

MONTANA KAIMIN



The march to Main Hall

After a spring filled with protests across the nation, what did UM students' calls for disclosure and divestment mean?

Story by Claire Bernard



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Cover photo by Walker McDonald

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Kiosk



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."

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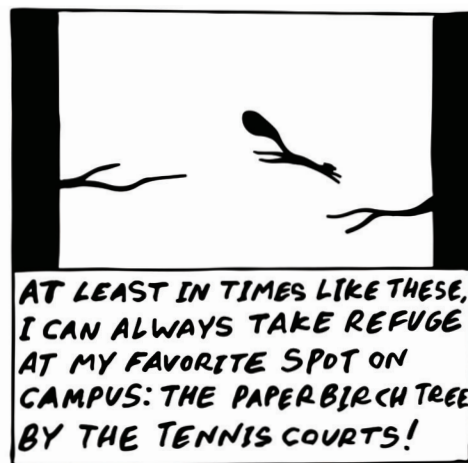
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BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

BARRETT

Talk isn't cheap

History is made with words. Members of any movement understand that. It's often their only weapon of change.

But over the past few years, protesting has changed. Some movements have taken place almost entirely online and most are supplemented heavily by social media. I'm not against it, but it's had an interesting impact on modern activism.

Protesting has always been important to democracy — there's a reason it's one of our most protected rights as Americans. But in order for modern-day protests to be effective and create the desired changes, people need intent, education and purpose.

What scares me most is the increased ease and encouragement of back-seated activism. I've seen the phrase "silence is complacency" crop up in social movements since 2020. While I do agree in some capacity, it's often harmful to expect people with no understanding of an issue to speak on it. It can hurt actual activism, especially surrounding one of the most complicated conflicts in human history.

Being knowledgeable in your opinion gives you the tools for impactful civil dialogue. Even acknowledging that you don't know everything can set you up for learning and developing your own opinions. Blind support can contribute to more problems in our country beyond protests.

I'm not saying students should stop protesting. As history has shown, protesting is one of the most healthy, powerful and important parts of campus culture. What I am saying is protesting about such complicated issues should require substantial confidence and knowledge. Being armed with an understanding of the issue will lead to deeper, more impactful calls to action and will allow students to defend their ideas when questioned. Education is a key element in having civil discourse with people who disagree with your ideas.

This means paying attention to current events, both in America and globally, reading in-depth histories and speaking with experts. That way, when students identify what they want to support, they understand why.

At least three of the organizers of last May's protest were majoring in history, and it makes sense. Those who have studied the history of Palestine and Israel will understand the outrage Palestinians (or Israelis) have felt for centuries. Hazel Videon, who was interviewed for the feature, spoke strongly about why she protested for Palestine and was able to defend her ideas when questioned.

But I can't speak for everyone who's taken part, either in person or digitally.

Many of the calling signs and buzzwords of both pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli activists have obscurely deep roots and have seen decades of changed meanings. Reactions can be based on one's personal or historical understanding, and often, emotion.

During the University of Montana protests last May, one chant rang through campus: "From the river to the sea, Gaza will be free." At first, I thought nothing of it. It was quite catchy. Until one of my professors pointed out the historical meaning of this phrase. The river, Jordan, and the Mediterranean Sea are the western and eastern borders of both today's Israeli and Palestinian territories.

To some, it inspires peaceful coexistence. To others, it means a call for the complete eradication of the opposition. Like almost everything involving these territories, this phrase is incredibly divisive. These words have been used by both Israelis and Palestinians and were adopted by Hamas in 2012. The Associated Press wrote that Likud, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political party, published a statement saying that between the sea and the Jordan River, "there will only be Israeli sovereignty."

If you're advocating for a two-state solution, then this phrase could be conflicting, even with what you intend for it to mean.

Another loaded term: Zionism. The word has recently been likened, by some, to fascism, according to The Washington Post. But it seems the word (at least in its modern, post-1800s context) has an endless interpretations. These all seem to stem from one common understanding, though, as defined by Al Jazeera: "Zionism is a nationalist, political ideology that called for the creation of a Jewish state, and now supports the continued existence of Israel as such a state."

And of course, the term has been subjected to the usual mess of subjective perception. Do Zionists want to maintain post-partition Israel, or do they want the annihilation of Palestine? It's a different answer every time.

It's an exciting time for young Americans. We have the power to enact change — this country has a rich history of successful social movements. But be mindful. The expectation, whether for yourself or others, to take part in a centuries-old debate on religion, politics and land ownership can damage the very cause you think you're fighting for.

— Clayton Murphy, Features Editor

Like it? Hate it? Let us know.
Email us your opinions at claire.bernard@umontana.edu

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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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:

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

Events for the week of Sept. 5 to Sept. 11

THURSDAY

- Griz Volleyball vs. Utah Valley | Dahlberg Arena | 6 p.m.
- Learn S'more about Greek life | Payne Native American Center Fire Pit | 5 to 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

- WelcomeFeast | The Oval | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; free lunch served 11:30 to 1:30

SATURDAY

- Griz Volleyball vs. Southern Mississippi | Dahlberg Arena | 11 a.m.

SUNDAY

- Griz Volleyball vs. Boise State | Dahlberg Arena | 2 p.m.

Three initiatives fight to the ballot; professor to leave UM; energy and climate group to be dissolved

THE RIGHT TO ABORTION AND OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES MAKE IT TO THE BALLOT

Republican Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen approved three constitutional initiatives for the November general election that would add the right to abortion and reform the Montana election process, but the process to approval was a rocky one.

Voters in November will see CI-126, CI-127 and CI-128 on their ballot. The first two, sponsored by Montanans for Election Reform, would put Montana's usually separate party primaries on one ballot, letting only the top four, regardless of party, advance to the general election. CI-127 would also require a candidate to secure more than 50% of the vote to win the election. CI-128 was sponsored by Montanans Securing Reproductive Rights, and seeks to protect the right to abortion for Montanans by adding it to the Montana Constitution, which would generally prohibit the state government from penalizing patients or providers for this care.

The first two initiatives were determined to be "legally insufficient" by Republican Attorney General Austin Knudsen, but the Montana Supreme Court disagreed. Knudsen also offered a rewording of CI-128 which prompted the reproductive rights group to file a lawsuit. According to reporting done by the Montana Free Press, the group's attorney Raph Graybill described Knudsen's rewording as presenting a list of "misleading, argumentative, prejudicial and false serial hypotheses" about the purpose of the initiative.

In total, the three initiatives have dealt with seven lawsuits and appeals since fall 2023, four of them about CI-128. Despite the long road of legal battles the initiatives faced, Jacobsen approved all three for voting on Aug. 22.

(Corbin Vanderby)

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA PROFESSOR STEPS DOWN AFTER 25 YEARS

University of Montana professor Marilyn Marler will be stepping down from her position as the natural areas manager to pursue a role as the executive director of the Montana Natural History Center. Marler's last day at the University will be Sept. 6, and after a short break, she will begin her new position on Sept. 16.

For the past 25 years, Marler has overseen about 600 acres of University-owned land surrounding Mount Sentinel's trail and about 100 acres of University-owned land near Fort Missoula.

"It feels weird leaving something after 25 years," Marler said to the Missoulian.

A job that began as controlling invasive weeds transformed into a broader land stewardship.

In her time at the University, Marler taught botany courses and maintained the famous M Trail, but also worked in many other areas of the community. Marler has been a city council member, a statehouse legislator and a non-profit board member of the Montana Natural History Center.

For the past two months, Marler's primary task has been to take inventory of trees damaged on campus from the July 24 storm. Though her job at UM is often a solo one, she also spent time supervising various groups throughout the year. Volunteers from the community, students and upper-level interns would work with her to maintain the upkeep of the University areas she cared for.

According to the Missoulian, Marler hopes, in her new role, to further the community's awareness of what the Natural History Center has to offer and increase the presence of Indigenous perspectives in the center's programming.

(Sav Chavez)

MISSOULA LOOKS TO DISSOLVE ENERGY AND CLIMATE GROUP

A Missoula city committee voted 7-2 in favor of dissolving roughly more than a dozen

committees and boards in Missoula, including Missoula's Energy and Climate team.

The energy and climate team, which was created in the early 2000s, is a volunteer technical advisory committee which looks at environmental issues in Missoula that range from long-term sustainability to individual project plans.

Since the group was created, climate goals set by the committee have made advances, and the team has been able to hire three full-time staff members to help continue the movement toward their goals.

The proposal to dissolve the group was suggested in order to cut down on administrative monthly staff time, cutting off approximately six hours of work a month which is spent on boards and committees.

Though there are some that agree with the dissolving of the groups, others caution against it, as the city hadn't decided on an alternative to the volunteer board.

"I also feel like we have not been provided with an alternative that is tangible right now," City Council Vice President Mirtha Becerra told the Missoulian.

Strategics Initiative Manager for Missoula Anne Geiger said there has been no specific plan for an alternative created, but the city is working with the Local Policy Center to develop one over time.

The University of Montana currently has its own sustainability group which works with campus partners to improve sustainability across the University. (SC)

POLICE BLOTTER

ELLE DANIEL

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Well, color me surprised, you bunch of freaks managed to behave yourselves this week. Here I was expecting to write about drunken madness at the three nights of concerts or an all-out "Hunger Games" over parking spots. But don't think I didn't hear about all the other nonsense you got into in the meantime.

TUESDAY, AUG. 20 – DINGED AND DITCHED

At 10 a.m., the University of Montana Police Department investigated someone leaving the scene of a property damage crash at Lot J near Jesse Hall, aka, a car getting hit and then "left on read" like a bad situation. UMPD has no suspects, so it believes this was a classic case of someone's ride getting scraped up without the offending driver even knowing they hit the other car. Shitty work, Lightning McQueen. Ka-chOW!

TUESDAY, AUG. 20 – FRAUD FRENZY

Oh hey, it's me, a Nigerian prince, sliding into your email to ask if you'll pretty please buy me gift cards from your local Walmart. I promise I won't steal the password to your bank account and then ghost you forever. Unfortunately, this case of online theft by deception started on May 15, and ended in a pretty hefty sum of money being taken. The case is still open, and an investigator is working to resolve it. Remember, if someone's asking for payment via gift cards, it's probably a scam. And for the love of Bod, if you click on a fishy link from the dark lords of the internet, change those passwords and call your bank right away.

THURSDAY, AUG. 22 – PEARL SCAMMED

You didn't think you got away scot-free with the concert series, did you? Because whoever found a lost debit card at the Pearl Jam concert clearly didn't feel like being the "Better Man." A concertgoer must've been seeing "Black" after finding out their misplaced card had a few new fraudulent charges on it. Not to point fingers, but if you see anyone walking around decked out in a suspiciously large amount of Pearl Jam merch, I'm betting we can close this case faster than you can spell "Jeremy." My advice for whoever lost their card? Just "Breathe," and freeze your bank account in the meantime.

FRIDAY, AUG. 23 – DOUBLE DUTY

It's rare for lightning to strike in the same place twice, but apparently, UM's resident bike thieves do, as two bikes were stolen from the same rack at Craig Hall. While responding to the first theft complaint, a UMPD officer was approached by another student also looking to report a stolen bicycle. There are currently no suspects. The locks of both bikes had been cut open. The thieves are getting smarter... maybe they're getting their bachelors in grand theft bicycle?

Can't get enough? Start listening.

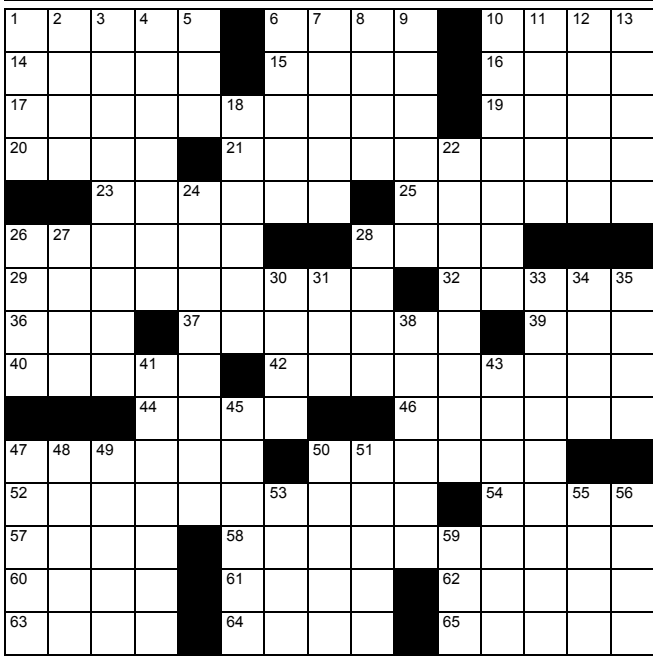
This week, hear Bayliss Flynn talk about the new Lodge Dining Center and how the Food Zoo is history. But with ballooning budgets, staff shortages and high expectations, it could prove difficult in satisfying students hungry for change.

"This place — it feels like a real dining hall instead of just a high school cafeteria," Josh Methot said.



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

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



- ACROSS**
- 1 Colorful parrot
 - 6 Disaster relief org.
 - 10 Many moons
 - 14 Square things
 - 15 News piece
 - 16 Karate level
 - 17 George Orwell, e.g.
 - 19 Sandwich shop
 - 20 Corrin or Stone
 - 21 Oktoberfest duds
 - 23 Take out a policy
 - 25 Sidewalk stuff
 - 26 More obese
 - 28 "Now __ talking!"
 - 29 Start of a list of examples
 - 32 Cartoon art
 - 36 1972 Eastwood flick, "___ Kidd"
 - 37 Extremely cold
 - 39 Do a yard chore
 - 40 Like some films
 - 42 What some SF taxis do
 - 44 Tiny amount
 - 46 Revolting sort?
 - 47 Determined
 - 50 Safari tree
 - 52 Period of delay
 - 54 Kind of cell
 - 57 Military no-show
 - 58 Corresponding
 - 60 Fishy organ
 - 61 Landlocked African land
 - 62 Lucky number?
 - 63 Nothing but
 - 64 Husky's tow
 - 65 Pollster's find
- DOWN**
- 1 Lion's locks
 - 2 Small amount
 - 3 All in, say
 - 4 Musical tempo
 - 5 Lilliputian
 - 6 Taxpayer, e.g.
 - 7 Musical work
 - 8 Many a Face-book repost
 - 9 Punish with a fine
 - 10 Navel base?
 - 11 Gaggle members
 - 12 Barkin or Burstyn
 - 13 Period of work
 - 18 Like pins and needles
 - 22 Relating to coats of arms
 - 24 Barracks boss
 - 26 South Pacific getaway
 - 27 Later
 - 28 Crib cry
 - 30 Mascara site
 - 31 Rocks at the bar
 - 33 Unoriginal
 - 34 "Get going!"
 - 35 Pitcher in a still life
 - 38 Many a chalet
 - 41 In a perfect world...
 - 43 Party hearty
 - 45 Weather headlines
 - 47 Adult insect
 - 48 Bad kind of situation
 - 49 Facebook menace
 - 50 Seating request
 - 51 Boy with a bow
 - 53 Bona fide
 - 55 Neck and neck
 - 56 Patch up
 - 59 Winter hrs. in Chicago
- Answers to Previous Crossword:**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| S | P | C | A | | S | M | I | L | E | | H | E | A | P | |
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Horoscope

What Nic Cage flick is your perfect pick?

KEELY PROEBSTEL
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The man, the meme, the legend, Nicolas Cage, has been around so long that he's been a staple of both "so good it's good" and "so bad it's good." With "Longlegs" just leaving theaters, we've all got Cage on the brain. It'll be a while before it comes to streaming, so which of our favorite Coppola nepo-baby's movies should you watch in the meantime? **VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):** Make no mistake, "Pig" is as much a movie about the culinary arts as it is about the bond between humans and our pets. It's an understated drama with just enough suspense to keep you on edge the entire time, simultaneously filled with gorgeous scenery and shots of perfectly prepared food. With an intense focus on culinary perfection and a plot that rewards your patience, it's perfect for you, Virgo.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): Imagine a world where friendships can change everything. That shouldn't be hard for you, but if it is, then watch "The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent," a meta buddy comedy/spy thriller about the nature of fame. And the nature of drug lords and international espionage — that's important to mention, too. It's an idealistic movie set in a world that rewards friendship and positivity, so it's a great watch for you, Libra.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Some movies just exist as memes. John Travolta unconvincingly plays an FBI agent, Cage unconvincingly plays a terrorist, and yet they convincingly play each other. Although "Face/Off" has existed as a joke for a long time, it's a surprisingly good sci-fi and action movie with a unique premise. It has a lot of over-the-top '90s melodrama, but that just adds to the fun. An innovative and ambitious film, perfect for you, Scorpio.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): Before Cage was a meme, he was a hunky action hero. No, really. "Con Air" is the kind of movie that feels like it was made in the '80s, not the post-internet world of 1997. It's almost like the director said, "What if we remade 'Die Hard,' but this time, it's on a plane?" This one is for the little gremlin in us all who wants to see a plane smack into the Las Vegas Hard Rock Hotel. It's adventurous and passionate about its craft, just like you, Sag.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Admit it, Capricorn, there's part of you that wants to see Cage as an international arms dealer. "Lord of War" certainly isn't Cage's most likable role. Morality-wise, it might be his worst. But its "based on a true story" tale of cat-and-mouse makes for an entertaining watch. Don't write it off as just another action flick, it has something to say about the military-industrial complex. It's borderline pessimistic in its realism, but also sincere in what it needs to say, making it the perfect Capri-corn movie.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Imagine if Martin Scorsese made a horror movie. Wait, you don't have to. "Bringing Out the Dead" already exists, and it's glorious. Cage plays a burnt-out paramedic in '90s New York City, alongside an all-star cast of bizarre

partners. It's a strange mix of realistic thriller, supernatural horror and bleak romance — one that somehow feels life-affirming by its end. An innovative blend of genres with an altruistic core, it's a perfect match for you, Aquarius.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Think of "Leaving Las Vegas" as a rom-com, but instead of funny, it's extremely depressing. Cage plays a recently fired alcoholic who falls in love with a Vegas Strip sex worker, and it doesn't get more uplifting from there. But it's also filled with a plethora of beautiful shots of the titular city at night, which lends a sort of sentimental, nostalgic warmth to the film. Moody, romantic and compassionate, it's a great late-night Pisces flick.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Do you want to steal the Declaration of Independence? Everyone remembers the iconic "National Treasure," but when's the last time you watched it? If you haven't seen it with grown-up eyes, you're missing out. It's a perfect blend of action movie and cheesy conspiracy thriller, with Cage in one of his most memorable roles. The exorbitant energy and comically high stakes make it perfect for you, Aries, especially if you have an eye for memes.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): I've got four words for you: food-focused romantic comedy. Okay, there's also opera and other Italian stuff, but the best eye candy in the film is in the pastry case. "Moonstruck," the world's most confusing rom-com, features a Cher performance so iconic that you'll forget Cage was in it. It's like a nice sandwich: a perfect ratio of hammy performances and gooey '80s goodness. Its blend of lingering food shots and the over-the-top, joyful love story create a fantastic watch for you, Taurus.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Nothing gives Gemini vibes quite like twins played by the same actor. "Adaptation" is refreshingly different, featuring Cage as a screenwriter with an impossible task, and his twin who wants to be just like him. Its heavy emphasis on how life is as strange as fiction, could come off as cliché in the hands of a less talented team, but instead, like most Cage films, its weirdness makes it work. It's inquisitive, sharp and a little off-beat, just like you, Gem.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Ah, "Raising Arizona," the only successful comedy about kidnapping an infant. Wait, it's not as dark as it sounds, I promise. Cage plays a small-time crook who falls for a police officer. When they fail to have kids, they resolve to take a quintuplet for their own, seeing as "they got more than they can handle." It's sentimental, charming and side-splittingly funny, making it perfect for you, Cancer.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Let's drop all pretenses here, Leo. I'm not recommending this movie because it's good. It's because "Wicker Man" might be one of the worst movies of the last 20 years. When Cage himself calls it "absurd," that's a sign. This is the "watch it to make fun of it" movie. Bombastic and maybe a little too ambitious, it's a great pick for a Leo's next movie night with friends.



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

UM cancer treatment reaches human clinical trials

EMMA WHITE

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Researchers at the Center for Translational Medicine at the University of Montana recently formulated a drug with the potential to treat cancer. It is now in the first stage of human clinical trials.

The center partners researchers at UM and Inimmune, a biotechnology company based in Missoula. It was made to help UM students and faculty bring their ideas into medicinal practice with the help of researchers who develop the compounds, making them into safe and effective medicines, according to professor Jay Evans, co-founder of the center.

"All of these ideas that students have typically go into a lab — they get published," Evans said. "It's great, but then they don't go anywhere, right? So we said, 'Well, let's harness all of those ideas, but let's actually do it in a way that we can go after ideas that can promote human health.'"

The collaboration between Inimmune and the students and faculty at UM is what makes innovation like this happen, Evans said, because it combines their ideas with the funding and experience of Inimmune in order to get those ideas off the ground and into medicinal practice. This partnership has not only helped students academically, but also helped kick off a possible new form of cancer treatment.

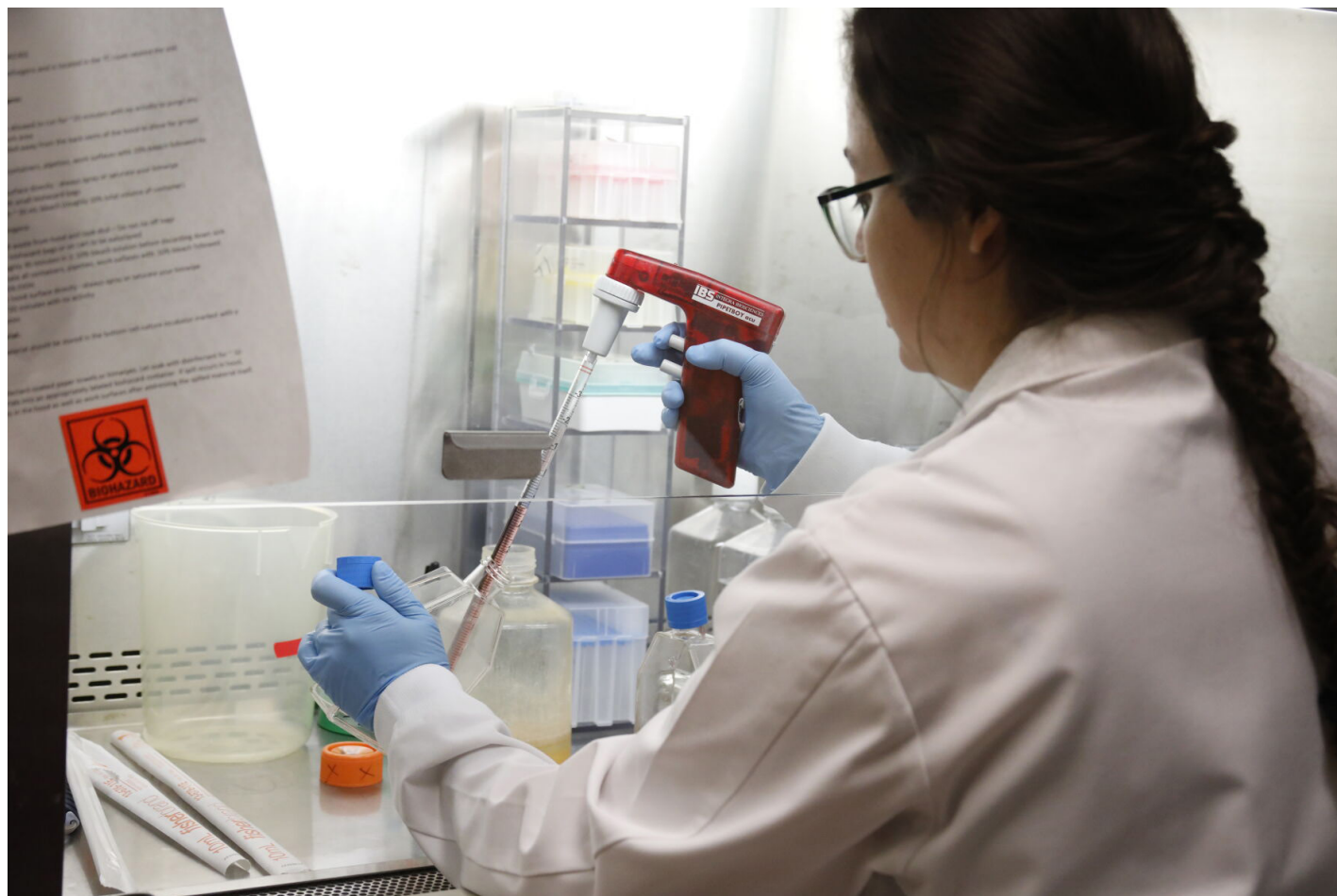
The compound used in the treatment was originally developed around six years ago as a vaccine for influenza, according to Evans.

"As we have figured out different ways to train the immune system to different things, we have found that some of those compounds have applications outside of just vaccines," Evans said.

In this case, they found that the compound could be given to patients through intravenous therapy to ramp up the body's natural immune response and direct it toward fighting cancerous cells, the same way the immune system normally fights an infection.

"So all we're doing is trying to retrain the immune system to do what it was already designed to do," professor David Burkhardt, the other co-founder of the center, said. "You're harnessing the natural anti-cancer mechanism of the body."

Once they discovered the compound could be used as a treatment for cancer, Evans said, they licensed it through Inimmune, and the company was able to provide the center's researchers with grants from the company that made their research possible. According to Dave Kuntz, UM spokesperson, grants



Natalie Oberding takes off old media and monitors the cell growth in different samples on Thursday, Aug. 29th at the Center for Translational Medicine.

RACHEL YEAGER | MONTANA KAIMIN

totaled to \$33 million.

After its development at Inimmune, the compound underwent testing in the center's three interconnected laboratories in order to make sure it was safe for use in people, Burkhardt said. The first laboratory is medicinal chemistry, where they design the molecules used in the treatment. Then it moves to a laboratory called formulations in analytical chemistry, where they make the molecules into a format that is compatible with the human body. After that, the immunology lab takes over, and they test its safety and effectiveness with human cells.

"You can't just take a drug, put in a pill, swallow it and expect it's going to work like how it's formulated," Burkhardt said. "How it's delivered to the body has a huge impact on its bioavailability and its toxicity, its activity... So that's a big part of what our group, our team, does."

Evans and Burkhardt added the partner-

ship with Inimmune has been crucial to the success of the project, both for their financial support and their experience in the business world.

"Public-private partnership has been key to the success," Burkhardt said, "and because the team here at the University brings a unique skill set, and the team at the company Inimmune, brings a unique skill set, combined, they can do much more together than they could individually."

Having students working in the lab also makes a big difference in the progress at the center, due to their talent, fresh eyes and ideas, Burkhardt said.

"Oftentimes they'll ask questions that established scientists may overlook," he said, "because, again, we are thinking about cancer based upon what we know from the past."

The students also benefit greatly from the environment created by the center, said An-

nie Buchholz, a fourth year doctorate student in the pharmaceutical sciences and drug design program.

"It's like a nice little environment of chatting beyond science," Buchholz said, "and then also, of course, learning more about different areas of chemistry that I'm not really exposed to."

Burkhart said once the trial was underway, it gained a lot of meaning for the researchers. The trial's first patient is a 54-year-old woman who has struggled with advanced breast cancer for years. He said the next patient is slated to begin treatment in the coming week.

"This is a real person who has a family, who has kids, maybe, has all these people around them that are hoping for them to get better," Burkhardt said. "And so it's when you start treating real patients that you are suddenly like, 'Wow. We want so bad for this to help.'"

P!nk takes to the sky

PHOTOS AND WORDS BY **MARLEY BARBOEISEL**
& **AIDEN HAVENS**

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Pop music icon P!nk played to a packed crowd in Washington-Grizzly Stadium last week. The extravagant performance followed multiple openers, including Sheryl Crow and The Script, and included advanced lighting sequences, elaborate dance routines, various pyrotechnic elements and multiple aerial acrobatic stunts.

Young and old filled the crowd to watch P!nk perform live on Aug. 28. Elizabeth Moore and her daughters, along with friend Kim Greene, couldn't miss the popstar they regularly speak so highly of. "P!nk is the epitome of all female interac-

tion and vibe and supporting each other as a community," Moore said.

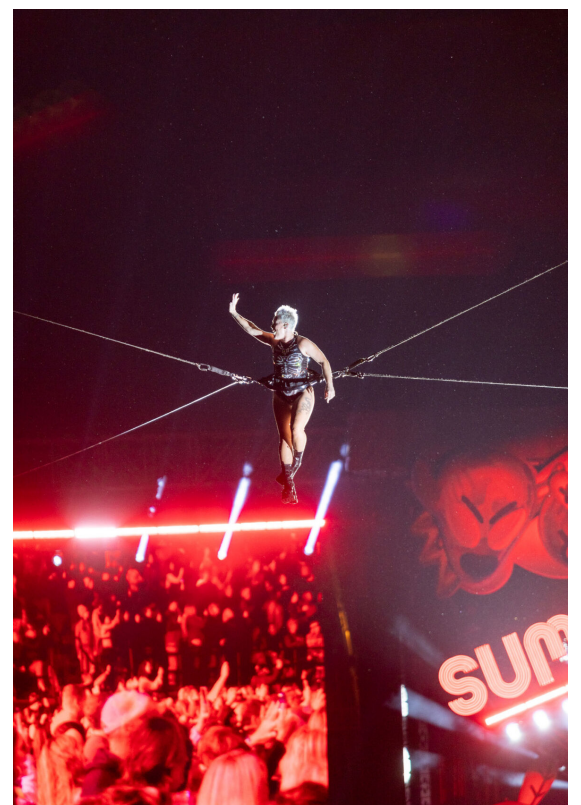
The stadium, owned and operated by the University of Montana, hosted two other shows in the weeks leading up to P!nk's performance. Popular rock band Pearl Jam and young country music star Tyler Childers also packed the stadium. Local live entertainment company Logjam Presents recently partnered with global live entertainment company Live Nation to help bring larger talents into Missoula and worked with UM to hold shows in the stadium.

TOP RIGHT: Kim Greene (left) with Elizabeth Moore (right) and her children before the P!nk concert at Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Aug. 28.

AIDEN HAVENS | MONTANA KAIMIN

BOTTOM RIGHT: A packed crowd watches as P!nk floats above the stage.

MARLEY BARBOEISEL | MONTANA KAIMIN



P!nk hangs in the air during her performance at Washington-Grizzly Stadium. **MARLEY BARBOEISEL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

The march to M

After a spring filled with protests across the nation, what did UM students' calls for disclosure and divestment mean?



Protesters stand on the steps of University Hall chanting "Disclose. Divest. We will not stop, we will not rest," on May 1. WALKER MCDONALD | MONTANA KAIMIN

ain Hall

Story by
Claire Bernard

SHOUTS SLICED THE AIR IN the drizzly afternoon hours as around 100 protesters marched their way around the University of Montana's Oval on May 1. "Disclose! Divest! We will not stop, we will not rest!" protesters chanted, their voices ringing.

It had been coming. Since April 17, 2024, when students at Columbia University in New York City led a weeks-long protest in support of Palestine, the United States' college campuses exploded in solidarity. First, some of the East Coast Ivies: Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Brown. Next, the West joined: the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles. Then the Midwest: the universities of Michigan and Minnesota, one in Chicago and another in Cleveland.

But while protests began spreading across the nation in early April — including lengthy campouts, massive arrests, storming of school buildings and injuries from clashes with police — the University of Montana remained relatively quiet. There were a few small demonstrations. In November 2023, the large "M" on the side of Mount Sentinel, which overlooks the campus football stadium, was covered in the colors of the Palestinian flag, and a couple of marching protests near the city's courthouse had occurred. But UM's student body seemed to have taken a backseat on the issue — until last May.

College campuses have long stood as places for grassroots political movements to begin, grow and push for change. UM is no different. From protesting against Vietnam, to anti-apartheid, to fossil fuels,



A protester stands in front of a thin blue line flag at the University of Montana on May 1. Students and community members gathered to support Palestine and were met with smaller groups of counter protesters.

CLAYTON MURPHY | MONTANA KAIMIN

students have spent decades calling on UM to stand up as a pillar of change — especially as one of the largest, most politically active campuses in the surrounding states. This time, students' demands are the same. They want transparency about how the University is investing its money and they want divestment — meaning selling off investments — from companies that may support Israel.

"From the river to the sea, Gaza will be free!" protesters yelled as they made their way around campus and pooled in front of Main Hall. The air was thick with anxiety and excitement. Members of the media and onlooking students stood nearby, while protesters shouted into megaphones and wrote messages of support in chalk across the walkway. A police car parked a few buildings away from the event, but never engaged.

Unlike some other universities, the protest remained peaceful. According to the New York Times, more than 3,100 people have been arrested on other college campuses over pro-Palestine demonstrations.

After about four hours, the group had mostly dispersed. Students began to walk past Main Hall, some stopping to look at the chalked-in messages. Others laughed with friends or bicycled by. The captivating tension had broken. The campus returned to its typical busy state.

Since Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, the United States legislature has sent a collective \$12.5 billion in military aid to Israel, according to the Council on Foreign Relations. But the U.S. is not just tied to Israel through military funding — thousands of U.S. companies work directly or

indirectly with Israel, including companies that universities across America invest in. That's why, when students at Columbia University discovered their school had investments in Israel, months-long protests erupted. And it's why colleges across the nation joined in too, not only to support Palestine, but to support their fellow students.

"The action itself was also a way to show solidarity with other student movements," Hazel Videon, one of the UM pro-Palestine protest organizers said. "[We] especially thought this was important at such a small University in a relatively rural place."

UM's protest occurred nine days before the official end of the semester. Despite student's demands for transparency from the University about its investments, nothing changed.

Nearly 60 years after some of the largest U.S. campus protests, universities' students, including the University of Montana's, are repeating a historic demand for divestment. Will it work this time?

For what it's worth

For those looking from the outside, it can seem puzzling why students in a small Montana town care about an issue an ocean away.

Conflict between Israel and Palestine has been going on for centuries. However, "from the very beginning, it was the question of who owns the land, who controls the land and who controls the produce," history professor Mehrdad Kia, who directs the Central and Southwest Asian Studies Center, said.

But since October 2023, when Palestine’s ruling party Hamas attacked Israel and killed around 1,200 citizens, the world has been watching. Hamas, which has been declared a terrorist group by the U.S. and the European Union, among others, has been at war with Israel ever since.

Since the attack, the Israeli government retaliated through bombing, ground fighting and cutting off resources, specifically food, leading to the deaths of at least 40,000 Palestinians as of Aug. 15, according to AP News. Of the Palestinian deaths, over 10,600 have been children, and massive fighting has led to the displacement of around 1.9 million people, nearly 86% of the pre-war population.

In March 2024, United Nations expert Francesca Albanese accused Israel of committing genocide against the Palestinian people, stating that “there are reasonable grounds to believe that the threshold indicating the commission of the crime of genocide ... has been met,” which included causing serious harm, deliberately inflicting conditions that intended destruction and preventing birth within a specific group.

Many students on college campuses agree. As of May 23, 2024, more than 100 universities have had pro-Palestine protests, including the University of Montana.

“Obviously, there’s a long history of student protests being really involved at the forefront of political movements in this country,” Videon said.

But while protests at Columbia University originally began over the University’s ties to Israel through investments and endowments, a larger uproar about free speech on campus has begun, as around 300 protesters were arrested at Columbia during a campout, and some students were

expelled. Soon, other universities joined in protest. It was no longer only about Palestine.

“A lot of people care deeply about this issue, but then they see their peers being involved with it and they are like, ‘Oh, this is something that we could viably do here,’” Videon said. “Especially, like in this instance, we saw a lot of students getting very heavy and violent pushback from university administrators.”

Videon, who is studying history in UM’s graduate program, said it is important for campuses to show organization within a student body, especially when it deserves transparency. Beyond that, she said, universities represent important institutions of America, especially considering the amount of money and research they produce.

By the time the 15 students who organized UM’s walkout got to planning the protest, the movement sweeping campuses across America had taken a complex meaning, especially for those involved.

The UM Students for Justice in Palestine had similar aims to those of their fellow college campuses: for UM’s endowment foundation to disclose what companies it invests in. If those companies supported Israel, the group demanded the investors, called the UM Foundation, divest from those companies. The group had suspicions based on some of the general information about the foundation, including broad hedge funds it may have investments in, but did not know for certain — one reason why they were asking for disclosure.

At the time of publication, the Kaimin does not know if the foundation has investments in Israel.

The independent student group planned

the protest in three short days, Videon said, wanting it to fall on International Workers’ Day, which celebrates the fight for labor reform and union rights. They advertised through word of mouth and posters, with support from another pro-Palestine organization not affiliated with the University, including Montanans for Palestine. And when the day came for the actual protest, Videon said she was surprised by the turnout.

The small group of 15 organizers grew to 25, then 50 and then 100, by the time it reached Main Hall. The organizers also had a form calling for the University to divest that garnered over 400 signatures.

“I was happy with the turnout,” Videon said. “Especially because UM is pretty small, relatively, and I really didn’t know what to expect.”

Although peaceful, the protest had several counter-protesters, including one man who donned the flag of Israel and asked pro-Palestine students to “offer real solutions” and “debate him civilly.” Unlike other parts of the country, no protesters, to Videon and the Kaimin’s knowledge, faced repercussions for the action.

Videon said the group had prior approval from the University administration to hold the demonstration, and although there was a small police presence, no students interacted with them. People didn’t camp out, no one was arrested and no one was expelled.

It wasn’t a bad thing though, Videon said. The group knew it wasn’t going to be able to pull off something major in the closing weeks of the semester, but wanted to make a stance.

“In Montana, people usually aren’t often publicly involved in a lot of these things,”

Videon said. “So we thought that it was important to show that we’re also aware of [and] supporting these students at larger universities.”

‘Disclose, divest’

Most of the movements that swept the country last spring had one main goal: to gain transparency from their universities about how and where student dollars were being used. Specifically, what universities were investing in through their endowment funds.

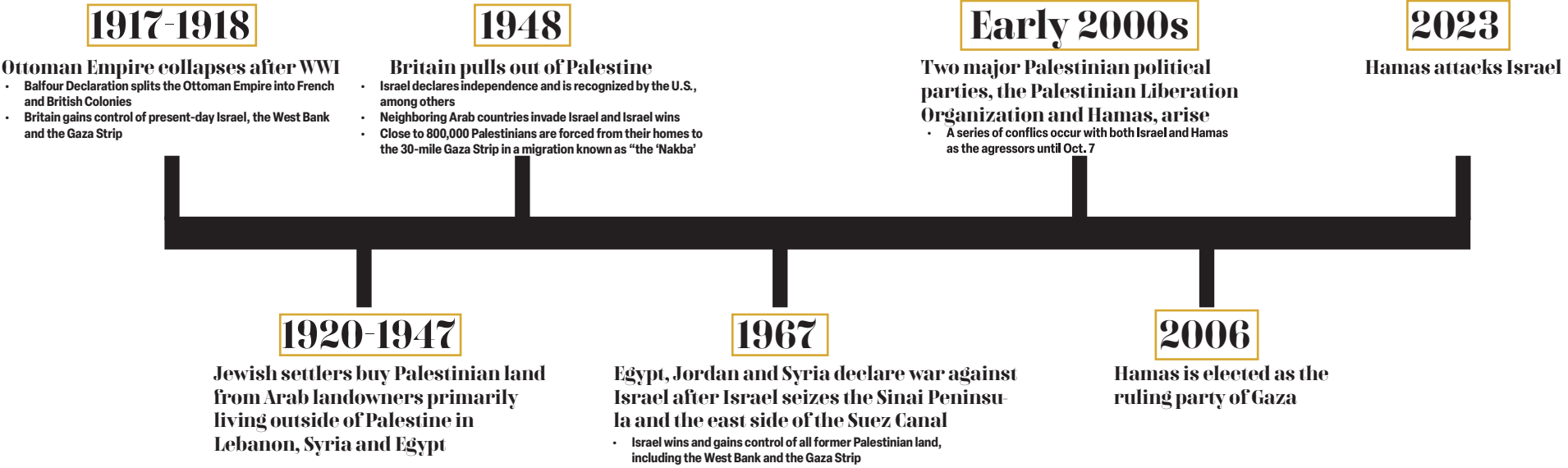
An endowment fund is a series of financial assets, from stock, to real estate, to cash. For universities, an endowment is typically a collection of private donations and fundraising that is placed in a fund separate from where student tuition, fees or other money lives. Some universities have direct control over their endowments while others do not. For the University of Montana, the endowment fund is controlled by a private non-profit called the UM Foundation.

“This fund is composed of private dollars alums have given,” Dave Kuntz, spokesperson for UM, said. “There are no student dollars from tuition or fees, nor state dollars.”

Established in 1950, UM’s endowment fund is overseen by a board of trustees and reviewed by the Montana University System Board of Regents every two years. As of 2023, the UM Foundation has \$377 million in various assets and investments. Other endowment funds include Harvard’s, the largest in the country, which sits at over \$50 billion, and Yale’s at around \$41 billion, as of 2022.

Its mission, according to an email from

Timeline of the Hamas/Israel Conflict





Students of Reinvest Montana march to the UM Foundation chairman's office, Mack Clapp, shouting their demands of a revote on divestment of University funds from fossil fuel interests through campus March 23, 2016.
WILL MCKNIGHT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Elizabeth Willy, director of marketing and communications, is “to inspire philanthropic support to enhance excellence and opportunity at the University of Montana.”

For the 2023 fiscal year, the foundation provided \$6.4 million to students, faculty and programs through various scholarships, awards and funding.

But unlike other pools of money the University has direct control over, like student tuition dollars, the UM Foundation is not required to disclose any of its funds — or where they are going.

“We’re asking for the UM Foundation to be more transparent to students about where their money is going,” Videon said. Because as of now, it is difficult to know whether the UM Foundation is invested in any companies supporting or tied to Israel, she said.

In a statement released last spring, the UM Foundation said its endowment portfolio has no direct investments in weapon manufacturers.

So far, only one U.S. college, Evergreen State College in Washington, has decided to disclose and divest, while only a few others have agreed to just disclose their investments in Israel, including Brown University in Rhode Island. Columbia has refused to.

Even though the UM Foundation operates privately, it still is connected to the University. The chief operating officer and president of the foundation is a non-voting member of the president’s cabinet and can be invited to administrative meetings as needed. The University also supplies the foundation with office space, IT services and sometimes direct compensation for their work, as outlined in the 2024 operat-

ing agreement.

While transparency was the first ask, divestment was the second. In UM’s case, divestment would mean the UM Foundation sells its investments sunk into companies that support Israel in any capacity.

“We’re tied to an institution through our academic work and through the money that we’re providing that institution,” Videon said. “If that institution is possibly supporting something that students think is wrong to support, then that is very important.”

But actually divesting could be difficult. According to Kuntz, it would require the UM Foundation to sell off investments that may support Israel, and the foundation does not have specific stocks. Instead, it invests in funds, through a series of diverse portfolios.

“You’re investing in folders,” Kuntz said, explaining that the large funds the UM Foundation invests in have different companies’ stocks within them. “These are really large funds,” he said, “Sometimes what floats in theory isn’t as practical in reality.”

But this isn’t the first time students have called for divestments. This type of protesting has a storied history, one that dates back to the 1960s and 1970s, during Vietnam, and the Civil Rights and anti-apartheid movements.

60 years of asking

“Vietnam and the Civil Rights Movement was really the catalyst for student protests,” UM history professor Richard Drake said. Drake spent time at University of California, Berkeley and was a graduate student

at University of California, Los Angeles during the Civil Rights and Vietnam protests.

“People [at UC Berkeley] had spent time in the South and saw how Black people were being treated,” Drake said. “And they had a lot of anger. It’s moral outrage.”

But calls for divestments didn’t begin on campuses until the 1970s and 1980s with the anti-apartheid movement, which started in the 1950s and 1960s. It called for boycotts of South African products over racial segregation in South Africa. While white, wealthy South Africans thrived, Black South Africans were forced into separate institutions that included poor education, healthcare and living opportunities.

When widespread protests in the United Kingdom began, other nations, including America, quickly followed suit. Across the country, campuses organized protests and strikes. They built makeshift shanty towns and had sit-ins. Most importantly, they called for schools to withdraw investments from companies tied to South Africa.

According to Kaimin archives, students at UM were involved, too. In an article from October 1985, students were reported to have been wearing black armbands and sitting in silence in class to support protesters that had been killed or arrested. A following article reported the American Committee on Africa claimed 53 colleges had sold \$206 million “in interests in companies with South African operations since 1977.”

By the late 1970s and early 1980s, most major universities in the country had divested from South Africa. By 1988, more than 155 academic institutions had divested, according to the U.S. Mission Geneva website. By 1989, 26 states had taken some form of economic action against South Africa. Students’ voices had been heard.

But while anti-apartheid protests had a confounding effect on U.S. policy, not all divestment movements have had the same result.

In 2016, a student-led environmental group called “Reinvest Montana” called for UM to divest from fossil fuel companies. It organized protests, held meetings with the Foundation and partnered with other universities to create change. Over a two-year period, it garnered 2,000 signatures calling for divestment and passed a referendum through the student government for divestment by over 80%, according to a 2016 Kaimin article.

But the Board of Trustees voted not to divest a year prior, and its stance didn’t change.

A few months later, students built snowmen and sent letters and flowers asking for divestment. But no change.

In 2017, a massive leak of 13.4 million files, known as the “Paradise Papers,” revealed the UM Foundation had invested

nearly \$30 million in offshore and private equity companies, including six major fossil fuel companies, according to a list of the Foundation’s top 50 stock holdings. But after meeting as a board, the decision to divest from fossil fuels was shut down once again.

In an editorial written to the Kaimin in 2018, then and current president and CEO of the UM Foundation Cindy Williams, along with two other Foundation members, responded to Kaimin reporting on the Paradise Papers leak. It said, “Maintaining a diversified investment portfolio — one that includes alternative investments and investments outside of the United States — is a sound investment strategy used by many university foundations and other institutional investors,” and “the Foundation has never had direct holdings in any of these companies,” but has, from time to time, had a portfolio of funds that may have been invested in international and mutual funds.

According to Kuntz, the UM Foundation never officially divested from companies with fossil fuels, despite students’ demands.

In its most recent environmental, social and governance statement from April 2022, signed by the Board of Trustees, the Foundation said to achieve its mission to generate the highest level of returns in investments, it believes in “a broad investment opportunity set, which may include select fossil fuel investments.”

Instead of divesting, it reads, the Foundation prefers to take an approach that “focuses on integrating environmental, social and governance considerations into the investment decision-making process.” Finishing with, “Currently, the foundation’s public market portfolio has a lower carbon footprint than its benchmark and we continue to explore investment opportunities arising from the transition to a low carbon economy.”

As the University of Montana prepares itself for a new semester, Videon said she hopes students refocus their attention on Gaza. The Students for Justice in Palestine plan to keep talking about issues and continue supporting local organizations that support Palestine.

Several other universities, including the University of Michigan, have begun protesting in support of Palestine again this fall, but at the time of publication, no protests have been held at UM this semester.

Despite the protest last May not garnering exactly what protesters wanted, Videon said she is proud that there are and were students at UM who condemn what is happening in Gaza, and she hopes to see people be more politically active.

“I think people should be protesting all the time, everywhere, regardless of what the target is, because there’s a genocide happening,” Videon said.

The Montana Museum of Art and Culture's first year

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The Montana Museum of Arts and Culture will soon have its birthday at its brick-and-mortar location. Although the journey has been difficult, the museum is ready to go from baby steps to leaps and bounds.

Rafael Chacón, the Suzanne and Bruce Crocker director of MMAC, have led the charge through the ups and downs from its inception to its eventual construction, which still isn't over.

"That's been challenging," Chacón said. "On a given day, we'll have contractors still working in the building and there are parts of the building that aren't finished yet."

Despite bumps, the museum continues to strengthen its permanent collection. Before the building was open, Chacón and his staff worked to move over 400 pieces from across campus to the museum. The pieces were hidden away in storage rooms, but are now displayed. Pieces worldwide, from Asia to Europe, have come to call the MMAC home. Some notable artists' pieces include Rembrandt, Andy Warhol and Pablo Picasso.

"It's really a very diverse collection from antiquities to contemporary art. We also feature U of M students and faculty," Chacón said. "We have a really amazing assortment of those artists. Our strength is that it is probably the deepest collection of art in the state of Montana."

The museum's current exhibition is called "Gates of Friendship: Recent Acquisitions of Asian and Asian-American Art." Pieces include three Buddha statues donated by collector Kern Mattei, a kimono decorated with embroidered moths and chrysanthemums and a series of Japanese Noh theatre masks.

The reception to the museum's first year has been overwhelmingly positive, despite initial controversies.

"I think many students are opposed, but we never had the chance to weigh in," Katryn Rosenoff, a graduate student at UM said in a Kaimin article from April



Students and community members gather at Montana Museum of Art and Culture's grand opening on Sept. 28 at the University of Montana.

RENNAL-HAJ | MONTANA KAIMIN

2023, expressing her frustration about the museum being built on a former parking lot.

"I know there was a little bit of a buzz early on about losing parking to this facility, and there's also kind of a misperception that somehow this is costing students, but this building was built with 100% private donations," Chacón said.

Robin Dorsey, recent graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art, has attended several of the exhibits and lectures.

"I believe the museum, being one of only three state art museums, is important. Art is a crucial part of our life," Dorsey said. "It brings joy. It teaches history. Having facilities to represent that importance

to the community and to our students is important."

PJ Hotch, a former student who majored in music, sees the benefit of the museum but questions its effectiveness.

"I think it is beneficial in that we should all partake in more art in our lives. I believe all art helps deepen our humanity," Hotch said. But she isn't completely positive about the new museum. "I think a big issue UM is facing is trying to cram more architecture into what is a relatively small space and I feel like so much of the infrastructure is chipping away at the campus' natural beauty," she said.

Despite this, Hotch plans to visit the museum whenever she has time.

Chacón said UM President Seth Bodnar

asked him when he first took the director position five years ago why there needed to be a new building for art collections. "I said to him, 'If you ask any student on campus, 'where is the museum?', chances are they're not going to have an answer.' We didn't have much of an identity without a building," Chacón said after explaining, Bodnar said it was time to create a new building.

Now, Chacón is looking forward. He has already started implementing a program of rotating shows presented by the artist, so museum-goers can not only interact with the art, but talk to the person who made it. After that, he wants to rotate in more exhibitions.

"Bring a date, bring a friend, you know, come check [it] out," Chacón said.

Movie of the summer ‘challenges’ love on the court

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“Challengers,” a film that has captured the attention of audiences in 2024, presents an eerie, twisted blend of drama, sport and the dynamic of a love triangle. This cinematic experience left me longing for a touch more sensuality to enhance the mystery and lust that underpins the story. But the film is visually stunning, with the cinematography beautifully capturing the essence of both the sport of tennis and the multifaceted relationships at play.

The film stars Zendaya, alongside two undeniably attractive male leads, Josh O’Connor and Mike Faist, who each bringing their distinct style and presence to the screen. This made the characters easy to relate to and created a connection with the audience. Their chemistry is palpable, creating a tension that drives the narrative forward.

The storyline revolves around tennis,

but it’s far from a simple sports drama. The love triangle was the catch for viewers. It introduces a twist that elevates the stakes, blending the physical competition of tennis with the emotional competition for love and dominance. The film balances the intensity of the sport with the complexity of human relationships, making it as much about the psychological battle as the physical one.

Set in a timeline that spans from 2007 to 2019, “Challengers” could easily be mistaken for a current-day narrative. But, the film’s fashion and technology, influenced by both past and current trends, create an ambiguous sense of time. The progression from teenage years into adulthood is seamlessly portrayed, capturing the evolution of the characters as they navigate their intertwined lives, going back and forth between flashbacks and present day.

Set in New Rochelle, New York, the location portrays the characters’ privileged lifestyles, emphasizing themes of wealth

and status that play a significant role in the story. The characters, coming from money, navigate a world where power and privilege are as much a part of their lives as the sport they love.

At its core, “Challengers” is a dramatic fiction that intertwines love and sport to explore deeper themes of dominance, control and sexuality. The ways these elements influence the characters’ decisions and relationships reveal the darker side of competition — both on and off the court. The love triangle serves as a vehicle to explore these underlying themes, making the story as psychologically thrilling as it is emotionally charged.

The set design, camera work, and the undeniable chemistry between the actors contribute to the film’s interactive experience. From concept to screen, the film clearly involved practice, trial and error, and a keen attention to detail, particularly with the fashion choices that anchor the film in its timeline. Within the story, the

characters’ love for tennis becomes the motivation for the tension of their fates. The two male leads, who are best friends, find their bond tested by their mutual attraction to Zendaya’s character, who, while initially appearing as the protagonist, ultimately reveals herself to be the antagonist. Her need for control, driven by a past injury, leads her to manipulate the men, creating a forced and destructive dynamic that mirrors their competition on the court. “Challengers” is a film that blends the physical and emotional aspects of its narrative, creating a story that is as compelling as it is visually captivating. While it could have benefited from more sensual scenes to heighten the mystery and tension, it remains a powerful exploration of love, power and the lengths people will go to maintain control.

RATING: 8/10

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Outside hitter Jackie Howell excels with her multifaceted play

MAXWELL JOHNSON

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After transferring from Tyler Junior College, Jackie Howell and the freshmen class have reinvigorated the Griz volleyball program from 2-14 in 2020 to 17-12 in 2022.

Howell is far from the first volleyball player in her family with a legacy. Her mother, Dr. Sonia Treviño, won a pair of conference titles playing at Florida State University. Howell also has numerous aunts and cousins with volleyball legacies of their own.

“For them, volleyball was a way to get their education [via scholarships],” Howell said. “They didn’t have many options. Seeing how much fun they had, where it got them, the experiences they were able to have and the friends they were able to make, it’s just something I always wanted to do.” She said she and her cousins who followed them wanted to have the same experience, and she’s just grateful to have made it so far.

Howell’s journey began in Mission, Texas, where in high school, she acquired nine varsity letters across tennis, basketball and, of course, volleyball. On a volleyball team coached by her aunt Diane Trevino, she led the Mission Patriots to four straight district championship wins, garnering two league MVP awards and seeing the team rank as high as fourth in Texas.

“There are different dynamics in different sports, and I just learned how to lead in a way that my team is going to follow,” Howell said. “I’m not going to be the loudest one, I’m not going to be getting on everybody, but I want to work hard so other people want to work hard as well.”

After graduating in the top tenth of her 2019 class, she began her collegiate career on a volleyball scholarship at Tyler Junior College in east Texas, playing as a freshman in the National Junior College Athletic Association. She ranked third on her team in kills with 2.27 per set before a soaring sophomore campaign where her 3.58 kills a set were best on the team. She had the most kills in the conference, helping lead the Tyler Apaches to fourth place in the 2021 JUCO National Tournament.

Howell earned her associates degree in business administration the spring semester of the same year and set her sights on Division 1. The decision to transfer coincided with COVID-19, which extinguished the possibility of visiting schools in person.

But even (1,000 miles away), over the phone, Howell felt an instant connection with the coaching staff at the University of Montana

“When I first talked to them, I immediately was like ‘I’m going to go there,’” Howell said. “One time, I almost ended the call saying, ‘Bye, love you.’ Howell said she thinks the class she came in with knew what it was like to lose in high school, or in Howell’s case, junior college. “I’ll run through a brick wall for my coaches and talking to them I was like, ‘These are people I would do that for,’” Howell said.

Volleyball Coach Allison Lawrence echoed the sentiment. Unsurprisingly, having a player “willing to run through a brick wall” would indeed lead to steady improvement for the Griz team as a whole.

After a disastrous 2020 season that saw the team backslide to 2-14, the additions of outside hitters Paige Clark and Maddie Kremer alongside Howell, would bring the team’s record up to a respectable 11-16 in 2021.

During her junior year in 2021, Howell played every set and ranked second in digs (passing a ball hit by the other team) per set with 2.5, and was top five in nearly every other stat category while proving useful throughout the rotation as a six-rotation player.

The team surged to a 17-12 record in 2022, marking the first time they finished over 0.500 since 2013. Howell split the Montana Most Inspirational Player of the Year honor with Madi Chuhlantseff after she started every match, played every set and passed the most serves on the team with the highest percent of success. She also ranked third on the team in assists.

She said she just enjoyed the calls so much, and loved the University of Montana coaches for more than what they were offering her. “But we were like, ‘This team can do it,’ and we went out and we proved it,” she said. “I think from then on, it was just a standard that we had for ourselves.”

Howell didn’t get to carry this momentum into next season as she suffered an ACL tear and redshirted her 2023 season, marking the first time she missed a set while at UM. Since she wasn’t an active member on the team nor as interwoven in the comradire, her teammates stepped up to give her support.

“They never treated me like I wasn’t still that starting player that I was before. They would still come with questions and ask for advice,” Howell said. “It made me re-



Montana volleyball outside hitter Jackie Howell is in her fifth year on the team.

MARC ANTHONY MARTINEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

member where I was before and what I’m working to get back into while I did all that physical therapy. But they were a constant in my life as I was going through a bunch of changes with getting injured.”

With Howell out of the lineup and some notable graduations, 2023 saw the team take a step back and post an 11-18 record. Now, with Howell, Clark and others in

their last year of eligibility and a strong freshmen class bolstering the ranks, 2024 represents a window for the team to bounce back above .500 and win a round of the Big Sky Volleyball Tournament for the first time in years.

The Griz host Utah Valley University on Sept. 5 at 6 p.m. and Boise State University on Sept. 8 at 2 p.m.

Parking changes remove tennis courts, affect student clubs

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In an attempt to accommodate for more parking, the University of Montana cut into campus recreation. UM recently expanded parking lot F by eliminating eight of the nine tennis courts that were between the University Center and Aber Hall. Now, there will be only one tennis court and three pickleball courts.

The pickleball and tennis clubs were the main student-focused clubs that used these courts alongside the Griz tennis team who used it in the fall in previous years. With the nine courts, up to 32 people could play tennis or pickleball at a time. The decision to take away almost 90% of the courts has impacted these student run clubs and left them worried about what practice will look like moving forward.

Carson Hegele, 21, is a junior from North Carolina studying wildlife biology and president of the pickleball club, along with being an athlete on the Griz track and field team. The club inhabits the tennis courts when the weather allows, spring through fall, otherwise it's crammed inside during the winter months.

The pickleball club fears its participation is bound to reduce. In previous years, it would usually have six games going at once on the tennis courts. In each game, up to four people can play. Roughly 24 people would show up each Thursday and would all get to play at once. Now, it does not have that luxury.

"It is super nice for freshmen coming in and meeting a lot of people," Hegele said. "Not having those tennis courts definitely takes away from us being able to get a big group out there, and the experience a lot."

If the weather was bad, the club would meet in the Schriber Gym. However, it could only have up to three games playing at a time. Most of the time, people would have to sit on the ground and wait their turn. Without these courts being able to hold six games at once, the club is forced to reduce its number of participants to three outdoor courts, much like in the winter.

"It really is just a different experience when you have six games of pickleball all going at once and everyone is having a good time," Hegele said. "This just makes it a much smaller group."

Hegele is hopeful to try and keep the club in action by holding their meetings every Thursday in the Schreiber Gym until the courts are ready to play on again.



A pickleball and paddle rest on nets that were once used in tennis courts the University turned into a parking lot.

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"It just puts a big restriction on the amount of people we can have playing," Hegele said. "It's just hard for us to include more people when you can only have 12 people playing at a time."

Hegele does not want to move the club off campus because this would mean club members would have to pay for practice space. Practicing on campus is free, and anyone who wants to play doesn't have to worry about bringing equipment.

"I don't want people to have to go out of their way and pay to play pickleball, I just want them to show up and play," Hegele said. "That is what's so great about the club."

The pickleball club is not the only one who has to get ready for change with almost 90% of the courts gone. The tennis club is anxiously anticipating what it will

look like now as well.

Sophomore Nate Hansen, 19, is from Colorado and majoring in history and German. Hansen was a part of the tennis club last year. The club used the courts twice a week with roughly a 10 to 15 person turn out. Tennis club participants would also get together outside of the club and play together on the courts.

"It was a very good community and it was fostered through having a tennis court to play on, especially being on campus," Hansen said. "Now, it's going to be a lot harder to continue to play."

Hansen anticipates this is going to greatly affect the club. Since there is only one court now, the club can play singles or doubles, meaning up to four people can play at once. The club was trying to receive formal recognition by the Associated Students of

the University of Montana, but the lack of an accessible tennis court may make that process much more difficult.

"I don't want to have to drive 10 minutes there," Hansen said. "The accessibility is really the problem."

Student clubs on campus are a great way for incoming freshmen and other students to make friends and connections over a shared interest. Having a big portion of the area a club uses stripped, makes it more difficult for everyone who comes to be included.

"Having the tennis courts taken away for parking is really sad to see," Hansen said. "You don't see the football stadium taken down because they need more parking."

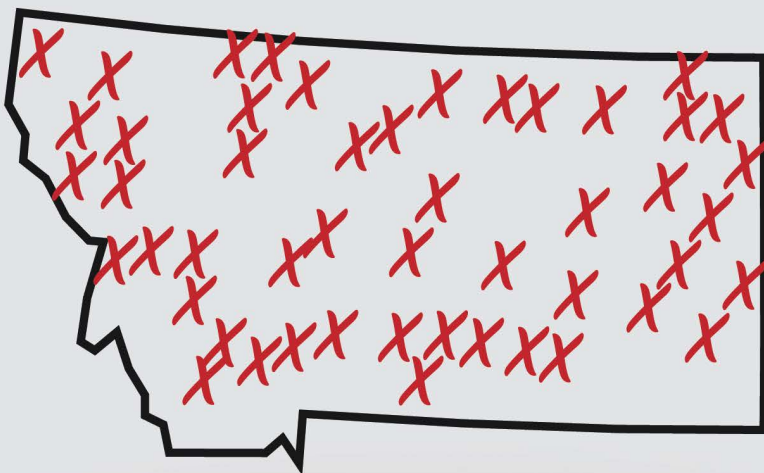
How the tennis and pickleball clubs are going to look moving forward with the newly reduced space is still up in the air.

SHEEHY'S PLAN CLOSES 49 RURAL MT HOSPITALS

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TO RETURN HEALTH CARE
TO **PURE PRIVATIZATION**”**

— TIM SHEEHY

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