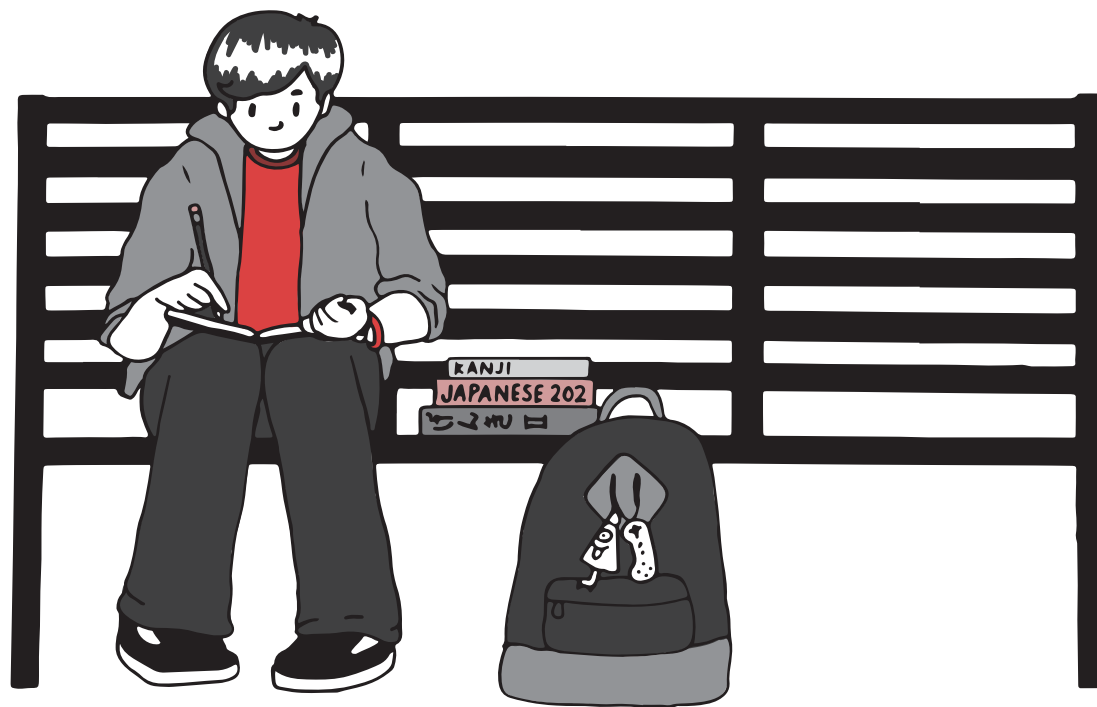


MONTANA KAIMIN

モンタナ・カイミン

IN PURSUIT OF
IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS
WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED
BY BARRETT CLEMENT
A STUDENT'S JOURNEY TO STUDY ABROAD



7 Health dean retiring

13 Celebrating 'The Sims'

15 Big Sky basketball recap

March 28, 2024 | Volume 126 | Issue No. 24

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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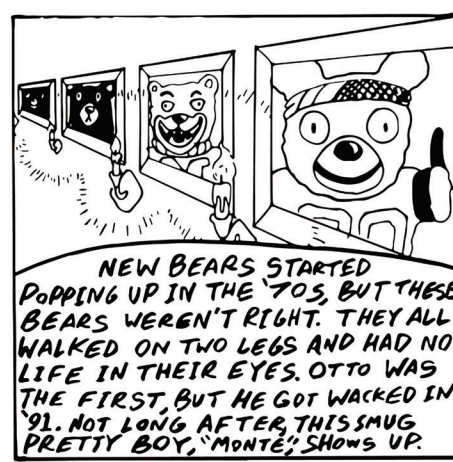
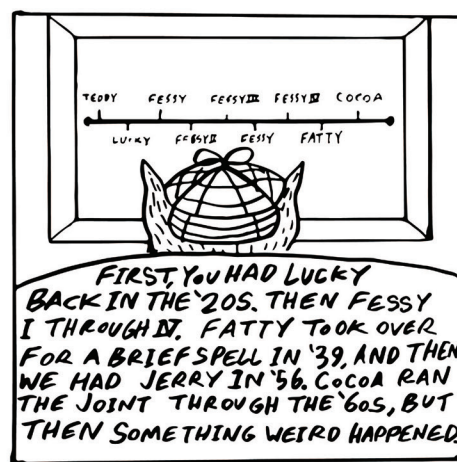
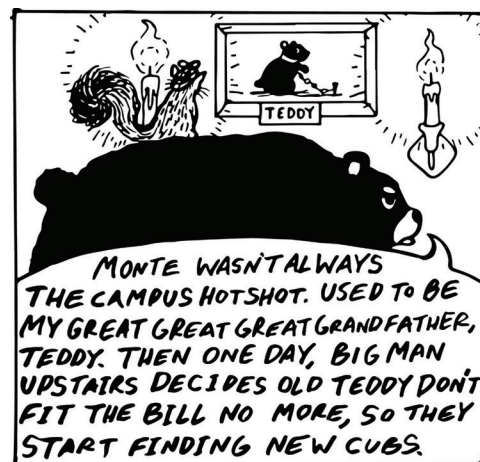


Run for Election in Student Government!



Registration Open

DETECTIVE SQUIRREL: SE 1 EP 12



Local mill closures are bad news for forestry and trade students

Following a recent pattern of possible job cuts in Missoula County impacting the local school district and United States Postal Service workers, two of the area's largest lumber product providers have announced they're closing their doors. With the Missoula Composites mill and the Seeley Lake mill closing, 250 jobs will be lost, according to reporting by Montana Free Press. It'll likely impact future job prospects for students enrolled in the University's forestry and trade school programs.

Pyramid Mountain Lumber announced March 14 it was closing Seeley Lake's mill, the area's largest employer, due to understaffing. A week later, 150 workers at Missoula Composites were informed by parent company Roseburg Forest Products that the mill would be permanently ending operations on May 22.

According to the job search service Handshake, Roseburg has employed around 82 University of Montana students, with three currently working for the company. Three current UM students also work for Pyramid Mountain Lumber.

With the mills' closures, the prospects for employment post-graduation in forestry-related fields diminish, impacting not only the education and training of future professionals, but also the Missoula economy's reliance on having enough skilled, trained workers interested in pursuing these industries.

"We know this closure will have a significant impact on our team members there, and thus, our primary objective with this closure is to assist them through this transition as smoothly as possible," said Stuart Gray, Roseburg's president and CEO, in a press release.

The closure of the local mills presents a significant setback for students pursuing degrees at UM's College of Forestry, which has 10 degree programs and currently enrolls 760 undergraduate and 128 graduate students. UM is the 37th-best forestry school in the country, according to CollegeFactual.com

The repercussions extend beyond immediate job losses. Missoula College's programs in sustainable construction, welding, building and carpentry, designed to align with opportunities provided by the mills, now face an uncertain future. Aspiring workers now have limited options upon graduation if they want to stay in or near Missoula.

For students pursuing degrees in wildlife biology, management and conservation at UM, the closures made an already extremely competitive job market. Future graduates may seek employment elsewhere, settle for positions outside their field of study or may even transfer to another school closer to more opportunities.

"The decision to permanently close a plant is always difficult, Gray said in a press release. "Unfortunately,

Missoula's older platform and technology is simply not competitive from a cost structure perspective in a marketplace with many new, modern particleboard facilities."

The Missoula Composites mill, which produces particle and laminate panels used for carpentry, has been up and running in the west side of Missoula since 1969 and was purchased by the Oregon-based company Roseburg in 2003. Seeley Lake's mill was founded 20 years earlier in 1949 and has been family-owned and operated ever since — acting as the town's largest employer, according to a Pyramid Mountain Lumber press release.

As these communities brace for the impact and other funding cuts to jobs across school districts and counties, there's a pressing need for immediate action toward economic diversification and strong support for workforce development across the state.

These long-lasting mills have run parallel to UM for much of its history, and their existence has fueled UM's forestry and trade programs to become what they are today. Without them, students will experience a void — they won't have the resources to get their hands dirty and become truly immersed in their majors like many of their peers in other programs with local opportunities do.

The mills promote economic diversification by providing niche jobs that the University continues to cater to. The University's

specialized programs contribute to its slow crawl back from the enrollment spiral over the last decade.

The closures can't be stopped right away, but they could be slowed down. UM, for example, is already allowing students to pursue a variety of career paths through its niche programs, helping with local understaffing. By encouraging students and members of the community to engage with local businesses like these, we can help ensure they don't run out of funding and close.

Additionally, by marketing Missoula-based initiatives to investors and offering incentives to expanding businesses, new industries can become interested in expanding within the community.

If students keep reading headlines about their opportunities diminishing, their desire and need to gain the education and training required for these fields could be dissuaded. And if educational retention levels drop because of this, that not only impacts the economy, but also the growth of Missoula as a whole. Sweeping cuts like this aren't just foresters' problems — they're problems for the entire University and the rest of Missoula.

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

Can't get enough? Start listening.

Hear Bayliss Flynn talk to student athletes Junior Bergen and Hailey Murphy about the National Collegiate Athletic Association's name, image and likeness deals.



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SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

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

UM announces honorary doctorate recipients; Missoula to expand downtown parking; TikTok ban

LILY GLADSTONE, CAROL TATSEY-MURRAY TO RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTORATES

The University of Montana will be presenting honorary doctorates to alumnae Lily Gladstone and Carol Tatsey-Murray on May 11 during the Spring 2024 commencement ceremonies.

Gladstone and Tatsey-Murray, both from the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, will receive recognition from the University for being "shining examples to Montanan students of how a UM education can propel you toward future success," UM President Seth Bodnar told UM News Service.

Gladstone, who graduated with her acting degree in 2008, became the first Indigenous person to win the Best Actress in a Motion Picture - Drama Golden Globe Award in January for her role in "Killers of the Flower Moon." She made history again when she became the fourth Indigenous person nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Lead Actress category.

She will receive an honorary doctorate of fine arts.

Tatsey-Murray will receive an honorary doctorate of education for her dedication to the "preservation, promotion and revitalization" of Indigenous culture, according to UM news.

Tatsey-Murray first graduated with an associate's degree from Blackfeet Community College and then from UM with a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1982. After receiving her master's degree at Montana State University, Tatsey-Murray spent 36 years working at Blackfeet Community College.

During her time there, she supported the construction of the Beaver Painted Lodge and became the first Blackfeet Community College graduate to become the college's president, a position she held for 14 years.

Gladstone and Tatsey-Murray will speak at commencement on May if scheduling works out.

(Claire Bernard)

MISSOULA TO INCREASE PARKING HOURS, FEES DOWNTOWN

Under a new action plan, Missoula's downtown could see fee increases, new parking meters and increased payment hours. These changes are necessary because of increased demand, Missoula Parking Director Jodi Pilgrim said at a March 19 meeting with the Missoula Downtown Association.

The new plan will be introduced over time between one to three years from now.

Pilgrim said the Hip Strip, which currently

has no parking regulations, is the next target for meter and fee proposals. New Hip Strip plans could look similar to University District neighborhoods' parking regulations. The commission plans to have fees in the Hip Strip by the end of 2025 and in other heavily trafficked areas like St. Patrick Hospital.

The parking commission also plans to increase metered parking fares and expand paid hours until 8 p.m. on weekdays. Fees would increase to catch up with inflation and limit all-day parking. New hourly rates will now be 50 cents more per hour for one to five hours, \$1 more for five to seven hours and a \$1.50 increase for seven hours or more.

Pilgrim also outlined the reasons for increased parking fines in the plan. Currently, eight hours of parking downtown costs \$18.50 at the meter, while a ticket for not paying the meter costs \$20, the same as any other downtown parking fine, except for illegally parking in a handicapped space. Pilgrim said fines need to increase to discourage parking violations. The new plan would increase the cost of subsequent offenses, up to \$285 for someone's fifth "safety violation."

Pilgrim said the commission will try to create more flexible payment and parking options for downtown employers, who struggle to keep employees because of the limited permit availability and costly meters when parking.

All of these proposals are subject to change.

(Andy Tallman)

U.S. HOUSE VOTES TO FORCE TIKTOK SALE OR POTENTIALLY BAN THE APP

The United States House of Representatives voted 352-65 on March 20 to pass a bill effectively banning TikTok unless it's sold by its Chinese parent company ByteDance.

The bill bans American app stores or web hosting companies from distributing any platforms controlled by designated U.S. adversaries. TikTok is the bill's most obvious target and is specifically mentioned in the bill's text.

The bill defines any person or company headquartered in or organized under the laws of a "foreign adversary country" as "controlled by a foreign adversary." This includes ByteDance, based in China.

Both support and opposition to the bill are bipartisan. Democratic and Republican representatives cited national security concerns as reasons to force ByteDance to either sell TikTok or stop its operation in America. While more Democrats than Republicans opposed the bill, some Republican lawmakers also opposed the bill, falling in line with Donald Trump's recent opposition, even though he issued an executive order in 2020 banning TikTok unless it split from ByteDance.

In December 2022, legislation banned TikTok from most federal employee electronics. Last year, the Montana Legislature banned TikTok, but the law is tied up in court. The University of Montana, per Gov. Greg Gianforte's orders, still restricts access to TikTok on University wifi networks.

The bill will now go to the Senate. President Biden said he'll sign it if it passes through both houses, according to AP News.

(AT)

NOT EVERYONE
TRAPPED
BY ALCOHOL IS AN
ALCOHOLIC

montanadistrict10alanon.org



Friends and family
are suffering too.

Do you worry about
how much someone
drinks?

Al-Anon and
Alateen can help

SCAN
CODE
FOR LOCAL
MEETING INFO



Al-Anon Family Groups
Help and Hope for Family and Friends of Alcoholics

POLICE BLOTTER

ANDY TALLMAN

andy.tallman@umontana.edu

Guys, we've cracked it. We've figured out how to stop crime on the University of Montana campus: Just kick everyone out! The UM Police Department responded to barely any calls over spring break, so we had to go back in time for some vintage crimes from the week before we all went to Cancun or whatever.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7 - SCAMMIN' THE SALARY

Yeah, this one's old, but it's still an open investigation into theft by deception. A University employee had a lot of money taken from their account, and because it's UM money, UMPD's the entity looking into it. Let's hope they recover the cash, or UM might have to cut the College of Humanities and Sciences again to recoup the losses.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 - MIDNIGHT SNACK

Around 12:45 a.m., UMPD found some curious students trespassing in the new, still very much under construction, dining hall. Apparently, a door had been left open, and the nighttime wanderers went in. They didn't cause any trouble, so they were let off with a warning. Unfair they weren't allowed to stay, if you ask me. I mean, their tuition is paying for it...

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 - RUNNIN' THE PLATES

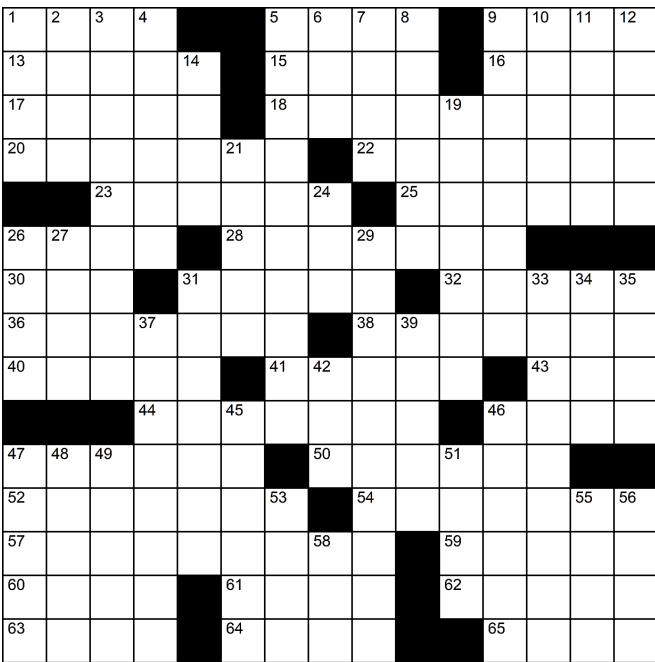
A resident of Sisson Apartments reported that, sometime between the previous night and Wednesday morning, an unknown pincher had swiped the license plate right off their car. A souvenir, chosen for the special UM background? It's got to be because now the cops know that anyone driving with the plate is the culprit. Though it could have just fallen off.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 - ANOTHER BIKE HEIST

Sometimes locking isn't enough. At 2:30 p.m., someone reported their bike's lock had been cut and the bike had been snatched from outside the Lommasson Center. The bike was a Rocky Mountain Fusion valued at around \$400. Life's three constants: death, taxes and UM bike thefts.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 - BLAST FROM THE PAST

In keeping with the vintage theme, someone had their speakers stolen from their car — specifically a subwoofer taken from their truck parked in Lot H, as well as a phone charger. They reported the crime at 6 p.m., though it could have happened any time after the previous evening. The car wasn't damaged, leading the victim to suspect they might have left the door unlocked. Is stealing car speakers even a thing that still happens? The youth of today are onto catalytic converters, right? That's what's trendy?



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ACROSS

- 1 Much-used pencil
5 Drive off
9 Contemplate
13 Polk's predecessor
15 Lowly laborer
16 Himalayas' home
17 Pontificate
18 What moms-to-be are
20 Famed Ottawa chief
22 To some, it's golden
23 Beautiful, in Barcelona
25 ____-than-life
26 Blacken a bit
28 Weepily sentimental
30 Granola grain
31 An "M" in MGM
32 Photo finish
36 Burger topping
38 Good for nothing
40 Big name in copiers
41 Like some fans
43 Motorist's aid
44 It may be guided
46 Light-footed
47 Spot
50 Verbally abuse
52 Uniform shoul-
der piece
54 Fresh start
57 Rejected
59 Coeur d'Alene locale
60 Tooth trouble
61 Natural emollient
62 Establish
63 Part of YTD

- 64 Make (one's way)
65 1990 World Series champs

DOWN

- 1 "That's enough!"
2 Beginner
3 Mongolia's capital, formerly
4 Wager maker
5 Grandstand group
6 Curse
7 "My bad"
8 Former House Speaker Tip
9 Kind of instinct
10 With the help of
11 "____ when?"
12 Thirsty
14 Pull (in)
19 Had rights to
21 Prepared to shoot

- 24 Lord's Prayer starter
26 Gently urge
27 Suffer from
29 Oboe, e.g.
31 Upper jaw
33 Mild, weather-wise
34 Old autocrat
35 Take notice of
37 Dell product
39 Colander kin
42 2023 Matt Damon movie
45 Plaything for two
46 Patio door
47 Dental woe
48 Speedily
49 Bygone Turkish title
51 Heron's cousin
53 Flooring choice
55 Impact sound
56 Brewers' needs
58 Slip on

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Woman-o-scope

HALEY YARBOROUGH

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Who runs the world? Sometimes we do wish it was girls. With Women's History Month coming to a close, we at the Kaimin believe it is time to recognize all the women who have left a mark on the map. That's right, bitches, it's time to shatter some glass ceilings. Chemistry, literature, biology, soccer, politics — women can do what they want, when they want, regardless of what old senile men say. So, take a look at the stars, not forgetting to say hello to our "Chained Woman," Andromeda, and find out which Woman Crush Wednesday you are.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):

There are not many things cooler than a woman journalist with an eyepatch. And guess what, bitch? You're THAT bitch, Marie Colvin. An American foreign affairs correspondent for the British newspaper The Sunday Times, you lost one eye to a grenade while reporting on the Sri Lankan civil war. Now that's fucking metal.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):

No one knows chimpanzees better than you. You've lived with them, eaten with them, practically raised them and now are considered one of the world's foremost experts on our primate pals. That's right, you're our badass ape whisperer queen Jane Goodall. Armed with little more than binoculars and a notebook, you sailed the high seas at 26 to research in Tanzania. But your legacy is not history. Now you travel the world, fiercely defending chimpanzees in the face of climate change. #Slay

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):

Only you can build an empire off of skin cream. You're Estée Lauder, listed as one of Time Magazine's most influential business geniuses in the 20th century. Your revolutionary business tactics, including "accidentally" spilling fragrances while demonstrating other beauty products, helped you build a billion-dollar business.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):

You broke barriers as a woman doctor in the 19th century. You're Susan La Flesche Picotte, an Indigeneous doctor born on the Omaha Reservation. At 14, you left home to go to school. By 24, you returned home and became the only doctor for more than 1,200 people across more than 400 miles. If anyone deserves a statue, it's you.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):

You're Halle Berry, aka Storm, aka Catwoman (but we won't mention that). You're the first Black actress to take home a Best Actress award for your performance as Leticia Musgrove in "Monster's Ball," and, unfortunately, the only woman of color to receive the honor. Considering Ryan Gosling won best song for "I'm Just Ken" at the Golden Globes, this isn't that surprising.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):

You're the Godmother of Rock 'n' Roll, Sister Rosetta Tharpe. You shred on the electric

guitar with flamboyance, skill and innate showmanship, putting several modern music artists to shame. Known for blending gospel music with elements of blues, jazz and rock, you laid the very foundation for the future of rock 'n' roll.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):

Your brain is so big, it has its own gravitational pull. Well, not really, but like many women, your brilliance is overshadowed in the history books by a certain white-haired man with uncombable hair. You're Mileva Marić, the other Einstein, aka a Serbian physicist, mathematician and Einstein's first wife. You helped Einstein with his special relativity theory, but of course, have not really received any kind of recognition until now. Absolute shocker, am I right?

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):

Fuck the United States. If it won't admit you to pilot school because you have a uterus, you might as well join the French. Like Bessie Coleman, the first-ever Black woman to receive a pilot's license, you're stubborn, smart and know your way around a plane. Eventually, you returned to the "land of the free" to become the first U.S. woman to make a public flight. Take that, Uncle Sam.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):

You're legendary Latina folk singer Joan Baez. Not only a singer but a civil rights activist, your famous lyrics "We Shall Overcome" echoed across the March on Washington for Civil Rights in 1963. Yes, you're famously known for your relationship with Bob Dylan, but it's your breathtaking voice and continual fight for human rights that we will remember.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21):

As Malala Yousafzai, you're a certified, educated badass. At the age of 15, you were shot in the head for speaking out about girls receiving equal education to boys. Now, you're an activist, champion of human rights, and co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. All we can say is you're thriving.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19):

You've always got your head in the stars. Like Sally Ride, you like space. No, not personal space, the literal empty vacuum of space. You're the first U.S. woman to go to space, a trailblazer for aspiring woman astronauts. You went to Stanford, graduated with four degrees, became a nationally ranked youth tennis player on top of that. Is there anything you can't do???

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18):

You truly do go hamm on the field. Much like soccer star Mia Hamm, your skill, vision and innate scoring ability make you one of the most skilled and dangerous women in soccer. You retired with a world-record-breaking 158 international goals and continue to kick ass (and balls) on and off the field.



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

The woman behind the winners: How one director helps students reach higher

ELLE DANIEL

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Kylla Benes was driving her car last November when she received the news: For the first time in over 30 years, a University of Montana student had won the Rhodes Scholarship. She pulled over to the side of the road and did a little solo celebration.

Benes, the Director of External Scholarships and Fellowships at UM, poured hours into preparing winner Kolter Stevenson for the application interviews. “I was like, ‘Am I reading this right?’” Benes said. “It was definitely a big shock and also just, like, a ton of excitement.”

But this wasn’t her first time assisting a student on their way to a big achievement. As director, Benes works with students to find scholarship opportunities, then mentors them through the application process. Through this, Benes has helped UM students win a range of prestigious, nationally recognized scholarships and grants. But for Benes, the road to this mentorship started long before coming to UM.

“I see it as a lot of mentoring and coaching,” Benes said. “There’s a lot of direct work ... but there’s also ... let’s plan out at what stage in your academic career you should apply for [scholarships] to help you reach your long-term goals.” To prepare students, Benes hosts informational sessions, workshops, mock interviews and creates faculty committees to nominate students.

Benes grew up in Corona, California. She earned her Bachelor of Science and master’s degree at California State University, Northridge. Later, at the University of California, Irvine, she earned her doctorate in marine biology. She focused on seaweed ecology, brought on by her love of swimming in kelp forests and walking along tide pools.

Benes credited her grandfather for getting her interested in gardening and fishing. “We moved to southern California when I was five,” she said. “Seeing the ocean for the first time, I just fell in love.”

As a graduate student, Benes mentored undergraduates and later taught biology and zoology as an adjunct professor at multiple universities, including CSU Northridge, Occidental College and Los Angeles Pierce College. Those experiences, she said, along with applying for her own grants and scholarships as a student, informed her transition into her role at UM.

After graduating with her doctorate in 2016, Benes worked for nonprofits and freelanced, writing newsletters aiding with program development, spending time in Colorado.

“I fell in love with the Rocky Mountain West,” Benes said. “I also realized I didn’t like freelancing. I liked going to an office, I liked to be around people, and I also really missed working with students.”

Benes found an advertisement for a fellowship program at the Davidson Honors College focusing on teaching, research and mentoring and decided to apply.

The UM website describes the fellowship as “an innovative way to continually refresh the college’s teaching and research strategies.” Along with conducting her own research, Benes has mentored students in scientific writing, taught freshwater ecology courses and worked at the Flathead Lake Biological Station.

The fellowship lasted for two years. While searching for the next job, Benes discovered a new position: The Honors College’s external scholarship director.

“I had no idea a scholarship adviser or director of scholarships was even a job that existed in higher education,” she said. “But upon reading what the duties were, it was very student-focused and revolved a lot around mentorship and advising and coaching. And that really appealed to me.”

Dean of the Honors College, Timothy Nichols, remembered the national search to find the external scholarship director. The Honors College brought in a range of candidates, only to find the right person just down the hall from his office.

“[Benes] has an incredible work ethic,” Nichols said. “She is the first person to see if anybody else needs a hand. She loved the work, she loved Missoula, she loved UM.”

Benes’ love of Missoula and the UM campus was another reason she wanted to stay. “I saw the job as an opportunity to both stay in the place I love, work for an institution I love, and work with students, which I love,” she said.

Benes’ first year as director took place during the COVID-19 shutdowns. She hosted Zoom sessions and reached out to faculty for student recommendations while campus remained mostly empty. At the beginning, she was worried nobody would come in for help. But then 20 to 30 applications were submitted for scholarships. Last year, over 40 applications were submitted for various scholarships.

Stevenson, from Amsterdam, Montana, was awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, an opportunity that allows him to study at the University of Oxford for two years with tuition and fees paid. Stevenson studies Russian, international business, finance and management information systems at UM.

Benes said the Rhodes was more challenging to prepare for than others due to its strict rules. While other scholarships allow students to get direct feedback on their application essays, the Rhodes does not.

Instead, Benes spent time with Stevenson having what she called “life conversations,” discussing motivations, life goals and areas of impact students applying hope to achieve. From the end of May to the beginning of July, Benes worked with Stevenson weekly through workshops and individual meetings to prepare.



University of Montana Director of External Scholarships and Fellowships Kylla Benes in her office at the Davidson Honors College. She hangs up thank you cards from students she’s helped on the wall.

CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN

Along with the Rhodes Scholarship, Benes has helped five students win the Udall Undergraduate Scholarship. The national award provides students about \$7,000 to pursue studies in tribal policy, environmental and healthcare fields.

In 2020, UM wildlife biology major Jonathan Karlen became the 43rd UM student to win the award. Forestry student Alexios Smith and environmental science major Raina Woolworth won in 2021. Elani Borhegyi won in 2022 while studying environmental science and sustainability, and the 2023 award went to Tessa Jarden, who studied ecosystem science and restoration.

Since 1997, UM has had 46 Udall scholars and 17 honorable mentions, consistently beat-

ing Ivy League universities for the scholarship.

For students interested in pursuing scholarships, Benes offered some simple advice: Just get started. She encouraged students to make an appointment with her to see what’s available.

Benes said she enjoys seeing “all the good people there are” through her job, one of the reasons she loves working with students. “It just feels really good. It makes me have a lot of hope.”

For more information on scholarship opportunities or to schedule and appointment with Benes, go to <https://www.umt.edu/external-scholarships/>

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'Climbing down the ladder': Dean of health to retire this year

VIVIANNE OSTHEIMER

vivianne.ostheimer@umontana.edu

Reed Humphrey, the Dean of the College of Health, has held almost every collegiate academic position throughout his career, from unpaid lecturer to provost.

"Some people say, 'Oh you haven't been president,'" Humphrey said. "And I'm like, 'president is actually not an academic position.'"

When colleagues ask what he will do next, the 71-year-old has a ready answer: "I'm trying to climb down the ladder."

Humphrey is retiring from the deanship at the end of this year. "I think it's always healthy to have changes in leadership," he said. "I made the decision that 10 years was a good run. It's a good opportunity for someone else to step in."

Humphrey will be staying at the University to work on health-related projects in the Office of Research and Creative Scholarships after stepping down.

"It's [going to] be fun for me to be able to focus on community-based projects without the encumbrance of administration in the deanship," he said. "There's a lot of community outreach stuff that I want to do, as well as continue to work on cross-campus projects."

Originally from Pennsylvania, raised in Pittsburgh where his mom was a steelworker, Humphrey started out in the dean role in 2014 and has been in it ever since, except for 2020 to 2022 when he served as the interim provost of UM.

When former Provost Jon Harbor resigned, President Seth Bodnar reached out to Humphrey. "It was so funny," Humphrey said. "Because he called me and said, 'Do you have like 15 more minutes to discuss a personnel issue?'"

Humphrey was worried his college had done something wrong, but instead, Bodnar asked him to fill the provost position.

What excites Humphrey the most right now is UM health's partnership with Providence Health Care systems, pairing on-campus research expertise with trained physicians and caregivers to do collaborative research and improve healthcare in rural areas. He is also working on a project to better connect clinics with campus since students are trained in many different places.

Stepping down from the position will allow Humphrey to dedicate more time to boards he chairs, including one at a Missoula hospital and another with the University's spectrUM — a program started in 2007 that aims to interest K-12 students in biomedical sciences.

Humphrey would also like to find opportunities to teach again, preferably courses with

UM's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, which offers noncredit courses to the Missoula community.

A self-described collaborative leader, Humphrey will miss the relationships he was able to foster as dean the most, especially mentoring faculty and graduate students. Humphrey said he'll try to maintain those relationships while moving forward.

According to a UM faculty contract page, Humphrey's 2023 base salary was \$220,540, making him one of the highest paid deans at UM.

When Humphrey became dean in 2014, the public health program had three faculty members. Now it has 70 faculty members and a doctorate program.

According to Tony Ward, chair of the School of Public and Community Health Sciences, his program grew from 50 students to almost 200 students in eight years.

Ward, a 53-year-old from Texas, started working with Humphrey when he was still chair of Physical Therapy. When Humphrey became dean, he recruited Ward to take over the public health school as its chair.

"Dean Humphrey has been there each step of the way in helping facilitate our growth, helping us hire new people for our program, and really supporting our research initiatives," Ward said.

Ward also praised the interprofessional training initiative, a program to connect students across different health programs with each other and healthcare professionals, for promoting the exchange of ideas and creating work opportunities for students. "We're working directly with the people that will be hiring our graduates," he said.

Research funding in the College of Health used to be mainly concentrated in specific areas, but according to Humphrey, after building interprofessional relationships, almost every one of its schools' funding increased.

For example, the UM Health and Medicine Innovation and Investment Fund, established in 2018, supports the creation of professional healthcare training programs at the University, and UM's Neural Injury Center has received over \$300,000 in private donations and grants.

However, Humphrey's time as dean was not without its challenges, including making sure resources were given effectively to faculty throughout many changes at the University. Humphrey sees the college's rapid growth as another challenge in terms of infrastructure and facilities.

Humphrey doesn't have concerns about the upcoming academic restructure. "I think the academic restructure will benefit the College of Health in the sense that the programs here are largely fully enrolled," he said.

He is more concerned about keeping the



Reed Humphrey, the current Dean of the College of Health at the University of Montana, will be switching roles to work on projects he has been excited about for years. **RENNAL-HAJ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

University's "R1" research status since qualification requirements are changing for 2025. "[Losing] it would have the potential to impact our ability to continue to recruit graduate students into our research programs," Humphrey said. "But we were working really well before our R1 status, and I think that our research trajectory would remain pretty intact, even if R1 status is threatened."

His greatest lesson as dean was discovering how culture change happens slowly. "Once you're reasonably successful in establishing a culture that's receptive to students and faculty alike," he said. "You can never take your fingers off the pulse."

Ward said Humphrey always keeps it light, but ultimately gets things taken care

of. "You've got to find your bliss with work," Ward said Humphrey told him from the beginning. "I've always tried to keep that mantra."

The search committee hasn't yet hired a new dean for the college. According to the provost hiring page, it is currently conducting on-campus interviews and has narrowed the search to two candidates: Kem Krueger, a professor from the University of Wyoming, and Matthew Fete, a dean of health sciences at Chicago State University.

Looking forward, Humphrey hopes the college will continue to grow. "As I transition out of the deanship, I'll continue to work on behalf of the University and the community," Humphrey said. "I'm not going anywhere."

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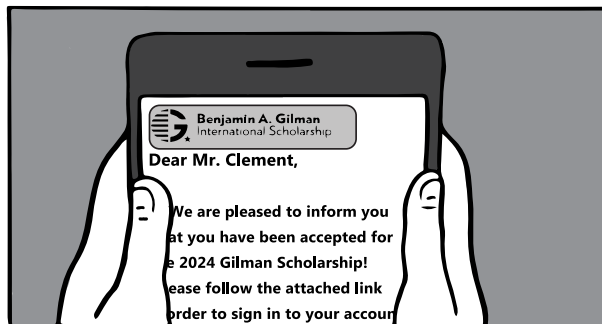
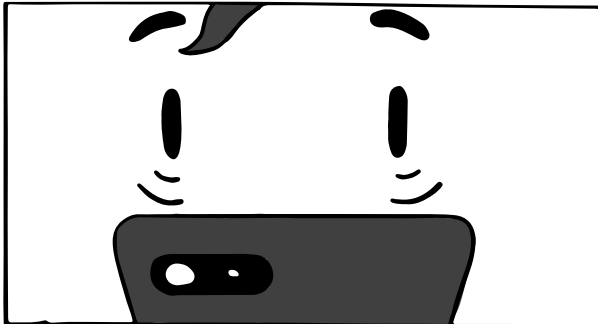
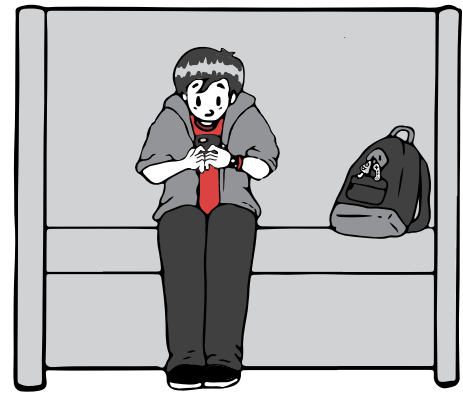
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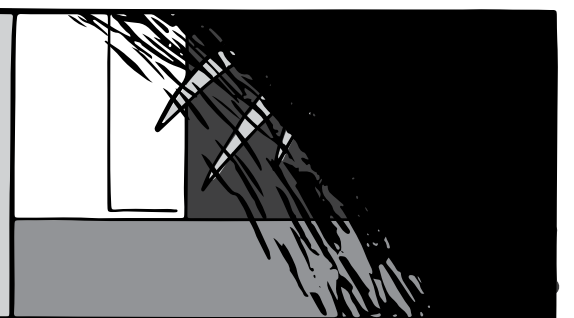
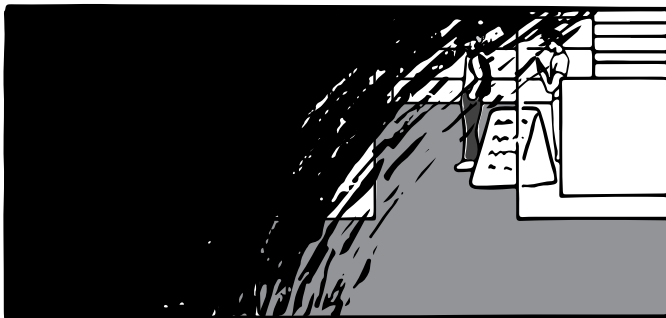
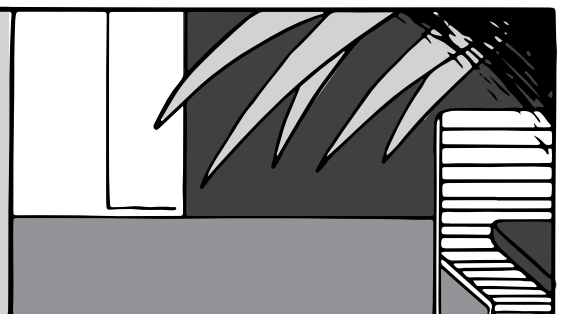
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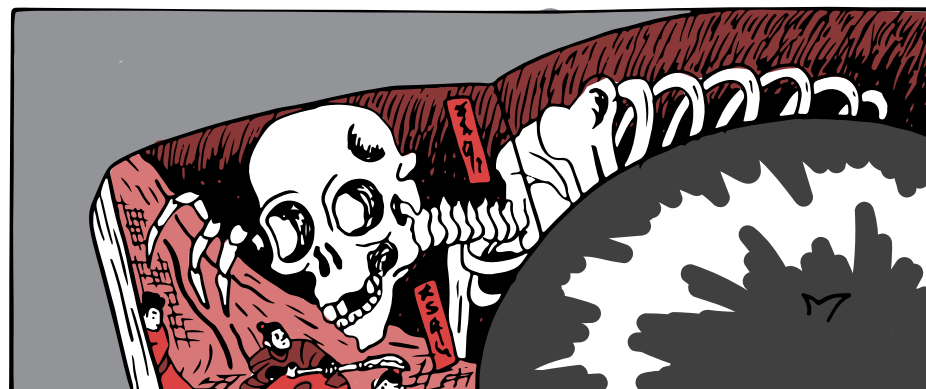
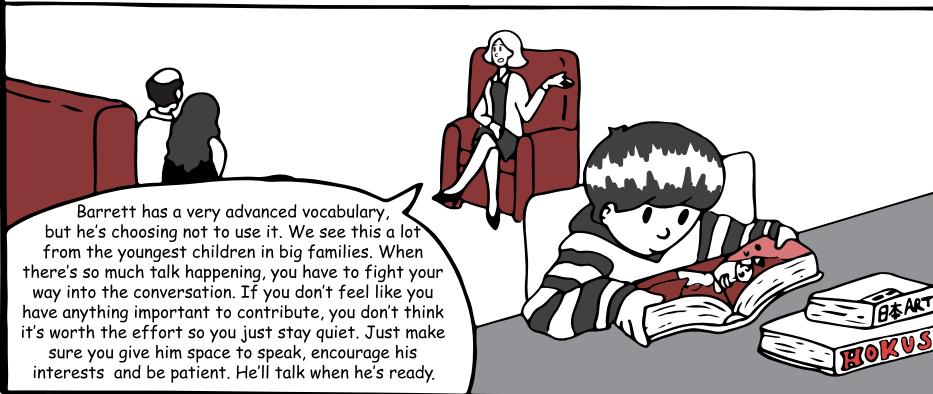


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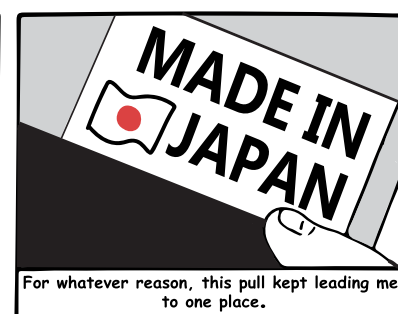
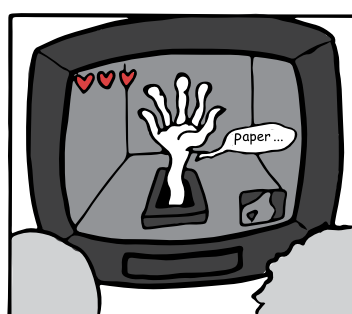


IT'S POSSIBLE

For as long as I can remember, I've been fascinated with the extraordinary.

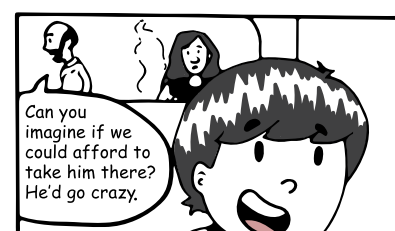


Visions of strange creatures and beautiful spirits filled my head, and I felt a pull from every story I encountered.

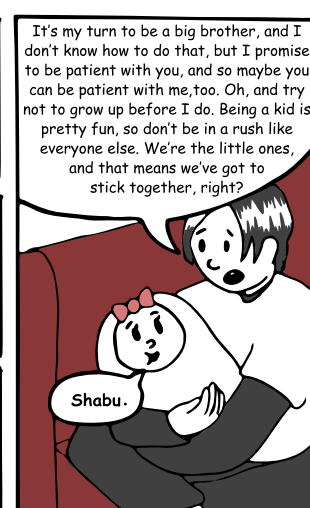
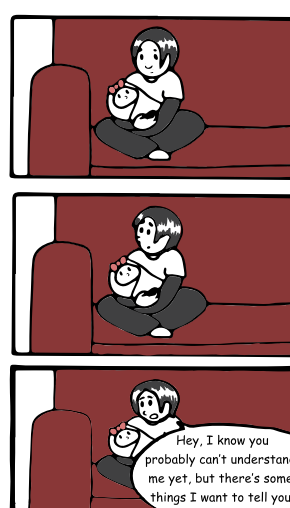


For whatever reason, this pull kept leading me to one place.

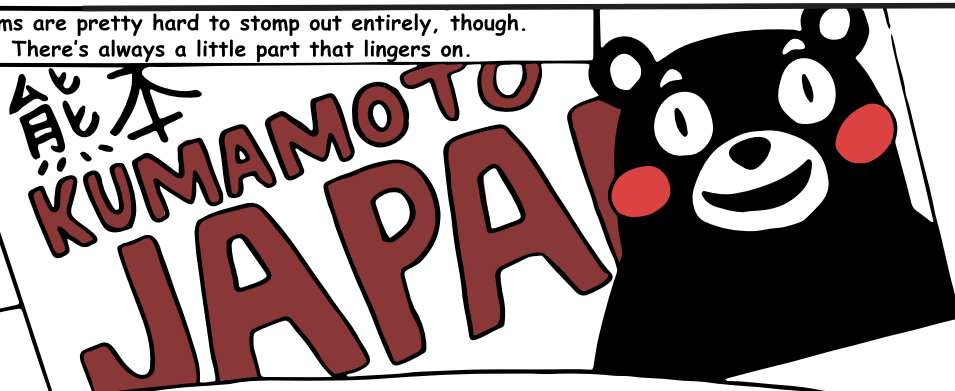
At first, learning about this far away place made me feel really special. Everyone else always seemed to know everything before me, but for once I knew something first. When I talked about it, for the first time in my life, I felt like people wanted to listen.



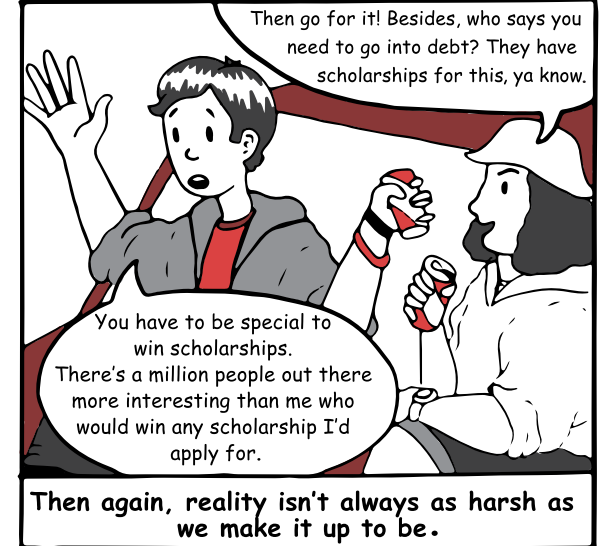
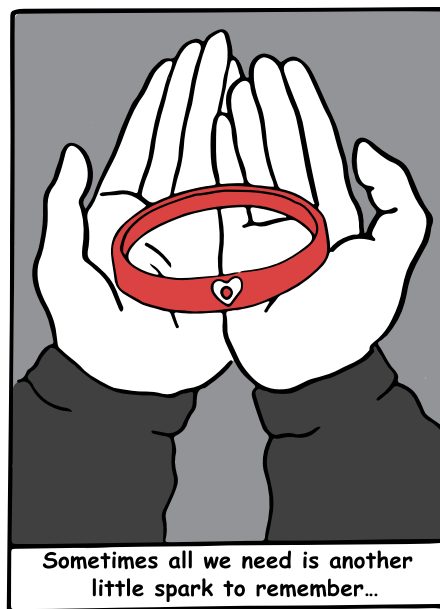
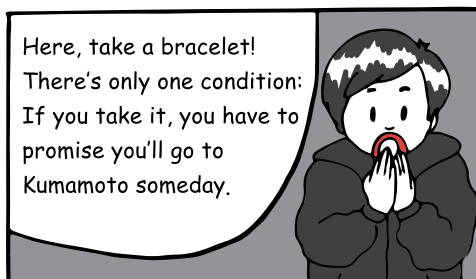
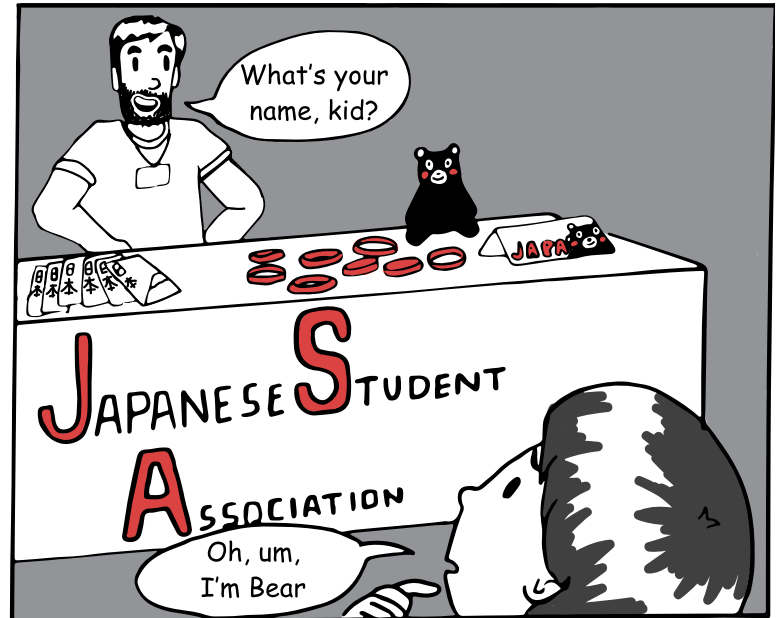
Of course, that high couldn't last forever. Reality sets in, things become mundane and we start putting things in boxes like "practical" or "impossible."

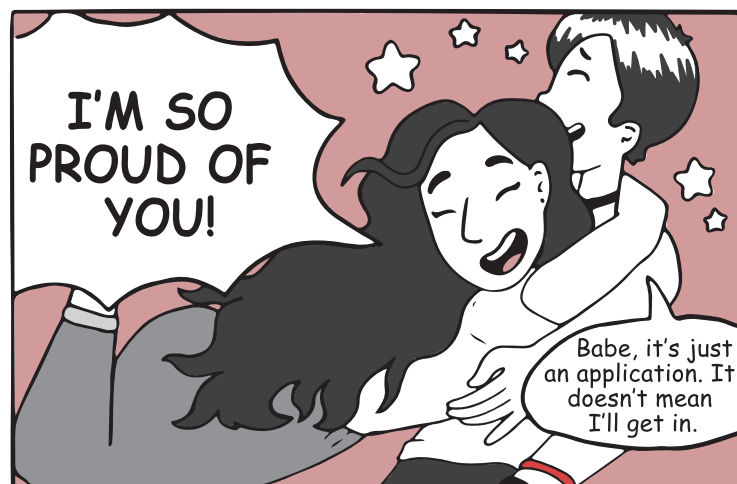
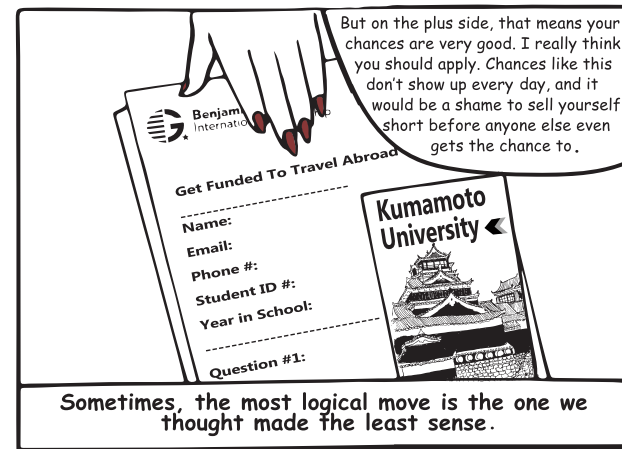


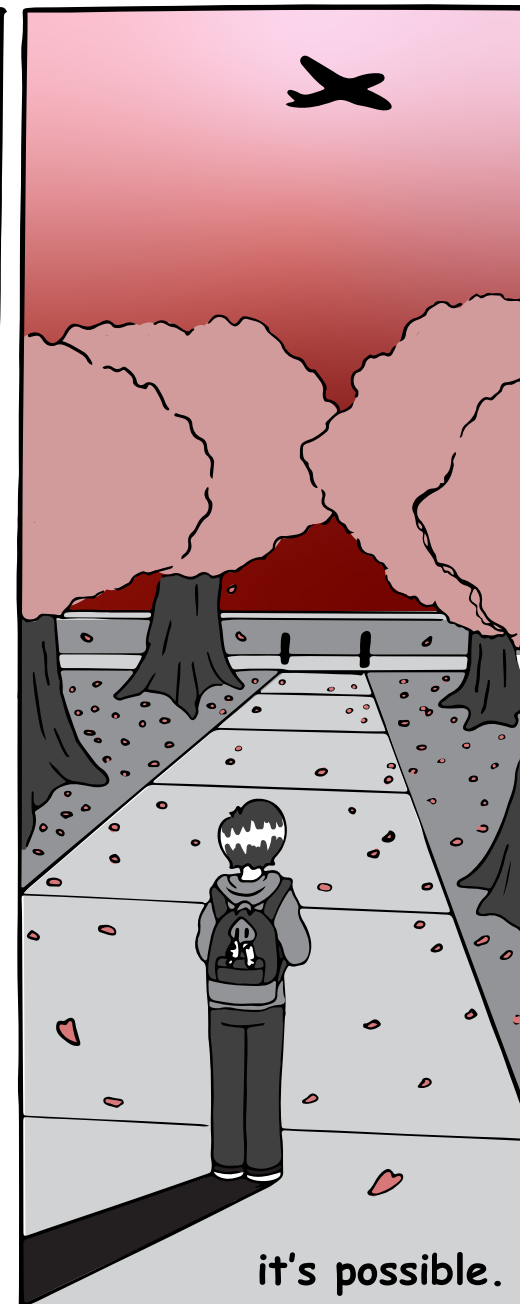
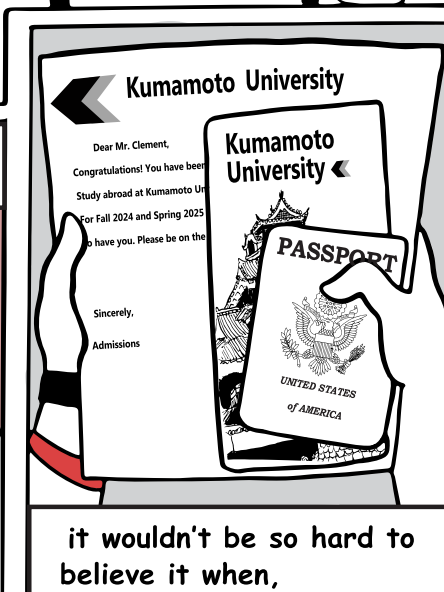
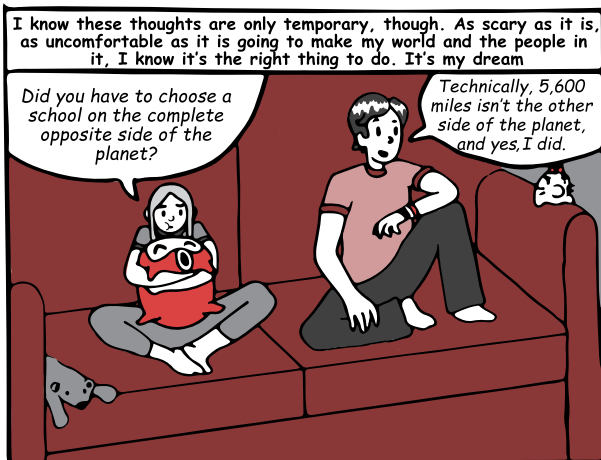
Dreams are pretty hard to stomp out entirely, though.
There's always a little part that lingers on.



The University of Montana has a long history with Japan. Set up by U.S. Senator and Ambassador to Japan, Mike Mansfield, along with his wife Maureen Mansfield in 1982, Montana has maintained a strong and meaningful sisterhood with Kumamoto, Japan, for over 3 decades. We've sent so many students to study abroad at Kumamoto University, and we've had even more come to study here at UM.







All I really need to know I learned from 'The Sims'

KEELY PROEBSTEL

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If you were born after 1990, there's a good chance your life has been impacted by "The Sims" series in some way. Starting with "The Sims" in 1999 and continuing into the present day with "The Sims 4" and its deluge of downloadable content, the franchise has had incalculable cultural reach. This year, the franchise celebrates its 25th anniversary.

"The Sims 2" came out in 2004, making it almost old enough to drink. I wouldn't get my hands on it until around 2007, still nearly five years off from the "T for Teen" rating on the box. From the moment I first heard of it, I spent every moment scheming to convince my parents that it was a worthy investment and completely age-appropriate, in that annoying way kids do. Beyond the promise of playing God in a (then) stylish and technologically advanced world, I knew there was something of great importance hidden somewhere in that game. I was right, kind of.

In the '80s, your grandparents might have read a book called "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." Well, all

I really need to know, I learned from "The Sims." While not as age-appropriate as child-me wanted my parents to believe, there's a trove of knowledge waiting to be discovered by young minds.

When I think about big life lessons that came from "The Sims" games, the first place my mind goes is the surprisingly progressive attitudes towards sexual orientation and gender identity. "The Sims 2" allowed for same-gender relationships, even enabling LGBTQIA+ Sims to marry (it was called a "civil partnership" but was identical to straight Sim marriage in all but name). "The Sims 3," released five years later in 2009, upgraded this to true, equal same-gender marriage, six years before same-gender marriage would be federally recognized in the United States. "The Sims 4," released in 2014, would see the series' first official, pre-made same-gender couple. In 2016, the game introduced its most revolutionary feature yet: Gender customization. This allowed players to create true transgender and non-binary Sims by customizing body frame, voice and pronouns, among other features. Since then, new franchise content has consistently fea-

tured LGBTQIA+ Sims.

That's not to say everything my generation learned from these games was enlightening and life-affirming. For many sheltered kids, "The Sims" was their first experience with death. As a child, I only knew people who had died of natural causes or from some health problem. "The Sims 2," however, was more than happy to show me that people die all the time. The first Sim I ever lost was devastating. I had spent hours creating her and her family, building and decorating their home and making their lives perfect. Then she died from a freak plumbing accident. I thought I understood how death worked; you got old or sick. Not only was I mourning my Sim, but I was also trying to process a horrifying truth about the world. I kept playing the game, but I didn't let my Sims take showers for a long time.

Not every lesson taught by "The Sims" franchise was taught in the games themselves. "The Sims 2" had 18 "expansions" over its lifetime, additional games that provided varying amounts of new content. "The Sims 3" had 20 pieces of additional content. On one particularly long road trip

in high school, I did the math on how much I had spent on "The Sims" games in my life, ignoring sales (and the fact that many of the expansions were gifts from my parents); it came out to around \$500 for "The Sims 2" and around \$700 for "The Sims 3." This is a terrible way for a child to spend money, no matter how much joy it brought me at the time. I remind myself of this every time I buy something for "The Sims 4" because, at this point, my relationship with the game is a bit Stockholm Syndrome-y. Greed is good, especially when you can convince your player base that their Sims really need to travel or own a horse.

Love, death and the perils of capitalism: all important things for a young child to learn about, especially from a video game. I'm being facetious, but not really; It's hard to imagine who I'd be without the "Sims" games. So, I raise my glass of non-alcoholic, T-rating-approved nectar to 20 years of "The Sims 2," 15 years of "The Sims 3" and 10 years of "The Sims 4." Hopefully by the time "The Sims 5" comes out, we'll have finally learned not to fall for the "extra content" trick.

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Overcoming COVID struggles, UM men's club Frisbee team returns stronger than ever

MAXWELL JOHNSON

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The University of Montana men's Ultimate Frisbee team, Smokejump, is back in full force this year after the team's numbers were devastated in 2021 when 18 players graduated and the pandemic caused recruitment issues. At one point, the club's numbers dwindled to single digits.

"We've had a lot of freshmen this year and the guys that have been here in the past are committed and in our last tournament we had 17 guys (out of a team total of over two dozen) which is two full lines plus some substitutes," team co-captain Oliver Jepson said. "Talking to our coaches and other guys who've been on the team longer, they can't remember the last time that's happened and that was just amazing to see, and it allowed us to win more games."

Despite being non-contact, the sport has

many similarities to football with teams alternating between playing offense and defense. Jepson coordinates the seven-man offense in a role not dissimilar from a quarterback. The other captain, Tyler Fritz, coordinates the seven-man defense, which plays systems similar to man-on-man and zone defense. As recently as last year, the team was coming to tournaments with as few as nine members, which forced most of the team to play both offense and defense for the entirety of the match against teams with fresh players.

"Last year, I think we won one game at the end of our season," coach Chaz Harris said. "This year in our first tournament of the spring, we won three games and we got third place in our tournament, which was the first tournament of the season. So, they have been vastly improving in the past year."

The coaching staff has credited much of the success to the sophomores who have

stepped into leadership roles and committed to improving their game outside of practices. The freshman class followed in their path and committed to learning the intricacies of a sport that many have no prior experience with.

"We're winning a lot more than we have in the past. That and that young core that came in last year has really upped the competitive level, and honestly just the chemistry of being friends and going out and doing extra work outside of practice and stuff. That's been a huge part of it," coach Ty Lynch said, who has been a part of the team for 10 years, half of those as a player and half as a coach.

One such rookie is 18-year-old freshman Timmy Glanville, who has committed himself to learning the surprisingly complex game.

"The plays and how you set up, who's throwing the disc, who's catching the disc,

who's cutting where, all that's really intricate, and a lot of people don't realize that. I didn't until I came out here," Glanville said. "All of that has been a big learning curve, but obviously the team's coaches are doing a really good job at allowing us to learn really well, so I'm having a great time."

For students new to UM like Glanville, the team provides community not only among team members, but also among the various ultimate Frisbee teams across the Pacific Northwest. When a team comes to Missoula, one of the club's members will often host it in their home. This favor is repaid when the team goes on the road.

After going through names such as River-rats, Bear-fight, and Stump, the team landed on Smokejump to celebrate Missoula's smokejumpers and help solidify its identity.

"The team has definitely become like a family for me, so if I leave them, it just kind of feels really awful," Fritz said.



Smokejump team member Riley Comstock sends the Frisbee down the field in a practice match of ultimate joined with the other University of Montana women's Frisbee team Pillowfight on March 14.

CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN



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Despite successful seasons, the men's and women's basketball teams fell short in the Big Sky Conference tournament

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Both the Griz men's basketball team and Lady Griz had successful regular seasons, but fell short in the Big Sky Conference Tournament held in Boise, Idaho, from March 9-13.

As the Griz went into its first game as the three seed, it clawed its way to a close 87-81 win over the number six seed Portland State University.

This win pushed Montana into the semi-final matchup against eight seed Idaho State University. This game was Montana's all the way, and it dominated Idaho State 72-58 to advance to the championship matchup against the Bobcats.

Montana State University and University of Montana's head coaches knew each other growing up, making this championship extra special for them. In the press conference after the game, Montana's head coach Travis DeCuire said if anyone were to win the tournament besides the Griz, he hoped it would be Matt Logie and his team.

The Brawl of the Wild rematch started out with both teams battling it out and trading the lead. The Griz had a six-point lead going into the second half, 38-32.

The second half was back-and-forth until Montana State went on a 14-point run and shut down Montana's opportunities to make anything happen offensively. The Griz were able to score more points, but not enough to get ahead of the Bobcats. Montana State took home the Big Sky Conference title.

This was Montana's first appearance in the championship since 2019. This was also the first season with Logie at the helm for MSU and his first conference tournament with the Bobcats.

The Bobcats earned the title and punched its ticket into the National Collegiate Athletic Association March Madness Tournament First Four. Montana had a better season overall, though, going 12-6 in conference play and 23-11 in the rest of the season. The Bobcats finished 17-18 on the season and 9-9 in conference. Montana won both regular season matchups between the two teams.

However, this loss wasn't the end of the Griz season as it is competing in the College Basketball Invitational.

Montana State went on to lose to Grambling State University in overtime of the First Four matchup, not making it into the March

Madness Round of 64. MSU made the Round of 64 the past two years before this. Montana has not appeared in March Madness since 2019.

The Lady Griz came into the Big Sky Conference tournament as the three seed after finishing with a 13-5 record in conference play. Its first opponent was the Idaho Vandals, who earned the six seed after going 8-10 in conference play. Montana knocked down six three-pointers as it built a 10-point lead at the half. The second half was even more Montana as the team tacked on 25 points in the third quarter en route to a 73-61 win over the Vandals. Maggie Espenmiller-McGraw's 15 points led the Lady Griz as it advanced to the semifinals to take on Northern Arizona University.

These two met twice in the regular season and split the season series as both teams won on the road. The Northern Arizona defense held Montana to just eight points in the first quarter on less than 20% shooting and an uncharacteristic 11% from beyond the arc.

Despite the slow start, the Lady Griz would find its offensive rhythm in the second quarter as it knocked down 21 points including nine from behind the three-point line. The Lumberjacks scored 25 points in the second quarter to extend its lead heading into halftime to 38-29.

Montana came out of the break looking like the dominant team it had all season long. The Lady Griz shot over 50% from the field and 40% from deep as the team gained momentum in Idaho Central Arena. It looked like a comeback was brewing when the Lady Griz outscored the 'Jacks 24-17 in the third quarter and entered the final quarter trailing by two.

With ten minutes to play and the season on the line, the shooting woes of the first quarter once again began to haunt Montana as it struggled to find the net. A mere one-for-five from beyond the arc and a lackluster 26% shooting from the field allowed the Lumberjacks to keep its lead. Northern Arizona knocked Montana out of the tournament with a score of 74-67.

Last Monday, the Lady Griz announced its entrance into the Women's National Invitation Tournament, where it will compete in a bracket of 48 teams from around the country, looking to claim a postseason championship. This is Montana's first national tournament in nine seasons, which is fitting after the historic season on the hardwood.

"That's another milestone that hasn't been done in a very long time," head coach Brian Holsinger said.

The Lady Griz had a historic season and are progressing towards dominance once again. Throughout the season, the Lady Griz had nine games with over 80 points scored and finished second in the country in three-pointers per game. The team in first place was Iowa, which has Caitlin Clark, the biggest star in college hoops. Montana marked another historic night against Sacramento State in the regular season when it made 19 three-pointers in forty minutes of play, a new Lady Griz record.

Montana graduates three athletes after this postseason comes to an end. Gina Marxen, Espenmiller-McGraw and Carmen GFeller will play their final games for Montana in the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

Both Montana teams fell short in the conference tournament, but are playing in postseason tournaments and already preparing for next year.



Laolu Oke burns the net with a dunk in the University of Montana men's basketball team's first game in the Big Sky Conference Tournament on March 11. The Griz took the win over the Portland State University Vikings 87-81, advancing to the semi-final matchup against the number eight seed Idaho State University. **SOPHIA WARD | MONTANA KAMIN**

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UM honors Hank Green's impact

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY EMILY MESSER
emily.messer@umontana.edu

The College of Arts and Media celebrated Hank Green's impact on the multimedia community by presenting him with an award during the Odyssey of Our Stars fundraiser hosted at the Montana Theatre on March 9.

Hank Green is a well-known video creator, author, mentor, educator and alumnus of the University of Montana. In partnership with the University, Green has hired and worked with more than 30 students in CAM's programs throughout the years.

The Odyssey of Our Stars is a yearly event held by the College of Arts and Media to honor past alumni and their contributions to the multimedia community. This year's production included a piece by Shakespeare, short films, live music and choreographed dances presented by students across the college.

John Shaffner, a well-known production designer, hosted the event with conversations and jokes on stage between student performances. Past alumni who were inspired by and worked with Green collaborated on a video that followed the student showcase.

UM President Seth Bodnar and CAM Co-Deans Jennifer Cavanaugh and Michael Musick all spoke, thanking the donors in attendance, and Bodnar presented Green with his honors.

"You help our students pursue their dreams and shape a better world through their craft and perspectives," Cavanaugh and Musick said.

Green provided an emotional and heartfelt speech thanking CAM and the students he's worked with, then engaged with students in the lobby after the event.



ABOVE: Hank Green, center, University of Montana President Seth Bodnar, right, and College of Arts and Media Co-Dean Jennifer Cavanaugh, left, pose for a celebratory photo after Green was presented with his award on March 9.



LEFT: Starting from left to right, Audrey Stenhouse, Anthony Maturey, Blake Sowers, Aiden Kelly, Jaclyn Kleinsasser and Kairi Lising perform act three, scene one of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on March 9. The Odyssey of Our Stars highlighted multiple opportunities available at the College of Arts and Media.

FAR LEFT: John Shaffner, a production designer who once was featured as a commencement speaker at the University of Montana, was the emcee for the evening production of the Odyssey of Our Stars honoring Hank Green and fundraising for the College of Arts and Media on March 9.