

MONTANA KAIMIN

GREEN IS THE NEW MAROON

For one track athlete, his high school uniform once represented the pressure to win. Now it represents freedom.

Story by Mackenna Gleave and Will Thomas



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Cover photo by Renna Al-Haj

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Kiosk



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

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For comments, corrections or letters to the editor, contact

emily.tschetter@umontana.edu
or call (406) 243-4310.

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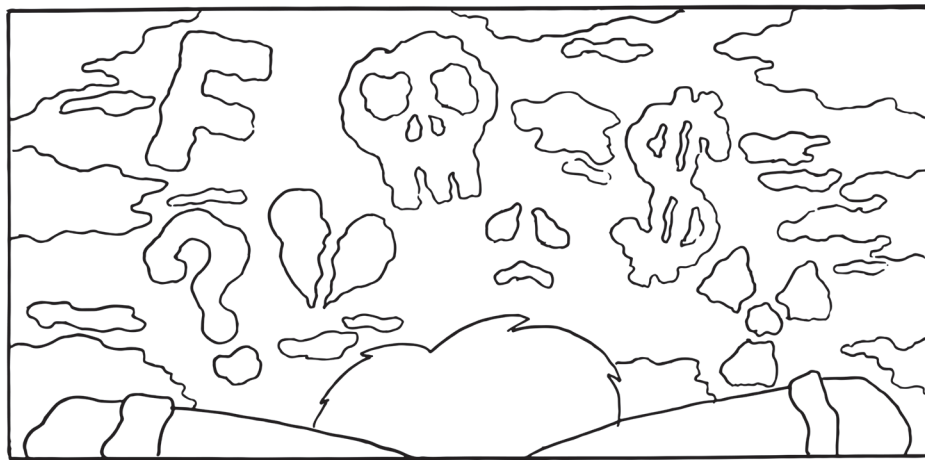


This week, check out Lotus Porte-Moyel's episode about inclusion in the hunting community.



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KAIMIN KOMICS: SE 1 EP 8



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

BARRETT

Dear foresters: Bring back the kidnapping!

When the Foresters' Ball came back from a two-year long hiatus, last year's Chief Push Mason Banks said he wanted it to return with less baggage and a more welcoming culture.

COVID-19 stole many traditions from the ball's storied history, some more missed than others. The story-high slide was a tough show to put on even with a full-cast of seasoned ball throwers. The passion pit, where "newlyweds" "consummated" their marriage, is best left forgotten.

But there's one tradition we simply can't let go, even if it's just because of how ridiculous and relatively harmless it was. Foresters, you need to kidnap some law students.

For those not in the know, the Foresters' Ball is a staple event that's been around the University of Montana for over a century. With it comes a season of tomfoolery that gets people in the log-shucking mood, which is sometimes more memorable than the ball itself.

The main event people think of is the

kidnapping of Bertha the Moose, a hulking 60-pound-bust hung proudly in the forestry school at UM since the 1920s. Plenty of factions have attempted to pirate her when the ball season comes around over the years, but none have been as relentless as the law students. Thank goodness they are generous kidnappers; shortly after thieving Bertha in the dead of night, law students like to take her to Red's Bar to show her a good time.

What people might not realize is that up until a few years ago, the foresters had a kidnapping target of their own: the president of the Student Bar Association.

It last happened in 2020. The SBA president was blindfolded with a handkerchief and carted to the center of the Oval in a bright orange wheelbarrow. The president was guarded by a chainsaw-wielding forester until the hostage exchange later that day, when the SBA president was returned for Bertha's homecoming to the forestry school.

The "secret," of course, is that the SBA president and Chief Push, the student

leader of the Foresters' Ball committee, are both in on it. When asked last year if we'd see the then-president of the SBA tied up, they both gave a coy, "we'll see."

Alas, when Boondocker's Day came, a yearly event where foresters show off their skills in the center of campus and await Bertha's return, they didn't have a blindfolded barrister. Instead, they had a carved wooden bear bust with "SBA" scrawled across the chest, which Banks held at saw-point.

It was still pretty cool. But it'd be even cooler if it was a law student.

The decision to let some shenanigans go for the sake of efficiency and cultural progress is honorable – it's 2024, we don't always need to uphold traditions for tradition's sake. We also don't blame the current committee, which is throwing together a massive event with only one working year's experience under its belt.

The Foresters' Ball may not exist today without the dutiful work of each generation, pruning unsavory practices to make room for new ones. Clinging to the past is

not our goal.

But the Foresters' Ball is pure Montana camp. It's a place to embrace the bizarre and homegrown strangeness of our state and redefine it as our own. Where else are we going to see Seth Bodnar chucking cowpies, getting fake-married on a whim and building a miniature village in just a few nights? As long as we're staying safe, it's important to stay weird.

So, stay weird! Devise more evil plans to disrupt the law school with pine cones. Find more chances to shun the silk and don the flannel. Find the SBA president, and (with their permission) shuttle them around in a wheelbarrow!

Because if the Foresters' Ball isn't strange, daring and a testament to the culture, where foresters can show off their love, skill and thrills, then what is the Foresters' Ball even for?

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



Soup 'n' squash

Anastasia Orkwiszewski, the University of Montana's gardens manager, pours homemade winter squash soup for students to enjoy some fresh and local garden produce in the middle of winter. Orkwiszewski handed out free soup and squash pie at the University Center on Jan. 25. **AVA ROSVOLD | MONTANA KAIMIN**

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

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

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Briefs & Blotter

Class-action lawsuit against UM dismissed, highest suicide rates in MT found in Indigenous communities, Attorney General sued after keeping abortion rights off ballot

CLAIRE BERNARD
claire.bernard@umontana.edu

CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT AGAINST UM'S MISHANDLING OF TUITION PAYMENTS DISMISSED

On Jan. 22, a jury found the University of Montana was not responsible in a class-action lawsuit for mishandling student tuition payments and violating students' privacy.

The suit, first filed in 2016 and certified for class-action in 2019, involved UM's contract from 2010 to 2015 with Higher One, a third-party company that outsourced students' financial aid and tuition transfers.

Former students claimed they were overcharged extra fees when using designated Higher One debit cards and that UM sharing personal financial information violated their privacy. Around 39,000 students received debit cards from the company to make their payments to the University.

The jury, however, found UM committed no wrongdoing because it did not "fail to act in the best interest" of former students who received loan refunds. The jury also found UM did not violate privacy rights since Montana law states personal information from educational records can be shared with contractors as long as the company being contracted [Higher One] was providing an institutional service for UM.

"UM is pleased with the results of this trial," Dave Kuntz, UM spokesperson told the Missoulian.

STUDY FINDS INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN MONTANA HAVE HIGHEST SUICIDE RATES

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention ranked Montana as having the third-worst suicide death rate out of all U.S. states in 2020, with 10% of all suicide deaths in the state from 2017 to 2021 occurring within Indigenous communities.

Indigenous people represent around 6.5% of the state's population, but suicide rates remain high. The CDC finds non-Hispanic Indigenous people have higher rates of suicide than any other racial or ethnic group.

According to the Montana Free Press, this is because national strategies for suicide prevention aren't sensitive to Indigenous communities' values and culture.

This, combined with a lack of funding and resources for Indigenous people due to systemic inequalities and issues, can hurt suicide prevention in communities.

The higher rate and risk of suicide in Indigenous communities is a complex issue. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, many factors contribute to mental health issues, including generational trauma, health issues and increased risks of poverty, unemployment and homelessness.

UM has 613 self-identified Indigenous students, according to the Fall 2023 census report.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, contact the Student Advocacy Resource Center at (406) 243-4429, Curry Health Counseling at (406) 243-4712, or the national suicide lifeline at 988; to reach the Native and Strong Lifeline press 4.

PROPOSERS FOR ABORTION ON THE BALLOT FILE LAWSUIT AGAINST ATTORNEY GENERAL

Pro-choice advocates pushing to place abortion rights on the '24 ballot filed a lawsuit in the Montana Supreme Court after Attorney General Austin Knudsen shut down the measure on Jan. 16.

Knudsen shut down the measure during the legal sufficiency review this month, which determines what measures can go on the November ballot.

Attorneys for the group argue Knudsen's assertion that the proposal "limits the ability of the state to provide for public health and safety" and "logrolls multiple distinct political choices into a single initiative" is not true.

Instead, the attorneys argue Constitutional Initiative 14 focuses solely on abortion in a "comprehensive way: establishing and outlining the right, then securing it from government interference," according to the lawsuit.

If voters approved protecting the right to abortion in Montana, it would add the right specifically to the Montana Constitution, preventing government regulation and interference with abortion.

MONTANA SUPREME COURT DENIES STATE'S REQUEST TO PAUSE HELD V. MONTANA CLIMATE DECISION

The Montana Supreme Court rejected state officials' request to pause the ruling

in Held v. Montana, which found the state in violation of Montana's constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment, on Jan. 16.

The case, decided by District Court Judge Kathy Seeley last August, included 16 young plaintiffs, some University of Montana students.

Despite the state asking for a pause in the case to prepare an appeal, the Supreme Court ruled 5-2 against, saying Judge Seeley didn't abuse the court's power, nor did the state "provide good cause to disturb its ruling," according to court documents.

The state argued the ruling should clarify how to analyze greenhouse gas emissions and climate impacts in construction projects because it can be difficult to determine how much they are harming the environment.

This is the second time the state has asked for a pause, following last month's request from Gov. Greg Gianforte and several state departments, including environmental quality, transportation and natural resources and conservation.

POLICE BLOTTER

SAV CHAVEZ
savannah.chavez@umontana.edu

Students didn't hesitate to fall back into old habits this semester. Stealing bikes and party rockin' has begun to grace campus with their presence once again. When will the plague of runaway bikes and mysterious vomit piles leave this University? From Jan. 19 to Jan. 25, the University of Montana Police Department responded to 11 crimes.

SATURDAY 1/20 - CAUGHT RED-HANDED

On Saturday, Jan. 20, there were not one, but two reports of party animals on UM's campus having fun...maybe too much fun. At 1 a.m., UMPD made a guest appearance at one of Craig Hall's 19-year-old student's door to have a cute little chat. The student was in possession of a bottle of silly juice, alcohol, and has since been referred to conduct. Earlier the night before, around 10:00 p.m., UMPD paid a visit to Miller Hall, where they greeted a 20-year-old student with a certain medicinal herb. News flash, your weed still stinks up the hall even if you can't smell it. The student has also been given the privilege of a conduct referral.

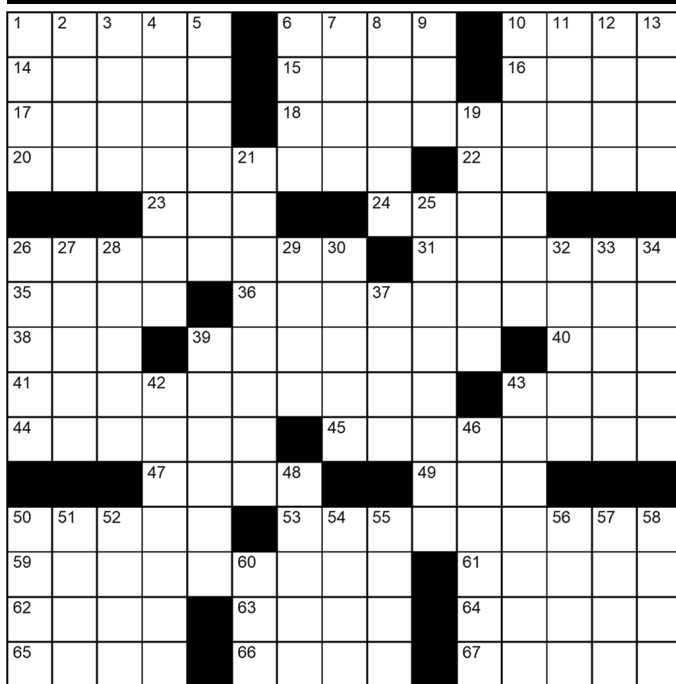
SATURDAY 1/20 - A STICKY SITUATION

It was the night of Saturday, Jan. 20, when tragedy struck Miller Hall. While walking the eerie halls, a student spotted it: someone's partially digested dinner resting on the floor. The crime scene was placed in the hands of an unlucky janitor who was sent the work order to clean it. The following day, another dinner was lost to the carpets of a residence hall; this time Craig Hall fell victim. At 1 a.m., a resident assistant stumbled across the nauseating scene and again, submitted a work order for another tired janitor to come clean the soiled floors.

MONDAY 1/22 - RUNAWAY BIKE

On Monday, Jan. 22, a student reached out to UMPD to report a magic trick their bike performed over break. It disappeared from Jesse Hall and ran into the night, never to be seen again, a tale as old as time that continues to haunt this University. But this is only one of two reports of bike theft. On Tuesday, Jan. 23, a student reported their bike had also disappeared from Craig Hall and ran into the night. Could they have run away together? Could they be in love? We may never know.

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Open 6a-6p M-F
7a-6p S-S



ACROSS

- 1 Heron or flamingo
6 Vaulted recess
10 "Arf!" equivalent
14 Positive pole
15 Palindromic time
16 Skin soother
17 Pub offering
18 Treat, as meat
20 For each person
22 Pumps and clogs
23 Have a bug
24 Evaluate
26 Glasgow's home
31 Pressured, with "on"
35 Crafted on a loom
36 Bird in a holiday song
38 Ginger ____
39 Pitching style
40 Fly catcher
41 Albania's northern neighbor
43 Force
44 As originally placed
45 Ones who have class
47 Shoe style
49 Nothing
50 Like new dollar bills
53 Without consideration
59 Tipping point
61 Dance around, as an issue
62 Lascivious look
63 Qatar's continent
64 Twilled fabric
65 Jury member
66 Lean (on)
- 67 Took a shot at
- DOWN
- 1 Big stinger
2 Neat anagram
3 Way out
4 What teachers do
5 Consumers' price
6 Nay sayer
7 Yeats or Keats
8 Whale finder
9 Call off
10 ICBM part
11 Varied mixture
12 Move like molasses
13 Bank charges
19 Respect
21 Record sales status
25 Versatile
26 Mystic
27 List introducer
- 28 Hot spots
29 Artist's subject
30 Bottom of the barrel
32 Bad kind of situation
33 Calendar entry
34 Unpaid bills
37 Like some apples
39 Frame jobs
42 Bettor's adviser
43 Keep promises
46 Dump, as stocks
48 Prize money
50 Hoofbeat sound
51 See red
52 Vacation destination
54 Picture holder
55 Traveling
56 Madras dress
57 Periphery
58 Monopoly card
60 La Brea goo

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

THE Sopranos-o-scope

EMILY TSCHETTER
emily.tschetter@umontana.edu

You want some of that...hehe...GaBaGOoL? *Aggressive Italian hands* Well you're in luck, because HBO's 25th anniversary marketing campaign for "The Sopranos" is working, and Gen Z is enhancing the all-time great drama with an unrelenting barrage of memes that never get old. If you're bingeing the show, you may be wondering who you'd be in the Jersey mob mess. Look no further than the stars to find out (spoiler alert through season four)!

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18): You're the Soprano family's best new boy, Christopher, and you're proving you can do it all. But oh, marone, heroin isn't going to solve your identity crisis and need for others' approval. Take the rehab time you need and don't beat yourself up for suffocating a dog with your ass, messy king.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): You're the OG gourmet chef, Artie Bucco. You may feed the crime family, but don't get into it yourself, you sensitive soul. Putting \$50K into a fancy-ass wine venture wasn't the best idea, but we know your heart was in the right place. Stick with the burrata and string beans, capiche?

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Let's face it: You're a kinky, slimy weirdo and that's okay. As Ralph, you were out here getting pegged before it was cool and you do whatever the fuck you want — even when it gets you whacked by the big boss. But don't stop yourself there, lose the toupee and let your freak flag fly forever! #FreeTheBald

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Being stubborn is a lifestyle. Therefore, you're Uncle Junior. You refuse to die of cancer or massive head trauma, give up the family secrets, stay in jail or even face consequences for trying to take out your nephew. We don't know how you do it, but goddamn it's impressive. Keep doing you, boo!

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): As the master of betrayal, Gem, you're Salvatore "Big Pussy" Bonpensiero. In the name of your future, you committed the biggest sin of all: spilling your guts to the Feds. Look where it got you, sleeping with the fishes (literally.) Tsk-tsk.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Cancer, you're the one we all simp over: Dr. Jennifer Melfi. Sure, you're objectively shitty at your job for vicariously living through your mafia client and lowkey wanting to fuck him, but you're still an icon. Can all of us really say we wouldn't do the same thing in your stilettos?

Fuhgeddaboutit.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): You're the biggest duck-loving motherfucker himself, Tony Soprano. As a goomah-chasing, cigar-smoking and Prozac-taking mob man, you always knew you would be THAT bitch. Enjoy the plot-armor, hopefully you apply your leadership skills to something altruistic. Doesn't sound as sexy though, huh?

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): You're mother herself, Virgo. As Carmela, you're the only one who can keep your shit together, and we're proud of you for making some money moves for yourself every so often. We just hope you find that Italian stallion you deserve, queen, because your hubby is more than a little bit scummy.

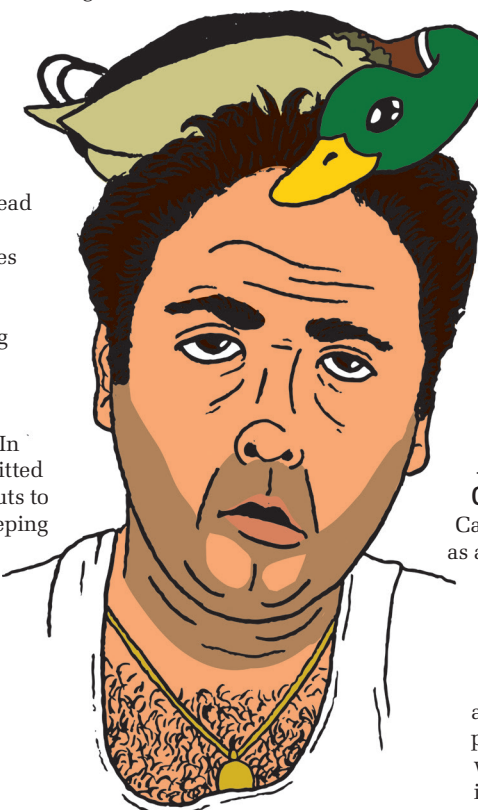
LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): As one of the most romantic signs, you're that girl always chasing relationships, Janice. When it gets hairy, you shoot 'em, when it gets too kinky, you dump 'em and when their spouse dies, you pounce. Let's be real: your selfishness makes you straight up suck sometimes, but you're still entertaining as hell.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Scorpio, it's only natural that you're one of the most hated characters in T.V. history, Livia Soprano. Hateful, morose, narcissistic and definitely faking dementia, your gaslighting

skills all came together to make you straight EVIL, dude. At least after the failed plot to kill your son, you got what you asked for all along: Death :).

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): You're just a straight up sweetie pie, bro. You're the walking calzone himself, Bobby, the always patient, generous and kind mafia soldier. You're too good for this lifestyle, and the loss of your wife and father in the span of three episodes had us all crying in the club. You can have my baked ziti anytime, Sag <3.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Capricorn, you're often described as a work-horse, so naturally, you're Tony's one true love, Pie-O-My the race horse. You fought with all your might through injury to bring in the big bucks, and you died in an arsonist's blaze after living a life of glory. You persevered even when the odds were 8-1, and your ambition is inspirational to us all. R.I.P.



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Breaking the contract: the struggle to move off campus

CORBIN VANDERBY
corbin.vanderby@umontana.edu

Shared bathrooms, small dorms and random roommates make up the typical first-year college experience for students at the University of Montana. But for sophomore Kenadee King, living in the dorms was an anxiety-riddled nightmare.

“Not having my own space threw me for a whirlwind,” said King, a pre-athletic training major at UM.

When King decided to move out of Turner Hall in September 2022, she expected to fill out some paperwork since she’d signed a contract when she first moved in. But what she didn’t expect? Waiting a month and a half due to the large amount of work required to break the contract during the school year.

“Releases from a contract are not automatic, even given extraordinary circumstances,” Melissa Neidigh, associate director of operations at UM Housing, said, “because you’ve signed that contract for the academic year.”

When students sign up to live in a residence hall they must sign a contract and put down a \$300 pre-payment that can be added to a student’s tuition bill. The contract outlines basic agreements and states the housing term is set for the entire academic year. Any cancellations of the contract will charge the student another \$100 if filed before 5 p.m. on March 1, or another \$200 if filed after that date.

The refund policy for housing also states if the contract is canceled seven days before move-in, the student will get a 100% refund of their room and board, but with each week the percentage will lower until after 43 days, where no refund will be given.

In fall 2023, UM had 1,787 students living on campus, with 76% of them being first-years. The average price of on-campus living per year is around \$5,909.50. With 1,787 students living on campus, UM could have made up to \$10 million off campus living this year alone, and could lose up to \$7 million if freshmen weren’t required to live on campus.

King, a 20-year-old from Nampa, Idaho, was about a month into her freshman life at the residence halls when she realized her anxiety, coupled with the lack of privacy, made dorm life a poor fit for her.

However, because King was a traditional first-year student at UM, this made moving out much harder.

UM requires any student with less than 30 college credits, not counting high school advanced placement credits, to live on campus due to a Montana University System Policy. Because of this, when King went to UM Housing to break her contract, it wouldn’t allow her unless she got a signed letter from a parent or legal guardian approving the request on top of the standard paperwork. The only way to get out of the letter from a legal guardian is to be over 20 years old.

“It was a lot of paperwork just to get out,” King said. “I was 19 at the time; my parents don’t care where I live. [My mom] had to take time from her job just to do it.”

The form for breaking the housing contract requires simple identification like a name and ID, but also requires a letter from the student explaining why they should be released, a letter from a parent if the student is a freshman and a reason for the request. The reasons provided on the form include medical, deciding to live with family,

financial hardship and deciding to live in Greek life housing, with each reason requiring extra documentation to prove it. After completing the steps for the form, UM Housing can take up to two weeks to decide and have the right to deny any request.

King marked the medical reason box due to her anxiety. But this meant she had to go to UM’s Office of Disability Equity to receive proof of her anxiety. After this, King waited a month without hearing anything from ODE or UM Housing. When King finally went to the Housing Office, they told her ODE had lost her paperwork and King had to wait until they found it. After a month-and-a-half of waiting, King

said the whole process just made her anxiety even worse.

“Honestly, it just felt like they did not care,” King said. “Our school is very big on mental health, but they didn’t care how I was feeling.”

King has now shared a house with a few friends since she moved out her freshman year. Having her own private space and helpful friends has helped reduce some of her anxiety.

“I live with such a great group,” King said. “I absolutely love it. It was a great choice for me.”

UM freshman Finn Riley has lived in

Knowles Hall since August 2023. Although he has found some he dislikes, he said so far he has no plans to move out.

“It’s been pretty good as an exercise of living on my own,” Riley said. “But there’s definitely pros and cons. I share the dorm with, I don’t know how many people, and have to shower with shoes on but my commute to go anywhere is only like 10 minutes.”

“Honestly, it just felt like they did not care. Our school is very big on mental health, but they didn’t care how I was feeling.”

- Kenadee King, UM sophomore

Neidigh agreed and said there are many advantages for students.

“Living on campus has a clear and profound impact on the student persistence and engagement,” Neidigh said.

A study conducted on students at San Diego State University found 90% of students who lived on campus their first two years continued on in their degree, while only 70% of those who moved off campus their first year continued.

Other colleges, however, don’t require freshmen to live on campus, like the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which also has a website dedicated to helping students find off-campus housing.

“Some people love it and some people hate it,” King said. “But if you don’t like it you should be able to leave.”

For more information on UM Housing contracts and release forms, visit www.umt.edu/housing/rh/release

'Culture shift': the impact of Title IX reviews

ELLE DANIEL

elle.daniel@umontana.edu

As part of a recent lawsuit settlement, the University of Montana committed to a year-long federal Title IX review. The lawsuit accused the University of mistreating female employees. Eighteen plaintiffs settled for \$350,000 along with a call for improved Title IX processes, but this upcoming investigation isn't the first review UM has undergone. Here's how former Title IX investigations impacted the University, and what students and staff can expect from the next one.

The last federal Title IX review, in 2012, started after multiple allegations that UM, Missoula police and the Missoula County Attorney's office mishandled sexual assault reports from multiple students at UM. The United States Department of Justice launched the investigation to determine if the University and Missoula police mishandled accusations.

Ali Pepper, a volunteer researcher training with the Student Advocacy Resource Center at the time, recalled the investigation outcomes sparking motivation for new training. Working closely with former SARC director Drew Colling, Pepper developed and implemented the bystander training now mandatory for all new students at UM.

"Even after the DOJ resolution was resolved, we continued to do trainings," Pepper said. Pepper now directs equity, empowerment and prevention at UM. "Coming out of the DOJ and the resolution agreements, that was a tough time. It's challenging when an external agency comes in. There was so much criticism of UM, but through that process at the University...we became a much better institution."

Chris Croft, operations lieutenant at the University of Montana Police Department, served as liaison for the Justice Department. A detective at the time, Croft ensured UMPD met investigation timelines and completed training.

In a letter to former UM President Royce Engstrom, the Justice Department said the University's Office of Public Safety "does not adequately respond to reports of sexual assault, and that its policies and training related to sexual assault response are insufficient, if not nonexistent."

To improve, UM law enforcement was required to adopt a victim-centered response for handling of sexual assault crimes without discrimination.

"There was a lot of impact in a lot of different ways," Croft said. "Just a culture shift in how law enforcement approached victim-centered services, and you know, becoming a

better asset to victims and our community."

Campus police received updated training in every aspect of law enforcement, including first response procedures, forensics data collection and victim interviews.

Croft said UMPD recognized "best practices" for approaching sex-based crimes.

"You don't know what you don't know until we were presented with these different ways to proceed, victim-centered interviewing being one of the biggest ones," he said.

According to the United Nations, the core principles for a victim-centered approach value safety, respect, confidentiality, non-discrimination, support, prevention and informed consent.

"That was kind of the biggest shift in how we approached this and how we thought about these types of crimes," Croft said.

Not all Title IX investigations have been on the heels of criminal cases, however. In 2019, Pepper and then Vice Provost Sarah Swager applied to the Culture of Respect for a voluntary review.

Culture of Respect is an initiative created by the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education in 2013, after parents with college-aged students became worried about sexual assault rates on campus.

The review took three years, with a short delay due to COVID-19 shutdowns. Pepper, who oversaw the review, said the energy was different from the 2012 investigation.

"This wasn't a reactive effort," Pepper said. "This was a proactive effort, where we can look at what we're doing and how we can be even better."

The review involved multiple UM departments, including SARC, Title IX and UMPD. Pepper also collaborated with former SARC director Jen Euell to create Sexual Awareness Month at UM.

The departments reviewed what Culture of Respect calls the "six pillars": survivor support, clear policies, multi-tiered education, public disclosure, school-wide mobilization and ongoing self-assessments. Each element targets a different area where campus support and awareness can be bolstered. After a pre-assessment, Culture of Respect provided a report detailing areas of improvement and recommendations for how to do so.

Pepper noted growth in the Clery Act, which requires universities to update students and staff on crimes and campus safety, something Pepper called "Clery geography." Infographics were created by Pepper, UMPD and Clery compliance professional Kelly Magnuson to clarify the Clery Act's range on campus.

"It's about informing people, it's about

helping them understand 'Clery geography,'" Pepper said. "There's areas of our community that the University owns that would be considered part of Clery that people might not be aware of."

Other efforts included supporting diverse voices and talking about sex-based crime prevention and response. To encourage participation, students who collaborated with the University were compensated. Campus climate surveys, questionnaires designed to keep track of diversity and racial equity, also increased.

"Title IX was very much involved, in so many different ways," Pepper said, explaining Title IX developed training for not just students, but staff as well. Pepper aimed to educate new staff members on sexual harassment prevention and awareness.

During that time, the Office on Violence Against Women awarded a three-year, \$300,000 grant to UM's Prevention Education Anti-Violence Collaborative Effort. The project encouraged ongoing self-assessment among departments, developing new training and strengthening campus awareness.

The upcoming Title IX investigation will bring in an external third party for the review, and unlike 2012 will focus primarily on University faculty. Pamela Altmaier, deputy Title IX coordinator, said the review will "reinforce the positive reforms that are already underway." The review could take up to a year and recommendations will be given to UM if any violations are found. The cost will be based on fees set by the third-party reviewer.



Spring Semester

OPENINGS

for

SENATOR SEATS

The seats are filling up fast and appointments will be made on a first come first serve basis, so get applications in ASAP.



History of Title IX Investigations

- 2012 Department of Justice Review**
 - Started mandatory bystander training
 - Centered UMPD response on victim-based approach
- 2019 Internal Review**
 - Provided clarification on the Clery Act
 - Increased campus climate surveys
- 2024 External Federal Review Goals**
 - Focus on employee and staff resources
 - Simplify reporting to HR & Title IX

MCKENNA JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

GREEN IS THE MAROON

Putting it
on six years
into college,
Green's
high school
uniform takes
on a whole
new meaning

Story by Mackenna Gleave
and Will Thomas

Jaydon Green, a college track athlete from Boise, Idaho, holds onto a hurdle in front of him. Even though both of Green's parents went to Montana State University, Green fell in love with the University of Montana during talks to join the track and field team with former head coach Brian Schweyen.

RENNAL-HAJ | MONTANA KAIMIN



NEW

THE RACE STARTS AT 2:15 P.M. with the top eight fastest athletes from the preliminaries earlier in the day competing. The final race for the men's 60-meters hurdle race starts at the same time. Jaydon Green, a sixth-year athlete attending the University of Montana, lines up in lane three.

It's Jan. 20, day two of the Lauren McCluskey Memorial Open in the Kibbie Dome in Moscow, Idaho. The smell of sweat and rubber hangs thick.

Green and his former teammate, Carter Peterson, take the track with the other six athletes about five minutes before the race begins. Each runner sets his blocks and takes a couple run-throughs on the first few hurdles.

Two athletes stand out from the lineup, the only two with a jersey not representing a university: Stephen Pittman in a black and gold jersey and Green, who sports a forest green jersey with "MT VIEW" across his chest.

Green stares down the lane at the five hurdles in front of him as the official signals, "On your mark."

Green makes minor adjustments before he finally relaxes his head. He's the last to get set on the blocks.

The gun fires, and the runners shoot out of their blocks, barreling down the track.

Green and another runner from the University of Idaho in lane four pull away from the rest of the heat after the first hurdle, extending their lead over the next four.

He crosses the finish line in his neon pink spikes, coming in second place after a tight race with only a 0.07-second difference.

To an outsider, he's a funny sight: a sixth-year athlete wearing a jersey from an Idaho high school, screaming down the track against his former teammate. To people in the know, he's not all that special. Unattached athletes are common at any public event, including competitive college athletics like this indoor track meet.

But to Green, he's doing what he never thought he could. The uniform is a reminder of some of his worst years. His career-altering injury, his self-hatred and an unrelenting need to win.

And now, crossing the finish line, a beaming smile stretches across his face.

The sense of pride blooming in his chest is a surprise.

Running unattached after he ran out of eligibility is also proving something to himself. Green would have to appreciate the outcomes for himself and be proud of what he's accomplished, something he wasn't used to in his high school jersey.

Getting to year six

Track and field athletes are given four years of both indoor and outdoor track eligibility, which are counted as separate seasons, according to the NCAA rulebook.

Green, a 23-year-old Boise resident, started competing at the collegiate level in 2019, putting him among the group of athletes who would face COVID-19 disruptions. The NCAA granted an extra year of eligibility to athletes who lost seasons to the pandemic.

He then took a medical redshirt, a year athletes can take after getting a doctor's approval of "incapacitating physical or mental circumstances". Green took his during the from outdoor season due to a leg injury he was still battling following the 2021 indoor season.

Since Green missed one season of indoor competition and two seasons of outdoor competition, his remaining eligibility included two seasons of indoor and three seasons of outdoor competition.

After exhausting his indoor eligibility at the end of the 2023 season, Green was no longer allowed to run for the University of Montana for indoor competitions.

That left him with two options: either skip the indoor season and prepare for his last season of outdoor competition with Montana, or compete as an unattached athlete during the 2024 indoor season.

Green chose to compete. Indoor competitions keep athletes in shape and give them a chance to compete in a few low-stake scenarios before outdoor competitions. Indoor events typically have fewer events and some shorter races compared to outdoor competitions. Events like the hurdles only have one 60-meter race at an indoor competition instead of two races at 400 meters and 110 meters in outdoor.

Due to his eligibility, though, Green doesn't represent a school and competes on his own dime. He's in it for himself, he said.

"It's given me a new perspective and, like, it's pushed me to be, I guess, a more self-sufficient athlete but it's... it's just completely different," he said.

Unattached athletes can compete in any public event, as long as they can pay for themselves. The athletes have to get to meets on their own and pay for entry fees, travel and hotels.

"They're getting ready to compete, like they always do, just in a different jersey," Fraley said. "It's all about whether you receive benefits from the University or not, not whether you're competing."

To enter the Lauren McCluskey Memorial Open, athletes paid \$35 with processing fees. Green was able to stay in a hotel with his family since his parents and

brother came to the meet to support him.

Unattached athletes are not allowed to wear any college-affiliated gear and can't warm up with their usual squads. It was a lot different for Green, who usually spent his warm-ups and bus rides surrounded by 40-50 teammates decked out in UM gear. He felt out of place, but was grateful he could still interact with old teammates at the meet.

"My team still is there and, like, still supports me and will still cheer me on and stuff. So it's not like I feel like I'm completely by myself," Green said.

His routine now include taking himself to meets, checking himself in and warming up on his own, but his team is still there, supporting him and cheering him on during his races.

"You're not thinking about whether, you know, one of the team leaders is competing for Montana or unattached at that time," Fraley said. "Green is still Green and you know, the only difference [is] he's very independent."

Green embraced the situation by wearing animal print shirts and his high school jersey to meets — one for fun and one for redemption, trying to rewrite the memories from a darker time in his track career in Boise.

Pushing over the hurdle

Green has been an athlete since he started playing soccer at 7 years old. He was introduced to track and field in sixth grade at Lake Hazel Middle School in Boise.

Hurdles were his choice from the beginning. "The first day of middle school track, you just go out and try every event, and, I don't know, I guess I was just a lot better at that one than the other ones, so I stuck with it," Green said.

Although he couldn't quite place a finger on exactly what drew him to hurdles, he knew right away that was the event for him.

"I think I just had a natural attraction to the event and just kind of caught on pretty quick," he said.

By the end of middle school, Green had started to develop a passion for the sport and was driven to do more. He started competing for a club track team by the end of middle school. That's where he met his high school hurdling coach, Amanda Kitts.

"In high school, he was gritty. He would work even when he was injured and wouldn't give up or let up in any race," Kitts said.

Kitts coached Green when he started club track, and he was the first kid she coached all the way through high school.

Green qualified and competed at the United States Track and Field Region 11

Junior Olympic Championships in three different years. In 10th grade, he won in his age group in the 110-meter hurdles and got third in the long jump. He set a new personal record in both events.

“If you’re going to do something, it’s worth doing right,” he said.

Green attended Mountain View High School and competed in sports year-round. He played soccer in the fall as a center and outside defense. In the winter and spring, he took his talents to the track, which brought a new set of challenges during high school.

For Green, the track was a place full of accolades, but it also churned something in his head. With accolades came goals, and Green was itching to reach them all.

“I think I — one, I was just way too hard on myself — but I ran because I had to win, not because I wanted to,” he said. “Track means a lot to me, but it became such a detriment to my mental health that I was just sabotaging myself.”

Every race, Green came away feeling like he could’ve done better, especially if he didn’t win.

“Track is such a mentally hard sport that just one bad thought process can snowball into something terrible,” Green said. “I’ve had really mentally terrible seasons, and my performance followed.”

He didn’t want to give up such a core part of himself. So instead, he dug in. He fought to be as good as he thought he could be, no matter how much it hurt.

On April 15, 2016, his struggle went from mental to physical when his knee didn’t feel right. It kept catching, locking and sending bursts of pain.

It was the biggest competition of the year, the Oregon Relays at Hayward Field at the University of Oregon. He had competed in a few events earlier in the day, and only had one left to finish: his favorite, the 110-meter hurdles.

It all went smoothly until hurdle eight. “My knee just buckled and collapsed...

[It] kind of just exploded on impact,” Green said. “And, I mean, I hobbled across the finish line, and I made it across all 10 hurdles which is incredible to me to this day.”

Green suffered from Osteochondritis Dissecans, a condition where a piece of the bone below a joint dies due to the lack of blood flow.

“I ended up breaking off three pieces of bone from the bottom of my femur, and the left part of my knee died, and I had no cartilage in it,” Green said

The recovery process took him out of commission for almost a full year. It took a year and a half to finally compete near the level he was at before.

For the rest of the season, he acted as a coach for his teammates.

“When [Green] was injured, he would



Jaydon Green, middle, competes in the finals for the 60-meter hurdles race on Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Lauren McCluskey Memorial Open in Moscow, Idaho. Green took second in the event while sporting his high school jersey as an unattached athlete. **JAMES TAURMAN-ALDRICH | IDAHO ARGONAUT**

step in and be an assistant coach [as] an extra pair of eyes,” Kitts said. “He will make a great coach one day.”

He missed his senior soccer season and was terrified of being reinjured when track came around again.

“[It was] a little traumatizing, coming back from that,” he said.

Green competed in the Oregon Relays again almost a year after he was injured. He placed fifth in the 110-meter hurdles while running three races prior, one more than the year before.

A few weeks later at the 5A District 3 track and field meet, Green competed in six events across two days. He set a new personal record in the 110 hurdles and won the event, qualifying him for state. He qualified with third in the 300-meter hurdles and helped the relay team get first to go and qualify for state.

A week later, he competed at the 5A Idaho State Track and Field Meet. He had five events: the 110 hurdles, the 4x100 relay and the 300 hurdles. He got third in the 110-meter hurdles, second in the 300-meter hurdles and helped the 4x100-meter relay get second.

He recovered and performed well, yet he never felt accomplished.

“I never really achieved any of my goals I had in high school, which is

unfortunate,” Green said. “But I also think it made me into the person I am today, so I can’t be mad about it.”

Come high school graduation, he still loved the sport too much to give it up. He qualified to race at the collegiate level and came to Montana.

The itch to win still lingered in his head, but this time, he’d don a new uniform in maroon. This was going to be his fresh start, he told himself. Maybe he’d finally be satisfied.

Re-igniting the spark

Green was raised as a Montana State University Bobcats fan after both of his parents attended the school. His dad even played for the Cats basketball team.

He was skeptical about Montana at first. During the recruiting process, Green had a conversation with former UM head track and field coach Brian Schweyen on the phone before coming to visit the school without his parents, which gave him an opportunity to explore on his own. He fell in love.

Green and his mom walked around campus during orientation week his freshman year. They took a trip to the Hall of Champions, where he set a goal for his

college career.

“I have such a vivid memory of [my mom and I] standing and looking in there,” Green said.

He turned to his mom and said, “one day, I’m gonna be in there.”

Two-and-a-half-years later, his knee problem flared up again. Green took his medical redshirt, season to recover without using up a season of his eligibility.

Yet he still showed up to every practice and helped out his team however he could.

“It’s just hard to watch people do the thing that you love, and you just have to kind of sit there and watch,” he said.

By the time Green competed again, he had finished up his first degree in wildlife biology, a program that piqued his interest when choosing to attend UM. An extension in his track eligibility meant he needed to pick up another degree.

He will finish his photojournalism degree this spring. It’ll also mark the end of his career as a runner for the Griz.

Throughout his many years on the track, Green has learned to be his own biggest supporter to help race days go better. It starts the moment he wakes up.

One of the first things he does is check in on how he’s feeling, both mentally and physically. That is followed by whatever he feels is needed to get him into the right



Mountain View High School's Jaydon Green (4), left, takes first place in the 100-meter hurdles, followed by Rocky Mountain's Zach Meyer (in front), and Meridian's Josiah Seward on the final day of the 5A District III track and field meet. Meyer beat Green in the 5A Idaho State Track Meet one week later.

CONTRIBUTED | IDAHO STATESMAN

space — sometimes meditation or just reassuring himself throughout the day about what he has to get done.

"Any thinking is too much. My body knows what it needs to do," Green said, "Like, I've jumped over millions and millions of hurdles, like, my body knows what it needs to do. So if I can get out of my own way, that's the best thing to do for me."

Green makes the point to visit with his family before every race, one of the few things consistent in his race-day routine, one that he's followed for more than half of his life.

After 13 years in the sport, Green is finally learning to appreciate how far he's come.

"I'm so happy with where I am that sometimes I've got to sit in that and enjoy my greatness a little bit," he said.

Today, Green is a decorated athlete for the Grizzlies. He's arguably the top athlete on the team this year for the outdoor season, his head coach, Fraley, said.

In his first year with the Grizzlies, Green got ninth in the 110-meter hurdles in the Big Sky. In his second season, he qualified for finals and came fourth. He qualified for finals in the 60-meter hurdles for the Big Sky Indoor Conference Championship every year except his freshman year. He's placed third the last two years.

Last season, Green won the 110-meter

hurdles in the Big Sky Conference and also set a new personal record in the finals. He then went on to compete in the NCAA Championship meet, something only the top 48 athletes in the West get to be a part of, and placed 40th in the country.

"He was very vocal about the fact that he was going to win the conference

outdoor championships, and just seeing that belief and that drive out of a young man like that, knowing he could do it if it all came together, and then watching it come to fruition was an awesome thing for me as a coach," Fraley said.

This season, Green is looking to defend his Big Sky Conference title, starting



Jaydon Green stands next to the Track and Field display inside the Washington-Grizzly Champions Center on Jan. 24. CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN

with the indoor season while wearing the Mountain View uniform once more.

"I didn't have the greatest high school experience. So I kind of wanted to just give myself justice in that jersey one more time," he said. "And like, I don't know, prove to my younger self that I am capable of great things."

Green is proud of the person who wears the uniform today. He may be wearing the same jersey that brought him so much self-doubt, but he is now a different person, proving his self-worth more than he ever accepted in high school.

He also knows he represents UM, no matter what school is in bold across his chest.

He has competed in two meets this winter and has topped the podium in one. He believes he has been pushed more this indoor season and has learned to love the sport more than ever. Rather than hyper-focusing on the competitive aspect of the sport, Green now emphasizes enjoying the sport that has brought him so many memories, opportunities, and medals.

"I've kind of stepped away from taking this indoor season so seriously, and kind of just, I'm just having fun," Green said. "I'm racing in a race with eight people, but I can only run in one lane and that's really all I can do."

After college, he knows he's going to stay in Missoula, and he hopes to stay involved with track, but in a new way. Green understands his body can't hold up with competing forever, especially with his medical history, but coaching is on his radar, even if it's just volunteering for the Griz.

He believes he has a lifetime of knowledge that's been collected through his track career and is something that can become a resource for freshman athletes coming in with similar mindsets. He wants to be the person he wishes he had his first year competing for UM to show him the ropes of collegiate sports and help him transition to the highly competitive atmosphere.

"I would love to be the person I needed," he said.

One of Green's greatest accomplishments sits about eye-level on the left side of the men's track and field Hall of Champions mural: his own photo. He earned the Hall of Champion honors after a monumental season last year when he won the Big Sky Conference 110-meter hurdles.

"To my story and to how I envisioned myself my freshman year, and I struggled so heavily my freshman year in competition and whatnot," Green said. "Finding myself again, and becoming the person that deserves to be in there, is everything to me."

RIP Pitchfork: Why care about music writing?

KATE WIDMER

kate.widmer@umontana.edu

On Jan. 17, Pitchfork lost the little publishing independence it still had. The music publication's parent company, Condé Nast (also the owner of Vogue, The New Yorker and Vanity Fair, among others) decided Pitchfork would be "folded under the GQ name," meaning that all of its writing will now be geared toward "millennial men" rather than the incredibly diverse world of musicians and music fans.

While representatives of both companies have praised the decision, many people who actually worked for Pitchfork took to social media and explained that they'd been laid off without warning, similar to how the vast majority of Bandcamp's writing staff was laid off after Songtradr's acquisition of the platform a few months ago.

Even though many music journalism fans aren't necessarily Pitchfork advocates (rating albums on a number scale is stupid, and rigging the numbers for shock value is even stupider), this is yet another strike in the "death by one thousand cuts" that our corner of publishing has been facing for quite some time. Frankly, there's a lot to be bitter about.

Music journalism isn't somehow special in this situation, of course. The American journalism crisis is a rare thing we can all recognize and agree on in our increasingly divided country, and you could make most of the same points I have about any subsection of published writing. But music journalism is different in that it's not just the loss of album reviews or tier lists, it's the loss of music writing as cultural documentation.

Let's start over. Hi, I'm Kate. I'm the music writer for the Kaimin. I'm also the president of Switchback Records (UM's record label), the founder/editor of Record Scratch (a local music zine), a guitarist and a DJ at KBGA (89.9 FM). I care about music very, very deeply, but not just because I love certain songs, albums or artists. Music creates community for both the musicians and the fans, which in turn creates opportunities for people who feel lost to be given a space to be themselves, and I think that's one of the most beautiful things art can do.

Music writing is an extension of the community found within music. In addition

to opinion pieces that aim to help fans sort through what's good and what's not, music writing allows for fans to connect with their favorite musicians and their work on a deeper level. It gives artists the chance to clarify their work and its inspirations, rather than their press being solely related to marketability and/or popularity.

In essence, if you ever desire to understand your music a little better, you turn to music writers.

With that in mind, you owe more to music writing, and by extension music journalists, than you realize. At minimum, they sleuthed out information for the Wikipedia pages of your favorite musicians, both in terms of the facts listed (birthdays, for example) and the deeper dives into their artistry. In a larger sense, you owe them the same appreciation you might give a historian.

It's thanks to music writers that you can find books on all kinds of cultural movements centered around music, from American movements like the Harlem Renaissance and riot grrrl to movements that are happening in places all over the globe. Music writers are keeping close tabs on the ways that the internet is allowing the music community to expand globally (i.e. meeting people from different countries online and making music with them), and the ways that genres and styles are mixing due to said globalization.

Additionally, with widespread internet access, there's never been a time when more people had access to free music (such as through platforms like YouTube and Spotify), meaning that more and more people have music affecting their everyday lives.

That increased accessibility has led to more musicians than ever before, and as a result, the modern music scene is the most diverse it's ever been, with women, BIPOC individuals and queer people at the forefront. Without people keeping track of the music scene, its diversity and the way near-universal music access has changed our culture, we'd be neglecting the contributions of marginalized musicians (in the modern day, no less) and neglecting a part of our global cultural heritage.

It's an insult to be losing music publications at a time when music has never been more important. A scathing, biting insult. But the good news is music writers are

It's an insult to be losing music publications at a time when music has never been more important.

highly resourceful and fiercely dedicated to their passions. A lot of them have turned back to blogging about music, largely through the email platform Substack.

A lot of them make video essays on YouTube or even have entire podcasts dedicated to music. It's not the same, but it's keeping the ethos alive.

There are still some good publications, such as Stereogum or the nonprofit Razorcake, that are continuing to publish articles. If you're interested in local music, sometimes there'll be regional publications (I recommend asking your local record store). The biggest thing is to know that if you love music, there's no reason why you shouldn't be participating in the local music scene.

Missoula has infinite opportunities to be involved in music. Venues like the ZACC and Free Cycles throw a rager around once a month, and groups like Daisy Chain Productions (@daisychainpresents on Instagram) and Dead Eye Productions (@dead_eye_productions on Instagram) book small punk shows all

the time, with entry fees that are usually \$10 or less. Get out, get involved, and for fuck's sake, if you love your music, write about it!



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Mimi Jung's 'Just Between Us' explores the strange aesthetic of liminal spaces

KEELY PROEBSTEL

keely.proebstel@umontana.edu

The liminal space aesthetic is having a moment right now, especially in meme culture. Liminal spaces are the places that exist as transitory stages in our lives. Images of ethereally-long hallways and quiet deserted malls are the first to come to mind, but what about the general idea of spaces in between? The strange, dissociative feelings they conjure, the way they make us rethink our place in the universe...there's a lot to unpack there.

But outside of dark elementary school hallways or dusty back rooms in office buildings, how can that surreal feeling be captured in art? Montana-based artist Mimi Jung's work thrives in those liminal spaces.

"I've always found myself drawn to the spaces between, recognizing their capacity to convey more than the physical elements that create them," Jung said in an interview with the Missoula Art Museum.

Her new exhibition, "Just Between Us", gives special focus to the in-between spaces, with both woven and casted-metal pieces. "There are certain contradictions inherent in my work," Jung explained, comparing the mediums that comprise the exhibition. "Just Between Us" opened at the MAM on Jan. 2. "On the one hand, I meticulously control the weaving process, where precision down to the millimeter is necessary to achieve a composition. On the other hand, the process of casting introduces considerable uncontrollable elements."

The MAM, just a mile from the University of Montana in the heart of downtown Missoula, uses the motto "free expression, free admission," a maxim that certainly translates well to the college experience. Founded in 1975, the MAM has been a Missoula institution for nearly 50 years.

"Just Between Us" is Jung's first exhibition in Montana and her first solo museum show. The MAM invited her to create an exhibition, which ended up being a combination of works from two different series.

The works on display are very different from each other, but also convey a type of kinship. "Fragmented Pillar A," "Fragmented Pillar B" and "Black Aluminum Cast Edges," from the series "Cast," are unified as cast metalworks with a simple, descriptive naming scheme. "Black Aluminum Cast Edges," located in the lobby, consists of four black metal corners, creating a box in the negative space between them. "Fragmented Pillar A" and "Fragmented Pillar B" are towering sculptures

reminiscent of a mountain range laid sideways.

"Resonate With," "Their Unspoken," "So Tell Me" and "The Niceties," from the series "Fallen Fence," are similarly composed of woven poly cord, paper and plywood, and have more abstract, emotional titles. "The Niceties," "So Tell Me" and "Their Unspoken" are woven wall-mounted pieces, each with a unique, organic sense of motion. "Resonate With" is the centerpiece of the exhibition, a towering floor-to-ceiling piece consisting of two woven sculptures held together by a single strand of thread. "Resonate With" was created specifically for the MAM gallery and designed to take advantage of the museum's unusual floor plan.

According to Jung, as quoted in an interview for the MAM newsletter, "through the formal attributes of these works, viewers may find themselves in a state of contemplative uncertainty, navigating the subtleties of their own reflexive responses. My goal is to provide an experience that resonates with those receptive to their evocative prompts."

Jung's exhibition came to the MAM through an invited proposal after museum staff visited her studio in Helena. MAM Senior Curator Brandon Reintjes said one of the focuses of the exhibition is to bridge the gap between spontaneity and an orderly quality in the pieces.

"She kind of goes back and forth making things look spontaneous, but then at a certain point, the form kind of coalesces into the shape that it's going to be... you feel that bit of tension between something that seems to be in a flat circle, and something that's more of a



ABOVE: Mimi Jung's piece titled "Their Unspoken" on display at the Missoula Art Museum through April 14. The piece was created with poly cord and paper, woven and sculpted onto plywood.

RIGHT: Two of artist Mimi Jung's pieces on display at the Missoula Art Museum on Jan. 25. Jung creates sculptures with woven tapestry and casted-metal.

CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN

finished presentation," Reintjes said.

Making art more accessible to everyone is one of MAM's principles. Admission is free and the atmosphere is less restrained than a traditional gallery or art museum. "Just Between Us" is presented in a way that allows the viewer to get close to the art and view it at their own pace. Examining a piece from new angles yields a new experience each time. For example, viewing "Fragmented Pillar A" and "Fragmented Pillar B" from different spots in the gallery creates different interactions between the pieces, and creates new shadows on the gallery wall.

"Just Between Us" will be showing until April 14 at the MAM. There will be a public reception for the exhibition on March 14 at 7 p.m., featuring a talk by Jung at 5 p.m. Reintjes encourages those who feel impacted by the exhibition to attend and speak with Jung about the effect the work had on them.



Montana-raised Lady Griz collects 500th rebound of career

SOPHIA WARD

sophia.ward@umontana.edu

From a house on five acres in Helena to her 500th rebound on a basketball court in Missoula, Dani Bartsch created her own path at the University of Montana.

Dani isn't the only member of the Bartsch family that UM has come to know and love. She comes from a long line of Grizzlies. Her father, Kevin Bartsch, is a UM football alumnus. Her mother, Anne Bartsch, is a UM volleyball alumna, and her grandfather also attended UM. The choice to stay in Montana was an easy one for Dani because of her family.

"Those guys are my biggest supporters," Bartsch said.

Bartsch is currently a junior at UM majoring in accounting. She has a twin sister, Paige Bartsch, who is a volleyball player at Boise State. She also has two other sisters, Amanda and Morgan Bartsch.

"If you could pick someone who represents the Lady Griz from the state of Montana, it would be Dani Bartsch," said Brian Holsinger, head coach for women's basketball. "She's just kind of a winner and I'm thrilled to have her."

Holsinger noted that Bartsch left high school without being able to consistently sink three-pointers, but that she had trained hard to become "one of the better three-point shooters" on the team.

"She demands excellence," Holsinger said. "She's like, 'let's get it done, let's do it right.' ... She has a voice and she uses that a lot. She's not afraid to say things that others are sometimes afraid to say."

When Bartsch isn't on the court, she spends a lot of time with her family and friends. Her hobbies include off-roading, water tubing behind a boat, playing corn hole or competing against anyone who is willing to lose at table tennis. Bartsch is a naturally competitive person and has been competing for almost her entire life.

Bartsch started her basketball career playing for the YMCA when she was 5-years-old. She continued her travel ball career for a team named "The Rice Krispy Treats." Bartsch's parents put their children into sports when they were young. She has played many sports throughout her life, including basketball,



Junior Dani Bartsch pulls in a rebound during a Jan. 25 game against Portland State University. Bartsch led the game in rebounds with 13 and is the leading rebounder for the Lady Griz with 183 total rebounds so far in the season, averaging 9.6 per game. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

tennis, volleyball, softball and soccer.

Bartsch ultimately chose to focus on basketball. She always had a hoop available growing up, and home videos show her dribbling a tiny ball around the driveway. "It was kind of my stress relief, too, as I got older," Bartsch said. "Any time I would go shoot by myself and play music, I thought it was super peaceful."

Bartsch graduated from Capital High School in Helena in 2021.

"She has a voice and she uses that a lot. She's not afraid to say things that others are sometimes afraid to say."

-Brian Holsinger, head coach

Bartsch is extremely close with her family and they talk every day. Her parents come to almost every single one of her home games. Bartsch said that the family group chat blows up after every game as her parents and sisters celebrate Bartsch paving her way into the hearts of Lady Griz basketball fans everywhere.

Not only is Bartsch one of the few born-and-raised Montanans on the team, she is key to the Lady Griz's success. In its recent game against Weber State University on Jan. 22, Bartsch collected her 500th rebound in her career at UM. Bartsch brings the court to life playing alongside her roommate and friend Carmen Gfeller. Watching these two on the court is like putting the last piece in a puzzle: They just fit.

Bartsch's biggest motivation for this season is to win a Big Sky Championship for the seniors. "If I'm going to do something, I'm going to do it a hundred percent," Bartsch said.

Gfeller continues to excel and lead in sixth year at UM

MAXWELL JOHNSON

Maxwell3.johnson@umontana.edu

Sixth-year graduate student Carmen Gfeller has played for Lady Griz basketball longer than any other member of the team. She initially viewed basketball as a way to pay for college, but over the years it has blossomed into a passion for Montana, the game itself and playing for her teammates.

"It's just fun to see her maturation as a player," Lady Griz head coach Brian Holsinger said. "She was going to play one year when I first got here [2021] and then she was like, 'I'm coming back' and then [the next year] she's like 'I'm going to come back again' and I'm like, 'this is great.'"

While Holsinger's and Gfeller's paths never crossed before 2021, they do have common history in Colfax, Washington. The small town of just under 3,000 people is Gfeller's hometown, and Holsinger spent some time there as a child.

"My dad was getting his Master's degree at Washington State University, and he coached and taught in Colfax while we lived there. I was really young, but my brother was born there, and we know some of the same people," Holsinger said.

Colfax and Gfeller have quite the history themselves, particularly when it comes to athletics. During her time in basketball, volleyball and track, Colfax High School won three state volleyball championships, two of which earned her MVPs. The school also won a basketball championship where she was again named MVP. During the state track meet her senior year, she placed eighth in the 100-meter hurdles and was also part of a 4x400-meter relay team that placed seventh.

"[Athletics in Colfax is] really special. It's a huge tradition and so much of that comes from the female athletes that were in the programs before me," Gfeller said. "They started those traditions, and I had really fantastic coaches who just established a culture of winning, working hard and competing."

After an excellent four years of athletics, Gfeller would choose to follow in the footsteps of her brother Brandon Gfeller, who played four seasons with UM and remains the only Griz player to win the Allan Nielsen Award for the player that best represents Griz basketball four times.

"I love Colfax. I love where I grew up — beautiful town, wonderful people — but I kind of wanted to get out and experience something new," Gfeller said. "I had a brother who played here and he's currently

living in town, so I knew that my family would still be able to come to games, and I mean, it's Montana women's basketball, what's not to love? They have a tradition of success and excellence."

Gfeller started her college career strong, scoring 15 points in her debut before settling into playing a well-rounded game for roughly nine minutes a night and playing 27 of the team's 30 games. Despite a good freshman campaign, Gfeller would make the decision to red-shirt her sophomore year to focus on her personal development.

"I got a lot stronger and developed my body a lot more," Gfeller said. "As much as there were days that I was dragging my feet and didn't want to, I just put my head down and got after it."

The season after she redshirted, Gfeller's productivity and use skyrocketed. She averaged 29 minutes each game, started all 23 games, led her team in scoring and led the Big Sky Conference in shooting percentage. She won the Lady Griz Grace Geil Award for most improved player. Gfeller would continue to build on that momentum the following year, this time under Holsinger.

"I couldn't have asked for a better person to help me transition into this job," Holsinger said. "We have connections that go way back. She's a farm kid, she's a hard worker and she's fun to be around."

The duo would continue to work well together over the coming years, and the end of the 2022-2023 season would mark the third straight season in which Gfeller led the team in average points scored while averaging more than 29 minutes a night.

"[Gfeller] is just a special person.

She wants to be a coach, we got her into the 'So You Want to Be A Coach' program, which is really cool," Holsinger said. That program is hosted by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and requires a nomination by a head coach before players become eligible.

"She's obviously a really good player. She can score, she does it all. She rebounds, she's been somebody you can count on to throw



Lady Griz forward Carmen Gfeller looks to go up for a shot against Portland State on Jan. 25. Gfeller is the leading scorer for the Lady Griz with 271 points this season, putting up 15 against Portland State. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

to and get a basket for us. As a coach that's very comforting, she's just wonderful to coach."

Gfeller once again leads the Lady Griz in scoring this season, which is also her final year of eligibility. However, her time with basketball is far from over, she hopes to go overseas and play at the professional level for as long as she can before returning to the United States to coach Division 1. While

the future looks bright, she's still got some business to take care of in Montana.

"I want to win a Big Sky Conference championship with these ladies, go on to the NCAA tournament and just make a ton of awesome memories along the way," Gfeller said.

The Lady Griz will go on the road to play Idaho and Eastern Washington on Feb. 1 and Feb. 3, respectively.

Montana wins second straight N7 game and sets program record in threes

MAX DUPRAS

max.dupras@umontana.edu

The Montana Lady Griz donned turquoise jerseys representing Indigenous culture on Jan. 27 and beat the Sacramento State University Hornets 84-57.

The Lady Griz showed off the jerseys for the second year in a row as Montana continued its partnership with the Nike N7. The color turquoise has many different meanings in Indigenous culture, ranging from representing life itself to representing solidarity and community.

The creator of this year's Nike N7 logo was Lyle Omeasoo. According to UM Athletics, Omeasoo was born on the Blackfeet Reservation and is a member of the Blackfeet and Cree tribes.

In addition to celebrating these festivities, the Lady Griz wanted to put on a show and win its second straight N7 game as well. The first half of the game was all Montana with MJ Bruno and Gina Marxen both getting into double digits with ten points each.

The Hornets were helpless against a strong offensive attack and, despite a close first quarter, could barely put up 15 points in the second, trailing 45-35 in the first half.

The Lady Griz took care of business in the second half with the dynamic offense carrying over from the first half. That, coupled with an improved defensive effort, was enough to completely dismantle the Hornets.

Maggie Espenmiller-McGraw and Carmen Gfeller scored 19 and 17 points respectively, and Dani Bartsch notched another double-double on the year with 15 points and 14 rebounds.

Montana cruised to victory over Sacramento State 84-57 while logging a program record of 19 three-point makes in one game. This record helps move the Lady Griz up to 6-2 in the Big Sky Conference and the third spot in the conference standings.

The Lady Griz will hit the road to play the University of Idaho on Feb. 1 and Eastern Washington University on Feb. 3 before returning home for a rematch against Northern Arizona University on Feb. 8.



TOP LEFT: Junior Haley Huard dribbles the ball up the court during the Montana vs. Sacramento State game on Jan. 27 at the Adams Center.

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UPPER RIGHT: Dancers wearing their moccasins take to the court during halftime of the Lady Griz Nike N7-themed match in recognition of the tribal nations.

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RIGHT: Fifth-year senior Maggie Espenmiller-McGraw drives for a layup during the Montana vs. Sacramento State game on Jan. 27 at the Adams Center.

AVA ROSVOLD | MONTANA KAIMIN

ABOVE: Dancers perform in traditional regalia during the halftime show at the Montana N7 game on Jan. 27.

AVA ROSVOLD | MONTANA KAIMIN

