

MONTANA KAIMIN

Freedom in confinement

The Free Verse Project brings poetry to Montana's incarcerated youth

Story by Clarise Larson



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Cover Photo
Lukas Prinos



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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UM Jazz Fest



Trumpet player Andrew Kagerer and bass player Kyler Rebich performing at the Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival. The 41st annual Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival was live-streamed from Dennison Theatre on Friday. Photo by Kennedy Delap ...See more jazz on page 13

Practical or not, CHS budget reductions cut deep

When priority registration opened last Tuesday, I sat in my bedroom staring at my open Cyberbear tab. I needed to enroll in at least two upper division Spanish classes to stay on track for my major. But the Spanish department wasn't offering a single upper division class I hadn't taken, barring one 400-level course. In fact, there were only three upper division courses total. Frustrated, I went to my Spanish professor and asked why. I knew many of my peers in the major were in the same predicament.

If she was able to teach next year, she told me, she'd hopefully be offering two more classes. I connected the dots in that moment. The reason so few courses were being offered next fall was because the Spanish faculty didn't know if they would have enough instructors to offer more. I was gutted. It was the first time in my three years at UM that the budget reductions were cutting so close to home. An incredibly privileged thing to say — this is the first time I've had to face the cuts' impacts — as the University has continued to shed its budget for the last six years in response to the enrollment crisis.

The University is asking for a \$2.6 million reduction in the college's budget, a cherry on top of the already \$10.4 million the school has cut since 2015. That accounts for 68% of the University's total budget cuts.

And in this week's paper, we take a deeper look at the significance of what those numbers really mean; a story that features the faces behind the departments bearing the brunt of the cuts.

But I also want to use this space to say my piece. Over the last week, as I've watched my peers protest the budget proposals and read the news of faculty asserting that any further reductions would be unsustainable, I've felt a conflicting sort of emotion that

I've finally been able to conceptualize. I know these cuts were evaluated on a model that took into account student credit hours and CHS enrollment. I understand that it's not the University's personal vendetta against the humanities or sciences. But I'm still hurt and frustrated.

I'm hurt on behalf of the professors in the philosophy and history departments who are desperately holding the line. I'm frustrated on behalf of my peers in the Department of World Languages and Cultures who face limited course offerings and uncertainty.

And you know what? I get to feel that way. As do all of the students, faculty and staff affected by these cuts. The fact that they make sense on a practical model doesn't devalue the emotion that comes with losing courses, resources and faculty positions.

I'm tired of the default argument against my hurt and frustration being: "Well, it's just because the humanities aren't bringing in the students like other departments." You know what also isn't bringing in students and supporting them for four years over the course of their studies? The Food Zoo. Yet the University recently announced its costly plans to remodel the cafeteria.

I feel unheard. And I imagine that's how the organizers of last week's Save the Humanities event felt, when their chalk messages were cleaned off the sidewalk only an hour after they finished their demonstration.

— Addie Slanger, Features Editor

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

KAIMIN COMIC



COOPER MALIN | MONTANA KAIMIN

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

Edited by Margie E. Burke

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

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

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Briefs: Gun legislation, UM vaccine clinics and hope for student loan cancellation

House Bill 2 provides \$1 million to MUS for implementation of gun bill

House Bill 2, an appropriations bill in the Montana Legislature, includes \$1 million for the Montana University System to implement House Bill 102. Signed into law by Gov. Greg Gianforte on Feb. 18, HB 102 will allow guns to be carried on college and university campuses starting in June.

The bill's text lists firearm training, metal detectors and awareness campaigns as possible uses for the funds. It also clarifies that implementation of HB 102 would be void if MUS contests its legality in a lawsuit. ASUM is against HB 2, listing drastic cuts to need-based student aid all while putting more money behind HB 102.

"This week, the sponsor of House Bill 102 brought forth an unprecedented legislation that many have likened to bribery or even extortion," an ASUM Instagram post about HB 2 stated.

According to Anthony Johnstone, a Montana Constitution professor at Alexander Blewett III Law School, calling HB 2 "extortion" is hyperbole. But he said the Legislature can't micromanage the MUS budget as the Board of Regents is independent.

"So the real question is not whether the condition is criminal, but whether it's constitutional," Johnstone stated in an email.

(Mariah Thomas)

UM students seeing financial support from federal stimulus package

The UM Financial Education Program held a Zoom meeting on March 22 to discuss possible student loan forgiveness in the future and an overview of the American Rescue Plan.

Financial wellness specialist Morgan Hahn said it's likely Congress will set limits on the Biden Administration's student loan forgiveness efforts, such as who qualifies or the amount of debt canceled, and that the subject is still up for debate. Hahn said UM will continue individual repayment and borrowing plans based on their current policies. The UM Financial Education team will continue to monitor any developments.

"Don't expect a wide-scale student loan cancellation now," Hahn said.

Under the stimulus package's Homeowners Assistance Fund, emergency vouchers are available to college students who are couchsurfing, homeless or moving from one friend's house to another. Eligible students have also received support from the Emergency Student Supporting Fund under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. Emails were sent out to students' UM

email addresses notifying them of the disbursements. A recording of the full meeting is on the University of Montana Financial Education YouTube channel. (Grace Carr)

Idaho missing person not on campus

On March 24, the University of Montana Police Department sent a public safety notice to UM students and faculty asking for help locating a missing person. This came after the Idaho Falls Police Department told UMPD they received an anonymous tip that a man named Matthew Jed Hall was spotted on campus.

UMPD Lt. Brad Giffin said UMPD received three calls soon after releasing the email from callers who reported seeing the person described. Officers made contact with the person but found that he was only "almost identical" to the missing individual.

Lt. Giffin said UMPD is no longer looking for Hall. (GC)

COVID-19 in Missoula update

As of Sunday, March 28, all Missoula residents over the age of 16 are now eligible to receive

the COVID-19 vaccine. UM filled two days of vaccine clinic appointments with University students and employees this week. A third one set for Friday still had some morning appointments available as of Tuesday.

The county also has a plan to bring back large public events, which will be implemented once 600 vaccine doses per 1,000 residents are administered and active cases remain below a rate of 25 per 100,000 people. With more than 1 in 2 residents already having received at least one dose and only 18 active cases per 100,000 people, large events could be back on the calendar soon.

Missoula County's COVID-19 vaccine dashboard updates weekly on Mondays, while the state's COVID-19 dashboard updates daily.

- As of Monday, Missoula County:
- Administered more than 60,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, 10,000 more than last week.
 - Completed nearly 22,000 second doses, the final step to full immunity, 5,000 more than the week prior.
 - Had 131 active COVID-19 cases, down nine from last week.

- As of Tuesday, Montana:
- Administered nearly 478,000 doses, around 70,000 more than last week.
 - Completed more than 186,000 second doses, upward of 20,000 more than last week.
 - Had 898 active cases, down roughly 100 from last week. (Mazana Boerboom)



Blotter: A busted party, garden trespassers and missing stickers

GRACE CARR
grace.carr@umontana.edu

Between March 18 and 24, UMPD reported five crimes on and around campus. Theft and burglary were the most common crimes, totaling three of the five cases. In an update to last week's blotter, UMPD identified the person allegedly responsible for breaking into the University golf course on March 15. Officers submitted paperwork to the county attorney's office to apply for a warrant for the suspect's arrest. Lt. Brad Giffin said.



THURSDAY 03/18: TRUMP REMOVED (AGAIN)

Welcome to Missoula, Montana — the city where your Donald Trump bumper stickers aren't safe from passersby. A vehicle in parking Lot H was robbed of its decor between March 16 and 18. There are no suspects, and the crime was reported as a misdemeanor theft.

4 April 1, 2021 montanakaimin.com

FRIDAY 03/19: AN ILLEGAL STROLL

Three individuals were caught on video trespassing in the ASUM Community Garden behind the Lewis and Clark Villages Thursday evening. The intruders spent ten minutes wandering on the property and moving items around, but apparently they found nothing worth stealing. The video footage was too grainy to get a clear picture of the culprits, and the incident was reported as trespassing and criminal mischief.

SATURDAY 03/20: PARTY FOUL

UMPD officers crashed a dorm room party on Saturday evening in Craig Hall. They found seven underage students in possession of alcohol, and all were referred for a liquor law violation. Not the most enjoyable way to end a Saturday night, but the rowdy students' future kids will certainly love the story.

MONDAY 03/22: SWIPED STAMPS

An office in the Gallagher Business Building fell victim to a burglary sometime over the weekend. Someone entered the room and swiped a stack of stamps. Yep, that's it. There are no suspects in the case of the missing postage stamps.

Get off campus and explore!

Join UDASH for free recreation shuttles and guided hikes on the student break days.

April 2 • Milltown State Park

SIGN UP FOR FREE:
udash.org/events

TUESDAY 03/23: ANOTHER BIKE BITES THE DUST

Another day, another stolen bike. On Tuesday afternoon, a student found themselves bike-less when their environmentally-conscious mode of transportation was swiped from outside the Fine Arts Building. It was secured with a cable lock, but that didn't stop the culprit. There are no suspects.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

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| 20 | | | | | 21 | | | | 22 | | | | |
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| | | | | 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 | | | | |
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| 67 | | | | | 68 | | | | | 69 | | | |

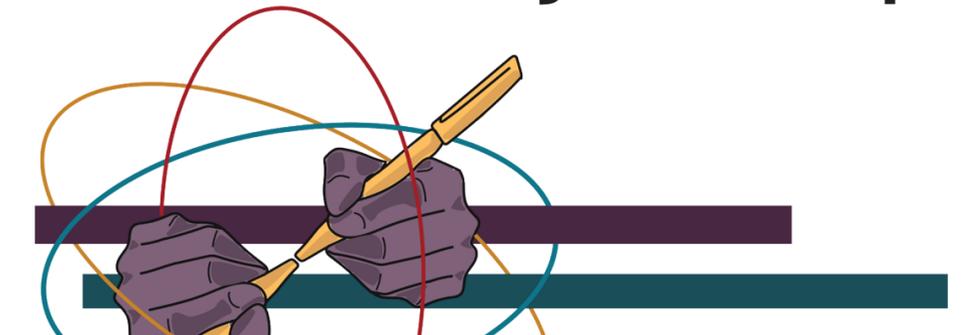
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Urban pollutant
 - 5 "Silly" birds
 - 10 Spic-and-_____
 - 14 Burglar's take
 - 15 Northern helpers
 - 16 Window glass
 - 17 Forerunner
 - 19 Aware
 - 20 Moore of Bond fame
 - 21 Play host
 - 23 Serve a summons on
 - 25 Board partner
 - 26 Not the former
 - 29 Quick bite to eat
 - 32 Take for granted
 - 35 Cartoon chipmunk
 - 37 Old TV knob
 - 38 Amorphous sci-fi villain
 - 39 Melancholy verse
 - 41 Cracker spread
 - 42 Slice (off)
 - 43 Barber's job
 - 44 Weasel's cousin
 - 46 Community spirit
 - 48 Spot on a horse
 - 50 October stone
 - 52 Doctor's signboard
 - 56 Afraid of being shot?
 - 60 Title for von Trapp
 - 61 Unknown author, briefly
 - 62 Persevere
 - 64 Like a desert
 - 65 Seaweed-wrapped fare
 - 66 Church area
 - 67 Washstand item
- DOWN**
- 1 Astute
 - 2 House of a lord
 - 3 Expenditures
 - 4 School singers
 - 5 "_____ whiz!"
 - 6 Firstborn
 - 7 In a dead heat
 - 8 Put in the mail
 - 9 Fragrant compound
 - 10 Perfect
 - 11 Summer suit accessory
 - 12 One opposed
 - 13 Night light?
 - 18 Type of cheese
 - 22 Kennedy matriarch
 - 24 Do the driving
 - 27 Fluid accumulation
 - 28 Maid's cloth
 - 30 Adorable
 - 31 Eager
 - 32 Fit to serve
 - 33 Vegas coin-eater
 - 34 Second-year student
 - 36 Kind of node
 - 40 Pot cover
 - 41 Before birth
 - 43 Autocrat
 - 45 Cover story?
 - 47 First act
 - 49 Analyst's concern
 - 51 Calf catcher
 - 53 Feel blindly
 - 54 Despicable one
 - 55 Sign above a door
 - 56 Four six-packs
 - 57 From the start
 - 58 Leave speechless
 - 59 Blow off steam?
 - 63 Hobbyist's buy

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

A literal literary horoscope



OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

ALEX MILLER
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What do all literary triumphs in the United States' vaunted canon have in common? A theme. And before you skip ahead on this quiz (or actually read it), so too does this horoscope. We may share the same literary universe in the sense that the random guys in the background of Marvel films are a part of saving the day, but that's okay. The Kaimin horoscope proudly presents: Literary greats of the star signs.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Aries, when you commit, you go all in. And so did Maya Angelou. Whether it was her writing, activism or her being one of the most badass intellectuals of the 20th century, she always gave 100%. Just to spark a little competition, Angelou earned over 50 honorary degrees. Get crackin'!

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): It's all about honesty, ambition and 'tegrity, Taurus. And same for Harper Lee's characters in "To Kill a Mockingbird." By golly, Atticus Finch was just a small time country lawyer looking for the truth! But, did Lee really write it? Or was it Truman Capote?

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Looking back on the past has, and always will, get you nowhere, Gem. Same with Ayn Rand. Shit, she created an entire philosophical movement, objectivism, from her works "The Fountainhead" and "Atlas Shrugged." Objectivism requires production for happiness, man. Can't find that in the past.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Hi you, nice to meet drunk. That's probably not the tip of the iceberg that a Cancer like Ernest Hemingway would start off with, but he did slam the booze. And he was highly creative, just like you! So creative that he turned in 40,000 words when he only had to do 10,000! What a guy!

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): You're loud, Leo. And just a tad obnoxious, but it comes from a good place. Right? Ray Bradbury, author of "Fahrenheit 451," captured loud and obnoxious perfectly with his dystopian world where books feel the burn. What's more obnoxious than burning a bunch of books that were just hanging out, being books? Nothing.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): When work calls, you answer immediately and get the job done, Virgo. So did Upton Sinclair. The mad man wrote over 100 novels! He dove so far into the work that he spent nearly two months undercover at Chicago meat packing plants to research for his classic "The Jungle." That's dedication, and a lot of beef.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): Sometimes life is about finding the balance between writing Southern Gothic literature or getting heinously drunk by noon. William Faulkner, a Libra, did both. One could say that was the harmony he, and all Libras, seek. Or maybe he was just a booze-hound who was wicked with a pen.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Bet ya thought Poe was going to go here? Wrong, you faux edgelords. For you, Scorpio, it's Kurt Vonnegut all day every day. Lucid, bordering schizophrenic trains of thought about how you'll manipulate your way to the top? Why you'll find that in Vonnegut's "The Sirens of Titan."

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22): As if Mark Twain being a Sagittarius was not a better fit! The man defined what it meant to do things, as Frank Sinatra sang, "My way." He worked on a riverboat, filed numerous patents and even predicted his own death would coincide with Haley's Comet. But the best part is when he wrote about Satan coming down to Earth to get his freak on in "The Mysterious Stranger."

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19): Cap, you can be a tad of a perfectionist. And it's really not all that healthy for you. Just ask Edgar Allan Poe. Well, maybe he was more of a narcissist, but they think they're perfect so it works. And when people didn't like his work, boy oh boy did he get mad! And drunk.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Aquarius, you come into the world and see that it could be spruced up a bit. Kind of like leaving the guest room nicer than when you came. Toni Morrison did the same in her writing. Her telling of the Black experience in America through works like "Be-loved" and "Song of Solomon" left an indelible impact on millions.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Pisces, you've really got big "live and let live" energy. And so did Holden Caulfield, the rambunctious, couldn't-give-a-fuck character from J.D. Salinger's "Catcher in the Rye." He just wanted to curse and smoke cigarettes like a big boy, and so do you. #letHoldenlive.

College of Humanities and Sciences professors, students protest proposed \$2.6 million budget cuts

MARIAH THOMAS

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Several students, faculty and staff are speaking out against proposed budget cuts, through a demonstration on the Oval, releasing a letter of rejection and calling on administration to stop cutting from the humanities and sciences.

These protests are in response to the University's mid-March release of the newly budget model, which includes \$2.6 million in cuts by 2023 to the College of Humanities and Sciences, a college that has already received the brunt of budget cuts as UM enrollment continues to drop.

The College of Humanities and Sciences, which houses many of the courses that make up UM's general education requirements, has experienced over \$10.4 million in budget cuts since 2015. This accounts for 68% of total budget cuts to the University in the past six years.

Professors and students in the College of Humanities and Sciences say that the newly proposed \$2.6 million cut will be destructive.

"If you cut anything from here on, it will not be sustainable," said Mehrdad Kia, a professor who has been in UM's history department for 31 years. "We will collapse."

Other professors in departments throughout the College of Humanities and Sciences echoed Kia's sentiments.

Kia's own department head in history, Kyle Volk, said budget cuts are most evident in the history department when professors who leave aren't replaced. Volk said the history department has lost four critical members whose positions were not refilled and he fears if other colleagues leave they won't be replaced either.

Jolie Scribner, a graduate of UM's bachelor history program and current UM master's student in history, said she feels these impacts as a student in the history department. She said that her sophomore year, the academic adviser for history and philosophy left, and her position went unfilled. Scribner said students were told to go to faculty for advising at that point, which she said was difficult to adjust to.

"We have a robust program, but when you lose faculty, you can't serve students as well," Scribner said.

Likewise, Kia echoed Volk, saying UM's history department has a lot of holes because of the failure to replace faculty members who



Creative writing freshman Carolyn Crowder holds a sign as she listens to President Seth Bodnar take questions from concerned students about UM's recent \$2.6 million proposed budget cut to the CHS. ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN

have left. He said while UM used to have the premier history program in the state, the cuts of the past six years, combined with the failure to replace professors, leaves UM's history department without professors teaching Chinese history, medieval history, Russian history and other areas. Meanwhile, Montana State University has added more history classes.

"The Bobcats' Chinese program is now bigger than ours," Kia said. "Their history program is, too. They've taken over from us in humanities and sciences."

Dan Spencer, the director of UM's Environmental Studies Program, said he is also concerned about faculty members not being replaced. Spencer said one environmental studies position has already retired without replacement, and there are three more of his colleagues whose retirements are imminent.

For environmental studies, a program with only seven professors, the loss of four without replacement would mean a loss of over half

the program's faculty.

Spencer added that his program's operating budget is already so low he's not sure where else to cut.

"I have concerns about how these cuts will impact the future of liberal arts education at the University, and how our program fits into that," Spencer said.

In philosophy, Paul Muench, the department head, echoed the same problems as in history and environmental studies: his colleagues who are retiring are not being replaced.

"Typically, when people retire, you're licensed to replace them," Muench said.

But in the philosophy department, the retirements of Albert Borgmann and Deborah Slicer have left a hole. Muench said both of these professors were involved with the graduate-level environmental philosophy program. He said in the last evaluation of that program, the person who wrote the external

report concluded that it was critical to have at least one environmental philosopher at UM. However, without being able to replace Borgmann and Slicer, Muench said that is not possible.

Kia said the issue at UM is not academic, but rather financial. He said he's watched the University's enrollment drop during his 31 years at UM. From Kia's perspective, the reason the University is cutting money from academics is due to a failure to recruit enough students.

"What is really insulting is that this is a university that is almost half the size as it was 10 years ago," Kia said. "For 10 years, the University and administration has been mismanaged."

This year, UM's student enrollment dropped below 10,000 for the first time in more than three decades.



Messages written by University of Montana students during the protest. ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN

According to Dave Kuntz, UM's strategic communications director, the University has efforts underway to increase enrollment, though he did not specify what these efforts looked like. But Kuntz did say that admissions to UM this year are up significantly over the three-year average.

Kuntz also explained that the cuts to the College of Humanities and Sciences reflect a change in student interests. He said the college has seen an 82% decrease in student credit hours over the past 10 years.

"That's where the greatest student decline has been," Kuntz said.

He added that, as there has been a decline in the College of Humanities and Sciences, the University has seen increases in student credit hours in health, forestry and law, all of which will receive more funding under the new proposed budget model.

"We have to make decisions that ensure student needs are prioritized as student interests are changing," Kuntz said.

Even so, he said the University has made significant investments in the College of Humanities and Sciences, citing that the instructional cost per student credit in that college has increased from \$162 to \$278 over the past 10 years — a 70% increase. He said this investment in students is double that of any other college at UM.

Last Friday, students gathered on the Oval to protest the proposed \$2.6 million budget cut at a "Save the Humanities" event.

The event — organized by Maddie Hagan, a double major in history and philosophy — was meant to be a celebration of the humanities.

"It's really meant to show campus admin-

istration that the humanities is lively and present and active at UM," Hagan said.

Students wrote messages in chalk outside of Main Hall urging administration not to cut the College of Humanities and Sciences. They also made posters. Hagan, along with fellow event organizers Clara McRae, Dylan Yonce and Scribner, the history graduate student, handed out t-shirts from the history department.

Students came to the event for a multitude of reasons.

"I felt a real sense of urgency to be here today," Thor Skjelver, a senior history major, said. "I'm graduating in the spring, but I want my program to be here for future students."

"I came here for the liberal arts and humanities," Riese Muñoz, a double major in English education and creative writing, said. Muñoz added that she hopes to be a teacher, and wants her future students to receive the same educational opportunities from UM that she did.

"The humanities have given me so much in terms of a great education," Brock Flynn, a historic preservation post-baccalaureate student said. "So many people share that story."

Friday's event was attended by over 100 people, including students from many different majors, professors in the College of Humanities and Sciences, and UM President Seth Bodnar. Bodnar spoke with students present for nearly two hours about the role of the humanities at UM.

"The idea that humanities are not important to me is not true," Bodnar said, citing his history degree.

But Bodnar also said that the question the proposed budget model is trying to answer is one of fair resource distribution. He cited



University of Montana junior Maddie Hagan writes "Fund the humanities" on the sidewalk. Hagan is a double major in history and philosophy with a minor in African American Studies. ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN

the same information as Kuntz regarding the increases in UM's spending per credit hour on students in the College of Humanities and Sciences.

Bodnar also said the budget model — based on student credit hours, majors offered and research activity — was determined by a budget committee with representation from different parts of the University. He said the model is meant to provide guidance.

Bodnar said he was glad for the chance to participate in civil discussion and debate about important issues to the campus community.

"I'm so grateful for the thoughtful, smart students we have here, and their willingness to advocate on these issues they care about," Bodnar said.

Hagan and Scribner both said they were surprised by the number of people who attended the event. Scribner said the planning had only been under way for a week, and the word had been spread mainly through posters, social media and word of mouth.

"I was really encouraged by everyone that showed up," Scribner said.

Hagan said she was happy with the event, but disappointed by President Bodnar's remarks.

"I felt like he didn't give any real answers," Hagan said. "I thought it was performative rather than a show of support, which was disappointing."

Within an hour of the event's end, the sidewalks in front of Main Hall were washed clean of the chalk messages the students had left for administration.

But Hagan said Friday's event is only the beginning of students advocating for the College of Humanities and Sciences.



History major Thor Skjelver holds a sign during a College of Humanities sit-in protest on the Oval. Skjelver said the budget cuts are absurd. "How are they going to tend student's educational needs by taking away money from a lot of departments at CHS," he said. ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN

Freedom in confinement

The Free Verse Project brings poetry to Montana's incarcerated youth

Story by Clarise Larson



LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN

“Thank you Free Verse, you’ve given me the ability to show people who I am. That I’m not just a bad person, that I have a story to tell and that I’m powerful. That I can touch people with my words.”

In Project Free Verse, the classroom has no windows. Instead, there is a one-way mirror and cameras watching every move. A red button is installed somewhere, which the poetry teacher, Taylor White,

can press if danger were to arise. She doesn’t actually know where the button is, nor has she ever needed it in her seven years teaching at the Missoula Juvenile Detention Center.

Every class session looks like this: In walk the students in their orange jumpsuits. They shuffle, actually, because the orange sandals they wear are typically too big, and they have to fight to keep them from falling off their feet.

The conditions might sound like a plea for more education funding. However, the Free Verse Project has dedicated itself to giving incarcerated school-aged children their most powerful resource.

“Thank you Free Verse, you’ve given me the ability to show people who I am,” said one student at the end of a class in the summer of 2020. “I know now I can show people who I am, tell it like it is: That I’m not just a bad person, that I have

a story to tell and that I’m powerful. That I can touch people with my words. You guys inspire me.”

The goal has always been simple: Give these kids a voice beyond the cinder block walls.

Free Verse partners directly with Montana corrections centers to teach poetry to incarcerated youth. The organization is a certified 501c3 nonprofit based out of Missoula, Montana, whose mission is to give a creative outlet to incarcerated youth in Montana and give them a voice. Because of the pandemic, the kids are even more isolated from the outside.

All of them too young to vote, most of them too young to drive and some even

too young to enter middle school, the students sit with hands crossed behind their backs.

“I think the youngest I have taught, I would conservatively say, was 11 years old,” White said about her experience teaching with Free Verse.

At their respective desks, the children wait for White to start the Free Verse lesson for the day.

Before Free Verse entered into partnerships with juvenile detention centers across Montana, incarcerated kids were not given much opportunity to express their creativity, or to share it outside of the detention center’s walls. Free Verse changed that.

Since the pandemic, though, things are different.

Instead of the Free Verse teachers standing in the front of the room, able to interact with each student at their own leisure, they are now only a talking head projected on the white cinder block walls. Some of the correctional centers have computers for the kids to use, but most don’t.

The solution: Move the paper a little closer to the only camera so that the teacher might be able to read it through the screen — if she squints her eyes hard enough.

So much of the political and social conversations in Montana have left the voices of these children out, said Nicole Gomez, the current executive director of Free Verse.

“We want to get these voices out there. We want them to realize that they have a story to tell and that their story is powerful, and to push back against some of those labels and reclaim their own narrative,” Gomez said.

White said many of these kids were never given the opportunity to be and act like actual kids. Before the pandemic, the typical class size was 20-25 kids. Now, it’s around 8-10.

“You see some real baby faces. Though they look like kids, when they speak and write and communicate, it is clear that they already know what it is to encounter prejudice, poverty, violence, addiction, social stigma, loss, loneliness and helplessness,” White said.

Prisoners who participate are able to create and maintain their identity in the

“We want to get these voices out there. We want them to realize that they have a story to tell and that their story is powerful, and to push back against some of those labels and reclaim their own narrative.”

-Nicole Gomez

face of the erosion they feel in a prison environment, and the stigma attached to the status of being a prisoner, said Paul Clement, a researcher at the University of London.

Much of the kids’ poetry features distant parents, hiding from violence and trying to hide from the prejudice faced in Montana.

“They have been forced to grow up faster than your average kid, and forced to relinquish all sense of control. So there is this hard-earned maturity in the room and in their writing,” Gomez said.

Free Verse was established in 2014, born out of a group of students studying to get their Master of Fine Arts at the University of Montana, many of them working toward degrees in creative writing, English and literature.

The group of MFA students wanted to connect more to Missoula’s community, starting with some radical changes they wanted to see in Montana. The idea was to give a creative outlet and voice to a group in Montana that didn’t really have one. One of the students, Sarah Kahn, turned the idea into a reality.

On a bike ride past the Missoula Juvenile Detention Center, Kahn wondered if there were any creative writing opportunities offered to incarcerated youth at the jail. She looked into it and found there wasn’t.

So, with the help of other MFA students, they founded a volunteer program and began teaching poetry and literature at the jail every single day.

But volunteering wasn’t enough.

They wanted to turn the volunteer teaching positions into actual paid teaching positions — a nonprofit where they could reach more kids across Montana.

The group officially became a nonprofit



Nicole Gomez holds two of the instructional books that she uses to teach her classes. All teaching is done virtually and teachers use a combination of online resources and hard copy books to teach their classes. LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN

in Montana, and began getting funding through grants and donations in order to begin paying teachers to work full time.

The organization partners with the three detention centers across the state, including the Missoula Juvenile Detention Center, the Billings Juvenile Detention Center and Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility. Though Free Verse wants to reach as many places in Montana as they can, that’s not the organization’s ultimate goal.

“Our dream is to shut down our organization because there are no halls left,” the team said in a statement on their website.

Free Verse has published poems by hundreds of these kids, and they are only a fraction of the juveniles detained in Montana.

During a time like the pandemic, many voices have been silenced because of the

lack of face-to-face contact with other people. For these kids, it has always been that way — until Free Verse came around.

Gomez wants the students to know that they have a voice, that they aren’t alone.

“With incarcerated youth, so often they are wrongly labeled and dismissed as bad or troubled kids, and they are stamped with a label and not given a chance to tell their own story.”

Being confined in a detention center as a child is hard to fathom. Being confined in a detention center while in a pandemic as a child makes the teachers at Free Verse worried. Worried that the hard work they put into teaching the students might be taken away from them.

Native American youth are
86%
 more likely to be placed in a
 detention center than white
 juveniles in Montana.

The data is from the 2012 report, "Assessing the Mechanisms That Contribute to Disproportionate Minority Contact in Montana's Juvenile Justice Systems", by the University of Montana's Social Science Research Laboratory.

"When the pandemic hit, we had a lull for a few weeks where we did not know what we were doing or what was going on," Gomez said.

At both the Billings Juvenile Detention Center and Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility, the kids are not given computers.

"We are beamed in on a laptop and we teach via Zoom, but we're just talking heads on the screens. The kid will write in pen and paper, and then get closer to the screen so they can share their work with us orally," White said.

In the detention centers that have the simple luxury of a computer, Free Verse quickly started working on getting to students via Zoom and sharing Google documents where the children could write and interact with the teachers remotely.

"We are in the Google Docs as they write and are able to respond in real time to give them feedback and encouragement. It's been a real awesome opportunity to see their work, and it's something we couldn't do in person," White said.

The kids took them by surprise, and wanted to get their poetry on paper and share their most inner thoughts through a screen with the teachers.

"The kids are amazing, they're so eager to write and share their work with us. There is something so beautiful about the need to connect that we are leaning into this laptop trying to understand what they are saying while they are speaking

through masks," White said. She's honored to see the work they are willing to go through to share it.

When White first began teaching for Free Verse seven years ago, she had no idea what she was walking into.

"I wanted to prepare," White said. "I wanted to have the perfect lesson plan, talk to anyone that would listen to make sure I wasn't going in blind, that I had enough information for the kids and what would appeal to them and motivated them."

When White is introduced to the classes each year, without a doubt, she said, there are always more Black, Indigenous and Hispanic students than white students.

"I hate that the numbers make it feel real, because when you walk in that number does not surprise you," White said.

Montana has a record of disproportionately incarcerating marginalized ethnic groups in the state. For instance, Native Americans make up 6% of Montana's population, but account for 25% of Montana's incarcerated population.

A 2012 study done by the Social Science Research Laboratory at The University of Montana found similar statistics on the overrepresentation of minorities in Montana juvenile arrests.

"An examination of the comparisons be-

tween racial/ethnic categories shows that American Indian juveniles are 51% more likely than white juveniles to be arrested," the study said.

Another study found that Native American youth are 86% more likely to be placed in a detention center, compared to white juveniles in Montana, where only 27.5% are placed in juvenile detention.

"There is a need for a better cultural understanding of issues facing juveniles and more training on how to better address these. More cultural sensitivity training opportunities and training for practitioners is needed, as is the need to increase the number of minority professionals working in the juvenile justice system," the study stated.

Every three years, the Montana Board of Crime Control creates a "three-year plan" in which they analyze the juveniles being detained in Montana. For decades, the numbers haven't changed much.

"White youth comprised 78% of the juvenile arrestees in 2017. Native American youth accounted for 14% of the juvenile arrests, a disproportionately high number of arrests when compared with the youth population," the study said.

Not only are there disproportionately high numbers in minorities being incarcerated, the age in which these children are being detained is getting younger and younger.

"Juveniles begin bumping into the juvenile justice system when they are under 10 years of age. The peak ages of offense are ages 15, 16 and 17," the report found.

**"The kids are amazing, they're so eager to write and share their work with us. There is something so beautiful about the need to connect that we are leaning into this laptop trying to understand what they are saying while they are speaking through masks."
 -Taylor White**

These kids have little to no rights because of their age, and yet they are being locked up and having their rights further stripped, White said. But that isn't stopping the kids from wanting their voices heard.

The Free Verse poetry has been featured in five different publications: "Commissary Notes," "I Am Montana," and a trilogy of books titled "Quarinzine: A Three Part Series."

The University of Montana has been connected to Free Verse since its conception in 2014, starting with the MFA program. Now, the Davidson Honors College at UM teaches two classes where students in the class study the writing of Free Verse publications, and the DHC hopes to expand collaboration throughout more of campus.

UM's School of Theatre & Dance is working with Free Verse to create the "Social Justice Theater," a project in which students at UM will perform the incarcerated students' own work. The kids will cast and direct the plays that they wrote while incarcerated in Montana juvenile facilities.

"Cutbank," a literary journal run by graduate students of UM's creative writing program, released a special issue in 2018 dedicated to publishing the kids' poetry.

"These powerful stories and poems chronicle tales of hurt and healing, of power and pain. They grab the mic and then drop it. They demand to be seen, heard, and understood," the Free Verse website said of the 2018 issue.

Along with amplifying the voices of incarcerated children, Free Verse aims to support local writers, often seeking to hire recently graduated UM arts majors directly.

"We want to launch our volunteer program that got derailed because of the pandemic, but seek to hire from campus either writers or people who are pursuing degrees in social work," Gomez said.

The children's poetry brings the readers along in the journey of life growing up in Montana, the good and the bad.

For example, "I Am From" by S.W. (the children's initials are used instead of full

names) is not the typical picturesque Montana upbringing. It's not a story of hiking through the mountains with mom and dad, because dad isn't there and mom's on crack.

"Don't even remember where your kids went," S.W. writes as he recalls the drugs, addiction and guns that surrounded him. Now, he's surrounded by white walls and other kids with the same struggles.

The book of poetry, "I Am Montana," follows the kids regaining their identity when they're in a place that strips it away.

Lorna Buckingham, the development coordinator and instructor for the Free Verse project, said even though kids under the age of 17 are mandated by law to be in school, Free Verse can only teach to detention centers that allow them to.

"We are invited into these places, but we can also get uninvited at any mo-

ment," Buckingham said. "We have to be pretty knowledgeable about the criminal justice system because the nature of our work brings us in contact with that culture, so we have to be pretty mindful."

Buckingham said Free Verse wants to give the kids a way to find connection in the difficult situation they are in.

"We try to be less [a] teaching, but more of a creative resource," Buckingham said.

"We're coming in with lesson plans, for sure. But I don't feel I go in to teach a lesson, as much as the hope that I transport their experience from the walls of the classroom," White said.

Free Verse will never truly know the impact they make on the kids, because the kids in the detention centers are there for an undetermined amount of time depending on their sentence. When the kids cycle out of the detention centers, Free Verse

doesn't get to know when they're going to leave or how long they are going to be there.

One day, at the end of the class in the summer of 2020, White was finishing up a Free Verse class. She thanked the students for sharing their time, words and stories.

Completely out of the blue, a kid spoke up and read a piece he wrote about what Free Verse meant to him.

"I've made millions of mistakes, but I can make millions of achievements and grow as a human and as a man. I can be the person who I want to be. I can light the candle in the dark room."

This made it all worth it for White. "I was bawling when he said that, it was so powerful," White said. "In this moment of chaos and isolation, it has been really awesome to strengthen this community and this network."

**"We are invited into these places, but we can also get uninvited at any moment. We have to be pretty knowledgeable about the criminal justice system because the nature of our work brings us in contact with that culture, so we have to be pretty mindful."
 -Lorna Buckingham**

I AM FROM

I'm from the drugs
 And playing with the bugs
 I'm from playing in the mountains
 And always shouting
 I'm from the ponderosa pines
 Not the jungle of vines
 I'm from the meth lab
 And the Ford crew cab
 I'm from the big sky
 And always getting high
 I'm from the two story house
 And wandering all around
 I'm from the dark nights
 Just sitting there trying to take flight
 I'm from the bottle
 Causing dad to go wide open throttle
 I'm from the drug store snacks
 To the long naps
 I'm from the place
 That has the meth project pace
 I'm from the #1 suicidal state
 With a million ranch gates

Because

Because people want to take my life away
 Because people box me in
 Because people don't like what I have to say
 Because I'm willing to fight for what I love
 Because I'm a person

-Z.



Untitled

As a bluejay arrived
 The world lost another soul
 The bluejay split the grief with me.

-S.

"Our Land" by E.D., Missoula JDC

In justice, there's injustice
 You're guilty til proven innocent
 Our fate is decided by someone,
 But what if that person's prejudiced?
 See, they say we're the land of the free,
 Yet they take our land
 Not asking us to agree.
 We fight and protest,
 Yet where has it gone?
 Land of the free, but home to the greedy
 We kill our land because the people are needy.

[Untitled]

These walls, these vines of steel
 Looks and gestures from outside the world.
 The famous walk of shame,
 The hurt, sorrow, and pain.
 The ordinary plain white brick walls,
 Took fantasy and truned it into reality.
 Tries to snatch and grab your sanity
 Then run away

The poems, written by incarcerated youth in Montana, are published in the Free Verse works "Commissary Notes," "I Am Montana" and a trilogy of books titled "Quarinzine: A Three Part Series." CONTRIBUTED

‘Ginny & Georgia’ is drama on steroids

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At first glance, Netflix’s new series “Ginny & Georgia” is like a modern remake of “Gilmore Girls.”

The shows share the same initials, the bookish teen romance and the best friend relationship between a mom and her daughter. But this series isn’t just “Gilmore Girls.” It’s “Euphoria” and “Riverdale” and every single teen show crammed into 10 agonizing episodes overstuffed with drama, affairs and a whole lot of racism.

“Ginny & Georgia” centers around Georgia (Brianne Howey), her 15-year-old daughter Ginny (Antonia Gentry) and her 9-year-old son Austin (Diesel La Torraca), as they settle into the fictional town of Wellsbury, Massachusetts. Ginny, whose father Zion (Nathan Mitchell) is Black, has to adjust and cope to her new life in a predominantly white town.

Ginny is instantly befriended by Maxine (Sara Waisglass), the quirky friend with a blonde stripe in her hair who loves Halloween. Of course, this series wouldn’t be complete without a love triangle. Ginny quickly finds herself torn between Maxine’s twin brother Marcus (Felix Mallard), the “bad boy”

universal to most teen TV shows, and Hunter (Mason Temple), the overachiever with a knack for tap-dancing.

Meanwhile, Georgia is using her good looks as leverage to get a job with Mayor Paul (Scott Porter), the bachelor of Wellsbury. At first, it appears that Georgia is just a single mom desperate for some cash. But Georgia has a criminal past, and those ghosts slowly begin resurfacing.

Clearly, this show has a lot going on. “Ginny & Georgia” attempts to tackle a series of issues big and small in a claustrophobic amount of time. Sometimes, the chaos ends up entertaining. Watching Georgia scheme to avoid the law is fun, especially when she uses “Jedi mind tricks” to swindle others.

But this whole “I’m not like other moms” act quickly gets old. The voiceovers, where Georgia says things like, “for women, life is a battle, and beauty is a goddamn machine gun,” are cringey enough to grimace and turn off the TV.

“Ginny & Georgia” does manage to depict teenage sex lives realistically, with characters who are eager for physical intimacy but don’t associate sex with personal values. However, more serious issues — like body dysmorphia, eating disorders, drugs and murder — are all undermined by the show’s infusion of drama

into every scene.

Where this show mostly stumbles is race.

Unlike other teen shows, “Ginny & Georgia” does not shy away from addressing complicated subjects like race head-on. The concept is nice, and this series manages to pull off some solid scenes, including Ginny’s retaliation against her racist English teacher.

But these scenes don’t compensate for the series’ other race-related flops.

It’s not surprising that Ginny, as a biracial student in a rich white school, is subject to racism. But almost every single student Ginny encounters feels ridiculously unaware of the implications of race.

This becomes apparent when Ginny and Hunter fight over how different races have different experiences escalates into what Hunter dubs the “Oppression Olympics.” The pair’s dynamic as a couple is too young for any passionate fight scene to feel genuine. Pounding stereotypes at each other only undermines Ginny’s whole storyline, racking up a scene that is more offensive than impactful.

Overall this series is too much. Everything is filled with so much drama and cringy anecdotes that nothing leaves a permanent impression. “Ginny & Georgia” is many things; but a good show is not one of them.



CONTRIBUTED

serpentwithfeet sets sail on the seas of love

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serpentwithfeet, née Josiah Wise, is in love, and cannot help but let the world know.

The love on the artist’s second full-length album, “DEACON,” is fresh and raw. It’s newfound and poignant, unscathed by the errors of time and human fuck-ups. But “DEACON” is not a typical sanitized R&B love story; it’s Wise’s own high-water mark experience with the mundane moments of fulfilling, deep-seeded emotion.

Musically, the album draws heavily from ‘90s-era R&B stylings, particularly in Wise’s vocal melodies. There are whispers of Frank Ocean’s production style and lyrical subject matter as well, especially from his landmark works “Blonde” and “Channel Orange.” Wise takes these pieces and parts to make something uniquely his own.

This album could be viewed as the honeymoon phase of a relationship enduring and becoming something stronger and truly special. Rain, sleet or snow from the outside

world will not extinguish the internal flame that Wise laments over.

The first chunk of the record is sprinkled with lines that anywhere else might feel cheesy, but here on “DEACON” feel just right. On opener “Hyacinth,” Wise sings, “He never played football, but look at how he holds me,” while an angelic choir repeats the final words. And this opener accomplishes the feat of setting the stage for the sun-filled, emotional journey to come.

But serpentwithfeet hasn’t always been so sunny. Since first arriving in 2016 with “blisters,” Wise was decidedly dark, bordering gothic. The music was creepy, the lyrics lamenting a dark precipice of despair and loss. Those earlier projects were like the big bang of the serpentwithfeet universe. “DEACON” is the springing forth of life and sun.

And the celebration of love and togetherness binds together the first few tracks, but makes a real true impression on “Malik.” The third track acts like a true introduction to this figure that Wise loves, going through the minutiae of why he fell so deeply in love.

“Blessed is the man who gambles, blessed is the man who wears socks and sandals,” Wise croons.

But the saccharine voyage hits a hiccup on the high seas with the album’s midpoint, “Sailors’ Superstition.” The questions that evade the mind in the beginning of a relationship begin to bubble to the surface on this track. “Heard most couples stop smiling after the first year,” Wise sings as a Latin rhythm-flavored kick drum and snare dance together in an otherwise spacious musical ambience.

And just when it seems like the storm is going to pour, covering this love with rain and doubt, “Heart Storm” acts like the piercing ray of sun that splits the clouds, reaffirming the power of Wise’s feelings while acknowledging that as time moves on things will not always be perfect. But fuck perfection.

Nothing ever feels untrue or bullshit on this album. It’s a genuine rarity in today’s hyper stylized, do-anything-for-streams pop music landscape. But perhaps it is a bit of an



CONTRIBUTED

insult to just label Wise’s work as pop music.

There are definitely outstanding elements of the pop world thrown into the homunculus that is this record. But really, it feels more like a living, breathing diary that Wise painstakingly labored over. serpentwithfeet makes a sappy love album cool again.

UM’s School of Music is ‘Keepin’ the Groove’ during annual Buddy DeFranco Jazz festival

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The rising crescendo of University of Montana School of Music students and faculty playing Sonny Rollins’ “St. Thomas” fills the mostly vacant seats of George & Jane Dennison Theatre with the raw, relentless sound of hard bop jazz.

The tempo is fast, but the students and faculty take their time, backed by the chorus as they riff on their instruments for each allotted improvisation. While this is one of many senior UM music students’ last concerts with the School of Music, it’s one of their first few concerts playing with UM faculty.

“I thought it was a really fun way to connect with faculty in ways that I’m usually unable to,” said Aidan Robinson, a senior student saxophonist at UM. “We get so used to hearing them demonstrate for us and critique us that I often forget they are truly musicians at heart.”

Robinson is one of a handful of students and faculty who played in UM’s jazz concert “Keepin’ the Groove,” an event tied to the University’s month-long 41st annual Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival. Like everything else, the festival had to revise its live concerts to virtual screenings. Rob Tapper, professor of trombone and festival director, said the festival usually features guest artists in several different shows. But because of the pandemic, they decided to use UM faculty for the concert instead.

“We get to show off our faculty and also our top student musicians,” Tapper said. “Which is pretty cool, considering the circumstances.”

The concert, which was livestreamed, featured a UM faculty sextet, two student-based Boyd jazz groups and a jazz ensemble. In total, the concert played nine songs, ranging from Miles Davis’ catchy “Solar,” to the big band sounds of Oscar Pettiford’s “Tricotism.” Each song featured at least a few solos, where both faculty and students got the chance to improvise.

“It’s a mainstay of jazz music that there’s written, and there’s improvisation,” said Jeff Troxel, a guitarist and UM faculty member who played in the concert.

Students also expressed their enthusiasm for the chance to improvise while playing some of their favorite songs. Andre Kragerer, a senior trumpet player at UM, says that he likes “making things up in the moment,” especially for the big band sounds of songs like “St. Thomas.”

“I’m a big fan of the arranger [Bill Holman],” Kragerer said. “His approach to writing is super unique and very distinctive.”

But without a crowd, UM students and faculty said the experiences of their collective and solo performances are very different. Kyler Rebich, a UM student bass player, said that the excitement is somewhat lost without a live audience.

“The adrenaline’s kind of lost when you’re only left with the thought that people are watching you,” Rebich said. “It’s different without a live audience because it also feels empty.”

Tapper says that approximately 700 to 800 students visit campus for the event during a normal year to perform and be judged by clinicians. “Keepin’ the Groove” is the only live performance streaming this year, but the festival consists of free video libraries of over 30 masterclass videos for middle school, high school and college-level musicians.

The themes of these masterclasses, taught by both UM faculty and students, vary in regards to skill level and instruments — ranging from learning to play the advanced sax, to the ABCs of piano keys.

Tapper says that in addition to these videos providing “spectacular jazz education,” they can also bridge that connection to prospective UM music students.

“Those videos are now up on YouTube forever,” Tapper said. “So when prospective students are looking at faculty and other students, they’re directed to this page where there are 30 videos of what we do and how we do it.”

The festival also lets middle school, high school and college-level musicians be judged by clinicians across the country via video streamings of rehearsals. Tapper said this is important for jazz education, and distinguishes UM’s jazz festival from others.

“There are a lot of schools doing jazz festivals in different ways, shapes or forms,” Tapper said. “But the fact that we’re doing the personal touch with the clinicians Zooming into the rehearsals from all across the country is definitely unique.”

While this concert is the only live concert streaming for the festival, Tapper said he’s happy with the results of the performance — especially since it’s keeping the groove of classic and big band jazz going during the pandemic.



Rob Tapper, University of Montana’s trombone professor and the Director of Jazz Studies, conducts the band during the UM’s 41st annual Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival in Dennison Theatre on Thursday, March 25. KENNEDY DELAP | MONTANA KAIMIN

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ACDA Benefit Concert seeks stages in strange places

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University of Montana dance students Chloe Burnstein and Jake Cowden stand in a half-lit stairwell, separated by a full story as they touch the ceiling, roll across the floor and peer at each other over a stair handrail — making a point to use their environment to their advantage.

Cowden and Burnstein's choreographed dance, "Balanced," was one in a series of productions that featured UM's annual American College Dance Association benefit concert on March 24. Unlike previous years, this concert was placed in hallways, lofts and stairwells — not stages.

"Choreographers on stage have an idea of where the audience's eyes lie," said Heidi Eggert, the producer of the series. "But when a dance is made for the camera, because of the framing and the editing, the choreographer has more control over how the audience perceives the dance."

With many stage performances getting the boot due to COVID-19, change was inevitable in how shows were approached. But that hasn't stopped artists from finding innovative ways to adjust from dancing in front of crowds to cameras.

Eggert said she assigned dance projects with an improv-flavored "yes-and" attitude, encouraging students to think out of the box. This included assigning duos and trios of dancers to perform in unconventional spaces.

Hannah Dusek, a sophomore and choreographer at UM, said that the production of her performance "Institutionalized" was an adjustment, especially since she didn't have the adrenaline rush of dancing in front of a live audience. Dusek and two other performers — Maeve Fahey and Kasper the Saint — had to play a lot with depth during the performance because the performance was filmed in a narrow hallway.

"We definitely all miss the applause of the crowd," Dusek said. "But I think it's cool the way we're able to produce it out into the world like a show."

While the shows are streamed, several of the performances will be judged by nationally and internationally renowned dance artists and critics. Eggert said the show may even reach a wider audience because the concert will be online.

"In some ways, we have the potential to reach a broader audience because anyone in the country and anyone in the world can see the show," Eggert said.

The flow of money also changed this year. In past years, the funds raised by the ACDA



University of Montana sophomore Hannah Dusek performs her piece "Institutionalized" in a basement hallway of the PARTV building on Tuesday. Dusek choreographed and performed the piece with two other dancers for the American College Dance Association (ACDA) Benefit Concert, available to stream online through April 4. **CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

benefit concert were allocated toward a dance club trip. This year, Eggert said the group is donating those funds to ACDA virtual workshops, two screen dances, the Young Women's Christian Association and the Montana BIPOC Equity Project.

"The dance club has made it a mission to acknowledge what our community needs," Eggert said.

Eggert said this includes what UM dancers need. It's no secret that the pandemic has taken a mental toll on college students. Eggert said she thinks this concert can bridge that gap back to some degree of normalcy and creativity.

Ruby Roberts, a senior choreographer at UM, said that her senior thesis "Thorazine," which streamed in the concert, was exciting, despite her inexperience with filming dance. Roberts' performance was an "ambiguous expression" of her emotions, with underlying themes of mental illness, generational trauma, civic duty and familial nourishment.

The dance was centered in her hometown of Pablo, Montana. Roberts said she enjoyed the experience of connecting with her roots, and was glad that she was able to perform despite the pandemic.

"The times that we're living in just feels really heavy, and there's maybe a lack of inspiration," Roberts said. "But afterwards, when it's all done, it's a good feeling. And I think it's more important now than ever to keep working and keep collaborating and making art."

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Rackets and RBIs: The UM sports recap

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Tennis

The UM women's tennis match on March 27 came down to a tiebreaker between Weber State's Utika Yunna and Montana senior Julia Ronney. Ronney won the first game and Yunna won the second before Ronney clinched the match in the third.

"It was huge. I think she (Ronney) had to battle today," UM head women's coach Steve Ascher said. "She really had to dig deep and gut that match out."

Ronney has won seven of her nine matches this season and has won her last five. She has been a part of three doubles wins in 2021.

In doubles matches, the Griz won 2-1, and Montana split the singles matches 3-3 to advance to a 4-3 win. Ronney, Olivia Oosterbaan and Lauren Dunlap all won their senior matches for UM.

Ronney and Oosterbaan won one of the doubles matches while Dunlap teamed up with Alex Walker to win the other for Montana.

The Griz are now 5-4 on the season and will play Montana State in Bozeman on April 4.

The UM men's tennis team also had a successful weekend, upsetting Gonzaga 4-3 on March 28. Gonzaga is ranked 68th in the nation while Montana is unranked.

"I'm so happy for these guys. It's been tough. We've had a tough schedule, we haven't been playing our best, and it's just been a tough year," said head men's tennis coach Jason Brown.

Junior Pontus Hallgren sealed the win for UM in a close final match and junior Ed Pudney and freshman Moritz Stoeger also picked up wins. UM athletics stated that the win was UM tennis's first win over a ranked opponent in "modern history."

The Griz are now 6-8 and will take on the Air Force Academy in Pocatello, Idaho, on April 3.

Softball

In Montana's first of two softball games against Portland State on March 27, junior infielder Kylie Becker was up to bat in the sixth inning with two outs and the bases loaded. An errant pitch came Becker's way, and she braced as the pitch hit her leg and allowed UM to automatically advance a runner home and take a 2-0 lead.

The walk allowed UM to win the game 2-1 and begin conference play 1-0. Later in the



University of Montana junior Alex Walker prepares to serve the ball during practice on the tennis courts next to the University Center on March 18. Walker teamed up with Lauren Dunlap to win a doubles match against Weber State on March 27. **ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

day on March 27, the Griz once again took on Portland State in Portland.

The second game wasn't as low-scoring as Montana won 10-1. Four different players had at least three hits in the game.

"I'm really proud of the overall effort by everybody," Montana head softball coach Melanie Meuchel said after the game.

Senior pitcher Tristin Achenbach picked up a win in the first game when she only allowed four hits. Freshman pitcher Allie Brock picked up her second win of the year in the second game, where she struck out five batters.

On March 28, Montana once again took on Portland State, this time winning a thriller 9-8.

UM built a 4-1 lead in the second inning before Portland State ended up tying the game at 6-6 in the fifth inning. Senior infielder Cami Sellers then hit a three-run home run that put the Griz up 9-6. Portland State was able to score two more runs, but UM held on after Brock pitched a scoreless final inning. Junior infielder Kylie Becker led UM with six RBIs in the game.

Montana is now 9-18, but it has a perfect 3-0 record in conference play. UM's next two games will be against Sacramento State at home on

Track and Field

The 2021 track season got off to a good start for UM at the Al Manuel Northwest Invite in Missoula when the Griz won 12 different events. "I thought we showed that we're not top-heavy," UM head track coach Clint May told UM Athletics. "We have athletes up and down the roster who can be competitive."

The Montana men scored 133 points, higher than any other team at the event. UM's women's team had the second highest point total, with 127 points.

Montana's athletes saw 62 different personal bests. Along with Montana, athletes from Eastern Washington, Montana State, Utah State and Carroll College all competed at the meet.

Montana's first wins were the men's and women's hammer throws. Tanessa Morris won with a throw of over 185 feet while Matt Ward also threw the hammer just over 185 feet.

Dylan Kipp won the men's javelin event for the Griz when he threw the spear over 230 feet, which was two feet short of the school record.

His throw is the farthest by a Big Sky Conference athlete so far this year.

UM Redshirt Senior Kimberly Earhart won the women's javelin. Sophomore Jordan Stow won the men's long jump. Sophomore Jansen Ziola won the women's high jump.

Sophomore standout Cade Johnstone won the men's 200 meter race while junior Kyle Peterson won the men's 5,000 meter race. Sophomore Abby Harmon won the women's 400 meter hurdles.

Sophomore Alisa Gilbert won the women's long jump. Montana finished second in both the women's 4x400 meter relay and the women's 4x100 meter relay.

The next track meet that Montana will compete at is the H.I.R. Invitational, hosted by Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington.

Soccer

The University of Montana soccer team won twice at home against Portland State to stay undefeated. For more on those games, go to page 16

Claire Howard breaks record, Griz soccer sweeps

JACK MARSHALL

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As University of Montana soccer goalie Claire Howard talked to media members after UM's game against Portland State on March 28, her teammates snuck up behind her and drenched her with a cooler full of water. The sneak-attack bath was well-deserved after Howard broke the Big Sky Conference record for shutouts and Montana won the game 3-0.

"It's amazing," Howard said. "It's just pretty special to be a part of a moment like this."

This shutout was the 30th one for Howard, who has kept the other team scoreless in four of UM's five games in 2021.

The three-goal victory came two days after Montana beat Portland State for the first time, 2-1. The sweep over Portland State was UM's second of the year after it beat Idaho twice.

"It's nice, but it's becoming an expectation," UM head coach Chris Citiowicki said about the win.

In the first game, on March 26, Montana saw two goals from senior midfielder Avery Adams. Adams had not scored in her career before the pair of goals.

The first goal came from outside the box when Adams drilled in a kick with her

right foot that soared past Portland State's goalie and a leaping defender. Her second score came from a free kick late in the game, when she sent the ball into the left side of the net to seal UM's win.

Despite winning the first game under the lights in front of over 250 fans, there was one disappointment for the Griz when Paige Donathan scored a goal for Portland State 28 minutes into the game to break Howard's shutout.

In the second game, Howard still had a chance to break the conference shutout record at home, and UM's defense helped make sure she would. The Griz only allowed three Portland State shots on goal while UM had 10.

Thirteen minutes into the game, UM scored first when senior forward Taylor Stoeger kicked a shot into the left side of the net. The goal, which put UM up 1-0, was assisted by sophomore defender Allie Larson.

Montana's leading scorer Alexa Coyle added to her season total of three goals when she headed in a shot off of a well-placed cross by senior defender Taylor Hansen. Coyle's goal came 53 minutes into the game and put UM up 2-0.

UM's third and final goal of the game came when Larson dribbled the ball down the field and then, mid-stride, sent a shot toward the goal. The shot curved left in

mid-air and soared over the goalkeeper into the net.

"We're more lethal in our set pieces," Citiowicki said.

The goal was the first score of Larson's college career and came 78 minutes into the game.

When the final buzzer sounded, Montana's bench cleared to mob Larson in celebration. Larson's teammates lifted her up into the air before eventually soaking her in a water bath. Montana has won 29 games with Larson in goal.

Montana is now 5-0 on the season and

hasn't lost a regular season conference game since October of 2018. UM hasn't tied any games in 2021 — after ending with six ties last year.

When asked what his game plan was in the second half, Citiowicki replied that it was to "keep the shutout" and "don't get scored on."

Montana's next games will be against Sacramento State on the road on April 2 and 4.

"Sacramento is a very good program, and that's tough to go in and play," Citiowicki said.



University of Montana senior forward Alexa Coyle watches as a ball goes out of bounds in a game against Portland State on Friday. Montana won the game 2-1. **CONTRIBUTED | JOSEPH EVANS**



Goalie Claire Howard getting water dumped on her by her team after breaking the Big Sky Conference record for shutouts. **MATTHEW TRYAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**