *(Emily Tschetter)*

UM ALUMNA LILY GLADSTONE NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR

University of Montana Alumna Lily Gladstone earned an Oscar nomination on Jan. 23 for her performance in the 2023 Western

epic "Killers of the Flower Moon," directed by Martin Scorsese.

Gladstone was born in Browning, Montana, and, until her family moved to Washington when she was in middle school, she lived on the Blackfeet Reservation. Her father is Blackfeet and Nez Perce, while her mother has European ancestry, according to a UM magazine profile on Gladstone.

Gladstone is the fourth Indigenous person ever nominated for the Best Actress category at the Academy Awards, and could be the first to win. The three previous Indigenous nominees for Best Actress were Merle Oberon for "The Dark Angel" (1935), Keisha Castle-Hughes for "Whale Rider" (2003) and Yalitza Aparicio for "Roma" (2018). Gladstone is also the first Native American person ever to be nominated for the category.

Gladstone has credited her initial passion for performing to a viewing of "Return of the Jedi" which filled her with the desire to

play an Ewok. While Gladstone has not yet received the opportunity to fulfill that lifelong dream, her performance as Mollie Burkhart in "Killers of the Flower Moon" has been widely lauded as one of the year's best. The film, which also starred Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro, tells the true story of the Osage Nation.

Once one of the richest tribes in the United States due to mineral rights retained after their forced migration into Oklahoma, many Osage were victimized by white caretakers who were assigned to manage their funds. "Killers of the Flower Moon" focuses on the systematic murders of the Osage people by white settlers to acquire their wealth.

This nomination follows Gladstone's win in the category of Best Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama on Jan. 7 at the 81st Golden Globes. That made Gladstone the first Indigenous person to win the award and the second Golden Globe winner who attended the University of Montana, the other being J.K. Simmons for his role in "Whiplash" in 2015.

(Brandon Clark)

MONTANA ATTORNEY GENERAL SHUTS DOWN PUTTING ABORTION ON 2024 BALLOT

Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen decided last Wednesday an initiative to guarantee the right to an abortion in Montana will not be going on the 2024 ballot.

The proposal, made by Montanans Securing Reproductive Rights, would've ensured Montanans' right to make decisions about pregnancies and prevented the government from making access to abortion difficult before the fetus was viable or if the mother's life is in danger. It also would have protected medical professionals who provide abortions.

Knudsen's office said, during a required review of initiatives and constitutional amendments, the ballot measure "logrolls multiple distinct political choices into a single initiative" and "limits the ability of the State to provide for public health and safety," according to the Daily Montanan.

After Roe v. Wade was overturned in 2022, abortion has remained legal in the state of Montana under a 1997 Montana Supreme Court decision that upheld a law permitting licensed physicians to perform abortions.

(CB)

POLICE BLOTTER

SAV CHAVEZ

savannah.chavez@umontana.edu

The first full week of class is done and all seems quiet on campus. Well, aside from a pandemic of car problems. From jumpstarts to modern art, the University of Montana Police Department responded to 18 calls relating to vehicles on campus between Jan. 11 and Jan. 18.

1/11-1/18 – JUMPSTART CENTRAL

It's no surprise that since leaving for Christmas break, several cars on campus got absolutely fucked by the cold weather. Luckily for the victims of the freezing temperatures, UMPD offers free jumpstarts to students on campus. Starting on Thursday, Jan. 11, UMPD began receiving requests for vehicle revival. By Saturday, Jan. 13, there had been five calls for a hero to save their car, and within a week, UMPD responded to 16 cries for help. So, if you ever need a jumpstart, who you gonna call? No, not Ghostbusters. UMPD!

SATURDAY 1/13 – DAMN DOODLER

After cheering on UM at the Griz vs Northern Arizona Lumberjacks basketball game on Saturday, Jan. 13, a student returned to their black Sierra GMC to discover an artist had gone ham on the side of their vehicle. The student found their truck had been keyed with a sharp object near the law school on Sixth Street. After leaving \$2,500 worth of damage, the suspect disappeared into the night. So, keep your keys close and your paint jobs closer, they might still be lurking...waiting.

WEDNESDAY 1/17 – HIT AND QUIT

Sometime between 3:45 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17 a student reported minor damage to their car. Having only been parked in Lot M for an hour, the owner found their car had received a sweet little kiss from another vehicle. The car saw minor damage with a crunched blinker, but that doesn't account for the emotional damage of a smash-and-dash. Even cars don't leave a note and will ghost you just like that.

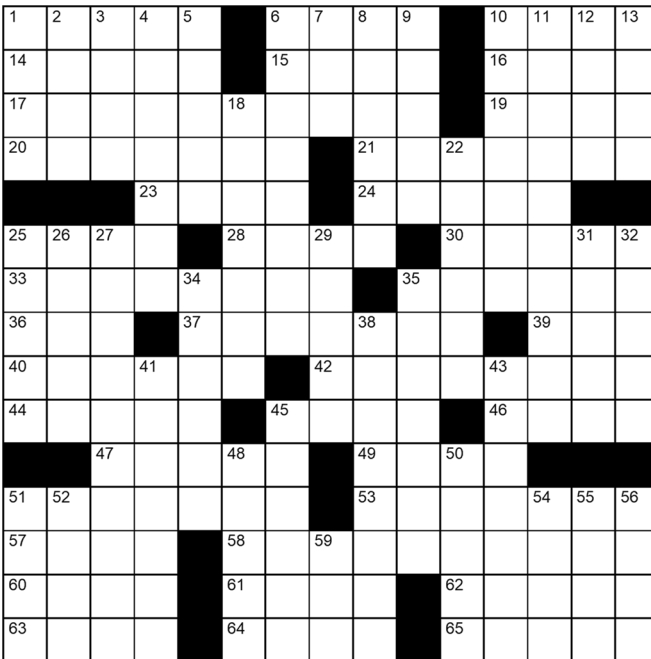
Can't get enough?
Start listening.

This week, Lotus Porte-Moyel
looks into inclusion in the
hunting community.



New episodes
out every other
Monday. Scan
for the latest.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



Copyright 2024 by The Puzzle Syndicate

ACROSS

- 1 Foundation
- 6 Partner of "done with"
- 10 Christian symbol
- 14 Calendar entry
- 15 Offensive
- 16 Previously
- 17 Male soldier, say
- 19 Rating unit
- 20 Personal coach
- 21 Individuals
- 23 Certain bills
- 24 Suitor, in poetry
- 25 Have words (with)
- 28 Proctor's call
- 30 Pirate ship board
- 33 Settle
- 35 Detroit NBAer
- 36 Tide alternative
- 37 Precious gem
- 39 Sundial number
- 40 Tiny wave
- 42 Gorbachev policy
- 44 "___ be sorry!"
- 45 Gardening moss
- 46 Wallet wad
- 47 Up the ante
- 49 Muffin choice
- 51 Too many to count
- 53 Like some potatoes
- 57 Chimney residue
- 58 Basic verb form
- 60 End of a threat
- 61 Without ice
- 62 Actress Sophia
- 63 Fortune teller

- 64 Circular current
 - 65 All tucked out with"
- DOWN**
- 1 Second to none
 - 2 "Rave" anagram
 - 3 Vaccines
 - 4 Type of fertilization
 - 5 "Goosebumps" author R. L. ___
 - 6 Unusually large
 - 7 Energy
 - 8 Go by, as time
 - 9 Extend, in a way
 - 10 Archeologists' finds
 - 11 Vocal rise and fall
 - 12 Examine closely
 - 13 Towel embroidery
 - 18 Franc division
 - 22 Rafting hazard

- 25 Like Stephen King novels
- 26 FDR's affliction
- 27 Type of flour
- 29 Combine
- 31 Cacophony
- 32 Like many sweaters
- 34 Journalist Bly
- 35 Army outfit
- 38 Eagerness
- 41 Serving dish
- 43 Incessantly
- 45 Wrote, as a novel
- 48 Paris divider
- 50 Tracks
- 51 Plays for a sap
- 52 Dermatologist's concern
- 54 Wear down
- 55 Neck and neck
- 56 Fender blemish
- 59 Craze

Answers to Previous Crossword:

S	P	A	T	E		D	R	U	B		R	A	F	T
A	L	I	E	N		A	O	N	E		A	C	L	U
L	U	M	P	S		T	E	C	H	N	I	C	A	L
E	S	S	E	N	C	E		L	E	A	D	E	R	S
			E	A	R	L	I	E	S	T		L	E	A
A	R	M		R	E	I	N	S	T	A	T	E		
L	O	O	S	E	E	N	D			L	U	R	C	H
F	U	N	T		P	E	E	P	S		B	A	R	E
A	T	T	I	C		P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R	
		P	R	O	B	A	T	I	V	E		E	W	E
A	C	E		L	O	C	H	N	E	S	S			
P	U	L	L	O	U	T		G	R	I	N	N	E	D
T	R	I	E	N	N	I	A	L		G	O	O	D	Y
L	I	E	N		C	O	D	E		N	U	D	G	E
Y	A	R	D		E	N	D	S		S	T	E	E	D

CHRISTINE COMPTON

christine.compton@umontana.edu

Taxes are due, FAFSA is weird and you're broke as sin — what else is new? But speaking of FAFSA, while you're officially declaring to the government that, no, not every penny of your dad's nine-to-five is bailing you out of tuition pay, we know you've been on that grind to make a few extra dollars. Curious what side hustle you should nab between classes? Look no further than the stars.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18):

You're a dreamer, and dreaming is what it takes to make it through some of these late-night bus driving shifts. The raw shock of your chaotic playlist jumping from Taylor Swift to Cannibal Corpse to Teriyaki Boyz might be the only thing keeping your hands on the wheel. Have you had coffee? Yes. Is it enough? No.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):

You knew campus baristas served tea, but you didn't think you'd be spilling THIS MUCH TEA! Between the weeping freshmen and the profs talking smack over espressos, you overhear so much about so many strangers. Dollas and hot goss? Girl, sign me up. This break up scene needs more foam.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):

The "Barbie" movie says beach isn't a job, but luckily, biceps are. Life is good working at the Campus Recreation center, even if it means stopping Spider-Man wannabes from catapulting themselves with the elastic equipment. By Monte's thighs, you will NOT let this place become a Planet Fitness...

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):

You want to save the world through local government and activism, but you also can't afford rent. Prime solution: working the desk for people who know what they're doing. If you discover they also don't know what they're doing while you're filing their paperwork, at least you can wipe your eco-anxiety tears with your cold hard cash.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):

When you signed up for IT, the major highlight was supposed to be NOT talking to people. Never did you think you'd be coaching 50 freshmen on how to connect to campus wi-fi. "End it all", you mutter. Someone forgot their password again.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):

You signed up to be a RA to help newcomers and get some housing help on the side, but now they're crying, you're crying, everyone's crying. You hand them a

Squishmallow, and they get snot on it. You stress-eat your emergency snacks that were supposed to be for them. Both of you pretend it never happened at the next floor meeting.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):

Did someone say Feet Pic Friday? Leo, you know you've got the goods, and with an unmentionable site banned from Montana, you know some folks willing to shell out the big dime. With a little help from your roommate's desk lamp and glittery oil, you'll be able to afford brunch in no time.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):

You were a big sister and valedictorian, so of course you're a learning assistant for the Davidson Honors College. Making the kids happy makes you happy, until the curriculum changes and you magically forget everything you ever learned. Your bluff is working so far, but any minute now, you'll call Dean Tim Nichols in a haze. What was stoicism again?

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):

You were a farm kid, and while there are no fields out here, there is a lawn that needs a good mowin'. You're the envy of everyone when you're ripping across the Oval on that ride-along mower, optional Mario costume on hand. Winter's a bust, but once that snow melts, it's all you, baby.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):

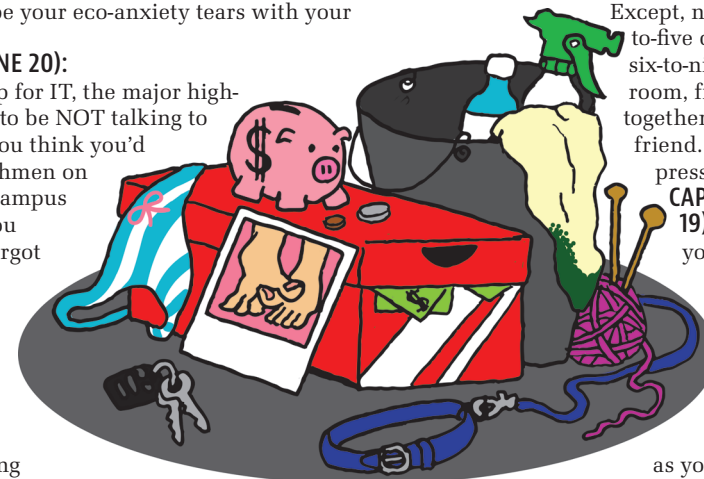
You didn't sign up to work at ASUM Childcare because you love kids; you signed up to scope out the competition. It doesn't matter if they're a solid 18-years behind. You've got to stay at the top of the heap, and if that means teaching little Johnny how to spell orange wrong, then so be it.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): An office job makes you gag, so you landed a spot as a campus photographer.

Except, now you have a nine-to-five of photo-hunting and a six-to-nine of sitting in a dark room, frantically throwing edits together. Adventure at a cost, my friend. At least you get a cool press pass.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19):

You like to picture yourself as a dark academic savant, and that's the fantasy you're carrying yourself with every time you clock into your StudyJam job. Guiding the youth, you ponder as you make your workspace far fancier than any student would need. You brought a succulent. Only the best whiteboard markers will do.



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Students adjust to first FAFSA updates in 40 years

ELLE DANIEL

elle.daniel@umontana.edu

University of Montana junior Bridgett Meskis was stuck at her laptop, rereading new questions for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The updated form — part of a rollout of changes — felt full of jargon. It was a struggle and caused stress that the updates were meant to alleviate, but for Meskis and other students on campus, adjusting may take time.

“This is the first change to the process in over 40 years, so it’s a long time coming,” said Emily Williamson, director of the Financial Aid Office at UM. “I think what we’re all doing is holding our breath and hoping all of the proposed changes are releasing burden for students and simplifying the process.”

The FAFSA uses personal, household and financial information to determine federal aid eligibility for college students. The U.S. Department of Education estimates more than 17.6 million students file through FAFSA each year, disbursing federal aid to around roughly 5,600 college and career schools.

In the past, families manually entered financial information into the FAFSA. According to Williamson, this process “was really challenging for a lot of students and families, and could cause a lot of errors.” Now, students and contributors consent to their tax information being transferred directly from the IRS, and no manual entry is required. However, if consent and approval aren’t given by students, they are not eligible for federal aid.

“The goal there is that we alleviate the burden of families accidentally typing in the wrong amounts initially, then getting inaccurate award offers, and then the school having to clean all that up,” Williamson said.

Applications with inaccurate information may be selected for verification, an auditing process that falls on the University to complete.

“It’s really stressful for students, too, right?” Williamson said. “They don’t know where they’re sitting with their financial aid. It takes us weeks to review because there’s such a high volume of them.”

FAFSA verification trends toward students eligible for Pell Grants, according to Williamson. The Federal Pell Grant is awarded to undergraduate students “who display exceptional financial need,” according to the Federal Student Aid website. A 2023 UM census reported 19% of students use Pell Grants. Unlike a loan, Pell Grants don’t need

to be paid back.

“The Department of Education has a higher level of scrutiny to ensure that grant funding is going to the appropriate population,” Williamson said.

While these changes are meant to reduce the verification process and streamline the application, not all students are adjusting as easily.

“The questions felt very weird this year,” Meskis said about her filing experience. “I’d have to pause and read it out loud and look at my mom and go: ‘What are they asking?’ The way they were trying to determine if I was a dependent was really weird.”

FAFSA now uses personal and household information to sort students into independent and dependent categories. Dependent students, meaning students who are still claimed under a parent’s taxes, must submit information along with their families. Independent students, or students who file taxes individually, only submit their own.

Anyone providing information, whether they are a student, spouse or family member, are now considered a contributor, a new FAFSA term. Students are not eligible for federal aid if contributors don’t provide consent to the IRS data transfer. In addition, contributors are now required to create their

own account with the Student Aid website, an update that lengthened the process for Meskis and her parents.

“In previous years, I think I was able to just hand my dad my computer and have him input the tax info from my login,” she said. “He didn’t need to go to a separate thing and do it himself.”

Robert Corbett, a UM sophomore from Kalispell, had fewer issues with the changes.

“It didn’t really affect me so much because I’m close with my parents,” Corbett said.

But for students like Meskis and Corbett, financial aid makes or breaks their college attendance.

“Without financial aid, there’d be a pretty good chance I wouldn’t be able to attend college at all,” Corbett said. He’s a political science major who plans to go to law school.

Meskis also relies on government loans and scholarships to pay for school.

“Between working part-time and financial aid, I’ve been able to cover most of my costs,” she said. “But applying for scholarships and grants is almost like a second job on top of everything.”

While the changes are also meant to expand aid access, Williamson warned funding might change for continuing students with small businesses in the family. In the past,

small businesses, ranches and farms employing fewer than 100 people were not counted as assets. This year they will be counted as assets, and students with Pell Grants may be impacted. “That will be unfortunate for some students,” Williamson said.

UM’s financial aid departments are working to find solutions for students who find themselves with less funding.

“Right now I’m still working through those pieces,” Williamson said. “But what I would tell you is that if students experience that, they should reach out to my office.”

Students can call the Financial Aid Office at (406) 243-5373 for assistance or book one-on-one appointments. FAFSA nights to teach students about the process will be held at local high schools, Missoula College and on campus at computer labs. Students who drop by can fill out their FAFSA forms with team members from the Financial Aid Office, located on the fifth floor of Aber Hall.

The Financial Aid Office won’t know the impact of changes like the direct data transfer or the new contributors system until later in the year, but Williamson is optimistic.

“It’s really hard to counsel students and families without knowing the whole picture,” she said. “But I’m hopeful. My team is hopeful.”

New FAFSA features



Students can now consent to have their federal tax information transferred directly from the IRS to the FAFSA form. In previous years, tax info for both students or parents had to be manually entered.



Students and contributors **must** give consent and approval to have their data transferred or they are ineligible for federal financial aid.



FAFSA forms now include contributors, which can be the student, the student’s spouse, parent, step-parent, legal guardian, etc. Contributors must make thier own account



Online FAFSA forms can now be sent to up to 20 colleges.

The Clery Act: How campus safety gets tracked

CORBIN VANDERBY

corbin.vanderby@umontana.edu

In 1986, Jeanne Clery enrolled at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. But instead of receiving a degree, a federal law looking to increase campus security and transparency became her legacy.

In the spring semester of her freshman year, Clery was raped and killed in her dorm room. She was 19 years old. Following this, Clery's parents found Lehigh University hadn't reported 38 violent crimes in the previous three years and used this to support the enactment of a law forcing universities to report such crimes. In 1990, Congress enacted the Campus Security Act, which was later renamed the Clery Act.

Although Clery's name is part of all campus alerts, most college students know nothing about her or the law she helped enact, according to Kelly Magnuson, the University of Montana's Clery Compliance professional.

"More times than not when I've met with incoming students — or I should say, like, the Resident Assistant group — I've asked them, and a lot of them didn't even know this existed," Magnuson said.

The Clery Act requires federally funded universities to release an annual report listing the number of specific violent crimes occurring on campus, adjacent to campus, in any educational buildings commonly used by students and in locations school and club trips visit. This report is supposed to give a general measure of the safety of a campus, so students deciding on where they want to go can make an informed decision.

UM's most recent annual security and fire safety report showed in 2022, there were two aggravated assaults reported, six reports of burglary, six car thefts, two reports of arson, seven reports of domestic violence, six reported stalkings and 21 reported rapes for UM's main campus.

Timely warning notifications are also required to be given out to students, often through email, if campus officials see a threat students need to be warned about to remain safe. For example, last semester on Nov. 5, UM students received an email from Clery Compliance stating a man grabbed a woman outside the Dornblaser complex and included a description of the man and several tips for staying safe.

According to the Clery Center, the crimes universities are required to report are murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, arson, intimidation, simple assault, vandalism, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and weapon, drug abuse and liquor violations.

As of January 2023, for each crime the University doesn't report, a fine of \$67,544 is issued. However, according to Magnuson, it often wasn't heavily enforced in the beginning and the fine was only \$25,000.

"They might have come in and slapped the hand of the institution if they did a review or if they got a complaint that this campus is not following Clery," Magnuson said. "So they finally decided they had to start implementing fines."

The University of Montana was fined almost \$1 million in 2018 for reporting incorrect Clery Act crime numbers in the years 2012 through 2015. Colleges like Yale, Eastern Michigan University and Penn State have also been heavily fined for violating the Clery Act.

Magnuson chalked up the issues to a lack of proper training since most people had Clery compliance added on top of a list of other duties.

"Nobody is properly trained on what it all means," Magnuson said.

Since UM's Clery Act violations, UM has made several changes, including Magnuson and UM Police Chief Brad Giffin receiving advanced Clery training in Oregon, and Magnuson switching into a role entirely focused on Clery compliance in September 2020.

Magnuson compiles all police reports that have Clery crimes and falls into the time and geography requirements to create the annual Clery report. Magnuson also communicates with over 700 campus security authorities who have to report any relevant information to her.

The people who make up the campus security authorities fall into four categories: police officers, people who work on campus dealing with security or safety like Griz Walk, employees or residence hall desk attendants, faculty who work in offices where crime can be reported, like the Title IX office and finally anyone working on campus who can grow relationships with students like advisers, coaches, counselors or resident assistants.

These campus security authorities are assigned each year by Magnuson and are highly encouraged to take Clery training, but are not required to. Throughout the year, Magnuson contacts each person in order to get a number of how many Clery crimes they had reported to them.

One issue with this system is many counselors on campus are considered authorities but not legally allowed to give patient information and students' privacy is protected. This means they can only provide Magnuson with a number, and if that person talked to multiple authorities, Clery numbers could be duplicated.

"We don't get names," Magnuson said. "So there is the potential that some of these things

could be duplicate."

Aislinn Addington, director of the Student Advocacy Resource Center, is just one of those authorities who can only make anonymous reports to Magnuson. One issue she found is some of the geography and time specifications cause a limited view of campus safety. Addington said some questions relevant to Clery, like location or time, are asked when first meeting new patients, but specified SARC does not ask any questions deemed unnecessary. Addington also mentioned all student reports are tracked independently of Clery, then reports are filtered after the fact to see if they apply to Clery reporting.

"The Clery Act and what it asks for is a piece of what we see here at SARC, but it does not capture it holistically," Addington said.

Addington did say it is a useful tool for prospective students as it provides some information on safety, but since it only provides numbers, she encourages students to use other information to make their decision on where they want to go to college.

"It is a tool, not the only tool," Addington said.

Addington recommends students attend college fairs, visit campus and also learn more about the city and greater community of whatever college they are interested in.

Although Magnuson and Addington agree students should read the report despite possible duplications or lack of context, the fact most students aren't aware of it remains.

Magnuson said many people only look at the Clery Act after something happens, as opposed to using it to help decide on where to go to college based on safety, as it's meant to. Magnuson said the solution is to better advertise the Clery report for its intended purpose by giving it to students during recruiting or at college fairs.

"I don't know if the purpose of this is doing what they wanted it to do," Magnuson said. "We need to change that so people are aware."

*If you or someone you know needs help,
call SARC at (406) 243-4429,
Title IX at (406) 243-5710
Or UMPD (406) 243-6131.*

How the Annual Campus Security Report Data are Gathered

-  Police officers
-  Campus security: Griz Walk/desk attendants
-  Title IX office
-  Campus employees with student relationships: Counselors, advisers, coaches, RAs

All reports go to Kelly Magnuson, UM's Clery Compliance professional

MACKENNA GLEAVE | MONTANA KAIMIN

montanakaimin.com January 25, 2024 7

Shawn Roe stands in front of Main Hall on Jan. 16. Roe made the Dean's List and the President's List at UM after multiple stints in prison.
ETHAN JAMBA | MONTANA KAIMIN

DEFI

A man's journey from to the University of

Story by Ethan Jamba



REFERRED

in addiction and imprisonment
Montana



Shawn Roe in a photo with his mom, Mary Anne Roe, during an August 2016 visit at the Montana State Prison. **CONTRIBUTED | MARY ANNE ROE**

NEW BEGINNINGS CAN be as small as a Psychology 101 class — at least for Shawn Roe, perched at the back of Urey Lecture Hall.

He prefers to sit in the back, nose to his laptop, typing away. More than a lot of the people in that room, he says he needs to succeed.

His dad died thinking Roe would only ever be a drug addict, and Roe needs to prove him wrong. His mom wants to believe in him, but he's disappointed her before. He needs her to know he can stay healed. He's got the sobriety coins and the grades to show it.

Shawn Roe is a 37-year-old pursuing a degree in psychology at the University of Montana. He is also a previously incarcerated man with nine felonies, most related to theft and burglary committed to feed his drug addiction.

He said his cousin introduced him to methamphetamine when he was 12. He committed his first felony at 14. He cycled in and out of the Montana State Prison for 12-and-a-half years.

In September, the Montana Kaimin began following his journey for a documentary published Jan. 25, which can be found on montanakaimin.com and at the QR code at the end of this article. Here are excerpts of his story:

BEGINNINGS

My name is Shawn Roe. I'm 37 years old. I'm a student here at the University of Montana. I am also a former inmate of the Department of Corrections.

I was introduced to methamphetamine at the age of 12 years old. I didn't even know it at the time, but I was well on my way to prison before I ever actually made it there.

...

I was an instant addict. At 12, 13 years old, I was scraping marijuana pipes, trying to get as much resin out of them as I could. You know, getting metal shavings out of them and putting them in a pipe and just hoping that there was enough resin on these metal shavings to get one hit and give me a head change.

I was so young, I didn't really know what was happening at that time, but I was already well on my way to a pretty nasty addiction to drugs.

MARY ANNE ROE, SHAWN'S MOTHER:

When he was younger, he was great. I mean, he was on the honor roll, he was a very smart kid, very funny ... and then he got into the drugs. My nephew gave him some drugs, some meth when he was 12.

We lived in Clinton and in Missoula here, I think, till his sophomore year in high school



Shawn Roe attends his Psychology 101 class in the Urey Lecture Hall on Nov. 30, 2023.
ETHAN JAMBA | MONTANA KAIMIN



Shawn Roe enters Montana State Prison on Dec. 11, 2023 to give a motivational speech to the inmates about his journey through recovery. **CONTRIBUTED | ALEX KLAPMEIER**



On Dec. 11, 2023, Shawn Roe gives a motivational speech to inmates at the Richard C. Wallace Building in the Montana State Prison. **CONTRIBUTED | ALEX KLAPMEIER**

and then we moved to Missoula.

I didn't know about it for years, you know, Shawn never told me. And everybody told me he's on meth, and I go, "No, he's not." I was in denial about it because I didn't see, you know, any difference in him, except that he kind of got bored with school. And the kids he was hanging around with, you know, I wasn't thrilled about, but there was nothing much I could do about that.

Shawn's dad lived in Jackson [Wyoming] at the time that Shawn started doing the meth and stuff. We had split up when Shawn was about 6. His dad was a very hardcore alcoholic and very violent man.

SHAWN:

I hung out with a lot of older kids and we lived in a small town outside of Missoula in a trailer court, so there was a lot of poverty, not a lot to do. And we just kind of were doing

stuff to get in trouble, to pass the time, you know?

I actually ended up being convicted of my first felony at the age of 14 years old. I went on to be convicted of another felony at the age of 17. So before I even turned 18 years old, I was already a two-time convicted felon.

...

At that time, I still didn't really realize what I was getting myself into. For me, looking back on it, I know, like I knew what I was doing at the time was illegal, per se, but it didn't really feel wrong to me, which is something that stuck with me throughout my adult years, too. It just kind of was like the way things were and it's what we did.

I've been through the state prison system four different times. I spent a little over 12 years there all together. I was in active addiction for drugs and alcohol for over 22 years.

I didn't like my life. I didn't like my life for

most of my life, I would say. I didn't really know there was any other way for me.

...

At one point in time in my life, when I was incarcerated, I lost any hope that I was ever going to be able to make it out of that life at all. I thought that I'd been the way that I was for so long that there was no way out of it.

When you're sitting in prison, you don't ever see anybody that makes it. We're just sitting there and we watch people come and go and come and go. And for me personally, I got it in my head that nobody ever makes it. Everybody always comes back. There's no way out of this.

...

And I made a decision that I was going to sit there and do whatever amount of time I had to do for, you know, what I had done that time. And when I got out, I was going to really give it a shot to try to change. And at the time I didn't even really know if that was an option for me.

Honestly, I didn't, you know. I was going to try, but I didn't know how to go about doing it or didn't even know if it was something that I was working toward that was a real thing.

So, you know, I made that promise to myself, that when this is over, I'll give it one more shot and then, you know, I'd pretty much decided that if I came back that I was just going to commit suicide because, like I said, I was just sick of being there.

And when I was locked up at that time, the one thing that gave me a little bit of hope was I heard somebody that had a story similar to mine. They'd been where I had been. They'd been in active addiction for as long as I've been in active addiction, and they had made it out. And that was something I'd never heard before.

And that gave me just that little bit of hope. I couldn't remember the last time I felt any kind of hope at all.



Shawn Roe takes a moment next to his father's headstone on Nov. 5, 2023 at Wisdom Cemetery. He occasionally makes a trip to Wisdom to talk with his father about his recovery journey. **ETHAN JAMBA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

FIRST STEPS OUT

At the end of that prison stint, I ended up going to an inpatient treatment facility for the first time in my life.

While I was there, a few different things happened to me. One, I was able to get clean because when I was in prison, I couldn't stop using drugs for the life of me. They were around all over the place and if I had access to them, I could not stop myself from using them.

And that's another thing I struggled with, was I didn't even know if it was ever going to be possible for me ever to stop using drugs because I'd been obsessed with getting high since the age of 12. You know, it was like a habit that was ingrained in me. And I just, I just couldn't see me ever not wanting to like, even though I wanted to stop a lot of times, most of the time, like, I couldn't see myself ever not thinking about it and obsessing over it.

MARY ANNE:

I was relieved. I was so happy. And I was just praying to God it worked, and it did. I was shocked because I have a nephew that's been three times, and he's back in jail again right now. And I know other people that have been through treatment and that kind of, you know, two months later. So I, I was praying to God it would work for him and it did.

SHAWN:

While I was in that treatment facility, I met a man who became a really good friend of mine. When he was moved into my room, he was trying to do his first assignment, and I realized that he didn't know how to read. So I decided, you know, maybe I should try to help this guy learn how to read at least a little bit.

And I tried real hard and he tried real hard. I did not do the best job. I'm not a very good teacher, but I tried and he tried. And that meant a lot to him. And I could see that.

And he told me one time, and this is something that stuck with me and changed a lot about how I think thought about myself and just the world in general. He was asking me, "Do you have any kids?" And I don't have any children. I was like, "No, I don't have any kids, man." And he said, "You should have some kids, man, because you got a lot to offer." And that really stuck with me.

And from that point out, I knew that I wanted to do something to try to help other people in some way. And I knew at that point, too, that it was going to be something to do with people who were in my position, who had been where I had been and who were struggling because helping that man with his reading helped me too, you know, I got the feeling of what it feels like to help somebody who's struggling. And I know what it's like to be struggling.

So I made it through that program and it was one of the things that I struggled with getting back out to the streets was a sense of belonging. Like when I was incarcerated, it wasn't hard for me to make friends. I always had a bunch of friends. I got a bunch of validation for the kind of crimes I would commit. I felt like I mattered in there to people, I guess you could say.

And then I would get out here to the streets. And I'd been gone for so long that I didn't even really know anybody in my hometown anymore, didn't know where anybody was at. And I felt like a nobody out here.

...

And so I found a support group of new

people that I needed to meet, that I had at least some common ground with. I wouldn't say that I felt really comfortable around these people, but I felt more comfortable with them than I did when I was in a store or talking to other people because I had that common ground with them of we struggle with the disease of addiction.

A COLLEGE MAN

Shawn wanted to help others like him, but that required a degree. In his first months out of incarceration, he worked in construction to save money while also waiting on his deferred admission from the University of Montana. With a record like his, he needed to undergo a strict screening process, including letters of recommendation and references.

The University made an arrangement with Shawn: If he could keep himself clean and follow the law for a full year, he could reapply. So, he worked with tiles. When the time came, he applied — and was accepted.

SHAWN:

Things didn't go how I want them to out here, [and if] things got a little too hard, I'd just give up and go back to where it was easy.

And I knew I couldn't do that this time. I didn't have another one of those stints in me... So I knew that I couldn't give up no matter what. I knew I had to be done with that life and stick to that and not give up on trying to build a new life no matter what.

So I waited... I was pretty proud of myself and a lot of people that I knew were proud of me, too.

Like people couldn't believe the change that they'd seen in me. I couldn't believe it myself. So like I said, it was less than a year ago I didn't even believe that I could stay clean off drugs or stay out of prison, never mind start going to college.

So when I came here, I decided I was going to major in psychology and minor in licensed addiction counseling. That way I can get to a point where not only can I counsel people with drug and alcohol problems, also, I want to try to figure out a way to help people recover from being institutionalized, because not enough attention is given to how much that really affects somebody. Like that profoundly affects a person when they don't have to necessarily be in long, in terms of incarceration.

...

I am in a position today that I never, ever thought I would be in. I've been out for about two years now and I have accomplished more in these last two years, and I'm not even saying this figuratively, like I have literally accomplished more in these last two years than I have in my whole entire life. And I'm about to turn 37 years old, so that's a big deal for me.

And the best thing about it is, I'm just barely getting started. This is just the begin-

ning. I'm an only child for my mother. I'm her only son. And it broke her heart so much to see me repeatedly going in over and over and over again, to watch me go through the addiction for so long. And just how proud of me she is.

HOPE AND PRIDE

After Shawn's admission to the University of Montana, he made the Spring 2023 Dean's List and the Fall 2023 President's List. This semester is his third.

This is the longest period of time Shawn has been out of prison since 2007. He will be off of Department of Corrections supervision in 2026.

But on a gray day in November, 2023, he's driving. Raindrops patter on the windshield, and a coin rests on his dashboard. His tires take the bump between the paved road and the dirt at a gravesite. When he steps out, muddy grass squishes beneath his feet.

He walks to his dad's grave, brushes the top of the headstone and kneels.

Shawn remembers the day he read his dad's obituary. Shawn's name was listed as from Glendive, but that was wrong. His prison was in Glendive. His imprisonment, not his life outside of it, was immortalized in his dad's obituary, and it broke his heart.

Later, when he was in a treatment facility, his mom had a kidney infection, and he was terrified she'd die, too. He wouldn't be allowed to go see her.

Sitting in front of his dad's grave, the first time he's been able to visit in the eight years since his father died, he's grateful he got to prove to his mom that he's a better man while she is alive. He talks to his father's grave and hopes his dad got to see it from wherever he is.

"I'm here, y'know," Shawn says. "I did it."

He places his three-year sobriety coin with the headstone. "It means the world to me," Shawn says, "and I know he's proud of me."

Writing contributed by Christine Compton

Readers can view the documentary online at montanakaimin.com or by scanning this QR code.



A sneak peek into upcoming UM performances

KAIRI LISING

kai.lising@umontana.edu

The spring semester is here and so is the School of Theatre and Dance's upcoming season! From contemporary dance experiments to an Appalachian bluegrass musical, the school is coming in hot during these cold winter nights.

STAGED READING SERIES

The Montana Repertory Theatre presents "First Reads," a series of staged readings of new plays. This year's readings will present "The Thin Place" by Lucas Hnath, "Zoey's Perfect Wedding" by Matthew Lopez, and "Dance Nation" by Clare Barron. The plays explore themes of connecting to the other side, the trials of being a bride and what lengths someone will go through to be the best.

Feb. 3 (The Thin Place), Feb. 17 (Zoey's Perfect Wedding), March 2 (Dance Nation) | 2 p.m. | The Cooper Room at the Missoula Public Library

ACDA BENEFIT CONCERT

The University of Montana's School of Theatre and Dance presents its 21st annual production celebrating performers and choreographers who will be attending the Northwest Regional Conference of the American College Dance Association (ACDA) at Weber State University in March. All the proceeds generated from the Benefit Concert go toward getting the dancers to the conference.

Feb. 9-10 | 7:30 p.m. | Open Space | Tickets: \$20 at the door (cash preferred)

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

The UM School of Theatre and Dance presents a magical story where four young lovers and a ragtag-group of tradesmen stumble headlong into the middle of a magical spat in the forest outside Athens. Almost all humans

in the vicinity become hilarious casualties of the supernatural war between Oberon and Titania, the king and queen of the fairies in the forest. The world of the play itself is turned upside-down as Shakespeare weaves an unforgettable tale of misplaced affection, supernatural mischief and compounding happy endings.

Feb. 15, 17-18, 22-25 | Thursday-Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. (NO PUBLIC PERFORMANCE FRIDAY, FEB. 16) | Montana Theatre | Tickets available through GRIZZTIX

'BRIGHT STAR' - MUSIC, BOOK & STORY BY STEVE MARTIN; MUSIC, LYRICS AND STORY BY EDIE BRICKELL

In a co-production with the School of Music, the School of Theatre and Dance presents "Bright Star." Inspired by a true story, "Bright Star" tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of Appalachia in the 1920s and '40s. When literary

editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier just home from World War II, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Haunted by their unique connection, Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past—and what she finds has the power to transform both of their lives.

April 18-21, 25-28 | Thursday-Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. | Masquer Theatre | Tickets available through GRIZZTIX

DANCE UNDERGROUND

The School of Theatre and Dance presents a uniquely intimate dance production that employs student and faculty choreographers and provides an opportunity for students to experiment with choreography and dance.

May 3-4 | Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. | Open Space | \$10 minimum contribution requested at the door

PRESIDENT'S LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS

DR. JUDITH WEISENFELD

AFRICAN AMERICAN RELIGIONS, AMERICAN PSYCHIATRY, & THE LONG CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE

7:30 P.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1
PHYLLIS J. WASHINGTON COLLEGE
OF EDUCATION ALI AUDITORIUM



THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY.
Sign language interpretation will be provided for this event.



Life in plastic isn't quite fantastic

KEELY PROEBSTEL

keely.proebstel@umontana.edu

Picture this: you're in the height of your musical theatre phase, called out sick from school and you're high as a kite on cold medicine. In your illness-induced haze, you fall asleep on the couch watching 2004's "Mean Girls." If you were to somehow film the resulting fever dream, what you'd end up with is "Mean Girls" (2024).

The original "Mean Girls" is a cultural icon, and any attempts to re-envision the film have to contend with that. In 2017, it was turned into a musical, which the new film is based on, making it an adaptation of an adaptation. That means "Mean Girls" (2024) has two pairs of pink stilettos to fill, and it doesn't handle it very well.

The basic plot is as follows: Homeschool kid Cady Heron (Angourie Rice) moves from a research station in Kenya to an Illinois suburb. She goes to high school for the first time, befriends quirky outsiders Damian Hubbard (Jaquel Spivey) and Janis Sarkisian (Auli'i Cravalho), and catches the eye of "The

Plastics." The clique's leader, Regina George (Reneé Rapp), invites her into her group of, you guessed it, mean girls. When Cady falls for Regina's ex-boyfriend, Regina humiliates her and Cady enlists her friends to get revenge. Cady gets drunk on mean-girl power, becoming the monster she initially set out to destroy. Standard high school movie stuff.

In some ways, the film is a direct remake of the original, with few differences in the plots of the two movies. The 2004 film just alludes to Janis being a lesbian, while the 2024 version confirms it. Social media is now crucial to the plot. These seem less like deliberate divergences, and more like direct responses to a changing culture.

Most of the iconic jokes from the original appear, but they come off as references aggressively shoehorned in by the studio. This time, Mrs. George isn't a "cool mom," she's "@coolmom" on Instagram. To its credit, the film pulls off this modernization without being overly cringe-worthy, although the barrage of memes that appear threaten the balance.

What is cringey? The film's reliance on meta jokes and fourth wall breaks. Damian and Janis are both omniscient narrators and

characters in the plot, a decision that confuses the overall tone. This likely works on stage, but on screen it comes off as jarring. Much of the film comes off this way, where it's obvious the choreography and staging are pulled directly from the musical without much adaptation.

The musical numbers seem disconnected from the rest of the film. Some songs appear as in-universe scenes, where the cast interacts with each other and their surroundings. Others are more like music videos, where time stops for everyone but the singer. This creates an uneven effect, making it look like the production team couldn't decide on a unified format.

"Mean Girls" (2024) began production before the writer strikes last summer and then resumed months later. Having a large gap in production will certainly cause problems, and it's likely that this is the cause of the film's disjointed vibe. This is the first feature from directors Arturo Perez Jr. and Samantha Jayne, which may also affect the film's messiness.

For all its flaws, where the movie shines is when it's trying to do its own thing. The casting is phenomenal, especially Reneé Rapp, who originated the role of Regina on Broad-

way, and Auli'i Cravalho. The songs are catchy and energetic, even with the disconnected feel. There are some fantastic new jokes, too, including a talent show scene that is too good to risk spoiling.

The movie's biggest detriment is that it tries too hard to be like its predecessor. The studio seems like it was torn between making a direct remake or a new adaptation, and it should've stuck with the latter. Ultimately, "Mean Girls" (2024) is a fun watch. It isn't particularly original, or cohesive, but at least it's fun.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES | CONTRIBUTED

But is it fetch? 'Mean Girls' (2004) soundtrack revisited

KATE WIDMER

kate.widmer@umontana.edu

It became an internet trend a while ago to make "my life as a movie" playlists, but what no one seemed to realize is that they were doing it completely wrong. Instead of throwing "Mr. Blue Sky" into your sad girl indie mix, what you should be doing is listening to actual movie soundtracks. More specifically, the soundtracks of the best movies ever: 2000s movies.

During the 2000s, iconic genres such as power pop (distorted guitar music written in the hooky style of pop), hip-hop and singer-songwriter were at their respective commercial (and arguably creative) peaks. As a result, your favorite 2000s movies are not only worth buying on DVD, but on CD as well due to the quality of the films' corresponding soundtracks. "Mean Girls" (2004) is no exception.

The "Mean Girls" album follows the tradition of soundtracks from this era in that the collection of songs is diverse in genre, but

consistent in banger-ness. The tracks range between rock-concert-in-your-bedroom jams (The Donna's cover of "Dancing With Myself," "Overdrive" by Katy Rose), known classics ("Milkshake" by Kelis, "One Way Or Another" by Blondie), borderline dream-pop ("Misty Canyon" by Anjali), experimental electronic music ("Operate" by Peaches, "Psyche Rock (Fatboy Slim Malpaso Mix)" by Pierre Henry), a ska-ish song for the final scene ("Hated" by Nikki Cleary) and even a rap about the titular stereotype that sounds like a cross between Eminem and Beyonce ("Mean Gurl" by Gina Rene.) That might seem like a lot, but oddly, it does work. The wide array of genres allows a sort of playlist where anyone can find something they'll enjoy.

With that in mind though, there are still significant flaws to the soundtrack. Genre diversity in a soundtrack is useful to filmmakers because it allows for options, but as an album, "Mean Girls" can feel disjointed, most noticeably on the B-side. The soundtrack is also largely made up of a sub-genre that's sometimes jokingly referred to as "misogyny bangers," otherwise known as dance-worthy

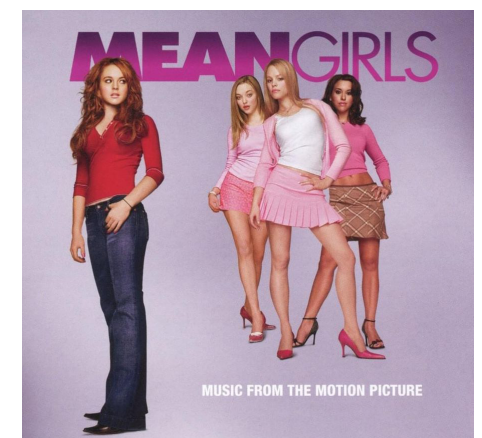
songs, but maybe not share-worthy due to the sexist content of the lyrics (some examples being "Blurred Lines" by Robin Thicke, "Everywhere I Go" by Hollywood Undead, "Misery Business" by Paramore, etc.)

While nothing on this particular soundtrack is very blatant, songs like "Sorry (Don't Ask Me)" by All Too Much, "Rip Her to Shreds" by Boomkat, and "Mean Gurl" by Gina Rene are insanely condescending toward the women they're aimed at, which, in turn, means the songs are indirectly (if not directly) participating in the kind of "girl vs. girl" pettiness that inspired social trends such as "I'm not like other girls." The songs may be fun to jam to, but the lyrics, and more importantly their inclusion on the album, serve as a reminder that the 2000s weren't a fun time for all involved.

That said, the "Mean Girls" (2004) soundtrack did give us a hidden gem. Did you know "The Mathlete Rap" is available on streaming services? Tragically, it's only 35 seconds, but now you can listen to Kevin G's rap about "making love to your woman on the bathroom floor" whenever you'd like. Who

doesn't want that?

As an overall, the "Mean Girls" album may be a bit dated, but that doesn't mean it's not worth a listen. Its biggest advantage is that, compared to soundtracks for similar movies, it has a higher degree of experimentation in the track choices, which results in something truly unique.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES | CONTRIBUTED

Six seconds from snapping 1600

MAXWELL JOHNSON

maxwell3.johnson@umontana.edu

On Dec. 7, Henry Ballinger came within six seconds of making history. The freshman distance runner won the 1600-meter race with a time of 4:17 on an indoor track in Bozeman. With altitude and other factors considered, the time officially converted to 4:08, placing him just six seconds away from the school record of 4:02 and eight seconds away from the near-mythical status of running a mile in under four minutes. But dominating Division 1 and chasing down records is not something Ballinger would've imagined himself doing just a few years ago.

"I've run on [the Bozeman] track quite a bit," Ballinger said. "My first time running there I was in the 7th grade and I ran about a 5:30 mile. To go there and run 4:17, which converts to 4:08, is just a crazy difference."

During his first two years of high school, Ballinger was a great, but not exceptional, athlete. He was expected to run only one event per meet. Then, during his junior year, his use decreased even more as he received a minor in possession charge.

"I had to sit out at the state and divisional meets because I was in trouble, so I transferred schools my senior year, and I just really bought in and started actually training," Ballinger said. "In the summer before my junior year, I didn't actually run. I just didn't care. It's different now, I care."

The fresh start and fresh attitude did wonders for Ballinger, and at Helena High School, he started running three or more events each meet and even placed in four different events during the AA Montana State Track Meet.

"If I'm doing multiple races, I always feel better after the first one," Ballinger said. "It kind of just gets the jitters out and you're more warmed up. I actually really like doing multiple races in a meet."

He would also break the Helena High School mile record with a time of 4:19.



Freshman distance runner Henry Ballinger before practice on Jan. 18. In December, Ballinger finished six seconds behind the University of Montana record in a 1600-meter race. **CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

The record was previously held by Aiden Reid, an athlete who will be running in the Olympic trials this year. A breakout senior year gave Ballinger choices when it came to running at a Division 1 school, but ultimately he chose to follow in the footsteps of his parents, who both ran track and cross country at UM.

"I've been around here so much, and I was like 'Oh I want to go out of state, I want to go to Oregon' but once you come to and realize 'Why would I go anywhere else but here? I love it here,'" Ballinger said.

Ballinger's love for Montana has more than shown through in his work ethic, a quality he shares with many of his teammates.

"If you let [Henry] do a hundred miles a week and work out every single day, he would do it," assistant distance running coach AJ Eckmann said. "Really, that's the mindset of the team we've been going after. I really feel like, with a lot of kids, that's what it has to be. We're holding them back constantly."

Naturally, that hard work has produced results. In addition to the 4:08 mile he ran on Dec. 7, Ballinger also placed in two events during a meet in Spokane, Washington, including being part of the distance medley relay team that placed first.

"To have Henry already at 4:08 converted is just an awesome spot to be," Eckmann said. "Go to the gym there and look at the wall and no one has run faster than 4:02 in the mile at this school. This is a great running school. We've had tons of national meets, had really good All-Americans, and no one has run faster than 4:02."

Ultimately, Ballinger wants the Griz to go to a national championship, a tall task considering that the Big Sky Conference includes perhaps the best running program in the country, Northern Arizona, and a 20th ranked Montana State.

UM Track and Field will go on the road to participate in the Bobcat Challenge in Bozeman on Jan. 26 and the Whitworth Invite in Spokane, Washington, on Feb. 9.

Lady Griz have best chance of winning Big Sky since Selvig era

MAX DUPRAS

max.dupras@umontana.edu

The Lady Griz under head coach Brian Holsinger have stepped up and might have the best chance to win a Big Sky Conference tournament since 2015.

Since the retirement of legendary head coach Robin Selvig, the Lady Griz have seen multiple head coaches take over and push the program to losing seasons. Both former head coaches Shannon Schweyen and Mike Petrino combined to win only one Big Sky Conference tournament game.

Now, under Holsinger, the Lady Griz have a spark that hasn't been seen since Selvig's days leading Montana to success almost every season. In his first season, Holsinger led the Lady Griz to a 19-11 record, its best since Selvig.

Despite a slightly underwhelming 14-16 second season for Holsinger, the Lady Griz have been electric this year against conference competition after being scheduled against some high-quality opponents in Missoula early in the season.

The Lady Griz are having a renaissance under Holsinger this season, recording an 11-5 record to start. Despite tough losses to Northern Colorado and MSU, UM remains otherwise undefeated in conference play with big wins against nonconference opponents like South Dakota and Loyola Marymount on its resume as well.

Holsinger's success wasn't just because he was handed a great team, either. He had the talent to produce a winning season, but the lack of coaching had put this team in a rut. With impressive performers like Carmen Gfeller, Sophia Stiles and Abby Anderson, Holsinger gave them hope for a new era of Lady Griz basketball.

Now, only three members of Holsinger's original team remain, with Gfeller in her final year of college. Both Haley Huard and Dani Bartsch were freshmen on that 2021-2022 squad, and Bartsch is thriving this season as a defensive anchor.

Now, with the development of Bartsch and other recruits like Mack Konig and Libby Stump, this Lady Griz team is looking poised to succeed in both the rest of the conference season and the postseason.

Unfortunately for Holsinger, three of his athletes have suffered season-ending knee injuries: Stump, transfer athlete Imogen Greenslade and freshman Macy Donarski. Both Stump and Greenslade played critical roles on Montana's bench prior to their injuries and Donarski would have competed for a rotational spot on the bench.



University of Montana head women's basketball coach Brian Holsinger patrols the sideline in UM's conference tournament loss to Eastern Washington on March 5, 2023. Holsinger coached his second ever Big Sky Conference tournament game and is still winless in the bracket. **JACK MARSHALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

These players have clearly been missed at points in the season, but something Holsinger has also brought with him is a knack for recruiting both freshmen and transfers.

First, the freshmen. Konig is coming off of a season where she took home the Big Sky Freshman of the Year award. She and Stump both showed out in their freshman seasons, being key contributors to the Lady Griz winning in the back half of the season last year.

Now, another freshman has stepped up: Macey Huard, Haley Huard's younger sister.

The ability to recruit impressive players in a highly competitive college landscape feels impossible sometimes, but Holsinger has managed to find some top-level talent coming out of high school.

However, freshman recruits aren't the only way to compete in college athletics anymore, and Holsinger has done wonders

in the transfer portal as well.

This season has seen multiple transfers step up and help lead the Lady Griz to prominence. Maggie Espenmiller-McGraw and MJ Bruno are two transfers this season who have not only become standout members in the starting lineup, but have also improved their personal games as well.

Gina Marxen transferred from Idaho last season and has become a focal point for scoring in her two seasons as a Lady Grizzly. She has not only continued her scoring talents this season, but has become a gritty defensive presence at the perimeter as well.

All of these players are succeeding and Holsinger is helping bring back the excitement that once surrounded the Lady Griz for decades.

Selvig brought nationally ranked teams to Missoula and filled Dahlberg Arena with thousands of eager fans to watch the Lady Griz take on the best in the country. Now, Holsinger is doing the same, bringing in

both current and former ranked opponents like Colorado State, Gonzaga and Washington State.

He has brought in talent through both high school and transfer recruitment while retaining the team's top scorer in Gfeller.

Now that Selvig's name is planted firmly on the hardwood of Dahlberg Arena, the Lady Griz will never be the same. Especially with changes in the transfer portal and NIL deals, smaller schools will struggle to compete with their more prominent competitors.

But, for Montana, the success that Selvig once had might be returning in the form of a fiery Washingtonian with a goal of playing hard-nosed defense.

All Holsinger has to do is compete in the Big Sky tournament this season. With over half of the conference season left, he can do something we have not seen since the glory days of Montana women's basketball: win the whole damn thing.

Moose nabbed, beloved Bertha snatched again!

CHRIS LODMAN

christoper.lodman@umontana.edu

MADDIE CRANDALL

maddie.crandall@umontana.edu

On the night of Jan. 18, law students adjusted their ties and threw on their blazers and sport coats in the rotunda of the forestry building for their yearly visits with Bertha, the taxidermied moose.

About seven law students came to snatch Bertha from the banister in the College of Forestry and Conservation before loading her into a pickup truck. "There was a great big moose! He liked to drink a lot of juice," the law students sang along to a nursery rhyme blasting while Bertha sat antlers up in the back on the way to the law school.

The act of stealing the foresters' beloved moose bust began around the 1930s. The students of the law school are not the only ones to burglarize Bertha, but they are among the most consistent, making it a nearly century-long school tradition. Some past heists involved bringing Bertha to her favorite watering hole, Red's Bar, before calling it a night on the banister of the law school.

"It's kind of a treat when you find a tradition that old and [you're] still able to participate", said Noah Gipson, vice president of the Student Bar Association. Both the foresters and law students embrace the camaraderie, with the law students excited to see the foresters retaliate in a woodsman-like fashion.

According to forestry student Koson Verkler, the retaliation was more tame this year than last year, when they left trees scattered throughout the building, including the restroom. This year, on Sunday, they assembled the same decoration they used for their float in the homecoming parade last fall and decorated the railing with logging signs.

Bertha will remain at the law school until her next appearance at the flannel-themed Foresters' Ball on Feb. 2 and 3.



UPPER LEFT: From left to right, Sammie Westfahl, Katee Kostecki and Jenna King hang up signs on the railing inside the law school on Jan. 21. **CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

ABOVE: Skyler Anderson, President of the Student Bar Association, pulls a rope around the neck of Bertha, a mount in the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation. The group of law students took Bertha from the forestry school and hung it in the law school in preparation for the annual Foresters' Ball. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

LOWER LEFT: Law students form a plan to hoist Bertha onto the law school's railing after stealing her from the forestry school. **CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

MIDDLE LEFT: The foresters finish putting together their fort in the Alexander Blewett III School of Law on Jan. 21 in retaliation for stealing their taxidermy moose, Bertha. **CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**