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# Main Hall to Main St.

Vol. 1, No. 3

Connecting Campus and Community

August 1995

## UM's Monty: Bear About Town

The man in the brown fur suit can bring fans to their feet just by crossing the field. Children chant his name and clamor for the chance to touch him. Women rarely turn down his request for a dance.

Who is this popular man about town? He's famous, but few people know who he really is. With the exception of family and select fraternity brothers and friends, everyone knows him as Monty, the Montana Grizzly Bear.

Next month he will start his third season as The University of Montana's official mascot. For the past two years, he has charmed and cajoled fans of all ages into showing their support for UM athletes.

He guards his anonymity with a fierceness known only to members of the Ursidae family. Not even his roommates know of his wild side.

"If I know that people know, it kind of inhibits me," he explains. "A lot of people want to know, but a lot don't want to know. There's a kind of mystique to it."



Monty tweaks an Idaho Vandal's ear.

The 22-year-old, fourth-year UM student decided to talk only on the condition that no clues to his identity be revealed. He growled at the idea of an interview out of costume, but finally caved in and allowed a rare glimpse of his clean-shaven, all-American looks to be exposed to a stranger.

### Behind the Mask

He admits he does many things as Monty that he would never do as himself. He tells of the days when he shied away from the spotlight and trembled at the mere thought of public appearances, such as speeches in high school classes in his small hometown near Missoula.

"The movie, 'The Mask' fits me a lot," he says. "It's a good analogy to describe how I've changed as Monty. I was kind of in a shell, a quiet person."

By all accounts, his description of himself in his pre-Monty days is accurate.

"When he first started doing it, a whole different personality came out that we had never seen before," said his mother, who raised her son to be a Grizzly fan. "He was really quite shy. The costume is, in itself, a mask. He obviously draws from within and comes up with things he wouldn't ordinarily do."

"He's really mellow, really quiet," con-

firms a fraternity brother. "He does a lot of communicating in the suit that he doesn't do when he's not working. After the costume, it's almost like a 180-degree change."

### Nature of the Beast

In his role as Monty, he becomes as aggressive as a sow defending her cubs. And like any bear, he tends to pick on the vulnerable. Referees, opponents, fans—all are fair game for Monty's antics, which often become the focus of the crowd's attention.

He spars with opposing mascots. He sneaks up to listen in on the opposing team's huddles or helps himself to a seat on their bench. During timeouts, he sweeps women out of their seats for a quick jitterbug, performs acrobatic stunts with cheerleaders, shoots freethrows over his shoulder or mimicks a referee's stance.

Wearing a shower cap and bathrobe, he flashes the crowd. He delights in messing up people's hair with a friendly paw rub. During football season, he leads the team onto the field with his father's four-wheeler, and even used the vehicle last year to run over what was supposed to be a large baked potato when the Grizzlies played Idaho.

He gets rave reviews from fans. "I think he's wonderful, very entertaining," said Bonnie Murphy, a Lady Griz season ticketholder from Ovando. "He's a free spirit, and he's good for the crowd."

Monty didn't claw his way to the top immediately. On a whim, he accepted a fraternity brother's challenge to step into the role of Monty shortly after the character was created to replace Grizzly Otto two years ago. It was the second home game of the football season when Monty ventured forth on the field with only two morsels of advice passed on from his recruiter, who was also a member of the UM Cheer Squad.

—continued on page 2



Monty mashes an Idaho spud on the field

# UM, Community Bid Farewell to Two Longtime Friends

The community has lost two important figures in the University's past who helped shape its future.

Bill Gallagher, businessman and philanthropist, died June 14 at the age of 93. Vince Wilson, professor and a founding member of UM's physical therapy program, died July 23 at the age of 78.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial reception Friday, Aug. 11, to celebrate Gallagher's long life of accomplishments. The reception will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. at the campus landmark that bears his name—The William and Rosemary Gallagher Building of the School of Business Administration. Reserved parking will be available on Connell and Maurice avenues.

Five years ago, Gallagher reluctantly went public with his \$1 million contribution to the business school because he thought it might encourage other donations to fund the construction of the long-needed new building, which is scheduled for completion next summer.

He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from UM in 1925 and



Gallagher  
1901-1995

went on to start Westmont Tractor Co. Gallagher served the University as a UM Foundation trustee and a member of the Mansfield Lecture Fund Drive, and the community as a Missoula Community Hospital trustee.

A 1943 UM graduate, Wilson returned to his alma mater to head the pre-physical therapy program from 1948 to 1979. He served until 1981 as the first director of UM's physical therapy program, after working to get it accredited so students wouldn't have to leave Montana to obtain a professional degree.

A longtime Grizzly supporter, Wilson also served as the first president of the Mount Sentinel Little League Association. He received two of UM's highest honors—the Robert T. Pantzer Award, given to Montanans who have made the University environment more open and humane, and the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Last spring, the department he helped build renamed its campus facility the Vincent Wilson Physical Therapy Complex.

## Monty—continued

"He told me to remember to have a walk that was my own and everything is a prop. Just go have fun," Monty remembers.

Entertaining the crowd seemed like second nature, and almost overnight, the coy cub became a bold bear, parading in front of crowds with a hip-thrusting strut that Elvis would envy.

### Bearing Down on Refs

He put his character to the test during the 1993-94 Grizzly men's basketball season when, wearing the black and white stripes of a game official, he tapped his way along sidcourt with a stick as he pretended to be a blind referee. Swept away by the crowd's enthusiasm, Monty was deaf to the buzzer. The referees stopped the game, which was being televised, and politely asked him to step aside.

These days, he sticks to less intrusive methods of picking on referees, such as swiping a pair of eyeglasses from a fan's face and offering them to a game official.

Life in the spotlight isn't all glamour, he says. Monty sometimes sweats off as much as 10 pounds during a game because of the heavy suit, including the long underwear he sometimes wears on top. He's willing to do whatever it takes to entertain Grizzly fans.

The man behind Monty is often amazed at his character's popularity. "It's neat to know that something I did, something I created is so popular," he says.

"It's definitely a part of him," says his mother. "Maybe there's two personalities that have meshed a bit and you kind of get the best of both."

# Learning by Doing: Students Gain from Volunteer Work

by Kelly Ward

Taking care of a nursing home resident and working with troubled youths aren't conventional forms of college learning. But for some UM students, community volunteerism is part of their coursework.

Volunteer Action Services of the Davidson Honors College promotes volunteerism and community service through service learning, volunteer activities and volunteer recognition. The office helps faculty develop service learning courses and acts as a clearinghouse that matches students with volunteer opportunities in the Missoula area.

During the past four years, UM students have been involved in a host of service and volunteer projects that help them bolster their learning by helping with community needs.



Students in a social work class provide one-to-one care at a nursing home, while others from several fields of study participate as mentors to youth in need of supervision. Student athletes also teach local high school students about health and wellness.

The volunteer projects instill in students an ethic of civic responsibility and lifelong learning.

Faculty, students and staff use the resources of Volunteer Action Services to find suitable volunteer placements in the community. The Montana Campus Compact, a statewide coalition of schools headquartered at UM, also works to incorporate service into higher education.

The Compact provides small grants to incorporate service learning into new or existing courses and offers faculty development workshops and consultation to campuses working to include service and volunteerism into campus life.

For more information about either program, call 243-2586 or 243-5177.

*Kelly Ward is service learning facilitator for the Montana Campus Compact*



# Bear Briefs

**Learning on the Lake**—Certified public accountants, industry accountants and executives are invited to increase their knowledge in a tranquil, nontraditional classroom setting on the shores of Flathead Lake next month. UM's Western CPE Conference convenes at the Flathead Lake Lodge in Bigfork

Monday through Friday, Sept. 4-8, with courses on management, accounting, tax and finance topics.

Participants can earn

up to 40 CPE credits at the five-day conference, which costs \$629, or \$175 per day. To register or for more information, call the UM Center for Continuing Education at 243-4617.

**Healthful Help**—The Rural Consortium for Health Outreach Information and Screening, based at UM, is seeking input from local senior citizens to help make the health information and services CHOIS provides as effective as possible. Open discussions on the topic, "Taking Charge of Your Health," will be held at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, in the Lolo Community Center and at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, in the Missoula Public Library. For more information, call 243-5813.

**Spring Break Comes Later**—For the first time in recent memory, UM and Missoula public schools will take their spring breaks together in 1996. UM's spring break will be a month later than usual to coincide with the vacation observed by Missoula County Public Schools April 8-12. The change came in response to requests from the community and from parents on campus who have children in local schools. UM offered to make a concession next year, and district officials agreed to change their spring break in 1997 to coincide with the University's traditional March vacation.

**Thanks for Your Time**—Annie Pontrelli, UM community relations and outreach coordinator, thanks all who participated in the community perceptions questionnaire in June. Responses were incorporated into UM's communications plan and will be reported in a future issue of *Main Hall to Main Street*.

**12-Step Groups Meet**—Alcoholics Anonymous groups meet regularly in the University area and are open to the public. Summer sessions of the Cornerstones Group meet weekdays at noon in Field House Room 214. The Young People at Heart Group meets Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. at The Lifeboat, 532 University Ave. The Breath'n Easy Group meets at 8 p.m. Wednesdays at Unity Church, 1201 University Ave., while the Young People's Young at Heart Group gathers Saturdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at The Lifeboat. Call 243-4711 for more information.

**Get into the Net**—Business people, educators and other area residents seeking an electronic edge on the cybermarket of tomorrow are invited to take a short course at The University of Montana-Missoula Tuesday, Aug. 8. The two-hour course, which will be repeated Sept. 26, will provide an overview of all aspects of electronic communication. The session will cover sending and receiving e-mail, advertising opportunities, and the World Wide Web and its implications for businesses.



The course is scheduled from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in an electronic classroom, Room 304 of UM's Journalism Building. For a \$29 registration fee, participants will discover the tools they need to navigate the Internet via such services as Netscape, Mosaic, Copher and Wide Area Information Servers. For more information or to register, call Jane Bernal at the UM Center for Continuing Education and Summer Programs, 243-2164.

**Exploring Montanans**—Community members are invited to explore what it means to be a Montanan at a free public conference at UM next month. The conference, "Montanans New and Old, and the Search for a Workable Future," will be held Thursday and Friday, Sept. 14-15, at the Montana Theatre in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. Gov. Marc Racicot, cowboy poet Wally McRae and former Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm are among the speakers. The conference is sponsored by the Center for the Rocky Mountain

West and the Montana Committee for the Humanities. A post-conference event begins at 6 p.m. Friday with the Governor's Humanities Awards Dinner and Ceremony honoring author Ivan Doig, television executive William Sullivan and the Montana Association of Churches. Cost of the dinner is \$30 per person, but the awards ceremony, featuring a reading by Doig, is free and open to the public. Call 243-5943 for more information about the conference, and 243-6022 for information about the humanities dinner and ceremony.



**Common Threads Conference**—Jobs and self-sufficiency for rural residents with disabilities will provide the focus for "Common Threads 1995: Working Together in Montana," a statewide conference at UM Wednesday through Friday, Aug. 9-11. Pre-conference workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 9. Conference sessions are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Aug. 10 and from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Aug. 11. The cost, including box lunches, is \$85. The conference is presented by UM's Rural Institute on Disabilities and the Center for Continuing Education and Summer Programs. Call 243-6098 to register.

**No Rest for Retirees**—Some retired UM faculty members have adopted a two-mile stretch of Montana Highway 200 between Twin Creeks and Rainbow Bend with a promise to keep it clean under the Montana Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway Program. A sign will go up soon declaring the UM retirees as the official keepers of that stretch of highway.

**Game Tickets Gone**—Tickets for the Homecoming game against Boise State are sold out, but there are still plenty of tickets for other home games. Call 243-4051 to reserve seats. Depending on who you believe—reporters or coaches—the Grizzlies are ranked first or second in the Big Sky Conference.

# CALENDAR

## Friday, Aug. 4

**Exhibit**—paintings and drawings by Montana native Henry Meloy (1902-1951), 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m. weekdays through Sept.

8, Paxson Gallery, Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. Free. Co-curated by Peter Held, director, Holter Museum of Art in Helena, and Dennis Kern, curator of UM's Museum of Fine Arts.



## Wednesday, Aug. 30

**Orientation**—for students who didn't attend a session earlier this summer, through Thursday, Aug. 31.

## Thursday, Aug. 31

**Fee payment**—for advanced registration, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. through Friday, Sept. 1, University Center Ballroom.

## Friday, Sept. 1

**President's State of the University Address**—9:30 a.m. coffee, 10 a.m. address, Montana Theatre, Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.

**Final Registration**—for anyone who didn't preregister, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., McGill Hall, fee payment due by Sept. 8.

## Saturday, Sept. 2

**Football**—Grizzlies vs. Eastern New Mexico, 1:30 p.m., Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

## Sunday, Sept. 3

**Second Annual Soccer Showdown**—

Lady Griz vs. New Mexico, 1 p.m., South Campus Field, South and Higgins avenues. Monday, Sept. 4, Lady Griz vs. Minnesota, noon, same location.



## Monday, Sept. 4

**Labor Day**—holiday, campus offices closed.

## Tuesday, Sept. 5

**Instruction begins**—Fall Semester 1995.

## Rewarding Research: Funding for Faculty Work Sets All-Time Record

University of Montana faculty attracted a record \$22.5 million in research grants and contracts during the 1994-95 fiscal year, more than tripling the University's external research funds in five years.

"It's been a remarkable development ... to take the funded research volume from right at 7 million to over 22 million," President George Dennison said. "It's a real tribute to the faculty and the quality of the proposals they write and the research they do."

This is the fifth consecutive record-setting year for UM's external research funding. The fiscal 1995 total marks an 11 percent increase from the previous year's figure of \$20.17 million.

The top five UM funding recipients for fiscal '95 are the Rural Institute on Disabilities with \$3.9 million; the School of Forestry, \$3.6 million; the Division of Biological Sciences, \$2.7 million; the Department of Mathematics, \$1.9 million; and the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, \$1.6 million.

Dennison praised the wide variety of research projects undertaken by faculty, with goals that range from monitoring global warming to developing new math curricula.

He said the University is working to provide better infrastructure support for the faculty's research endeavors so that UM's research contributions can continue to grow in the future. One step in that direction, he said, is the upgrading of the University's chief research administration post to a vice presidency for research and development.

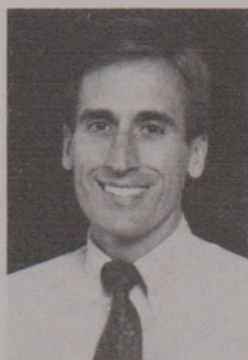
Ray Murray, previously the associate provost for research and economic development, will fill the new post for one year while UM conducts a national search for a vice president to take over when Murray retires at the end of June, 1996.

## Well-Informed by Gordon Opel

*Nothing erases unpleasant feelings more effectively than concentration on pleasant ones.*

—Dr. Hans Selye, stress researcher

Imagine what your life would be like if you could eliminate daily hassles. You'd never again need to worry about personal finances or figure out what you're going to fix for dinner or ... Would such a seemingly ideal existence be stress free?



Gordon Opel

Research conducted at the University of California at Berkeley suggests the answer is no. The presence of positive factors in life—not merely the absence of the negative—are most important in reducing stress.

This is an important concept. The traditional approach to stress management is to focus on minimizing negative experiences through techniques such as time management, conflict resolution and personal finance budgeting. Too little time is spent on developing positive aspects of life.

Next time you feel stressed out, try this: Instead of focusing on what's wrong with a situation, switch gears and think about the rich and rewarding aspects of your life. You'll be surprised to discover how effectively this will defuse stressful situations.

*Gordon Opel has been promoting healthy lifestyles as director of UM's Wellness Program for the past eight years. He tries to practice what he preaches.*