The University of Montana

Montana Kaimin

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Family housing expands

Morgan Sturges
Kaimin Reporter

Family housing is adding 172 new units to its complex, potentially making room for about 516 people by this time next year.

At a forum last night, Jerry Taylor, architect for the K. Ross Toole Village, unveiled plans for Phase II of the project, which includes 48 more units.

Phase I of the project, with 124 units, is already under construction and should be ready for occupancy by Aug. 1, said Steve Laughrun, director of family housing. Phase II should be complete by second semester.

"This should reduce, considerably, the waiting list," Laughrun said.

Right now, there are more than 250 people on the waiting list to get in.

To live in family housing, you must be a student taking at least seven credits, Laughrun said. Furthermore, you must be one of at least three things.

"There are three or four different cases," Laughrun said. "Single parents with children (are allowed), spouses and disabled people with live-in attendants."

Couples must prove they are married or sign an affidavit proving their common-law marriage or "commitment," Laughrun said.

When asked if he would allow homosexual couples to rent, he said that if one were financially dependent on the other or they signed an affidavit, they would be eligible.

"But we haven't had that yet," he said.

The new apartment will cost about $100 to $130 more than the older apartment. A $100 increase would be $286 for a studio, or $380 for a two-bedroom. In the new apartments, utilities won't be paid, Laughrun said, but should run around $30 a month.

Phase II will be identical to Phase I on the outside, but will have showers and washer/dryer hook-ups. And, at least 12 apartments in the Phase II project have been changed for handicapped accessibility.

"There are 12 fully-accessible apartments," Taylor said. "They have been designed meeting (American Disabilities Act) standards.

Dave Steele has been living in family housing for two years, he said you can't beat it.

"If you have a family, you can't find anything in this town," he said. "A two-bedroom is $600 (in town) - so family housing, I like it."

Stuart Thurlkill/Kaimin

LARRY KOCH, a graduate student in literature, practices his bagpipes by Jacobs Island late Wednesday. Koch, who has been playing for five months, performed for the first time on St. Patrick's Day in local bars.

ASUM seeks to give students activity fee vote

Jason Kozleski
Kaimin Reporter

The future of funding for the Montana Kaimin will rest in the hands of students if a proposed ASUM initiative passes through the student senate next week.

ASUM zeroed-out the Kaimin's budget for next year because the senate felt funding a newspaper covering the ASUM was a conflict of interest. The Kaimin will use layover savings to finance next year's expenses, but is looking to secure funds for the 1997-1998 school year.

The proposal would give students the option of voting for a $2 Kaimin fee that would either be added to the activity fee or would stand alone in a separate account. An addition to the activity fee would raise it to $30, while a decision to create a separate Kaimin account would leave the fee unchanged. The Kaimin wouldn't receive the fees until the fall semester of 1997.

Another option in the proposal would eliminate student funds for the newspaper altogether.

The Senate will vote on the proposal March 27. If it passes, students can expect to vote on it in late April or early May, said Matt Lee, ASUM president. Lee said he expects to see the majority of the senate vote in favor of the proposal.

"There may be some changes in the wording," he said. "But the general ideas should remain the same."

ASUM sponsored an open forum in the University Center yesterday to allow students voice concerns about controversial issues on campus. Issues that were discussed included the pub, the publication board and the new ASUM student services group. But how the Kaimin would be funded in the future dominated the discussion.

Both the Kaimin and ASUM support having an independent student newspaper, but have different viewpoints about how to provide funding.

Lorie Hutson, Kaimin editor, said she doesn't want the Kaimin to be used as a vehicle for a higher activity fee.

"I'd like to see a fee increase on the merits of the student activities," she said, "not to save

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Proposed Kaimin funding options

- Option 1: A new fee of $2 to support the Montana Kaimin with a $2 decrease in the ASUM activity fee.
- Option 2: A new fee of $2 to support the Montana Kaimin with no change in the ASUM activity fee.
- Option 3: Against new fees to support the Montana Kaimin.

New teacher certification test cuts cultural bias

Kimberly Robinson
Kaimin Reporter

Students who are currently pursuing teaching careers will be taking new certification tests beginning in July 1997, UM's certification specialist for the School of Education said Thursday.

But Janice Midyett said students shouldn't expect too many changes.

"The standards haven't changed, only the test itself has changed," she said.

The current standardized test for initial teaching certification in Montana is a three-part test called the National Teacher Exam Core Battery.

But due to criticism since its inception in Montana in 1986, the state decided this month to give students the option to take a less costly and controversial test, said Don Freshour, the state director of certification.

> "The tests were criticized for their lack of cultural sensitivity and for their costs."
>
> —*Don Freshour*
> *Director of Certification*

"The tests were criticized for their lack of cultural sensitivity and for their costs," Freshour said.

He said the wording of the Core Battery test made it difficult for people with different language patterns to take the test. The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council decided to replace this test with one that aims to remove such cultural barriers, he said.

He added there is also a cost incentive for the change. Students will shell out approximately $75 for the test compared to $150 for the current Core Battery Exam.

A one-year transitional period will allow students who are graduating to get certified after July 1, 1996. They will only need the two parts of the Core Battery Exam already required for entrance to UM's Teacher Education Program. Approximately 500 students are currently enrolled in the program.

After this transitional period, beginning July 1, 1997, students will be able to choose between one of two tests, the Pre-Professional Skills Test or the Computerized-Based Test.

Arts

Skatalites bring original ska sound to UM

Zach Dundas
Kaimin Reporter

Unless you've been cowering under a rock, or face down at Buck's Club or some other den of tone-deaf iniquity, you know that ska is big with the youth these days.

Having shed, mostly, the sketchy thug politics it's sometimes been kidnapped by the hyper, syncopated beat born in the Jamaican ghettos of the 1950s and has made two-toned slaves of millions of American youths.

If you tried to fight your way into Jay's last spring when the Chicago aggro-ska band Blue Meanies played there, you've looked into the jaws of the ska craze. Most latter-day ska converts have been sucked in by the wave of American bands that fuse punk with the ska's reggae-on-amphetamines offbeat rhythms like Blue Meanies, Mighty Mighty Bosstones and the godfathers of the punk/ska marriage, Operation Ivy. A few (like Missoula's Skoi!dats) are devoted to the British Two Tone movement of the '70s and the early '80s, a revival born in the midst of the racist violence and street fascism of Thatcher's class war.

You must take a real long ride in the wayback machine to find the Rosetta Stone of ska, the Ur-ska if you will. You've got to look beyond the mohawked Berkeley movement spearheaded by Operation Ivy, past the Bosstones' party-jock antics, past the Two Tone crowd and their Nazi skinhead rivals. The Big Bang of ska occurred long ago, in a place where the average lily-white American ska fan would feel as alien as a Jew in Mecca.

Born of alchemical experiments that produced a fusion of big-band jazz and Calypso beats, ska reared its hyperactive head in Kingston, Jamaica, in the 1950s. The gang of mad scientists who let this beast out of the lab, the Skatalites, will play the UC Ballroom Monday, March 25.

To say the Skatalites are legendary is a crime of understatement, like saying Beethoven could write a hummable tune or that Nixon told a few white lies. Let's just say this by way of example: the Skatalites laid the foundation for Bob Marley, so next time you paste a "One Love" bumpersticker on the back of your 'Rover, thank them.

Think what you will about reggae and the whitebread would-be rastas who frequently espouse it, but it's impossible to think about modern music without considering the mass of music that's come out of Jamaica in the past 40 years. The Skatalites are absolutely and without doubt the center from which all that reggae, bluebeat, dancehall and dub radiate.

The Skatalites' sound holds surprises in store for the latter-day skankers who are used to the go-for-throat stylings of punker ska. Horns aplenty here, stretching out in long jams over the jumpy beat, without a lot of vocals. The Skatalites launch in for the long haul, trading solos like jazzmen while the unmistakable rhythm line makes sweat pour from all in earshot.

So, throw the money down. Do yourself a favor. Chances like this do not come often.

Photo courtesy of Shanachie Records

JAMAICAN SKA legends, The Skatalites play the UC Ballroom with Missoula's own Skoi!Dats Monday, March 25, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are $8 for students/faculty/staff, $10 for general admission and children under 12 get in free.

Photo courtesy of Matador Records

MISSOULA NATIVES and Matador recording artists, Silkworm, will be appearing at the UC Copper Commons at 8 o'clock. The band is touring to promote its latest album, "Firewater." Opening the show will be A Minor Forest and local rockabillies Clodhopper. Tickets are available at the door for $5/UM students and $6/general admission.

Promoters scope southern scene

Brian Hurlbut
Kaimin Arts Editor

Spring break came a little early this year for UM's team of concert promoters.

UC Programming Advisor Tom Webster, Concert Coordinator Chris Field and UM Productions Director Virginia Jones all headed south to Austin, Texas, for the 10th annual South by Southwest music industry conference and festival. The event took place from March 13-17. The conference is designed for anyone in the music industry and offers panel discussions, seminars, workshops, and of course, concerts.

This was the seventh year Webster attended the festival, which he uses to lure bands to Missoula to play. "You have to aggressively pursue bands to come up here," he says, adding that this is one of the fun parts of his job.

Webster says it's easier once people find out about the artists who have already played here. "When you tell people that artists like Pearl Jam, Sonic Youth and the St. Petersburg Ballet have all been here," he says, "it reinforces our reputation in the music industry."

This year's lineup included more than 600 bands, chosen from more than 5000 submissions. Webster watched about 60 groups perform, including Jack Logan and Liquor Cabinet, the Bottle Rockets, Son Volt and Golden Smog. It's not hard to see bands, says Webster, because shows happen almost every hour in just about all of Austin's clubs.

South by Southwest started as a small festival for up-and-coming bands, but larger, more well-known bands have increasingly been invited to play.

"It's become a lot more commercial," Webster says, adding that MTV was on hand this year.

For students like Jones and Field, who plan to pursue careers in the music industry, the festival is great way to meet people already in the business. "It's a schmoozefest," says Jones.

Arts Calendar

Poet Nance Van Winckel will hold a reading tonight at 8 p.m. in Journalism 304. Winckel is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry. Her first collection of poems, "Bad Girl, With Hawk," received the Society of Midland Authors Award. Her first collection of short stories, "Limited Lifetime Warranty," is available from the University of Missouri Press. Winckel is the current M.F.A Director at Eastern Washington University.

The Spring Dance Showcase continues Saturday with performances of Program I at 8 p.m. and Program II at 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are $4.

Ik The Fish will be at the Narnia Coffeehouse from 8 p.m. until 12 p.m.

Missoula's own skankers the **Skoi!dats** will be at Jay's Upsatirs tonight.

The Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale will perform Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Wilma Theatre. For ticket information, call 721-3194.