

MONTANA KAIMIN

Due Process?

UM Law Title IX investigation leaves
more questions than answers

Story by Emily Tschetter

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Cover photo by Kennedy Delap / Illustration by Mariah Karis

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

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REMINDER

Daylight Savings is Sunday, Nov. 7. Get ready to fall behind!

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Correction

An article in last week’s issue on the mayoral race previously quoted candidate Jacob Elder as describing himself as “fiscally responsible and conservative.” The quote was changed to “fiscally conservative” to more-accurately reflect Elder’s quote.

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THE GARAGE: SE 1 EP 10

WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN

The results are in, and mixed messaging won’t cut it

Over the last month, University of Montana students have watched drama unfold at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law. It started when the Daily Montanan published a two-part series with voices from 13 women — 12 anonymous — who claimed leadership at the law school dissuaded them from coming forward with claims of sexual assault. They named Paul Kirgis and Sally Weaver, then dean and associate dean of students respectively, in their allegations. They claimed the University mishandled the original investigation into the claims. At the center of some allegations is Jacob Elder, a law school student running for mayor.

Following the stories’ publication, more than 100 law school students walked out of class to demand the deans’ resignations. That number is almost half of the law school’s total enrollment. Two days later, both Kirgis and Weaver resigned from their administrative roles. Kirgis will be staying on as faculty, and Weaver will be leaving UM in December.

All this was prompted by a year-long investigation by Grand River Solutions, the California firm UM hired to work with its Title IX office to look into the original allegations. It’s the investigation the women denounced as unfair, according to the Daily Montanan’s reporting.

Kirgis, Weaver and Elder have all said they were cleared by the firm’s original investigation. UM confirmed neither dean had been found to violate University policy.

“UM has invested significant resources in response to allegations with regards to the Law School,” UM said in an Oct. 5 email sent to the Missoulian. “Those investigations have found leaders at the Law School did not violate university policy. But we acknowledge and take earnestly concerns expressed by some in the Law School.”

But during the Kaimin’s reporting process, this information wasn’t shared with that kind of clarity. UM director of strategic communications Dave Kuntz said in an interview UM did not know the findings of the investigations because the results and any subsequent disciplinary action were confidential.

Title IX investigations can certainly be confusing in nature, and it can be hard to know what can and cannot be said publicly. But UM’s inability to consistently provide the same information to the public is concerning.

“The University prioritizes transparency at every single turn, but in cases with Title IX, it’s critical that we maintain the confidentiality required under the law and under the University’s policies,” Kuntz said. “Any component of any investigation is something that’s going to remain confidential. In this specific case, Paul and Sally were found not to violate any university policies.”

So now we know. UM has read the investigation and confirmed Kirgis and Weaver are not in violation of its policies. But the answers to such important questions should be clear.

UM should update the public on where the investigation and appeal processes stand. We understand UM has legal and confidentiality obligations under Title IX, but it should be the University’s responsibility to make up its mind about what they can and cannot share regarding the results of investigations, Title IX or otherwise.

It’s difficult to establish trust when the University can’t tell us what’s going on with accuracy and consistency. Either it can’t talk about the results at all or it can — we’re just asking for more clarity when those results roll in.

— Addie Slanger, Editor-in-Chief

Like it? Hate it? Wish we were dead?
email us your opinions
at editor@montanakaimin.com

Feature Photo: From Minnesota to UM, students rally to Stop Line 3 construction



Under cold, overcast skies threatening rain, the voice of University of Montana graduate student Ash Sward, right, didn’t crack or stumble as they spoke of climate change and the deteriorating effects that tar sands pipelines have on the environment during a “Stop Line 3” rally organized by the Sunrise Movement Missoula outside the steps of Main Hall on Oct. 28. Sward and around 30 students and other Missoulians gathered on the Oval in solidarity with activists and Indigenous communities in Minnesota who have been protesting the construction of Line 3, a proposed pipeline expansion that plans to bring nearby tar sands from Alberta, Canada to Superior, Wisconsin, and crosses through the treaty territory of the Anishinaabe peoples. **ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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:

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

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

Briefs: COVID-19 cases drop, lecture series kick-off and leaf collection

COVID-19 update

The Missoula City-County Health Department reported two new UM-affiliated COVID-19 cases over the weekend as last month's spike began declining. As of Monday, there were 60 active UM cases, half of what was reported a week ago.

Countywide, active cases dropped by more than 1,000 in a week to stabilize at 1,568 cases Monday. The health department attributed the decrease to more contact tracers able to close cases.

Before, the high volume of cases forced the health department to focus on new cases, and the delay of old cases bloated the total active case number. Though new cases have dropped off, there are still 40 hospitalizations.

"While we are not breaking records right now, our levels of COVID-19 are still dangerous," Missoula County Public Information Officer Hayley Devlin said. "Now is a really good time to get vaccinated as people begin to cluster indoors."

Data released by the health department last week showed 71% of those hospitalized over an eight-week period between August and October were unvaccinated. During that same period, 60% of all deaths were unvaccinated individuals, and half of all vaccinated deaths were over the age of 80. More than 58% of Missoula County is fully vaccinated.

At 49%, 20-29 year olds continue to lag behind the overall vaccination average. (Griffen Smith)

DiverseU to end with Presidential Lecture

This year's first University of Montana Presidential Lecture Series event will wrap up a week of DiverseU presentations on Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. with a Zoom lecture, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of this year's Griz Read "The Displaced," Viet Thanh Nguyen will speak about his experiences.

The Griz Read is chosen each year by a committee of students, staff and faculty. All of campus is encouraged to read it, and many freshmen in their first-year seminar classes are required to. "The Displaced" is a collection of stories from 17 refugees edited by Nguyen, and proceeds from the book go toward the International Rescue Committee.

Nguyen and his family came to the United States in 1975 as refugees of the Vietnam War, according to his biography on UM's website. The biography said Nguyen noticed a lack of representation in media coverage around the war while growing up in the U.S. Movies, books and other media focused on the American perspective, silencing the Vietnamese. So he shared his perspective.

Participants in this virtual lecture need to register in advance, on UM's website, but registration is free. For more coverage on this year's DiverseU events, visit montanakaimin.com. (Mazana Boerboom)

New congressional map stalls

Although Montana's Districting and Apportionment Commission was scheduled to finalize a new map for the state's two congressional seats Saturday, both Democrats and Republicans on the bipartisan board submitted two new options, delaying the final decision as the Nov. 14 deadline nears.

Four maps remain as candidates for the new districts, which is the first time since 1990 Montana has had more than one representative in congress.

The five-person commission is currently in a stalemate, as the non-partisan member, Maylinn Smith, said there needs to be public comment on the new maps before she casts a vote.

The main difference between the competing districts, which generally follow the east-west divide of the Rocky Mountain Front, is the debate about what district Park County will fall into. Republicans recommended the area be in the east district, and Democrats recommended the opposite.

The commission's next meeting is Nov 4, and will consist of public comment on the two new district maps. Public comment can be submitted through the web at https://mtredistricting.gov/contact/, by email at distriicting@mt.gov, or by mailing the comments to Montana Districting and Apportionment

Commission, PO Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620. (GS)

Citywide leaf collection underway

As bare-limbed trees begin to overtake Missoula, city officials will spend the month of November collecting fallen leaves for composting.

The annual operation picks up 1,000 dump truck loads of leaves on average, spending roughly 2,500 hours to do so. The work started Monday, with efforts focusing on neighborhoods north of the Clark Fork River, including Grant Creek and Rattlesnake areas.

Area two, which corners the University from South Street to Russell Street, will begin clearing leaves on Nov. 8. Leaf collection will sweep through the University district on Nov. 16. Area three, which covers the west side of town, starts clearing leaves on Nov. 15. Area four, the southside, will be de-leafed on Nov. 22.

To view the full schedule and map, visit http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/504/Leaf-Collection.

The city asks residents to clear all leaves from yards into the parking lane of the road, without blocking driving or bike lanes. Cars should be cleared from the curbs. The operation, done by front loaders and dump trucks, can also include street sweepers if the weather is above freezing.

In the case of snow, some operations might have to be rescheduled. All leaf pickups are scheduled to finish by Nov. 26. (GS)

Blotter: Yik Yak threats, excessive parking tickets and tipsy medical calls

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Between Oct. 21 and 27, the University of Montana Police Department reported 10 crimes on and around campus. Minor in possession charges were the most common occurrences this week, with five students busted at three different events. Disorderly conduct was a close second.

FRIDAY 10/22: THEFT OF BIKE: THE RETURN

I greatly apologize for the lack of bike theft in our last issue. Unfortunately, I still cannot write about a stolen bike, but we do have a report of missing parts. Several bike parts were taken from a rack outside the University Center on Oct. 21 between 4 and 5 p.m. Be warned bikers, not even

the best U-Lock can keep your bikes safe.

SATURDAY 10/23: SMART AND TIPSY

Looks like Knowles Hall took a break this weekend, leaving the M.I.P.s to Pantzer Hall. Around 1 a.m. on Oct. 23, three underage students were caught drinking in the residence hall. However, the three were granted amnesty because they called to get another student medical attention. A round of applause for the only smart tipsy people I have ever heard of.

SATURDAY 10/23: PARKING CONUNDRUM

While this event was not logged in UM's crime log, it might be worth mentioning,

considering the campus police department's recent difficulties with parking at sporting events. At an Oct. 23 cross-country meet, officers were busy with parking violations in Cinnabar Court. "There were too many to keep up with," UM Police Chief Brad Giffin said. Read and obey the parking signs, people. UM officers don't play.

TUESDAY 10/26: YOU JUST HAVE TO READ IT

Just a two word blurb for this, folks: stupid genius. A man walked up to the Turner Hall housing office, claiming he had tested positive for COVID-19 and needed an isolation apartment. While this may seem normal with current University policies, the man was neither a student nor affili-

ated with the University in any way. He was issued a citation and removed from the property. You can't blame the guy for trying. A free meal plan and housing for 10 days is worth the risk in this economy.

WEDNESDAY 10/27: YIK YAK IS BACK WITH THREATS

Members of UM's Alpha Phi Sorority were sent threats toward the organization Oct. 24 via the social media app Yik Yak. For those who don't know what Yik Yak is, the app allows people to create and view discussion threads within a 5-mile radius. It was launched in 2013, shut down in 2017 and then relaunched in 2021, according to a quick Google search. Officers questioned and cited a suspect so the investigation is now closed. I just deleted TikTok — I don't have time to keep up with another social media app.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17				18						19				
20							21		22					
23				24			25					26		
			27				28			29				
30	31	32				33	34			35		36	37	
38					39					40				
41					42					43				
		44		45			46	47						
48	49			50			51				52	53	54	
55			56					57		58				
59						60		61						
62						63				64				
65						66				67				

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ACROSS

1 Jack, for one

5 Still life subject

9 Tentative agenda

14 Sheltered, in a way

15 Blow the whistle on

16 Tax man's task

17 Islands with giant tortoises

19 Cartoon canine

20 "Lose Yourself" rapper

21 Voice of Buzz Lightyear

23 Disney dwarf

24 Sooner or later

26 "Right you ___!"

27 Southern veggie

28 Establish as law

30 Full of nerve

33 Buzzed

35 Capitol Hill worker

38 Throw off

39 Really neat

40 Make a reservation

41 Fancy trim

42 "Nay" sayer

43 Netflix activity

44 Cashless deal

46 Arkin, for one

48 "Gotcha!"

50 Julianne's "Next" co-star

52 "___ whiz!"

55 Stage curtain, e.g.

57 Ceremonial act

59 Up and about

60 Like some genes

62 Shoulder wrap

63 Motivate

64 Smart-___

65 Four-legged

66 Kind of palm

67 Medical advice, often

25 "Semper Fi" group

27 Blender brand

29 Rustic digs

30 Salon goo

31 Thurman of "Kill Bill"

32 Game with x's and o's

34 Toward the stern

36 Monopoly token

37 ___ out a living

39 Zenith's opposite

43 Foundation

45 Tuscan tenor

47 City on the Rio Grande

48 Embarrass

49 Hurried

51 Puccini work

52 Deviousness

53 Roof part

54 President-___

56 Potter's oven

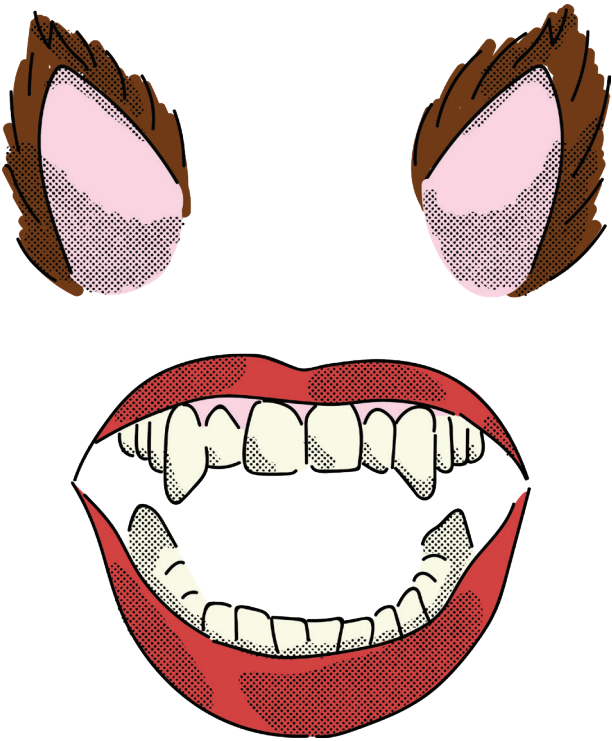
58 Russian despot

61 Lowly worker

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

The Twilight Scope: Are you #teamEdward or #teamJacob?



OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

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Someone hold Robert Pattinson's hair back while he pukes because it's time for a TWILIGHT HOROSCOPE!!! The fall vibes are too immaculate right now and we can't help but think about a time when it was socially acceptable for Kristen Stewart to not be gay and a pre "Pitch Perfect" Anna Kendrick existed. Let's check out what Twilight vibe you are, astrologically of course.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Victoria get down from the tree and stop dying your hair orange if you're trying to be sneaky. You're Bryce Dallas Howard; you can't hide from anyone.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22): Just another day <3 Bella keeps smelling me, #daddy'sgirl. Edward asked me the other day if he could have some of my blood and I said sure, anything for my son-in-law.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19): You're Dakota Fanning's Volturi character because like your vampire power, life is pain.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Bella's character arc: Omg... bite me? Plz, Edward like, uwu? *Lip bite* *tucks hair behind ear* *cries* *Edward bites her* OMG yay now I have a parasite baby and I am SPEED. #vampirelife

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): CGI baby with your weird-ass name, who the hell thought that was okay? Fuck you Stephanie Meyer.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): BeLLa, wHeRe tHe heLL yOu bEen lOcA??? It's very on brand that Jacob grew his long luscious hair only to chop that bitch off to become a wolf daddy. You may not have the genetics to become a wolf like Jacob, but we know you're a simp for Bella just like him.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): You mind your own business just like Rami Malek in the last Twilight movie that no one saw because that shit was off the rails. You pop in, you pop out and then you're Freddy Mercury like 10 years later ... classic.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Jasper, because you were a lowkey racist asshole during the Civil War, but now you just bone your sister and are "vegetarian" so it's fine.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): EMMET! You are unapol-ogetically smashing, and when we mean smashing we mean putting those big papa muscles to work, KING! WE LOVE YOU ANGEL!

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Edward, your skin LITERALLY sparkles. You're extra as fuck my guy, like why do you continually plot to kill Bella even though you highkey can't survive without her? #codependent. This character sucked so bad, even the actor who played you openly hates you.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): You're Carlisle. Are you trying to smash Bella? Maybe. #FreudMoments. Why you gotta be such a dilt tho? Go humbly be a doctor in peace, bitch.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): You have mom energy just like Esme. Are your children the same age as you? Yes. You are the milf of the century.

‘The best antidote to despair is action.’ Gore hopeful on climate change in UM address

MAZANA BOERBOOM
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The face of former U.S. Vice President Al Gore filled two floor-to-ceiling projector screens in front of a socially distanced audience in the University of Montana education building’s new auditorium Thursday night.

The background behind Gore — one of the world’s leading environmentalists, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and author of “An Inconvenient Truth” — featured a photo of the sun rising over earth, a thin curve of glowing blue set against a void of black.

“I’d like to start with the image behind me,” said Gore, the guest speaker of “A Climate Conversation” hosted by UM’s Max S. Baucus Institute, to a virtual and in-person audience. “This is a picture from the International Space Station. And I have it there because it shows how thin the shell of the atmosphere surrounding our planet really is.”

While the sky above seems like a “vast and limitless expanse,” Gore said, it is actually incredibly thin. The slim line shown on the screen behind him holds all the oxygen and greenhouse gases of the atmosphere.

“If you can drive a car straight up from the ground to the top of that blue line, you’ve reached the top of the sky in about five minutes,” he said. “And yet, every single day, we are spewing another 162 million tons of man-made global warming pollution into that thin shell of atmosphere, using it as if it were an open sewer.”

Throughout the discussion on the world’s current battle with climate change, former U.S. Ambassador to China and Senator Max Baucus and Gore answered questions posed by UM students, faculty and Missoula community members.

Baucus and Gore discussed how China and the U.S., the top two emitters of carbon dioxide in the world, can work together to help fix the problems the two created. They have hope for the future and the faith they have in young people to save the planet.

The duo pressed that more people around the world are affected by fires, floods and other worsening natural disasters. On a surface level, they said things look grim for the future of the world.

“Climate-driven extreme weather disasters impacted one out of every three Americans this year, just in the last four or five months,” Gore said. “And unfortunately, the impacts of the climate crisis, as the scientists predicted, are becoming much more severe, much faster than we are deploying the available solutions.”

But Gore’s message was not one of doom. He traveled to the United Nations Climate Change Conference last weekend in Scotland,

where attendees met to discuss limiting global temperature increases.

Gore said his nonprofit, The Climate Project, which trains people to advocate for the fight against climate change, started 15 years ago with 50 people at his family’s farm. By this fall, he has had 14,000 people sign up for the training. Gore expressed confidence throughout the conversation that people pushing governments and organizations to make the right changes is one of the most effective ways to combat the climate crisis.

Gore also talked about the lessons Indigenous populations can teach the rest of the world on how to protect the land. He said, while Indigenous people make up 6% of the world’s population, they protect the lands that hold 80% of its biodiversity.

“I’ve been incredibly inspired by the grassroots leadership of Indigenous communities here in the United States in standing up to oil and gas companies that have been trying to build fossil fuel pipelines over land they consider sacred,” Gore said, earning cheers and applause from the in-person audience.

Gore then addressed the feelings of hopelessness and depression many young people feel toward the climate crisis.

“My message is certainly one of empathy,” Gore said. “I know firsthand how difficult it is to watch the destruction of our planet. To continue and ask, ‘Where is the real action?’ I know that painful reality is all the more demoralizing to those whose future is at risk, but you got to remember that the best antidote to despair is action.”

He said young people started all major movements of the past, from women’s suffrage to Civil Rights. He said young people were the ones who dreamed big enough to put a man on the moon, and young people are currently marching in the streets demanding solutions to the climate crisis.

“And for anybody who thinks that we don’t have the political will to do this, remember that political will itself is a renewable resource. And remember what Nelson Mandela said: ‘It always seems impossible until it’s done,’” Gore said.

Baucus and Gore both said advancing technology can help limit and identify the emissions spewing into Earth’s atmosphere. Baucus said he hasn’t always been optimistic, but in the last few years he’s seen signs of hope, and one of those signs is Gore and his work to find solutions.

“We are now in the early stages of a sustainability revolution that’s developing at the scale of the industrial revolution, but coupled with the speed of the digital revolution. It’s already well underway, and it’s already beginning to reshape the world,” Gore said.



Former U.S. Ambassador to China and Montana Sen. Max Baucus speaks to an in-person and virtual audience during “A Climate Conversation” event hosted by the Max S. Baucus Institute at UM on Oct. 28. Former Vice President Al Gore joined the event via Zoom. **KENNEDY DELAP | MONTANA KAIMIN**



‘Fridays for Future’ trudges along despite federal framework

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Two masked students sat in front of the Griz Statue Friday at noon surrounded by signs, a banner and a poster propped in the bear’s metal paws that read “System Change Not Climate Change.”

The weekly climate strike, known as Fridays for Future, continued Oct. 29 as it has for roughly a year. There was no indication that the day before, President Biden had announced a framework for his “Build Back Better” plan that includes \$555 billion for addressing climate change.

Elani Borhegyi, a junior majoring in environmental science and sustainability, said they’re grateful for the historic investment in climate change, but it doesn’t go far enough.

“I’m really frustrated with it because it’s not nearly enough, but I understand that this is the compromise that had to be made in order to get something passed,” they said.

Borhegyi is one of the handful of students who populate the Friday demonstration Gabbie Byers, a sophomore at UM, began last fall.

Byers said the investment could be a good starting point, but what’s most important is what is done with the money.

“There’s been, so far in the government, a lot of talk and no action,” she said.

According to the White House’s website, the \$555 billion includes a tax credit that’ll lower American-made electric vehicle prices by \$12,500 for middle class families and create a

300,000 member “Civilian Climate Corps.”

Byers said she began the group alone after discovering the organization, which originated in Europe. She said the group’s goal is encouraging renewable energy in Missoula and at UM.

One thing Byers said could be done locally is transitioning all city and University buses to electric. Borhegyi said another small step is making the University’s heating and cooling systems more energy efficient.

But the group’s consistent presence on the Oval hasn’t led to substantial engagement.

Byers said most people just walk past the demonstration. The trend remained Friday as only a few people stopped by and some only snapped a picture of the Griz Statue with its climate sign before walking away.

Most students who stopped by did so on the statue’s other side where fraternities tabled and threw a football around.

Byers said she tries to be understanding that some are not educated on the issue and others may not be comfortable approaching them to talk. She said she continues each week because of her passion for others, the environment and for her mental well-being.

“I just care so deeply about it,” she said. “If I was to do nothing then I would feel like I’m a bad person.”

Borhegyi said they’ve only talked with a handful of people during the climate strikes.

Byers said she and every other climate activist feels ignored by leaders from the federal level down to the University. She said campus leadership has not reached out to the group.



From left: Eli Arnold, Gabbie Byers, Elani Borhegyi, and Alena Flocchini demonstrate on the Oval as they host a climate strike protesting environmentally dangerous practices around the globe. The weekly climate strike, known as Fridays for Future, has been ongoing throughout the year. Byers, a sophomore at UM, began the protests last fall. **ELLA MUSGROVE | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Borhegyi said more has to be done and systemic change is needed.

“I think what we really need is systemic change in which we uproot the politicians that don’t care as much about our future and instead vote for politicians that really give a shit,” they said.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s August report, the Earth’s surface temperature has increased more in the last 50 years than any 50-year period in the last 2,000 years.

UM, refugee aid organizations discuss refugee issues and solutions

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The Humanities Institute at The University of Montana held a roundtable Friday to discuss how UM can help Missoula’s refugee population in a year projected to have the most refugees settled in Missoula ever.

In addition to Gillian Glaes, director of the UM Humanities Institute, the roundtable hosted panelists from Soft Landing Missoula and the Missoula chapter of the International Rescue Committee, both of which help settle refugees in Missoula.

IRC welcomed about 60 refugees to Missoula between May and September of this year, according to Eamon Fahey with the International Rescue Committee. The city saw a big spike of Syrian refugees, which Fahey attributed to the Biden administration lifting Trump’s ban on majority

Muslim countries.

This year, Fahey said Missoula’s ceiling is at 150 refugees, which is the highest it’s ever been. IRC is set to place 75 Afghan refugees under the new Afghan Placement and Assistance Program.

Fahey said IRC has expanded its staff from four to nine workers since last March. Currently, two UM students work at IRC.

“We’re looking at by far the greatest number of resettlements we’ve done in Missoula,” Fahey said.

Mary Poole from Soft Landing Missoula, a refugee resettlement agency, pointed out many refugees settling in Missoula are college aged, often with high school diplomas, and would probably be eager to interact with UM.

According to Shirley Lindburg from Missoula County Public Schools, last year there were about 35 refugee public school

students in Missoula. The district expects seven new Afghan students this year.

Lindburg said the district is looking for volunteers to tutor refugee students during the school day.

Fahey said one challenge IRC faces is hiring interpreters, as community members who speak English and Pashto or Dari have full-time jobs and are only available after hours and on weekends.

Irene Appelbaum, an UM anthropology professor, pointed out refugee students may need advocates to help navigate the bureaucracy of admissions. Gloria Musehenu, who immigrated to Missoula from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, said he has seen refugee students have trouble navigating the selective service requirement for financial aid.

Paul Mwingwa, Montana’s Refugee Congress delegate, said he planned to schedule

a meeting with all of UM’s refugee students to discuss what problems they were facing, then bring those to Soft Landing and IRC.

Glaes said one big issue for refugees is housing. Ian Knight, a student intern at the Mansfield Center, suggested refugees could have contracts similar to RAs, where they work on campus in exchange for room and board.

Currently, UM has no specific resources earmarked for implementing these or other ideas for the future. However, Glaes said a lot of implementation pieces are already in place, like the Global Engagement Office, the Davidson Honors College and existing enrollment assistance.

“I think in this case it’s about focusing all the resources that we have,” Glaes said.

Glaes said she hopes to hold another roundtable in the spring.

Due Process?

UM Law contends with claims of sexual assault, dean resignations and a student body in turmoil

Story by Emily Tschetter Photos by Kennedy Delap and Antonio Ibarra



Annie Holland, a second-year law student and survivor of domestic violence, chants “We believe survivors” from the steps of Main Hall as she participates in a walkout she helped co-organize with other law students to show support to other survivors across campus. Holland has been vocal about alleged sexual misconduct within the law school.

ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN

THE University of Montana’s Alexander Blewett III School of Law, the only law school in the state of Montana, is reeling after multiple sexual assault allegations, a student walkout and two high-profile resignations this semester. These developments sparked a new internal review of conduct and culture at the law school — one that holds no legal weight or guarantee for reforming the administration.

In 2020, UM hired an outside firm to help its Title IX office investigate claims of sexual misconduct within the law school student body, as well as claims that the deans deterred students from reporting instances of misconduct. That investigation concluded in June of this year. But

in September, the Daily Montanan published an investigation that included 13 current or former students, who spoke to the allegations that prompted the investigation and other issues relating to the culture of the law school and, specifically, its treatment of women who came forward with complaints through the necessary legal avenues.

Some students alleged failings of both the independent investigators and the deans of the law school in handling their reports of sexual misconduct. These students claimed they were discouraged from bringing reports to the Title IX office by Dean Paul Kirgis and Associate Dean Sally Weaver. Title IX rules on a national level have changed since the claims, but UM

policy still requires professors to be mandatory reporters on campus. That means, according to UM Director of Strategic Communications Dave Kuntz, they must report any instances of sexual misconduct within 24 hours of being informed to the Title IX office.

Other students involved in the investigation told the Daily Montanan the outside firm UM hired failed to follow up with them to properly document their accounts, and that certain people in UM’s Title IX office failed to fulfill the needs of some who decided to report their assaults or instances of harassment to the office through no-contact orders between the complainants and the subjects of their allegations.

Just a week after the Daily Montanan article,

on Oct. 5, 120 students attended a student-organized walkout.

Two days later, on Oct. 7, Kirgis and Weaver sent a joint resignation letter to the law school. Administration at the state’s only law school has imploded because of these claims — some of them against former Missoula mayoral candidate, Jacob Elder. But the entire murky process — from the initial investigation to the appeal process and beyond — has brought up more lasting implications, both for the school’s leadership and for the future of the deans’ roles in handling student sexual misconduct claims.

— *The Allegations* —

Rumors of persistent issues of sexual miscon-

duct and questionable leadership around that issue began in fall 2019, according to Cierra Anderson, who graduated from the law school in 2020. Anderson started a sexual assault and domestic violence survivor support group in fall 2019. Anderson told the Daily Montanan that her group started hearing rumors about past instances of sexual misconduct concerning Elder, also a student at the law school, and that she warned her peers to “be careful with him.” Anderson is still involved with this group even after graduating. She did not respond to the Kaimin’s requests for comment.

Annie Holland, a second-year law student and survivor of domestic violence, has been vocal about the issues within the law school. She talked to the Daily Montanan and was a leader of the student walkout. She said the concerns voiced about Elder were problematic.

“Male and female law students are talking about a specific person, the mayoral candidate, and telling (the deans) that he’s a problem, and that they’re scared for their safety. And (Elder) is making threats to female students and nothing is getting done,” Holland told the Kaimin.

The number of allegations against Elder is unknown. The results of the original outside investigation, conducted by private California-based firm Grand River Solutions, remain confidential. Elder discussed the results, stating publicly he was investigated and was cleared of any Title IX violations.

At least two women came forward with claims against Elder to the Daily Montanan. Elder himself described one of the instances under investigation, in which he asked to kiss a woman on a date at a downtown bar and she was “not okay with it.” Other specifics in the investigation of Elder remain unknown.

Six women who came forward also accused the deans of the law school, Kirgis and Weaver, of dissuading them from going to the Title IX office with claims of sexual misconduct, including in two cases allegedly involving Elder.

The anonymous women in the Daily Montanan piece claimed Weaver told them she had sufficient training to handle their claims on her own and that the official office’s involvement would be “unnecessary.” One woman alleged Weaver told her and her friend that she would report them to the bar association for being “vindictive” if they continued seeking action on their claim.

Weaver denied these claims.

“I have never advised a student that they should not report sexual misconduct or any other complaint to the university’s Title IX Office, the UM Office of Community Standards with respect to the Student Conduct Code, the office of the UM General Counsel or other appropriate campus authorities,” Weaver wrote in an email to the Kaimin.

Jennifer Robichaud, a current law student and the person who publicized the appeal of the investigation, claimed that when she told Kirgis about Elder sexually assaulting her friend, Kirgis said he felt a report would be unnecessary, but would inform Title IX anyway. When Title IX Director Alicia Arant followed up on the phone, she said Kirgis never mentioned the phrase “sexual assault” in his report.

Kirgis said he reported the allegation to the appropriate legal offices on campus immediately.

“As I am required to do as a mandatory reporter, I promptly reported my conversation with the student to the EO/Title IX Office. I understand that the EO/Title IX Office followed up with the student,” Kirgis told the Kaimin in an email in response to Robichaud’s claim.

Students expressed frustration with the law school and the wider UM administration’s lack of communication with the student body throughout the process. Some said they felt that administrators did not advocate for students sufficiently.

“It feels like, in the interest of minimizing risk, students were left to advocate for themselves where they shouldn’t have to,” Zachary Krumm, a current law student, said. “If there are two complaints I hear, it’s that students find out too late what’s going on and once they do, they’re left to take on things the school should be doing on its own.”

Law student Annie Holland did not report any instances of sexual misconduct to the Title IX office or the law school administration herself, but said she felt she had to step up and support survivors who are exhausted from enduring trauma.

“I personally have never had my safety threatened here,” Holland said. “However, I do know that there are female students who feel very unsafe at the law school due to the actions of the administrators not respecting what they were saying.”

— *The Investigation* —

To look into these allegations, the University hired Grand River Solutions and paid the firm \$73,496 for its support services. The investigation spanned from July 2020 to June 2021. UM hired Grand River Solutions once before for a diversity audit in 2019.

The firm assigned two investigators to look into the Title IX sexual misconduct claims, as well as the claims that the deans deterred students from reporting their allegations to the Title IX office.

UM confirmed on June 7 that Grand River Solutions filed its conclusion. The results were not published, but Kirgis, Weaver and Elder said Grand River Solutions cleared them of wrongdoing. UM confirmed Kirgis and Weaver were not found to be in violation of UM policy.

Robichaud appealed these findings in a grievance proceeding, which could potentially overturn the initial report. Both Weaver and Robichaud said that Robichaud’s initial appeal has reached a determination, though UM has not provided confirmation. Both women said the grievance proceeding did not overturn Grand River Solution’s findings.

“The process was very long (almost a year) and very thorough (the report of the findings was, I think, almost 150 pages long),” Weaver said of the initial investigation.

Sources in the Daily Montanan pieces were concerned that the investigation took nearly 11 months to conclude, even though UM’s Title IX office website states it aims to complete all inves-



Dean of the School of Law Paul Kirgis and Associate Dean of Students Sally Weaver resigned from their positions on Oct. 7 following a student-led walkout earlier that week. The announcement came after allegations that Kirgis and Weaver dissuaded students from coming forward with sexual assault claims.

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tigations within 60 days.

Kuntz, UM’s director of strategic communication, said the 11-month investigation was reasonable though, despite this statement on the Title IX website.

“I do think that 11 months is still reasonable in terms of the complex nature of this case, how many people were involved, and the appellate process that is still being played out,” Kuntz said.

Grand River Solutions redirected the Kaimin’s interview request to representatives from the Title IX office, who have not commented on the specifics of the investigation or why it required an outside firm to investigate what is typically handled by the Title IX officers on staff at UM.

Kirgis and Weaver have both repeatedly denied any wrongdoing under UM Title IX policy. They said both the initial investigation and the appeal process cleared the law school administration. UM confirmed in an Oct. 5 statement to the Missoulian that law school leadership was cleared from the initial Grand River Solutions investigation.

Weaver said she wished full results could be made public.

“If my interest were the only one at issue here, I would make the entire record public so that the media and others could review the record and

In 2020, the University hired an outside firm to help its Title IX office conduct investigations of sexual misconduct claims within the law school student body, as well as claims that the deans deterred students from reporting misconduct. The investigation concluded in June of this year and cleared School of Law Dean Paul Kirgis and Associate Dean of Students Sally Weaver of any wrongdoing. But some students at the law school are skeptical of the validity of the firm’s findings.

KENNEDY DELAP | MONTANA KAIMIN

reach their own conclusions,” Weaver said. “We, however, take our obligations of privacy and confidentiality with respect to our students very seriously, so that is not an option.”

Robichaud, the named appellant in the Grand River Solutions investigation, said that it’s unfair to say Weaver was “cleared” in this investigation.

“The appeal to the Grievance Committee is completed. The appeal committee did not overturn GRS’s finding related to Weaver, but to say



University of Montana School of Law students chant, “We believe survivors” and “Show me what unity looks like - this is what unity looks like,” while walking down the Oval in a student-led walkout on Oct. 5. Students demanded change and accountability from leadership at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law regarding sexual misconduct, along with the resignations of School of Law Dean Paul Kirgis and Associate Dean of Students Sally Weaver.

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it ‘cleared’ her is in no way accurate,” Robichaud said.

Kuntz was unable to comment on the allegations and the investigation proceedings. He reiterated the importance for students with claims of sexual misconduct to report their experiences to the Title IX office.

“Whether it was related to this specific case, or it is totally unrelated, I guess I want to double down and just really encourage everyone in the UM family, students and employees alike, to utilize the Title IX office because it’s there to serve

our campus,” Kuntz said.

The Public Response

The public first caught wind of the ongoing turmoil at the law school when Elder told the Daily Montanan he was under investigation by the University for sexual misconduct allegations and a claim that he is a “sexual predator” in a May 5 phone call.

Then, on a Facebook post in June, Elder said the Grand River Solutions investigation “exonerated” him, and UM told him he had not violated

demonstration, and Johns started organizing so his friends that had endured trauma could see support within the law school community.

“I felt like I had to do something after all of my friends and colleagues have said they’re scared, admin isn’t listening to them, admin is retaliating against them,” Johns said. “They’re afraid to go to their classes. I assumed that other people were handling it, but I wanted to be able to do something to contribute.”

Holland and Johns worked with 30 other law students and met with law professors and Title IX administrators to inform their approach in organizing their demonstration. Both Kirgis and Weaver expressed admiration for their efforts.

“These students demonstrate time and time again their ability to be brave and determined and resilient. They are the only reason that I have remained at the law school for these many years,” Weaver said. “Our world is fraught with intractable problems that are crying out for strong leadership and effective problem solvers. Our students have the potential to become those leaders and problem solvers. I look forward to cheering them on from the sidelines.”

But the Daily Montanan’s Sept. 27 publication of its first of a two-part series grabbed broader attention. This reporting brought all the allegations publicly known today to light, and prompted the increasing sentiment among law students that Kirgis and Weaver should resign.

“The University of Montana and Alexander Blewett III School of Law have historically struggled with and continue to struggle with sexism and the reporting of sexual violence within the institution,” current law student Victoria Hill said. “Remedying these institutional failures requires removing individuals that perpetrate these failures and refuse to assist students in reforming the institution.”

When Weaver and Kirgis resigned, though, it was a surprise to the UM administration, according to Kuntz. He said UM admin did not ask Weaver or Kirgis to step down. They did so on their own accord. Weaver will be terminating her employment with the University in December, while Kirgis will be transitioning out of his admin position to be a full-time professor in the law school. He will make \$124,500 as a professor, compared to his dean salary of \$201,630.

Kirgis’ role, though, is yet to be defined. UM reduced Kirgis’ salary after his resignation. UM set Kirgis’ new salary before his course load has been determined. Kuntz said Kirgis’ new respon-

sibilities in the law school will be outlined in the near future by the interim deans.

Neither Kirgis nor Kuntz could say what Kirgis’ teaching schedule will consist of in the coming semesters. He is listed in the spring semester course catalog as teaching one three-credit course called “Negotiations Lab,” which would meet once a week for two hours. When asked what he would be teaching, Kirgis said it hadn’t yet been worked out.

“It became clear to me over the past weeks that re-establishing trust with the students was the highest priority for the administration, and that I could not be the voice to lead us in that trust-building process. I chose to step aside to allow for new voices to be heard,” Kirgis said.

Weaver wrote in an email: “The experience has, of course, been mind, heart and gut-wrenching and has been a period of deep reflection for me. I have often said that when I came to Missoula and ABIII, it felt like my skin fit for the first time in my life. This is as true today as it was when I first uttered those words twenty-five years ago. I stepped aside from my role as associate dean of students with the hope and firm conviction that the law school community has the wisdom and commitment to come together and move forward in a positive and appropriate way.”

Weaver, although distraught by the resignation and the public outrage over the allegations, said the decision came easier because she was already considering retirement when the allegations emerged.

“My plans for retirement were already under discussion; this made the decision to step aside an easier one to make. My daughter says that the two most important things I taught her in her life were compassion and resilience. Both have served me — and my daughter — well in this process,” Weaver wrote.

The Resignation Fallout

The sudden resignation announcement shocked some members of the student body, and many of those in attendance at the walkout felt the resignations were an important first step to implementing further changes in the law school administration.

“I think it was appropriate for the dean and associate dean to resign. As institutional leaders, they had a duty to their students that they failed to meet. Whether this was due to negligence or

malice is beside the point,” Victoria Hill, a current law student, said. “The movement to change the culture on campus obviously can’t end here, but this was a necessary step.”

Others felt since the investigation ended five months before the resignations, and the deans said they were cleared by the external investigation, they should not have resigned.

“I was shocked and angry,” Corinne Lynn, a current law student, said. “I felt like the deans were given no opportunities to implement any of the plans they had to address the issue. It seemed like they had no choice, and I was upset because they looked at it as not wanting to cause a disruption. The only thing the resignations are going to do is appease a few people who just seem to be out for blood.”

On Oct. 25, UM admin announced law school professors Monte Mills, Cathay Y. N. Smith and Sara Rinfret would act as interim law school deans, and many students supported their appointment.

“The new deans are both wonderful advocates for their students and go above and beyond. There is some disappointment that they’re not going to be able to teach as much as they normally would because they have to step back to fulfill their duties as dean,” Holland said. “I feel like there is a positive change coming, and I think things are settling down. But the biggest thing is we just can’t lose momentum.”

“My focus is on the future and on supporting our interim leadership team through this difficult time,” Kirgis said.

What’s next?

UM announced that it will conduct a nationwide search for a new law school dean in anticipation of the next academic year. It has not created a job listing or outlined a timeline for the dean search process.

The University will also be conducting an external review of the law school, examining whether or not it has a problematic culture.

“The external review is going to bring a fresh set of eyes to the procedures that are in place at the law school and make needed recommendations. (UM admin) will be working closely with the new leadership, the law school, as well as the faculty, students and others,” Kuntz said.

Some walkout participants are cautiously optimistic for the future of the law school administration, but others are concerned about picking



Law students Everett Johns, left, and Annie Holland give a speech outside the law building in front of more than 100 students and staff. Holland and Johns, who co-organized the walkout and demanded accountability and transparency from Kirgis and Weaver regarding the process of reporting sexual misconduct at the law school. ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN

a dean candidate who will be well-equipped to handle Title IX claims in lieu of Kirgis and Weaver’s alleged shortcomings. Holland believes students should circumvent the dean’s office and take their claims straight to the Title IX office.

“I’m worried that everything is just going to be the same,” Holland said. “Just another middle-aged white male, who is not necessarily informed of the duress that domestic and sexual assault put on survivors in their everyday life. I think that maybe cutting out that middleman where there’s not an opportunity to dissuade someone or give someone false information will make people feel more certain that their case is being properly handled, and that there’s not going to be bias in handling the cases.”

Holland and Johns raised concerns about faculty members resigning to avoid accountability through the Title IX process after the resignations, but Kuntz said the office can seek further action after a faculty member has ended employment if a complainant remains unsatisfied.

“If a complainant feels like accountability hasn’t happened, or wasn’t achieved, the Title IX office will work with that person because any sort of actions taken is agreed upon between

both parties. So just because somebody has resigned doesn’t always mean that the matter is over,” Kuntz said.

In this case, the matter is not over yet. The appeal could still be under consideration even after Weaver leaves UM’s law school in December, and as far into the future as complainants decide to file appeals.

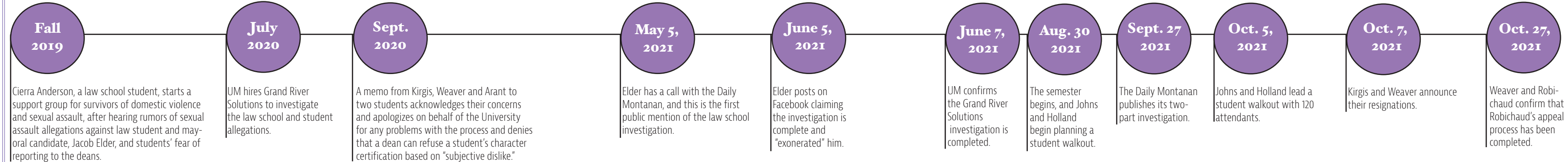
Law student activists are frustrated with the law school’s lack of communication in their efforts to remedy the situation and hope UM will focus on further accountability efforts.

“My real hope is that the school takes this opportunity to focus on institutional change and not just who new leadership is going to be. I don’t want names, titles and consultants to distract from a sense of what the law school should be and the policy changes needed to get there. The school has the capacity to be a really special place,” Krumm, a current law student and a supporter of the student walkout, said. “So I hope we see more transparency and affirmative leadership moving forward. It sounds like UM as a whole still has lessons to learn about gender equality and safety on campus.”

UM confirmed the investigation remains under appeal, so rulings and actions regarding the law school situation are not over. Both students and the former deans are hopeful that fallout from the resignations and public allegations will be a catalyst for positive change at the law school.

“At the end of the day,” wrote Weaver, “it is my most fervent hope that through this process we will take advantage of important opportunities to learn valuable lessons about conflict and dispute resolution. To embrace the truth. To acknowledge that facts matter. That the rule of law matters. That due process is the cornerstone of our system of justice, and that social media is often not the best professional option for airing grievances and resolving disputes.”

Lawschool Sexual Misconduct Timeline



Mac Miller’s ‘Faces’ will make you face your tears

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In a hidden folder of photos, drawings and notes labeled under “SOMeTh1ngs” on Mac Miller’s website is a sketch of a man and an animal, covering their faces behind hand-held masks. Handwritten on the picture is Miller’s name and the title of his 11th mixtape, “Faces.” “Malcolm wanted this to be his cover” the photo title reads. More than three years after the rapper’s untimely death, Miller never got the chance to release the cover. But now, Miller’s untouched work has resurfaced, along with his 24-track, emotional gut-punch of a mixtape “Faces.”

For the last few years Miller’s team has been sifting through his vault of treasured pictures, videos, drawing and unreleased songs, and compiling them in mixtapes and short movies. “Faces” is among the treasure trove of Miller’s past work as a mixtape filled with some of Miller’s best rapping and collaborations with featured artists like Earl Sweatshirt and Schoolboy Q.

As the second posthumous album after “Circles,” this mixtape could have easily come off as exploitatvie. Especially because

it was originally free, and is now making a record-breaking vinyl debut.

But “Faces” is so authentically Miller, its re-release only bolsters his legacy as a rap icon.

A mixtape about Miller’s paranoid stumbling through drug-addiction, mortality and existence, “Faces” was a turning point in Miller’s artistic evolution as a dark and personal look into his life as a young rap artist rising to stardom.

“It felt like it was my world, that I felt like I could grow into my own, creatively,” Miller said in the short film “Making Faces.”

Over all 24 tracks of the album, including a new bonus track, Miller explores the human condition through contemplative, dark lyricism and the psychedelic sounds trademarking his later music.

Backed by swirling jazz, Miller starts off his first song “Inside Outside” with the confession “I shoulda died already.” It’s strange and saddening to hear an artist say they will die years before they actually do. But “Faces” isn’t meant to be agreeable, it’s meant to be honest. Every track is a testament to who Miller was — a guy trying to make sense of his mind.

Miller’s emotions permeate through his messy, emotional lyrics describing his depres-

sive episodes, anxiety attacks and many close dances with death.

“It Just Doesn’t Matter” is one of the most human of all of these in depicting how addiction has overtaken Miller’s life and how he’s unable to stop, despite his sadness.

“Faces” is about Miller walking that thin line between life and death, riding the high till he’s too far up to breathe. But it’s also about Miller purging his fear of death to enjoy life.

These themes are most pertinent in the three songs “Happy Birthday,” “Wedding” and “Funeral,” which retrace the life of a man until death. The three-piece puts our universal mental and physical struggles into words, without becoming too bleak.

“Funeral” is not ominous because it gives you hope that if you have a funeral, you’ve lived a life.

As “Faces” attests, Miller lived a life that left a legacy to who he was as an artist and a person.



CONTRIBUTED

‘The Last Duel’ provides a much needed break from tired blockbusters

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It’s no secret October has been stuffed to the brim with movie releases. Major blockbuster releases like “Dune,” “Halloween” and “James Bond” have dominated the movie world recently, but that does NOT mean they are the only ones to look out for.

In all that chaos, it’s easy to see how a movie like “The Last Duel” can slide under the radar, until you realise it was directed by the renowned Ridley Scott and stars an impressive slate of actors, including Ben Affleck, Matt Damon and Adam Driver. We’re living in a film Renaissance. Even the flops are incredible.

Known for action-centric epics “Alien,” “Blade Runner” and “Gladiator,” Scott takes “The Last Duel” in a very different direction. It tells the story of 14th century knight Jean de Carrouges (Damon), his lifelong friend Jacques Le Gris (Driver) and, most importantly, Carrouges’s wife Marguerite, played by Jodie Comer. Broken into three chapters, the film examines the three characters’ entirely different perspectives of a singular event: the sexual assault of Marguerite de Carrouges by Le Gris.

Aside from a brief scene or two of beautifully crafted battle and the titular duel at the end, “The Last Duel” is epic only in length, clocking in at over 2.5 hours. The husky runtime rides at a steady pace, and by the halfway point you’ll be at the edge of your seat waiting to see what happens next.

The material on display is heavy, and Scott and the entire cast tread across the potentially dangerous territory of subjects with ease. Damon as Carrouges and Driver as Le Gris act their hearts out in their respective roles. Both men are deeply grounded and it’s clear they have explored every aspect of their characters behind the scenes. Affleck is a much lighter presence in the film, but still provides a lot of layers to a character that could have easily been very dull.

The real star of the show is without a doubt Comer, who plays Marguerite. Comer recently starred alongside Ryan Reynolds in “Free Guy,” but this is her first time in a — for lack of a better term — Oscar-baity role. But here’s the thing about bait, we use it because it works. Comer showed up with genuine emotion, nuance and a performance that won’t soon be forgotten.

“The Last Duel” explores a lot of themes, as you’d expect from a movie that’s almost as long as a UM chem lab. One of the forefront among them is sisterhood, or lack thereof, as well as the importance of believing women who speak out against all odds. The film also explores toxic masculinity and how it affects the people both involved in and around it.

“The Last Duel” is sure to generate discussion among the dedicated moviegoers who can’t stand another blockbuster.

From a craft standpoint, “The Last Duel” is absolutely striking. It features one of the most jarring depictions of point of view in film history. We watch two separate portrayals of the exact same event. In one, it comes off as highly uncomfortable, but in the next it’s genuinely terrifying thanks to subtle changes in performance, music and camerawork. Simply masterful storytelling.

It goes without saying that “The Last Duel” should be marked with a trigger warning for scenes of graphic violence and sexual assault, but it sincerely is one of the most important films of the year. See it now, in theaters only.



CONTRIBUTED

Op-Ed: A gun is a gun, no matter who’s holding it

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It wasn’t until I was 17 years old that I learned both of my parents had faced down the barrel of a gun.

My mom and dad — both teachers — had a gun threat on their campus at Cocopah Middle School in Scottsdale, Arizona, in 2006. At the time, my sister and I were at school five minutes away, in lockdown.

Unknown to me, an armed SWAT team entered both of my parents’ classrooms that day. When their classroom doors swung open for students to be evacuated, it was my parents in the crosshairs of assault rifles — in front of students who were inducted into the “lockdown generation.”

Let me explain what I mean by “lockdown generation.” I was born in 2000, one year after the Columbine school shooting that left 13 dead at a Colorado high school.

Before Columbine, most students didn’t experience active shooter trainings or

lockdown drills when they were on a school campus. In fact, it wasn’t until the academic year of 2005-06 — the year I entered kindergarten, and the year SWAT entered my parents’ classrooms — that more than 40% of public schools in the nation began implementing these procedures and drills, according to the National Education Association. By 2015-16, as I entered high school, this percentage had increased to 95%.

Since Columbine, there have been 256,000 children impacted by gun violence in schools, and 284 school shootings, according to a database compiled by the Washington Post.

My entire family has lived through 21 years in which we’ve known the exact procedure for if a gunman walked onto our campus. Generation Z is the only generation to know, since kindergarten, the terror of practicing what we’d do if someone attempted to kill us in our classroom.

My parents adapted to the “lockdown generation” in their classrooms, albeit in a traumatic manner I didn’t learn about until long after the fact. But me — I was born into it.

Over my 21 years, I’ve heard many solutions proposed to

end this epidemic of gun violence on school grounds. But one argument in particular has never made sense to me.

It goes like this: “A good guy with a gun can stop a bad guy with a gun.” This argument posits that, with more guns on campus, students and teachers alike will feel more safe at school. It is one that, to me, is inherently untrue.

This year, with House Bill 102 passing in Montana’s legislative session, allowing concealed carry of firearms on UM’s campus, the “good guy with a gun” argument has followed me to college.

HB 102 is currently tied up in court. But should it come out of court unscathed and be put into action on UM’s campus, I’ll have the fear that a bad guy with a gun and a good guy with a gun will become indistinguishable at my school. Rather, a person carrying on campus would just be a person with a gun — a concept that, for me, a member of the “lockdown generation,” is bone-chilling.

According to a 2015 Gallup poll, 56% of Americans do believe a “good guy with a gun” (someone concealed-carrying following the

passage of a background check and training course) would make them feel safer.

But according to a new study published in May 2020, states with more permissive concealed carry laws have a 53.5% increase in mass shootings, compared to a state with average concealed carry laws.

With the passage of HB 102, Montana’s concealed carry laws became the most permissive in the country on college campuses.

As for my family, my dad is retired now, but my mom is still a teacher in Montana. And for her, the trauma of gun violence in her career hasn’t come from a gunman firing shots at her. It came from the good guy with a gun bursting into her classroom as she had to face him down, feigning calmness, in front of a classroom full of students.

This is the reality of the “good guy with a gun” argument. At the end of the day, regardless of one’s moral proclivities, a person with a gun is a person with a gun. For a generation of students like me, along with teachers like my parents, that “guy with a gun” — regardless of who it is — has caused a lifetime of fear.

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MAKAYLA O’NEIL | MONTANA KAIMIN

Running for her spot, transfer Bridget Boyle shows endurance for UM

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Bridget Boyle didn't think racing with the University of Montana was possible, but on Oct 29, she suited up for the Griz cross-country team in the Big Sky Conference Championship. Boyle, a native Montanan, chose to start her career away from home in St. George, Utah, at Dixie State University. After one season there, her next collegiate stop was in Gunnison, Colorado. After having some Division II competition, she made the decision to move back home and run with the Grizzlies.

"It's hard to talk about. I don't think anybody ever enters college expecting to transfer," Boyle said.

Gunnison is approximately 16 hours away from Bozeman, her hometown.

"I was super grateful to have parents who relish the opportunities to get my younger brother and I outdoors," Boyle said.

Her love of the Montana mountains and the outdoors made UM her choice school, in addition to her attachment to current cross-country head coach Clint May.

May is also a Montana native and a former head coach for Bozeman High School's cross-country team. He has had a long career as a coach, leading Bozeman High School to multiple men's and women's state championships in addition to his recent achievements with the Grizzlies.

Boyle said that the team captains are leaders on the cross-country team.

"You should have said 'vote for me,'" May told Boyle after she hesitated to praise herself.

Being at Western Colorado was a different kind of struggle for Boyle as she tried to figure out her own situation academically and socially.

"At the end of the day, I wasn't happy being there," she said. "I think it was a necessary change and, so far, being back in Montana has been great."

Coming back to Montana became her way to get back into the sport she loved and onto a path she is happy with. Boyle said readjusting to life in Montana has been a joy for her. It has also been a way to help her drive back into college life and her passion for the sport of cross-country.

Boyle placed 132nd for all runners and 5th in the UM women's heat at the UC Riverside Highlander Invitational. After a top-20 finish at the Montana Open and two first-place finishes at UM's women's heats, her tertiary competition was not to her personal standard.

"I hadn't had the race that I feel I am capable of," Boyle said.

The Big Sky Conference Championship was a tough race for the women's and men's teams on all fronts. Boyle finished 73rd, being the

third best in the women's heat for Montana. With one race to go in the cross-country season, it is all about salvaging afterwards.

"I've had a lot of races where something happens and I just don't know what goes wrong," she said.

That is when she recovers. After a long race, reflection is key for understanding what could have gone wrong throughout a race.

"It's also good to just move on and trust in your training and trust in your personal ability to race better next time and look forward to the next opportunity," Boyle said.

Boyle's a patron of living with her faults. Transfers and almost losing her season, she takes what she is given. When the race is over, she has to move on and decompress.

"That's kind of an ongoing process where several days later you'll kind of have a moment where you're like 'oh wait.' I think following the race it's important to focus on recovery," she said.

These realizations have come full circle for Boyle as she starts to round out the first semester of her junior year of college and adjust to her third collegiate cross-country team.

While the struggle has been real for her and many other transfer students, she believes in her ability and her training. Her focus is always on the next race and she always continues where she left off last time: running.

Cross-country is a sport of endurance. From weaving through crowds of people to running unfathomable lengths to taking on the harsh weather conditions, it is about control. Boyle not only applies this to her game, but also to her life. Once she goes, like her training tells her, she is set in motion.

"I think that everyone at some point in their life will encounter some obstacle that seems insurmountable or extremely formidable and you can't go around it," she said. "You have to just go through and I would encourage people to stick with it."

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Cross-country runner Bridget Boyle stands at the Kim Williams trail where the University of Montana cross-country team often trains. Boyle, a transfer student from Colorado and a Montana native, represented the Griz for the first time at the Big Sky Conference Championship where she finished 73rd and the third best in the women's heat. **OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Sports | Greatest of all time

Meet the new Montana Hall of Fame class

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The University of Montana inducted four icons of its athletics into the Grizzly Sports Hall of Fame Oct. 29, honoring Skylia Sisco, Adam Bork, Brian Ah Yat and Wayne Tinkle. Gary Hughes, who worked in the athletic department for 35 years as ticket office manager and associate athletic director, was also given the third-ever Grizzly Lifetime Honors Award.

Skylia Sisco: Women's basketball, 1994-1998

Hailing from Montana's windswept Hi-Line, Sisco grew up in Malta. Time was tough to pass there, which led her to get involved in a variety of sports.

"There was a tradition there long before I was around for basketball," she said. "It's pre-cellphones and pre-internet, so that's what kids did. We played outside, and we played basketball. A lot of it."

When she came to Missoula in 1994, Sisco recalled being blown away by the relative bustle of the city.

"It might as well have been Paris, it was that far outside of my norm," she said. "To get to come here, it felt like I was on top of the world."

She remembered being a pretty straight-laced student and spending her time off the court doing low-key activities with her friends, like bowling.

On the court, though, Sisco was anything but discreet. She played 114 games for the Lady Griz, finishing with 1,238 career points, 587 assists and 235 steals. As a senior, she was named Big Sky MVP.

After graduating, Sisco played professionally in Europe before returning to Missoula to open and operate the restaurants Liquid Planet, Pangea and Stave & Hoop.

Adam Bork: Track & Field, 1998-2002

Bork's exceptional career as one of UM's highest ranked track athletes came somewhat unexpectedly to him. Growing up in Bigfork, Montana, Bork spent first through 12th grade playing every kind of sport, from football to baseball to wrestling. He said he found track and field in high school by trying to keep up with his older brother, Aaron.

"I wanted to see if I could outdo him," Bork said. "Just being really competitive, like a lot of younger siblings are."

It wasn't until he nearly graduated that Bork started thinking seriously about where to attend college.

"It probably wasn't until my senior year before I knew the difference between UM and MSU, which school was in which town. It just wasn't really on my radar," he said.

During his time in college, Bork became an all-American decathlete, placing sixth in the 2002 NCAA Championship meet with 7,699 points. He is fifth in Big Sky Conference history, only 289 points behind Olympic gold medalist Dan O'Brien.

Post-graduation, Bork spent 13 years as assistant coach with UM's track & field program. The 2021 season was his last. He now spends his spare time with his wife and former Griz tennis player Ashild, and his three children.

Brian Ah Yat: Football, 1995-1998

Ah Yat crossed the ocean from Honolulu, Hawaii, to play football at UM, and took the Grizzlies to two Big Sky Conference championships and the 1996 National Championship game.

Though he played immediately after legendary Griz quarterback Dave Dickenson, Ah Yat still holds a number of UM records, including the most single game passing yards (560), the most season touchdown passes (42) and the longest touchdown pass in a game (93 yards).

Following his time in Missoula, Ah Yat returned to Honolulu for a short while to play for the indoor arena team, the Hawaii Hammerheads, for their only season in 1999. From there, Ah Yat spent a few seasons with CFL team the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, and had a stint with short-lived arena football team the Chicago Rush.

"Dealing with the cold during games or during practice and learning how to fight through that was a big lesson for me," he said. "Also, just as a young man, learning not to mix my colors with the whites so my towels don't turn out pink. Learning how to cook my own meals. All those things."

Ah Yat still lives in Hawaii, where he is the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for his son Kamehameha's high school.

Gary Hughes: UM Athletics, 1966-2000

Hughes has spent his entire life in western Montana. He grew up in Ronan and kept busy on his family's ranch.

"We never took a vacation because my dad was a rancher," Hughes said. "We worked all the time."

Hughes said the first time he even made it into Glacier National Park was at 19. So when

he came to Missoula to attend the modern business college in 1960, he was venturing into new territory.

He met his wife Judy and began his career with Grizzly Athletics in 1966. After starting as the ticket office manager, Hughes moved to many positions, including event staff, the leader of the Century Club, and associate athletic director.

After retiring from UM in 2000, Hughes remained an active leader in Missoula, holding a 17-year position at First Security Bank as a public relations officer.

"I worked under six presidents, five athletic directors," Hughes said. "And I know they cringed when they promoted me, because I didn't have that BA or that Master's or that PhD. But I had experience."

Wayne Tinkle: Basketball, 1986-1989 - Head Coach, 2006-2014

The youngest of 11 kids, Tinkle was born in Milwaukee, but spent his first nine years in Chicago before moving to Spokane.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do," he said.

"I know I loved playing basketball, but I never really thought about it being a vehicle for me to move on past high school."

He showed promise, and considered attending college at Gonzaga, Loyola Marymount and Marquette. Eventually, he decided on UM after becoming familiar with Missoula on his family's many cross-country roadtrips between Washington and the Midwest.

At UM, Tinkle ranked tenth in school history in career points with 1,500, fourth in rebounds with 836, and was a three-time all-Big Sky pick.

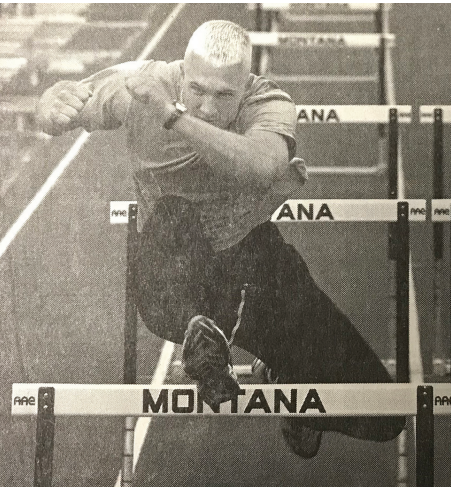
After graduation, he played professionally for 12 seasons overseas in Italy, Greece, Spain and Sweden, before returning to Missoula to take a position as assistant coach.

"I knew the last couple years I was playing that ultimately I wanted to coach, and when the opportunity came, I felt like I couldn't pass it up," Tinkle said.

Tinkle spent a number of years coaching at UM, both as assistant and head coach, before going to Oregon State, where he took the Beavers on an inspiring run into the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament in the spring of 2021.



Skylia Sisco **BIG SKY CONFERENCE | CONTRIBUTED**



Adam Bork **UM ATHLETICS | CONTRIBUTED**



Brian Ah Yat **UM ATHLETICS | CONTRIBUTED**



Wayne Tinkle **KAIMIN ARCHIVES | CONTRIBUTED**

Civil rights gets jazzy at UM School of Music's 'Jazz Equity'

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The beat was in the air and the groove charged each musician on stage as songs composed by members of the LGBTQ+ community and women filled the theater. Players threw their heads back and sang through their instruments in numerous solos over jazz-filled melodies, the audience swayed in unison to each satisfying riff.

On Friday night at the Dennison Theatre at the University of Montana, UM's School of Music presented "Jazz Equity," a performance featuring three UM Jazz ensembles playing tunes written and composed by women and members who identify as LGBTQ+.

The theater was filled with a smattering of family, students and members of the jazz ensembles as instruments of all shapes and sizes ripped jazzy melodies with solo performances from all sections of the ensemble showing off their raddest riffs.

Each director rarely needed to keep the song moving: Rather they stood on stage swaying and tapping their feet — the beat was already there. Each musician bobbed their head and knew exactly when each note was to come.

Each of the 10 songs was meticulously picked and even more meticulously practiced. The performance was created in honor of groundbreaking female and LGBTQ+ musicians and composers.

Rob Tapper, director of the UM Jazz program and director of the night's show, said his students felt positivity and affirmation behind playing music written by composers who created art while also dealing with being judged for their sexuality or gender.

Tapper said it's important to highlight the incredible art created by the composers and their impact on the history of jazz.

"It doesn't matter what's going on behind the scenes: These people are great artists, writers, creators and composers — period."



With composure and concentration in full highlight, School of Music saxophonist Veronica Stimpfling hammers out a saxophone solo. **SHANNA MADISON | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Trumpet player Andrew Kagerer plays a solo during the Jazz Ensemble I section of the show at UM School of Music's Jazz Equity Show on Friday Oct. 29 at the Dennison Theatre. The show included three UM jazz bands: Jazz Ensemble I, Jazz Band II and Lab Jazz Band III. The show featured music composed by LGBTQ and female artists. Kagerer plays in both Ensemble I and Jazz Band III, as well as for the local band the Fertile Crescent. **SHANNA MADISON | MONTANA KAIMIN**



A brass trio plays a section of the show while using plunger mutes. Plungers alter the sounds of the instrument to produce those "jazzy" trombone and trumpet sounds. **SHANNA MADISON | MONTANA KAIMIN**



School of Music student Seamus Jennings shreds a solo on an electric guitar. Jennings is part of Jazz Jazz Ensemble I. Apart from being a music student at UM, Jennings also plays for local band Cosmic Sans. **SHANNA MADISON | MONTANA KAIMIN**