MONTANA KAIMIN

Painting a Grim Picture

How the pandemic topped off UM’s decade-long enrollment crisis

STORY BY MAZANA BOERBOOM

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Usually, it feels like adding an administrative head to a college campus is a waste of time. They make people do more work, sometimes leave others confused and mostly cost money. But of course, this is the COVID-19 era, where classmate and professors get sick. UM’s fight against the ‘rona isn’t happening, and a trip to the Health Center could end with 10 days alone in a room with a globally spread respiratory illness. When shit hits the fan, and you are still trying to figure out why the door was locked in your time line for the past year coordinating the University’s response to the pandemic. Its members, from across departments and specialties, meet every week to look at the hard facts of the pandemic. Under the leadership, they planned out quarantine spaces, released our campus COVID-19 numbers at the beginning of last semester and handled the little questions in between. To say that our school did not look out for us is not true. UM’s COVID-19 task force will reach its first birthday this month, after spending the past year coordinating the University’s response to the pandemic. Its members, from across departments and specialties, meet every week to look at the hard facts of the pandemic. Under the leadership, they planned out quarantine spaces, released our campus COVID-19 numbers at the beginning of last semester and handled the little questions in between. To say that our school did not look out for us is not true.

So, we want to take a second to thank our campus COVID-19 task force members. Because, yeah, it’s hard to not have a normal college experience. Yeah, we’re not in a real COVID-19 campus in the near future, but the process is the closest, for the most part. If we can’t attend class in person, we’ve got coordinated virtual options, too. There’s talk of in-person commencement this year. All of these things are not small feats in a time like this.

The coordination it takes to do all of this, to adjust entire course schedules and classrooms to follow public health guidelines, to cancel campus-wide extracurriculars, to help roll out our COVID response and resources, and to keep us all informed about the process? None of that is just important, but incredibly vital to surviving an unprecedented campus emergency. It’s far from just a small concert to motivate regular updates from a centralized task force like this one.

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-Erin Sargent, Editor-In-Chief

Kiosk

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

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FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Kiosk

Thank you COVID-19 task force

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The bandits were cited for theft and referred for research and creative scholarship, said to bodes well for continued research growth at Montana: $55 million to $104.7 million. "Amidst pressure for growth of research spending by the National Science Foundation, Johnson & Johnson will be shipping vaccines to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in the U.S. Johnson & Johnson vaccine approved by the FDA for emergency use against COVID-19.

The vaccine was made up of 'adenovirus vector' technology, which includes a harmless adenovirus that is engineered to carry the COVID-19 genetic information. This vaccine is said to be highly effective in preventing COVID-19, with 72% efficacy against the virus.

As of Monday, Missoula County is still in the first live of Phase 1C COVID-19 vaccinations, so no timeframe could be given to start vaccine drive-up. As of Friday, 219,576 doses have been administered in Missoula County, 85% of the county's population has been vaccinated, and 34% had their second dose.

House Bill 427 passed the House of Representatives on Wednesday, 219,576 doses, almost 30,000 total doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, which fully immunize recipients. As of Monday, Missoula County: 255,000 doses, almost 30,000 total doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.
Free-speech legislation raises discrimination concerns

The new Free-speech legislation in Montana raises concerns among students and faculty. The legislation allows for guns on campus beginning in June, which may lead to potential harassment and anti-discrimination cases so severe that to educational speech or expression. The only exception being cases in which it is reasonable to exclude a person based on their speech or expression.

Maggie Bornstein, the Associated Students of the University of Montana's political action director, said ASUM is worried that the new law will give people permission to start hate groups. Jabr, the student groups' first director of inclusive excellence, added that the bill is part of another movement throughout the legislative season to enforce student rights on a surface level, Jabr is concerned that it will give people permission to start hate groups. Jabr said a lot of discrimination they’ve seen on campus involves student loans.

Johnstone said the law professor, added that HB 349 has the line of authority between the University of Montana’s student government and the state legislature. This line of authority is something that Jabr said she hopes to see more of.

While Lambda understands the importance of diversity work, Jabr emphasized the importance of hearing other students’ experiences to better help her empathize with the needs of students who have as BIPOC. Jabr added that, in theory, the bill would allow students to exclude members based on their beliefs. Jabr said the bill would allow students to exclude members that stems from the ‘same breadth of support in the student body.’

First director of inclusive excellence advocates tests are back at Curry Health Center

Since Feb. 17, Curry Health Center has been eliminating discriminatory tests for asymptomatic patients, according to Curry director of medical services Salena Hill.

"Our Office and Curry Health Center are required to remove these services so severe that to educational speech or expression. The only exception being cases in which it is reasonable to exclude a person based on their speech or expression.

"I want to tell each person when, sometimes, they’re happy to bechunked in and I’ve never not seen them making a microaggression or if it’s not something that feels real, they can say it and we’ll sit with that, Hill said.

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Johnstone, the law professor, added that HB 349 has the line of authority between the University of Montana’s student government and the state legislature. But he said HB 349 may raise larger concerns for the University of Montana’s student government. Jabr said that she hopes to see more of this kind of legislation in the future.

Hill compared the new bill to the HB 314 bill, which gives universities the ability to remove someone from a student group for harassment that stems from the same breadth of support in the student body. Jabr said that, in a worst-case situation, there could be more reports of discrimination on campus.

"If hate groups are given the permission to start and harass students, there could be more reports of discrimination," Bornstein said. Jabr said that, in a worst-case situation, there could be more reports of discrimination on campus.
When beloved history professor Robert Garrow died in December, students and faculty alike grazed not only the loss of a remarkable friend and teacher, but also the loss of a Russian history class he taught. “I was a student, and I always looked forward to that class,” said Hagan, who really wanted to take his Soviet-era history class. “Now, Hagan won’t get the chance; not only because of Garrow, but because his position isn’t being filled. Hagan had friends and students who had originally enrolled in the class. “I think that the biggest change is always the morale — that people lose their jobs, and positions don’t get filled — and people's spirits deflate because of a sense that we weren’t successful,” DeBoer said. “And yet, the mix of the students that we’re working with, the productions that we’re putting on, the art that we’re making, those feel better than ever.” - John DeBoer
Since 2017, UM has lost 13% of its faculty and staff

"The enrollment decline affects everybody, right? I mean, it's affected faculty, it affected staff. And it certainly affects our ability to deliver the kind of academic program that we would prefer to deliver." - Reed Humphrey

"This means more students who come here, they persist and they succeed to a much higher rate, or the number of students who come here, they persist and they succeed to a much higher rate." - Bodnar

"I wanted to make a difference, and I felt that the University of Montana was the best use of my skill set," Kreta said. "Because you have an incredible University that serves the best and brightest students at the University."
Repetition is the father of, boriyness

ALEX MILLER

Perhaps the most accurate way to describe King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard’s output since 2010 is that it has released 12 full-length albums, or singles, or what have you, that are all more or less the same. Whether you’re a fan of the band or not, it’s impossible to ignore, as well as ignore its massive influence in the music world. I’ve seen enough King Gizzard albums to know that I’ve heard it all. But, I’ve come to terms with the fact that I can’t help but love the band. I’m a fan of their music, and I’m a fan of their output. I’m a fan of their repetition. I’m a fan of their boriyness.

“Behind Her Eyes” is a series that leaves your head spinning

NATE WALLNER

Netflix’s latest limited series “Behind Her Eyes” — filled with eerie shadows, strange doors and would you believe it, creepy seagulls — is a worthy binge. It’s a dark, creepy, hypnotizing effect — as in mid-70s krautrock, a sitar edge sound cool back in the ‘60s. It’s slick and fun, and should be there for you to see.

Despite Louise’s affair, she gradually grows into a more compelling character. Her eyes, shut tight, are a hypnotizing effect — as in mid-70s krautrock, a sitar edge sound cool back in the ‘60s. It’s slick and fun, and should be there for you to see.

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Pre-pandemic, nearly 40 poets across UM campuses and Involvement Network showcased their most inner thoughts or favorite poems. This time, with so many other Poems and Prose and Poems events since the pandemic started. Despite this, the group is adamant about showcasing literature in person and students and people of the Missoula community.

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“Behind Her Eyes” is a series that leaves your head spinning. It’s not the problem.

The opener, “If Not Now, Then When,” is the sister album to 2020’s “K.G.” (get it, “K-G-G”?) — but quantity is not always quality.

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The second track, “Immortal,” features a sitar edge sound cool back in the ‘60s. It’s slick and fun, and should be there for you to see.

The Australian outfit’s latest offering, “L.W.,” is the sister album to 2020’s “K.G.” — and weird. “L.W.” fails to do that, but King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard aren’t about to lose their groove.

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Cross country and crossovers: The UM sports recap

Sports | Championship s2n

**Cross country and crossovers: The UM sports recap**

JACK MARSHALL
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**Meet the teacher and UM student who keep score for Grizzly volleyball**

Jon Fines, a kindergarten teacher and assistant scorekeeper for the University of Montana volleyball team, found himself in a unique position on Nov. 19, the day before the Griz were to go in a sticky situation when his regular partner was unable to keep score.

“Me and Jon are a very good team,” said Fines, a high school and college volleyball player. “If Jon's partner, Beatrix Frissell, a UM sophomore, had been available, I would have been able to score at the University of Portland on Feb. 18. As it was, we played without her.

Fines has been aUM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, UM, U
Lady Griz fall to conference leader Idaho State on senior night

GRIFFEN SMITH
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Saturday’s game against Big Sky Conference leader Idaho State saw Montana keep within a couple possessions from turning the game, but it could not overcome the Bengals’ offensive barrage, losing 72-56 in Dahlberg Arena.

“We can get better looks and things we can’t control,” head coach Mike Petrino said. “But I’m proud of our effort, their resiliency, to come back from a tough night.”

Montana’s second straight loss left the team at 9-7 in the Big Sky Conference, and 11-9 overall. Both losses were against ISU, with Montana dropping the first game 79-49.

Saturday’s game, on senior night, featured an opening tribute to the Lady Griz’s lone senior, Madi Schoening. Schoening played limited minutes, scoring one free throw late in the game.

In front of some family and friends, the Lady Griz capitalized on an 8-2 run, fueled by six points from Abby Anderson, which put the team up to a 12-7 lead.

Anderson thrived on points down low, and Montana battled ISU through a tight first half. A three by ISU’s Jordan Sweeney opened an 11-point rift that Montana could not close as the Bengals shot at an impressive 80% from the field in the second quarter.

“They are at the top of the league for a reason,” Petrino said. “They knocked off a Power Five opponent. They are efficient.”

Montana narrowed the gap to 33-44 at the half, with help from sophomore Carmen Gfeller. The power forward made her first eight buckets in the game and finished with a team-leading 19 points.

“Once I hit those first two, then I get in a rhythm kind of, and I can find my teammates and get them going too,” Gfeller said. “I think it just makes the game all that much better.”

The Lady Griz had one last chance in the third quarter, where they trailed by just six. But as UM inched within striking distance, ISU responded with a three from Montana Oltrogge. ISU ended the game shooting 49% overall.

Even Gfeller went cold later in the game. She said the Bengals were powerful opponents.

“They make us work on defense,” Gfeller said. “They wear us down and they’re really disciplined and they take really good shots in their high percentage shots.”

ISU took a 53-42 lead into the final quarter. The Bengals also made 11 threes in the game, hitting four in the fourth quarter alone. As time ticked off the clock, Montana subbed out senior Schoening, who received standing applause from the few dozen fans in the arena.

Montana’s regular season is down to just one game against the University of Idaho, at 7 p.m. Friday.

From there the Lady Griz will travel to Boise, Idaho, for the Big Sky Championship Tournament.