

MONTANA KAIMIN

Quarantine: 1918

A history lesson on UM's first
pandemic

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Volume 122 Issue No. 23, March 25, 2020

Cover photo Savannah Stanhope
Cover design Daylin Scott



The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. It does not condone or encourage any illegal activities. 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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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

You can count on us to deliver the news, no matter the circumstances

Since the emergence of the coronavirus, the lives of UM students have changed dramatically. In a matter of weeks, our classes commuted to our laptops. Students were asked to leave their homes in the dorms by all means possible. In almost all of the ways that count, campus is shut down.

Our staff is comprised entirely of students like you. As we distance ourselves at our respective homes, we will not be able to shoot photos at the latest Logjam concert or cover the next Griz game (which won't be happening because all spring sports have been canceled). And as we do what we need to do, as we change our way of thinking, creating and producing, we are deeply saddened.

On March 12, this year's Montana Kaimin staff met for what may be the last time in the same room. Together, we decided that no matter what, we will deliver the news.

As I write this letter to you, our readers, there are two of us sitting in my living room, designing this paper. Our section editors are mad-messaging back and forth, making their page edits, hoping this paper is as close to perfection as possible for those of you who can pick up the Kaimin. There are two reporters making phone call after phone call from their homes, trying to break the latest news.

We are apart, without a newsroom and without a campus.

What we will always have is you. As long as we have our readers, we have a purpose. Each week, we will print the Kaimin. We know that students are far and few on campus, but abandoning our identity as a newspaper is not an option. And for that reason, we will continue to make this paper. Every day, our website, montanakaimin.com, will be updated with the latest news. There you'll find the news that impacts UM students most. We know you aren't reading the Kaimin to find out how long to wash your hands or how many cases of COVID-19 are in the state of New York. That's not what we're here for.

As a student, you need to know how to get that refund for the dorm you already paid for and the meal plan you're probably not using. You need to know what's going to happen to your friends who went abroad this semester. You need to know if graduation ceremonies are canceled, a decision that seems more and more inevitable with each day's news.

That's what makes the Kaimin different. We are reporting for students first and always. The coronavirus won't change that.

So please, read the Kaimin. You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or just by Googling "Montana Kaimin." We don't know what's going to happen at UM, Missoula, our state, this country or the rest of the world. But no matter what happens, we promise to be here.

CASSIDY ALEXANDER
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ASUM
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ASUM Legal Services provides reduced-cost legal services to UM Students

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KAIMIN COMIC



COOPER MALIN | MONTANA KAIMIN

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Medium

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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



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UM REQUESTS STUDENTS MOVE OUT OF RESIDENCE HALLS

Students living in residence halls were asked to move out by Tuesday, March 23 at 8 a.m. in an email sent out March 22. The email stated that students would lose Griz Card access after that time. Students were asked to also update UM Housing about their plans or if they are unable to move out of the dorms. Provost John Harbor apologized in a campus-wide email on Monday about the wording of the first email and said students will not be forced to leave their dorms if they are unable. Campus resources will remain open to students who remain on campus, according to Monday's email. (SYDNEY AKRIDGE)

MISSOULA STORAGE FACILITY LETS UM STUDENTS RENT FREE UNITS

Eagle Self Storage is allowing University of Montana students to rent 4x5 and 5x10 storage units for a month free of charge while students adjust to campus closures, NBC Montana reported on March 20. While UM sent out a campus-wide email advising students to leave campus if possible, residence halls and most campus services remain open. Eagle Self Storage's offer for students will continue until April 30, according to a UM campus-wide email. (HELENA DORE)

UM DINING ADJUSTS TO CORONAVIRUS SAFETY MEASURES

Students with meal plans can continue to visit a handful of UM Dining locations, but many locations will remain closed and hours have adjusted. Students can use meal plans at The Market, Food Zoo and Jus Chill'n. The Food Zoo will serve takeout-only meals. UM Dining has also added new hygiene measures, such as requiring guests to use gloves for self-serve food items and not allowing food containers from home, according to its website. (SA)

UM FOOD PANTRY OFFERS GRAB-AND-GO MEALS

The University of Montana Food Pantry announced March 16 it will be closed until further notice. Students in need can still pick up meal bags, potatoes and hygiene products outside the pantry on the first floor or the University Center. (SA)

UMCUR MOVES ONLINE

The UM Conference on Undergraduate Research (UMCUR), which was originally scheduled for in-person presentations on April 24, will be moved to an online format. Students will be able to submit posters and powerpoints online. This conference fulfills the presentation requirements for many students' capstone projects, as well as the graduation requirements for the Franke Global Leadership Initiative and the Davidson Honors College. (SA)

COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Members of the Montana Board of Regents, who met in Dillon on March 5 and 6, were advised to self-quarantine after at least one attendee tested positive for COVID-19, the Missoulian reported on March 15. Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian announced he tested positive for the novel coronavirus March 14, the same day Montana Gov. Steve Bullock announced there were two presumptively positive cases of the virus in Missoula County. The number of cases in the county has risen to four, as of March 22. Officials think Christian contracted the virus at the March 5 meeting, according to the Missoulian. (HD)



Classes may be online, but crime never sleeps

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MARCH 5: A BOASTFUL BAND MEMBER

The UM Music Department reported a stolen band uniform after a student failed to return it. The student successfully acquired new threads at the cost of misdemeanor theft issued by UMPD. The uniform has still not been returned.

MARCH 6: GHOSTS OF SPRING SPORTS PAST

UMPD received a noise complaint about persons being loud on the Dornblazer soccer field at 2 a.m. The police were unable to locate the source of the raucous as the persons vacated the field prior to their arrival.

MARCH 8: COPS!

A neighbor called in a noise complaint for a residence at the University Housing Community Center. When officers arrived, about 15 stray party-goers on the sidewalk fled. UMPD gave no chase. The party was ongoing, but nobody would answer the door for UMPD, so the residents were referred for conduct.

MARCH 14: LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR...

Powerful winds won a battle with a flimsy light pole in Parking Lot H, next to Pantzer Hall. The light pole snapped in half and struck a vehicle. The report did not state whether or not the owner of the vehicle summoned a State Farm agent. You know the jingle.

MARCH 15: CRASH AND BURN

A student was arrested and issued a DUI, reckless driving, MIP and four other citations after crashing their vehicle in Rimini Court. According to UMPD officer Brad Giffin, the vehicle was speeding down Arthur Ave., hit a mailbox, two other cars and then big rocks, which flipped the vehicle. The vehicle started on fire and was later extinguished by emergency services. The vehicle had no passengers and the driver had no major injuries.

MARCH 15: MESSY MARVIN

A neighbor called in a noise complaint at Bannack court. Two residents were in an argument over one resident not picking up after themselves. The residents agreed to settle their argument. No criminal action was taken.

MARCH 8 AND 19: SORRY FOR PARTY ROCKING

Neighbors of a Granite Court residence reported three noise complaints in a period of two weeks at the same residence. The first noise complaint reported to UMPD was on March 8 after about 10 people stood around their cars blasting music. The music lovers left prior to police arrival. In the early morning of March 19, UMPD received another noise complaint about a loud party at Granite Court. Many attendees were asked to leave and officers asked the host to quiet down. Late that night, a noise complaint was reported for another party, at the same residence. The hosts were referred to conduct for all three instances.

Students lose jobs on and off campus over spring break

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After spring break, many University of Montana students returned to college life jobless, after businesses were closed to curtail the spread of COVID-19. Both on and off campus, jobs disappeared as social distancing eliminated many positions around Missoula.

"It is really disheartening because places in Missoula were just about to hire for the summer," said Marly Magdalene, a freshman at UM. "Every place I applied to turned me down."

Magdalene has worked on and off in Missoula since her sophomore year of high school. After she started college at UM, she looked to finally start a new job as a server at Pangea, a new restaurant downtown. Recent social distancing regulations ruled out any chance that the restaurant would open on time.

While students like Magdalene are struggling to find jobs, others around the state are losing their jobs.

A press release from the Montana Department of Labor and Industry stated that the number of people filing for unemployment rose

dramatically the first week after COVID-19 was reported in the state.

Between March 16 and 18, 5,403 new people filed for unemployment in Montana, more people than the previous 10 days combined.

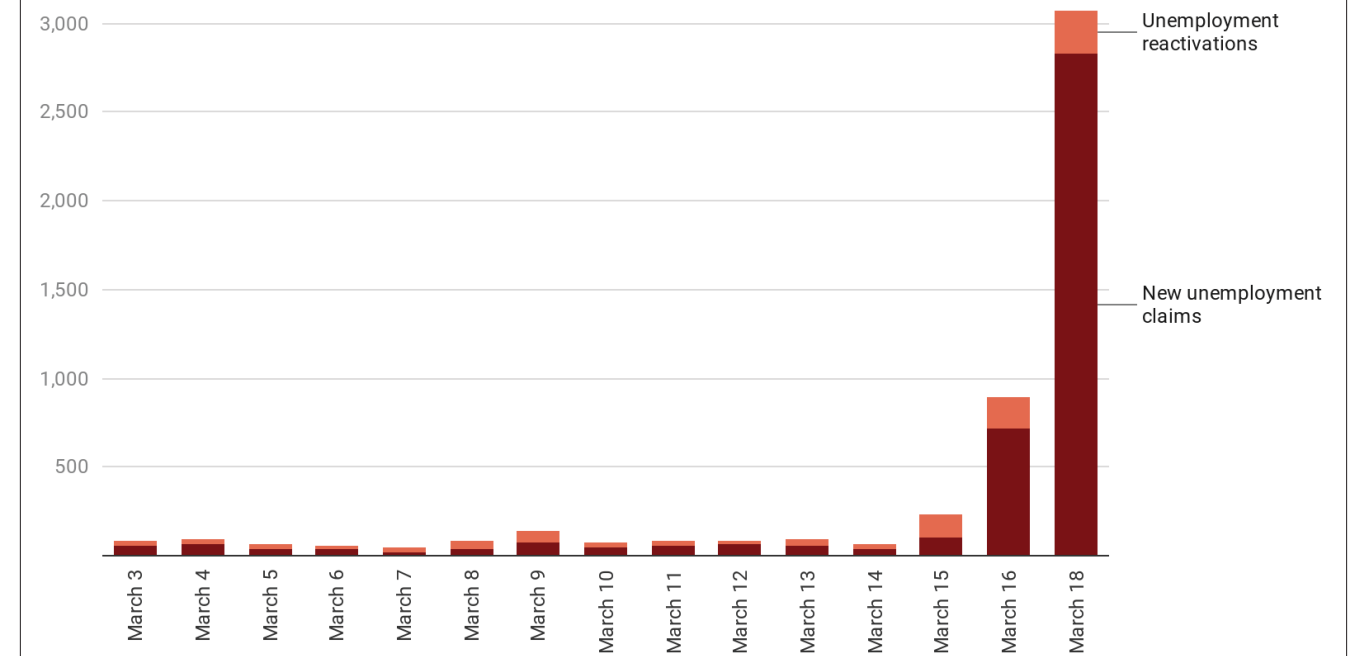
To help those affected by COVID-19, Gov. Steve Bullock made a statewide plan March 17 that changed the guidelines for employees to qualify for unemployment benefits.

"The rules we've implemented today will ensure that workers impacted by COVID-19, whether it's because they've been laid off, are quarantined or need to take care of a family member, can do so without worrying about how they will make ends meet during these difficult times," Bullock said.

Montanans qualify for benefits when they have to stay home to self-quarantine or to take care of a family member. They also qualify if they have lost shifts due to the virus. Normally workers have to wait a week before filing, but under the ordinance, people can apply for partial wage support immediately.

MONTANA UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

To help those affected by COVID-19, Gov. Steve Bullock made a statewide plan March 17 that changed the guidelines for employees to qualify for unemployment benefits, including Montanans who have to stay home to self-quarantine or to take care of a family member.



SOURCE: MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

CASSIDY ALEXANDER | MONTANA KAIMIN

Magdalene didn't apply for temporary unemployment. She credited her grandmother for helping her to pay rent. She hopes to find work in the near future, but was not optimistic. "There's nothing to do except make up and homework," Magdalene said. "I think that unemployment is disheartening to

people if they have nothing to do outside of work." UM student Jordan Harmon looked forward to earning some money over the break. Harmon is primarily a Resident Assistant, but supplements her living with shifts at UM Catering. "My work schedule didn't really change until about the Friday

before spring break," Harmon said. "By Monday, all of the events I was scheduled to work had been canceled." Harmon said UM Catering would inform her when shifts would be available and left her with no other work opportunities. As an employee working for a department of UM Dining, Harmon said she would like to work

other food jobs on campus. The University of Montana unveiled a new paid leave for COVID-19 plan. Unlike the state plan for unemployment, UM's centered on paying people for being potentially exposed to the coronavirus. "The Paid COVID-19 Leave will assist in situations where individuals are told

by public health officials or health care providers to quarantine because of potential exposure or in situations if employees are diagnosed with COVID-19," UM's employee response website states. The part-time UM Catering work staff didn't qualify for the new leave plan, despite working with large crowds.

Kiyiyo Pow Wow canceled due to coronavirus



Performers dance in the Adams Center during the grand entrance to the Kiyiyo Pow Wow on April 21, 2018. The powwow, which typically hosts nearly 5,000 people, was scheduled for April 17 and 18 this year. It was canceled due to concerns about the coronavirus. **CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

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The annual Kiyiyo Pow Wow was canceled for the first time in more than half a century due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The University of Montana's Kiyiyo Native American Students Association announced over social media Friday, March 13 they the event were canceling without any intention of rescheduling it.

"While we are saddened to make this decision, we feel this is the safest and best action to protect our community," the statement read. "We are deeply concerned about the health and safety of all our visitors and participants, and especially our elders, who are most susceptible and at risk."

Montana declared its first COVID-19 cases within the state later that day.

The powwow, scheduled for April 17 to 18, typically hosts nearly 5,000 people in the Adams Center, including up to 1,500 dancers and drummers. Marcos Lopez, Kiyiyo's president, said the student group's officers voted on Thursday to cancel the event.

"We knew we would have to make a decision in the coming days and weeks," Lopez said. "It's hard. This is months of work that the Kiyiyo student group has put into this."

The group canceled its contract with the Adams Center and refunded vendors who had paid for spots, according to Lopez. He said announcements from the CDC and other powwow cancellations informed its decision.

The Denver March Pow Wow in Colorado and Gathering of Nations in New Mexico were canceled due to COVID-19, according to their websites.

Montana State University's American Indian Council also canceled its annual powwow due to COVID-19, according to a press release. The event would have occurred a week before Kiyiyo.

The Kiyiyo Pow Wow holds dance contests for all ages in categories like traditional, fancy and jingle, as well as singing contests for drum groups. Lopez said the group canceled the event once more than 20 years ago due to conflict with ASUM, but ended up hosting it that year.

2020 would have been the 52nd annual Kiyiyo Pow Wow.

Next year's Kiyiyo Pow Wow is scheduled for April 16 to 17, 2021 in the Adams Center.



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UM teaching assistant pay falls below competition

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The University of Montana pays its research and teaching assistants significantly less on average than its competitors, according to a recent survey.

The University of Montana's TA and RA base pay averaged about \$10,300 less than national averages, according to data from 25 graduate programs on campus.

Gray O'Reilly, a TA pursuing a master's degree in environmental philosophy, said he has to supplement his income by freelancing as a graphic designer and personal trainer.

"I could not survive on the stipend alone," O'Reilly said. "UM was my top choice, but money was a factor and will always be a factor when it comes to these things."

O'Reilly said programs at UM may be losing graduate students to other universities that pay more.

This spring, graduate students composed about a quarter of UM enrollment, according to census data. Since spring 2016, the University's graduate enrollment has increased from nearly 2,000 to more than 2,500, even as total enrollment has continued to decline.

UM's graduate school sent out a survey to gauge the state of graduate education last September, to which 49 out of 57 program directors responded, according to its report. It had conducted a similar survey in 2018, but did not get as many responses.

Programs can supplement salaries with money from sources like grants, but base salaries have remained at \$9,000 for master's students and \$14,800 for doctoral students for more than 20 years, according to the survey. During that time, these salaries have lost at least \$4,800 and \$8,000 respectively in buying power due to inflation.

Health insurance was also an issue for programs, according to the survey. The Division of Biological Sciences reported that almost all competitors surveyed covered all or part of health insurance and fees.

Hallee Kansman is a TA pursuing a master's degree in public administration and attending law school. She said she hasn't had a bad experience, but UM should help its student body.

"Personally, it's affected me because my bill is incredibly high," Kansman said. "I made a conscious decision to come to law school here, but I also had hopes that I would be financially supported in different ways."

Grad students at Montana State University are dealing with similar issues, the Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported last July. Students unionized to increase wages and obtain better health insurance. The Graduate Employee Organization was officially recognized in 2011 and represents at least 600 TAs and RAs at MSU, according to its website.

Kansman, O'Reilly and ASUM Senator Cierra Anderson are grad students on UM's Graduate Council. They are drafting a letter advocating an increase in TA and RA salaries, and Anderson said the trio plans to introduce a resolution to the ASUM Senate after spring break.

Members of Grad Council said they were not sure about UM's procedures for raising salaries.

Base salary increases would end up being part of the budgeting process, and UM's president ultimately decides on them, said Ashby Kinch, associate dean of the graduate school, in an email. He said most grad students do not receive TA or RA funding.

Anderson said current base salaries are detrimental because of the work expected from grad students. She said raising pay would reduce the strain on them and make the University more competitive.

"In my opinion, if they want to continue to recruit graduate students at a competitive rate and get the best of the best, then they need to increase the TA and RA salaries," Anderson said. "We're all broke college students. That doesn't change once you go from undergrad to grad, or to a professional degree."

UM moves online, bookstore employees suffer

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UM bookstore staff members will be paid fewer hours after spring break because of the University's move to remote class instruction.

Employees were notified via email on Thursday, March 12, that while the bookstore will still be open while classes are being taught remotely, it will have to make cuts because there will be fewer students, faculty and staff on campus. Starting March 23, UM classes will be suspended on campus and taught online.

"Although we will remain open during this time, this decision inadvertently and negatively affects the work hours we are able to provide you. Sadly, we do not anticipate the need for any additional help outside of our current managerial staff," the email read.

General manager Michael Corbin said that while staff members' hours could be reduced to zero, the bookstore is not officially firing staff members. He said that all of the roughly 20 bookstore employees will be impacted, including personal hour cuts and reduced weekly operating hours at the store.

The decision to curtail hours was made in partnership with Barnes & Noble College, which has operated The Bookstore since 2018, to protect sales. Corbin said that because fewer people will walk through the store and the University because of UM's decision to move to online courses, the bookstore expects sales to drop.

Corbin said employees who haven't left Missoula for spring break are working, and the bookstore is trying to do everything it can to keep staff paid. Corbin said there isn't a planned date for when employee hours will return to normal.

UM senior Tyheed Stevens said he felt the pressure of losing his job building up prior to the announcement. He said managers had discussed the possibility that employees would lose their jobs before last week. Stevens said he plans on graduating this semester and feels blessed that he was in good financial standing when he heard the news.

"It sucks," Stevens said. "But I've been planning to get out of that job anyway. It was only a matter of time."

Bookstore employee Shae Warren agreed with Stevens. She was hired in January as a temporary employee, so the news didn't hit her as hard, she said. While the job isn't her primary source of income, the money she made working at the bookstore helped pay off student loans.

"I didn't think the threat of an illness would affect my employment," Warren said. "That was just nerve-wracking in a way."



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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

ABOVE: University of Montana students Taylor Coon and Max Schmitt finish the first day of spring semester on Jan. 13, 2020, by purchasing textbooks at the UM bookstore. Roughly 20 bookstore employees will be impacted by personal hour cuts and reduced weekly operating hours for the rest of the semester, as classes move online starting March 23. **DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN**



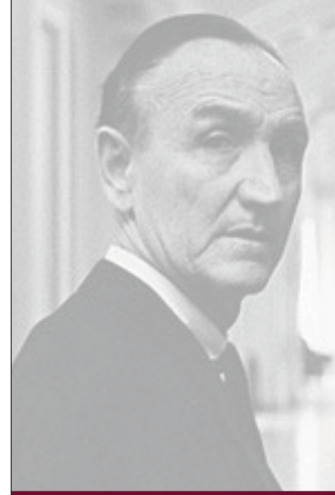
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A Message From the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center



“I have no doubt that future generations will be able to cope with events as they occur no matter how rapidly, if for no other reason than they have no choice. And as we could cope and our predecessors could, you can cope too.”

MIKE MANSFIELD

The health, safety, and welfare of our global community are our highest priority. Mansfield Center staff join many of our University colleagues in working from our homes to best protect at the community at large.

Please be assured that we continue to serve our students, global fellows, and partners across the world. Our current crisis shines a light on the importance of a global collaborative spirit. We are currently developing plans to offer a series of virtual workshops and seminars. Check our website next week for more on this!

umt.edu/mansfield

ASUM offers Greek Life councils no student group funding



CONSTANCE DARLINGTON | MONTANA KAIMIN

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The University of Montana Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils will receive no funding from the Associated Students of the University of Montana during the next fiscal academic year, since the student senate deemed both student groups too exclusive.

The decision came after the senate decided it would factor in inclusivity during the formal budgeting process to distribute over \$100,000 among more than 150 student groups. ASUM announced its final student group budget Feb. 24.

The Panhellenic Council is the supervising body for all sororities, and the Interfraternity Council is the supervising body for all fraternities on campus. Last year, the councils received approximately \$2,400 and \$3,300, respectively. But this year, the senate considered how many students each group was reaching and whether the membership policies were inclusive. According to ASUM Business Manager Daniel Parsons, the two Greek student groups did not exhibit these qualities.

“During the final budgeting discussions, senators noted the exclusive nature of Greek Life, citing concerns over its significant costs to entry and its policies excluding graduate and nontraditional students,” Parsons said.

According to the National Panhellenic Conference Manual of Information, only traditional students are allowed to be

members of Greek Life. In addition, the cost of a University of Montana fraternity or sorority membership ranges from \$500 to \$5,000 per year.

Morgan Corkish, an ASUM senator, voted not to offer the Panhellenic Council and the Interfraternity Council funding. She said since student groups are funded by the ASUM student fee, funding should go to groups that welcome as many students as possible.

“It was in no way trying to harm them... We just want everyone to access every student group, no matter what,” Corkish said.

The senate also deemed the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils to be gender exclusive, according to Corkish. The Interfraternity Council only permits individuals who identify as men to join its fraternities; likewise, the Panhellenic council only permits individuals who identify as women to join its sororities. Membership for non-binary students depends on the fraternity or sorority, since Greek Life does not currently have one uniform policy. For these reasons, ASUM chose to give funding to other groups, Corkish said.

“I can’t just join [the Interfraternity Council]. It’s a student group I see my student dollars go to that I don’t have access to. And fundamentally, that is not fair in my eyes,” Corkish said.

The Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils as well as the Director of Sorority and Fraternity Involvement declined to comment.

KBGA plans future fundraisers as COVID-19 cancels ‘EndOfThon’

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Despite a week of coronavirus-related cancellations and postponements, including KBGA college radio’s final “Radiothon” fundraiser events, one UM grad student said the station is already planning a way forward.

“We’re thinking ‘LaterATHon.’ Isn’t that cute?” said Amanda Barr, the outreach and volunteer coordinator at KBGA. “We’re not done.”

Radiothon, which features a week of events ranging from record swaps to trivia nights, has served as the station’s primary fundraiser for years.

However, the rising threat of COVID-19 prompted the Montana University System to cancel group gatherings. KBGA was forced to end the fundraiser early, postponing its “EndOfThon” concert at the ZACC until further notice.

“The plan right now is to continue it in the fall,” Barr said. “Several of the bands that were supposed to play at EndOfThon are in for doing it. They’re all local and fantastic.”

KBGA started this year’s Radiothon with a fundraising goal of \$20,000. Even without EndOfThon, Barr said the station still managed to fundraise a little over \$5,000.

“We did make what we think is a pretty decent amount,” Barr said.

Barr said the station is offering training for its crew of volunteer DJs to broadcast remotely as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve. With the University’s shift to online classes, KBGA DJ Robert Hylbom said the station’s office will be closed for at least two weeks.

However, he said he’s set on continuing his Monday show, “Classics on Plastics.”

“I don’t like going a week without my show,” Hylbom said. He said he’ll be learning how to remote broadcast to keep it going.



Missoula-based Motorhome opens at the KBGA Birthday Bash on Sept. 21, 2019. KBGA canceled their final fundraising event of the school year, Radiothon, after a week of various cancellations across UM due to the rising threat of the novel coronavirus. EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN

According to Hylbom, EndOfThon is the station’s biggest Radiothon event, and its cancellation reaffirmed KBGA’s interest in expanding their fundraising efforts throughout the year, rather than focusing them on a single week.

Hylbom said spirits at KBGA remain high.

“Everyone’s talking bigger and better,” he said. “It’s not like this

is the only thing being canceled.”

Hylbom said he was able to participate in the DJ Art and Music Showcase event on Friday. During the event, he said the station heard about Gov. Steve Bullock’s announcement that there were four positive tests for COVID-19 in Montana.

The station decided to call off EndOfThon, which was scheduled for the next day.

“It’s unfortunate for sure,” Hylbom said. “But it’s definitely the right call. I think it sets a positive example. A lot of people are hopeful we can make something even bigger and better.”

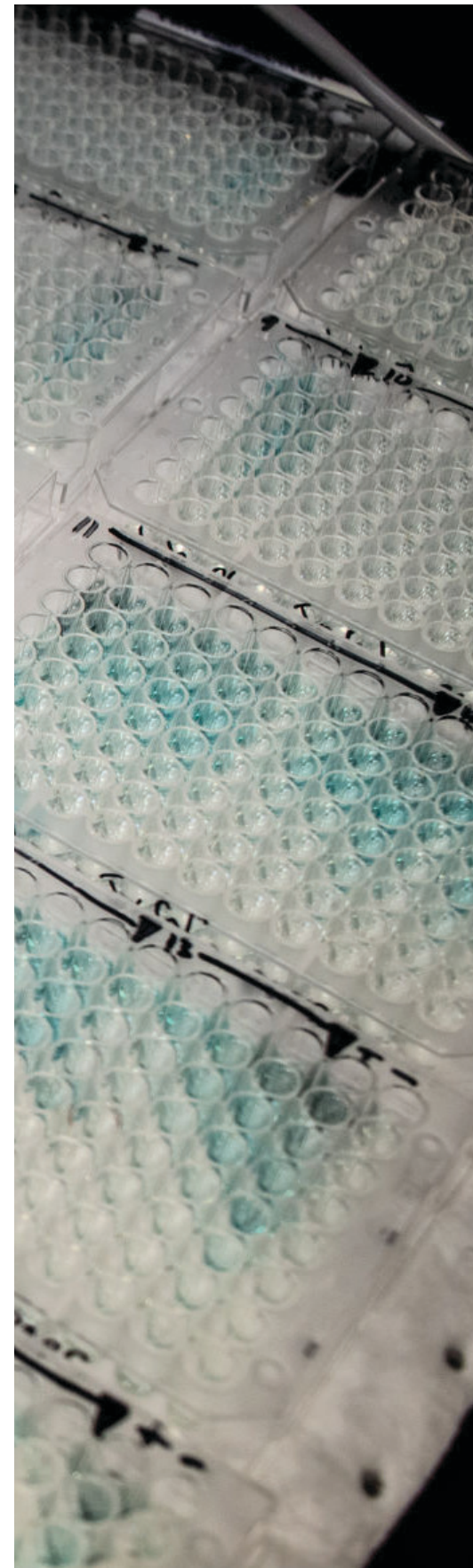
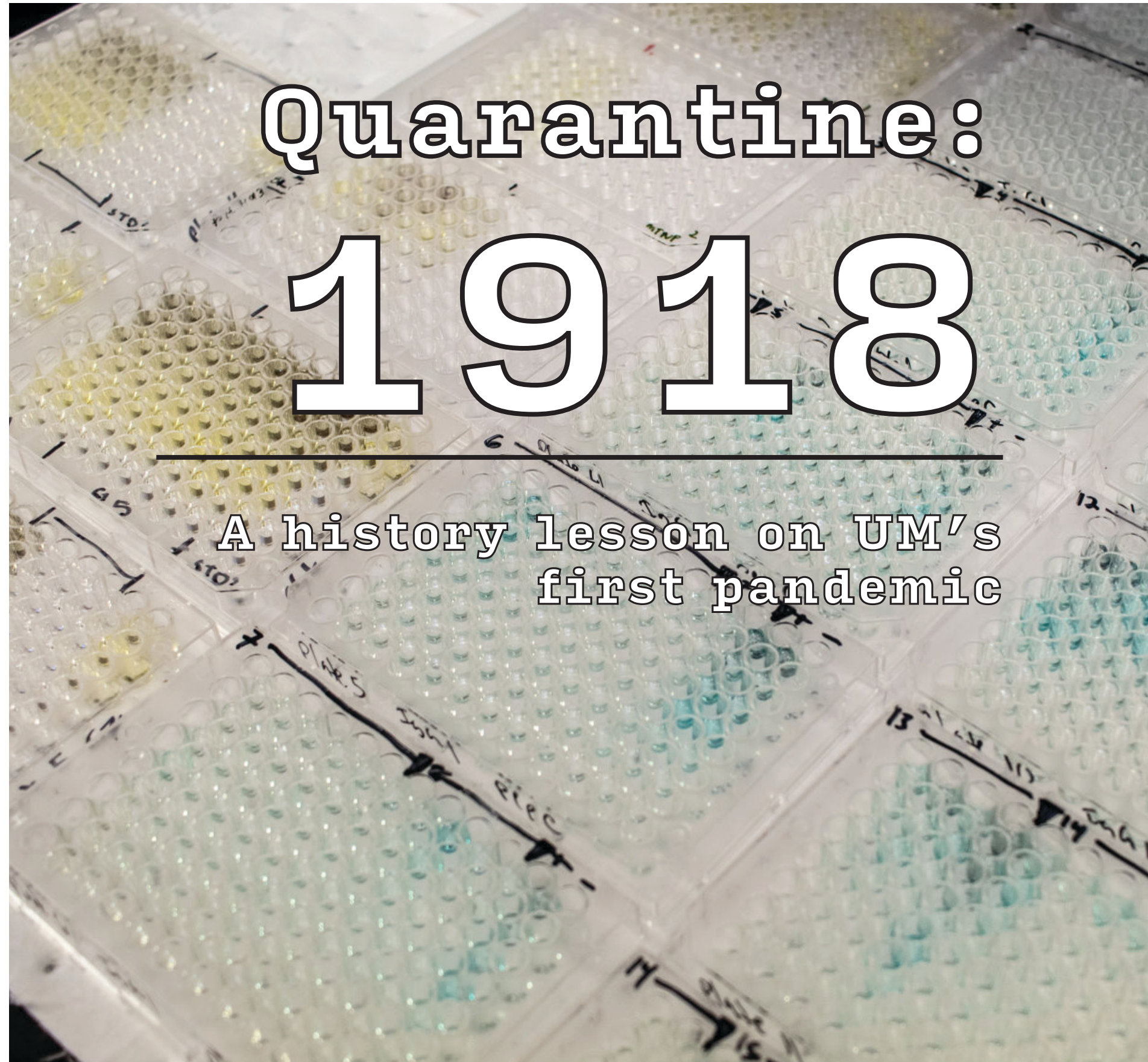
Barr said the station is hard at work planning for future fundraising. It is considering expanding KBGA’s “Birthday Bash” this fall to include

additional fundraising efforts. For now, she said she’s thankful for what the station has accomplished — especially without its biggest event.

“We actually did fairly well,” Barr said. “People still really stepped up and supported us, and we’re grateful for that.”

Quarantine: 1918

A history lesson on UM's first pandemic



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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA has urged all students to stay off campus. Health officials stress hygiene above all else because there's no vaccine. White gauze masks hang across the mouths of students and people on their way to work.

It's the fall of 1918 as the biggest natural catastrophe of the 20th century washes over Montana in the form of a flu.

COVID-19, the coronavirus, has managed to work its way from central China to Italy, Mexico, Iran and the United States. Since the World Health Organization declared a pandemic "demanding international attention," confirmed cases surpassed more than 366,000 and killed more than 16,000.

In the opening weeks of its flight from China, the Associated Press reported that a doctor from the Mayo Clinic warned that although the coronavirus should be taken seriously by world leaders, one endemic disease still remained the biggest threat.

"The three biggest risks to Americans: No. 1 influenza, No. 2 influenza, No. 3 influenza," Dr. Greg Poland said.

In 1918, when scientists were still decades away from determining that the flu was a virus and not a bacterial infection, a third

of the planet fell ill from H1N1 —Spanish influenza. In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracked the number of deaths from the three waves of H1N1 that began that year to more than 675,000. The figure dwarfs the number who died in combat during World War I.

The closure of schools, businesses and theaters came to Missoula just over a century ago, and the city had to join the country in adapting to life under the threat of an outbreak. Despite the measures, the flu infected 25% of the county. Missoula County would not be immune to the statistic: one in four of its residents would be diagnosed.

By March 23, 2020, Missoula County had six presumptive positive cases of the coronavirus. Within the same week, everything shut down — schools, bars, dine-in restaurants, churches. The government recommended that at least until March 27, gatherings of more than 10 people should be canceled.

But in the autumn of 1918, scientists were 20 years away from the first flu vaccine and 10 years away from penicillin. Syphilis was still treated with arsenic.

Two rows of ponderosa pines line the concrete path from the Adams Center toward the heart of campus. Of the 37 trees honoring those associated with the University who died in the service of their country during the Great War, the majority

of them died of influenza, some overseas, some in training and some nursing the sick.

The ponderosas stand as silent tributes to the dead and as a history lesson for anyone visiting campus while its classrooms sit empty.

...
"When spring brings back blue days and fair"

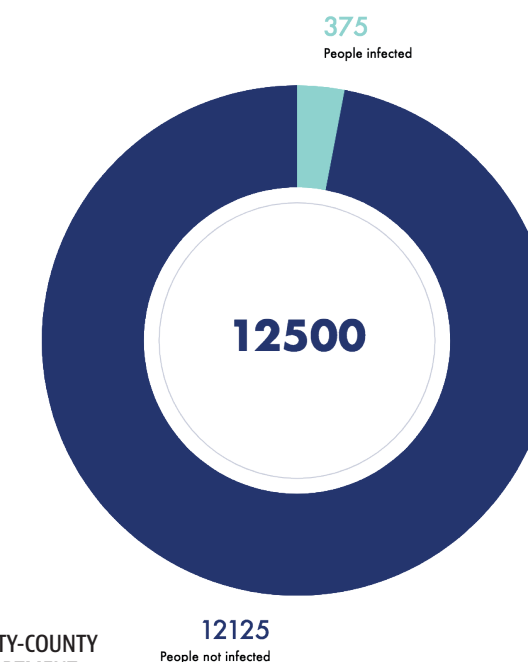
H1N1, deriving its name from its biological makeup, received its popular name through the press. To bolster morale both on the front lines and at home, warring nations suppressed reports of a possible epidemic. Neutral Spain filled the void and gave this new terror its namesake. It was one of the only European countries able to report cases without censors masking the real threat.

While the coronavirus may have come to the U.S. on a plane or cruise ship in the saliva of a tourist, Spanish flu found vectors in the 4 million U.S. troops mobilized and shipped to Europe in the spring of 1918.

Many passed through Fort Riley, in Kansas, for their initial training. Although scientists debate whether the virus originated in China, France or Britain, the fort became ground zero for its breeding and spreading to Army camps throughout the South, then to the Western Front.

The mobilization mixed together rural

Missoula in October 1918



Missoula in March 2020



SOURCE:
MISSOULA CITY-COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
AND MONTANA STATE CENSUS



Hardik Amin, a researcher at the University of Montana, conducts research in the formulation room for vaccine studies. The formulation room is one of the first steps in creating a new vaccine. The formula that carries the vaccine is very important to its success. **SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN**

and urban, healthy and infected. Millions found themselves packed on trains and in barracks built to meet just a fraction of the demand. In Missoula, the war effort landed at Fort Missoula and with the Student Army Training Corps at UM, a forerunner to the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Dozens of men cycled through on their journey to Europe and with them, the flu. Missoula's paper of record, then known as the Daily Missoulian, conceded the wave of influenza that washed over Boston, Philadelphia and San Francisco had reached the Garden City Sept. 30, 1918.

The paper wrote that on Oct. 7, commanders at Fort Missoula placed all

206 men under quarantine after confirming 25 cases of flu. Surrounded by stories of residents reacting to possible peace with Germany. Their distrust of the German people recognized collectively as "the Hun," a three-inch article announced the arrival of the virus: "Spanish Epidemic Hits Local Post."

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With more than a month left in the war, the Montana Kaimin touted that nearly 300 of its total 665 students had enrolled in the S.A.T.C. University President Edward O. Sisson delivered an address to the "student

army" on the oval, calling them the "brightest thing in all her [the University's] war history."

Elsewhere on campus, the Kaimin reported that a history professor gave his opinion on what he saw as the hypocrisy of German "Kaiser-worship." The campus paper wrote that the freshmen had yet to be hazed by the sophomores as was tradition, and the Eloise Knowles cottage had just opened for women interested in home economics.

Back on the oval, Sisson said that 200 of the men gathered for the exercises that morning would be shipping for Europe on Oct. 15. Although the men of the S.A.T.C.

would go into quarantine within days, influenza only appeared in the campus paper in a stab at some contemporary humor.

"Yesterday we had a lot of Spanish stew, which was very good. Only I don't think they should give us that Spanish stuff since so much of that influenza is floating around. Do you, Unk?" wrote a fictional student-turned-soldier, Rookie, to his uncle from the front lines.

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"Close my eyes and quench my breath"

Two weeks later, on Oct. 15, the school closed operations, and the men of the S.A.T.C. stayed stateside in their newly established barracks. The war department ordered their quarantine on campus Oct. 10 when 16 were diagnosed with influenza.

The announcement, issued by the University's president and its chancellor, halted all classes by noon of that day. Students living in Missoula would stay at home, and those living more than a few hours away from campus would also return home and all would continue their coursework through the mail. Craig Hall, the women's dormitory, remained open and under quarantine for any women who wanted to stay on campus.

While the city of Missoula was logging dozens of influenza cases a day, UM President Sisson wrote, "Our condition on campus is thoroughly good, but the general influenza situation is growing daily more serious."

The decision to close the University's doors came from the advice of J.P. Ritchey, the city health officer who also pressed city leaders to shut down all schools in the county, cancel church services and close theaters.

The Daily Missoulian wrote that, on Ritchey's insistence, all the barstools in town had been rounded up by police and placed in storage to discourage crowds in pool halls and taverns.

On page two of the Montana Kaimin that ran Oct. 15, Rookie wrote another letter to his uncle.

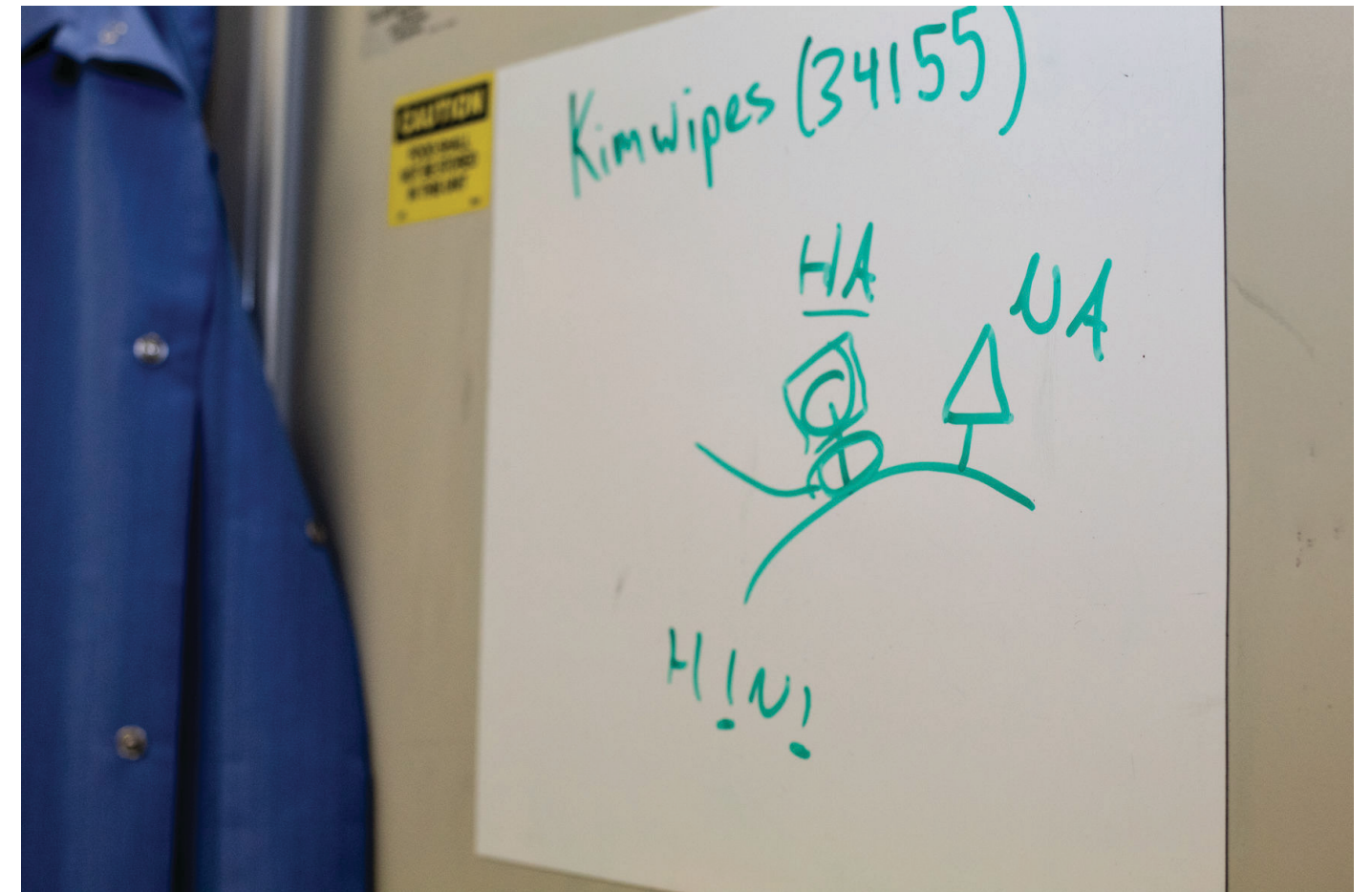
"You know, Unk, this is no good place to be, because most of the people have something called Spaniard's Influenza. It's no bull, either, even if it is Spanish."

Residents of Missoula, including the soldiers living in quarantine and the students finishing the rest of the term through the mail, joined the rest of the country in facing the deadliest month in its history.

The CDC tallied 195,000 people in the U.S. died between Oct. 1 and 31 of 1918, all of them either of the flu or its typical follow-disease of pneumonia.

Dr. Jay Evans, who for 20 years has researched the possibility of a universal influenza vaccine, directs the Center for Translational Medicine at UM. In 2018, the center received a \$10 million grant toward research that could help influenza join smallpox and polio in becoming close to eradicated. Evans said the strain of H1N1 that struck the world in 1918 was unique in populations it targeted.

Typically, both then and now, those most vulnerable to flu are those with the most vulnerable immune systems: the very young, the very old and pregnant women. When analyzed according to age groups, the Spanish influenza impacted both those



Influenza is a virus that has two proteins on its surface, haemagglutinin (HA or H) and neuraminidase (NA or N). These proteins are both antigens that can be used to create a vaccine so that your body can recognize the flu virus. Most flu vaccines are currently based off using HA but the UM lab is working to create a vaccine for NA, or the stalk that attaches the proteins to the virus. They hope that this might produce a universal flu vaccine. **SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN**

with compromised immunities and those with healthy immune systems.

With the surge of patients between the ages of 20 and 40 stricken with influenza, this phenomenon confounded doctors and prompted medical professionals to commit serious research into the seasonal flu.

"It's your own immune response that makes you feel so horrible when you get the flu," Evans said.

When the flu virus infects the lungs, the body reacts by becoming inflamed, and fever follows. In the case of the 1918 outbreak, Evans said the healthy became vulnerable because the virus was so foreign. "Because they had the strongest immune system, they got the rapid, quick inflammation. Their lungs filled up with fluid, they got pneumonia and they died," he said.

Evans said the WHO and the National Institute of Health coordinate to produce vaccines that stay a step ahead of the upcoming flu season by anticipating its evolution.

"Because of how that infection cycle works, it's prone to a high mutation rate,"

he said.

The high mutation rate keeps the protein surface of the virus (in the case of H1N1, haemagglutinin and neuraminidase) constantly changing. Selective pressures placed on the virus both by vaccines and the environment drive the virus to evolve and seek out hosts who are the least protected.

With viruses brewing on the saliva of a duck, or in the lungs of a pig, Evans said it's only a matter of time before the latest evolution of a virus manages to sidestep vaccines that the WHO has exhaustively produced.

"A new virus emerges that's a pandemic virus every so many years, just like what happened in 1918," Evans said.

"The one thing that's saved more lives in the world than anything else is clean water. [It's] saved more lives than any other advancement in human history. The second thing is vaccines," Evans said.

Despite the CDC reporting influenza killing between 12,000 and 60,000 people in the United States, a portion of the population still treat vaccinations as though

they are the threat. Some cite religious reasons, and others point to pseudoscience linking vaccinations with autism.

Evans said "although these individuals are entitled to their right to refuse vaccinations, they are wrong."

"We don't talk about polio. We don't talk about measles. We don't talk about smallpox. We don't talk about the deaths that happened during the 1918 flu. It's because we have vaccines against those things now," Evans said.

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"Pulse nigh to pulse, and breath to breath"

When the Montana Kaimin returned for the spring semester nearly 102 years ago, it welcomed students who rode out the epidemic in the city, or came back from their homes in Darby, Butte and Anaconda. By January, operations on campus returned to normal.

Mail was no longer fumigated. The S.A.T.C. members no longer had to wave to friends behind the "hedge" that surrounded



A.B. Kimball dressed to go to work during the 1918 flu epidemic in Missoula. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The view from Mount Sentinel of the University of Montana campus, during the construction of the Student Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.) barracks. This photograph probably was taken around October 1918, when Section A of the S.A.T.C. was established at the University of Montana, and Dec. 18, 1918, when the corps was disbanded. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

their new barracks-turned-hospital. By the end of the year, influenza cases came to nearly a quarter of campus.

Sisson, who hoped for an ease on the campus-wide shutdown prior to the new year, had to report that despite the reduction in influenza cases, scarlet fever had also broken out in the barracks in November.

One student, a sergeant in the S.A.T.C., spent two weeks at St. Patrick's hospital, only to return to campus and be again hospitalized for scarlet fever.

By the end of November, the Armistice took precedence over the epidemic. Margaret Coucher, a former columnist for the Montana Kaimin, reported on the jubilation from Camp Lewis in Washington: "The night that the peace news came was a big night here," she wrote. "The 'flu' ban which was to have remained on for another week was lifted by force when all the sailors from the camp here broke loose and went to the main part of the city, cheering thousands tramping along with them."

The school year also started with the University's president calling in sick. While he fell ill with bronchitis, his son was diagnosed with influenza.

The quarantines had ended, but campus still maintained a required sick call for students. These six-day-a-week checkups ran through January. By the order of W.E. Schreiber, then the chairman of the faculty health committee, students reported for a health inspection daily under the threat of suspension.

Ellen Leahy, the current director of the Missoula City-County Health Department, said the initiative, intellect and courage was present among officials in 1918, but the science was still young. Leahy has written articles published on both the Spanish flu and smallpox epidemics that hit Montana.

"Science doesn't rule the day. You have to consider science, society and culture and make policy around that. Take the conversations I'm in right now. We have to consider what people will think when they hear the word 'quarantine.'"

Long before the days of HIPPA guaranteeing the privacy of patients, the Montana Kaimin confirmed cases on campus by listing the names of afflicted students. By the time soldiers began appearing less and less in the paper, new cases emerged from the formerly quarantined Craig Hall.

A week after reporting that the president's son had been diagnosed, the Montana Kaimin wrote that Helen Gipson, 23 and studying to be a nurse, died of influenza. More names made their way into the "Personals" section of the paper, or in small announcements on the second page.

By Jan. 21, the Kaimin reported that 25 people on campus had influenza, all of them women, many who stayed in Craig Hall during the campus closure. The dormitory's second floor was converted into a hospital.

"You can not cohort people into quarantine. You might not have symptoms, but you could be contagious," Leahy said.

The same risk of housing all of the women staying on campus in one dorm in the autumn and through the winter of 1918, Leahy said, faced the passengers on the cruise ship that eventually docked off the course of California.

Leahy referred to the cruise liner Grand Princess, which remained at sea for over a week in March 2020 with nearly 2,500 passengers after health officials linked the ship to a fatal case of COVID-19. Twenty one people on board tested positive.

"You actually put them in incubators," she said.

Leahy said that although quarantine protocols have evolved since 1918 to allow medical workers to safely cordon off individuals, nothing kept the women in Craig Hall from spreading influenza during their stay.

As of publication, UM students who left for spring break received an announcement from campus administrators urging them to stay where they were. Although the dorms would stay open, they would only be available to those students with nowhere else to stay.

In the same edition confirming 25 cases on campus, the Kaimin ran an article detailing the scene at sick call. Dozens lined up for an inspection conducted by the university physician, including the student government, president and the freshman class president. At the sound of "Next," students snaked their way through the campus gym.

One woman, according to the article, was forgotten and left "holding a thermometer between her lips for 20 minutes."

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"When spring trips north again this year"

By the spring, reporting on the influenza outbreak dried up. Other than the occasional report of a student forced to leave campus to recover at home, or a graduate falling ill abroad, articles looked ahead to baseball season, breaking the enrollment record next fall and chastised students for their lack of enthusiasm for making costumes in a parade



Vials containing the adjuvant for preliminary TB and influenza vaccines. One step of the multidisciplinary process of creating a vaccine is formulation. The formula contains antigens, adjuvants and the liquid it is all suspended in. Antigens are the parts of the disease which the immune system recognizes and the adjuvants are added so that the immune response is greater. SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN

scheduled for May.

On March 25, it reported on plans to honor the dead, the "former university men who died in service, but also for those men who died while at Fort Missoula and in the S.A.T.C. camp."

"I think there were a lot of heroes that we are never going to know about, like Dr. Ritchey, the city health officer," Leahy said.

"I can't imagine looking back in his journal and his log, and in the end, he got sick too. There were a lot of nurses too, like Mrs. Yoder. She was only here three days before she was stricken and died," she said.

Hazel Yoder worked as a nurse for the sick in the S.A.T.C. before contracting the

flu herself. She and four other nurses who answered a national demand when WWI left the U.S. with a chronic shortage of healthcare workers were among those who died while at Fort Missoula and in the S.A.T.C. camp.

Another nurse, who joined in the effort to combat the epidemic when the University asked all of its students to stay home and keep their distance from others until the pandemic passed, provided an eyewitness account of her experience at Fort Missoula in the March 25 edition of the Kaimin.

Like the Facebook groups and non-profits organizing volunteer efforts to bring

food and medical supplies to Missoula residents today, she opted against staying indoors and keeping her distance.

Her story ran below the names announced for the newly established R.O.T.C. program, rants against the oncoming prohibition of alcohol and an upcoming speech from a Washington judge who would take to the pulpit of a city church to promote "Americanization." Along with being smothered by the concerns of campus in 1919, the nurse and journalism student remained further buried under the sod of anonymity.

Along with the soldiers, some men from a lumber camp and a boy from a cattle

farm 50 miles away laid on "snowy beds" in a basement converted into a hospital ward. Men gave up their ice packs for a young man going into hysterics in a corner of the ward.

In the monotonous work of nursing, she wrote that the sick begged for "that soothing sleep-bringing 'shot.'" She and the other nurses helped to guide shaking hands over final wills and testaments and became accustomed to lying, just a little, when patients asked about their temperatures.

"But no matter how hard or trying their work, they all say they prefer to take care of the 'flu' rather than to have it," she wrote.

UM cancels all spring athletics, practices



Dahlberg Arena before the final home game for the Lady Griz on Feb. 29, 2020. CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

JACK MARSHALL
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The Big Sky Conference and UM canceled almost all athletic functions due to the spread of COVID-19, including all spring sports.

"It sure is a bummer, especially because I redshirted indoor," said UM track athlete Cade Johnstone, who was preparing for the 2020 outdoor spring track season.

The Big Sky Conference announced on March 12 that it was canceling its basketball tourna-

ment. The Lady Griz had already lost out at the tournament, but the men's team was sent home before playing a game.

After the Big Sky Tournament was canceled, the NCAA also canceled the entirety of its tournament on March 12.

According to a report by Sports Illustrated on March 18, the NCAA "likely won't" give winter sports athletes another year of eligibility.

"Crazy to think my college hoops career is over with, thanks for the memories," Kendal

Manuel posted on his Instagram account on March 13.

UM football announced March 13 it was closing practices to spectators and media until further notice.

The Big Sky Conference President's Council voted to cancel all of its competitions and championships. All practices and workouts for Big Sky sponsored teams were also canceled.

This ruling cut short the season for UM softball, golf and tennis. It also suspended the start of UM's outdoor track season.

Campus administrators at UM will reconvene before April 3 to determine the status of practices beyond then.

The NCAA has not made a decision on whether athletes of spring sports that haven't been played will be granted another year of eligibility.

"I'm lucky I'm not a fifth year and I have many more years to come," said Johnstone.

NCAA's Division II announced that it was planning to give spring athletes another year of eligibility, so UM lacrosse seniors

were granted another year of playing.

"Another reason why playing for Griz Lacrosse and the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association is awesome," said UM lacrosse in an Instagram post about the NCAA's announcement. "Getting the band back together in 2021!"

UM's next official athletic event scheduled is a soccer match against Gonzaga on August 20.

On March 30, the NCAA will vote on whether college athletes will get eligibility relief for the cancellations.