



A BAND IN BLOOM



**How a UM student
band grew into a
success**

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: There are too many unsolved problems with rape and the justice system in this college town

Readers often ask us why we are reporting on what we report on. On Jan. 15, the Kaimin published "Still Missoula: How a reported rape reveals the faults between Greek Life and the justice system." That story details how a UM student's reported assault was passed from UM official to UM official, which left her feeling alone and unheard.

And the reason we reported on this story and published it is simple: it's our job.

We don't know every detail of what happened the night Jane Doe alleges she was raped or why the charges against the alleged offender were dropped. What we do know is that UM's internal system of handling cases of reported sexual assault is dysfunctional.

It is not our job to be judge and jury in this case; it's our job to pay attention when something isn't right, and present you with the facts. In this case, we wanted to show you that something at UM isn't right.

It's not right that each Greek chapter has different standards for handling cases of sexual assault.

It's not right that Greek Life chapters — chapters that are affiliated with and under the supervision of the University of Montana — do not have to report expelling members from their chapters to the Greek Life director.

It's not right that the relationship between the University and Greek Life

makes the process for handling cases of sexual assault unclear and dysfunctional.

It's not right that fraternities and sororities do not have to report alleged rapes to the University.

It's not right that after years of reform, a vindicating book and a federal investigation, the University is still not even close to meeting its own self-proclaimed standards of putting victims first.

We know that many of the stories we publish can make our readers, and sometimes our sources, angry. And for that, we will not apologize.

We, like Jane Doe, are students. We are students who could find ourselves in the same situation. We are students who have a lot at stake in this issue. We are students who are angry at the University's lack of ability to make it clear that if we are assaulted, something will be done about it.

After months of reporting, re-thinking, revising and tearing this story apart, just to put it back together over and over again, it was worth it. It will always be worth it.

We will never stop speaking up when something isn't right. And we hope that you, too, will hold the University accountable for continuing to sweep these issues under the rug. Enough is enough.

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COOPER MALIN | MONTANA KAIMIN

SUDOKU
Difficulty: Easy
Edited by Margie E. Burke

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

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

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Evicted visitors, troublesome trunks and incomplete seats

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JAN. 10: REPO MAN

University of Montana officers arrived at the Lewis and Clark Villages after responding to a report of a stolen vehicle. Their investigation made a hard pivot, however, after they discovered that the potential thief may in fact have been the rightful owner. UMPD Lt. Brad Giffin said the car may have been repossessed, and officers are currently looking into the missing vehicle's loan information.

JAN. 11: ALTERED STATE

UMPD confirmed an actual theft from Lewis and Clark Villages, but it was from a bike, and it was a seat. A resident reported to police that somebody had made off with it at some point in the last two weeks. Despite reviewing surveillance footage, police said it looks like the seat will sit out this semester (paraphrasing, of course).

JAN. 14: INVADERS

A person staying in Miller Hall had to be evicted by UMPD after RAs discovered that he was neither a resident nor a UM student. An arrest warrant for possession didn't help matters. Along with being escorted off campus, the man received an order of trespass from the University.

JAN. 16: GHOST IN THE SHELL

Pantzer Hall became ground zero for this semester's first visit from police for possession of dangerous drugs, with one of the residents reporting the smell of marijuana in the air. The honor of the first student conduct referral remains open, though, as officers were unable to find the source of the scent.

JAN. 16: PRIMER

The trunk of a car parked on campus left wide open drew enough suspicion from one passerby to warrant a call to UMPD. A review by officers proved there was no emergency otherwise. The case, and trunk, were closed.



IMPEACHMENT UPDATE

The third presidential impeachment trial in U.S. history officially began Jan. 21 in the Republican majority Senate with opening arguments. President Donald Trump was impeached in the House of Representatives Dec. 18 with two charges — abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. On Jan. 16, the articles of impeachment were presented to the Senate, and Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts was sworn in to preside over the trial. At the end of the trial, representatives will be expected to vote on both articles of impeachment, and a two-thirds vote will be required to convict and remove the president from office. (SYDNEY AKRIDGE)

LIBRARY LATE FEES

To start off the spring semester, UM's Mansfield Library eliminated late fees for books checked out by students and extended the checkout period for undergraduate students from three weeks to four months to

match graduate students. The library will continue to charge a lost fee 45 days after the due date, including the cost of replacing and recataloguing the book. (SA)

HELENA DRAWS ACTIVISTS FOR WOMEN'S MARCH AND MARCH FOR LIFE

Speakers including Democratic House of Representatives candidate Kathleen Williams encouraged women to participate in politics at Helena's annual Women's March Saturday, Jan. 18 in Memorial Park. The theme, "Put a Woman in Charge," promoted female leadership and celebrated the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. The first Women's March occurred Jan. 21 2017, to protest Donald Trump's inauguration and support women's rights. As women's rights activists gathered Saturday at the state capital, pro-life activists also gathered in Helena to protest Roe v. Wade. This landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision protected women's right to have an abortion. "It's

important that every woman that is facing an unplanned pregnancy that she knows there are resources available to help with that pregnancy," said Director of Pro-Life Helena Sharon Nason at the event, KPAX reported. (HELENA DORE)

BIG SKY FILM FEST LINEUP ANNOUNCED

The lineup for the 17th Annual Big Sky Film Festival was announced Jan. 15. 136 documentaries were selected including "32 Below," produced by Jiakai Lou, a University of Montana journalism student and Kaimin videographer, and "River Queens: Highlight My Strengths" by UM journalism professor Jeremy Lurgio. The film festival is a 10-day event starting Feb. 14, and the public can buy tickets for individual or multiple showings at different venues including the Wilma, ZACC ShowRoom, Hellgate Elks Lodge and the Roxy Theater. More information can be found at www.bigskyfilmfest.org. (SA)

How tobacco retailers make sure you're 21

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Tobacco shops, gas stations and other businesses in Missoula are implementing new methods to prevent customers under the age of 21 from buying tobacco. The change is a response to a law President Donald Trump signed Dec. 20 raising the legal age to buy tobacco and nicotine products to 21. For some businesses, this means putting in the extra effort to manually check each sale and, in some cases, watching camera videos that capture those sales taking place.

Sarah Hartwing, the manager of Atmosphere — a tobacco shop on East Broadway Street — said that while shop employees don't encounter fake IDs often, she still frequently looks over tobacco purchases to be sure that the sales were to customers of age.

"We have these lists of every transaction that I make [the employees] write down," Hartwing said. "Every morning I'll go through and see what's been sold ... So if I see a Juul transaction, I just pop on the cameras."

Employees and businesses that sell tobacco to people under 21 can face fines from law enforcement. Too many incidents involving sales to underage customers can result in a business no longer being permitted to sell tobacco, Hartwing said.

The law prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors was updated last month to ban its sale to anyone under 21. President Trump signed the updated law on Dec. 20, following months of national discussions about people under 18 obtaining and using tobacco products, such as e-cigarettes.

If an employee at Atmosphere suspects an ID may be fake, they can ask for a secondary ID, such as a debit card or student ID. They can also ask for specific information on the ID, including the address. If an employee is unsure of an ID's authenticity, they are allowed to refuse the sale, Hartwing said. A person caught using a fake ID is banned from the store.

"A lot of the time I'll go on the



At the Bell Pipe and Tobacco shop, a piece of scrap paper taped to the cash register lists the most recent birth date for a person to be 21 years old. The federal government passed a law on Dec. 20, 2019, that makes it illegal for persons under the age of 21 to purchase tobacco products. DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

cameras, print off a picture of them, and put it on the wall. We're pretty hardcore," Hartwing said.

Atmosphere employees check the IDs of all customers who look under the age of 40, Hartwing said. Many retailers share this policy, including Town Pump and Holiday Stationstores. These retailers view 40 as a safe cut-off age to look for.

According to Bill McGladdery, the director of communications at Town Pump, as well as Arthur Sharrard, a cashier at the same company, the gas

station chain keeps a tight record of purchases, and managers regularly review its sales history and camera feeds.

"Cameras are spot-checked," said McGladdery. "We do retain the video for a period of time, to go back and review." If someone is caught using a fake ID at Town Pump, it is usually confiscated and turned over to the police, McGladdery said.

Andrea Niceschwander, the manager of Holiday Stationstores on South Russell Street, said that she also reviews the

camera feeds, but that she's only encountered one fake ID since she started four years ago. She added that the new laws haven't affected her business much.

"Some of the people that came in at first when the law was first enacted were like, 'We were confused,'" Niceschwander said. "But we put a pamphlet out to let people know that the law changed and what was going on."



Retired environmental studies professor Vicki Watson listens to an audience member during the first Seeking Sustainability Lecture Series of the semester, Jan. 16, 2020 at the college of Business. Panelists at the lecture addressed sustainability efforts at the University and in Missoula to make it a more energy-efficient city. DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

Thinking green: Sustainability Lecture Series kicks off

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UM's Seeking Sustainability Lecture Series kicked off last week, commencing a 14 week-long discussion on sustainability efforts in the Missoula community.

Seven panelists spoke at the first event, hosted Jan. 16, in the Gallagher Business Building on campus. The speakers discussed sustainable innovations at UM, including plans to create an all-electric UDash bus fleet, according to UM Transportation.

Other representatives discussed sustainable methods in dining, recycling and University building development at UM. Among the speakers were Director of Sustainability Eva Rocke and campus architect Jameel Chaudhry.

Vicki Watson, professor emeritus of environmental studies at UM, organized the event. The series celebrates the 50th birthday of both Earth Day and the environmental studies program at the University.

"We've come a long way in those 50 years toward increasing our understanding of what we mean by sustainability and increasing our efforts toward achieving it," Watson told the

crowd. "But we have a long way to go yet."

All the speakers were faculty, alumni or students from the University. Half the panel consisted of environmental studies graduates. Watson said the series gives students a taste of sustainability work after college.

**"WE'RE ALL REALLY WORRIED ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE WORLD, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN."
-VICKI WATSON**

"It's a good way to expose students to what people are doing in the community," she said. "This is what we hope you'll be doing someday."

Watson, who is now retired from the environmental studies program, said the series demonstrates what environmental work is being done in Missoula for the future.

"We're all really worried about what's going

to happen to the world, what's going to happen to our children and grandchildren," she said. "When you come and see that there are people that are working hard to make a difference and that young people are interested, it gives them hope."

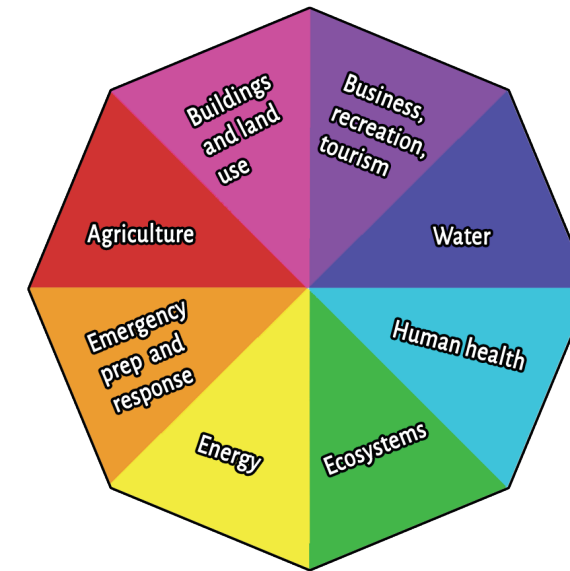
The University of Montana is a bronze-rated university in sustainability education, operation and planning, according to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

UM also has six Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified buildings. The Payne Family Native American Center, which was the first LEED-certified building on campus, received a platinum ranking in sustainability, the highest ranking possible. The other five buildings, including the Fitness and Recreation Center, all received gold certifications.

A variety of local experts will speak about advances in sustainability, including University and Missoula city officials from housing, transportation and dining departments in upcoming lectures.

The series will tackle different topics every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. until the week of Earth Day, April 22.

Climate impact categories



LINDSEY SEWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

Missoula launches climate change mitigation plan

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Imagine driving along the roads near Missoula in summer, the green forests edging the pavement. Now imagine that on fire.

The Climate Ready Missoula Plan, which was released Jan. 13, plans strategies and logistics to handle scenarios like this one.

One hundred percent of the global climate models show that the temperature will rise, according to the plan's website. In Missoula, this will result in dryer and hotter summers as well as warmer and wetter springs. Wildfires are also expected to be more intense and more frequent within the next decade. Consequences of climate change are relevant to Missoula's businesses and tourism, energy resources and water, as well as the presence of wildfires, according to the plan's sponsors.

Sean Nettleton, a junior at the University of Montana who heard about the plan through friends, supports it and thinks it is a good asset to have for the future.

"I think the plan is a great idea. Emergency preparedness is a good idea, and it is

better to have a plan than not when dealing with something like this," Nettleton said.

The Missoula County, the City of Missoula, as well as Climate Smart Missoula sponsored the plan. Amy Cilimborg, the executive director for the Climate Smart nonprofit, has been part of the team that has been working on it for over a year.

"It is basically trying to figure out how our community can become resilient to climate change," Cilimborg said.

The plan describes strategies to help mitigate effects of severe fires, flooding and famine.

Current and long-term projects suggested by the plan include making air filters available to everyone and evaluating and restricting where people build.

The Climate Ready Missoula Project is more community and government-based. It includes a list of parks and resources around Missoula county and recommends areas within the county that should be protected versus developed.

The contributors to the Climate Ready Missoula Plan will be hosting a meeting for feedback and more information on Jan. 22 at the County Courthouse and Jan. 24 of the City Council Chambers.



Caution tape cuts off the entrance to the Corner Store from the Emma B. Lommasson Center. Construction on the Corner Store started around Thanksgiving and will continue through Jan. 22. EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN

Corner Store 2.0 is opening soon

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The Corner Store is reopening Thursday, Jan. 23, after nearly two months of construction, said a UM Campus Dining (UMCD) official. New features will include lighting, a stage and extended closing hours.

"Ideally, we were going to be up and rolling on the 13th when the students were back," said Patrick Browne, associate director of UMCD.

There are always complications with construction projects, Browne said, especially since a lot of the work happened over the holidays. But he said the week-and-a-half delay is minor.

The Corner Store has been running a mini mart out of Le Peak, a coffee shop in the corner of the Lommasson building, since construction started in December. In the first month of its reopening, there will be limited seating. Browne said that some of the new furniture will come in February.

For the time being, Le Peak will also have no furniture and no changes are

happening with food venues in the Corner Store. However, Browne said there is talk of a phase two for the project.

The renovations in the Corner Store are part of an effort to create student-centered spaces in the Lommasson Center, Browne said.

Funds for the renovation came from the UM Plant Fund. Browne said the Corner Store hasn't been refurbished since it opened in 2000, so the improvements are needed. In particular, he thinks the new furniture will make the space an ideal place for students to study or hang out.

The area will have new flooring, lighting and sound. Once new furniture comes in, the seating will be comfier and there will be a stage and a screen to support student-centered events like poetry readings, movie screenings or karaoke, Browne said. Hours will be extended from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

"We just think it's going to be a great place for the students, and they'll enjoy hanging out in the newly renovated area once it's fully furnished and up and running," Browne said.

Comedy event at the Roxy raises money on Roe v. Wade anniversary

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“They’ll make you laugh, they’ll make you think,” said host Lynn Solomon about the comedians performing at the Roxy Theater on Friday. “I think both things are important.” A night filled with jokes and abortion-care-fundraising was about to begin.

The annual Roe v. Wade Comedy Benefit sold out for the third year in a row. An enthusiastic crowd of about 90 attended on Friday. The event celebrated the 47th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, a Supreme Court decision that recognized a woman’s right to an abortion in 1973.

The benefit alternates between Bozeman and Missoula every year. All of its proceeds go to the Susan Wicklund Fund, a nonprofit organization that helps women get the information and care they need for an abortion.

The group changed its original name, the Trust Women Fund, in 2013 to honor the retirement of Wicklund. Wicklund ran the Mountain Country Women’s Clinic in Livingston and helped patients across Northwestern Montana.

All of the group’s funds go to its clients. “It’s not just giving them money,” board president Kate Kujawa said. “It’s making them feel supported when there’s no one they can talk to.”

Kujawa discovered the Susan Wicklund Fund while looking at options for reproductive resources. She joined the board in 2017 and was elected president last July.

Kujawa explained the importance of continuing to teach others about the historic court decision. “We have a huge population that doesn’t know what it was like before Roe v. Wade,” she said. “They don’t have a friend they watched die because of an abortion.”

Comedian Sarah Aswell, a performer at Friday’s function, has organized the event since its debut in 2018. She hosts the stand-up show Revival Comedy at the Badlander every Tuesday and Thursday.



Sarah Aswell performs at the sold out Roe v. Wade Comedy Benefit at the Roxy Theater on Jan. 17, 2020. Aswell organized the event to support the Susan Wicklund Fund, a nonprofit for women’s reproductive rights. SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN

Revival Comedy is paired with a workshop for female and nonbinary comedians. Many of these comedians performed for this year’s Roe v. Wade Benefit.

“I want to bring comedy to Missoula that tells different stories,” explained Aswell. “When I started comedy four years ago, I felt like I was the only woman there.”

One of the benefit’s performers, Fred Po, used some of his routine to discuss the perceptions others have for him as a trans man. “I think people forget that we need

abortions too,” he told the audience.

The comedians also spoke on non-abortion issues. Headline comedian Lenny Peppers criticized Disney for sticking a lesbian scene at the end of the new “Star Wars” film, just so it could be censored in Chinese theaters.

The filmmakers, as she put it, “woke on the wrong side of the bed.”

Audience members responded well to this blend of comedy with serious subjects. Attendee Leslie Gallant called it “a great

place to find relief in a stressful time.”

Brianna Bosshart, who was told about the event by her friends, added, “It’s a very relaxed environment, so it’s easy to make people feel welcome.”

Kujawa said she’s motivated by the Montana community’s support at every benefit. To her, “it solidifies what we’re doing is important.”

More information on the Susan Wicklund Fund can be found at www.susanwicklundfund.org.



‘1917’ takes on the Great War, makes it personal

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I’m a hundred years removed from the setting of “1917” so I never expected to experience a day in the trenches. But director Sam Mendes (“Skyfall”) threw me in anyway, and I clung to my seat for a two-hour nail-biter. With cinematographer Roger Deakins (“Blade Runner 2049”) in tow, I had no doubt the film would be jaw-droppingly gorgeous. Thankfully, though, “1917” delivered so much more than just visual appeal — one of the greatest war stories ever put to screen.

“1917” takes us back to the height of World War I in battle-scarred France. The story, in a world of “Avengers: Endgame” level complexity, is refreshingly simple: British soldiers Schofield and Blake must deliver a message to a battalion of 1,600 men, one of whom is Blake’s older brother, calling off a planned attack that would result in countless deaths.

“1917” was widely publicized for its neat trick of appearing to be a single, continuous shot. This turned out to be much more than a gimmick. From the first scene, I felt as though I had become a stand-in character in place of the camera. It follows the protagonists through trenches and fields, looking where they look and jostling with every explosion and shot fired. The effect is utterly claustrophobic and riveting, and it had me so deeply invested in the story that I often forgot to breathe.

But then, that’s the point, right? Movies attempting to portray the grisly reality of war. have come and gone before “1917.” “Saving Private Ryan” and “Blackhawk Down” to name a few. But “1917” uses realism as a story device, rather than just a point of appeal.

In “1917,” no time is given for moments of triumph. We watch as two “everymen” of the Great War conquer increasingly impossible situations and begin to pay the price. Early in the film, one of them remarkably survives a huge explosion, leading the audience to wonder if the heroes of “1917” will be as indestructible as Die Hard’s John McClane. They are not.

The characters of “1917” often express, in words and actions, that they don’t really understand why they’re fighting. They grit their teeth, follow orders, are told “it’s best to not dwell on it” when friends die in their arms, and get the job done. They embody everything we imagine our military men and women to be in real life. But in the end, I still expected that hero moment I’ve seen a million times in a million other action movies.

“1917” has that moment, just without the glory. There was no operatic swell of music, no one punching the air in victory. With the journey over and the plot resolved, Mendes chooses to linger on the hollow expression of a man we watched go through hell for the previous two hours. One last, heartbreaking reminder that war, no matter how artfully framed, spares no one. Not even the heroes.



Mac Miller’s posthumous album ‘Circles’ is like a balm for our broken hearts

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Posthumous releases usually feel exploitative to me. When an artist dies, I am in the firm camp that we should leave them alone. Grief is not a good enough reason to dig through and release rejects and outtakes for the sake of a profit.

Thankfully, that isn’t “Circles.” Mac Miller’s first — and hopefully only — posthumous album was released just in the nick of time for college students already facing burnout in the very first weeks of their spring semester. Yes, we exist.

This record grounds listeners and reminds them that although it can sometimes feel like the weight of the world will crush you, there is hope. You have to grab onto it and never let it go.

Mac has always shown his audience how to love despite pain and heartbreak, and “Circles” is no exception. Despite personal loss, this record never feels angry. It feels like a giant diary entry that was always meant to be.

Mac had been working on “Circles” at the same time as “Swimming,” his last release before his death. They were always meant to be companions.

We might never fully know what edits and production changes were made after Mac’s death, but “Circles” feels so much like the heart of Mac that we trust it.

Despite all the sadness and stories of producers breaking down after hearing what Mac was doing, this doesn’t feel like grief-porn. It feels honest and real. It doesn’t feel like an over-exaggeration of the sadness Mac always felt.

I don’t know if I would call Mac a lyrical genius, but he was really, really close. Everyone gets bogged down by life, but Mac always seemed to let us know that we weren’t alone. Life can be hard and it can suck, but you’re not floating through it by yourself.

“Circles” feels like the self-fulfilling prophecy of a young man with so much sadness and so much talent and so much left to give. It hurts, but in the next second it feels like Mac is hugging listeners and soothing their broken hearts.

It feels like a celebration of life. It is so Mac and so complete that you would never be able to guess that it was released over a year after his death.

The sudden ending of the record leaves listeners in their own silence. We are reminded that we are left in a world without the artists we love. We can’t get them back, but we can accept the gifts they gave us that will never leave us.

This is a record that isn’t supposed to be sad. It’s easy to look at through grief goggles, but when you step back and get past your heartbreak, it’s like a party. “Circles” feels like something you would dance to, tears in your eyes, and smile because you’re alive.

Legendary Montana artist Monte Dolack opens first major exhibit in 30 years

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Missoula-based artist Monte Dolack's exhibition, "Monte Dolack: The Artist's Nature," opened Friday as part of the inaugural kick-off of the Montana Museum of Art & Culture's 125th anniversary. It will be the first major gallery for Dolack in nearly 30 years.

Museum director Dr. Rafael Chacón addressed the packed crowd to launch the exhibit, which will occupy the Meloy and Paxson galleries until May 15. Chacón stressed the importance of Dolack's work, comparing him to some of the greatest artists in Montana history, like Charles Russell and Rudy Autio.

"Monte is with the greats of Montana artists that define us," Chacón said, adding that he is honored to have an artist of Dolack's stature leading the inaugural event.

Dolack, dressed in a dark jacket with a button-down featuring bright, swirling colors, then spoke to the eager crowd, discussing the beginnings of his career. He never wanted to work a regular job, choosing to seek out work that would exercise his creativity before establishing himself as an artist in the early '70s.

"I did any job I could to keep a pen and a brush in my hands," he said, describing one of his first jobs as a cartographer in Denver.

The exhibit features works spanning much of Dolack's career, from studies and sketches in nature to the finished full paintings. A key theme in the presentation of these works is Dolack's evolution as an artist, primarily in the last 20 years.

Steve McArthur, a fan of Dolack's work and friend of the artist, was grinning ear-to-ear as he strolled through the Paxson Gallery. McArthur, who has been collecting Dolack's posters with his kids for 20 years, views his work as capturing the spirit of Montana.

"Monte is an original helping to define what Montana is to the rest of the country," McArthur said.

Dr. Jeremy Canwell, the exhibit director

and curator, described Dolack's evolution as being a melding of two different artistic minds into one. Canwell points to the whimsical humor that can be found in Dolack's "Invader" series, which showcases a domesticated wildness with his human-like portrayal of animals in human spaces. In contrast, "Smith River in June" shows a much starker look at nature.

"I find those to be two different artists almost," Canwell said. "The one that is doing this more whimsical fun stuff, and the one that has this more stark view on the environment."

Dolack, who has been a mainstay in the Missoula artistic community since opening his first studio in 1974, wasn't nervous for his first major exhibit in three decades.

"I'm not nervous. I did the work, it's done," he said with a laugh.

The exhibit is comprised entirely of borrowed pieces from Dolack's personal studio or private collections. Many of them he has not seen in decades. Seeing the "Montana Grayling" piece for the first time in many years, which was for the Arctic Grayling Recovery program, brought him back to the day he caught the fish. He said it reminded him of the sounds, smells, feeling of the water and even of the music he was listening to while painting.

Many of Dolack's works showcase nature with a side of humor.

"My sense of humor, which is my sixth sense, would come into play," Dolack said when describing his usage of humor as a vehicle to bring attention to climate change.

Climate change is a deeply important issue to Dolack, who has been implementing it in his works for decades. One of his most recognized pieces, "Refrigerators," shows penguins raiding a household refrigerator. Underneath its humorous veil, Dolack wanted to show how climate change was forcing the Arctic animals to find a new habitat in the cold embrace of a cramped appliance.

Keeping his finger on the pulse of major issues is something Dolack strived to do while working as an editorial cartoonist for the Montana Kaimin in the early '70s.



Joe and Myra Ashor sit and take in the famous work of Monte Dolack. They have been fans "since the beginning." Joe recently retired from the Bureau of Land Management and this particular painting reminded him of the 50th anniversary of The Wilderness Act, which created a legal definition for wilderness and ordered agencies to manage public land. LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN

He finds his commitment to remaining present, especially with environmental issues, further strengthened because of youth movements spearheaded by climate activist Greta Thunberg.

"I might be a boomer, but

I'm there too," he said.

"Monte Dolack: The Artist's Nature" will be on exhibition from Jan. 17 to May 15 in the Paxson and Meloy Galleries at the University's PARTV Center.



MEGHAN JONAS

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You hear it before you step into the darkly-lit shop that sells bike parts and as you buy a ticket from a smiling girl blocking off a hallway. You try to communicate over the pounding music, but it's almost impossible, so you just smile and point toward the back.

Enter the mob. A girl with questionable Bantu knots in a cheetah costume slides around the wooden floor, grabbing onto the people around her, dancing with everyone she sees.

You see a trombone player in a hot dog costume and a singer with tiger face paint.

You merge into the crowd, pushing your way to the front. People let you through easily and swing you around as you walk. Everyone is smiling like you're in on some secret. And maybe, in their minds, you are.

This is The Fertile Crescent playing Free Cycles in December 2019. You see the group and you dance to its music without ever knowing just how bright its future is. You would never guess how many hiatuses the group has taken or how many people have walked through its revolving door. You wouldn't know that its members were in the middle of producing a professionally mixed-and-mastered album or talking about touring. You just know they're good and you like them. And that is enough.

SPRING '18



Kyle Curtis was still a freshman at the University of Montana. Along with taking the usual steps (staying up all night, dating, finding people who get you and who haven't known you your whole life), Curtis decided to tack on starting a band.

Plenty of college kids do, after all. They haul in their high school instruments, maybe getting new ones and teach themselves to play guitar or bass, jamming with other OK-ish college musicians. But Curtis didn't want to start just another college wannabe band.

He grabbed some friends — all music majors. Ross Strauser brought a saxophone to practice, Cameron Kinney played guitar and James Standish had a trombone. Curtis played guitar and sang. He called the jam



Fertile Crescent founder, front-man and lead vocalist Kyle Curtis (left), discusses changes to the music percussionist Rosie Cerquone during a basement recording session on Oct. 11, 2019. SARA DIGGINS | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

session group Bird Island, and it was simple.

It was the first iteration of what would become The Fertile Crescent, the jazzy, quirky, huge band that's gone from playing in basements to the biggest stages in Missoula.

But back then it was just a kid sitting around with some friends, brainstorming what it would be like to be in a real band. Except this one added a horn section and nine other people.

Bird Island played its first, and only, show at Zootown Brew in 2018, right before everyone left for summer.

It took an intense amount of convincing by Curtis to get the show lined up on a day that wasn't First Friday, a Missoula staple based on supporting local artists. Usually, bands don't get to perform at a venue just because they want to. But luckily for everyone involved, Zootown took a shot on an unknown band.

"I didn't see much of a future with that exact outfit," Curtis said. "I just wanted to see if it worked." It did, at least until the band went on hiatus for the summer and Curtis returned to Indiana the day after

the show.

FALL '18



Like a lot of bands destined for greatness, turnover sidelined Bird Island.

Time, college and other responsibilities took precedence over a set of drums and a keyboard.

Turns out, the death of Bird Island was a great thing for the birth of The Fertile Crescent.

Zach Meyer walked into the band on the recommendation of the prior drummer. He wasn't a music major like the rest of them, but he'd been playing a lot, mostly with the University's marching and pep bands.

"I didn't even know Zach until after he was in The Fertile Crescent," Curtis said.

Curtis and Meyer might not have known each other before becoming bandmates, but they were alike in the important ways: They understood what it was like to have a dream that seemed too big to imagine. They

kept each other grounded without crushing passion.

This was during a phase where people came and went.

Some of them had some thoughts about the name. "Some 'idiots' in the band decided Bird Island was a lame name," Curtis said.

Curtis and Meyer told the story differently, interjecting with their own opinions of whose idea it was to change the name in the first place. Curtis described it like a mutiny; Meyer said Curtis was the one who brought it up.

Curtis said it was Strauser, the one with the sax, who first suggested the name change. Then came three other people who agreed, and then Bird Island was dead.

Curtis said he "dreamt of" having a band named The Fertile Crescent for a long time. He doesn't know when or how he came up with it, but it stuck, and the mystery and perceived legends of its vague, Middle-Eastern geography ended up influencing lyrics and the overall aesthetic.

More members started to filter in, many recommended by members filtering out for various reasons, mostly related to college.



A backyard packed with show-goers shout for an encore from The Fertile Crescent after their show on Aug. 31, 2019. SARA DIGGINS | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The core group formed out of the shuffle, including former keyboard player and current trumpet staple, Andrew Kagerer.

Before the school year started, The Fertile Crescent booked a show on the top floor of the Union Club Bar through South Higgins Soul.

Curtis said the show was a test run to see if the solidified band could pack a house.

"We thought the floor was gonna collapse," Curtis said.

That night it was clear The Fertile Crescent could draw distinct energy, that it might be something rare and magical.

It was a starting-off point, but it was also the beginning of a second hiatus. Despite the packed house and adrenaline rush, people's commitment waned. The Fertile Crescent

died for the rest of the semester.

WINTER '18-'19



Curtis was back home in Indiana, thinking about what The Fertile Crescent could be and trying to figure out why the band stopped gigging.

He remembered how it felt to stand on a stage in front of a packed crowd and started looking for places to book another show. He found a slot headlining at the Zootown Arts Community Center (ZACC). It wasn't quite as hard now that Curtis was a part of

the tight-knit Missoula music community. Plus, he knew people who knew people. The Fertile Crescent put a set together, rehearsed a couple times, and Curtis invited what seemed to be everyone in Missoula to a Facebook event for the show.

It was another packed house.

If it's hard to believe that a band can pack venue after venue with very little rehearsal, consider it had a few things going for it. First, it's a big, big band with more than 10 members, each with a unique social network. Plus, there's the pull of the ZACC, which has been discovering and supporting musicians for years.

The band was also made almost completely of music majors. They had a large reach in the School of Music, according

to Meyer.

"I would be surprised if a single music major right now couldn't tell you who The Fertile Crescent is," he said.

Flyers get plastered around the School of Music, whiteboards are written on, and word of mouth spreads.

"We're in-your-face about it. We don't give you a choice. We make you know about us," said Meyer, a journalism major who spends a lot of time in the School of Music.

The ZACC show in January 2018 was what established the band as an almost-professional outfit with a lot of pull in Missoula.

A year later, The Fertile Crescent had begun to bloom into an absolute professional band.

More and more talent wandered in until 12 people were trying to fit on the stage. Meyer finally convinced Curtis to stop adding every single person who was interested in the band, but not before securing Connor Racicot, keyboardist, and Rosie Cerquone, any and all percussion. Curtis and Meyer say they're two of the most talented musicians they've ever seen.

Despite success, The Fertile Crescent continued its hiatus habit, taking a third break toward the end of spring semester 2019. Another exodus followed, dropping the final number of band members to the magic eight.

The band got tighter, Meyer said. It wasn't giggling much, but something special was happening. When the members realized that they were a part of something rare, they were willing to commit more and more of their time, energy and talent. A seed that could have easily died was now something much larger.

FALL '19



Summer came and went. Students came back with their own motivations: graduating, making friends, getting out of their hometown. The Fertile Crescent came back with hype.

A show in the backyard of a friend in the University District brought out over a hundred people in late August. People were impressed. They might have been more impressed if they knew the band had only rehearsed the day before, without essential musicians, including percussionist Cerquone.

With the eight members telling their friends to come to their show, and those friends telling more friends, word of mouth spread.

Occasional rehearsals turned into twice-weekly scheduled gigs. The band was writing originals. Covers of jazzy classics became less and less common. The band bought a drum kit together, keeping it in the basement of Curtis' home. The members were fully committing to the idea of being a successful, motivated band.

This is when Curtis started using the phrase "perfect storm."

Before, scheduling and rehearsing was "literally a mess." But once you bring in the

reality of a space and extraordinarily talented members, things start to get less messy.

A "small get-together" for Curtis' birthday turned into one of the biggest house shows in Missoula. Members of the band who are also in UM's marching band "booked it home," said Meyer, who arrived to a crowd of people trying to see Missoula's latest musical extravaganza.

People crammed into the tiniest of basements, swaying and dancing to the music on the stairs. It was the first show pulled off with more than two rehearsals leading up to it.

Bandmates grooved while playing with each other. They smiled and laughed and joked. They nodded along to each other's successes. They took pride in each other and still do. They have fun.

A show with The Fertile Crescent is unlike anything else. People could have a whole ballroom and would still get as close together as possible. The energy the band radiates is that of a family, or at least the closest-knit group of friends. That energy radiates into the audience. People smile and dance with strangers.

Curtis says The Fertile Crescent was always about having fun. And once the members locked in, it was about having fun and being dedicated. The band continued to rehearse twice a week, even without set gigs in its schedule. It was a leap of trust in the group's ability to succeed. Sure, it didn't have anything lined up in the short term, but it would. And it needed to be ready.

Rehearsing more than twice before a performance was, not-so-surprisingly, a good idea. The members no longer needed music stands and sheet music on stage. It no longer felt like people trying to remember something, it felt like knowing the music so deeply that they didn't need to think about it in technical terms anymore.

It was after their crazy popular house show in November 2019 that the members of The Fertile Crescent started working on an album in Curtis' basement-turned-rehearsal-space-turned-studio. They didn't gig at all for the month of October, spending all their time laying down tracks.

With eight members, the group had to be meticulous about what it needed. Members needed to record their own specific parts in the song until they got it right. And this wasn't just one song, it was a whole record. They started sharing, recording and rehearsing videos on The Fertile Crescent's Instagram.



TOP: Kyle Curtis and drummer Zach Meyer in the UC on Dec. 14, 2019. The two work together behind-the-scenes to get gigs, a manager, and publicists for the band.

BOTTOM: Fertile Crescent trumpeter Andrew Kagerer performs during a back-yard show on Aug. 31, 2019. SARA DIGGINS | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

That's when Jacob Summers came in.

Summers, also known as the musician Avid Dancer, had known drummer Zach Meyer through Instagram. They had met in 2017 at one of Avid Dancer's concerts, and Meyer kept Summers up on his progress as a musician, including his work with The Fertile Crescent.

According to Meyer, Summers was interested but not "that" interested. He said the Instagram direct message thread would be a plethora of messages from himself, then a one-sentence answer from Summers, and then the cycle would start over again.

It was only after Summers saw a rehearsal video that he became invested in the band.

"I started to realize that they were actually pretty cool," Summers said. "I don't even know what genre their music is. All I know is that it sounded like stuff I like."

He messaged Meyer, and offered to step in as someone who had navigated the music industry.

It was a huge offer for people who were mainly busy being college students. Summers says he believes experienced musicians should step in and help people they think have promise.

He guided them on what to do, what to say, and offered to mix and master the band's upcoming single. He also offered to do it for free, without ever seeing the group perform live.

"Every time I see a video of them performing, it looks like people are either having a really good time or on molly," Summers said, laughing.

According to him, getting people to come out to a show can be more of a battle than writing quality songs. As Avid Dancer, he has over a million streams on Spotify, but said he could never get people to come out. The Fertile Crescent can.

Summers sees a future for the band while also keeping its members grounded in reality. He started talking to them about a full-length album, publicists and a possible tour. He can see them touring with the likes of L.A.-based Mac DeMarco.

The band was becoming something bigger than itself.

When someone describes The Fertile Crescent, it's usually something along the lines of a jazzy big-band without the structure. Summers described it as a lo-fi indie band with some sort of soul-urban fusion. But it's still a "22 year-old college kid singing vocals."



Fertile Crescent keyboardist Connor Racicot glances down the stage at his bandmate during a show at Freecycles on Dec. 6, 2019. SARA DIGGINS | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Summers is dedicated to the band without envisioning a long future with them. He acknowledges that they might find someone else, someone they would even be willing to pay. But he'll do it for as long as they'll let him.

The Fertile Crescent merch can be seen at any location in Missoula, whether that be Pie Hole or the public library. Stickers and homemade patches adorn the denim jackets and Hydroflasks of freshmen and others who might call themselves "hip."

But at the moment, The Fertile Crescent's music is only in people's heads, like an earworm they can't quite get rid of. Members get asked where people can stream their music.

Unlike most Missoula bands and other artists without a label, The Fertile Crescent isn't on Bandcamp. Fans could hear a song once and then not hear it for months, trying to piece together the melody and lyrics in their heads. The slow rise of a sax or a particularly good high note might play without them ever realizing who they're hearing.

This isn't to say they're ghosts. The social media feed for The Fertile Crescent is a purple-toned experience. Someone might be able to find a short clip of a rehearsal or a close-up shot of an onion, but that's about

it. There's a mystery in not knowing. To become a fan, someone would have to see the band to believe it. It's underground enough to make people feel cool about knowing the group, without the group actually being unpopular.

After the Free Cycles success, The Fertile Crescent scaled it back for a show at the University of Montana dining hall, the Food Zoo. It sounds weird to have a band that's blowing up play in a glorified cafeteria, but when someone steps back and sees the group for what it is, a student band making music for the masses, it feels comfortable.

Tables got pushed aside to make room for all the instruments. People perched on counters and crowded around buffet lines. Some brave, or strange, freshmen danced between the aisles. Parents took videos.

People were perplexed, yes. After all, it's not something the average Food Zoo patron would expect. Eat some lackluster food, take a break, leave. That's the way it goes. But live entertainment makes eating lackluster food slightly better. "My life is a movie," one student said, staring at the band with a mix of awe and utter confusion.

THE FUTURE



A "perfect storm" of happenstance, circumstance and hard work have led up to this moment, according to Curtis. A combination of the members, the manager and the drive has led to The Fertile Crescent growing to one of the most recognizable bands in Missoula.

The members aren't the only ones who think this. Talent scouts from Logjam Productions had been watching the Fertile Crescent since its show at the Union Ballroom. The band had almost been booked a few times, but nothing stuck. In fall of 2019, a talent scout came to a live recording but left after two songs.

By December, the band had been booked to headline at the Top Hat on Jan. 24, 2020, less than two years after it started performing.

This isn't a small feat. Logjam books the likes of Soccer Mommy, Vampire Weekend and Bon Iver.

This Friday will be a big day for *the* band. In addition to the show at the Top Hat, it's also the day its single "Onion Garden"

will release on all major streaming platforms. When The Fertile Crescent fans hear anything about a possible single release, the common response is: "Please tell me it's 'Onion Garden.'" This is the earworm. This is the song that makes people "look like they're on molly."

And this time, The Fertile Crescent is not planning on another hiatus. A full album is slated to release on all major streaming platforms in late spring. The possibility of a tour hovers over the band. Oh, and the individual members? They're still going to school, with some graduating in the closer-than-they-think future.

Curtis may attribute the band's success to a "perfect storm," but it's so much more than that. It's rare for a group to come back after one hiatus, let alone three. This is a porous group that has had over 15 different members. And on top of that, these are college students. This isn't your cousin's dorm-room band. As the members say, "It's a friggin' revolution."



The Fertile Crescent performs live at the Top Hat on Jan. 24 at 10:15 p.m. Local Missoula bands Cleaning Crew and Writ Large open. "Onion Garden" releases midnight January 24, 2020.



TOP: Fertile Crescent trumpet player Andrew Kagerer, left, and trombonist James Standish play during a basement album recording session in October. The band spent a week recording together and separately in the basement to produce an album, working around their busy school schedules.

BOTTOM: Kyle Curtis talks with the band about changes to their solos as the group record scratch tracks for their album in early October. SARA DIGGINS | CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



CONSTANCE DARLINGTON | MONTANA KAIMIN

Don't overstep your place as an ally. We're canceling that in 2020

JORDYNN PAZ

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At the end of December, Twitter – and no, not Native Twitter – was buzzing about a tweet from Donald Trump. The tweet was about bills the president signed promoting tribal sovereignty and thanking 'Indian Country' for making it all happen.

That's when Twitter lost its shit. Apparently, according to non-Native Twitter, 'Indian Country' is offensive, despite it being a legal and widely accepted/used term in Indigenous communities. While everyone else was berating Trump for his racist statement, Native Twitter was trying to explain that no, Indian Country is not that offensive, at least to most Indigenous people in the U.S. Yet, surprise surprise, no one listened, and instead choose to talk over us.

Many of the tweets responding to our national orange were supposedly advocating for Native people in the U.S. — Indian Country if you will. Unfortunately, very few of the tweet-ers actually used their

space on the social media app to elevate the voices of those they were 'advocating' for, choosing to call the president racist and ignorant on their own, stifling the voices of Indian Country along the way.

I'm not here to say Trump isn't racist and totally ignorant, I'm here to address the other part of this issue. Non-Indigenous people taking up space that rightfully belongs to us and 'sticking up' for us when we did not ask or need them to. It's this kind of entitlement of the Well-Meaning-White-Person that has caused so many troubles for tribal communities, pushing us further and further away from mainstream society.

Indigenous people have dealt with this type of educated person coming into our spaces, thinking they know all there is to know about us, assuming our needs and casting us to the side and calling it social justice. We've seen it in journalism, film, art, research and of course, academia. This Twitter situation goes to show that while you may think you are, you are not educated on Indigenous people, who we are, what we do and the things we face.

These incidents are particularly problematic be-

cause you think you are doing right by us, thinking you are helping us, putting on your White Savior of the Month cap, rolling up your sleeves and 'doing the work.' You fail to see the issue of what you are doing and many times loathe to be corrected, especially by the community you are trying to fight for.

Frustratingly enough, this was the Indigenous issue America wanted to speak up about. This is the hill they wanted to die on for our rights, the term Indian Country is where they draw the line. Not pipelines, not missing and murdered women, not traumatized children, not national ignorance, but a legal, widely accepted and used phrase to describe our communities.

Here's the deal, if you want to be a real ally, step to the side until people from those communities have actually spoken and said their piece. When these groups are speaking, shut up and LISTEN. Follow their leads of what their communities need because no one knows what they go through more than them. Don't ever for a moment believe that you are in some way more entitled to talk over or speak for Indigenous and people of color.

UC Market bagels control your life now

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18):

Everything bagel – Why don't you go ahead and put some gold flakes on top of your it-is-my-season-and-I-want-everyone-to-know-that-everything-is-about-me-especially-this-bagel bagel. We'd tell you to live it up, but we all know you're one of those "birthday month" kind of people. And yes, there's fennel on it.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22):

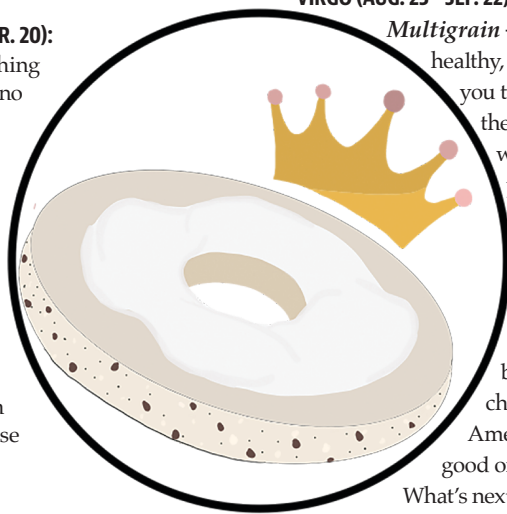
Garlic Parmesan – This is just another excuse to draw attention to yourself because, like, "wow I hope my breath doesn't smell like garlic that would be so crazy but while we're talking about me I am the sun."

VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEP. 22):

Multigrain – Multigrain means healthy, or at least that's what you told yourself. Just get the damn bagel you really want next time. And no, you don't need to pencil that into your planner.

PISCES (FEB. 19 - MAR. 20):

Blueberry – The thing about blueberry is no one wants it to be anything yet it's in everything. You couldn't decide if you liked fruity bagels and you got one anyway. You don't like fruit on pizza, but you'll definitely be ordering Hawaiian next time just in case you do.



LIBRA (SEP. 23 - OCT. 22):

Asiago – Wow, Libra, that asiago bagel with cream cheese next to your Americano will look so good on your Instagram story. What's next? Cycling at Sobba because it'll, like, change your life. It's your culture now. Just like hoop earrings.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19):

Pumpernickel – A pumpernickel bagel is the food equivalent of "Days of Our Lives." But you don't care, Aries, you're special. Just like your favorite Indie band.

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20):

Sesame – The everything bagel was just a little too intimidating, but this one has seeds too, so close enough? It doesn't really matter, after all this is just a little pre-game fuel for watching Netflix in the back of your lecture.

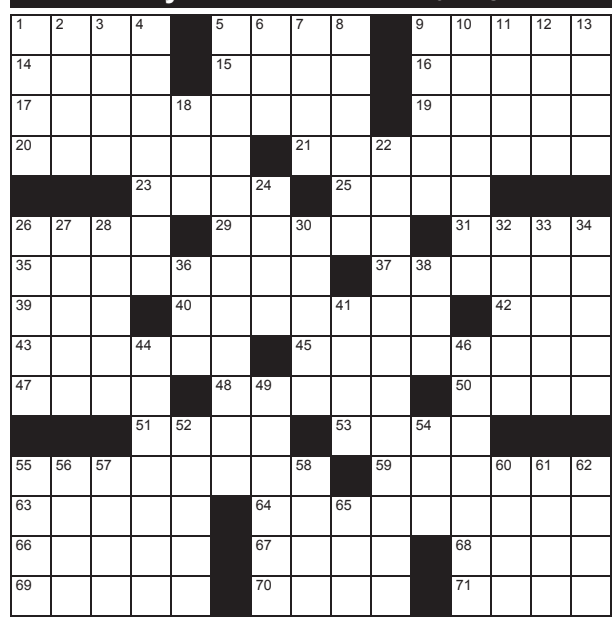
GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20):

Cinnamon Raisin – Just one bagel flavor wasn't good enough for you, Gemini. What kind of cream cheese do you even put on a cinnamon raisin bagel? Swap the schmear with your ever-changing personality. There's a chance that today it'll be tasty.

CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 22):

Spinach & Herb – The spinach and herb bagel is the hidden hors d'oeuvre of the UC Market. Just like you. You probably got this bagel in pair with one for your boo. But remember, it's okay to eat the bagel with more cream cheese.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

- 1 Prepare, as tea
- 5 Work well together
- 9 Run, as colors
- 14 One for the road
- 15 Animal featured in 2019's "Long Gone Wild"
- 16 Baby insect
- 17 Address every four years
- 19 Gabriel, for one
- 20 Run to mom about
- 21 Ring thing
- 23 Star Trek android
- 25 Surfer's stop
- 26 Wound covering
- 29 Looks out for, maybe
- 31 Invitation letters
- 35 Innkeeper
- 37 Resentment
- 39 Envelope abbr.
- 40 Software buyer, usually
- 42 Big fuss
- 43 Of serfs and manors
- 45 Locker room speeches
- 47 Hunt and peck
- 48 Prefix for "net" or "state"
- 50 WWII milestone
- 51 Sheet of ice
- 53 Pack of paper
- 55 Undying flower
- 59 Butter portions
- 63 Embroidered loop
- 64 Where Rosies served in WWII
- 66 URL character
- 67 "Lean" anagram
- 68 Kind of code
- 69 High-society group
- 70 Budget item
- 71 Give the eye
- 28 Enjoyed immensely
- 30 Act volcanic
- 32 Burn badly
- 33 White Russian ingredient
- 34 Dull, as text
- 36 Grassy meadow
- 38 It may be framed
- 41 Oracle
- 44 Clear, as a windshield
- 46 Nimitz of WWII
- 49 Like some regions
- 52 Wood-turning tool
- 54 Law enforcement org.
- 55 Altar spot
- 56 Grain grinder
- 57 Antioxidant-rich berry
- 58 Pocket problem
- 60 Apple part
- 61 Joint with a cap
- 62 Celeb
- 65 O'Toole film, "___ of La Mancha"

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

Basketball, comedy for all and a winter ball

Wednesday 22

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

January is National Blood Donors month, and blood donors are always needed for medical treatments and urgent care. Why not sign up and donate some of your own red stuff for a good cause? Donate to someone who needs it and enjoy a cookie while doing it? Why not!

Todd Building Room 204, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: INDOOR INTRAMURAL SPORTS

The Student Recreation Center wants to offer you and your friends the chance to register a team for one of its many intramural sports, and Wednesday is the deadline to sign up. Grab a team and sign up for 5-on-5 basketball (corec, men's, women's), volleyball (corec, men's, women's), indoor soccer, dodgeball and inner tube water polo.

Register at <http://www.imleagues.com/umontana>. Games begin the week of Jan. 27.

Thursday 23

PUBLIC PLANETARIUM SHOW

This Thursday kicks off UM's department of physics and astronomy's planetarium shows open to the public. Stop by every Thursday as faculty take you on a tour of the night sky. Chris Totzauer presents the first show of the semester: "The Sun-Earth Connection: Space Weather and Solar Storms." Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Please arrive 10 minutes before the show.

Thursdays at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Stargazing room 013 in the basement of the Payne Family Native American Center.

TEN SPOON COMEDY NIGHT:

Love comedy? Love wine (with an ID)? Why not have both? Ten Spoon Vineyard Winery partners with Revival Comedy to bring you local Missoula comedians and local Missoula Wine. The event is free and open to all ages.

Wine bar opens at 4 p.m. Comedy starts at 7 p.m.

PANEL: CALLING BS IN THE AGE OF FAKE NEWS

Do you know how to spot fake news on social media? Do you want to learn how to help stop the spread of misinformation online? Join Imagine Nation Brewing for a discussion with a panel of cyber experts who will provide background, tools and strategies to combat false information on the internet.

Imagine Nation Brewing, 6 p.m.

Friday 24

WINTER BALL 2020 - SKURFS/NEW OLD FUTURE/COSMIC SANS

Free Cycles presents its third-annual Winter Ball. Dress up (formal wear is encouraged!) and get yourself a dancing partner to jam out to music from the Skurfs, New Old Future and Cosmic Sans. \$5 recommended donation

Free Cycles, 7 p.m.

Saturday 25

LADY GRIZ BASKETBALL VS. WEBER STATE

Grab your Griz gear and your friends and hit up the student section to cheer on the Lady Griz in their game against Weber State.

Dahlberg Arena, 2 p.m.

Sunday 26

POOL NIGHT AT THREE IN THE SIDE

Time to prove that you are the best at billiards, at least compared to your other friends. Three in the Side hosts free pool every Sunday, giving you the chance to brush up on your 8-ball skills. 18+ from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. and 21+ 11 p.m. to close.

Tuesday 28

GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO STOP DIETING IN 2020

Truman Capote Fellow of the University of Montana and anti-diet activist Abby

Seethoff wants you to know that you don't need to diet in 2020. Join her for her presentation, "New Year, New You: Give Yourself Permission to Stop Dieting in 2020," where she will debunk diet myths and propose that it's ok to eat what tastes good.

Goodworks Place, 6 p.m.

OF EBONY EMBERS FT. THE CORE ENSEMBLE

The University of Montana and chamber Music Montana present a chamber ensemble celebrating the lives of the great African-American poets Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and Claude McKay. The Boston Globe calls it "often formidable, always intelligent, ultimately compelling." Tickets are available through GrizTix.

University Music Recital Hall 7:30 p.m.

2020 Host Families NEEDED

April 3-5

April 28-May 22

June 12-14

Sep. 4-6

Oct. 19-Nov. 11



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UM play-by-play announcer repeats as an award winner

JACK MARSHALL

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When UM sportscaster Riley Corcoran learned he won the Montana Sportscaster of the Year award for the second year in a row, he said he was humbled. The Billings native is one of 61 sportscasters from Montana who have won the award, which the National Sports Media Association (NSMA) has given out since 1959.

"It's a motivating factor to me to never really let up on your work ethic," Corcoran said about the award.

Corcoran beat out award finalists Rocky Erickson and Mark Miller. Erickson works in Billings for Rocky Erickson Sports, and Miller works at Red Lodge's KMXE Radio.

"There's nobody that prepares as much and works as hard at his craft than Riley does," said UM Athletics spokesperson Eric Taber. "He really does his homework."

NSMA Executive Director Dave Goren called Corcoran to tell him he won this year's award in early January, but the award wasn't announced to the public until Jan. 14. Members of the NSMA nominated potential award recipients in the fall, and they narrowed the pool down to two nominees in December.

Once NSMA members voted on the final two sportscasters, Goren called the winner to congratulate them. "A good sportscaster is somebody who can tell a story each day – somebody who is well prepared and knows the game," Goren said.

The award will be handed out to recipients in Winston-Salem, North Carolina during the NSMA's awards weekend June 27-29. "[The awards weekend] is a great way to network with some of the nation's best sportscasters," Corcoran said.

Corcoran has been working as UM's "Voice of the Griz" since 2016, and he said he won't stop anytime soon. "I just want to continue to get better next year. It would be great to add some TV opportunities," he said.



Riley Corcoran provides live coverage during the University of Montana men's basketball game versus the Idaho Vandals on Jan. 18 at Dahlberg Arena. SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN

Corcoran graduated from Washington State University with a B.A. in broadcasting and a minor in sports management in 2011. He also received the Keith Jackson Award at WSU, which is given to the school's top sports broadcaster.

After graduating, 630 The Fan, a radio station in Boise, Idaho, hired Corcoran as a sports director. The Sportscasters Talent Agency of America (STAA) named Corcoran Idaho's best play-by-play

broadcaster in 2012. The organization also named Corcoran's radio show the best sports program in the state of Idaho.

Corcoran worked for a minor league baseball team in North Carolina and for Montana State University before he accepted a job offer at UM. His job mainly includes broadcasting basketball and football games, but he also covers some softball and volleyball games. UM gave Corcoran a three-year con-

tract extension in the summer of 2019.

The broadcaster also hosts the "Inside the Den" podcast and the "Grizzly Coaches Show," where he interviews coaches, athletes and employees around UM athletics.

Bullet-Poof: How a UM football player's injury turned him into a TikTok celebrity

JACK MARSHALL

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Former UM cornerback Josh Egbo used to showcase his talents in front of over 25,000 fans in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. But since he retired from football, he now performs for millions of fans online. The Arizona native had 1.5 million followers and 43 million likes as of Jan. 17, 2020 on the video-sharing social network TikTok.

"I have a section in the notes in my phone strictly for TikToks," said Egbo, who currently lives at his home in Arizona. He graduated from UM in 2019 with a degree in biology.

Before he was an internet celebrity, Egbo attended Highland High School in Gilbert, Arizona for his senior and junior years, where he was named a Third-Team All-Arizona Runningback in his senior season at Highland.

UM was the only Division-I college to offer Egbo a full-ride football scholarship, so he committed to play football for the Griz in 2016.

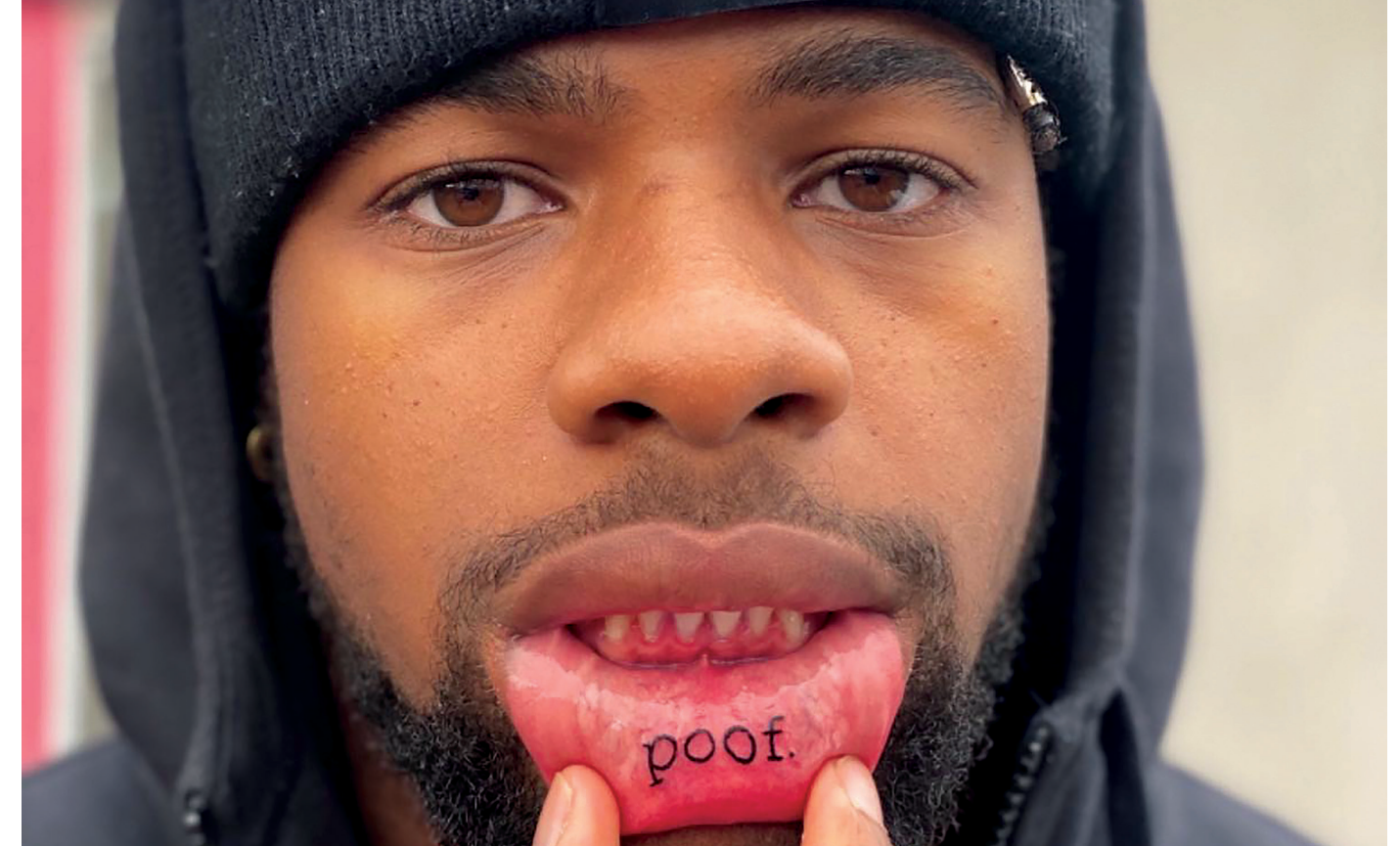
"It was a blessing," said Egbo about his recruitment at UM. "I basically only played one year of high school football."

Despite never playing defense in high school, he switched to cornerback when he joined the UM football team. After redshirting in 2016, Egbo played for the Griz during the 2017 and 2018 seasons. He played in a total of 15 games with the Griz, racking up 13 tackles. He was named Academic All-Big Sky for the 2017 and 2018 seasons.

When Egbo was preparing for his junior season in the summer of 2019, he suffered the ACL injury that would eventually lead him to his TikTok fame.

Egbo returned home for the summer to recover from the injury, and his cousin Jesse Nwalor suggested that he make a TikTok video. The app was just becoming popular with young adults around the world, as it had just hit 1 billion worldwide downloads in February.

For his first video, Egbo pretended to document his time in the fictional country of Wakanda, which is depicted in the Marvel movie "Black Panther." After he finished filming, he went to sleep. But he woke up at around 3 a.m. and realized that his video had around 100,000 views.



Egbo shows off a tattoo he got in December after losing a bet. JOSH EGBO | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After Egbo realized he had potential on the platform, he continued to make TikToks under the username "The Poof Daddy." Egbo started using the nickname in sixth grade, after a Jersey Shore name generator on his iPod randomly produced it.

"I hated it, but my brothers called me it to make fun of me and it just kind of stuck," Egbo said.

After Egbo created a few more videos, he posted one where he sprayed shots of water at a mirror with a spray bottle like he was shooting a gun. Once again, he went to bed. But he woke up that night because a friend sent him his video. It was going viral.

"I was kind of embarrassed at first," admitted Egbo, whose spray bottle video had 21 million views as of Jan. 17, 2020. As he continued making TikToks, many of the videos also surpassed 1 million views.

As Egbo's followers and views continued to rise, What's Good Management agent Joseph Marcus noticed the rising

TikTok star. What's Good Management manages several famous TikTok personality brands and their merchandise sales.

"I was scrolling through TikTok, and I thought he was hilarious," Marcus said. "He's a lot more clever than a lot more TikTokers."

Since inking a deal with the management company, Egbo has financially benefited from his TikTok account. If a music artist wants one of their songs to appear on @thepoofdaddy's account permanently, they have to pay \$450 for a video. Egbo also appears on TikTok live, where he does live video chats with fans who can ask him questions and send gifts with real money.

Egbo sometimes makes up to \$60 chatting with fans on a live video. Since November, his account has earned around \$3,000.

Egbo has many fans around the world, including Grammy-nominated music artist Camila Cabello. Cabello, who had almost 6 million TikTok followers

on Jan. 17, 2020, only follows two people on the app. One of them is Egbo.

Many TikTok users also notice Egbo in public. "I go to the mall and I go to Chick-fil-A and people are like, are you Poof Daddy?" said Egbo. "It's cool how I can influence people without knowing them."

Egbo also likes to feature his brothers and friends in his videos. His older brother, David Egbo, gives him a lot of ideas for his videos and also appears along with his two other brothers, Daniel and Benjamin, in some TikToks. David has his own TikTok that has around 40,000 followers under the name @cactusjex. Josh has also featured other UM athletes including volleyball player Elsa Godwin and football player Malik Flowers on his channel.

Famous TikTokers including Tommy Unold, who has a following of around 4 million people, have reached out to Egbo to sing duets in videos so they can both increase their fan bases. Josh has a GoFund-

Carter-Hollinger filling big shoes at UM basketball

GRIFFEN SMITH

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With fewer than 10 minutes left in the game, Derrick Carter-Hollinger Jr. pulled down a rebound against Portland State. He raced down the court, caught a pass from senior Sayeed Pridgett for the alley-oop causing the crowd to erupt into a frenzy at Dahlberg Arena.

"We had to make this shot, so I might as well dunk it," Carter-Hollinger said after the game. "The crowd went crazy, the bench went crazy and [Portland State] had to take a timeout."

The University of Montana beat the Vikings 85-70 Jan. 13. Carter-Hollinger scored 13 points off the bench.

Freshman Carter-Hollinger, known by teammates and coaches as "DJ," immediately impacted the team during his short time playing in Missoula. He averaged 7.1 points per game through Jan. 14, ranking third on the team.

Before the Griz, Carter-Hollinger played for Foothill Christian High School outside of San Diego. He led the team to a 24-7 record and ranked 13th in the state of California.

After he visited Missoula for a weekend in September 2018, Carter-Hollinger committed to the school.

"When I came on my visit, it was just love from everybody, even random people from the streets," Carter-Hollinger said. "I felt love, and it felt like home."

On Jan. 14, 2020, Carter-Hollinger was named Big Sky Player of the Week. In the two games before the award, Carter-Hollinger averaged 16.5 points off of 79% shooting, with nine rebounds and three steals.

Fellow Grizzlies Sayeed Pridgett and Kendal Manuel won Big Sky Player of the Week award the past two years. In a game against Eastern Washington, Carter-Hollinger led the team in points and rebounds.

Eastern Washington was ranked third in the nation for points per game, aver-



University of Montana forward Derrick Carter-Hollinger dribbles up the court during Montana's game against Portland State University at Dahlberg Arena on Jan. 14, 2020. DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

aging over 80 points. In the game against Montana, Eastern Washington lost 63-90.

Before the 2019-2020 season, the men's basketball team had to replace four starters who helped Montana win back-to-back Big Sky Conference championships and subsequent NCAA tournament bids.

Along with Carter-Hollinger, Kyle Owens and Josh Vazquez were brought into the program, both av-

eraging over 5 points a game.

Vazquez plays the most minutes out of the trio (29) and has started almost every game at the point guard position.

"We're excited about our freshman class," head coach Travis DeCuire said. "They are learning how to compete at this level at a very fast rate, and hopefully it continues."

With the newest additions, the Griz

jumped to a strong start in the Big Sky Conference, going 5-1 through Jan. 13.

For Carter-Hollinger, 2020 is just the beginning of his development as a player.

"Knowing that I can perform this way, at this level, as a freshman brings hope to me," Carter-Hollinger said. "Hope that I can continue to perform like this and even better in the future."



Former University of Montana cornerback Josh Egbo in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. JOSH EGBO | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Me so fans can donate money to help him go to Playlist Live, a convention for internet content creators (mainly YouTubers).

Sometimes it takes up to 90 tries in order for Josh to get one TikTok video right. "It started as a joke, but now it's becoming a hobby," said Josh, who sometimes spends multiple hours scrolling through the app without realizing it.

Many other people have been drawn into TikTok just like Josh, as the app has over 1 billion all-time downloads. Most of Josh's fans are from the U.S., but he also has a considerable following from the United Kingdom, Canada and Germany.

The app originated in China, but the company that owns TikTok, ByteDance, realized its marketability. The company

released a global version of the app in 2018.

"At this point, it's going to be here for a while," said Josh about TikTok. "I feel like it's a solid platform for everyone." His manager predicts an even bigger future for the app. "It's going to be the No. 1 platform soon," Marcus said.

Josh also created a YouTube channel, hoping to acquire the YouTube fame his brothers have. His brothers, Daniel and David are part of a channel called "The Shepherdz," which caters to almost 40,000 subscribers. The channel mainly produces videos of the Egbo brothers or other channel members asking strangers trivia questions.

Josh said that there is still a chance he will play football again. But for now, he's the CEO of the "PoofPack."



ABOVE: Former Griz redshirt junior corner back Josh Egbo sports a disappointed gesture after a referee calls a penalty on the Griz. DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN
BELOW: Josh Egbo at his graduation in December. JOSH EGBO | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Queens for a cause

HAZEL CRAMER

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Colorful lights, screaming fans and blaring music bounced off the walls of The Badlander on Friday night, Jan. 17, as both drag queens and burlesque artists performed on stage at the Panty Rock Drag Show.

"Drag is another art form to express yourself with," said emcee and queen, Sophia Octavia Stone Valhalla. "I do this because I want to show other people that they can do exactly what they want to do."

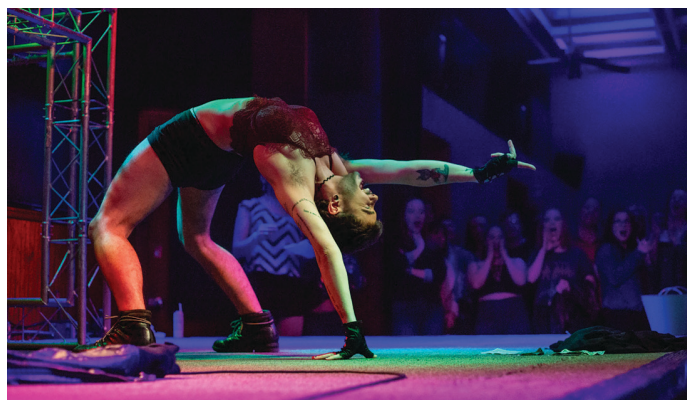
The performers collected dollar bills to support Ivan and Ivy MacDonald in the making of "When They Were Here," their full-length documentary on murdered and missing indigenous women, which has been in the works for over two years.

According to Maggie Bornstein, co-director of the Women's Resource Center, the show is traditionally a fundraiser for renting a space to hold "The Vagina Monologues," an annual play. This year, the Women's Resource Center decided to support something different.

"Tonight, the goal is to create a fun and successful fundraiser for the murdered and missing indigenous women documentary," Bornstein said. "This year, the Women's Resource Center decided to veto 'The Vagina Monologues' in order to support a story that is important to our community."

Fans and friends of the queens would either hand money to the performers or throw their bills on stage, and the bills eventually found their way into one of the two large donation buckets, supporting both the performers and the MacDonald siblings' work.

The Badlander will host Welcome to the Gaytrix, a science fiction drag show, on Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. The event will be a clothing drive and a raffle, as well as a performance.



Aladdin Glambert does a backbend on stage at The Panty Rock Drag show while pointing at half of the audience. They danced to "Confident" at The Badlander on Jan. 17.



Vox Moxxi, a burlesque artist for 10 years, fixes her cat ears before her upcoming performance. "Burlesque is more about teasing and the dancer's fantasy," Moxxi said.



Sophia Octavia Stone Valhalla poses for a portrait backstage. "Drag is another art form to express yourself with," Valhalla said.



Whoopsie Goldberg smiles at her audience on stage at The Badlander. She performed her burlesque routine at the Panty Rock Drag Show on Jan. 17.