

MONTANA KAIMIN

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*Everyone
has a
story.
All you
have to
do is ask.*



CONFESSIONS OF
A COLLEGE TOWN:
UNIVERSITY CENTER



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, "Qe'ymin," that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means "book," "message" or "paper that brings news."

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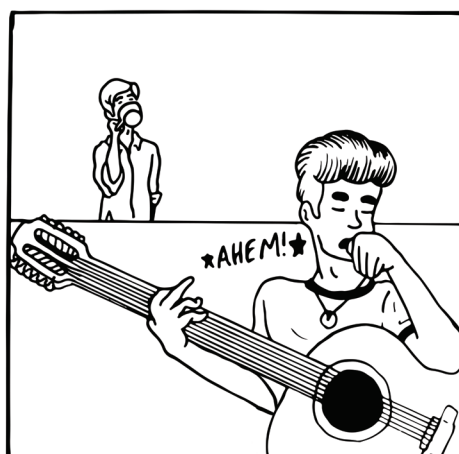
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KAIMIN KOMICS: SE 2 EP 14



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

BARRETT

Administration: Now is the time to speak

Recently, university leadership across the country has begun to show up for their students.

Harvard University refused to back down as President Donald Trump’s administration targeted its freedom of speech, despite the administration’s immediate retaliation. Montana State University President Waded Cruzado has addressed students’ fears about various federal changes via email on multiple occasions.

Most recently, the American Association of Colleges and Universities released a statement opposing Trump’s continuous unconstitutional aims at higher education, stating it “reject[s] the coercive use of public research funding.”

Presidents of 514 universities and colleges across the U.S. have signed this statement so far, but not the University of Montana, nor Montana State.

UM President Seth Bodnar stated in an email to the Kaimin that UM chose not to sign the letter because it didn’t contribute to “relationship building” with state and federal legislators.

As the semester comes to a close, I worry. Without students to protest and the newspaper to project their voices, I fear for the rights of myself and my fellow students.

After a semester of silence, I worry University leadership won’t bat an eyelash when Trump’s administration continues to remove our rights as students, citizens and human beings. I write this to address UM’s leaders once again, but in full force.

Seth Bodnar, Kelly Webster, Adrea Lawrence, John DeBoer, Leslie Webb: Collectively, the five of you make a salary of over \$1 million. You are the faces of our University, and now more than ever, we need your voices too.

You posit your mission without any of the front-facing action. You could have been — and still can be — an example of bravery, resilience, strength and peaceful protest. Instead, you’ve left students in the dark as programs saw their funding slashed, students’ visas revoked and inclusive spaces removed.

You have avoided transparency, even when prompted by student journalists. While the Kaimin was able to finally receive comment from President Bodnar this year, it only came in the form of 30-minute phone interview, after numerous requests. You did not send emails informing the campus that one of our students had their visa revoked. You have not explained what research grants have been cut and what impact that may have.

When is it enough? Will there be an action that finally prompts you to speak out? I fear that when that action comes, it will be far too late.

Your students believe in this University — it’s why we came to school here. We believe you are fighting for us. Now prove it.

The Kaimin has received numerous letters from tenured professors, frustrated faculty and desperate students. They plead for acknowledgement from you. They vent about how disappointed they are in you. Many refuse to go on the record for fear of retaliation, so they look to you to give a voice to what can not be said.

Everyone, from the part-time online students to the professors who have been here for decades, have their eyes on you. And collectively, we are angry, scared and ashamed.

I love UM. I always will. I have worked at the newspaper for every year I’ve been in college. I’ve had the opportunity to witness the incredible accomplishments of this University. But if you continue to step aside as our country’s president repeatedly strips fundamental democratic institutions of their rights, it won’t matter how much work you’ve put into increasing Indigenous enrollment or expanding education to lower-income students.

The only thing UM will be remembered for is being one of the places that let fear and apathy make the decisions. You will be remembered as an institution that chose the wrong side of history.

Administration: You have one more week to say something before the semester ends. Once again, the Kaimin is pleading with University leadership to address students. How many more times will we have to ask? How many more protests will have to happen?

There is still time to stand up as the beacon of leadership we know you can be. Don’t let your silence speak for you — it is louder than anything else.

– Claire Bernard, editor-in-chief

Like it? Hate it? Let us know.
Email us your opinions at
claire.bernard@umontana.edu

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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



Two paragliders fly over the the top of Mt. Sentinel as the sun sets behind Blue Mountain. The duo took off from Mt. Jumbo and flew for hours, enjoying the nice weather on April 23. **DIEGO HERNANDEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Pair-o-gliders

In this week's briefs...

MAXWELL JOHNSON

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' STATUS REMAINS MURKY AS FEDS RESPOND TO MSU LAWSUIT

Attorneys representing the federal government responded to an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit filed on behalf of two Montana State University international students who had their F-1 visas revoked.

An F-1 visa allows international students to study in the United States.

One University of Montana international student, as well as one other MSU student, also had their visas revoked, but did not file a lawsuit. The ACLU stated that the two anonymous MSU students were in good academic standing and possessed no criminal record.

At the ACLU's request, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order and injunction against the students' visas being revoked and any attempts at deportation.

The attorneys of the Department of Homeland Security asked for the restrictions to be rescinded on April 21. They further disputed the ACLU's claims that the two students had no criminal convictions, alleging that both had previously been arrested in Bozeman.

The attorneys also argued that students' information being deleted from a database that tracks study visas was separate from their visas being revoked. Instead, the move was meant to delete some information used to track them.

The situation was further muddled on April 25 when the New York Times reported that Justice Department lawyer Joseph Carilli said

the federal government was working on a new system to evaluate international students.

While this new system was being built, he said, the 1,500 students who had their accounts deleted from the current visa database would have their records restored. Simultaneously, however, officials kept the door open for future visa revocation.

Tricia McLaughlin, a homeland security spokesperson, told the New York Times no visas were actually being restored. She said getting removed from the exchange database and having a visa revoked are two different things. The only thing being restored is students' accounts in the database who still have a visa.

BIG TEN SCHOOLS PROPOSE ALLIANCE AS HIGH-ER EDUCATION, TRUMP CONTINUE TO CLASH

Faculty members of the Big Ten academic alliance, which is actually composed of 18 large universities in the country, have proposed a "mutual academic defense compact" to share legal and financial resources if one of the schools comes under federal attack.

According to the Washington Post, the faculty at nine of the Big Ten schools have voted and requested their administrations to join the alliance, including the University of Washington. Still, no university administration has officially joined, with many student and faculty groups planning protests to urge them to do so. The only Big Ten school who has had its grant funding frozen, Northwestern University, is still on the fence with the Faculty Senate yet to weigh in on the alliance.

This comes in the wake of Harvard University potentially losing \$2 billion in grant funding after refusing a litany of federal

demands. The University said the demands intruded on the school's independence and civil rights while President Donald Trump's administration has justified them under a fight against alleged antisemitism and ideology of liberal universities.

In another budding alliance, 19 states sued the Trump administration after it sent out a memo demanding the removal of diversity, equity and inclusion programs from public schools at the risk of losing federal funding.

BILL LIMITING COMPANY'S LIABILITY FOR WILDFIRES PASSES IN MONTANA LEGISLATURE

A recent bill passed by the Montana legislature would broadly protect electricity providers from liability related to starting wildfires provided that they complete a "wildfire mitigation plan."

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Amy Regier, R-Kalispell, only needs to be signed by Gov. Greg Gianforte to go into law. The document outlines that, given electric companies provide a necessary public service and there is a heightened risk of wildfire in Montana, they must be protected from "strict liability and uncertain common law standards of care in the event of an unintentionally or negligently caused wildfire."

It goes on to state that a standard of care must be provided for those that "choose to affirmatively undertake wildfire mitigation efforts."

Common law refers to standards established over time by court decisions. The document continues that a wildfire mitigation plan must be submitted and implemented by providers at the end of 2025. The plans include identifying areas of high wildfire risk, clarifying how facilities will be maintained and creating plans to shut off the grid if a wildfire is encroaching, among other provisions.

The next section states that strict liability, meaning legally holding an organization or person accountable regardless of intent, may not be applied in various circumstances. These include if the "electric transmission and distribution activities caused wildfire-related damages."

The document also clarifies the circumstances in which an electric provider may have to pay damages and in which it may be found grossly negligent, meaning to show a reckless disregard for safety. It states if the electrical provider followed its wildfire mitigation plan, it can not be held grossly negligent.

POLICE BLOTTER

ABBY WILLIAMS

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Have you started studying for finals yet? Sorry, jump scare, I know. It seems that the pandemonium has caught up with people, because there has been an uptick in motor thefts and disorderly conduct. Is this a distraction to get people to focus on the crime and not their notes? Maybe it will work, maybe not. Let us see.

APRIL 14 - DOWN PAYMENTS SUCK

A car was stolen from Lot P on April 14 and recovered the same day. That must have been one fancy-ass car, because it takes a lot of energy and science (I think) to hijack a car and drive it off campus. Why are we wasting our energy on stealing a car when there are plenty of jobs that pay you enough money to start on a down payment? I don't know if you were bored or got into a hardcore game of truth and dare, but I am glad the actual owner of the car got their vehicle back. Maybe a neighbor had a ring camera on their door or one of y'all took my citizen's arrest advice from the last blotter.

APRIL 18 - FIGHT CLUB IN THE ADAMS CENTER

The first rule of fight club is you don't ... fuck it all, who fights in the Adams Center? Like, who or what pissed you off so bad that you had such a big-ass fight that campus police had to come? Both of the people got a citation for disorderly conduct and simple assault. Also, I hope you got some ice for those sore backs because a basketball court or the bleachers is not a great place to throw hands. Here's an idea, what if you start an underground boxing ring? It would be like Kaimin Cubicle, but instead of music and good vibes, you'd get to watch two people kick the absolute shit out of each other.

APRIL 21 - NEW HANGOUT SPOT UNLOCKED

I don't know who the Banksy copycat is who is vandalizing or hanging out on the PARTV dock, also known as the Broadcast Center, but you're sneaky, 'cause nobody knows who you are. Maybe you wore all black and blended into the night, hopping from tree to tree while you hid from the red and blue lights of the police cars coming to look at your handiwork. We may never know who you are, because the case is closed and nobody actually cares anymore. Go graffiti in peace!



Book SIGNING

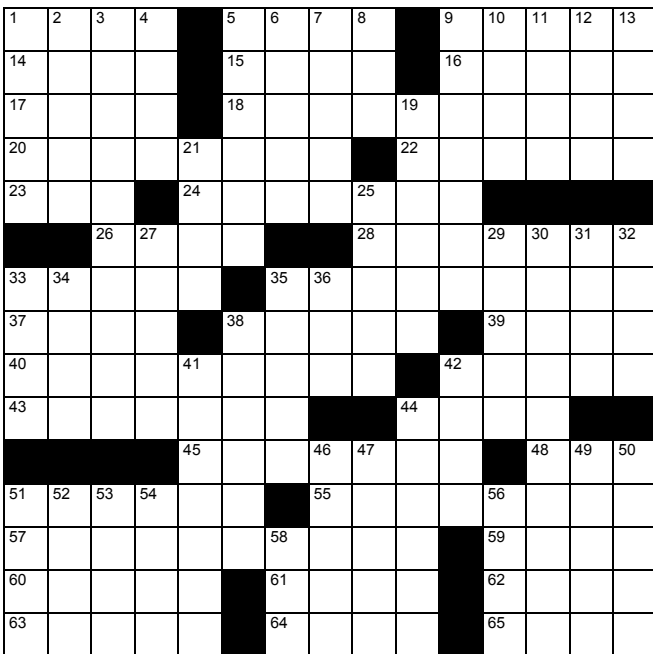
Join us for the launch and signing of
SNAPPING BACK: Its Never to Late to Be What You Might Have Been
by Patti Carlisi!

 Friday
2, May 2025

 5:00PM-8:00PM
Drinks and Treats Provided

 210 North Higgins
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The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

- 1 Hires competition
5 Basil, e.g.
9 Quick summary
14 Bridle strap
15 Pitcher in a still life
16 Words of wisdom
17 Conclusion preceder
18 With two-party support
20 Floating, as dust
22 Cafeteria-goers
23 Fiddle-de-____
24 Fail to keep up
26 Throng
28 Buffalo Bill sported one
33 Firecracker parts
35 Overly prim
37 Lena of "Chocolat"
38 Star in Orion
39 Moon goddess
40 Bar window fixture
42 Fudd of cartoons
43 Saying it's not so
44 "Big Mouth" Martha
45 Freudian concerns
48 Sound at the door
51 Garb
55 Hot weather woe
57 Police show, say
59 Palindromic emperor
60 Pago Pago's place
61 "Ad Astra" star
62 Any time now

- 63 Make changes to
64 Sickly-looking
65 Coastal raptor

DOWN

- 1 Apprehension
2 Lofty abode
3 Detour
4 Nose-in-air type
5 Temple talk
6 "Dallas" family name
7 Throw off
8 Car protector
9 Knock
10 Correct, as text
11 Docket item
12 Petri dish gelatin
13 Parker and Waterman
19 Shrink back in fear
21 Wallet wad
25 White heron
27 Squiggly's pal
29 "____ hol!"
30 Census taker
31 One, in Bonn

- 32 Wound mark
33 Dear, as memories
34 1997 Peter Fonda title role
35 Word with bank or back
36 Sound of disgust
38 Freed of suds
41 "Hear" without hearing
42 Right on the map
44 Lots to buy
46 Evans or Pine
47 Toffee bar choice
49 ____ Martin (007 auto)
50 Conversation piece?
51 Recessed area
52 Disneyland transport
53 Hefty volume
54 Screen symbol
56 Kennedy matriarch
58 Kick ____ fuss

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Horoscope

Have a good summer!

KAIRI LISING

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It's so close, you can practically taste it. That amazing span of months when we have no responsibilities, it's full of possibilities. I mean, last year, we had brat summer, so who knows what these recession-fueled months have in store. So, what are you doing during the break?

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Summer has never changed for you. Every year, you do the same thing: rot in your bed. The curtains are drawn, your phone is charged and your water is full. Although you're nowhere close to getting a tan, you're happier than most of us.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): You never know when to stop, Gemini. You'll stay out from dawn to dusk if you can. But that means the inevitability of your burnt-red skin. It's everywhere. In your scalp, on your nose and somehow on the back of your legs. Now you're spending half the summer marinating in aloe vera.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): AYY, my sweet summer child is turning 21! It's time to take the summer nights by storm and get extra fucked up. You used to hate your birthday in elementary school because you never got to celebrate it with all your classmates, but now that you're all adults, you can do whatever you want.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Leo, you're a hardcore fair fan. It's a shame the fair always happens near the end of the summer, but you love it every time. The bright colored lights, the greasy food and the vomit-inducing rides are your bread and butter. You'll just have to hibernate until then. Maybe you should talk to Taurus.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): Ok nerd, you're actually taking summer classes? I didn't think anyone did that, but you proved me wrong. You say it's because you want to graduate early, but let's be honest, it's because you have literally nothing else to do this summer. Lame!

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): You're getting your green thumb this summer, Libra. Or at least you're trying to. Every time you touch something remotely green, it dies (R.I.P. Shrek). But this time

will be different! You'll buy fake plants.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): This summer, you're a single passenger and you've got a one-way ticket to hot girl summer land. The gloves are off — you're kissing everyone. Your moderately attractive coworker? Kissed. Your best friend? Kissed. Your best friend's dad? Kissed. It's hot girl summer, baby.

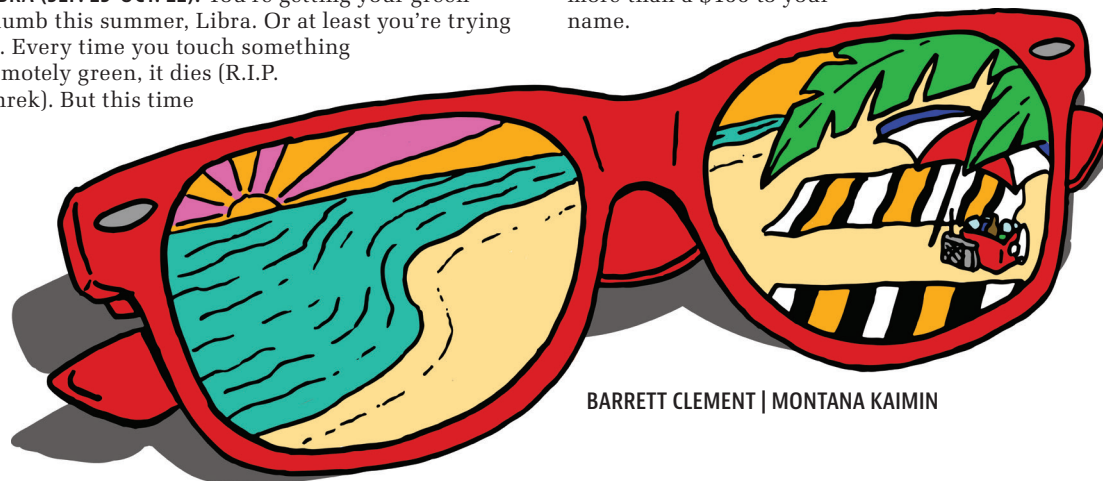
SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): Daddy's money came in handy, and you're going on a vacay this summer! Relaxing by the beach, swimming in the warm waters, you can't wait. It's a little embarrassing when you want to buy souvenirs and have to keep asking your dad for his credit card. Maybe it's time to get a job. You aren't going to be the next travel influencer, I promise.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): You've moved back home for the summer, and all your childhood friends are also back, so you're getting the gang together! You and your hometown friends do what you've always done, talk shit about people you grew up with and get drunk.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): This summer, you're finally doing a Montana staple: camping. Well, not really. You're so boujee, Aquarius, you have to sleep at least one foot off the ground. And there has to be running hot water. And you don't like the smell of a campfire. And — hmm. Maybe it's better to just stay home.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): You're back home for the summer, and you're back to what you've always been for your parents: free labor. Your younger siblings are also out for the summer, and of course, you're forced to take care of them. It's not so bad, though! You and your siblings are planning a coup against your parents.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): The grind never stops for you, Aries. Even though you're free from classes and homework, that just means you can pick up more shifts. You've been broke enough during the school year, so it's time to lock in and finally have more than a \$100 to your name.



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Women's, gender and sexuality director to step down after 11 years

SAV CHAVEZ
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After 11 years in her position, Beth Hubble, the director of women's, gender and sexuality studies, is stepping down. Two co-directors will take her place.

During her time as director, Hubble led the charge for the program to create its own major and change its name, while also impacting countless students.

Hubble began her work at the University in 2005 as an instructor, where she taught "Intro to Humanities." When she arrived, the program, originally called women's and gender studies, was ran by co-directors. In 2008, Hubble became co-director while the program was still offered as a minor. She became the full director in 2014.

During her first year, the Board of Regents voted unanimously in favor of creating a major for the department.

"I did all the paperwork. Our students wanted a major, they were majoring in other programs, but this is where they felt like their home was," she said.

Hubble created what is described as a budget-neutral major, providing a way to offer additional classes and hire faculty for it. This would mean students could take classes with other departments that would contribute to their women's, gender and sexuality major.

Hubble plans to pass the program on to two new co-directors who are currently in the interview process.

"People have been amazingly supportive and understanding," Hubble said. "One of the things that we really focus on in any kind of [women's, gender and sexuality studies] related work is self care, and when people say, 'it's time to step down,' when people say, 'I need to take a break,' you tend to get a lot of support."

Hubble plans to stay at the University as a professor and looks forward to taking on a lighter load, moving from teaching up to three classes a semester, on top of being the director of the program, to focusing on one class per semester.

"It's time to give other people their chance," she said. "I will be here to get the people I'm already working with graduated. I'm close to students where this is their first year at UM, so by staying I can have those connections with people without

having the admin duties."

Hubble has worked closely with her students for a long time, surrounded by art and gifts from students in her office. For Josie Miller, a student pursuing a Master of Arts in literature with a minor in women's, gender and sexuality studies, Hubble is a huge reason she received funding for graduate school.

"I met [Hubble] in her 'Women in Literature' class 'cause it sounded like a fun course," Miller said. "It was in that class where I thought, 'Oh, this is amazing,' and I have been working with her ever since."

Miller, Hubble's teaching assistant, works side by side to help grade papers and is a writing adviser for one of Hubble's classes. Miller said with her job experience as a TA under Hubble, she was able to secure the role as a teaching assistant for the English department. The position comes with a stipend and tuition waiver.

Miller heard the news of Hubble planning to step down in early April. While she was surprised, she said the work Hubble has done for the program will leave a lasting impact for years to come.

"It's true to say that we will all miss her. She has been a cornerstone of our community for over a decade, if not more. She is the heart and soul of the program. To have that role shift is something that will reverberate throughout the program," Miller said. "At the same time, I'm not worried. It's the cycle of life. While we may be losing an incredible advocate and friend in some ways, we are gaining her back in other ways."

After 20 years of work, and a decade as director, Hubble looks forward to having more time to herself. While telling her students about the decision, she has received nothing but support.

"They've been wonderful. I think they can see how tired I am," Hubble said. "A part of me is coming to realize that if I keep having this level of work, I can't be there for the students in the ways I want to be."

Sav Chavez is a news reporter for the Montana Kaimin and can be contacted at savannah.chavez@umontana.edu. For more stories from Chavez and other reporters, visit online at montanakaimin.com.



Elizabeth Hubble, director of women's, gender and sexuality studies at the University of Montana, sits in her office in the Liberal Arts Building on April 1. HENRY DOELLINGER | MONTANA KAIMIN

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The Salmonfly Project fights to conserve Montana's aquatic insects

MADELYNN PANDIS

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In Montana, when the sun is shining and the water runs cool and clean, the unseen engineers of waterways start the process of hatching.

Synchronous with both the sunrise and sunset, a cloud of insects erupts daily. The bugs cover the skyline, creating an almost apocalyptic-looking atmosphere. In the river, noses of hungry trout burst through the water's surface in a feeding frenzy.

These types of hatches are what bring fly fishermen to Montana's blue ribbon streams. During a hatch, with bugs dive-bombing rivergoers' heads and faces, it seems far-fetched to say that insect populations are rapidly decreasing. But retired University of Montana professor Diana Six said 75% to 80% of insects are dying off, and nearly one third of all insect species globally are facing imminent extinction.

"Nobody talks about bugs," said James Frakes, a University of Montana alumni. "Panda bears, these are things that have teddy bears that look like them right? These are things that have cartoon movies. Besides 'A Bug's Life,' people just don't seem to care about bugs. They're viewed as pests."

Frakes is the co-founder of a nonprofit, The Salmonfly Project, that focuses on conserving the aquatic insects that carry the weight of the small world on their shoulders. In Montana, there isn't any baseline data for scientists to determine whether certain bodies of water have healthy or unhealthy insect populations, a discrepancy his organization is working to change to keep "the last best place" at its best for everyone.

Frakes graduated from UM with his undergraduate degree in wildlife biology, as well as his graduate degree in freshwater ecology. He said even he didn't have much interest in bugs until he selfishly wanted to learn about them to elevate his fly fishing skills.

"Bugs are so important. Let's just take it beyond the fishing problem. The wildlife and even human populations will probably crumble if we lose our bugs," Frakes said. "We're really screwed, and so people are going to have to start caring about bugs sooner or later."

Aquatic insects are vital to maintaining healthy rivers and streams in Montana by scraping algae off rocks, shredding leaves and organic matter and even casting underwater nets that act as a water filter. As they mature, they often become a food source for fish, birds and bats. They are so important to the environment that some birds even sync



Salmonfly Project volunteer Selina Walters takes a sample in upper Rock Creek.

CONTRIBUTED | JAMES FRAKES

their migration with insect hatches.

While he was in school, Frakes met fellow bug lover Jackson Birrell. Through working together during graduate school, the two found themselves talking about post-graduation. They wanted to be their own bosses and do field work as much as possible, prompting them to partner together and launch their nonprofit.

The organization focuses on conserving insects by learning about what causes dramatic declines of bug populations and how to combat them.

The Salmonfly Project found that nearly 500 miles of river in Montana have experienced a severe loss of salmonflies, while some have completely lost their populations.

Salmonflies are the largest species of stonefly in Montana. They can grow up to three inches long and are easily identified by bright orange markings near their head.

There are many factors that play a role in the insect exodus, some more obvious than others. The National Institutes of Health published a diagram titled "Death by a Thousand Cuts," which highlights all of the key factors contributing to the decline.

"We call this a wicked problem because you can fix one really difficult aspect of what's causing that decline. That could take some real effort, but that's still not gonna stop the problem," Professor Six, who has a doctorate in entomology, said. "We've got climate change, urbanization, pesticide use, development pollution. The list just goes on and on and usually there's a bunch of those

happening in one place."

Both Six and Frakes agree that humans generally don't start to worry about a problem until it's too late or close to it. They hope that the damage is not getting too close to irreversible when it comes to insects.

"We have to be aware of these problems that insects are facing," Six said. "What in our lives can we change? Are we spraying our yards with all this stuff when we don't have to? Do we have to put [chemicals] in a lawn when we could put in something more native plant-oriented? It definitely would help the insects, but it certainly would take everything else along with it. Everything out there is affected by these same things. Us included."

The organization has collected data on

the Yellowstone, Madison, Gallatin, Bitterroot and Blackfoot rivers, as well as Rock Creek. They often use a hess sampler, a device that collects and measures invertebrates to determine how many there are in a given area. Rock Creek is beloved by fly fisherman and is home to native cutthroat and bull trout populations. It is also home to one of the most abundant salmonfly hatches, taking place in late May to early July.

"Nobody's doing this work on that river, so there's a clear need for it on Rock Creek. That's why we targeted that river as opposed to other watersheds that maybe already have this kind of data," Frakes said. "But Rock Creek is a blue ribbon trout stream and is so important."

He said he looks forward to continuing to work with stakeholders and expand The Salmonfly Project's work throughout Montana and other western states. Although the issue of declining insect populations can seem like a heavy topic, Frakes said he wants people to realize that it doesn't have to be so grim.

"The last best place is actually true. We are living in a relatively unpopulated area that has super healthy populations of insects, even if they have been in decline," Frakes said. "It's nothing like what's happening in Utah or Colorado, places that have massive amounts of development. By providing this kind of data we have better leverage to protect [insects]. It's not all doom and gloom. There's still a lot to protect and there's lots of opportunities to do really good conservation, especially in Montana."

Madelynn Pandis is an audio reporter for the Montana Kaimin and can be contacted at maddie.pandis@umontana.edu. For more stories from Pandis and other reporters, visit online at montanakaimin.com.



CONFESSIONS OF COLLEGE TOWN:

*The Kaimin sat down with UC
to get their stories.*

UNIVERSITY CE

PRODUCED BY BAYLISS FLYNN | PHOTOS BY DIEGO HERNANDEZ

The University Center was the first building I ever set foot in at the University of Montana. It was a gray fall day in 2021 and I was a junior in high school on my official recruiting visit for soccer.

I remember towing my suitcase behind me, a heavy backpack on my shoulders. I was super nervous, as my hosts, two intimidating players on the Griz soccer team, walked me toward the UC.

The late '60s architecture threw me off. It didn't look like the rest of the buildings on campus. It didn't feel like a cool brutalistic master-

piece, just a brown, stone rectangle. Inside made me uncomfortable, too. Three levels, 360 degrees of exposed balconies. Fully grown trees, ferns and plants transcending the floors, sprouting from the ground level. Water features and a koi pond. It looked like an arboretum had thrown up.

We went to The Market so my hosts could spend the rest of their Bear Bucks for the week. And honestly, I walked out of the UC disappointed.

It wasn't like the shiny, modern or ivy-encrusted classic brick I had seen on other college recruiting visits. I think I was scared of the individuality of the building. And I

didn't learn to love it until two weeks ago, when I was convinced to do this feature.

This is the second part in a series the Kaimin Cast did this year called "Confessions of a College Town." For this episode, Montana Kaimin reporters, editors, photographers and I picked up a couple of microphones, left the chaos of our newsroom and headed to the UC. We went in thinking about the building as a place to provide food, entertainment and cohesion. But we left understanding the people inside it and how they fit into the college ecosystem at the University of Montana.

OF A visitors ENTER

Alena Flocchini, 22, a UM senior studying environmental studies tables for the UM climate response club during the UC lunch rush.

This week's feature is a collection of quotes from the episode. To listen, go online to www.montanakaimin.com/the_kaimin_cast/ or search The Kaimin Cast wherever you get your podcasts.

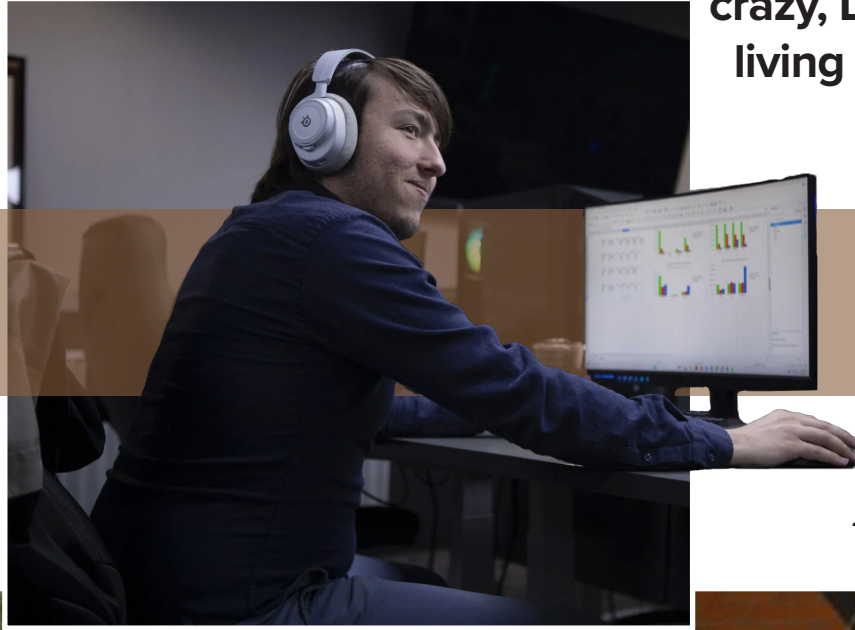
— Bayliss Flynn, audio editor



“I love Donald Trump. He’s completely crazy, Donald Trump. But, I mean, we are living in a crazy world. So it’s not really surprising that the U.S. has this kind of president. Of course, at least you don’t have a dictator. A dictator like in France.”

- MATHIEU GILLET, 23, STUDYING ABROAD FROM FRANCE TO GET HIS MASTER’S IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mathieu Gillet, works on classwork in the UC’s Gaming Den on April 16.



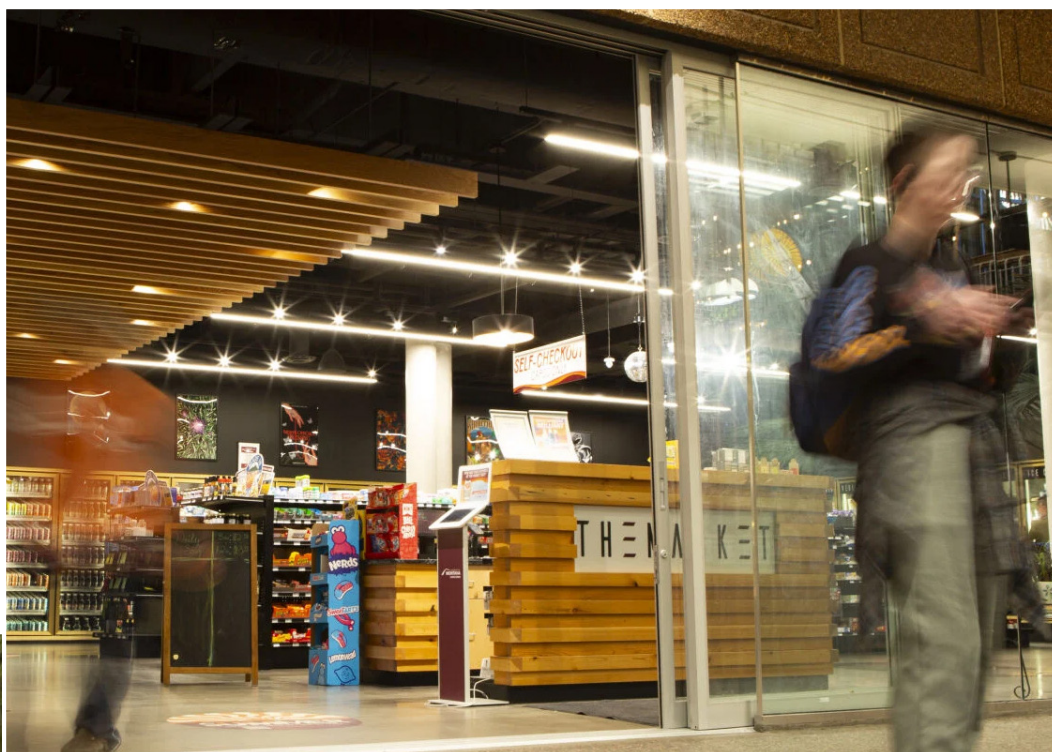
“I definitely feel like I’m supposed to act a different way here than I did on the reservation. It’s tough. My girlfriend always says because we’re Native American, we’re born with crosses, Xs, on our back. So we need to be mindful of where we are and understand where we are in any given situation, which I never really felt back on the reservation. But coming here, I can definitely say I’ve been feeling it. I’ve been to some protests and rallies lately, too. So even in those situations, it’s really hard to be mindful of everything. Know I’m here for a reason and just trying to function normally as everyone else would.”

- THOMAS YELLOWBIRD, A JUNIOR FROM THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION STUDYING FORESTRY AND FIRE MANAGEMENT



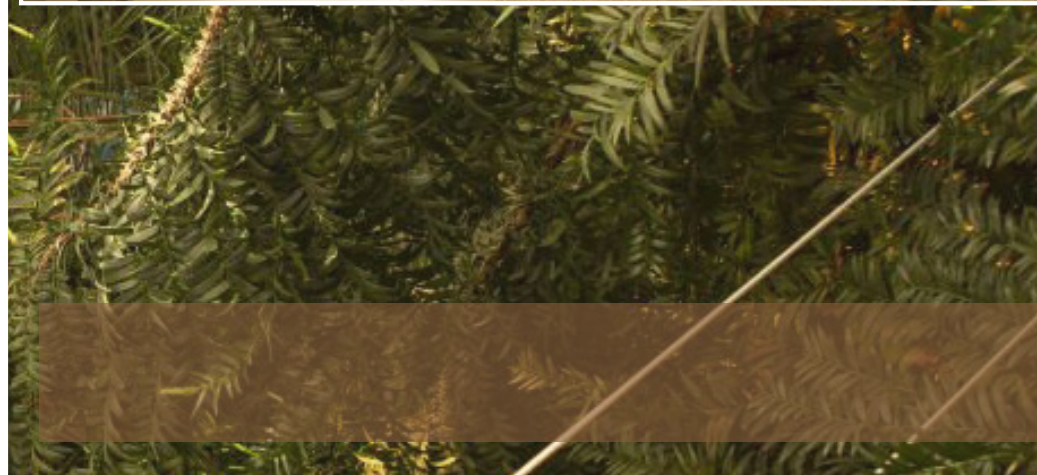
“I can say that as a College of Business major, it is very cliquey over there ... It’s definitely like if you’re in the in circle, you’re in the in circle. And you can tell when you’re in your classes, if you’re not in the in circle, aka me, it is very obvious you do not really fit in with the rest of them.”

- SKYLAR DRIVER, 22, FROM STEVENSVILLE, THE STUDENT MANAGER FOR CAMPUS DINING



“I started going to therapy when I was 12, when I was forced to come out to my mom as transgender, and she immediately put me into therapy, hoping that it would fix me ... So I have gone to Curry Health Center, and I’m sure there are some great therapists there, but the one that I have interacted with was really unhelpful in terms of finding outreach for [LGBTQ+] folks.”

- LIAM STODDARD, 21, A JUNIOR FROM KALISPELL STUDYING PSYCHOLOGY



“There’s a lot to say about a person that has empathy and wants to help people in whatever way, shape or form, however it is. And if it’s making a cheeseburger or getting somebody an ice cream cone, it’s the little things. We’re just treating somebody nice ... I guess it doesn’t matter if the glass is half full or half empty. Just make sure there’s water in the glass.”

- JORDAN GILES, 35, AN EMPLOYEE AT GARY’S BURGERS IN THE UC



Gary's \$6 Burgers employee, Jordan Giles, greets customers at late night window in the UC.

Hidden exhibits: Exploring mini-museums on campus

KATE WIDMER

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Squirreled away between classrooms, the University of Montana is home to a number of “hidden exhibits” – mini-museums that showcase various artifacts, usually related to whatever specialty the building is dedicated to.

They’re interesting enough to capture attention, yet close enough and small enough in scope that you can comfortably view them on a lunch break. So, to celebrate my last article for the Kaimin, I invited my friends Jules Jensen and Morgan Davis, both 21-year-olds from Great Falls majoring in theatre and acting, to do a circuit of some of my favorites since they’re just as big of art nerds as I am.

First, we went to the chemistry building, located right behind the Think Tank coffee shop, above the Urey lecture hall, for any non-STEM kids. Each landing of the stairwells on either side of the entrance features a different combination of paintings, photography and wall-mounted ceramic sculptures thematically linked to the natural world. Lit by sunlight coming in from the building’s huge glass windows, the gallery is a peaceful space to wander up and down.



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My favorite piece is Pamela Caughey’s “Chem 101,” located on the second floor. I’m most captured by the sense of depth the painting gives. Initially it just feels like a sort of wiry, modern take on a bunch of typical science imagery, such as cell organelles and the atom and the look of a mathematical formula. Caughey created subtle blurry layers between the shapes, suggesting the difference between what’s directly in front of your face and what lays beyond, but within reach.

Combined with the dual color palette of dull tan and saturated neons, which reminds me of Austrian expressionist painter Egon Schiele’s works, the painting grasps at the ugly and natural while subtly emphasizing the beauty within. It makes me feel as if I could stick my hand through it and feel something slippery on the other end. Thinking back to the title, the image makes me wonder if Caughey, who holds a bachelor’s in biochemistry, was inspired by the emerging sense of wonder while beginning her science education.

Another of Caughey’s works, “Osmosis,” lives on the third floor. It reminds me of the color field works of Latvian-American abstract painter Mark Rothko, with its almost combative red and navy contrast. Jensen enjoyed “Nocturne 49” by Nicholas Gadbois, another navy work that features a grid and a series of dots over it. “It feels like a city block,” she said.

Our next stop was the far end of the Skaggs building, which hosts mainly the pharmacy and exercise science departments. If you enter from parking lot G and walk a little bit, there’s a display case filled with old pharmaceutical ephemera.

Among other items, the collection includes records of prescriptions from the 19th century and glass bottles of all colors and sizes containing various natural remedies, next to signs explaining what they were used for. Tons of mortars and pestles that pharmacists of generations ago would use to help their patients sit next to them. Walking along the hallway and glancing at all of the names written in loopy handwriting on withered paper made all of us feel very nostalgic.

“[These] people haven’t been here for a long time, but we still are and the book still is,” Davis said.

Afterward, I took Jensen and Davis to the Clapp building, where UM’s paleontology collection lives in the basement. The ground floor of the building’s left wing holds a number of display cases that highlight all kinds of geological and paleontological phenomena, including information about Mount St. Helens’ 1980 eruption and creatures of various time periods, such as the megalodon.

But the most interesting display, in my opinion, is the life-sized replica of the skull of Peck’s Rex, housed in a case that’s 50 inches tall. It’s one of the most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex skeletons ever discovered



Morgan Davis (left) and Jules Jensen (right) read about the Tyrannosaurus Rex skull in the Clapp Building on April 23. **HENRY DOELLINGER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

and was found in Montana in 1997. Even though it’s a replica, the skull’s dull brown and gritty texture maintains the fossil’s striking effect. I recommend staring at it and imagining how big the creature’s eyeballs would’ve had to be. It makes viewing it way scarier.

Lastly, we visited the Theta Rho room on the fourth floor of the Mansfield Library, right next to the UM archives. On the right side of the room is a collection of vintage photographs from Montana’s past, including a photo of a bear in Yellowstone sitting upright, with a handwritten caption over its head calling it a “contented bear,” which made us all laugh. The other images range from black and white mountain landscapes, trees, the edges of bodies of water and wildlife from years past.

There are tons of other hidden exhibits that Jensen, Davis and I didn’t go to. Another personal favorite is the display case on the second floor of the journalism school. It includes the story of the first released photograph of the Unabomber, which was taken by UM photojournalism students, along with other memorabilia from Montana’s rich journalistic history.

There are also a number of official galleries on campus that are free to view, including the Gallery of Arts in the social sciences building and the Eloise Knowles Student Gallery in the Fine Arts building. The Gallery of Arts is currently exhibiting the 2025 BFA theses until May 9. To find them, go through the front door of either building and turn left.

If you visit the Fine Arts building and turn left after reaching the top of the stairs, the

light shaft space is special for its top-down lighting setup, which makes its exhibitions nearly glow. Currently, it is exhibiting works by Taylor Schilke until May 4. There’s also the University Center Gallery, located on the second floor, currently exhibiting “Come and See” by UM alumni Raven Clark until May 7. The schedules of all three spaces are constantly rotating, providing viewers with additional motivation to get out and experience art.

One of the reasons that I’m drawn to arts reporting is that it creates a sense of community based on experience between yourself and your readers. You’re a sort of prism, reflecting all the things you encounter just by living your life. You hope to inspire your audience to get out and experience those same things themselves. Ideally, they’ll think it’s just as cool as you do.

The reason I’ve noticed so many of these exhibits is because I’ve switched degree paths so many times and therefore been exposed to different sides of campus, which made walking through all of these spaces feel a bit cathartic. This experience was a recap of my college experience and a finishing point for this part of my journalism career, all in one. I hope you can use this as a guide to experience some whimsy and take a walk around campus. There’s lots to discover if you know where to look.

Kate Widmer is an arts & culture reporter for the Montana Kaimin and can be contacted at kate.widmer@umontana.edu. For more stories from Widmer and other reporters, visit online at montanakaimin.com.

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Griz tennis serves culture

HANNAH BENITEZ

hannah.benitez@umontana.edu

As the University of Montana men's tennis team enters the offseason, it is ready for a new wave of international players. But it's not just new freshmen and transfers who are about to enter a strange time, so are the seniors, who watched the season come to an end.

Fernando Perez, who is originally from Murcia, Spain, came to America in 2021 to play for Northern Alabama University. Perez decided to transfer to UM for his sophomore year and he is now preparing for graduation with a degree in finance.

"I was looking for a more serious tennis team and a better tennis coach," Perez said. "My old coach was the head coach of both men's and women's, so he didn't care as much."

While Perez has been in America for four years, he admits he still had to do some adjusting.

"In the beginning my English wasn't that good. We start learning it early in Spain, but we don't focus on the speaking part, more the vocabulary and grammar," Perez said. "So when I first came over it was hard to understand what everyone was saying, especially

with the accents in Alabama."

Jake Watkins, who is in his junior year studying pre-med, is the only player on the roster from the United States. He decided to commit to Griz tennis after his brother was recruited by the team in 2019.

Watkins uses his experience in American culture to help incoming international players.

"It's really exciting. I live with three of the guys on the team and we've all become really good friends," Watkins said. "We all love learning about each other's countries and their different cultures."

But for many of the players, it wasn't about getting a change in scenery when they made their decision to come to UM. It was the tennis culture within the coaching staff.

"It comes down to our coach, he looks a lot at international players. It's good to have a mix of cultures," Perez said.

Watkins also expressed praise for head coach Jason Brown.

"We get a lot of international players because of our head coach, he's the best in college tennis," Watkins said.

With players coming in from places like Germany and Norway, it's easy for them to feel stress about the new environment, but Perez can now laugh at all the stereotypes about



The Montana Grizzlies go against the North Dakota Hawks on Jan. 25 at the PEAK Racquet Club in Missoula.

ELLA PALULIS | UM ATHLETICS

Americans he encountered while growing up in Spain.

"In Spain, we joke about how when we go to classes, we dress nice and over here everyone just goes in their pajamas or that the classes here are easier," Perez said. "I did have to ask some of the older guys if it was normal for international players to join frats."

While Perez had to leave his family behind in Spain, around 5,300 miles from Missoula, he didn't feel any regret about his move.

"When I left I was organized and I knew I wanted to come to America for college, so it wasn't that bad. In the beginning it was weird, but I haven't once thought about going back," Perez said.

Yet, even when he felt as though he was prepared to come to the United States, the difference in the way Americans act and eat was still a shock to him.

"The biggest cultural shock for me was the food and the fact that you need a car for everything," Perez said.

When it comes to getting players used to the American and Montanan way, Watkins steps in. He likes to take freshmen under his wing and help them learn how to get around and to understand the mannerisms of the land.

When planning and making final cuts to the roster, the tennis team had to take a risk with having most of their roster consist of non-North Americans. It didn't know if the language was going to impact the team or if the change would be too much for some of the athletes.

But many players had experience with the English language, and the language of tennis was universal. It was easy for them to connect.

"Right now there's not much of a language barrier, there are some freshmen but their English is good. The main thing is it's sometimes hard with the accents, but we find our way around it," Perez said.

"There's a small language barrier. Everyone speaks really good English, but there's some sentences and phrases that I have to explain to them, which is pretty funny," Watkins said.

While the team understands that some types of cultural differences might be hard to overcome, they feel as though it allows them to become closer as both teammates and friends.

"In the end, when we play, it's pretty easy to get along well with each other. Our coach really works to recruit nice guys who are easy to get along with," Perez said.

Even if they have different experiences with their nationalities, they still express the same feelings when they step onto the court.

As Perez finished his last game at UM, he gave some advice for any international players coming into America and into a new system.

"Focus on the coach and the everyday stuff. Also focus on academics and University things, but mainly making sure that you're taking the recruitment process slow," Perez said. "You find some managers who try to grab players and turn them around for profit, but don't actually care about the players."

Hannah Benitez is a sports reporter for the Montana Kaimin and can be contacted at hannah.benitez@umontana.edu. For more stories from Benitez and other reporters, visit online at montanakaimin.com.



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Track and field finishes season strong

RILEY COMSTOCK

riley.comstock@umontana.edu

As the season nears its end, the Griz track and field team continues to break records.

"We're coming off our best indoor season in several years here," head coach Doug Fraley said.

The men's team placed third in the Big Sky Conference and the women placed fourth at the end of February in Flagstaff.

On the women's side, high jumper Erin Wilde placed first with a 6-foot jump at the championship, pole vaulter Samantha Serex took second in the conference and pentathlete Whitney Morrison placed first in the conference.

On the men's side, Karsen Beitz took second in the 200-meter and Patrick Kremer took second in the high jump.

Now, Fraley is focused on getting his team in the mental space to capitalize on their earlier success and keep excelling through the end of the semester. Over his short few years at the University of Montana, he has worked to increase the team's ranking. When he started in 2022, the Griz were ranked eighth. Now the team is third.

"We just didn't have the depth in different areas, we had a few standout athletes, but not much depth," Fraley said.

Fraley and his staff have greatly increased the variability of events in which the Griz scored points.

"When we went to Flagstaff and did well indoors ... it was a complete team effort," Fraley said.

While developing a strong all-around program, Fraley has built out some of the main events of the program, such as the throws, vertical jumps and the multis, where athletes compete in multiple events.

For Fraley, the process has been a learning experience in picking the right athletes who can compete at the Griz level and be successful in adverse conditions. Fraley finds it important to make sure the athletes he recruits can handle and adapt to the cold climate and sometimes harsh weather conditions.

"You're finding out as head coach as you go through Big Sky cycles year by year, what it takes to be successful in the conference," Fraley said.

Doug Fraley and his wife, Erica Fraley, another Griz track and field coach, were both highly successful pole vaulters, competing nationally and internationally. Part of building their depth has been getting high performance athletes in the events they themselves excelled in.

"We are recruiting athletes [with] higher level performances as seniors this year than we were two years ago," Doug Fraley said.

Currently, the team has three of the top 10 pole vaulters in the conference. Graduate student Serex recently broke the school record in

the event, which was held by another current pole vault athlete, Shealyne McGee.

Serex, from Fall City, Washington, came to UM after several years at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her journey through college was a tough one. At University of California, Los Angeles, she broke her back and had a hip labrum surgery, which prevented her from vaulting for a complete season during her four years there. Her first season at UM was incomplete due to Achilles tendonitis.

After graduating from UCLA without completing a full season, a friend was helping her look for schools to check out and told her UM was the place to be if she wanted to improve her pole vault skills, specifically because of the Fraleys.

"I could not have asked for better coaches," Serex said. "[Erica] takes the time to really get to know her athletes and what you need as an individual and it's awesome."

Serex is currently ranked number three in the conference, and in position to make it to regionals, but she wants to solidify that spot and jump higher. Her goal is to jump to 13 feet nine inches or 14 feet by the end of this season.

But the season has not come without its drawbacks for Serex.

"It's been so long since I had a full season, it's taken me a long time to readjust back into the pole vault mindset, it's a learning process every meet," Serex said.

Serex jumped two and a quarter inches under the school record, but still took first in the Montana Open meet at the end of April.

She has been a success story for the Fraleys and the rest of the coaching staff.

When Doug Fraley first took over as the head coach, he saw a mental block to his athletes' success.

"They just lacked expectations as far as how they wanted to finish as a team in the Big Sky Conference or what their expectations for themselves were," Fraley said.

But in those short years, he has pushed those same athletes and the new ones he brought in.

"Now when we go to the championships, those kids are expecting to perform well, because that's the foundation we've set culturally, and they've answered the challenge," Doug Fraley said.

Two more meets in Pocatello and Bozeman await the Griz before the championship in Sacramento a week after the semester ends. The culture and depth that Fraley has brought to the table will be tested for a third season, with potential to further invigorate the program.

Riley Comstock is a sports reporter for the Montana Kaimin and can be contacted at riley.comstock@umontana.edu. For more stories from Comstock and other reporters, visit online at montanakaimin.com.



Ashtyn Wagner leaps over a hurdle during the women's steeplechase event at the Montana Open track meet on April 26. **HENRY DOELLINGER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

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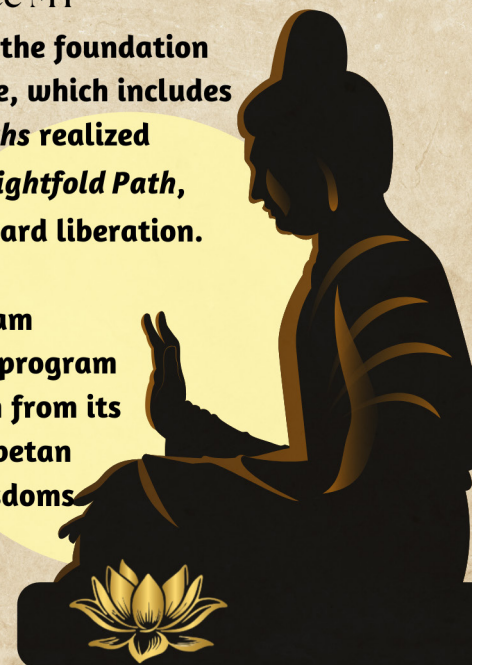
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A woodsman's weekend

HENRY DOELLINGER

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An aroma of freshly cut wood and chainsaw exhaust greeted spectators watching collegiate and professional timber sports athletes come together for Fort Missoula's Forestry Days competition on April 26.

Saturday's events gave amateurs a chance to compete with and learn from experts in the Pro-Am timber sports exhibition. Historic logging equipment, including a running sawmill and forestry related vendors, were also on site.

Joan Kuehm works at Forestry Days each year. Her husband, Scott, coaches the UM Woodsman Team and used to be a main organizer of the event before passing it on in recent years.

She said the event can attract professional athletes because it is sanctioned by the American Lumberjack Association.

"This is everyone you see on TV all the time if you watch Hayward, Wisconsin, or any of the big shows," Kuehm said, referring to the Lumberjack World Championships. "Everybody comes here to earn points all year to go to those Stihl championships."

College teams from across the region were also in attendance, including from the University of Montana, Idaho State, Montana State, Oregon State and Colorado State.

The day's competitions featured various events, such as block chops, where athletes use an axe to cut through vertical or horizontal logs, springboard chop, where the competitor climbs and places two springboards to advance higher before chopping the top log off, Jack and Jill, where teams with men and women race to saw through a 20-inch log and speed climbing, where athletes race for the best time up and down a 90 foot pole.

UM Woodsman Team member Henry Norwood competed in Saturday's axe throwing, stock saw, single buck, Jack and Jill, obstacle pole and pole climbing. Norwood, a fifth-year student double majoring in German and Middle Eastern Studies, appreciates the wide range of students the Woodsman Team attracts.

"I fit in because no one fits in," Norwood said. "There's forestry majors, German majors, business majors, everyone."

Norwood has seen a significant increase in the team's capabilities. When he started there was nobody that could chop a vertical block, he said, and now there's more than he can count.

Henry Doellinger is a photographer for the Montana Kaimin and can be contacted at henry.doellinger@umontana.edu. For more galleries from Doellinger and other photographers, visit online at montanakaimin.com.



ABOVE: UM Woodsman Team competitor Henry Norwood descends from a 90 foot pole during the Forestry Days event on April 26.



LEFT: Seth Birkman successfully breaks his log in half during the springboard chop at Fort Missoula.