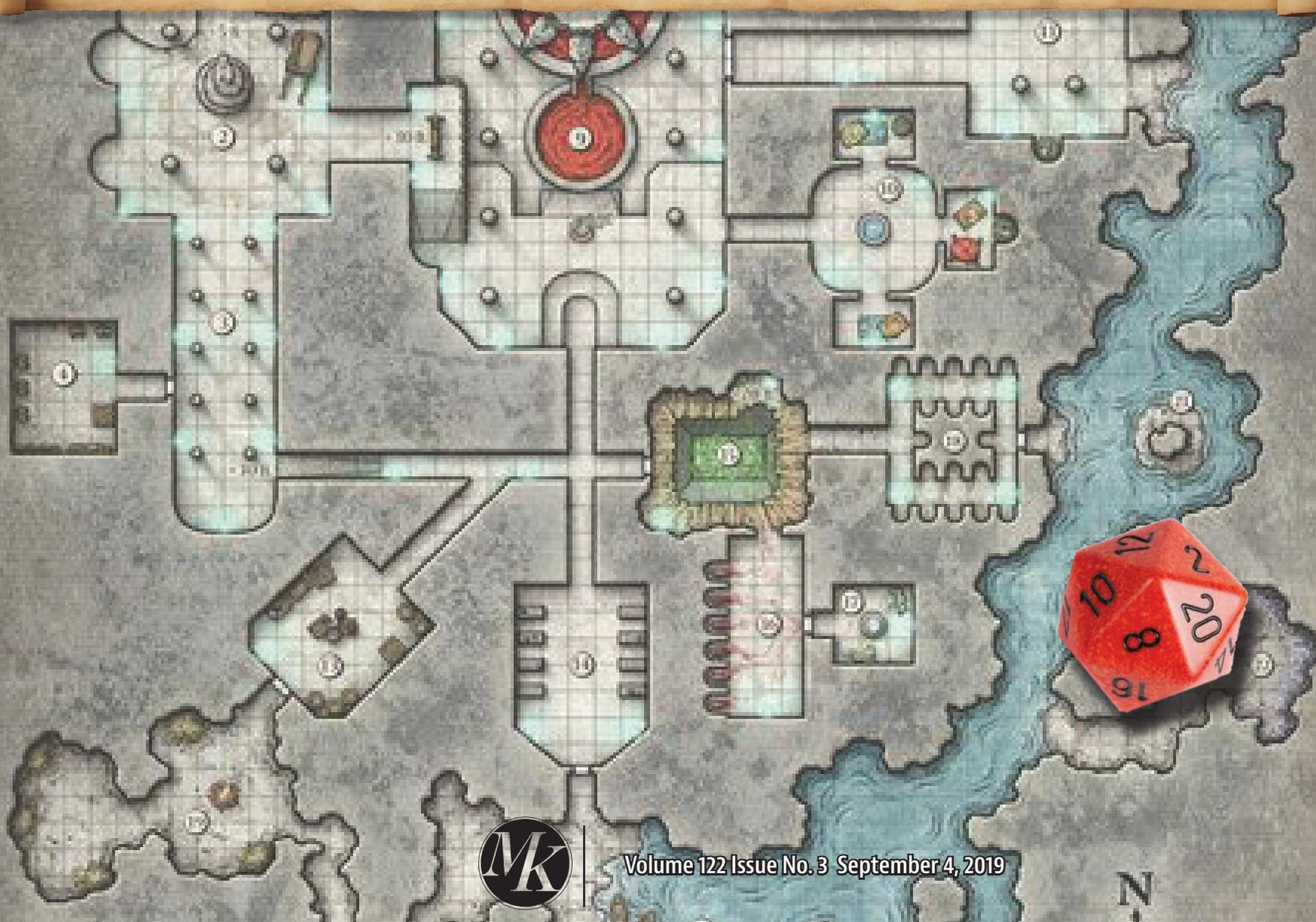


MONTANA KAIMIN

BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND

How students become warriors through Dungeons & Dragons



Volume 122 Issue No. 3 September 4, 2019



The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. It does not condone or encourage any illegal activities. 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, "Qeymin," that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means "book," "message," or "paper that brings news."

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HELP WANTED

Press Box in Missoula is hiring bartenders & servers! Part-time and full-time positions available, perfect for students' schedules! Apply in-person 835 East Broadway - just across the walking bridge from campus.



COOPER MALIN | MONTANA KAIMIN

GTFO, 'LIVE PD,' your cameras aren't welcome here

Every Friday and Saturday night you can catch some serious police action from agencies all around the country on A&E's "LIVE PD." And starting on Sept. 20 Missoula will be among those agencies. Essentially this means you can turn on your television and see all of the unsavory activities your local hooligans (and everyone else) are getting into. Although this can be entertaining to watch in the comfort of your own living room, there are many aspects of this program that are not fair to those being "featured" in the show.

"LIVE PD" is different from other cop shows because it is not only filmed and

broadcast live, but it also does not ask for consent from any person before filming their arrest and putting them on the air. You might think that this doesn't matter to you because you aren't robbing grocery stores, or cooking meth, so why would the Missoula County Sheriff's Office ever be looking for you?

Picture this: It's a slow night in Missoula for "LIVE PD," so the officers (and the camera men) take a cruise around campus, only find you and your stoner friend smoking a joint across the street from the Adams Center. Yeah, it's just weed, not a big deal. Any other night, the officer might let you off with

a warning. But not tonight. Tonight, they have to make it interesting. Because really what's good ol' cable TV without a little drama?

Maybe you're lucky and escape with only a fine, you have the money to pay it off (or your mom does), and now, criminal record aside, it's like nothing ever happened. That is until you go to English class on Monday. Everyone's eyes are on you as you take your seat in the back of the class. You think nothing of it until the kid next to you leans over and says "hey man, saw you on LIVE PD Friday night, that must've been scary as fuck." And now, you are known by most of Mis-

soula, including your parents, your teachers, your boss, as "That one dumb college kid that got put on LIVE PD".

As happy as we are that the Missoula County Sheriff's department has been given an opportunity to showcase its talents, they can, and should do so without the ego boost. The privacy of the individuals in our community is far more important.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?
Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

BIG UPS & BACKHANDS

Big ups 🌳 to campus trees. They're winning all sorts of accolades

Backhands to those hard classes you've dropped already

Big ups 🍺 to First Friday for filling our minds with fine arts and our bellies with free alcohol

Backhands to the procrastination that's already setting in

Big ups to you for dropping them. You know what you're about

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

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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:

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

UM RAKES IN \$63 MILLION FOR CAMPUS INVESTMENTS

In an effort to change the University of Montana's loan structure, a group of high-level UM administrators and two students traveled to New York to initiate a bond sale on Sept. 5. According to a University press release, the sale, led by Morgan Stanley, raked in around \$63 million for investments on campus. Bodnar listed revitalizing student housing, dining, recreational facilities and educational spaces as top priorities for the University. Among the individuals present at the sale were UM President Seth Bodnar, Vice President for Operations and Finance Paul Lasiter, Budget Director Stacey Eve as well as students Amy Braig and Sara Shooshtari. (HELENA DORE)

OUSTED UM ADMINISTRATOR ANNOUNCES NEW BOOK

Former UM Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs Tom Crady recently

announced the topic of his upcoming book on his Twitter bio. "My book details the loss of 33% of students at the University of Montana in a cascade of poor presidential and Board decision making," he wrote. Crady, along with former Vice President for Academic Affairs Beverly Edmond, was ousted from the University in March, 2018, after UM administrators elected not to renew their contracts. While Crady stated his book will



MISSOULA SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

A local non-profit, Project Tomorrow Montana, is hosting events for the Missoula City Council Suicide Prevention week, which is set to be recognized Sept. 9 to 15. Project Tomorrow

be released soon, he didn't specify a date. (HD)

Montana formed in 2014 to promote awareness and suicide prevention in Western Montana. Events started Sept. 5 and will end with the Out of the Darkness walk on Sept. 14 in Silver park. More information about the organization and events can be found at projecttomorrowmt.org. (SYDNEY AKRIDGE)

A VICTORY FOR THE GRIZ AND A LOSS FOR STUDENTS' WALLET

Over 24,000 fans were in attendance for the Griz victory on Saturday. The team ended the first half one point down from the North Alabama Lions, 16-17. The Griz dominated the Lions in the last half, scoring an additional 45 points and finishing the first home game of the season 61-17. Football guest passes for home games increased from \$10 to \$15 for the 2019 season. The team will play its next road game against the University of Oregon Sept. 14 at 7:45 MT. (SA)

Gadgets galore: UM is upgrading to new supercomputer

ADDIE SLANGER
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Walking into the University of Montana's Modular Data Center, an unassuming building tucked away on the northeasternmost edge of campus, is like entering the Death Star, or some equally impressive and confusing techy conglomerate. Fans whirl loudly and lights blink at random intervals. The walls are filled on all sides with removable panels, each representing a particular research project being conducted at the University.

When asked where the actual, physical UM Shared Computing Cluster (UMSCC) is, Zachary Rossmiller, who's directing this particular tour, smiled.

"You're inside of it," Rossmiller said. Rossmiller may be the bearer of the world's coolest title, "executive director of cyber infrastructure." He was crucial in the development of the data center, the only self-sustaining and environmentally friendly facility in the region.

He also wrote the grant application that won the University of Montana \$400,000 for a new supercomputer in February 2019.

The grant, which Rossmiller described as more difficult to complete than his master's degree, was written to expand the UMSCC, housed inside the Modular Data Center.

The data center itself played a large role in the grant, Rossmiller said. UM was the first university in the United States to use this kind of environmentally friendly data center, according to the Datacenter Dynamic Archive. The facility has been able to shut down six inefficient and redundant server rooms across campus. In the summer, the data center uses outside air to maintain its temperature, and in the winter, heat from the machinery is recycled back in.

While Rossmiller said the data center is nothing like artificial intelligence, it is self-correcting and environmentally sustainable, two qualities that made the supercomputer grant more attractive.

"We're always trying to figure out how to be as green as possible," Rossmiller said. "And that's important to lots of people."

The supercomputer itself, which will be funded by the National Science Foundation,



Zachary Rossmiller, the creator of the supercomputer grant, stands in a server room, Sept. 3, 2019. HUNTER WIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN

will aid deep learning and machine learning, Rossmiller said—things like DNA structuring and national disaster modeling. The machinery will act as a virtual server, allowing individual persons or research groups to work on their own projects but store them in a collective location.

For UM, this technology will be a huge update, Rossmiller said. Maybe not nationally, though.

"[Other schools with highly-advanced supercomputers] would laugh at me, I think," Rossmiller explained. "They'd say, 'That's cute. That's what we had 15 years ago.'"

Regardless, Rossmiller is excited at the possibilities this shared computing cluster will facilitate.

"I'm excited to see where this takes us in general," Rossmiller said. "I've always wanted IT to have a large presence in research. What we're going to accomplish with this is having a centralized server for researchers, students, whoever. It will be available for whoever needs to use it."

Scott Whittenburg, director of creative

scholarship at UM, said the supercomputer will help attract both external funding and faculty and research personnel. He also mentioned students and staff are already working on projects at the University.

"Projects [at UM] range from studies of the Greenland ice sheet to a repository for NASA satellite data," Whittenburg said. "[They all] require visualization, high-speed computing and large amounts of storage that this system will provide."

Whittenburg added that with the addition of the supercomputer to the cluster, it will become one of, if not the largest, computing clusters in the state.

According to Rossmiller, this will also open the doors to external collaboration with researchers and prospective faculty, which is something that UM could improve.

"I've been trying to drive home this point: We're trying to build something special here," Rossmiller said. "We're trying to create something. The grant is the first domino, the first stepping stone."

Jeffrey Good, associate professor of biolog-

ical sciences at UM, is studying evolutionary genomics. He was among four principal investigators helping Rossmiller with the grant.

Good works with data sets of genome sequences. A human set, for example, contains three billion base pairs. To do this, he needs to generate a lot of data.

"The things that have always been missing at the University of Montana are ways to generate that data, and a centralized data computing presence," Good said.

Good also emphasized how important it is for a university to be research-oriented. "Otherwise you have to develop [your research] on your own," he said. "And I'm a biologist, not a computer scientist."

Good said he was excited for the potential shift toward a more IT-focused campus, which he hopes will lead to more University support.

"We've been screaming about it for 10 years," Good said. "So hopefully people start to notice."

No exact date has been set, but Rossmiller said the supercomputer will arrive at UM in the upcoming few weeks.

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Bike ride brings awareness to climate change solution

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A group of almost 50 people biked 15 to 75 miles Saturday, Sept. 7, to raise awareness of climate change and raise spirits. In Free Cycles' Climate Ride. "It's not all doom and gloom," Climate Ride's office coordinator, Mackenzie Cole said.

Free Cycles and Climate Ride are two locally-based non-profits that have been around for more than 20 years. The organizations partnered last year to offer a tangible solutions the impact of climate change. In particular, they wanted to promote biking as a form of sustainable transportation.

According to a Yale study, 75% of Americans can agree that climate change is real, according to a Yale study. But, believing in it is different than doing something about it.

The participants biked three different routes: a 75 mile loop, a 20 mile loop and a 15 mile mountain-biking loop. Registration was free, but bikers were encouraged to donate or fundraise at least \$10. An eight-year old, Marissa Marie, went above and beyond fundraising over \$1,000. Marie's aunt, Lindsey Stormo, said that one day the

two of them went door-to-door for four hours asking businesses for money.

Marie joined the mountain biking crew sporting a neon green helmet, a climate ride jersey over a t-shirt, featuring a cat in sunglasses and an adventurous spirit. According to Stormo, Marie only learned to ride a bicycle a little over a month ago.

Emily Jensen, programs coordinator at Free Cycles, said that commuting by bike is a tangible way to work toward a better climate. Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Missoula, according to Climate Smart Missoula.

Every mile on a bike instead of in a car can save one pound of CO2 emissions. This number appears small, but Jensen said that in Missoula Valley alone, 2 million miles are traveled by gas-fueled vehicles every day. By 2045, Missoula's Long Range Transportation Plan hopes to triple the amount of people commuting by biking, biking or walking.

Climate Ride and Free Cycles aren't the only groups working toward this goal, according to Jon Sand, program assistant at Missoula in Motion. They're just two of many organizations in Missoula working toward climate solutions.



Marissa Marie, 8, poses after finishing a 15-mile bike trek for the Free Cycles Climate Ride, Sept. 7, 2019. Marissa raised over a \$1000 for the event. DONAL LAKATUA | MONTANA KAIMIN

On Sunday, Sept. 15, Higgins will be closed to cars from 5th Street to Alder Street, and open for bikers and walkers for Sunday Streets. There will be live music, a community-wide bike ride called Bikeapalooza and fitness activities on the bridge. Jensen said Free Cycles will be hosting a "festival of cycles" where people can come build bikes throughout the day.

Sunday Streets is just the beginning though,

Sand said it's the kick-off to a week long event called Walk and Roll, which challenges Missoula residents to pledge ditching driving for a week and get around by bike. People who pledge get special offers from local businesses.

For trips less than 3 miles, biking is often faster than driving. In Missoula and on campus, it's easy to get around on a bike, and it is much easier to find places to park a bike than a car, Sand said.

Narcoleptics, email misfortunes and pistol-packing party-goers

PAUL HAMBY
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AUG. 29: SOME THINGS NEVER CHAIN

A student returned to a bike rack at the Oval to discover a chain lock stood no chance against bolt cutters. According to University of Montana Police Lieutenant Brad Giffin, a snip of a chain and snatch of a bike can be done within seconds. Although the theft was reported, no suspects have been identified.

AUG. 29: FALSE ALARM

A Craig Hall RA scrambled UMPD officers after catching a quick whiff of marijuana. Officers were told to stand down, however, once the source of the scent couldn't be located. Diligence, RAs of UM. Diligence!

AUG. 30: ALL BARK, NO BREAD

A person on campus responded to an

email offering \$4,000 upfront for a dog-walking gig in exchange for personal information. After some suspicious banking activity, the would-be big-money dog walker went to UMPD. Giffin could offer little consolation beyond "don't do that."

AUG. 31: WRECKED CENTER

After spending a few hours with his friend, John Barleycorn, one UM student decided that the pavement in front of the recreation center was a good place to turn in for the night. UMPD roused the student, who appeared sober enough after a nap, and promised to go straight home. He then stumbled his way into the next blotter entry.

AUG. 31: ARMED ESCORT

Officers caught up with the serial crasher

once again, asleep outside Turner Hall. No longer trusting him to make it alone, they escorted him to his dorm.

SEPT. 1: RAGER IN RIMINI

A party proved itself too hardy, prompting a visit from UMPD to an apartment in Rimini Court. Officers explained to the host that it was 4 a.m. on a Sunday morning and suggested that they end the festivities. The host demanded a warrant and called the police "racists" and "skinheads." Police took the comments into consideration, then proceeded to clear out the residence.

SEPT. 1: "ONE'S ALL YOU NEED, IF YOU CAN USE IT"

A woman who did not feel comfortable with one of the guests at a Pardee Court party carried a firearm strapped to her hip. A verbal argument ensued, which ended with UMPD

coming to the apartment to mitigate. Though legally not in the wrong, because she kept her sidearm holstered throughout the entire ordeal, UMPD asked the woman to leave the property since she was neither a renter nor student.

SEPT. 4: BLUNT FORCE DRAMA

Two students in Craig Hall received conduct referrals after officers caught them enjoying a bit of Colorado Kale in the form of a blunt. UMPD seized the contraband, which will finish its burn in the evidence room's incinerator.

SEPT. 4: GREEN BADGE OF DANKAGE

One green-boxed dorm room in Miller Hall became the site of no less than five conduct referrals. Police had to keep their hands off the product, however, as one of the students had a medical marijuana card. Since it's considered medicine by law, campus policy can only dictate that it be smoked elsewhere. Ideally, off campus.



Fishnets, zen vets and brewfests

Wednesday 11

A LECTURE ON ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION MATERIALS

This lecture will look into how universities can provide accessible materials for their students with disabilities. George Kerscher, an honorary doctorate from UM and a pioneer in digital technology, will be the keynote speaker. The event takes place at the University Center Theater at 4:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Captioning and sign language interpretation will be available.

GET SOME GUTS!

Girls Using Their Strength is a community leadership and empowerment program for young women aged 9 to 18 hosting a group facilitator training. The session will educate those who are interested in confidence-building activities, building healthy relationships and contributing to the community. The two-day training will prepare participants to facilitate a weekly group for the fall semester alongside a co-facilitator. The event will take place at 4 p.m. at the YWCA. Contact Tess Sneeringer at (406)543-6691 with further questions.

Thursday 12

MEDITATION FOR VETERANS

For veterans, an opportunity to practice meditation may be beneficial to reduce stress. A guided meditation for veterans that focuses on mindfulness will take place at the Learning Center at Red Willow at 1 p.m. The event is free to veterans and no previous experience is necessary.

Friday 13

LIVE TABLE READING REVISITS "THE ROOM"

Greg Sestero is coming to The Roxy Theater and revisiting his role as Mark for a live table reading of "The Room." Sestero is the author of the best-selling memoir "The Disaster Artist: My Life Inside The Room, The Greatest Bad Movie Ever Made." The film adaptation recently earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Adapted Screenplay. He reteamed with "The Room" creator Tommy Wiseau on the currently screening "Best F(r)iends," which Sestero also wrote. Casting details to come.

The event is at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$9 for adults, \$8 for students/seniors/military and \$6 for youth.

Saturday 14

LETTER B BREWFEST.

Letter B and loads of beer will take over Caras Park for a brewfest from 3 to 8 p.m.

BREAKFAST FOR DINNER

Who doesn't like a dinnertime pancake? Burns St. Bistro is throwing a pancake breakfast for dinner to benefit the new Zootown Arts Community Center. The final Capital Campaign event will help fulfill the recently awarded \$200,000 matching grant from the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust. Tickets are \$10 and include pancakes, syrup, sausage links, fruit and coffee. Mimosas and red beer will also be available for purchase. Live music from Worst Feelings Family Band. There will also be a silent auction featuring gift cards to local breakfast and brunch restaurants.

Sunday 15

WOMEN-LED CARPENTRY WORKSHOP

Missoula Urban Development hosts its annual introduction carpentry workshop led by women. It will introduce common car-

entry tools and safety and can be taken as a standalone class or series. The following workshops are Sept. 21 and 22. Day one costs \$15 for members and \$30 for non-members, days two and three costs \$30 for members, \$60 for non-members and the complete series costs \$40 for members and \$80 for nonmembers. The workshop meets at the Missoula Urban Development Project from 12 to 3 p.m.

ROCKY AUDITIONS

Get your freak on at "Rocky Horror" Auditions! "The Rocky Horror Show LIVE" is returning for its eighth year at the Wilma. All singers, dancers and actors are invited. 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Westside Theater.

LGBTQ LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

LGBTQ leaders, activists and students are invited to be trainees, participating in workshops and discussions of how to run for office and enter public service as an openly LGBTQ individual and how to develop an effective personal narrative. They will spend the day networking with Montana LGBTQ elected officials, leaders and allies. Space is limited and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. The deadline for registration is Friday, Sept. 13. The day-long training is put on by Victory Institute and the Montana Human Rights Network. For more information, email domesticleadership@victoryinstitute.org.

Enter the Walk & Roll Week active and sustainable commute selfie contest!

1. Post a photo of your commute to your public Instagram page between September 15 and 21.
2. Tag it with #walkandrollmissoula and @umtransportation.
3. Win UMoney!



Sponsored by the ASUM Office of Transportation. Details at umt.edu/transportation

Start this school year with Beautiful Lips! Buy one syringe of Juvederm Lip Filler and get Botox 20 units at no additional charge (a \$240 value)!!

Trust your beautiful face to our kind, caring, experienced Nurses and Nurse Practitioners at RejuveCare Clinic & Medical Spa in Missoula and Kalispell. Let us enhance and improve your lovely lipsand then treat your forehead or frown lines for FREE!!

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Tips on trolling, debating or whatever

JORDYNN PAZ

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Who doesn't love a good 30-comment Facebook argument or an entertaining Twitter thread between two different political viewpoints? These days, you don't have to search very far to find a juicy debate about gun control, abortion or gold vs. blue dresses.

However, in a world where internet trolls have microphones and the belief in a flat Earth is considered a "valid opinion," meaningful discussions are hard to come by. Just take a look at the comments section of any political post expressing any kind of opinion whatsoever; You will find someone who fundamentally, at their very core, disagrees with the post, the poster themselves, the poster's religion and the poster's dog.

In these comments, you'll also see people choosing to engage in an almost violent exchange of ideas that typically devolves into name-calling and the inevitable: making fun of profile pictures.

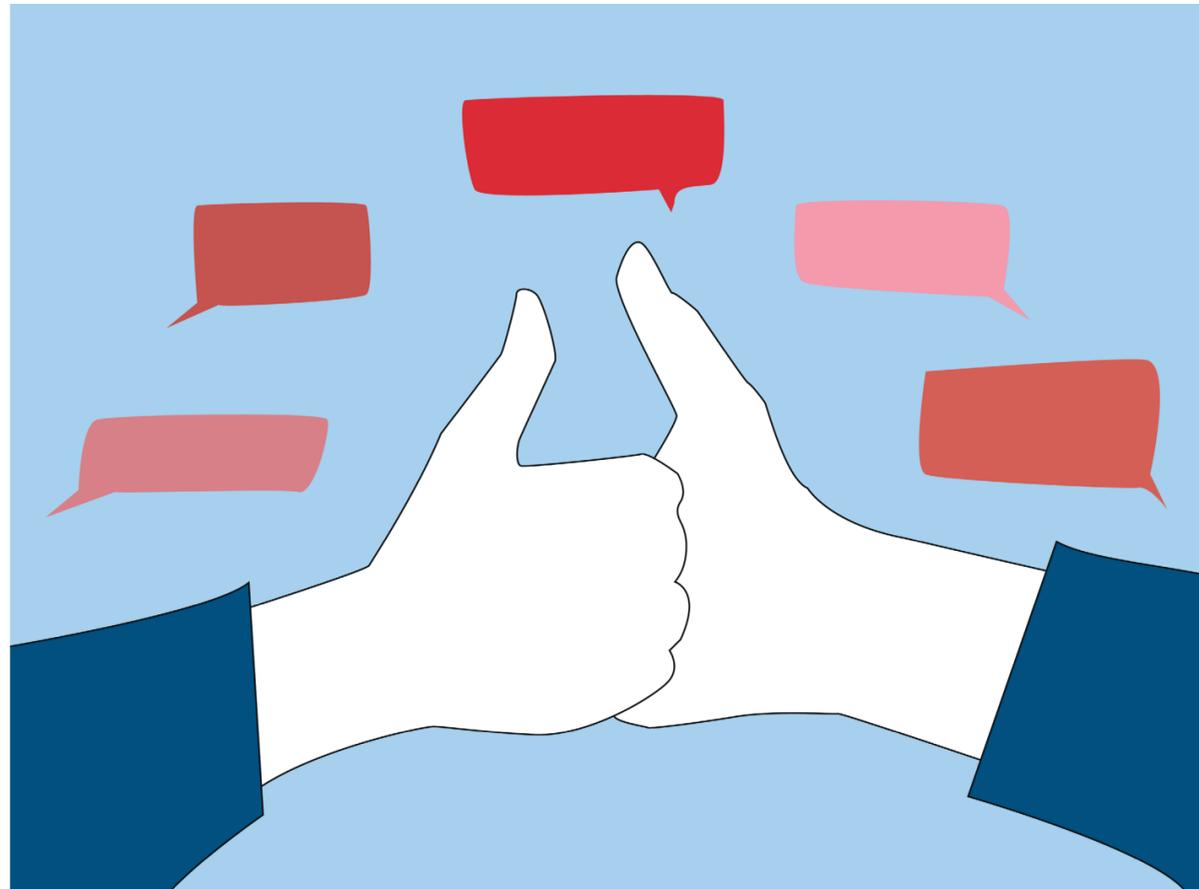
As someone who has participated in these online battles both as a troll and as someone who was genuinely trying to be heard, I've found that there are certain things that must be done in order to make the conversation a quality one.

DON'T GO INTO IT TRYING TO "WIN."

This is one of the major reasons our nation is so polarized when it comes to politics. We are constantly trying to "beat" the other side while simultaneously not "losing." This in turn takes away from the conversation at hand and gets us nowhere as we are simply trying to respond without actually listening.

DO YOUR RESEARCH.

If you're going to try and debate someone, please be prepared. I'm not saying you need to put all the articles you use in MLA format with 12-point Times New Roman font, but at least use reliable sources reporting quality information. If you quote



LILY JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

an outdated patriarchal ideology on a debate about women's rights, I'm writing you off because you're not bringing anything new to the table.

DON'T MAKE IT PERSONAL.

The best way to know a good discussion is no longer a discussion is when shit starts to get personal. At that point, the conversation becomes insulting someone's intelligence, physical appearance or their mom. It's no longer about the topic and sharing different viewpoints, and it ceases to be a productive use of one's time. In the wise words of Leslie Knope, "Stay on message."

KNOW WHEN TO WALK AWAY.

We are all committed to our beliefs, and changing those is near impossible. We need to take that expectation away from those we are challenging. They believe what they do for reasons only they will truly understand. If you arrive at a standstill where they're not budging and neither are you, cut your losses and walk away. You were probably never going to convince them, anyway.

If nothing else, send the screenshots to your friends and laugh your ass off.

At the end of the day, social media is (supposed to be) fun. If you just finished

an argument that felt like two hours talking to a wall, at least you can lean on your friends who agree that random person was (probably) an idiot and said some really dumb stuff.

I share these tips with you in hopes that you go forth into the realm of social media and use them as a means to have good dialogues about the state of our country, the Earth's flatness or whether that darn dress is actually blue or gold.

If that's not your goal, then I wish you well in your trolling.

Is Tinder getting in the way of IRL romance?

LILY SOPER

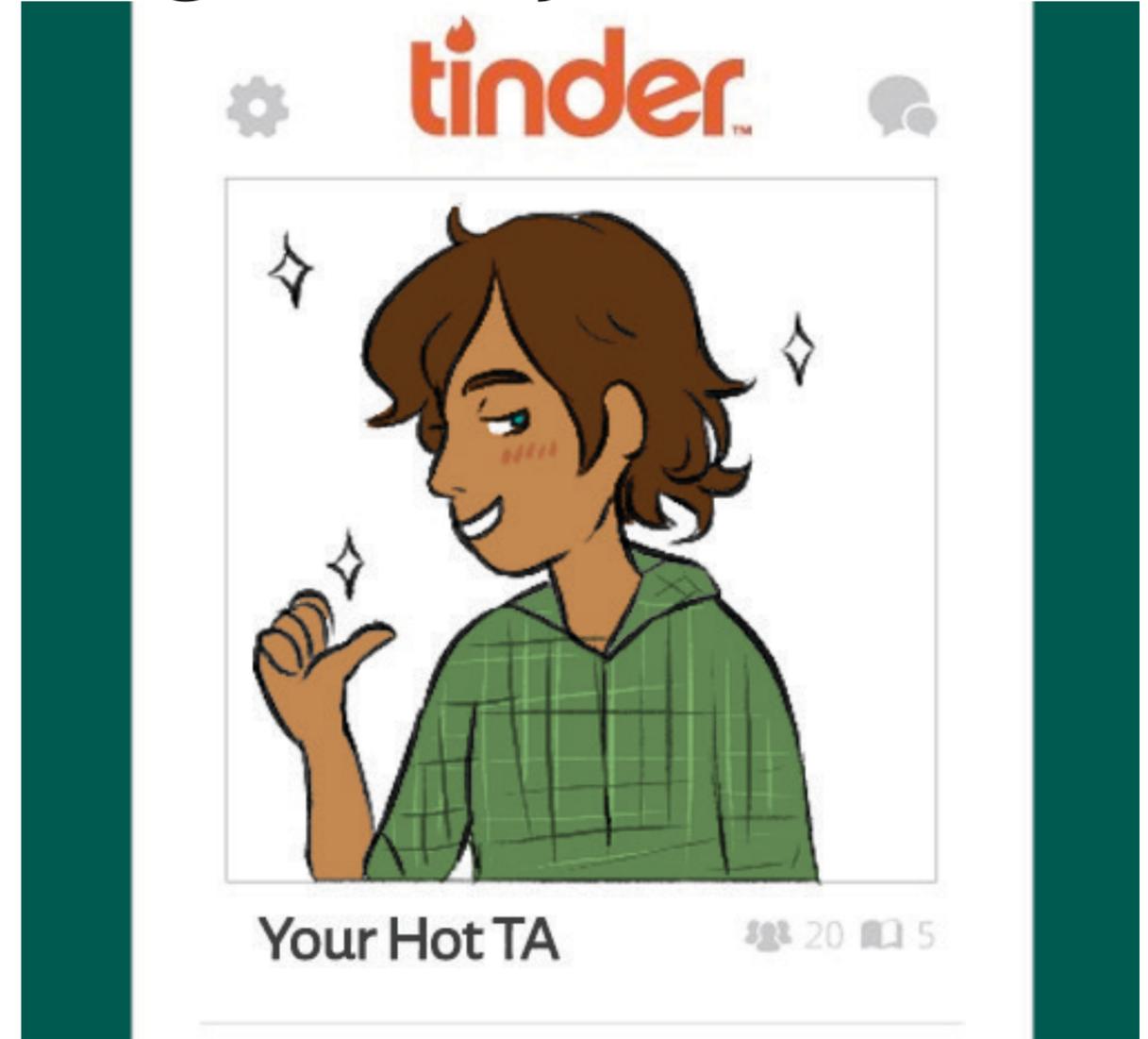
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Let's say you see a cute person on Tinder who's also in your writ 101 class. What do you do? If you swipe right, you're leaving yourself open to rejection. The sofcore kind where only you know about it, but rejection nonetheless. If you swipe left, you may never know where you two stand. Maybe you were soulmates. Maybe that person swiped right on you and think that they repulse you now. There's always the third option of talking to your crush face-to-face and arranging a coffee date, but what? Are we in the '90s or something?

Chances are you've seen your classmates, teaching assistants, and in the most cringe-worthy circumstances, professors, on a dating app. PSA to those professors: Are you seriously trying to bring your student who is fresh out of high school out on the town? Are you trying to introduce them to your colleagues? Get it together; Y'all need to set your age range to 30 and up, like, yesterday.

With professors, the protocol is simple: swipe left. Even if they're not your professor, even if you have some professor fantasy, even if they're relatively young, swipe left. Remember the catch-22 of hooking up with an authority figure: If they're willing to cross that line, they're sleazy and are thus no longer worthy. Missoula is also a small town and you never know what networking opportunities you can ruin. Shouldn't staying away from students be the responsibility of the professors? Absolutely. As a young woman, am I held accountable for grown men's actions? This is America, isn't it?

TAs are a little more nuanced. They're practically your age, and in some instances, super hot. I totally would've slept with my French TA if he wasn't somewhat responsible for my grade, and to be frank, just not into me. I would recommend waiting until the semester is over. Then they're just another grad student, not the liaison between you and your professor. Their profile will still be there.



LINDSEY SEWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

Fellow students are where things get messy. What does a Tinder match even mean? I know people who match with everyone they know and it means nothing to them, to which I say, "Why?" Who is using Tinder as another way of contacting your friends? Add them on Facebook messenger. Call me old-fashioned, but I think that

a match insinuates some level of mutual romantic and/or sexual interest. Obviously there is no obligation on either end to become involved, but you can't be that surprised if your match starts flirting in real life.

How you want to date in college, with or without Tinder's aid, is up to you.

There's no right or wrong answer. I don't engage with people I know on dating apps because, frankly, it gives me anxiety. Conversely, Tinder might be the most comfortable method of communication for you. As long as you stay safe and steer clear of your professors or bosses, you're doing just fine. Happy Tindering, ya little rascals.



THE SUN SET on Missoula, and the basement study lounge of Craig Hall became a thick jungle ruin — a prime hideout for bandits and monsters. Our dungeon master placed a Bluetooth speaker on the table and started a playlist of ambient atmospheric sounds that were more or less in-theme for our quest.

If you are a fan of the Netflix series “Stranger Things,” you’ve seen Mike, Will, Lucas and Dustin play and reference the game, naming the Demogorgon after a monster in one of their campaigns. And even if you haven’t the slightest idea what “Stranger Things” is, chances are you’ve heard of Dungeons and Dragons, or D&D as most players refer to it.

I was just beginning my first journey in what would pan out to be a six-hour escapade of cheesy improvisation and clueless spell-casting in a one-off style mission with five experienced D&D players. The time ticked precisely at midnight and the date on my phone shifted from Aug. 31 to Sept. 1. I glanced over at the man who helped me land my seat at the adventurers’ table.

I only exchanged text messages with Alan Ihms prior to our first adventuring session. In getting to know him, it seemed like the 21-year-old UM senior studying secondary education English would be knowledgeable enough to help a role-playing simpleton like me along with the story. The other participants: Daniel McKnew, our dungeon master and recent UM alumna; Shay Love, a UM senior and housing desk assistant, and Manon Barre and Ashley Hampton, who were also eager to help me jam my foot into whatever door I could.

Dungeons and Dragons is an immersive, player-based game, often referred to by players as a “battlefield of the mind,” first imagined by game designers Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson. The pair shared a passion for wargaming, a genre of tabletop gaming that involves realistic simulations of battles. In 1973, Gygax and Arneson wrote their first drafts of what would soon become D&D, and the first edition of the role-playing game was published in 1974. Nerds all over the world rejoiced.

Here on campus, at least one person within earshot usually knows a fair bit about D&D. Ihms has already looked into starting a D&D club, but says that the player to Dungeon Master ratio at UM is vastly disproportionate. McKnew echoed Ihms, stating “there aren’t enough DMs to go around.” However, both players believe the game is in a resurgence and popularity is reaching new highs. During a drink and draw event at the Western Cider bar in Missoula, Ihms encountered around forty people of all ages and backgrounds designing maps and building characters for D&D campaigns. “There are a lot of people you don’t see who actively play D&D.”

In 2014, on the 40th anniversary of the original release of D&D, the updated fifth edition of the game was published under the leadership of Mike Mearls, a fantasy writer and game developer. This is the most current edition of the game and the version I played with my new crew.

Ihms helped me build my character, guiding me through the daunting process of sifting through a dense player’s manual as I filled the boxes and lines of two sheets of paper that would inform my play style.

The game begins with rolling a 20-sided die, called a d20, to determine the values of the six core attributes of each character: strength, dexterity, constitution, intuition, wisdom and charisma. You may be surprised to learn these attributes are not just arbitrary characteristics assigned by Gygax and Arneson. They fit somewhat neatly into the five traits of human personality, as defined in the Individual Differences field of psychology developed in the 1930s: openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness and neuroticism.

These traits help define a person’s openness to new perspectives, determination, adherence to moral code, tendency to experience unwanted emotions, ability to compromise and need for attention from others.

With my character locked in at 12 strength, 14 dexterity, 16 constitution, 17 intelligence, 14 wisdom and 13 charisma, I was ready to choose my class, race and other background elements. My finished



BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND

How students become warriors through Dungeons & Dragons

Story and photos by Hunter Wiggins

Design and illustration by Lindsey Sewell

7FT 230 MOON ELF OF FORBOTTEN REALM

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

BARRY SAELGER	BARD 10	GUARD ARTISAN	HUNTER
CHARACTER NAME	CLASS & LEVEL	BACKGROUND	PLAYER NAME
	ELF	TN	
	RACE	ALIGNMENT	DCI NUMBER



Dragon miniatures sit on Daniel McKnew's coffee table in his basement apartment. As a dungeon master, McKnew's duties include painting miniatures for battle sequences in campaigns.

product: high-moon elf of the Forgotten Realm named Barry Saelgir, who was once a guild artisan, but is now a bard.

There we sat: Love, whose character was named Roth; Barre, named Pom; Hampton, named Allerick but shortened to Lyric; Ihms, named Elregor; and myself, Barry, anticipating our first actions in this new world.



Ihms never played D&D in his younger years. Coming from Plains, Montana, a town with fewer than 1,200 residents, chances were slim he would find a group he could consistently play with.

In high school, gaming experience was limited to Minecraft and other hit video games of the time. A friend suggested he give D&D a try, but Ihms never found the time to make it work. It was only when he came to UM, during his freshman year, that he had his first real encounter.

Ihms described his first experience with D&D as less than ideal: a mix of sloppy dungeon masters, unimpressive playing styles and lackluster campaigns. It wasn't until his sophomore year as a resident assistant in Knowles Hall that the game found him once again.

A resident on his floor approached Ihms one afternoon to voice some concerns about his roommate. He hadn't seen much of him the past several days and was worried. Ihms checked in with the roommate to discover him making plans for a D&D campaign he would attempt to put on with some of his friends. Hours of the student's time had been swallowed

up in the Knowles Hall basement study lounge, slaving away at quest-building and character-designing. Ihms spoke with the student for a moment before deciding to help the campaign get up and running.

Most RAs have a weekly tradition, something to bring the floor together to relax and make new friends. Many other RAs watch a Netflix series or do face masks with their residents. Ihms had a game night, which became Dungeons and Dragons night after speaking with the dungeon master living on his floor.

The new weekly tradition was a hit and, soon enough, six to eight players were regularly joining Ihms and the DM in the study lounge to battle together against monsters, bandits and dangerous villains. This campaign would end up persisting into the second semester of the school year, with many of the original adventurers still in the crew.

During this campaign, Ihms described himself as "coming out of his shell." He found that D&D allowed him to think about himself in the third person, analyzing his psyche and personality from a different point of view. Throughout that year, Ihms began taking on the guise of a protector in his role-playing characters. He attributes this to aspects of his own personality and self-image coming through these alter egos.

One of the characters Ihms took on that year was a praetorian paladin, a protector-type player who stands a little taller and beefier than his foes.

"It was like a fantasy embodiment of what I was as an RA," Ihms said.

This allowed him to show his new residents who he was as someone who they could turn to for guidance and, if need be, protection.

And it isn't uncommon for players to build their characters using their own life experiences.

In one particular session of the same year-long campaign Ihms helped jump-start, Daniel McKnew created a companion animal for himself in the image of a female German shepherd he'd lost in his real life. McKnew named the companion Lupa. In the midst of a desolate tundra, thick with snow and permafrost, a scenario unfolded that would become emotionally difficult for the entire crew.

After a battle with a massive monster, a decision would have to be made. Would McKnew save his own companion from death or save Ihms' companion animal? In an act of selflessness, McKnew sacrificed his own companion to save Ihms'. A moment of silence fell over the scene. The group decided to bury the fatally wounded animal, digging 20 or so feet into the fictitious permafrost.

McKnew thinks that experience was important in solidifying his role in the campaign, adding to the overall immersion and fun that he would have to finish the story.

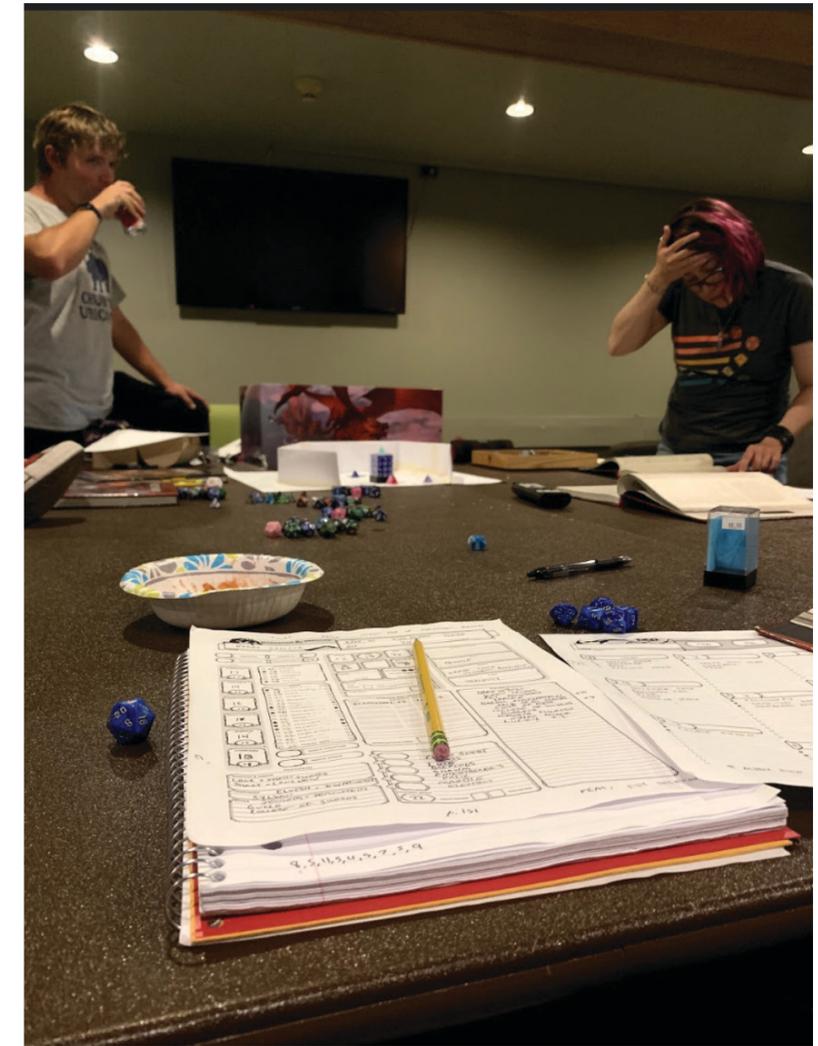
"I just figured, why not?" McKnew said about adding Lupa into the game. "I love animal companions, so I wanted my character to have one."

In these respects, psychologists are starting to look at the therapeutic benefits of role-playing games. A therapy group based out of Seattle, Washington, called Wheelhouse Workshop, is currently using D&D as a model for exploring action consequences in an environment with no potential for physical harm. According to the gaming website Kotaku, the group believes there are strong correlations between "player's internal lives and escapist fantasies."



I rolled a perception check shortly into the start of the quest. Skill checks are performed throughout the game, using pure chance as a determiner for an individual's success at a particular action. With a solid roll, I was able to discover otherwise hidden knowledge about a well that would lead us to the conclusion that some jungle ruins were, in fact, inhabited by something.

The group, after squabbling for a few moments, moved



Daniel McKnew, left, and Ashley Hampton, right, take a break from a chaotic battle around 4 am in the basement study lounge of Craig Hall.

toward a temple-like structure at the northern end of the ruin. There, we would encounter Lizardfolk, an enemy type that can be talked down, reasoned with, intimidated or slaughtered. After Elregor insulted the creatures by kicking a bucket full of refuse off a cliff, the decision seemed to be made for us.

The combat of D&D plays out very slowly, with players making their movements in suspended time. A battle that lasts only one minute of game time may take up to an hour of real-time. Each player has a turn to move, cast or attack, and perform bonus actions. Along with this, players usually exchange jokes and potential strategies for teamwork.

Here, in battle, I was finally able to flex my creative muscles and tie together various spells and movements. My proudest moment of the encounter was using a cantrip spell to summon an ethereal hand that de-pantsed the leader of the Lizardfolk, embarrassing him and sending him running into the jungle. Honestly, I had never felt more badass than in that moment.

Our crew captured a Lizardfolk and attempted to reason with it. Here, the DM has



Dungeons and Dragons players discuss the actions of Shay Love, who jumped his character to the bottom of a well during a campaign session.

a near-infinite amount of flexibility, creating a narrative through actions and communications between creatures and players. I tried sending a mental message to the creature, but it seemed to not understand. Unfortunately, none of us could speak lizard, so we released the creature and it fled.

The DM's main role is making sure adventurers stay on track to complete the quest while facilitating their actions. The DM also performs the other half of combat, rolling for the opponents. McKnew would sometimes "fudge a roll," lying about the number on the d20 if it advanced the story in interesting ways.

"Coming up with ways to keep combat fresh and exciting is difficult," McKnew said, "But taking different combinations of monsters that might sound weird together and throwing them at players is interesting."

McKnew enjoys the freedom that comes with being a DM. He can create any number of paths for an adventurer to journey on, and this, he says, is one of the finest things about D&D. McKnew enjoys watching other DMs create scenarios for their players because it gives him more inspiration for how he might want to tell his next story.

"Honestly, anyone who loves stories can be a dungeon master," McKnew said. "Some

of the best sessions I've played as a character, our DM came to us and said 'Dude, I totally improved the whole thing.'"

Not only does D&D allow for creativity in player action, but it allows for creativity in how the game is constructed. A good DM can foster real social bonding in a group of players. McKnew believes the DM can even instill real confidence in players that lasts beyond the end of the session. Ihms echoes this as well.

During Ihms' first campaign, a ferocious group of Orc raiders captured his character's love interest. Ihms' response was to challenge the leader of the Orcs to a duel. The DM allowed the confrontation to play out to where Ihms was nearly dead at the hands of the leader.

"But right at the last moment, I was able to do the telling blow," Ihms said. He returned from the clutches of death to defeat a powerful enemy.

"It was this awe-inspiring moment. To come out of it as a victor and move on, being able to connect that last piece of the story was important." Ihms feels that moments like these can carry players forward in facing challenges in their real lives with a positive attitude as if the only option is to succeed.

INSPIRATION MADNESS LVL

EXHAUSTION LVL PROFICIENCY BONUS **+4**

STRENGTH
12
+1

DEXTERITY
14
+2

CONSTITUTION
16
+3

INTELLIGENCE
18
+3

WISDOM
14
+2

CHARISMA
13
+1

SAVING THROWS

- +1 Strength
- +2 Dexterity
- +3 Constitution
- +2 Wisdom
- +5 Charisma

SKILLS

- +6 Acrobatics (Dex)
- +4 Animal Handling (Wis)
- +5 Arcana (Int)
- +1 Athletics (Str)
- +1 Deception (Cha)
- +3 History (Int)
- +10 Insight (Wis)
- +1 Intimidation (Cha)
- +11 Investigation (Int)
- +2 Medicine (Wis)
- +3 Nature (Int)
- +6 Perception (Wis)
- +9 Performance (Cha)
- +9 Persuasion (Cha)
- +3 Religion (Int)
- +2 Sleight of Hand (Dex)
- +2 Stealth (Dex)
- +2 Survival (Wis)
- +2 Thieves' Tools (Dex)

PASSIVE PERCEPTION

PASSIVE INSIGHT

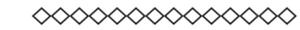
PROFICIENCIES

WEAPONS & ARMOR
LONG + SHORT SWORD
SHORT + LONG BOW

LANGUAGES ELVISH, DWARVISH
SYLVAN

OTHER JEWELERS + JEWELRY
GUILD
COLLEGE OF SWORDS

Barry Saelgir's stats.



After defeating the Lizard-folk, we made our way up a ramp to a second stone terrace. On our way up, I discovered a bag filled with playing cards and two magical rings. Atop the ramp, a large stone monolith caught the attention of the group. I was more curious to see what these playing cards were all about. I asked to flip them over. There was a loud gasp from every adventurer. Clearly, I had no idea what I was doing and they knew something I didn't.

Being a novice, I found it somewhat difficult to orient myself in the lore of the scenario. The cards I held were cards that, when flipped, would summon various monsters for us to fight. The others had encountered these cards before in a previous session. However, with a successful skill check, I was informed they were only cards of illusion and nothing in the deck was real. The group shared a few words and Roth made a joke that nearly caused me to choke.

We brushed off the cards and continued forward, past the monolith. There was a relaxed air among the group. We were all comfortable with one another. Pretending we were something other than ourselves allowed us to take more risks in conversation, in social interaction and in not fearing our potential for failure. The group approached an arena-like construction. This would be the location of our final battle.

A taller, meaner, magical creature stood near the back of the hexagonal room. Roth was eager to begin the battle, but the others were wary. I followed the intuitions of the others. Suddenly, however, an invisible being standing very near to us burst into view and began hacking away at Elregor. Pom made an evasive maneuver



Shay Love, a University of Montana senior and UM Housing desk assistant, makes notations on his character sheet during a campaign session.

and teleported behind the larger being in the back of the room. What happened next was a blur. Players rolled all sorts of dice across the table, frantically marked on their papers, and asked the DM about saving throws and distances. Unfortunately, I lost track of the battle almost immediately and was of little use to my fellow adventurers.

An hour passed, and despite my best efforts, I was still lost. Two of our crew had been wounded severely, and one had completely died. A monster snake, over 75-feet long, had crawled out of a precarious hole in the floor. I was being strangled by this serpent and my partners weren't making any real progress in defeating the creature. It seemed like the end.

In a miraculous turn of events, I was freed from the snake's constriction and cast a spell that paralyzed the monster. We took turns waiting at it with everything we had until Roth made a fatal strike, slicing the head clean off the thing. Our battle was over, and so was our quest.

I pulled out my phone. The time was 6:02 a.m. We had been playing for six hours.



D&D allows people to connect with themselves and with others. As someone who had never played the game and knew little about how it functioned, I found it easier than I expected to pick up. I even made some new friends in the process.

The role-playing experience draws from our personalities and subconscious. We weave our fantasies of ourselves and others into our characters. But doing this can be healthy. It can be therapeutic, immersing ourselves into fantasy and taking a break from the everyday hustle of college life. The world needs more time for games, not less.

For those about to rock, it's okay to cry

MEGHAN JONAS

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WILMA LAVERNE MINER

Where they're from: Missoula, Montana
Genre: Indie rock

Sounds like: the heart of Elliot Smith made glamorous with some 80's melodrama.

Favorite tracks: "callouses," "3 a.m."

Wilma Laverne Miner brings its "jukebox dream-pop" to Missoula. The band's music is reminiscent of a mid-2000s sound, combining deep lyrical roots with home-produced instrumental tracks.

Frontwoman Kaylen Alan Krebsbach is a powerhouse, conducting the band while belting raw vocals in songs like "3 a.m." Other members are Montana musicians Sam Smetana and Ricky Schade on guitar, Rob Cave playing bass and Tyler Duncan on drums.

Krebsbach has been playing music in her hometown of Missoula since her teen years. She had her fair share of touring as well, spending time on the road with Buddy Wakefield and Andrea Gibson and tour managing for Kississippi. She made her way back to Missoula, cultivating more of her own striking sounds. Early country influences and lyrical poetry define Wilma Laverne Miner. "Callouses," a single released on Bandcamp, showcases Krebsbach's new sound. The track will bring the tears, tapping into the sentiment of a recently broken heart. Between Krebsbach's vocal talent and insightful lyrics, Wilma Laverne Miner soothes. It is perfect for a chill drive with friends or for being home alone in the middle of an angsty night. Wilma Laverne Miner is releasing its debut album later this year and Hockey House is the premier spot to get an early listen.

Wilma Laverne Miner plays Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 8:30 p.m. at Hockey House. Local band Carpool will play its last set and World's Greatest Dad also shares the bill. \$5 suggested donation.

TITUS ANDRONICUS

Where they're from: Glen Rock, New Jersey
Genre: Punk rock

Sounds like: An end of the world dance party, angry and angsty but groovy non-the-less.

Favorite tracks: "Hey Ma," "Tumult Around the World"

VFW Post 209 is going to get rowdy when



Wilma Laverne Miner, a Missoula-based dream pop, twang, emo, and alternative band plays at the Rialto Aug. 31, 2019 during the second day of Labor Fest, Bozeman's DIY music festival. DONAL LAKATUA | MONTANA KAIMIN

punk band Titus Andronicus comes to town. The venue is usually reserved for small local music shows, but your local gem-of-a-record-store, Ear Candy Music, is bringing the popular band and packing the bar.

Titus Andronicus is bringing its lo-fi punk rock to Missoula on the heels of the release of its sixth album, "An Obelisk." Produced by Bob Mould, the record is inspired by Mould's other projects, Sugar and Hüsker Dü, while ramping up the intensity to create something that is entirely Titus Andronicus.

Filled with head-banging high energy rock, Titus Andronicus is guaranteed to make everyone, even people who don't like punk, want to party. The record is firmly anti-establishment, dissing the president and talking about immigration, utilizing lead singer Patrick Stickles' jarring vocals to get the message across.

The record slows down midway through for one track, "My Body and Me," before ramping it back up for "Hey Ma," the most instrumentally

heavy track that features a bagpipe (trust me, it works).

Start head-banging now, because Titus Andronicus is going to fight against the machine in

the loudest way possible.

Titus Andronicus plays Friday, Sept. 13, at 8 p.m. Control Top opens at VFW Post 209. The event is 21+, \$10, or \$12 day of show.

WESTSIDE LANES AND FUN CENTER

- Check out our Thunder Alley bowling! Friday, Saturday, & Monday nights @ 9 PM
- Neon lights, music videos on the large pull-down screens!
- Drink specials, and try our fresh-made pizza!

1615 WYOMING ST, MISSOULA, MT (406) 721-5263 MISSOULABOWLING.COM

Caps, you need to calm down

Swifties, it's your time. Let's dance down the "Lover" lane and figure out which Taylor track sings your heart song.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APRIL 19): 'I THINK HE KNOWS'

Oh, hi flirts! We know you love the butterflies-in-the-stomach drama of a new crush. We also know you love shouting it out to the heavens. Skip down Higgins Avenue listening to this and tell the world that you found "The One" for realies this time.

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20): 'PAPER RINGS'

Aw, our little lovebirds. Remember that friend you've had forever who finally gave in and started dating you? (You may or may not have pulled a Ryan Gosling in "The Notebook" and threatened to fall off a Ferris wheel to get them to do it.) What can you say? You love to jump in when you know it's right. Taylor would be proud.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20): 'I FORGOT THAT YOU EXISTED'

Geminis, you have a secret special skill: You can go from planning your wedding on a private Pinterest board to deleting their number as soon as they mess up. You know that you deserve more than what they gave you. It isn't love, it isn't hate, it's just indifference.

CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 22): 'CORNELIA STREET'

This song just radiates the energy of "All Too Well." Remember that one, Cancers? Of course you do! You probably listened to it on your bedroom floor after your middle school crush went with someone else to the Valentine's Day dance. Pour yourself a glass of white wine and blast this in your living room in the dark. It's time to reminisce.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUGUST 22): 'ME!'

Is it too mean to compare you to the worst, most out of place song on this album? Probably. Are the lyrics a little too on-the-nose for a Leo? Unfortunately. But hey, you know you're a catch! You're one of a kind! You know spelling is fun!

VIRGO (AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 22): 'LOVER'

The retro, lo-fi mood of "Lover" is just! So! You! But don't think that is going to make us forget that you are probably too over-analytical and emotionally unavailable for a Taylor Swift

snowglobe romance right now. Nice try.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22): 'LONDON BOY'

Remember the romance of "Begin Again"? You guys love to love! What would be a better song than one about falling in love with some random foreigner? That might be as bold as you get, and we're here for it. Have a cup of tea and an English muffin for breakfast and prepare for romance.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21): 'THE MAN'

Talk about Boss Bitch Energy. You all know you're the best at what you do, and you won't take anyone's shit. You're good at destroying things, so go out there and destroy those double standards. It's what Taylor would want.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21): 'DEATH BY ONE THOUSAND CUTS'

We know we give Aries and Leos a lot of shit for being drama queens, but don't think we've forgotten about you guys. Most of us have experienced a breakup. But we love you for acting like no one has ever gone through what you just went through and then putting it to a pop beat. We're here for you. So is Taylor.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 19): 'YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN'

Leave it to a Cap to tell us everything we're doing wrong and to ask us to please, chill. We need that energy from y'all sometimes, to be honest. This must be like an anthem for you guys. Play it when you log onto Twitter to call people out for being overdramatic.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 19): 'MISS AMERICANA & THE HEARTBREAK PRINCE'

This song is perfect for you guys. You all secretly like Halsey, but whether you'll admit that or not, Edgy Taylor is close enough. Tag yourself: Miss Americana or the Heartbreak Prince? Either way, you're secretly judging everyone around you for living their lives.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20): 'AFTERGLOW'

We all know you're a little dramatic in your romantic relationships. Whenever you need to apologize to your boo (we're guessing very soon), crank up this song in the car and start memorizing lines. They'll come in handy for when you need to sit down and explain your-



The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14												
17												
20												
23												
27	28											
33	34	35										
39												
43												
47												
51	52											
58	59											
63												
66												
69												

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ACROSS

- 1 Table leftover
- 6 Annexes
- 10 Unwanted email
- 14 Exploratory investigation
- 15 Rider's grip
- 16 Frat party attire
- 17 Spoil, with "up"
- 18 Woman's undergarments
- 20 Time between 1918 and 1939
- 22 Pass on
- 23 Numerical suffix
- 24 Brainchild
- 26 Waterlogged
- 27 Piano's cousin
- 30 Word with dish or effect
- 33 Off course
- 36 Slave away
- 38 Crow's cry
- 39 Plunder
- 41 Vulgar
- 43 Little toymaker
- 44 It gets hit on the head
- 46 Shirt part
- 47 A Baldwin brother
- 49 Pair of people
- 51 Pasture grazer
- 53 Crazy about
- 54 Cobblers' tools
- 58 Military status statement
- 61 Something sliced or chipped
- 63 Pollster's prop
- 65 Hawaiian island
- 66 Japanese aboriginal
- 67 Metal spacer in printing
- 68 Writer's rep.
- 69 They may be checked
- 70 Extremely small
- 71 Precursor to Windows
- 29 Use a fan on
- 31 Actress Delany
- 32 Wide-mouthed pitcher
- 33 Geometric measure
- 34 Cider season
- 35 Tainting
- 37 Weaving frame
- 40 Fuzzy fruit
- 42 Cheap hotels
- 45 In the _____: Eventually
- 48 _____ Christ, TX
- 50 Pompous
- 52 Arachnid work
- 55 Abated
- 56 South American plain
- 57 Buttonholes, usually
- 58 Picket-line crosser
- 59 Pelvic bones
- 60 Assignment
- 62 Flim-____ (scam)
- 64 Former boxing champ
- 28 Pizzazz

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

Student conductor leads UM Marching Band to success on the field

ERIN SARGENT

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Familiar Missoula winds gust through the University's practice fields Sept. 4. It's a Wednesday, and army ROTC is running drills. The football team is practicing for the next game. There's also a drone in the air. It's not filming football players or camo-clad ROTC members. It's helping Director Kevin Griggs check the accuracy of the UM Grizzly marching band's formations.

Nearly 140 musicians have been outside for an hour and a half, running back and forth between formations, checking the positions of their feet — down to the inch — and practicing multiple different music scores, scores they should have memorized by now. They'll be doing the same on Friday and again Saturday afternoon. And after the first game? Rehearsal on Monday, then Wednesday, then Friday again.

One of these students is Connor Dennis, a fourth-year member. He's a double major in trombone and music education. But this year, Dennis isn't playing in the marching band. It's his first year as a drum major, helping out Griggs with all the logistics it takes to make a marching band performance function. He stands with everyone else in a pre-rehearsal huddle, listening to his director address the band.

"One of the things I know about this group from the years, is that we always find a way to get it together for Saturday," Griggs says. Light is reflecting off of the brass section: band members are either squinting or wearing sunglasses. "I like your focus. I know that you're all taking this seriously," Griggs tells them.

The students do take this seriously. They've been practicing for weeks already, coming to campus ahead of move-in and classes for marching band camp. All receive scholarships for their work: \$1,000 for first and second years, \$1,250 for third years and \$1,500 for fourth years and above, according to the UM Grizzly Marching Band website.

Dennis doesn't play the drums. He says it's a common misconception, but in reali-



UM Grizzly Marching Band drum major Connor Dennis conducts the band during practice. LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN

ty, he's a student conductor. He meets with section leaders ahead of the season to teach a leadership seminar and heads the training of fundamentals of marching at band camp. During rehearsals and games, Dennis helps Griggs conduct the band. Dennis also takes it upon himself to provide snacks. There's breakfast too, apples and granola bars, for the members who live on campus and can't get into the Food Zoo on game day.

Dennis says when he started marching in his high school marching band, he wasn't so sure he'd like it. It grew on him, and he ended up being a drum major at Great Falls High School for three years.

"I loved it. It was a lot of fun, it was a blast," Dennis says, "and then I came here and I said, 'Oh absolutely, I've got to do

marching band." Music education majors are required, it's part of their curriculum to play at least one or two semesters, "but I always knew, every year I'm here I'm going to do marching band, because why not? It's a lot of fun," Dennis said.

At rehearsal on the practice field, band members hold their spots in line and practice surprisingly intricate handshakes (elbow, elbow, hip, hip, head on shoulder, fist bump...). Dennis runs between the lines in the formations with a measuring stick, checking the gaps and positioning of the band members. He's wearing khakis and a maroon Griz polo in the 88-degree weather. He checks in with different members too, helping to keep their energy up.

Griggs says this is the kind of energy he looks for when he chooses his drum ma-

jors.

"I watch every student from the first day in band to see who they are," Griggs says. "How do they interact? Are they a positive helpful person? Are they the kind of person that I could see in front of my group running things? Because once we get into performance, it's all students, and all I can do is sit back and be a cheerleader."

Dennis is pumped for the first game of the year. He still remembers exactly how he felt for his first Griz game, four years ago.

"I was somewhere between totally wild with excitement and terrified," he said. "It's the first time to be on the field with all these people watching because there's not a stadium in Montana that's like Washington-Grizzly. You can feel that many people."

'Love is Alright' delivers psychedelic giddiness just in time for autumn

LILY SOPER

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Sasha Bell did the impossible at her album release party for "Love is Alright": she made the Badlander habitable. Gone were the frat bros, the woo girls (fine, there was one woman who woo-ed between each sound check, but she was an outlier), the stray PBR cans and aggressive music. Bell and her opener, Motorhome, were greeted by actual adults, enjoying a concert without disrupting those around them — even accommodating the young woman dancing interpretively with her whole body. Try interpretive dancing at Dead Hipster and see who respects your personal space. I dare you.

"Love Is Alright" begins with such infectious positivity, it's hard to imagine moshing to it. Instead, it inspires the listener to sway, relax and love thy neighbor. Its genre fluctuates from experimental indie to psychedelic in a cohesive story: the album takes us to Wonderland, but knows when we need to come up for air. The vibrant, rosy melodies keep a smile on our face, but know when to remind us of the music's gravity.

The set began with the titular song, "Love is Alright," boasting a classic upbeat melody that still maintains a certain intensity that keeps you listening. That same intensity carries throughout the album. "Love Is Alright" is like the "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" of music: It presents itself as buoyant and upbeat, but the more you listen, the more complexity and strength you find.

One part Flaming Lips and two parts "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," "Candy Mountain" is perfect for your next acid trip. At the same time, songs like "Castle Keep" and "Sparrow" will kickstart your morning with melodic hooks more familiar in indie pop. Whether you're looking for inspirational background music for a study session or a gathering with your hippie commune, "Love Is Alright" has a little something for everyone.

Bell's music may be light and cheerful tonally, but the lyrics tell a more complicat-

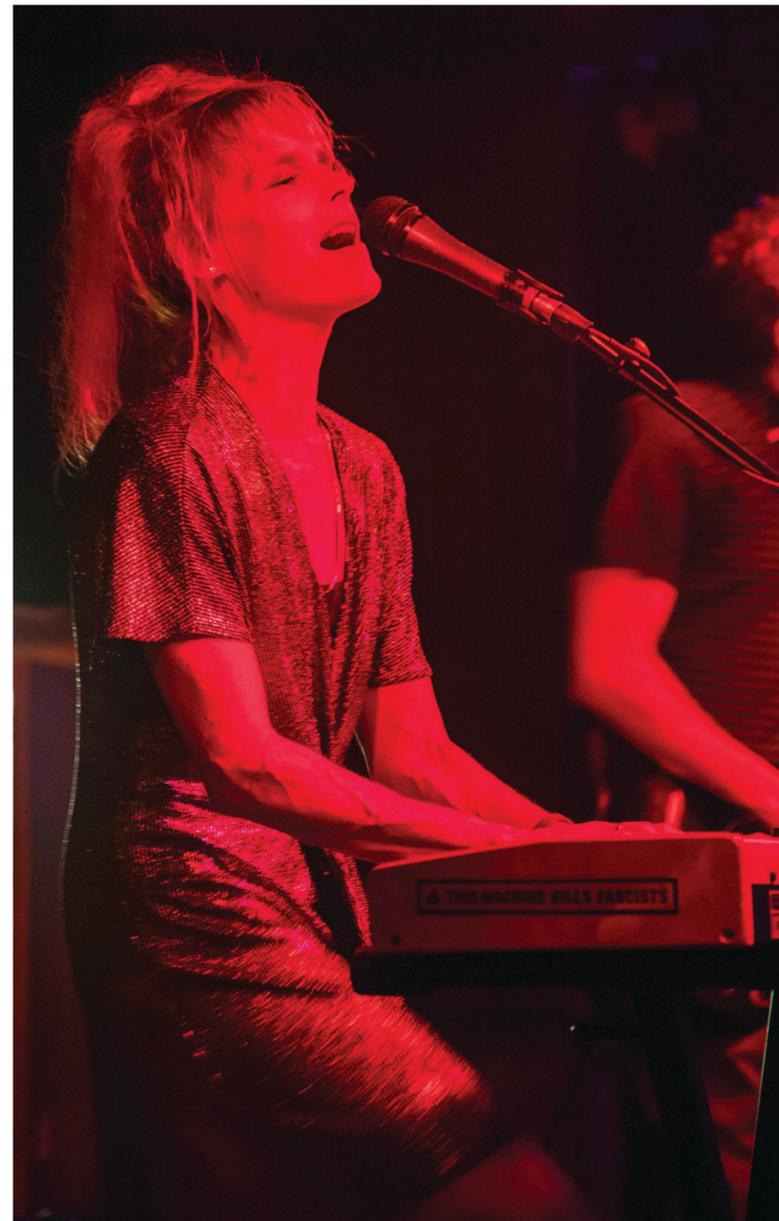
ed story. "Icy Hands," for example, examines the complicated relationship between siblings. With lyrics like, "I've been walking in your valley," and, "I'm sorry to say that times have changed. You're a selfish, selfish boy," Bell reminds us again that despite her saccharine aesthetic, she is a force to be reckoned with.

While the lyrics oscillate between light and heavy subject matter on an emotional scale, the music doesn't darken until late in the album. "Molly's Got a Talent" and "Lemonade" lend themselves to a sultry tone, shifting somewhat from indie pop to indie rock, expressing a darker maturity in the album's second half.

The album wraps up with "The Library." The song is filled with distorted guitar and enough layers of sound effects to give me a little anxiety, sandwiching the "Sgt. Pepper's" psychedelia we heard in "Candy Mountain." "The Library" is the darkest the album gets tonally, and ends with 20 seconds of silence. The gradual darkening in tone reminds us of growing up and coming of age. The silence ends the album the same way most hero journeys end: with peace.

Sasha Bell's new album is a beautifully original musical story, filled with optimism, sadness, and above all, emotional triumph. It would be easy to put on "Love Is Alright" and dance your heart out, trip balls or just tidy up your kitchen. No shame in doing any and all of those options; they all sound like good times. But a little time and focus on Bell's lyricism proves most rewarding after all.

You can grab "Love Is Alright" at any of Missoula's local record shops or on Soundcloud.



Sasha Bell performs at her soft-release party in honor of her debut solo album, "Love is Alright", at the Badlander on Sept. 5. EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN

Meet the Purple Sharks, Missoula's women's rugby team

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Brittany Piscopo was the first one to practice. She sat in the shade of a tree at Dornblaser Field and put on her cleats. Then she greeted everyone who arrived at the field. Once most of the rugby team was there, players all began tossing a diamond-shaped ball to one another as they stood in a circle. They ran down the side of the field and back as a warmup. Once that was finished, Sheri Becken, their coach, started drills.

Piscopo, a junior pre-radiology major, is captain and president of UM's women's club rugby team, the Purple Sharks. For her and other members of the team, playing with the Sharks isn't as much about winning as it is about meeting people and developing friendships.

"Honestly, this is where I've made some of my best friends," Piscopo said.

Three years ago this month, Piscopo showed up to her first rugby practice after being told by a friend to try it out. "I kind of just followed along and ended up loving

it," she said.

The Sharks season is spring and fall. But they play whenever snow isn't on the ground, according to Piscopo. For her, rugby is a year-long sport where she puts in more time than most. During rugby season, Piscopo practices with the Purple Sharks twice a week and also practices with the men's team. During the winter, she schedules team workouts at Schreiber Gym to stay in shape.

"She has a lot of devotion to the team," coach Sheri Becken said.

Piscopo said the team travels a lot during the season, primarily because there aren't a lot of rugby teams to play against in Montana.

Because it is necessary to travel, the team spends a lot of time together and the players are more than teammates, Piscopo said. "We are best friends on the field and off the field."

One of Piscopo's favorite things about the sport is the community that goes along with competition.

Piscopo has not only become close with

her teammates, she has also become friends with her opponents. If her car broke down in Boise, she would be able to message the team there and have somewhere to stay, Piscopo said. "It's a great sport. You really get to meet great people."

Piscopo said the team doesn't really keep track of wins and losses, but it competes to win and it does get competitive at times. For her, it's more about having fun.

"It's honestly a huge friendship. It's a huge family," Piscopo said.

As a team leader, Piscopo encourages anyone, not just UM students, to come out and attend a practice. She actively tries to recruit new players.

"She has been a bright light in keeping people coming out," said Becken.

Piscopo said the best way to learn is to just show up and insert yourself in practice. You can follow the Betterside Women's Rugby Facebook page to find a practice time. The team's first game is this Saturday, Sept. 14.



President and captain of the women's rugby team, Brittany Piscopo.
BERGEN FRANK-LORON | MONTANA KAIMIN

Volleyball invitational, Griz Soccer and free intramurals all in Missoula

Volleyball

On Sept. 13 and 14 the Griz Volleyball team will host the Farmers State Bank Invitational at Dahlberg Arena. Opponents are CSU Bakersfield at 6 p.m. on Friday the 13th and UTEP at noon. on the 14th. The team is looking to win the Big Sky Championship this year after coming up short last year in the final against Idaho. Students can get into the game with their Griz card.

Hockey

The Missoula Bruins hockey team kicks off its season Saturday, Sept. 14 against the Bozeman Icedogs at 7 p.m. The game will be played at the Glacier Ice Rink in the Missoula County Fairgrounds. The Bruins are looking to win its frontier division this year. Tickets are \$10 for ages 18 and older.

Soccer

The University of Montana's Soccer team will play two home games this week. The Griz play Cal Poly on Friday, Sept. 13 and the University of Wyoming on Sunday, Sept. 15. Both games will be held at the South Campus Stadium. Students only need a Griz card for entry to the game.

This week marks the beginning for a variety of intramurals. There will be a free volleyball tournament at the sand pits by Miller Hall Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 5 p.m. On Thursday, Sept. 12, students can join cornhole and spikeball tournaments on The Oval at 5 p.m. for free. Walk-up registrations are accepted the day of these events. Men's and women's intramural soccer will be starting on Wednesday, Sept. 16 along with Men's flag football and staff and faculty kickball! You will need to register for the leagues by going on IMLeagues.com/UMontana by Sept. 11th to participate.



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Tennis team features athletes from around the world

GRIFFEN SMITH

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Under the sweltering heat on Sept. 3, sounds of rackets, squeaky shoes and enthusiastic cheers echoed off the fence at the University of Montana tennis courts. Men's captain Max Korkh, a senior from Vancouver, led the team through its unofficial practice.

"It's so cool to have a multicultural team," Korkh said. "You get to learn a bunch of different world cultures."

A 2018 NCAA national survey found that 11% of Division I athletes are from other countries, and over 61% of tennis players nationwide are international students. UM is no exception. According to Korkh, there are plenty of foreign student-athletes on the UM tennis team. In fact, 12 of the 18 players on the men's and women's teams are international players.

How did all these talented athletes from around the world end up in the small town of Missoula? Korkh was quick to say that for him, the current men's head coach, Jason Brown, was the deciding factor.

When Korkh initially came to Missoula, Brown was very welcoming to him, he said. Between this and Missoula's atmosphere, Korkh realized Montana was the place for him.

"I end up learning a lot culturally," Brown noted. "I like the fact that we have a real international flavor to our squad."

Claudia Reguant emphasized that the biggest difference between her home in Barcelona and Missoula is the colder weather during winter. For sophomore Reguant, coming from Spain was difficult because of the culture and language barriers, she said. In spite of this, Reguant said the move was worth it. "It is beautiful here and the people are awesome."

Brown said recruitment in tennis requires a lot of networking, especially with the players talking to friends back in their hometowns. "It makes my job easier," he said. According to Reguant, friends on both the men's and women's teams convinced her to join the Grizzlies.

"It is pretty cool to meet girls from other areas," incoming freshman Maria Gohen said. "All the girls are really inviting." The team does a lot of group lifting and team workouts, which according to Gohen, brings the women



together.

Milo Benn, a sophomore from Wellington, New Zealand, said the team members' unique backgrounds create a tight bond between players. "As internationals, we all feel the same way about things," Benn said. "I came here with six freshmen and four were internationals."

All six of the men's sophomore tennis class have lived with each other for the past two years. While Benn was originally concerned with the large change between New Zealand and Montana, he said the team makes him feel comfortable.

Griz Tennis has started practicing for its NCAA tennis competitions, though the main season does not begin until the spring semester.

In 2018 to early 2019, the men's team finished 5-5, and the women's team went 4-6 through Big Sky play. Both teams had many younger players, with nine freshmen com-



CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

bined.

The 2019-2020 season, however, features 13 returning players, many of whom are juniors and seniors.

Griz Tennis will start its Big Sky season in

early March, and there will be five tune-up meets throughout the fall. The competition includes some of the larger tennis programs in the nation like Utah, and smaller local colleges across the Northwest.

Griz demolish Lions in home opener



University of Montana sophomore running back Marcus Knight pushes out of the pileup and toward the nearby end zone during the third quarter to score his third touchdown of the game. Knight scored the first touchdown for the Griz in the first quarter and followed up with two touchdowns in the third.

SARA DIGGINS

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The Grizzlies flipped the script in the second half of the home-opening game against the North Alabama Lions, emerging with a 61-17 victory.

The first touchdown of the evening came

with just over six minutes left in the first quarter from Marcus Knight. It was followed closely by a touchdown from the Lions. Place kicker Brandon Purdy closed the first quarter for the Griz with a 36-yard field goal, putting the Griz up 10-7.

The Lions scored just twice more: a field goal and a touchdown during the second

quarter.

The Griz responded with single touchdowns in the second quarter.

After heading into the locker room at the half with a single-point deficit (17-16), the Griz buried the Lions in the second half, scoring four touchdowns in the third quarter and three in the fourth. Knight led scor-

ing with three touchdowns, for a total of 21 points.

The Grizzlies will play away at the University of Oregon on Sept. 14. The Ducks are ranked at 16th in the AP top 25 and will pose a challenge to the Griz. Kickoff is at 8:45 p.m. Mountain Time, and the game can be watched on the PAC12 network.



A University of North Alabama team member glances toward the score board at the end of the third quarter as the Lions suffer a 23-point deficit.



A University of Montana cheerleader is tossed up into the air during a timeout in the first quarter. Just over 24,000 football fans were in attendance for the Grizzlies' first home victory.



University of Montana sophomore wide receiver Gabe Sulser narrowly dodges North Alabama's senior defensive back A.J. Bracey while making a run downfield during the first half. Sulser rushed a net total of 22 yards to contribute to Montana's overall net total rushing of 234 yards.

Festival celebrates peace for 15th year



Leaders of the procession look back at the people behind them, carrying instruments, pin-wheels and flags, among other things. The procession, traditional for the festival, went around the garden.

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The message was peace and connection this Sunday at a festival just outside of Missoula, in Arlee, Montana. The Garden of One Thousand Buddhas is known for its colorful prayer flags and 1,000 Buddha statues. This weekend was the 15th-annual Peace Festival and the

ninth-annual Peace Walk.

Attendees came from all over the Pacific Northwest. Daniel Demitrov, from Washington, first came to the garden during its construction. He stopped and made four of the Buddha statues with other volunteers and continued on his way, figuring that the Peace Festival this year was as good a time as any to come back and bring his wife.



Festivalgoers walk the circumference of the garden during the procession.



Buddha statues around the edge of the garden.

"I just thought this place was so special and it resonated with me," Demitrov said. "For me it's a spiritual place."

Namchak Dorji, personal secretary to the garden's founder, traveled to the festival from Santa Fe, New Mexico, with his fellow monks. Dorji said the garden was founded on the principles of compassion and wisdom — keys to the Buddhist concept of enlightenment.

The garden's founder, Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche, felt a connection to the plot of land the garden is now built on when he first visited America, according to Dorji. He felt as if he had been there before and took it as a sign.

"[Rinpoche] is a spiritual guy, so instead of building a monastery or a temple, he built a place where everyone can come," Dorji said. "Everyone, every faith can come and just make a connection."