

MONTANA KAIMIN

STORY BY DILLON RICHARDSON
PHOTOS BY LEO SPERRY



STUDENT-ATHLETES ACROSS UM FACE THE CHALLENGE OF COMPETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ATHLETICS WHILE STAYING STRONG WHERE IT MATTERS MOST: THE CLASSROOM



6 SWAPING STAGES

15 BONNER BASEBALL

16 UNAFFORDABLE ADOBE

OCTOBER 2, 2025
VOLUME 128 | ISSUE NO. 5

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."

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Elle Daniel

BUSINESS MANAGER
Leah Goodwin

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
Kairi Lising

NEWS EDITOR
Sav Chavez

SPORTS EDITOR
Hannah Benitez

FEATURES EDITOR
Maddie Pandis

AUDIO EDITOR
Grace Golbach

COPY CHIEF
Mariah Henry

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Henry Doellinger

DESIGN EDITOR
Dane Clements

DIGITAL EDITOR
Caydence Martin

NEWSROOM STAFF

NEWS REPORTERS
Aidan Graham
Sabrina Philip
Blue Rogalski
Abigail Williams

SPORTS REPORTERS
Cameron Contreras
Dillon Richardson
Jack Snow

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTERS
Sydney Moate
Bee Reiswig
Nicolette Seibel

AUDIO REPORTERS
Samuel Armstrong-DuBois
Weston Fudge

MULTIMEDIA
Diego Hernandez
Jackson Mailey
Leo Sperry
Brooke Strickler
Will Ladyman

COPY EDITORS
Sydney Hamilton
Bee Reiswig
Madeline Thunburg

DESIGNERS
Fiona Davia
Katie Mihalik
Taryn Thompson

CARTOONIST
Barrett Clement

SOCIAL MEDIA ASSISTANT
Logan Yantes

BUSINESS ASSISTANTS
Alison Liwosz
Joshua Stanek

ADVISERS
Annie Gowen
Jason Begay

 @Montanakaimin

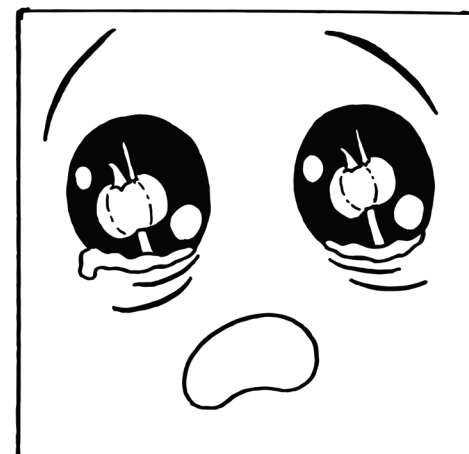
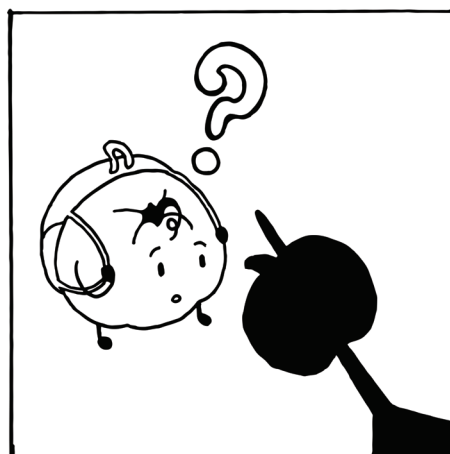
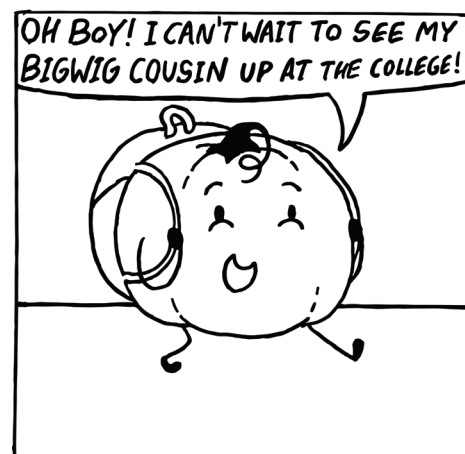
 @Montanakaimin
@Montanakaiminsports

 @Montanakaimin
@Kaiminsports

For comments, corrections or letters to the editor, contact
elle.daniel@umontana.edu
or call (406) 493-7166.

For advertising opportunities, contact
kaiminads@outlook.com
or go to
<https://www.montanakaimin.com/site/advertise.html>

KAIMIN KOMICS: SE 3 EP 3



FOR MORE STORIES, VISIT THE KAIMIN'S WEBSITE



POLITICAL CARTOON



BARRETT
2025



Motorcycle Monte

Monte arrives to the Sept. 27 game against Idaho on a motorcycle holding up the Little Brown Stein. The Little Brown Stein is a trophy that the winner of the Griz/Vandals game gets every year.

JACKSON MAILEY | MONTANA KAIMIN

Weighing the cons of moving

Clawing its way last weekend to its fourth victory, the University of Montana football team has started the new season on the best kind of note. With the team’s recent success, the question arises of whether or not the Griz should move into a higher conference, allowing it to play better and more well-known teams.

During the off-season, many college football fans took to social media to express their interest in seeing the Griz and Montana State in the Pac-12.

If the Griz were to join the Pac-12, it would face off against the Oregon State Beavers or the Washington State Cougars, both teams that have had multiple players drafted into the National Football League. Compared to the Griz, which has only had a couple of players drafted, it’s obvious the experience is not there for UM.

If UM were to move up to the Pac-12, it wouldn’t mean we’d be shoved into the jaws of season-dominant teams like Alabama or Florida, but the change in level could really upset the Grizzlies.

Each year in the Big Sky Conference, the Griz has had at least one or two opponents where fans and analysts could say, “We have this game locked down,” but if we enter the Pac-12, that confidence could quickly go away.

What is currently a team of Grizzlies would soon become a small pack of cubs, the underdogs. We would lose all ferocity and just cower in fear against our opponents.

The Griz aren’t fit to go up against powerhouses. We aren’t even the powerhouse of the Big Sky. For the past five seasons the Griz have only broken into the top three once.

As a UM student and fan, I understand the Griz deserve recognition, from my days in my high school finance class smiling from my desk as I heard my classmates bet on UM to win the Football Championship Subdivision title game. But I also understand we would get buried if we were to join Pac-12.

In the 2024 season, the game against the University of North Dakota had a great start, but throughout the rest of the game it was like the Griz forgot how to play football.

It was a terrible and embarrassing game for the Griz. Even seeing Montana State University beat us in last year’s standings was not ideal for any Griz fan. But we have to face the fact that this embarrassment would be on a weekly basis for UM if we moved up to the Pac-12.

While the Pac-12 might not be the move for the Griz, there are other conferences that can challenge UM without being too overbearing.

Last season, there was some speculation going around if it was time for UM and MSU to make the switch to the Mountain West Conference, which would allow the Griz to play more competitive teams and move up into the Football Bowl Subdivision.

A jump like that could elevate the Griz and UM onto a national stage, going from only two broadcasts on main television channels per season to all its games on ESPN or CBS.

But it’s not just the Griz that would need to put in the work in order to move up, it’s the fans, too. As the Idaho game last weekend entered the second half, the stands started to look stark.

For a stadium known for being a fortress and a tough environment for the visiting team, giving the Griz a big advantage, we let our players down. If we want to have any chance to make our presence known in the Pac-12 or Mountain West, we need to show how large our fanbase is. We need to get the state behind us and show the world that UM isn’t a small college. We can stand with the bigger teams.

Though the move for the Griz would be within the next couple of seasons due to the conference re-shifting, it could mean a few bad seasons for the Griz. Instead of blowing out teams, we’ll be the ones going home winless, a time when it would be all the more important for the stadium to be loud.

In 2020, Washington-Grizzly Stadium recorded an average level of 111.3 decibels as fans screamed through the stadium, which placed it at the 10th loudest stadium, just above Michigan Stadium. The rest of the teams on that list were all a part of either Big Ten or SEC.

We’re used to being in the championship, but if we enter the Football Bowl Subdivision, that all goes away. Just making the post-season would be a success for the Griz. Fighting for a national championship against the likes of Michigan and Penn State would be a fantasy.

Growing up in North Carolina, with colleges like Duke and the University of North Carolina less than 30 minutes from my house, I heard all about college football. Though I wasn’t that big of a fan of college gameday, I had the same dream as everyone else at my high school: to attend a college with an elite football team.

I soon learned that I cared more about my education, but whenever I tune into a Tennessee or Georgia game, I do wonder what it’s like to storm the field and celebrate a normal Saturday football game.

As a football fan, it would be a dream to watch the Griz face off against Penn State during its famous white-out game, or take on former national champions like Michigan.

These games against Big Ten or Big 12 teams, although the Griz would get blown out, would be a different stage. It could help get our players’ names out there, and it could give them a chance to play with NFL scouts watching.

While the move to the Mountain West might not be the best idea for the morale of the team, it could bring a greater future for the Griz, and it would be a better option than the Pac-12. But no matter what, the team would need the help of us, the fans. So stay in your seat, pack the stands and cheer on this team. It could need all the help it can get in a move.

- Hannah Benitez, sports editor

Like it? Hate it? Let us know.
Email us your opinions at elle.daniel@umontana.edu

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

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:

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

In local news...

ELLE DANIEL | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
elle.daniel@umontana.edu

HUMAN REMAINS FOUND ALONG DEEP CREEK ROAD

The remains of two unidentified bodies found near Deep Creek Road were recently dated back to the late 1700s and early 1800s.

Discovered by recreationalists in June 2024, the remains were only recently dated using radiocarbon testing. Detectives assigned to the remains could not identify if they were male or female, but identified two separate sets of remains.

Believed to be of Native American descent, the remains were from between 1780 and 1810. Missoula law enforcement told KPAX the remains were most likely discovered elsewhere, but then moved to the Deep Creek area.

Representatives of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes on the Montana State Burial Preservation Board agreed that custody of the remains should fall to the Confederated Tribes to ensure they receive a proper, respectful burial.

Missoula County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Jeannette Smith reminded the public in a statement not to disturb or relocate any discovered human remains.

"This is a good reminder to the public that if you locate human remains, under any situation, please contact our office or local law enforcement immediately," Smith stated.

Anyone with information about the remains is encouraged to call the Missoula County Sheriff's office at 406-258-4810.

MONTANA STUDENTS PEEING IN PUBLIC FOR NEW TIKTOK TREND

A new TikTok trend encouraging public urination has made its way onto multiple college campuses across Montana, including

Montana State University, MSU Billings and the University of Montana.

The trend, mostly participated in by male students, features subjects peeing in public and often on recognizable campus landmarks, like the bobcat statue at MSU. The urinator films themselves, then posts it online.

One video posted online showed the subject peeing on a tree with the University of Montana Main Hall clocktower in the background. The caption on the video read "University of Montana is not safe from me."

Another, posted by an account named "msub_pisser" showed the large rock entrance sign being urinated on. The usernames often specify a state or location where the public urination is taking place, but no identifying names. The videos are often taken at night.

MSUB freshman Cami Hearn told KPAX she was shocked this was happening on her campus. "I didn't expect that to happen here," Hearn said.

The videos aren't limited to Montana. Videos of people peeing in public and on campuses have sprung up across the country. Hearn told KPAX she's even seen videos of people peeing on the Penn State campus.

Billings Police Lt. Samantha Puckett warned of legal consequences for anyone caught urinating in public.

"They may think they're funny, but they're committing crimes," Puckett said. "So, they're going to be held accountable if we can identify them."

Puckett told KPAX if caught, anyone making the videos could potentially be charged with indecent exposure, or for a more serious incident, made to register as a sex offender.

"I think it's funny to a point," Hearn said. "Whenever it starts like becoming a vandalism thing, that's too far."



On this week's Kaimin Cast

The Clark Fork conundrum: how the city of Missoula balances recreation with conservation of the Clark Fork River.

For tens of thousands of years, humans have relied on the Clark Fork, a tradition that continues today. But recent increases in river recreation in Missoula have led to erosion, impacting the banks of the river, dispersing sediment downstream and destroying vegetation. To combat this, the city of Missoula introduced the Clark Fork River Restoration and Access Project, which aims to reduce the number of access points in the river, isolating foot traffic to a few specific areas. But the responsibility to protect the environment does not rest solely with the city.

Nathan McLeod, associate director of Planning, Design and Projects for the City of Missoula Parks and Recreation, has a message for students. "Let's respect the Clark Fork as one of our most prized ecological values within the valley. I think students, as the upcoming stewards of our environment, should look at this as 'Okay, I may not be able to get to the exact place that I've gone before, but this other access provides me with an alternative that's close enough and I understand the rationale behind it and I want to use that because I respect the river.'"

-Weston Fudge, audio reporter



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



MICHIGAN CHURCH ATTACK

Four people died and at least eight more were injured on Sunday after a man drove his pickup truck into a Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints in Grand Blanc Township, before opening fire on attendees and setting the building on fire.

FBI acting special agent Reuben Coleman told the New York Times the attack was classified as an "act of targeted violence," instead of an act of terrorism.

Thomas Jacob Sanford, 40, was identified as the shooter. Sanford, from Burton, Michigan, was killed in the ensuing gunfire fight between himself and police officers.

The agency is investigating "improvised explosive devices" recovered from the building wreckage after the attack.

SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL DECLINES

National support for Israel amid the war in Gaza is on the decline, according to a poll by the New York Times and Siena University. In the poll, 34% of American voters sided with Israel, down from 47% in 2023 after the initial Oct. 7 attack.

The war started after Palestinian armed group Hamas killed about 1,500 Israeli civilians during a music festival. The attack sparked a wider conflict between Israel and Palestine, resulting in the death of over 60,000 Palestinians and the destruction of hundreds of structures in Gaza, including hospitals and schools.

Now, 35% of American voters polled say they support Palestine, and 31% said they back both or are unsure.

Another poll from September showed 40% of those registered voters questioned believe Israel is intentionally killing civilians, up from the initial 21% in 2023.

Israel has been the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. foreign aid since 1948.

CALIFORNIA GOV. SIGNS NEW AI LAW

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a sweeping artificial intelligence bill into law on Monday in an attempt to implement safe development of new AI.

Senate Bill 53, or the Transparency in Frontier Artificial Intelligence Act, requires advanced AI companies to report safety protocols used in their technologies, along with the greatest risks posed by them. The bill is now one of the strongest regulations of the AI industry in the nation.

Prominent companies like Meta, OpenAI and Google warned state legislatures could put a burden on AI companies as states scramble to regulate the developing technology.

This new law is a new version of a previous AI safety law Newsom vetoed last year.



Friday
October 3rd
5pm-8pm

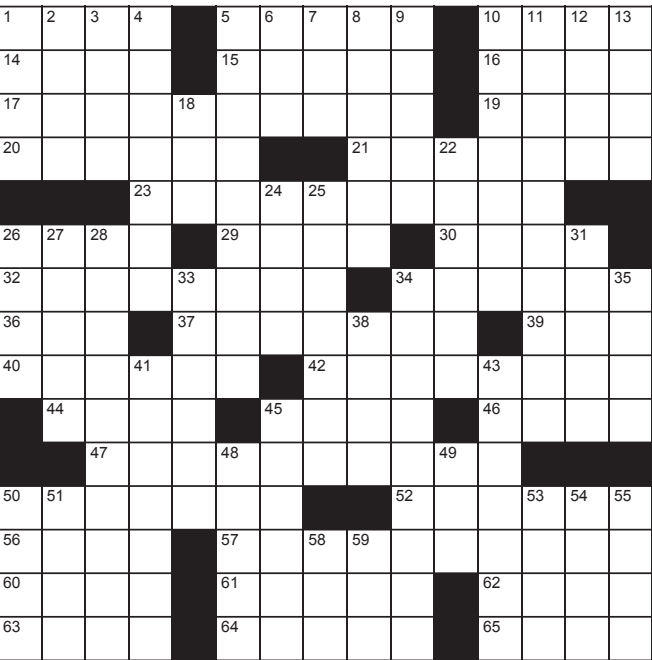
Prizes, wine, treats,
and a raffle basket.

Saturday
October 4th
11am-2pm

Fact n Fiction
220 N Higgins Ave

210 North Higgins
Ave Suite 200

Join us for a signing of **SNAPPING BACK:**
Its Never to Late to Be What You Might
Have Been
by Patti Carlisi!



- ACROSS**
- 1 Exotic berry
 - 5 Feverish fits
 - 10 Give off, as light
 - 14 Springsteen title word
 - 15 Audacity
 - 16 Aria singer
 - 17 Detergent additive
 - 19 "The Traitors" host Cumming
 - 20 NBA star Kirilenko
 - 21 Medical career
 - 23 Consideration
 - 26 Voucher
 - 29 Type of tea
 - 30 Stop suckling
 - 32 In the clear
 - 34 Chatty bird
 - 36 Psychic ability
 - 37 Crooked cowboy
 - 39 "Am ____ believe ...?"
 - 40 Leans (on)
 - 42 Animal trainers
 - 44 Virtual people in a video game
 - 45 Pizzazz
 - 46 Functions
 - 47 Some campaign workers
 - 50 Cavalryman
 - 52 Tabby intoxicant
 - 56 Baptism, for one
 - 57 You don't want to be in it
 - 60 Computer brand
 - 61 Bridal accessories
 - 62 Part of CPU
 - 63 Whodunit discovery
- DOWN**
- 1 "Waterloo" singers
 - 2 Toe woe
 - 3 Dry-as-dust
 - 4 Ungrateful one
 - 5 Like Norton software
 - 6 Word for Wally Cleaver
 - 7 Ashes holder
 - 8 Tied, as a score
 - 9 Fluid with antibodies
 - 10 Lead voice in "Up"
 - 11 Fighting groups
 - 12 Dr. Pavlov
 - 13 Zingy taste
 - 18 "If only ____ listened ..."
 - 22 Finder's payoff
 - 24 Frosts a cake
 - 25 Burns
 - 64 Circular path
 - 65 Leave in the dust
- Answers to Previous Crossword:**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | I | N | E | S | A | N | T | O | P | R | E | P | |
| I | D | E | M | W | H | O | R | L | L | E | V | I | |
| R | E | A | P | P | E | A | R | E | D | I | V | A | |
| M | A | T | T | E | L | A | T | T | A | I | N | S | |
| | | | | I | N | T | U | I | T | I | O | N | S |
| T | A | M | E | N | E | S | S | M | O | T | I | F | S |
| I | T | I | S | R | E | F | U | E | L | T | O | Y | |
| B | A | R | T | S | R | A | T | S | C | I | O | N | |
| B | R | A | H | U | S | H | U | P | O | N | T | O | |
| S | I | C | K | E | N | A | R | R | A | N | G | E | D |
| | | | | U | N | E | V | E | N | N | E | S | |
| C | O | L | O | N | E | L | S | I | E | V | E | S | |
| A | L | O | T | I | T | A | L | I | A | N | I | C | E |
| G | L | U | T | L | O | V | E | D | T | E | R | N | |
| E | A | S | Y | S | N | A | K | E | S | T | U | D | |

End-of-the-world-oscope

BEE REISWIG | ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER
bee.reiswig@umontana.edu

Every volcano in the world explodes at the same time. Nuclear warfare finally comes to a head. Zombies make their long-awaited appearance. No matter how it goes, the world is ending. What are you up to when it does? **LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):** It's a cold, cold world out there, Libra. And yet, you decide to go out hiking in it anyways. Backpack? On. Ice water? Gone. Shoes? Muddy. The end of times? Heading your way. You're going out grimy and sweaty, just the way you wanted.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): The music is loud.

The house is full, and you don't know who half these people are. But you know what, Scorpio, you're having a good time. After all, drunken flirting is the most fun. But just as you're leaning in to say something, BAM. No more world or house parties. **SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21):** Ooh, Sag, you just got back from a fun trip! Well, almost. You're on your last layover, tired and laying down on that nasty-ass airport carpet. So close, and yet so far. As you're thinking about how nice it'll be to shower and snuggle up in your own home ... Oops. Nuclear Apocalypse. Bye-bye, radiotactive bed.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Capricorn, good for you. You had a productive Saturday, and everything is checked off your to-do list. The laundry is clean, the floors have been mopped and there's no more work to worry about until Monday. You're sitting down on the couch to start a carefully selected movie when the first brain eating zombies rise from the grave. **AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18):** Wow, Aquarius, you've decided to have some fun and try skydiving for the adrenaline rush. It's a beautiful view from 10,000 feet up. The parachute has released (thank GOD) and you're floating down gently. Unfortunately, the world-ending comet is going to beat you down to the ground. Looks like there's not gonna be anything to land on.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Bedrotting, listening to music and imagining fake romantic scenarios is a great way to spend a day, Pisces. But is it really how you want to spend your last day on Earth? Turns out, you don't get a choice. Hope you made it to the part where they say "I love you" before the 100 foot tsunami arrives.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Aries, you have been locked IN on Duolingo (even though they use AI now...) and you are not letting yourself fail. How many days have you made it now? Well, just as you're stumbling through another useless sentence that you won't remember, the terminators arrive and enslave the human race. If only Duolingo had a class in killer robot binary.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): You're going out tonight and it's time to figure out an outfit. It seems like there's just nothing to wear! None of the clothes covering your floor will work. Unless..? The world ends as you're seeing if those neon green shorts with the polka dot top are hot enough for the club.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): It's another day of work, Gemini, and you're on the drive over. Luckily, you've got a delicious drink to add a bit of fun to the otherwise dull routine. Perfectly made to your liking, you even tipped the barista extra. Too bad it's flavored with end-the-entire-world disease. Enjoy your drink, patient zero.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Oof, Cancer, that breakfast did NOT sit well with you. You stopped at a gas station because you felt the rumblings

of something bad about to happen. You're waiting for someone to get out of that gross bathroom when your tummy isn't the only thing that explodes.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): God, you look good today Leo. Body tea, coochie good, as they like to say. And is it a crime for you to look at yourself in every reflective surface? You spend your last moments on earth doing what you loved, staring into the full-length mirror in your bedroom.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): I never thought I'd see you here. Virgo, you finally made it to therapy! It's hard to open up. Unfortunately, you're not gonna get an explanation as to why that tragic childhood memory stuck with you this long. We're out of time this session, and so is the planet.



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Dance on Location trades the stage for open air

NICOLETTE SEIBEL | ARTS REPORTER
nicolette.seibel@umontana.edu

University of Montana students may have glimpsed people peeking from the railing leading down to the Mathematics building, playfully miming duck-duck-goose, or disco dancing in front of the Mansfield Library.

That's rehearsal for Dance on Location, presented by UM's dance department. Dance on Location is a site-specific production, meaning that the performance is presented outdoors versus on a typical stage. Because of factors like the weather, the audience and the architecture, no performance is ever like the last.

The UM dance program has hosted Dance on Location for over 20 years. At the beginning of the year, dance majors and UM students with a love for dancing can audition. It is an opportunity for students and faculty to choreograph and showcase intimate performances and be a part of the long-lasting tradition of dancing around UM's campus.

Gabe Proctor, a freshman studying musical theatre, decided to audition for Dance on Location and was selected for one of the dances. This will be Proctor's first dance experience outside of the theater, but so far he has been having a lot of fun working with the dance movements and is specifically excited about his role in the show.

"Honestly, I think that a flash mob is an interesting enough event that a whole bunch of people are gonna show up," he said. "We're gonna be coming out of the crowd and oh ... we're dancing now!"

During his first rehearsal outside of the Mansfield Library, his nervousness evaporated when jiving to the song "Disco Snails" by Vulfmon & Zachary Barker. His fellow dance-mate, Katelyn Melcher, agrees with Proctor.

"It's very nerdy, but I love snails," she said. "It's really cute, and I think it will make people smile."

Melcher is a Ph.D. candidate in clinical psychology, but she has danced with the department for three years and performed in Dance on Location two years ago.

Up until dancing at UM, Melcher was used to the traditional stage-setting in performance, but this offers a different experience for both the dancer and the audience.

Melcher emphasized that Dance on Location is a great opportunity to explore and appreciate dance, even if you haven't before. This year, the performance begins at the Maureen and Mansfield Library on Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. and Oct. 5 at noon. The audience will be led to each performance by a guide, walking to each new venue where a performance will take place for two to eight minutes. For Melcher, it's a perfect time to talk about each piece, make a



Dancers of UM's Dance on Location rehearse for their upcoming performance, "The Hills Are Alive," choreographed by Seely Garrett, at a practice session on Sept. 28. The rehearsal took place in the green space between the University Center and the Mansfield Library. **DIEGO HERNANDEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

new friend and spend some time outdoors.

Melcher sees Dance On Location as a fun way to see different places around campus. The production allows the audience to see each location in a new light.

Ellie Mercer, a sophomore dance and medical laboratory science major, is also doing Dance on Location for her second time. She had performed through a class required for her dance major, but this year she auditioned and decided to do it for fun.

Melcher has been dancing since she was three, but she had never experienced a performance where she could see the facial expressions of the audience and be right up close to them. Last year she even had to step over someone to continue her dance, but this year she is hoping to get someone to dance with her.

"It's really fun because you don't know what to expect and I don't even know what to expect going into it, but you get to experience this whole new thing and in the sun," she said.

For choreographer and guest professor Rachel Young, Dance on Location is about playing in the space you create. Young and her students have been exploring the concept of nostalgia by incorporating childhood games like hide-and-seek and duck-duck-goose into their dance for the coming event.

While Young facilitates rehearsals in the morning, students walk by and even stop to watch as the dancers move. The dancers can be seen tapping each others' heads and scurrying from the railing by the Mathematics building over to the field by the underground lecture hall. In Young's perspective the choreography for the dance is dependent on the playfulness of her dancers and the "happy accidents" which allow the dance to evolve.

"Don't we all need that in life?" Young said. "Just more time to play."

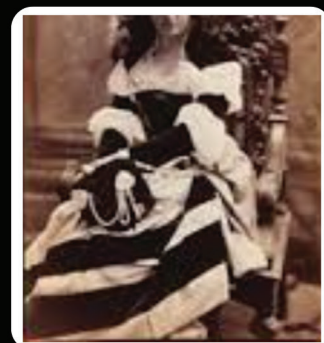
Dance on Location gives the freedom to explore common spaces whether someone is dancing through them or witnessing the action.

"What's beautiful about it," Young said, "is that now anyone that comes to see it is going to then walk by the next day going to their class and say 'Oh, I just saw a dance there.'"



Mrs. Astor Requests

By Floyd Stephen Alexander and
Anna Nicole Haslund



floydplaywrite@aol.com
annahaslund@outlook.com

The Long Walk: Political tension and the arts

SYDNEY MOATE | ARTS REPORTER

sydneymoate.moate@umontana.edu

Stephen King's new politically charged horror film, "The Long Walk," opened this month with low ticket sales amid political backlash.

Directed by Francis Lawrence, the movie is set in a dystopian future where 50 young men, one from each state, win a voluntary lottery to participate in the Long Walk, a live-broadcast competition. The men must walk continuously at a pace of three miles per hour. If they slow down or stop, the soldiers following them shoot them on sight. The last boy remaining may have whatever he wishes.

"The Long Walk" explores themes of brotherhood and authoritarianism. It is not specified how much of an authoritarian state the U.S. has become in this cinematic setting, but it is clear that freedom of speech no longer exists. Sedition is punishable by death without trial. Though competing is voluntary, the characters suggest it is not really a choice, as the country has become so poor, entering the lottery is necessary for survival.

It is unsurprising the 1979 book is being adapted now, amidst increasing political tension in the U.S. The film strongly reflects the current American zeitgeist, as both sides of the political line fear totalitarianism from the other.

Though the film is somewhat a political commentary, King may have gone one too far for the audience. Despite a 90% Rotten Tomatoes critic score and an 86% audience score, "The Long Walk" came in fourth among the weekend's releases, making an estimated \$11.7 million amid a \$20 million budget, a box office failure. It is the lowest Stephen King opening in over 30 years.

In a since-deleted tweet, King falsely stated after Charlie Kirk's death that Kirk "advocated for stoning gays to death." Kirk died on Sept. 10. King's tweet was posted on Sept. 11. "The Long Walk" premiered on Sept. 12.

King apologized for the tweet when the Twitter account "Defiant Ls" disproved the statement. This comes at the same time Jimmy Kimmel was suspended, and subsequently allowed to return, by ABC for comments made about Kirk.

Though there is no direct evidence that King's comments affected ticket sales, it is hard to deny that political rhetoric has an effect on the arts.



CONTRIBUTED | IMDB

Acting major Jules Jensen, a 21-year-old senior from Great Falls, compared the movie to a 1969 film, "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" about a dance marathon competition during the Great Depression in which contestants dance until they drop. It

was a real competition in which it was not uncommon for the dancers to die.

"It's interesting to see the real world parallels with 'The Long Walk,'" Jensen said. "You assume [death for viewership] can't happen, but in some ways it already

has." She found the brutality similar to the Kirk shooting, in which the video of the assassination was spread around social media and the story was closely followed. "It's easy to see how people can become entertained by that."

She feels that media in general is always going to be political. It comes with the territory.

"You can't have an overtly political movie like 'The Long Walk' and have a creator that is not going to say political things," Jensen said.

Horror films have a long history of political and social undertones, often highlighting important issues like racism, sexual assault and the grotesque consequences of violence.

"The Long Walk" is a psychological horror. The main focus is on the boys' mental and emotional state as others die around them. They begin to realize their chances of winning are slim and their deaths are likely imminent. This movie is extremely violent with highly graphic content.

King has been critical of superhero movies from Marvel and DC not being violent enough and not showing enough death when bystanders in the narrative are dying. He was insistent that "The Long Walk" should show the bloodshed that is taking place in its narrative.

While the film is primarily dialogue traded between the characters and set against the flat, consistent setting of U.S. Route 1 through Maine, it makes up for the consistent pacing with lots of character backstory and unique turns in the plot. The ending is shocking, albeit somewhat underwhelming, anticlimactic and ambiguous. It's great for fans of psychological horror, but not for those with weak stomachs.

It is very much a violent reformatting of "The Hunger Games," which was also directed by Lawrence.

A handful of small changes from the novel to the film altered the story's believability. In the novel, the pace of the walk is four miles per hour, changed in the film to three miles per hour to be a more realistic speed. The distance traversed in the movie seems quite unrealistic. But realism is not often a horror fan's main concern.

Overall, this is a thought-provoking, vomit-inducing film for horror fans, 7/10. Overall, this is a thought-provoking, vomit-inducing film for horror fans. I'll give it a 7/10.

SCORING AT SCHOOL

STORY BY DILLON RICHARDSON
PHOTOS BY LEO SPERRY

For student-athletes, time is a precious commodity. In an average week, they might spend 25 to 30 hours in practices, lifting weights, studying film or traveling to the next away game.

But at the University of Montana, those that compete at the collegiate level aren't just athletes, they also have homework, tests and labs. On top of athletic demands, student-athletes are expected by their coaches and academic advisers to do well in their studies. That's hours of homework, studying and testing on top of games and practice, not to mention the mental pressure of succeeding both on the field, on the court and in the classroom.

For UM student-athletes in tennis and soccer, the balance between academics and sports is one they've known for many years. Playing at a collegiate level requires even more support, through sports psychology programs and UM Athletics' mandated study hall hours. Students say it's a balance that develops over time.

At UM, these select few are held to an incredibly high standard. All undergraduate student-athletes are required to take at least 12 credit hours a semester. In the 2024-25 school year, UM student-athletes had a combined grade point average of 3.41. Every team had at least a 3.0.

PRO TENNIS, PRO STUDENT

The team with the highest GPA in 2024 was men's tennis, with a 3.8. Leading the way for the team academically and competitively is Tom Bittner, a senior international student from Neusaess, Germany.

Bittner has been a co-recipient of back-to-back President's Awards as the student-athlete with the highest GPA, maintaining a 4.0 both times.

Bittner, a double major in finance and management information systems, said growing up in Germany helped him balance sports with school, which ultimately set him up for success in the long run.

21-year-old Bittner has been playing tennis since he was 4, and came out of high school as the seventh-ranked player in Germany in his age group.

As a non-native English speaker, he said his first semester in America was tough, but he got more familiar with the new language over time.

"I've had [English] in school for eight years, but it's obviously different coming here and living here," Bittner said. "I remember it was microeconomics class, and I had microeconomics in high school, but in German. It was hard to learn all these terms I already knew, but I had to learn them in English."

Once Bittner got settled into Missoula, he started to shine. In the last two years, Bittner was a unanimous first-team all conference player. He was also named tournament MVP last year after Montana won its first



University of Montana soccer player Eliza Bentler poses in full gear while working in a classroom on Sept. 23.

STUDENT-ATHLETES ACROSS UM FACE THE CHALLENGE



CHALLENGE OF COMPETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ATHLETICS WHILE STAYING STRONG WHERE IT MATTERS MOST: THE CLASSROOM

“IT’S GOING TO TAKE A COMBINATION OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT, AND THEN FOR THE ATHLETE THEMSELVES, A CERTAIN DEGREE OF RESILIENCE”

- CHARLES PALMER

conference tournament championship in over a decade.

He did this while excelling in the classroom, making the accomplishment even more impressive. Bittner said that he’s able to stay on top of things because of how he grew up.

“In the past, I was really required to manage [time] really well,” Bittner said. “I’ve always been good with that, and learned that growing up.”

He also said UM’s system helps make his job easier because professors are very aware of student-athletes’ schedules.

“My school schedule is aligned with my sports, and whenever I travel, professors know that I’m gonna miss class,” he said. “If I studied back home, it would be way more difficult to handle both at the same time.”

He said he always tries to get everything done, but knows if he doesn’t, his professors are understanding.

“It helps a lot knowing that if something happens I could go talk to my professor and maybe get an extension, or have my academic adviser talk to the professor and figure out a solution,” Bittner said.

In Germany, all sports are played through clubs, unlike the U.S., where many high schools have tennis teams. All of Bittner’s tennis was played through a private club on his own time.

“Teachers don’t care if you play a tournament on the weekend and you didn’t have time to study,” he said. “Other people sit at home and study, and I was playing tournaments.”

Bittner said his successes are a result of setting a high bar for himself.

“I like putting pressure on myself,” he said. “Sometimes it’s frustrating if it doesn’t go your way, but I feel like you need high goals to push yourself and try to get better. It’s really nice seeing the work pay out that you’ve put in over the years. I mean, there’s nothing better than working hard and then also having good outcomes.”

Bittner said he hopes to keep playing tennis at the highest level for as long as he can, whether that be collegiately or through his club team in Germany.

“I would love to play another year of college,” Bittner said.

UNDER PRESSURE

While some student-athletes, such as Bittner, excel at handling being both students and players, not all of them can handle both roles as easily.

The NCAA requires all student-athletes to maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher to be academically eligible to compete. The University provides many resources, such as Study Jam and Athletic Academic Services for athletes who struggle with school. The Study Jams also serve as tutoring for student-athletes who struggle to reach the required GPA.

Whether or not a student-athlete can stay eligible is something sports psychology professor and UM Faculty Athletics representative Charles Palmer said comes down to a student-athlete’s ability to manage time.

“It’s two very occupying activities to be a student and then also to be an athlete,” Palmer said. “How do they successfully navigate through that? Well, it’s going to take a combination of institutional support, and then for the athlete themselves, a certain degree of resilience.”

Palmer got his bachelor’s and doctorate in psychology from UM. He has been working with student-athletes for almost 30 years, and said an athlete who plans well will succeed.

“Time is finite,” Palmer said. “Having a very good understanding day-by-day where they have to be and when is pretty simple but really, really important.”

He said an athlete needs to be in a certain headspace to perform well, and falling behind in school is something that will negatively affect them.

Some athletes, Palmer said, turn to sports psychology to help them play up to their best level competitively.

“We don’t always get to perform as optimally as we want to. Oftentimes, we’re performing about average, we’re just ‘good’ on a given day,” he said. “For those athletes who want to be more than good, or they want to figure out how to more consistently be a better performer, that’s where sports psychology comes into play.”

STAYING ON TRACK

When it comes to giving student-athletes victories in the classroom, the Director of Student-Athlete Support Services, Jennifer Zellmer-Cuaresma, is there to step in. Zellmer-Cuaresma is one of three academic advisers assigned to student-athletes within the academic services division of UM athletics.

It’s Zellmer-Cuaresma’s job to monitor each athlete’s NCAA eligibility and make sure they are on track to meet their major’s requirements, in addition to running the athlete-only academic study hall located next to the Adams Center.

The facility was privately funded by Nike Chief Operating Officer and UM graduate, Eric Sprunk. The facility replaced a previous academic center that Zellmer-Cuaresma said was “incredibly lacking.”

“It had just a brown panelling wall, and they had five computers in there,” she said. “Nobody went in there.”

Coaches require their student-athletes to spend a certain amount of time in the study hall, as well as keep a certain GPA, but the numbers vary depending on the sport.

“Some coaches say ‘I want you to be at a 3.5, and then you only have three study hall hours in the academic center,’ or ‘I want you to be at a 3.0,’” Zellmer-Cuaresma said. “Bare minimum, the coaches really want student-athletes to be above a 3.0 GPA.”

Outside of the classroom, UM student-athletes also volunteer their time to the city of Missoula.

“We complete about 3,000 community



University of Montana tennis player Tom Bittner studies for his business class in a study room at his apartment on Sept. 27.

service hours between Aug. 1 and June 1 of every year, and I think people don't realize how much of a time commitment that is," Zellmer-Cuaresma said. "UM athletics is not saying 'Hey you have to do these community service hours.' It's because these students are volunteering to do these hours."

Some of the projects that the Griz are a part of include the special olympics, the Missoula Food Bank and various bone marrow drives in partnership with the National Marrow Donor Program.

But it isn't just school, sports and volunteering that student-athletes participate in. Sometimes they take it another step further by adding work onto their already busy schedules.

WORKING FOR THE GOLD

To go along with school, some student-athletes, such as senior soccer player Eliza Bentler, are also working internships to better prepare themselves for their future careers.

Bentler's internship is for Flathead Industries, a nonprofit organization that aims to create opportunities for people with disabilities to live, work and play.

As a marketing major, Bentler has helped with the nonprofit's social media presence, along with organizing various events, such

everyone knows what they get into when they want to play college athletics and be a college student."

The NCAA class is a one credit class that freshmen are required to take in the fall and spring to help ease the transition to college. Along with that, another class required for student athletes is life after sports, which covers career development, financial literacy and mental and physical wellness.

Bentler said, much like Bittner, that college athletes were prepared by their past for managing school and sports.

"It's kind of something we've been doing our whole lives," Bentler said. "At the high school level it may not be as intense, but to get recruited and do all of the things that we all did to get here, it was definitely a grind to do both, so I feel like it's just something we're used to."

She said a big key for her success was getting in touch with professors early in the semester.

"Going into college, you always hear from people [who say] 'Go connect with your professors,'" Bentler said. "I've always tried to make that a point and go up to them at the beginning of the year because we start right away, so I just go up to them, introduce myself and say I'm on the team."

She said it does help her stay on top of things when professors give her leeway

"WHEN WE'RE NOT BUSY, IT FEELS WEIRD" - ELIZA BENTLER

as a fundraiser gala.

"If this goes well, they said it could be a full-time job," Bentler said. "I've really enjoyed the company, and honestly, the people and their values have reminded me of our team and our values and how much they really care about people."

Bentler said her passion for helping those with disabilities started in her hometown of Billings, where she volunteered at a summer camp for children with disabilities.

"I went on a hunt for it and looked around," she said. "[Flathead Industries] really just spoke to me, and it kind of just felt meant to be."

Bentler said they have been very understanding when it comes to her travelling for soccer games.

"When they hired me, I said that August I'm gonna start soccer season, and that's going to be really busy," she said. "They said it's absolutely no problem. They actually love that I'm on the soccer team."

When she's on the field, Bentler is one of the leaders for the Griz, with three goals this year, the third most on the team.

Bentler said from an academic standpoint, she thinks UM does a great job of making sure nobody falls behind.

"When we come in freshman year, we take a class called NCAA with our two academic advisers," she said. "It really is just a class on teaching you how to do both. It's really just about time management, and I feel like

when missing classes, which is almost always the case.

"I feel like every professor I have has been super supportive," Bentler said. "I've never had a problem with a professor that hasn't been willing to work with me and get things in. I think they appreciate the open communication."

Bentler also said the coaching staff does a lot to help make sure nobody gets overloaded.

"They really encourage us to be open with how we're doing in school," she said. "They know that for our mental [health], and for us to be able to play well on the field, we have to have a balance, and they want us to succeed in school because they always talk about life after soccer, and how they're prepping us to be good humans outside in that real world."

Another key for Bentler to stay on track is to always be doing something, especially on a travel day.

Bentler said long layovers during travel provide opportunities for downtime. "It's easy to want to go on your phone during those down times because travelling is kind of exhausting," she said.

Overall, Bentler said the toll of school goes down over time.

"It's just part of the job," Bentler said. "I feel like once you've done this for so long, you're just used to it, and it doesn't feel like a big deal any more."



University of Montana soccer player Eliza Bentler poses juggling her soccer ball in a Gallagher Business Building lecture hall on Sept. 23.



Eliza Bentler poses dribbling her ball down classroom hallways on Sept. 23.

'We're still here': Missoula's

JACKSON MAILEY | PHOTOGRAPHER

jackson.mailey@umontana.edu

On the University of Montana campus, the American Indian Heritage day started at 7 a.m. with a sunrise prayer along with an honor song and the raising of all Montana tribal flags at the Payne Family

Native American Center. Then, as the sun rose over Mt. Sentinel, volunteers and students set up a tipi on the Oval.

The day took place Friday, Sept. 26, with multiple events happening around Missoula to celebrate Indigenous culture.

Program manager for the Native American Center and University of Montana alumni Zachariah Rides At The Door, an enrolled citizen of the Blackfoot

Nation, was one of the leaders setting up the tipi. Rides At The Door said he's been setting up tipis since high school when his teacher taught him about them, and he said it helped him learn more about his ancestors' way of life.

Rides At The Door said he is used to setting up Blackfeet style tipis. The tipi that was set up on the Oval was Shoshone style, which is wider at the base and

shorter in height, according to Rides At The Door.

Michelle Guzman, director of American Indian Student Services at the University of Montana and a citizen of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, expressed that the importance of the day is mainly recognition and awareness, a time for Indigenous people to connect and celebrate together.

"We have students from all over the



Volunteers assemble the frame of a tipi on the Oval on Sept. 26. JACKSON MAILEY | MONTANA KAIMIN

Native American celebration

country here and even the world,” Guzman said. “And a lot of times, they don’t even know that Native Americans still exist.”

According to a study published in 2018 by Reclaiming Native Truth, 40% of Americans don’t think that Native Americans still exist. The organization aims toward “greater respect, inclusion and social justice for Native Americans,”

according to its website.

Vendors also sold art and other products like earrings and wool inside the Payne Center. The Lodge Dining Center also sold Indigenous food, like berry soup and fry bread. But UM wasn’t the only place where events happened.

At C.S. Porter Middle School, a round dance event started around 6 p.m. Community members came together,

danced, ate Indigenous food and listened to Indigenous songs played on hand drums.

“It’s a time to bring everybody together in a positive way and celebrate their culture and their heritage,” said Billy Joe Juno, who oversees the Native American Student Services Department for Missoula County and is an enrolled citizen of the Blackfeet Nation.

Juno’s aim of the event was to gather

and celebrate the history of Indigenous culture, with the round dance event being a way to bring people from all different tribes together.

“Regardless of what our history has been or what has happened to us, we’re still here and we’re still continuing on,” Juno said.



Glenda Weasel, left, an enrolled citizen of the Saulteaux tribe, and Avis Chenowith, right, an enrolled citizen of the Cree tribe, dance at the round dance event at C.S Porter Middle School on Sept. 26.

JACKSON MAILEY | MONTANA KAIMIN



Devin Panzetanga, an enrolled citizen of the Eastern Shoshone tribe, left, creates some of the art that is displayed on his table while graduate student Russel Krantz inspects Panzetanga’s stand.

JACKSON MAILEY | MONTANA KAIMIN



Volunteers bang their hand drums and sing at the round dance event at C.S Porter Middle School Sept. 26.

JACKSON MAILEY | MONTANA KAIMIN



The finished tipi outside the Payne Family Native American Center while the sun rises on Sept. 26. JACKSON MAILEY | MONTANA KAIMIN

Griz redshirts make their mark

JACK SNOW | SPORTS REPORTER

jack.snow@umontana.edu

Over the past two football games, the Grizzlies have had four touchdowns scored by redshirt freshmen.

A redshirt freshman refers to a sophomore athlete who may not play during their actual first year in college.

Wide receiver Brooks Davis and running backs Malae Fonoti and Tommy Running Rabbit, the redshirt freshmen, combined to score 24 points against North Dakota Fighting Hawks and Indiana State Sycamores.

This year's batch of redshirt freshmen have benefited greatly from their additional year of growth, and are looking to keep their productive season rolling.

One of the major advantages of redshirting is the opportunity to learn and grow behind a team's veteran players.

It's no overstatement to say that Davis exploded onto the scene in UM's comeback win over the Fighting Hawks. After a quiet season opener against Central Washington, he torched North Dakota, leading the Griz in receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns.

Davis attributes much of his development since high school to his redshirt season, a year where a player can opt to see limited game action in exchange for not losing any time off of their eligibility. "I think it's helped me a lot," he said. "It gave me a whole year to work on my craft, try things in practice."

After a quiet first year, he's earned more opportunities to showcase his skills on the field. "This is what I've worked toward, this was my goal coming in," Davis said. "I'm gonna take advantage of my opportunity and try to win every single rep that I can for our team to win."

With less than two minutes left in the fourth quarter of the Grizzlies game against North Dakota, quarterback Keali'i Ah Yat threw to Davis for the game-winning touchdown. It was the second and final score they connected for that day.

The young Grizzly receiver isn't the only redshirt freshman making waves on offense. Fonoti, who played a significant amount during his freshman year as the Griz's third string running back, has returned to help keep Montana's run game dangerous.

He totalled 75 scrimmage yards and a touchdown against Indiana State, trailing only the ultra productive Eli Gillman in rushing yards for the Griz. Gillman is another notable former redshirt freshman who saw play during his true freshman season as well.

A true freshmen is someone who plays as

a freshman and later declares as a redshirt.

Fonoti was already a proven talent by the end of the 2024 season, where he earned a Big Sky Player of the Week award for his monster performance against Morehead State as a true freshman. Now his usage rate looks primed to increase as he gains experience and continues to put numbers on the board.

Another notable Grizzly running back, Tommy Running Rabbit, scored his first Montana touchdown during the game against the Sycamores. Running Rabbit established himself as a fan favorite due to his fitting name and status as a Montana local who played for Browning High School before donning maroon and silver.

He made his Griz debut against Indiana State and found the endzone on a 12-yard run for the final touchdown of Montana's blowout victory.

Running Rabbit credited his redshirt season as a helpful experience for him as well. "I think it developed me a lot, learning all the plays and learning my alignments," he said. "I knew I wasn't ready my first year, so I think I had to wait out a year personally."

The Griz have no shortage of experienced wide receivers and running backs to study under, with a slew of offensive weapons for any aspiring playmaker to learn from.

Davis was quick to express his gratitude for the team's older players, who he said taught him a lot about playing for the good of the team and growing from his mistakes. He also stressed that the upperclassmen were always there to pick up and encourage any struggling young players.

For Running Rabbit, much of the help he's received from the Griz running back room has been assistance with the technical side of football. "They help me a lot with all my plays and all my alignments, all the fundamental stuff," he said.

Sitting out for your first season isn't easy by any means, especially in a sport as competitive as football. Despite that, the opportunity to further develop your body and skills for college athletics may pay dividends down the line.

The jump from high school ball to Division I is a big one, and giving young players time to prepare seems to be working well for UM.

It's not as if the Griz are consciously leaning more on their redshirt freshman this season, but many have risen to contribute in recent games. On the football field you get the opportunities you earn and a number of players who saw limited or no action last year have been making the most of theirs.



Freshman wide receiver Brooks Davis warms up before the game against Idaho on Sept. 27.

JACKSON MAILEY | MONTANA KAIMIN



Smithmont

- Send & Receive payments in fractional ounces of Gold
- Pay your friends in Gold
- Entrepreneurs - easily accept payments online & in-person

Sign up today and get
\$20 worth of Gold
added to your account
balance!



At Smithmont, we are combining the stability of an ancient, time-honored store of value (Gold) with the convenience of modern technology.



The pride and joy of Griz baseball

CAMERON CONTRERAS | SPORTS REPORTER
cameron.contreras@umontana.edu

When the Griz club baseball team first stepped onto the dilapidated Kelly Pine Field, it knew it had lots of work ahead. After over two years of maintenance and renovations, Bonner's historic field is now a source of pride for the team.

Coming off of an appearance in the Club Baseball World Series this spring, the team is gearing up for its home opener against Montana State University on Oct. 5.

"[The first year] we showed up, you couldn't tell there was an infield there, it was just completely grown in," said Keaton Terrall, the team's club president.

"We must have done like two weeks of every day, not doing any baseball, going out, just pulling weeds, getting the field ready," Terrall said. "Since then, it's been every year, just incremental improvements."

Terrall, a senior history and political science major from Connecticut, was a freshman when the team first went out to Bonner to scope out the field.

Originally they played in Hamilton, which made it difficult to schedule home games. The team reached out to the Bonner School District, which owned the field, and it was allowed to use it under the condition that the club was responsible for maintenance.

"It's pretty impressive to see a bunch of college guys get on their hands and knees and start digging through the muddy clay," Terrall said.

The team fixed the sprinkler system, replanted the infield grass, recut the baselines, installed new bases, rebuilt the pitcher's mound and moved the home plate.

"For me, [Kelly Pine represents] the hardworking nature of our club and our program," Terrall said. "It shows how dedicated our guys are to playing baseball. We don't pay anyone to do field work on it. The entire team takes pride in the fact that we have a field that basically, we built."

Last spring, Hellgate and Sentinel High School both used the field, with the help of a small grounds crew made up of Griz baseball players. Twenty-eight total games were played between all three teams.

On gamedays, Terrall said the atmosphere at the field is always a good time. "It's a great place to watch some baseball," he said.

Brendon Buck, a senior forestry major from California, and the team's catcher,



Kelly Pine Baseball field, where the club baseball team practices and plays its games.

JACKSON MAILEY | MONTANA KAIMIN

agreed. "You got people behind you, cheering you on. It only makes it more intense and you're more locked in and you want to put on not only for the people who are watching you here, but everyone who can't make it," he said.

Buck, 22, is glad to see home game attendance rise. "On a good Saturday, we'll see our little grandstand pretty packed," he said. "Not just parents and girlfriends, but even just groups of students from the University, and it seems like the past couple of years, it's really gone up and people are starting to find out about us."

The crowd reaches its peak for the Cat-Griz matchup. "We'll fill up the grandstand, we'll have people down the sidelines," Terrall said. "It's not like a textbook baseball experience, but when we get games going there, it's really awesome, we have some diehard fans who come out."

Terrall said visiting teams are always surprised to see the field.

"Teams show up and they're like, 'What is this?' Because it's in this bowl and to get out there, you're completely outside of Missoula, you're in rural Montana," he said. "A lot of times in the spring when we play, there's snow in the mountains, so teams are looking around and go 'Oh my god, this is wild.'"

Kelly Pine truly is a unique location for college baseball. Right field is cut short

by a stretch of four big "Kelly" pine trees, while left field is the deepest point. "It's a very weirdly shaped field," Terrall said. "Outfielders kind of struggle because the fences are not normal."

Buck graduates in December, meaning this fall is his last season to call Kelly Pine home. "From every practice and every home game, everything's been here," he said. "After all the time spent here, the field definitely means a lot."

Indeed, Kelly Pine Field is a testament to the history of baseball in Bonner. The field is right across the street from the old Bonner Mill, the lumber arm of the Anaconda Mining Company. Built in 1937, the field was used for years by teams of mill workers. They hosted teams from towns all around Western Montana.

The field gets its name from Kelly Pine, a one-handed pitcher and mill worker from the 1920s who died in a car accident. After the 1950s, the field was used for softball, little league, and travel ball until the UM baseball club took over. Kim Briggeman, a committee member of the Bonner Milltown History center, said he was glad to see the field still in use and loves to support the Griz team. "Baseball is Bonner's sport," he said.

Pitcher and shortstop Jack Taylor, 20, a junior clinical psychology major from Thompson Falls, Montana, has played at

Kelly Pine since he was in high school. "I still have scars on my right buttcheek from sliding into third here," he said. "It's interesting because, four or five years ago, it was like sliding into gravel. I think she's definitely come a long way."

Last season, the team won its first regional championship, earning it an appearance in the Club Baseball World Series. "That happens in baseball, baseball's not always fair, but we had a great time. I think it was great for our program to show that like, hey, we can do this," Terrall said.

This season, the Griz kicked off fall ball on the road against Montana State in a two game series, with each club winning one game. Taylor said the mindset is to win when they host the Bobcats for another double-header. "The expectation is that we win both games," he said. "We got swept by them in our home opener last year. I would love to do the same thing back to them."

Terrall expects the team to be better this time around. "When we went and played them [on the road], it was like we're trying to figure stuff out," he said. "We're experimenting with some guys, seeing if they could pick up new positions, so we found what worked and found what didn't work."

He expects the team to keep improving as the season goes on. "A lot of club teams, what you see is what you get," he said. "They don't build up as a team. So I'm hoping this fall we can just figure out our pieces, and then as we work into our conference schedule in the spring, we'll really put it together. My hope is to win regionals and go back to the World Series."

Chimney Corner Hair Styling

Located across from Campus
540 Daly Ave Ste B, Missoula

Available for walk-ins
Tuesdays & Wednesdays
1-5pm

& Appointments
Tuesday-Thursday
10am-1pm
Friday-Saturday
10am-5pm

Faculty push for Adobe licensing coverage for students

Aidan Graham | NEWS REPORTER

Aidan.Graham@umontana.edu

While the University of Montana continues to push for greater online instruction, students in media arts have to pay upward of \$450 for learning tools, such as the Adobe Cloud.

Across the nation, many universities, including Montana State University, Ohio State University and the University of Idaho, cover the cost of Adobe Cloud licensing for students. This has caused enough concern in faculty members to call upon the University of Montana for a change.

"Thanks to being a student, I pay about \$25 a month," Frankie Striefler, a sophomore media arts student, said. "It would be really nice if the University would supply the tools for free, and definitely take a burden of the costs of being a student."

Media arts and graphic design software is a constantly changing landscape. Tools like Adobe have changed interfaces, and require consistent knowledge and adaptability. Graphic design tools, such as those in the creative cloud, have become a necessity for success in the field. Classes like Photoshop: Art and Design, and Illustrator: Vector and Layout, for instance, are built around Adobe Cloud tools and are required for the completion of the graphic design track.

"A wildlife biology major pays for the compasses and nets for their labs and classes. So in a way, I guess that paying for Adobe is almost like a student with a different major buying their compass, or a book for their class," Striefler said. "The only difference is that they're paying for tools they'll have forever, whereas mine last the month I paid for it."

Six faculty from the College of Media and Arts and the School of Journalism, assembled by photography professor Matthew Hamon, gathered as a committee to speak to the administration. According to the IT department, UM purchases 700 licenses per year for faculty and labs, costing more than \$180,000. These licenses can only be accessed through University-registered devices.

"The problem is that if we're offering online courses we should be offering remote access," Hamon said.

Adobe Creative Cloud offers students without University assistance a 12-month contract, with an introductory pricing of \$25 per month, reverting to the standard rate of \$40 per month after a one-year term. This contract can cost students anywhere from \$300 to \$480 a semester. Programs like Microsoft Office Suites, on the other hand, are provided to eligible institutions for no additional cost.

"UM has pushed for more and more online delivery of instruction," Hamon said. "A student in an online course would have to subscribe to Adobe for a year to complete a 15-week course remotely. It's also worth considering that by teaching this industry-leading software, UM is generating future subscribers for Adobe as students become professionals, and while using the software in school, students are not generating income from the work they complete."

Montana State University is one of many universities in the northwest and beyond that supplies free Adobe services for all students. According to the Montana State Adobe licensing agreement, students can download Adobe Creative Cloud software with no additional cost.

Hamon is just one of multiple faculty members who have shown concern over this issue.

"I find it really frustrating running a gallery. I often design flyers and ask my students to make designs for promotional purposes. Not having free access to Photoshop is a barrier for those assignments and projects," said Shelby Baldridge, gallery management professor and director of the UM Gallery of Arts.

Proposed solutions to promote access coverage have been in talks between IT and faculty, according to Hamon. "The IT department was sympathetic to us, especially since UM's Computer Science program has had similar problems," Hamon said.

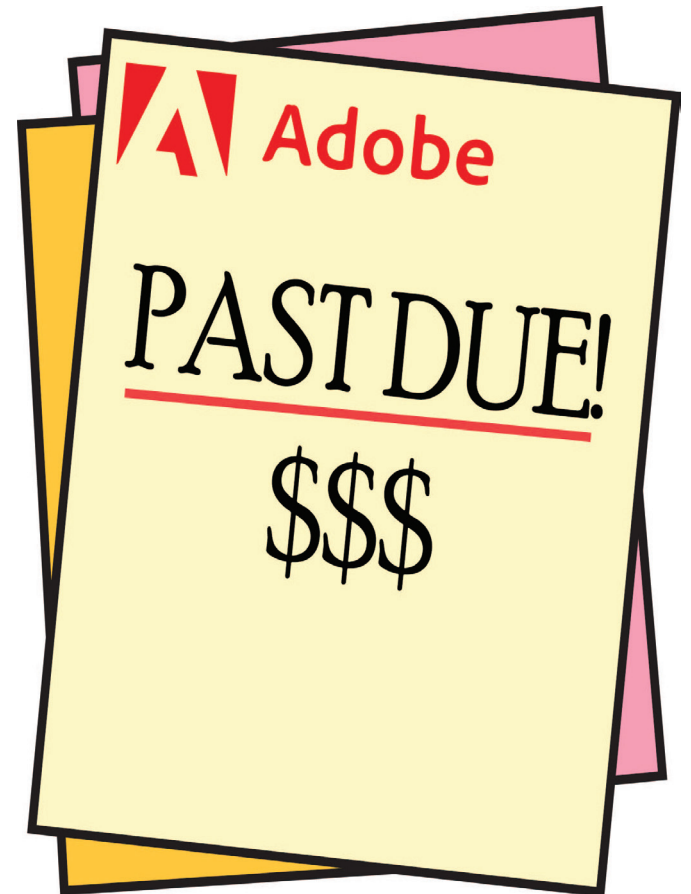
The use of remote desktop programs, which allow students to connect to a registered faculty device remotely, have been in discussions, according to UM IT. This would allow student access without the need for additional licensing. However, with multiple students accessing one licensed program, issues surrounding saving

and exporting work, as well as bandwidth strain and security concerns, this has been seen as a less viable option.

The IT department met with Adobe vendors last Thursday, according to head of IT communications, Tyler Christensen.

"While no formal agreement has been reached yet, those conversations were productive and we are continuing to evaluate options and negotiate with Adobe," Christensen said. "Our goal is to provide students with the tools they need for coursework and creative projects in a way that is cost-effective and sustainable for the University."

The IT department has assured that it will do its best to be transparent with the UM campus once a solution is made.



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN