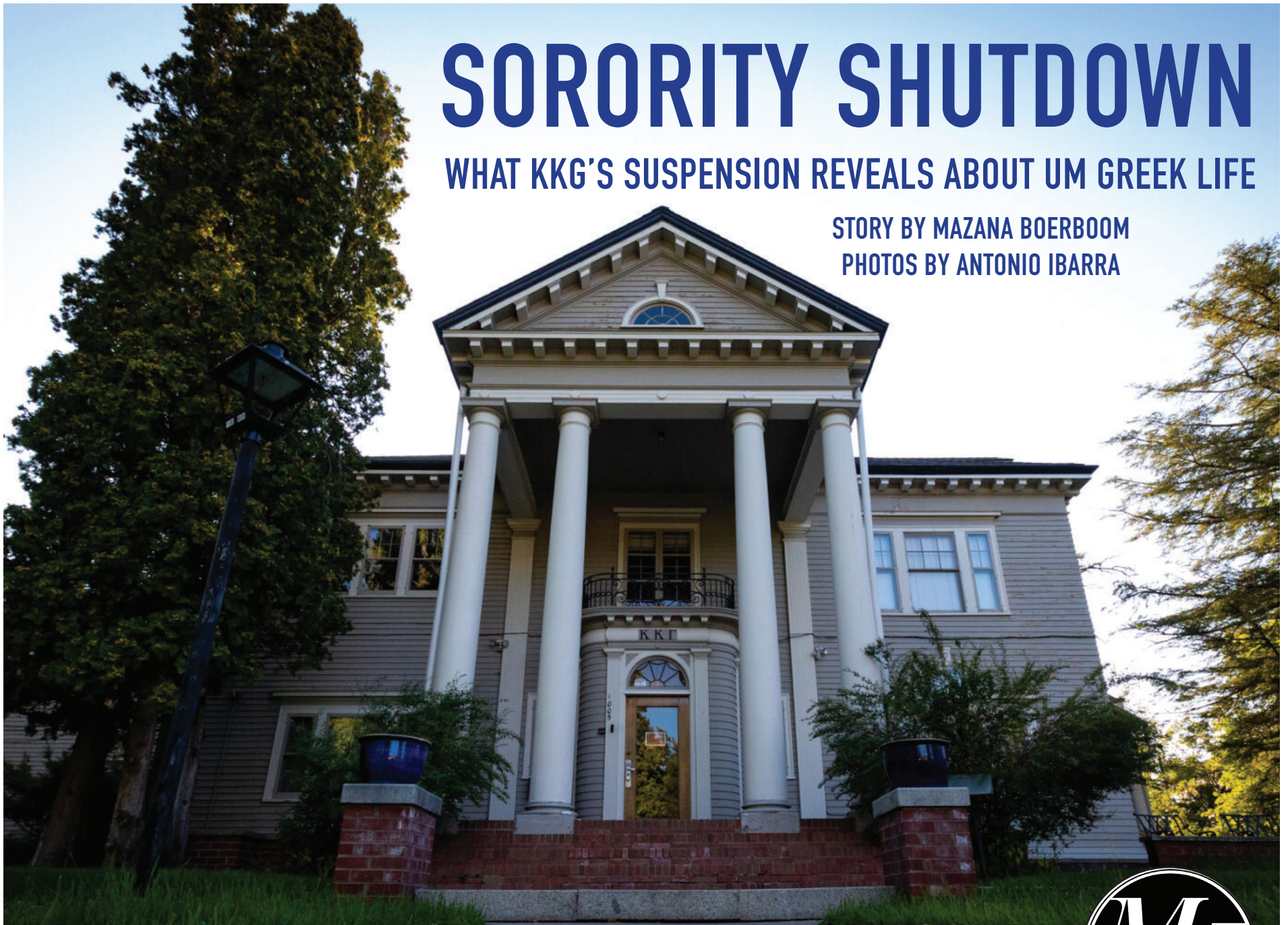


MONTANA KAIMIN

SORORITY SHUTDOWN

WHAT KKG'S SUSPENSION REVEALS ABOUT UM GREEK LIFE

STORY BY MAZANA BOERBOOM
PHOTOS BY ANTONIO IBARRA



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Kiosk

Cover Photo
Antonia Ibarra



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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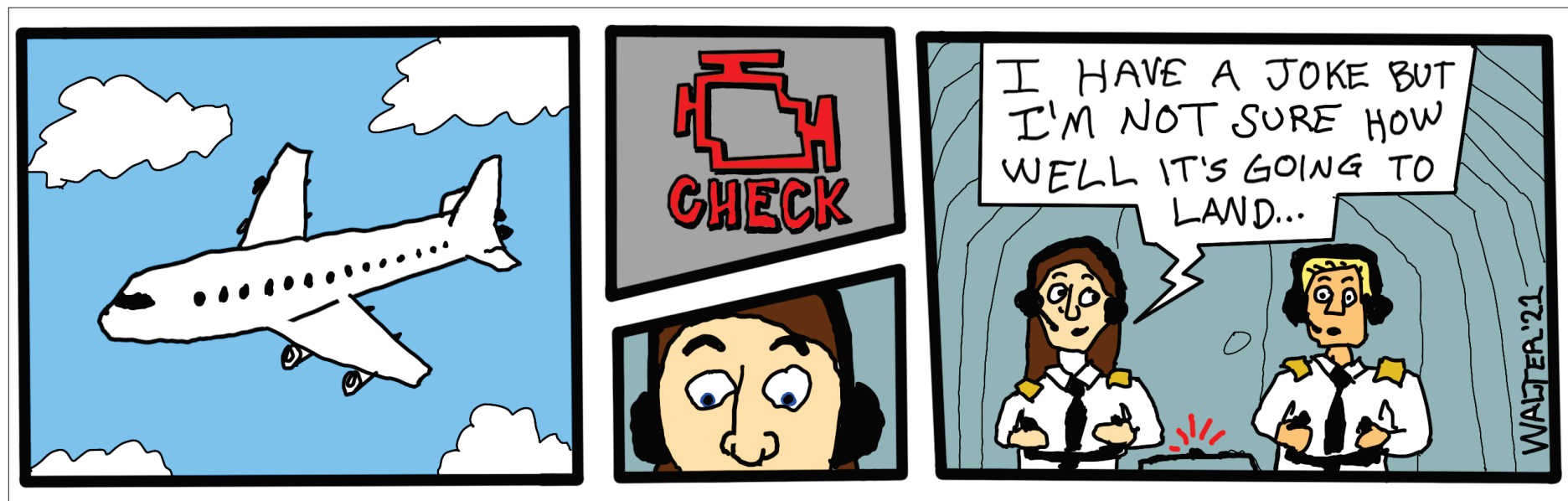
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THE GARAGE: SE 1 EP 3



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Touchdown Montana!



Montana's Cam Humphrey (2), Junior Bergen (5) and Cole Grossman (11) celebrate in the end zone after a Griz touchdown in the the second quarter of a game against Western Illinois at Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Sept. 11. Montana ended its home opener match of the 2021 fall season with an impressive 42-7 victory against the Leathernecks. **MATTHEW TRYAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Wait, UM can require vaccinations on campus?

Last week, UM's faculty senate and student government passed resolutions calling for the University and the Board of Regents to enforce stricter masking requirements and a vaccination mandate. Though the resolutions don't actually change any legislation at UM, they speak to the overall feelings of University students, faculty and staff.

The demands come at a time when Missoula County has reported a total of more than 1,000 active COVID-19 cases — comparable only to the county's November 2020 all-time peak of more than 1,200.

The county saw 221 new COVID cases Monday. The last time Missoula reported more than 100 cases in a day was December 2020, said Cindy Farr, the county's COVID-19 incident commander in a video Sept. 10.

It's clear things aren't getting better. If only there was a simple solution. If only we had an FDA-approved, scientifically effective way to fight the virus. Like, a protection we could equip our immune system with.

Oh wait... we do. And the University — or university system — could fight to require it.

Right now, UM has a mask requirement in classrooms and labs. That's it. Masks are recommended everywhere else, but all of the unmasked students crammed in the student section at Saturday's football game — where the "recommendation" was in effect — know how much weight that carried. And even last year, it took the Board of Regents recommending a mask mandate (capital M, Mandate), for UM to to instate one. At the time the virus was at its peak in Missoula.

There seems to be an obvious solution, and it's presented clearly in each of the passed resolutions: require vaccines. If history tells us anything, it's a solution the Board of Regents, not the University, will have to enforce.

When people say Montana universities can't require COVID-19 vaccinations, they're usually referring to language in Montana House Bill 702, Section 1, which says a person or governmental entity may not discriminate on the basis of vaccination status, including denying educational opportunities.

So that's it, our hands are tied because of HB 702? Not so, says Anthony Johnstone, constitutional law professor at the Alexander Blewett School of Law.

The language of the bill includes one caveat. The second part of Section 1 says the prohibition of vaccination mandates does NOT apply to vaccine requirements made by schools that abide by Title 20, chapter 5, part 4 of the Montana Code Annotated. That section says "the governing authority of a postsecondary school may impose immunization requirements as a condition of attendance that are more stringent."

The Board of Regents also has a policy that

says individual campuses or programs may have additional immunization requirements.

"As it is now, HB 702 is clear that it exempts student vaccination requirements in Montana law, and the Board of Regents policy is clear that it is consistent with campuses' ability to impose more stringent vaccinations requirements at the campus level," Johnstone said.

Aside from HB 702, UM is already operating under two conflicting executive orders.

Gov. Greg Gianforte signed executive order 7-2021 April 13, prohibiting government agencies from requiring vaccinations as a condition of attendance. Then on Sept. 9, President Biden signed an executive order mandating all businesses with more than 100 employees require COVID-19 vaccinations or face weekly testing.

UM doesn't expect Biden's order to change anything at the University, said Dave Kuntz, UM communication director, as UM faculty and staff are state employees operating under Gianforte's order. And if the order did extend to universities, that too would be the regents responsibility to enforce, said Lucy France, UM legal counsel.

Right now, France is not looking into the Montana Code Annotated exemption that might allow UM to mandate vaccines independent of the Board of Regents, Kuntz said.

"We felt it's been pretty clear with HB 702 and the executive order, that we're pretty clear where we are," Kuntz said. "But [a vaccine mandate is] something that at this minute, the University is not in a position to implement, specifically because that authority as we believe rests with the Board of Regents."

So it seems UM is content to pass the buck, and wait for the regents to make their decision. But how long is the University willing to wait? What critical point does Missoula have to reach for the University, or the regents, to require vaccinations?

It's clear vaccination is effective in both preventing the spread (a study from Public Health England reported the vaccine reduced the chance of virus transmission by an average of 50%) and the severity (in August, the CDC reported the vaccine is more than 90% effective in preventing hospitalizations, even with the emergence of the Delta variant) of COVID-19. And the University — or the Board of Regents, at least — has the ability to mandate this protection.

Students and faculty have spoken. Administrators with the power need to take action. If UM isn't willing to act on its own, it should be bold in urging the regents to protect the campus and require vaccinations.

— Addie Slinger, Editor-in-Chief

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

montanakaimin.com September 16, 2021 3

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

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

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Briefs & Blotter

Briefs: COVID-19 spike, parade canceled and UM sustainability gains

GRIFFEN SMITH

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COVID-19 update

Since last week's update, the Missoula City-County Health Department reported at least 15 new UM-affiliated COVID-19 cases, including four new cases Monday, bringing the active number to 34 cases.

The spike in cases is hitting Missoula across the board, as the county now has more than 1,100 active cases, reporting 224 new cases over the last weekend and 121 cases Tuesday alone.

It's the highest number of people infected with COVID-19 since late November 2020, when more than 1,200 county residents had the virus.

"We are not seeing any signs of slowing down," said Hayley Devlin, public information officer with Missoula County. "Including vaccinated individuals, people should wear their masks in public, wash their hands frequently, and get the COVID-19 vaccine."

Missoula County is currently experiencing uncontrolled spread of COVID-19, with 69 average new cases per 100,000 people in the last seven days. The health department and UM's COVID Response Team are asking residents to limit their social circles.

The Curry Health Center, which offers free rapid tests to students, restricted tests to only those with COVID-19 symptoms or those listed as a close contact to an active case, according to a Sept. 10 email from the COVID Response Team.

Out of all reported cases, the health department said just 1.34% of positive tests have been fully vaccinated people. That number has

slowly increased, according to Devlin, as more breakthrough cases have happened due to the high levels of community spread.

COVID-19 hospitalizations for county residents continued to plateau at 25, but non-residents increased to 17 as patients continue to come to the western Montana medical hub. The hospitalizations are only matched by the spike in November 2020.

Homecoming parade canceled

After concerns of rising COVID-19 numbers and the in-progress construction of the Bear Tracks bridge on Higgins Avenue, Montana's Sept. 25 home game against the University of California Polytechnic will be missing one familiar sight, the homecoming parade.

The loss of the parade, which usually flows from downtown to Washington-Grizzly Stadium, marks the second year in a row the parade is canceled. But the game, and other homecoming events, are still on.

"We are eager to continue century-old traditions to welcome home thousands of UM alumni," LeAnn Meyer, UM alumni association director, said in a press release. "Whether it is painting the sidewalk for the Hello Walk, cheering along at the pep rally or recognizing our distinguished alumni, we are thrilled for our alums to return to this vibrant campus for such a special week of events."

Homecoming, which first started at UM in 1914, featured the Griz playing Montana State University, beating the Bobcats 7-6. The 2021

homecoming game will still include a Hello Walk for Alumni on Sept. 23 and a yell night pep rally on the oval at 8 p.m. Sept. 24

UM shows improvement in sustainable practices

The University of Montana received a silver award from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sept. 8, improving from its last assessment three years ago.

AASHE, a non-profit based in Pennsylvania, has more than 900 member schools in 40 countries. The rankings are broken down by platinum, gold, silver and bronze, and a university that reports to the organization.

UM first joined the AASHE program in 2014, when it originally ranked with a silver. In 2017, the campus dropped down to bronze, due to an increase in carbon emissions. Since then, the University hired a Sustainability Coordinator Eva Rocke and instated a new sustainability fee.

"STARS data collection is a huge lift, and there is no chance we could paint this holistic picture of campus sustainability without the help of our partners, which include everyone from Financial Aid to Facilities Services and Campus Dining," Rocke said in a press release.

Rankings are based on five categories that measure sustainable infrastructure, like green energy, compost, passive energy buildings and others. UM did best in the education section, but got the worst possible score in investment and finance.

The rating system is revisited every three years, meaning UM will see its next rating by the AASHE in 2024

SpectrUM wins national grant for Indigenous science museum

The University-affiliated SpectrUM Discovery Center received a \$250,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services last week to create a display revolving around Indigenous science.

The project, sponsored by tribes across Montana, will present their cultural backgrounds, with a focus on K-12 students and educators. The display will be housed in the Missoula Public Library.

Shane Sangrey, formerly a diversity specialist in UM's College of Health and currently student services counselor at Stone Child College on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation, will direct engagement with tribal partners, which includes a project advisory group with representatives from tribal communities across Montana.

"Our goal is for every visitor who enters SpectrUM's spaces at Missoula Public Library to feel a sense of belonging and a sense of connection to Montana Native American heritage and science," SpectrUM director Justin Herbert-Meny said. "We're honored for this opportunity to work with tribal scientists, elders and partners across the state."

The Museums for America project provides the grant, which is designed for a three-year period. The main location at the library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free.



Blotter: Attempted fights, stolen bikes and drunken nights

GRACE CARR

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Between Sept. 2 and 8, the University of Montana Police Department reported eight crimes on and around campus. For the third week in a row, theft was the most common crime, followed by disorderly conduct.

FRIDAY 9/3: BLOCKING TRAFFIC 101

What do you do when running from a warrant for your arrest? A recommendation: Don't get drunk and stand in the middle of a road. UMPD arrested a man with an outstanding warrant out of Great Falls around midnight on Sept. 3. The suspect — above the age of 21 — was intoxicated and blocking traffic in the center of the road on Maurice Avenue. Officers made contact and arrested the individual. Stay

safe, kids, there are lots of weirdos out there.

SUNDAY 9/5: LABOR DAY WEEKEND FUN

Three-day weekends in college are made for (of-age) drinking and bad decisions. You never know where the night will take you, literally. A caller reported an intoxicated female student outside Building F in Lewis and Clark Village who did not seem to know where she was going. Officers arrived and returned her home, but not before issuing her an MIP. There's no such thing as too much fun, right?

WEDNESDAY 9/8: ANOTHER BIKE GOODBYE

And the "Most Predicted Crime of the

Week" award goes to bike theft. No matter how dull or interesting crime on campus may seem, bike thieves can be counted on to make an appearance. Despite being locked, two were reported stolen on Sept. 8. One was swiped from outside Turner Hall and the other from a bike rack outside the Craighead Apartments. Sick of reading about bike thefts? Well, we are sick of writing about them. Fret not, there is a solution from UMPD Chief Brad Giffin. Buy a U-lock! Cable and chain locks are easy for thieves to cut before riding

away into the sunset atop your precious bicycle. "U-locks are better," Giffin said. "They are harder to defeat [because] it takes a little bit longer and better tools." UMPD is selling U-locks for \$20 including instructions on how to properly lock up your bike. UMPD does not profit from U-lock sales, with the exception of

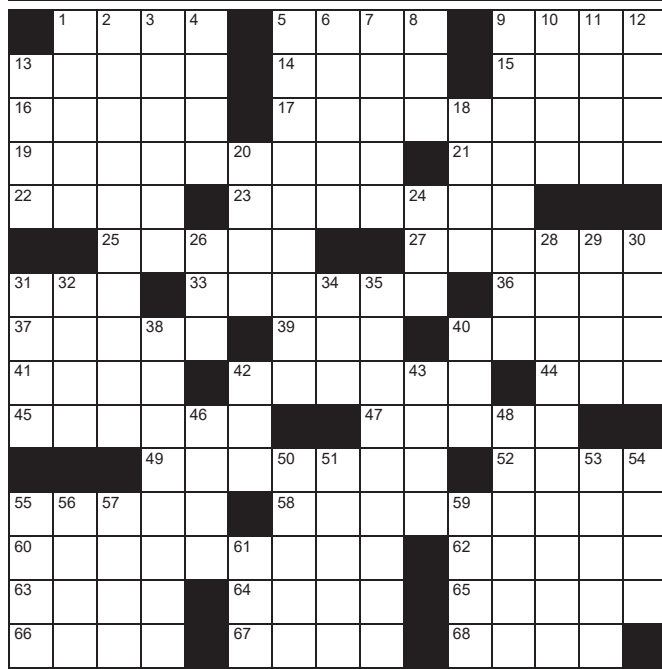
fewer stolen bike reports.

WEDNESDAY 9/8: KNOWLES' ATTEMPTED TUSSELE

On a typical Wednesday night at Knowles Hall, a fly on the wall would find students sleeping, some studying and others going on a Netflix and taquito binge. But it would not be truly complete without a little late-night tussle. Well, near-tussle. Around midnight on Sept. 8, a caller reported people yelling and challenging others to fight at Knowles Hall. When officers arrived at the scene, they found witnesses, but the suspects and alleged victim were no longer hanging around. The incident was reported as disorderly conduct for the noise disturbance, and the students returned to bed with mini John Cenas dancing in their heads.



The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

- 1 Street fleet
- 5 1999 film, "10 Things I ___ About You"
- 9 Norwegian king
- 13 Excel shortcut
- 14 Roswell sightings
- 15 Barn topper
- 16 Stomach lesion
- 17 Oscar, for one
- 19 Place for petunias
- 21 News media
- 22 Notability
- 23 Hearing range
- 25 Hog the mirror
- 27 Puzzling problem
- 31 Ind. neighbor
- 33 Gary who portrayed Churchill
- 36 Dinner, e.g.
- 37 ___ terrier
- 39 Hightailed it
- 40 Past or present, in grammar
- 41 Anagram for "cone"
- 42 Energetic person
- 44 Barely manage, with "out"
- 45 Phonograph feature
- 47 Large-eyed primate
- 49 Hand over, as for sale
- 52 Big bash
- 55 MGM opening?
- 58 Kind of drill
- 60 Mistaken
- 62 Cordial flavoring
- 63 Gets ripe
- 64 Rihanna nick-name
- 65 False gods
- 66 Turn's partner
- 67 Smart-___
- 68 Zebra feature
- 28 Baby Boomer or Millennial
- 29 Mardi Gras wear
- 30 Safe, on board
- 31 Clickable image
- 32 Track assignment
- 34 Word before and after "oh"
- 35 Tylenol, e.g.
- 38 Disaster-aid group
- 40 Jones who sang "It's Not Unusual"
- 42 Cubby hole?
- 43 Waiter's handout
- 46 Crazy as a ___
- 48 Kenya's neighbor
- 50 Go bad
- 51 Get used (to)
- 53 Cotton thread
- 54 High cards
- 55 Vegan no-no
- 56 For that reason
- 57 Half of seis
- 59 Badly injure
- 61 Historic time

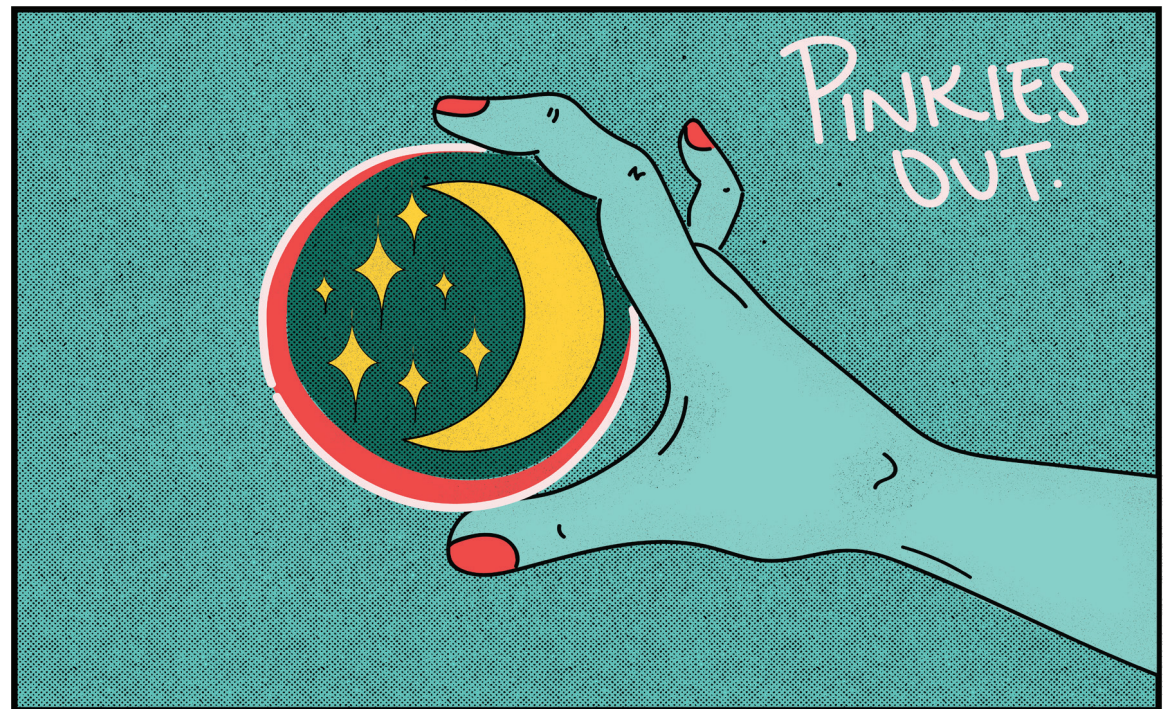
DOWN

- 1 Kind of lily
- 2 Crook's helper
- 3 Milwaukee player
- 4 Like bad losers
- 5 Agriculture
- 6 Pitt flick, "Burn ___ Reading"
- 7 Pond hoppers
- 8 OH time zone
- 9 Paycheck fattener
- 10 Behind schedule
- 11 Picnic pests
- 12 Bank charges
- 13 Hand-warmer
- 18 Familiar with
- 20 Film spool
- 24 Farm female
- 26 Long, long time

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:



What party drink are you?



OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

CLARISE LARSON

clarise.larson@umontana.edu

Sup fuckers. Let's be frank — college is stressful, and sometimes letting loose and drinking can be fun. But what to drink??? There are so many options and we know you need our help. There is no other way — but of course we obliged. What party drink are you? Let's find out.

PSA: If you are drinking and need to get home, be safe and call Griz Walk at (406) 243-2777.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): You're not drinking. You're the D.D. #mom.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): You say you're not drinking tonight, but end up absolutely OBLITERATED after stealing sips off of every single drink in sight. Honestly, we can't say we're surprised, because we all know there is no way to stop you.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): AYYYYYYYY. Who wants to do ~belly shots!!~ No? ToO bAd! Scorpio, you're mysterious as hell, but when you show up, everyone knows that it's time to get crazy. YES SIR.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22): There are a few staples at every UM party: Everyone is white, everyone has daddy issues and everyone at some point will be drinking a White Claw. We all know that you're pretty popular, but also super unique. That's why you're a DENTED White Claw. You're cool, but also wounded XOXO.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19): Everybody thinks you're drinking, but you're actually just holding a red solo cup filled with La Croix. KEY LIME La Croix, may we add.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): You're on your fourth Red Bull vodka but you feel nothing. Hand me the vinegar.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Sweetie? How do we say this? You're an alcoholic. It's not about "what are you drinking?" it's "will you ever stop drinking?"

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Say hello to our little friend, absinthe. Nothing beats sharing a drink with new-age jazz singer Michael Bubl  and associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Sonia Sotomayor while riding a grizzly down the M trail. Classic Thursday.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Yeah, we see you: Chacos, Carharts, corduroy jacket, sipping on a local CBD-infused IPA because #buylocal uwu RAWR XD. Shit, if we didn't know any better, we would think you were working at REI, not at some lame college party.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Tequila. Badum-badum-badum-dum-dum. One minute you're chilling with Chad on the couch, next minute you're body-slammng the ping pong table from the second-story balcony.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): You're a glass of wine with ice and the tears that ran down your face — because you just had a breakdown in the closet of the house of this party where you don't know anyone.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): You are the star of the show, and you NEED to be number one at all costs. Too bad you are absolute ASS at drinking games and thus you are the Bitch Cup. Every. Single. Time.

ASUM, ASMSU differ on legal action on controversial bills

JACOB OWENS

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As the legal fight over House Bill 102 and other bills escalated last spring, the student government at one of Montana's two largest universities joined in, while the other remained an observer to the ongoing battle.

The Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) signed on to a lawsuit June 3 challenging the constitutionality of House Bills 102, 112 and 349 and Senate Bill 319.

HB 102 allows guns on campus. HB 112 requires transgender athletes to compete under their assigned-at-birth sex. HB 349 expands free speech on campus while prohibiting student group discrimination. And SB 319 allows political student group opt-in funding.

The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) did not choose to join the legal fight. But both organizations believe they have the legal standing to do so independent of their universities.

UM did not believe ASUM could sign on to the lawsuit independently of the University. Though ASUM disagreed, it opted not to sign on to the suit.

"It wasn't necessarily about just taking our stance and running with it. It was really about this whole concept of the Board of Regents and their constitutional authority, which we felt was violated by the Legislature in this session," ASUM's president Noah Durnell said. "And so after the Board of Regents signed on we really didn't think ASUM joining was going to be the most effective approach to meeting those ends."

Durnell said the organization didn't join the suit because the Montana University System's Board of Regents, the state's higher education authority, eventually filed another suit against HB 102 — but also because UM informed ASUM that if students are further harmed by any bills, the University will work with ASUM to defend students.

Norris Blossom, ASMSU's president, said ASMSU joined the suit to protect the constitutional authority of the Board of Regents and not because of the substance of the bills.

"Regardless of what the bills would've been, it's always inappropriate for the Legislature to pass bills that are clearly in the realm where the Board of Regents should govern," Blossom said.

ASMSU signed onto a lawsuit brought forth by the Goetz, Baldwin & Geddes

Firm, as well as the Graybill Law Firm, following majority approval by its student senate. This suit is separate from the one brought by the Board of Regents on May 27 that challenged the constitutionality of HB 102 and resulted in an indefinite hold on the law June 7.

Durnell said last spring was "tense" after ASUM researched whether it had legal standing to independently join the same suit ASMSU did. He said research done by ASUM's executives and student legal interns with professional legal advice from Lou Villemez, the ASUM legal services di-

rector, led to the conclusion ASUM could join the suit independent from UM.

Durnell said one of the cases that supported this conclusion was *Associated Students of the University of Montana v. The City of Missoula*. According to a memo that was part of ASUM's legal research, the Montana Supreme Court classified ASUM as "an unincorporated association of students enrolled at the University" in the 1993 case where ASUM was a plaintiff.

Durnell said UM disagreed with ASUM's findings that it could join the suit independently from UM, an area there is

still no consensus on. Durnell said this disagreement was not what prevented ASUM from joining the suit, though.

"If we decided it was the best decision for us to join we would've still joined, and determined whether we were able to later, because it was so time sensitive," he said.

Dave Kuntz, the director of strategic communications at UM, said the University has no official stance on if ASUM can represent itself independently in court. He said any conversations on the topic were informal and not official legal opinions.

Kuntz said the Board of Regents lawsuit is the best way to challenge HB 102's constitutionality, a sentiment Durnell agreed with.

Blossom said ASMSU did not ask MSU's permission to join the suit but informed them of their decision to join it. He said the organization did not hear much feedback, good or bad, from the administration.

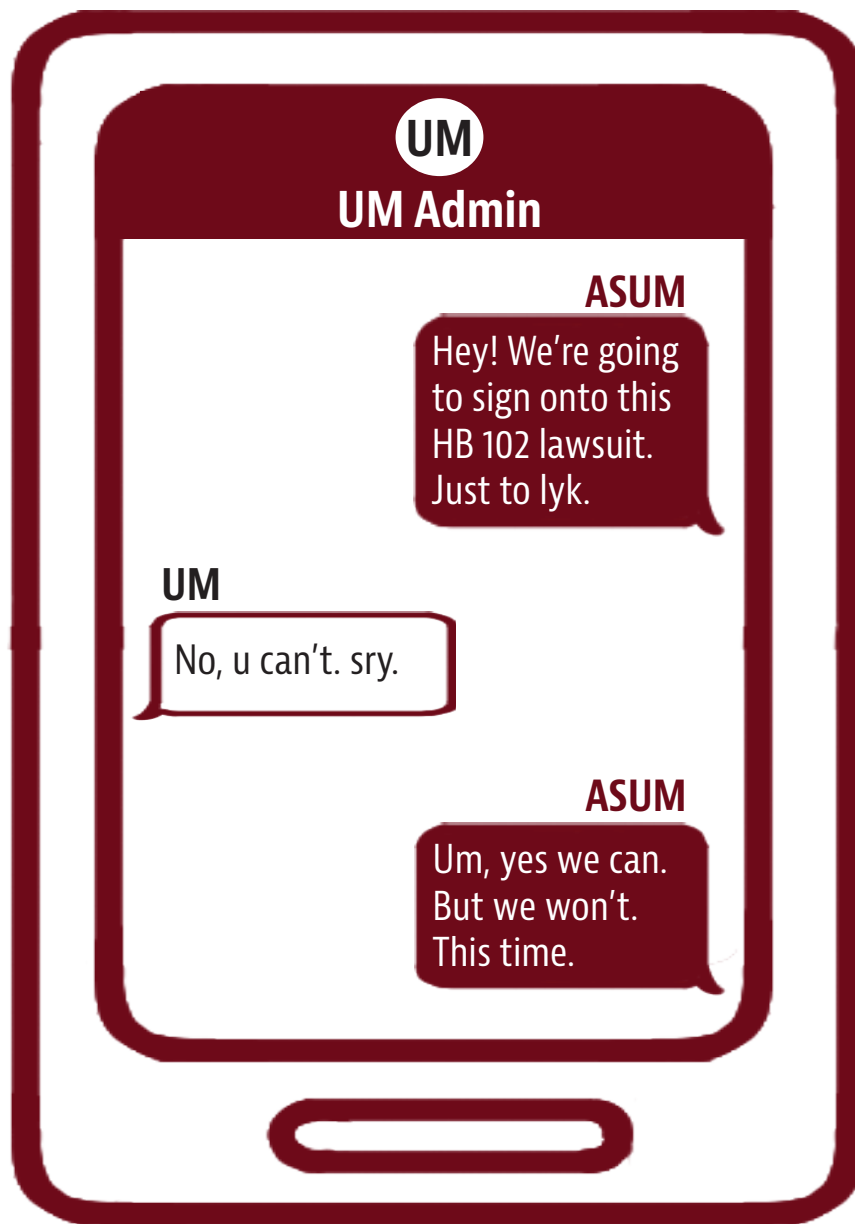
"At the end of the day we serve students here at Montana State University, we don't serve administrators at MSU," he said.

Blossom said MSU's administration and ASMSU are "close partners," but ASMSU has autonomy from the University.

Durnell said ASUM believes a victory in the Board of Regents suit against HB 102 could set a precedent that could then be used in litigation against other bills, like those mentioned in the other suit.

Durnell said the latest legislative session has shown how much UM cares about its students. He said ASUM's ability to join a lawsuit or not has no implication on how well the organization can represent UM students.

"I have no doubt in ASUM's ability to represent students, and that should not be defined by our ability to join a lawsuit or not," he said.



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Future of abortion care in Montana in limbo

EMILY TSCHETTER

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The first hearing in a lawsuit filed by Planned Parenthood against the state of Montana is set to begin Sept. 23 in Yellowstone District Court. The suit, filed on Aug. 16, asks for the delay of House Bills 136, 140, and 171, which all limit access to abortion care and would go into effect Oct. 1.

The case would consider the constitutionality of the bills, which would ban abortions before the point that a fetus can survive outside of the womb — contrary to the Montana Constitution text that only allows for abortion bans after this point.

“Each of these laws individually does a number of things to create barriers of access to abortion care,” Martha Stahl, the president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Montana, said. “But when they’re together, they compound and squeeze down the amount of time and ability to access abortions throughout Montana.”

HB 136 bans abortions past the 20-week point unless the pregnancy threatens the woman’s life. HB 140 requires that every abortion provider offer patients an ultrasound and the opportunity to hear the fetal heartbeat. Finally, HB 171 prohibits the prescription of abortion-inducing drugs via telemedicine and forbids sending abortion-inducing drugs to patients through the mail.

“I think it is backwards thinking and it does not represent Montanans,” Mia McK-inney, a UM student and the director of the Women’s Resource Center on campus, said.

Stahl is optimistic about the lawsuit, but expressed the most concern about the ramifications of HB 171, which would impact rural women who use telehealth for abortion care to avoid extensive travel.

“Our average patient who gets telehealth abortion services now would have to travel nine hours under the new law,” Stahl said. “We’re looking at patients who didn’t need to come in now having to go to three separate clinic visits.”

Nicole Smith, the director of Blue Mountain Clinic, one of two abortion-providing clinics separate from Planned Parenthood in Montana, also highlighted scientific inaccuracies in HB 140.

“We already offer ultrasounds for most abortion care, and there’s a lot of good evidence that in early pregnancies, an ultrasound is not needed,” Smith said. “It adds a burden to the patient, and it costs more.”

Smith also mentioned the law’s requirement to inform patients of a procedure called “medication abortion reversal, a procedure that has no board-approved data or evidence to support its efficacy and has been deemed unsafe and untrue by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

These reversals are based on unapproved research by a single physician who paused the medical abortion procedure after the first of two pills and injected his patients with progesterone, a female sex hormone naturally produced in the ovaries, to achieve a successful pregnancy. This research was not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

“We would like to be able to practice evidence-based medicine, and this law would prohibit us from doing that,” Smith said.

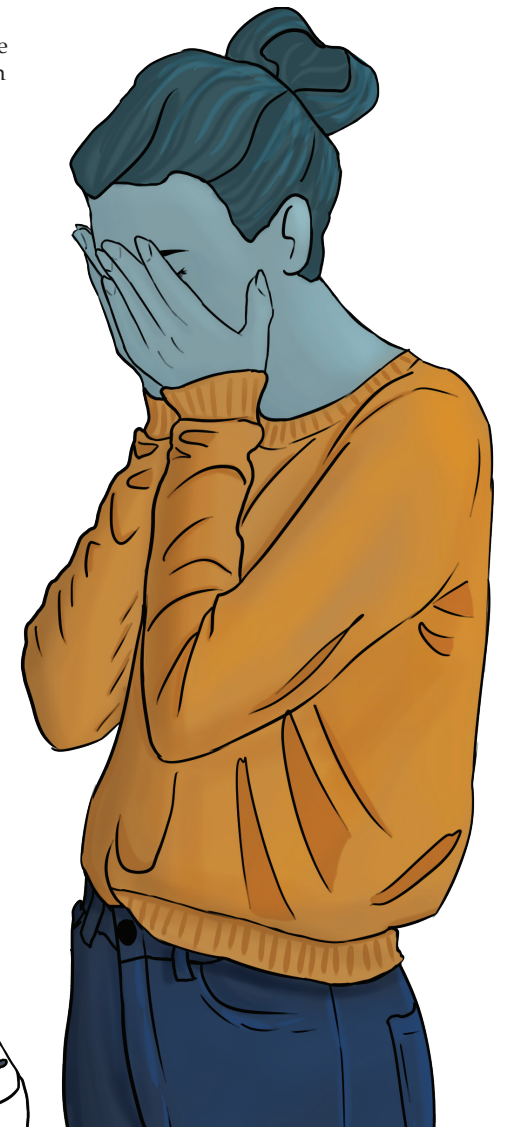
Both Smith and Stahl said that the bills disproportionately affect people with low incomes, people of color and people in rural areas of Montana. According to the Guttmacher Institute, a research and policy institution focusing on reproductive rights, 93% of Montana counties do not have an abortion clinic. More than half of all Montana women live in those counties. Additionally, no Native American reservation in Montana has an abortion clinic.

McKinney expressed frustration with lack of control over the fate of abortion care.

“The pessimist in me says no, I don’t have any say in it, especially since we have so many white, cisgender men in power,” McKinney said. “It doesn’t feel like I have a lot of control, but I do have faith in the lawsuit that Planned Parenthood has filed, and I support them in that.”

The Kaimin reached out to multiple state sponsors of these bills, as well as representatives for the Montana Right to Life, and received no comments by deadline.

Unless the Yellowstone District Court decides to delay these three bills, they will take effect on Oct. 1, and impact every Montanan who can get pregnant.



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SORORITY SHUTDOWN

WHAT KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA'S SUSPENSION REVEALS ABOUT UM GREEK LIFE

STORY BY MAZANA BOERBOOM
PHOTOS BY ANTONIO IBARRA

Ex-Kappa Kappa Gamma member and third-year University of Montana student Tiffany McFarland, pictured outside what used to be KKG's house on Gerald Street, joined the sorority in the fall 2019 rush. McFarland was an active member for three semesters and eventually became the house chairwoman before the sorority entered a four-year suspension in the spring of 2021 due to low membership. She said her favorite part of KKG was the energy of the women who lived there and the sisterhood she joined.

While walking down the oak-lined streets of University Avenue, Tiffany McFarland pointed to houses that once held fraternities and sororities at the University of Montana.

"It's no longer Greek Row," she said. Only Delta Gamma and Phi Delta Theta remain on the street.

She turned onto Gerald Avenue, now the dominant street for UM Greek life, and walked the last couple of blocks to her former home:

the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority house.

"This is Kappa," she said, gesturing to the mansion with prominent pillars, the Greek letters "KKG" emblazoned above an arched doorway and a "No Trespassing" sign posted on the front door. "It's a gorgeous building, from a distance."

McFarland was one of 20 women in the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority last spring, and one of only four who had planned to return this fall. She was house chair of the sorority and planned to become the next president of the Panhellenic Council. But instead of McFarland

returning this fall, her sorority chapter was suspended.

Before suspension, KKG was put on probation, meaning the sorority was considered at risk of losing its place on campus if recruitment numbers didn't increase. With only four girls planning to return in the fall, the sorority was suspended, meaning that chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma no longer has a place on UM's campus. If, in four years, nobody comes forward to bring KKG back, then the sorority could be permanently lost at UM.

Years of financial problems, a decline in

membership and a culture of secrecy that alienated its members are to blame for KKG's suspension, according to three former members.

KKG is not the first sorority to close at UM, and it may not be the last. Greek life membership numbers continue to steadily fall, and some students are advocating for abolishment of the system. They say it perpetuates sexual assault, discrimination and homophobia.

But what is at stake for the more than 300 students who are a part of that system? And what can be learned from one fraternity that closed and made a comeback?

A history of UM Greek life

Kappa Kappa Gamma was UM's first sorority, established in 1909, followed by Kappa Alpha Theta later that year. After several moves, KKG landed in the mansion of former Missoula mayor John H. Toole, where it stayed until the suspension this spring.

Because of this long generational line, the sorority is hoping to give over the deeds of the house to the John H. Toole Foundation, which McFarland said may allow Kappa members of the future to live in the house once again. But if that doesn't work, the sorority may have to sell on an open market.

"We don't have the income any longer to keep our house," McFarland said. "It's massive, obviously. When you don't have income, it's hard to keep upkeep."

As house chair of Kappa, McFarland said multiple issues contributed to the sorority's suspension. She said she helped find and report asbestos in the house. Long years of neglect and financial issues led to the asbestos problem, and other general upkeep issues with the house, according to McFarland.

In addition to issues with the house, Kappa Kappa Gamma experienced a 2015 embezzlement scandal. Former house mother Sherri Lynn Sweet took \$10,000 from KKG. According to previous Kaimin reporting, Sweet confessed to using the house's debit card to buy clothes and alcohol and take out cash withdrawals for herself.

It was reported in 2015 that Sweet would take a plea deal, paying back the money for a lesser sentence.

"I would say [the embezzlement] has definitely affected the members," McFarland said. "I think at the time, they had enough reserve that it didn't matter. And then as we had lower admission rates and the house just got older, we started to see the effects of the mistreatment and neglect."

While KKG's situation is specific, Greek life chapters closing at UM isn't new. In the last century, 10 fraternities and eight sororities have been closed at UM.

Declining membership has been a pattern across UM Greek life in recent years. Between fall of 2018 and spring of 2021, sorority membership declined by 30%, from a total of 245 women to only 171, according to UM's Greek life reports. Fraternity membership saw less of a drop, but still declined by almost 10% over the same time period, from a total of 165 men to 149.

This means that since the fall of 2018, overall Greek life membership has declined by almost 22% — from the two-year high of 410 members to only 320 in spring of 2021.

Kappa's suspension

But while some sorority members were aware of these issues, Reagan Smith, a junior social work major, said she didn't have any clue

what she was signing up for when she showed up on KKG's bid day last year.

After a year in KKG, Smith said she wouldn't join again. While she met great people, she said the sorority's environment was not a good one.

Both Smith and McFarland joined Kappa after it had already entered probation in 2019. McFarland explained the probation meant KKG was an "at-risk" sorority because of its low recruitment rates. Neither of them was told about the probation until after they were under contract as members.

McFarland didn't feel great about keeping the truth from recruits, but nobody in Kappa was allowed to talk about the probation with anyone outside of the house.

"I know that [telling recruits about probation] would have even lowered our membership, but I think it would have been more honest," McFarland said. "They came in and they learned that they were basically our last hope, that we were so low on membership that

"They came in and they learned that they were basically our last hope, that we were so low on membership that if they quit, we were basically done."

-Tiffany McFarland

if they quit, we were basically done."

Smith said she was upset she got roped into something she didn't even know was happening after signing a contract that said she'd pay her dues for the year.

"They literally don't tell you anything and then they loop you in and you're like, 'Oh okay, we're kind of fucked over,' and I had no idea," she said.

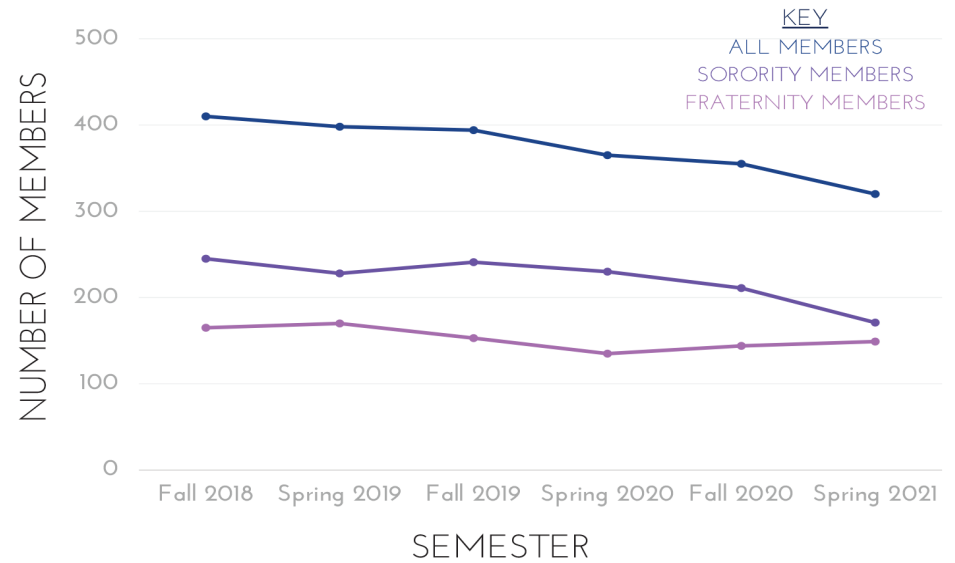
Miranda MacKenzie joined KKG as a freshman — a year before the probation, but not before the house had issues. She said she too was told to keep the problems within the sorority secret from potential recruits.

Pressure was put on the women to make up for lack of members, and many of them, including Smith, McFarland and MacKenzie, held multiple leadership positions.

MacKenzie was both vice president of the organization and secretary last year. The year before, she was marshal and the sorority's Panhellenic delegate.

"One of the most frustrating parts was being

GREEK LIFE MEMBERSHIP RATE



This information comes from UM's Greek life reports. **ELLA MUSGROVE | MONTANA KAIMIN**

tasked to do things that were practically impossible," MacKenzie said.

By her second semester, Smith was Diversity Equity and Inclusion chair, education chair and new member chair.

While she was there, Smith tried to find the bright sides to her sorority situation. She did legitimately care about the women she lived with and the organization she'd joined.

"I was kinda sad to watch it die the way it did, but I wanted to get people back into it and spark their love for Kappa again, because it's a good organization, but I think it was ready to go," she said.

While she felt connected to other Kappa members, Smith didn't think she could've stayed for another year, even if the sorority wasn't suspended. She couldn't afford it anymore. And she was denied a scholarship she'd applied for.

"I think that one of my biggest problems with Greek life is how inaccessible it is to people that aren't financially able to afford it," Smith said. "I think that if they continue to keep making people pay as much as they are, they're not gonna reach a lot of people that they could be reaching and get as many members as they wanna get."

Smith said she paid about \$3,000 per semester for her four-person bedroom — which, by the spring, only had two girls in it because there weren't enough people to fill the rooms. McFarland said it came out to \$750 a month.

"There was no way I could go back and live in the house," Smith said. "It's too expensive."

According to the UM Greek life website, average first-year dues for fraternities are \$300 to \$500, while for sororities it's \$900 to \$1,200. The average active membership per semester is \$500 to \$5,000 for fraternities and \$1,500 to \$4,000 for sororities.

"Ours was probably one of the more expensive plans, but our house was pretty grand," McFarland said, adding that they also had chefs.

Despite the expensive costs, McFarland still paid less at Kappa than she did living in the dorms on campus.

Smith also said the Greek life system is inaccessible for people with disabilities. As DEI chairman, Smith encouraged fellow members to be more empathetic and find ways to make Greek life more welcoming to people with different abilities.

She pointed out there were no ramps or elevators in the KKG house. She also noticed that nontraditional students were less likely to join a Greek life chapter, because the system caters to the typical undergrad who comes in at 18.

These issues within the Greek life system were also pointed out by a new Instagram page that popped up on a lot of UM students' radars in spring of 2021: @abolishgreeklifeumt.

The page, started by a group of a half dozen graduate and undergraduate UM students, is run anonymously. The page administrator said contributors don't attach their names to it because they fear harassment and retaliation. It has around 200 followers.

The administrators consistently posted during the end of last spring and have posted four times this semester. The administrators said their goal is to start discussions about the systemic issues of Greek life and work to address those issues — and they don't think reform is enough.

In a direct message conversation with the Kaimin, a page administrator said they were glad to see KKG shut down, because there are other student groups on campus that "don't contribute to rape culture and a culture of exclusion."



Ex-Kappa Kappa Gamma member and fourth-year UM student Miranda MacKenzie stands in the middle of Gerald Avenue, which was once known as Greek row among the campus community before University Avenue became the street with the most sorority and fraternity houses. MacKenzie joined KKG in the fall semester of 2018 and was an active house member up until the sorority's suspension in 2020. After experiencing Greek life and seeing first-hand that sororities promote gender roles, MacKenzie says she now backs the abolish Greek life movement that started on social media.

"Greek life is rooted in a history of exclusion, rape culture and especially homophobia," one of the page administrators said. "Gender roles are upheld in violent ways and alcohol and parties are in male-controlled spaces. It's not safe for students, and we think that the dangers outweigh any benefits that members may find."

UM's Fraternity and Sorority Involvement Director, Lacey Zinke, stated in an email that Greek life's top priority is safety. She said she works to promote resources to her members, organizes safety training and informs Greek life leadership of their responsibilities in promoting safety.

But MacKenzie supports the abolish Greek life movement.

"I am kind of behind the abolish Greek life movement because the amount of reform that it would take is really extreme, and that's part of the abolish Greek life movement is like it's not gonna change," MacKenzie said. "We need to get rid of the system altogether."

McFarland said the history of UM Greek life is one that should be acknowledged, and that there needs to be conversations around the culture created by athletics and Greek life. She added that one of Greek life's biggest problems is its refusal to be more transparent.

McFarland acknowledged that Greek bylaws treat men and women differently. In particular, she said fraternities have more freedom with hosting events and running informal recruitment.

"It's bullshit. It's fucking bullshit. I think fraternities need to be held to the same standards sororities hold themselves to, honestly,"

McFarland said. "I think there should be room for critique, and I think sororities may need to relax some of their rules a bit, because we're not delicate females to be protected anymore."

MacKenzie was similarly upset by gendered differences in the Greek life system, especially when it came to the LGBTQ+ community.

When she went through recruitment as a freshman three years ago, she was open about being bisexual and asked each of the sororities if she would be safe in their houses. She said Kappa was the only one that assured her she would be, and the only one who offered her a bid.

"At one point, we were the most diverse house on campus," McFarland said. "When we talk about LGBTQ members, we have a history of non-binary members. So, we got labeled the weird house, and admittedly we were the most socially awkward house."

Kappa was stereotyped as being "rude," Smith said, earning the nickname "Kappa cows." McFarland said they were often referred to as the "weird" house and MacKenzie said they were called "Kappa Kappa Gayma."

The women said each house had its own stereotypes, and that created tension among them. They were supposed to be a "Panhellenic family," but they weren't. Smith said she wished they all could have just been accepted for their individual selves and not judged based on which sorority they were a part of.

"But honestly, that's what drew me to Kappa — that everyone was very genuine to their individual self as well as the sisterhood identity," McFarland said.

MacKenzie acknowledged that race was an issue within Greek life as well. The system is predominantly white, and has a history of excluding people of color, she said. Even within Kappa, she noticed members making off-handed comments and micro-aggressions she found to be racist.

The Fraternity and Sorority Mutual Relationship Agreement between the University and Greek life says members must "provide to all people the equal opportunity for participation without regard to race, color, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined by state and federal law), veteran status, age, political ideas, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation."

The agreement also says that abuse or harassment of any kind isn't tolerated, though the document does not require a mandatory reporter, someone who must report harassment, discrimination or sexual assault to the University, as is required of dorm RAs. This is one point the abolish Greek life Instagram page finds unsatisfactory about the agreement.

The Greek life system is not subject to Title IX requirements barring discrimination on the basis of sex because of a memorandum from 1989 exempting "social" fraternities and sororities as "single-sex" organizations.

"I think there can be a lot of power in women-only spaces," MacKenzie said. "The problem is the roles it enforces."

An abrupt eviction

By the end of spring 2021, as the abolish Greek life page was posting regularly about issues it attached to the entire Greek system, Smith was ready to be done with the whole situation. She left the house the weekend before

finals and didn't turn back. But things at the house became even worse mid-finals week.

MacKenzie was right in the middle of things. She woke up the Wednesday morning of finals week to another Kappa girl banging on her door.

When she opened the door, her friend held up a piece of paper telling her she'd been evicted. They'd all been evicted. Alumni of KKG had come to inform the members they were being booted out early by taping the notices to their doors. All three women said some members were only given 12 hours to leave.

"No one knew they were coming," McFarland said. "There was no pre-warning. I didn't even know they were coming, and then I walked into the house to chaos."

MacKenzie described the day as madness. Everyone started packing, venting, yelling. They were angry together, and she strangely felt closer to them after that last day in the house.

Even though she was given more than 12 hours, MacKenzie left that day. She called her mom, who drove down from Great Falls and helped her move home for the summer early.

"That's part of why I wasn't so sad when I left," MacKenzie said. "Yeah, it was like my sorority's over, but we were violently evicted. It was a little hard to feel upset about moving."

The members were told they were being evicted for several reasons, the main one being possession of alcohol. Regardless of a member's age, the house was supposed to be dry. But MacKenzie said in her three years there, nobody had taken the rule seriously and the housemother had a "don't ask, don't tell" treatment of it.

So, when they had a small party of just Kappa members for one of their birthdays, the day their suspension had gone through, they didn't



The Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity had to shut its doors for a couple of months in the fall semester of 2019 due to a suspension for low membership numbers.



Sigma Alpha Epsilon President Cavin Pitera, pictured inside the SAE house on Gerald Avenue with photos of past fraternity members at his back, said he hopes to break the stigmas that revolve around fraternities and Greek life in general. Pitera, who ran for the fraternity presidency on the idea of changing the image of SAE around campus, said being in a fraternity helped him with his social and academic skills, which is why he said he's promoting incentives that strive for the academic excellence of SAE's members.

think it would be a big deal. But the house-mother reported them.

Other women were told they were being evicted for other code violations, including not wearing shoes on the first floor. McFarland said that rule was meant to protect the women and the ancient hardwood floors in the house, which could be ruined by the oils and sweat from people's feet.

A fraternity's return

In 2019, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, a UM fraternity, had a similar experience to that of Kappa Kappa Gamma. The frat couldn't recruit enough members or afford to stay in its house, so it shut down.

Last year, though, five men brought SAE back with the help of alumni and a plan to change its legacy, though not all believe the University should support a fraternity with that kind of history.

"The house shut down for a reason and it should stay that way," the @abolishgreeklife Instagram page said in a DM.

Both MacKenzie and the page referenced the fraternity's nickname on a national level: "sexual assault expected." MacKenzie said that her freshman year, before SAE was suspended and restarted, she was told to never go to a party there because of this reputation.

But many others see the return as a good thing.

Cavin Pitera, a sophomore business major who joined SAE when the house returned his freshman year, is now president of the frat.

"The five starting guys kinda made it clear

that this house focused on academics, strong brotherhood bonds and more of just helping out the community than, you know, partying and girls," Pitera said, adding that this was what he'd been looking for in a frat when he rushed last year.

Pitera said through SAE he's formed deep connections with his "brothers," opening up to them in a way he never used to open up to people. He said his social skills have gotten stronger and he's been more motivated to do well in classes.

He said SAE is attempting to ingrain its new values and push beyond stereotypes. Pitera said the house hosts study tables for the brothers, and has some of the members on duty to supervise events to ensure safety.

"That's something we take, I personally take, really seriously and a lot of the other guys, all of them, do as well," Pitera said in relation to the sexual assault reputation of Greek life.

He said members watch closely to see how men interact with women, and they're willing to call out red flags. If a member makes a sexual comment to a girl, according to Pitera, he'd be suspended or expelled from the fraternity. He added that believing women who come forward about sexual assault is an important step in changing this reputation.

"It happens everywhere, not just athletic teams, not just fraternities, and it's terrible," Pitera said. "I wish it didn't happen at all, but like I said, we are really just trying to recruit guys that we know will be true gentlemen."

He said the shutdown of SAE was a good thing, because it gave them the chance to start fresh and become a force of good within UM.

Lane McAlpine, one of the five original members who brought SAE back, said the process took a lot of work. Alumni put a lot of money into things like fixing up the house and sponsoring members to live in the house for free during the first semester back.

He said he sometimes lost sleep over the stress of making sure SAE recruited the 20 members needed to fully reinstate itself. But SAE reached its goal last year, even winning six awards from Interfraternity Council in spring 2021, including the men's "chapter of the year" award. SAE also raised its average grade point average from 2.23 in the spring of 2019 to 3.21 in spring 2021, according to UM Greek life reports. This is the highest GPA of any UM fraternity.

"The best part would have to be, I would say, the new friendship," McAlpine said. "I never thought I would make friends with a bunch of freshmen who I'd never met, but we just got really close."

What's at stake?

The KKG women expressed that the positive aspect of the sorority was the relationships they formed with other members.

"My favorite part about being in Kappa was when we were having good days the energy about the house was so positive," McFarland said. "We all really just wanted to look out for each other and we did put in the effort to make sure we knew we were present for one another."

MacKenzie still lives with two other women from her Kappa years; one is her best friend.

McFarland and MacKenzie said the oppor-

tunities they had to grow as leaders and learn new skills were good aspects of being in KKG, too.

"If UM loses Greek Life, it loses an alternative for students," McFarland said. "It loses an opportunity, especially for women-defined communities where they can more easily gain leadership roles and gain the confidence and skills they need to enter what is admittedly a male-dominated world and space."

Smith was particularly fond of the philanthropic and community service opportunities Greek life presents.

There was speculation floating around — even among the sorority members themselves — that losing a certain number of Greek life chapters at UM would mean the campus could lose some sort of accreditation or status as a Greek life school, but Zinke, the Fraternity and Sorority Involvement Director, stated that's not true.

Even without the looming doom of Greek life hovering over the heads of its members, the declining membership and loss of the oldest sorority house still points to problems within the system that need to be addressed — including decreasing interest in Greek life, and the broader issues of equity and inclusion.

Now in her third year at UM, without the sorority that meant so much to her from the start, McFarland is focusing on classes and marching band. She keeps in contact with some of her former sorority sisters and catches up with them when she sees them on campus.

"It's just reaching out and maintaining connections for me," she said. "[I'm] just doing it like every other college student instead of living in a house with 20 people to call my sisters."



University of Montana junior and Director of Primary Recruitment for Delta Gamma Taylor Campbell, right, greets junior Carly Bacher, center, during a rush practice drill at the Oval on Sept. 13, as Delta Gamma sorority members prepare for the evening's official Greek life rush session. Campbell said she's excited to meet and receive new Delta Gamma members after membership numbers dropped last year due to the pandemic.

Montana Shakespeare in the Park pays UM a dramatic visit

HALEY YARBOROUGH

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The Bard of Ovan hath returned not to the park but UM's Oval for Montana Shakespeare in the Park's last two plays of its 49th season. Crowds gathered on campus with lawn chairs, blankets and full glasses of wine to watch Shakespearan tragedy, romance and a man wearing a makeshift donkey mask ponder what it is to be "an ass."

MSIP performed "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on Tuesday, Sept. 8 and "Cymbeline" on Wednesday, Sep. 9. For those who didn't take high school literature classes, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is a comedy about love, imagination, patriarchy and magical fairies. "Cymbeline" is a little less cut and dry, but it's traditionally classified as a tragedy about forgiveness.

Kevin Asselin, MSIP's executive artistic director, said the plays were chosen for the program because of their differences in popularity and theme.

"Plays like 'Hamlet' or 'Romeo and Juliet' or 'A Midsummer's Night's Dream' certainly have much more popular titles," Asselin said. "So to pair it with a play that's lesser-known is a good way to introduce our audiences to more of Shakespeare's work."

Shakespeare's analogy of love never running "smooth" could still be the ongoing theme through both plays. There are plenty of betrayals, gender swaps, facades and suicidal lovers to remind you that "Cymbeline" is just as Shakespearan as "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

But crowds didn't gather for the drama or comedy alone. After a full year of hiatus due to COVID-19, both the actors and audience were eager to return to their summer tradition of Shakespeare in the park.

"I've been coming to Shakespeare in the Park since I was nine years old," said Abigail Carey, an audience member. "It's nice to see them again, especially after a year off."

Pre-pandemic, MSIP spent every summer travelling to perform at over 65 rural communities for free across Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming,

Idaho and Washington. This year MSIP continued the tradition, packing up its stage in a 24-foot trailer to hit the road from mid-June to early September. With a total cast of eight, MSIP actors hold multiple jobs on top of playing multiple roles — including deconstructing and reconstructing a stage.

Riley O'Toole, an actor on his seventh tour and fourth summer with MSIP, said the transition is particularly difficult at the start, but that the cast adapts quickly to moving constantly.

"We all joke that we're construction workers," said O'Toole. "At the beginning, it takes about three hours to set up the stage. By the end of the season we can do it in one and a half."

Despite the strain, O'Toole said the work is rewarding because it brings Shakespeare to rural communities across Montana and other neighboring states. He also said small crowds enable actors to form more intimate connections with the audience members. They wouldn't get the same experience in an urban theatre.

MSIP also reaches out to Montana communities through its Shakespeare in the Schools Program. Now working with over 50 high schools across three states, Asselin said the curriculum is geared toward issues related to gender studies, cross-curricular fashion and women's equality, rather than just stage acting. Asselin said that the plays MSIP chooses to reach also dictate the topic of study.

"The issue of women's rights and a more powerful feminist approach is quite apparent in the plays," Asselin said. "And so the curriculum is really being drafted around those topics. We're always trying to draw a parallel."

Now at the end of their Summer 2021 tour, MSIP actors said they're relieved the season is over, but that they'll miss performing. Rachel Cendrick, an MSIP actor on her first season, said she will particularly miss playing the comic relief, Cadwal, in "Cymbeline."

"It's the most exhausting and most rewarding thing I've done," Cendrick said. "I love it."



Actors Erik Pearson, left, and Chelsea David from Shakespeare in the Parks perform day one of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Oval in front of University of Montana students and the Missoula community. LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN



Actors Chelsea David, left, and Riley O'Toole, share a laugh on stage as they perform at Montana Shakespeare in the Park's 49th season featuring "A Midsummer Night's Dream" held at the Oval on Sept. 7. Admission to the play was free. LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN

Confronting my hometown legend

JOSH MOYAR

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Growing up on the Chicago Southside had its ups and downs. The pizza was pretty good, but the Mary Jane was too expensive. I never ran out of things to do, but I had to live in constant fear of being gutted by a man from the mirror. That's just life in the city.

Where I come from, across town from where both the original "Candyman" and the remake take place, the Candyman is real. He isn't like Michael Myers or Freddy Krueger, the horror villains invented to keep you awake at night. He is an active, working force in the universe, and if I wasn't careful I'd become one of his victims.

I didn't see Bernard Rose's 1992 film until fairly recently. I don't think I even knew the movie existed until high school. In Chicago, the Candyman doesn't need a film to tell his story. That's what recess is for.

"My sister and her friends summoned Candyman," a friend told me once. This was a pivotal moment for me.

According to him, the girls all gathered in the bathroom, lit a candle and said "Candyman" three times into a mirror, all while spinning in a circle. After a moment, his face appeared in the mirror. They screamed so loud they woke the whole house.

Brushing my teeth that morning would be the last time I looked in the mirror for maybe two months.

Over the years, the stories piled up. It seemed everyone had their own brush with the Candyman. I remember a kid telling me that the Candyman killed his mom's brother when they were just kids. I never found out if that was true, but I sure as hell believed it then. Others saw him skulking through the alleys when they'd go downtown with their parents. He was always there.

The 1992 film nails this concept. Powerful performances from Virginia Madsen and Tony Todd, combined with perhaps the most haunting horror score to date, bring the Candyman to life. One of the film's great strengths is that every time someone recounts the story of the Candyman, there are always little differences. It shot me right back to my childhood. It doesn't matter if you had to say his name three times

or five, or if he appeared in an abandoned parking garage or your own bathroom. What was important was that he was out there, and we believed.

Nia DaCosta's 2021 take on the Chi-Town Boogeyman was much less ambiguous, and to a fault. Whereas the original makes the main character Helen, along with the audience, wonder if the Candyman is real or if she's literally going insane, the updated version features a very real Candyman, who kills anyone who calls him without much of an agenda. His origins are established and not subject to debate. There is no mystery. Without giving the Candyman the ability to change over time, the idea of a living urban legend is lost.

Of course, I can't discuss "Candyman" without commenting on its use of racially-charged themes, specifically gentrification. While the 1992 take played its cards much more closely to its chest, the remake moves the calculated destruction of Chicago's Cabrini-Green to the forefront of the film. The word "gentrification" is explicitly stated more times than I was able to count. Whether or not the change works is up to the viewer, but I personally believe in the power of subtlety.

Regardless, "Candyman" was a triumph in at least one sense. Nia DaCosta has become the first Black woman in history to direct a film that tops the box office. Her victory is well deserved. Despite a script that probably could've used a few more drafts, "Candyman" has proven DaCosta a competent director and was an incredible introduction for her into the mainstream film industry.

While the ending of the film is overzealous, the end credits sequence will undoubtedly go down in horror history. The use of shadow puppets is ingenious and had me leaving the theater utterly shaken up, which wouldn't have happened if they left us with the film's actual ending.

Despite being a relatively disappointing reboot of an all-time classic, "Candyman" succeeded in reminding me of my roots. I may not have felt it in the theater seats, but as the wind begins to pick up a chill and the leaves begin to fall, I can feel him calling to me. Telling me it's time to come home.



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Meet the former UM dancer headed to reality TV

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Former University of Montana dancer Amber Laiche is one of 52 competitors on a reality TV show that draws an audience of thousands every year, CMT's "Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders: Making the Team."

"It's by far the most difficult thing I've gone through, but it's also the most rewarding," Laiche said. "The hardest thing is the cameras. It's one thing to audition for a dance team, but it's another when you're being filmed the whole time."

Each week she and the other rookie competitors will compete in front of a reality TV audience and challenge themselves to earn their place as one of the NFL team's official cheerleaders for the ongoing season.

CMT's "Making The Team" reality show follows the rookie class of the Dallas training camp each year and highlights the drama and challenges each dancer to achieve the dream of being a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader. The 2020 season featured the dancers in "bubbles" to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but this year the dancers will return to their normal realm in and around Dallas, Texas.

Laiche graduated from UM's dance program last year and moved to Dallas to audition for her place in football's most famous kickline. Her experience on a college game-day squad and a well-rounded education in dance technique makes her one of the season's most promising contestants.

She credits her time in Missoula for giving her the ability and connections she needed to be where she is today.

"I would literally not be laying in bed in my apartment in Dallas, Texas if I had not made that decision," Laiche said.

When Laiche was a child in New Orleans, she loved to watch the dancers on TV. Her parents advanced her interest, taking her to competitions and fostering her budding talent.

Laiche has been dancing since she was 2 years old and joined her first competitive team when she was 4. The older she grew, the more she focused on dancing. When she was 8, her parents enrolled her in a gymnastics class to try something different. But she would come home after practice to dance on her own in the family living room.

Laiche moved from Louisiana to Sandpoint, Idaho, in eighth grade. It was this move that made her realize that dancing is what she wanted to do.



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"Dance gave me a sense of confidence," Laiche said.

Laiche now has her own dance camp in Sandpoint that hosts young dancers trying to make it big like her.

"Anything that was on TV growing up, I didn't think was attainable," she said.

"We see people on TV and our instinct is to think that is something that isn't for the everyday person."

When she graduated from high school she knew she wanted to continue dancing, but while the Northwest had lots of schools with cheerleading squads, it didn't offer many dance education programs.

The University of Montana had both. It was UM's unique inclusion of a game-day cheerleading team as well as a respected dance theatre program that attracted her to Missoula. Throughout her time at UM, she realized she had the potential to become a professional in the industry.

Her favorite memory from her time dancing at UM came when the team traveled to Bozeman to dance at the Brawl of the Wild basketball game between Montana and

Montana State.

"Every time I watch that video I cry," Laiche said. "Our entire team was so close, we were best friends. Every time I watch that performance it just flashes me back into my life at that point."

Former UM dance team coach and former Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader Megan Carcioppolo saw a lot of promise in her and encouraged her to try out for the show.

"In that one year that I had with her, she told me: you can do this. Ever since then it's been the goal," Laiche said.

Brooklyn Draper, an associate professor of dance, was Laiche's instructor in technique at UM. She greatly admires Laiche's ability to adapt to dance techniques across the entire spectrum of styles.

"What Amber has done, in a really amazing way, is shown that you can do both," Draper said.

"Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders: Making the Team" season 16 premieres on CMT on Sept. 17 and Laiche is excited to watch the first episode. So far she's only been allowed to see the demo reel.



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Release the Maggots: Scenes from the scrum

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Things promised to get chaotic during Maggotfest 2021, one of the largest annual club rugby tournaments in the country, held on Sept. 3-6. They certainly did.

"The fights don't usually start until midnight," said a bartender in Monk's Bar, located in downtown Missoula.

As Monk's filled up for the "Famous Friday Night Drink-Up," rumors of the unruly, ungovernable nature of the three-day event reached far. There would be unspeakable scenes of excess. Some people would get naked, the Monk's bartender added.

Maggotfest has been hosted every spring in Missoula since 1977 (barring 2020) by the city's club team, the Missoula Maggots.

Among those present, the biggest name was Martin Iosefo, a 30-year-old University of Montana graduate who played rugby in the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Long before Iosefo's arrival, a huddle of burly men in yellow t-shirts stood off to the side of Monk's checking in teams, seemingly in charge of the whole affair. These were the Maggots.

Andy Fundak — the Maggotfest chair and organizer, and a Maggots player — sat at a high-top, already into the booze. He was stocky and looked like a mountain man with his close cropped beard and coonskin cap.

"Busy working on this beer. And look at all this shit I need to take care of," he said, slapping a pile of paperwork.

Besides the Maggots, 27 other teams needed to be organized and registered. The place was going to get hectic soon, Fundak assured, and it was best to gather as much information as necessary before it became impossible to talk with anyone.

Many members of both the men's and women's teams had shown up in costume, and began to look increasingly disheveled as the night wore on. Deafening bass pumped from the DJ booth, an orgy of pulsing lights swept over the crowd.

A man wearing a full-body horse suit and BDSM harness wobbled through the pit. Women painted gold from head-to-toe twirled hula hoops around, and a man in a cartoonish astronaut helmet paraded among the tangle of bodies.

The "double-decker party," as Fundak



The Missoula Maggots rush the ball down the pitch as the Bend Gaggles Rugby Club perform a dump tackle on the Maggots' rusher during a rugby game at Fort Missoula at the annual Maggotfest on Sept. 5. The Maggots came out strong with a 49-26 victory over Bend. **OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN**

called it, raged in the basement, as well as in Bodega, the partner bar above on street level. During a brief moment of escape, the cartoon astronaut came out to the sidewalk.

He introduced himself only as Kyle, but said to refer to him as "Spaceman." His team, called the Gaggles, came from Bend, Oregon, to participate. He'd been coming to Maggotfest every year for half a decade.

It was all about "pure love," he said. "I wasn't in to sports growing up... but there's a community you find in rugby. Here's a group that doesn't give a shit about who you are. We share this sport."

Glen Marciello, a Maggots coach and player, articulated this mindset.

"Rugby is a game of three halves," he said. "The first two halves are the game. The third half is sitting down and having a beer with the other team."

The bottomless beer ran out after midnight, and the games started at 10 a.m. on Sept. 4 at Fort Missoula.

Four matches were played at a time, both

men's and women's games. People wandered in and out of the pavilion where the beer station was set up.

Fundak was always present, and his single concern for those in attendance wasn't about the games, but rather if people were having fun. More than once, he sprayed people with "Windex," a potent mix of tequila, vodka and blue raspberry, which was "just for color, not for flavor."

Once during a game, an ambulance sped onto the fields as the crowd murmured, "Look, there's the meatwagon."

Nobody really seemed to care who won the matches. After a Maggots game, when a referee was asked about the score, he admitted that he wasn't paying attention, and likely neither of the teams were either.

The Olympian, Iosefo, was cornered later that day. "Is rugby here any different than the Olympics?" he was asked.

"Nope," Iosefo answered immediately. "It's exactly the same. Especially with our team, the U.S. We have people from every different

background. We're the most diverse team, but we mesh really well because everyone is from the same upbringing. They grew up the same way, playing this game, being a part of this culture."

After playing for the Maggots, Iosefo has played professional rugby and competed in several world rugby championships for the USA's national rugby sevens team. Team USA placed sixth with Iosefo in the Tokyo Olympics.

"You have the whole country represented in these players, and you have to work piece by piece so we can play well on the field," he said. "That's how I see Missoula, and [the Maggots]. We accept everyone, and it's a matter of working it out, and working together."

The Saturday after party was hosted in the llama barn at the Missoula County Fairgrounds. It was a gathering that would dwarf the kick-off night in Monk's.

"If you're there, come find me," Iosefo said. "I'll buy you a shot or something."

UM ceremony commemorates 20 years since Sept. 11 attacks

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More than 30 people gathered at the Fallen Soldier Memorial at the University of Montana Saturday to recognize the 20-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks with a brief speech delivered by UM President Seth Bodnar.

"That day we saw tragedy, we felt heartache, we saw incredible loss and we saw incredible acts of heroism at the same time," Bodnar said in his speech after the presentation of colors by the UM Army ROTC Color Guard.

A solemn crowd gathered around the 43 plaques dedicated to Montanans who lost their lives in service in Iraq and Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks, with many people wearing Griz gear in preparation for the afternoon's first home game of the season. Multiple families attended the event, including children born years after the attacks occurred.

Bodnar highlighted his military experience in his speech. He graduated from West Point Military Academy in 2001, just two months before 9/11. He then served in the Army's 101st Airborne Division as a platoon leader in Iraq, and later as a special forces officer.

"The military gave me many opportunities, and I felt very fortunate for the experience I got," Bodnar said. "So when I see 9/11, I appreciate the heroic acts done that day and the



University of Montana Army ROTC Color Guard cadet Logan Tullock marches next to the Fallen Soldiers Memorial during a 9/11 remembrance ceremony marking 20 years since the attacks on the United States. **ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

decades after, many of which I saw firsthand."

Bodnar also addressed personal connections with some of the soldiers commemorated on the memorial's plaques. Andrew Pearson, a graduate from Billings Senior High School, studied at West Point during the same time as Bodnar. Pearson was killed by an explosive device while driving in Iraq in 2008.

"Andrew was standing within 50 yards of me in that football field at West Point in 2001. We graduated together and we were in the same company at West Point," Bodnar said.

The ceremony concluded with an invitation to the public to lay roses next to each of the memorial's plaques, as well as the performance of "Taps" by UM student Cooper Jurasin.

"My grandfather was in the Air Force," Jurasin said. "He always instilled in me since I picked up the trumpet that if I ever had the chance to play 'Taps,' I should take it and play it with the same gravity every time I pick up my trumpet."

According to the Costs of War Project, a team of researchers at Brown University that studies post-9/11 deaths, 2,996 people died on Sept. 11, 2001. An estimated 929,000 people lost their lives, including more than 387,000 civilians in the various military conflicts in the decades after. Thirty-eight million people became war refugees or displaced persons.

"I try to emphasize the importance of the memory of those we lost and serve as a reminder of their bravery and their service. I just always try to help our community remember," Bodnar said.



UM Army ROTC cadet Hannah Schuler stands with her rifle as her and other cadets run through a few practice marches before Saturday's ceremony. **ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Cadets with the University of Montana Army ROTC Color Guard Hannah Schuler, far left, Nathen Cutler, Cale Reinfurt and Logan Tullock stand in front of the Fallen Soldiers Memorial as UM President Seth Bodnar gives a speech to the UM and Missoula community. **ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Quinn Beckwith, daughter of Lauren and Patrick Beckwith, the executive officer of the University of Montana Army ROTC, walks up and grabs a rose to place along the Fallen Soldiers Memorial, as Seth Bodnar and his family wait to take their roses. **ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**