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Montana Kaimin, January 29, 1997

Associated Students of the University of Montana

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The University of Montana Montana Kaimin

Our 99th year, Issue 57

Kaimin is a Salish word for messages

Wednesday, January 29, 1997

Tuition increase debated

▼ ASUM President fights proposed 6.5 percent tuition hike

Jennifer Brown
Kaimin Reporter

While UM administration and the Board of Regents haven't budged from a plan to hike tuition 6.5 percent over the next two years, ASUM President Jason Thielman is still fighting to keep rates lower.

"I wouldn't be pursuing the issue if I didn't think it was going to work," Thielman said. "But, even if you're going to lose, the battle still needs to be fought, for that matter."

Thielman proposes a 6 percent increase in tuition throughout the next biennium, instead of the 6.5 percent increase outlined in UM President George Dennison's plan.

According to Dennison's proposal, tuition for freshmen and sophomore state residents would increase by \$90 in the next two years. Upper-division level residents would see an increase of about \$150 by 1999. Non-resident students could expect to pay about \$450 more. Resident graduate students would pay about \$100 more; non-residents, about \$500.

Thielman said he objects to Dennison's proposal because he said it doesn't try to meet goals set by the university in 1993. In a collaborative bargaining process with the regents, the Governor's Office, students and

faculty, the UM administration agreed to aim for a 6.5 percent yearly increase in tuition rates for the following six years. By the end of the planning period, resident students would pay 30 percent of the cost of their education while the state will cover the rest. Non-residents would pay 100 percent.

But tuition rates move further away from the goal each year.

Since 1995, tuition has increased on an average of 8.337 percent. And at the current rate, residents will be paying 36 percent of their education by 1999.

Although increasing tuition by 6 percent instead of 6.5 percent won't solve the problem, it points in the right direction, Thielman said.

"We need to move the cost of education down rather than up," he said. "By sticking with 6 percent, we make progress in that direction."

But Dennison is firmly set on a 6.5 percent increase.

"Other schools are going up close to almost 7 percent," he said. "I don't think (6 percent) would work."

Dennison asked the regents to consider lowering tuition at UM's three technology schools by 5 percent over each of the next two years, and at the same time, increase tuition by 6.5 percent at the main campus. Despite the fact the regents won't allow technology school tuition to decrease, Dennison said there is no chance he'll redraft his plan and lower main campus tuition.

"We're still going to have to squeeze very tightly," he said.

book exchange at UM wouldn't be practical because operating costs coupled with publishers' prices wouldn't save students money in the long run.

"(A book exchange) is a really complex system," she said. "We'd need a lot of help."

But the billboard can be a great success, without a threat to The Bookstore, Driscoll said. "The Bookstore has been extremely cooperative," she said. "It's not the bookstore that makes the books so expensive, it's the publishers."

Bryan Thornton, general manager of The Bookstore, said he thinks the board is a good idea as well.

"I certainly don't think it will have an impact on The Bookstore," he said. "It should help students quite a bit."

Billboard shopping could become easier in the future, UC director Gary Ratcliff said. Information from the UC's ride, off-campus housing and book-swapping boards will be placed on a UC website, he said.

AAUW offering book sale

Jennifer Brown
Kaimin Reporter

Students who don't mind a little extra work to save a buck can buy used textbooks by checking out a new University Center billboard instead of heading straight to The Bookstore.

The American Association of University Women campus chapter set up the new book-swapping board Monday near the Information Desk, across from the generic buy-sell billboard.

"If someone wants to go the extra mile, they can save some cash," said Carina Driscoll, president of AAUW's campus chapter. "We wanted to provide a way for students to save money."

To advertise old textbooks, students can pick up an index card from the Information Desk and stick it on the board. Nearly 40 cards have been posted since Monday.

AAUW tried to organize a campus-wide book exchange last spring, but lacked the necessary storage space and organizers. Driscoll said a full-blown

"The Bookstore has been extremely cooperative. It's not the bookstore that makes the books so expensive, it's the publishers."

—Carina Driscoll
AAUW President



Cameron Hardy/Kaimin

DECATHLETE TROY McDonough, a junior in health and human performance, runs through a practice vault in the field house Tuesday. McDonough vaulted a personal best of 15 feet, seven inches at an indoor track meet at Montana State last weekend. The performance beat his best by a foot. He also won the 55-meter high hurdles in the meet.

Trial in football assault postponed until February

Jennifer McKee
Kaimin Reporter

The assault trial involving two Grizzly football players was postponed again in December because lawyers said gathering witnesses was too difficult over the winter break.

Municipal Court Judge Don Louden rescheduled the jury trial for Feb. 27.

UM football players Kelley Bryant and Scott Curry pled innocent to misdemeanor assault charges stemming from a fraternity house fight last fall.

The trial had originally been scheduled for Dec. 20, after the pair earlier waived their right to a speedy trial.

Another man, Sigma Chi member

Roger Sandwith, also pled not guilty to his involvement in the brawl.

Judge Louden postponed Sandwith's trial as well, but hasn't rescheduled it.

"They were going to be playing ball, and the students were on break so he (the players' lawyer) asked to postpone the trial," said Gary Henricks, the deputy city attorney, who is trying the cases against the three.

David Paoli, the Missoula lawyer representing the football players, was unavailable for comment.

Both Curry and Bryant were in West Virginia getting ready for the NCAA championship football game on the day of the scheduled trial.

INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE

A doctorate in wildlife biology will soon be available at UM.

see page 3

The Grizzlies will play Weber State tonight at 7:35 p.m.

see page 6

Biologist says Mount Jumbo elk still threatened.

see page 7

Opinion

On betting the cheese spread

"No, dear God, no," I gulped, the color draining from my face with each second running off the clock in Super Bowl XXXI. With just one minute left in the game, the Green Bay Packers had the ball deep in Patriot territory — just a stone's throw away from one last score. But instead of adding a chip-shot field goal or trying for one last Super Bowl touchdown, I watched in abject horror as the Packer offense assumed the formation that meant they would be downing the ball to finish out their 35-21 victory. It wasn't that I was against a dignified Packer win; it's just that I needed it to happen safely above the 14-and-a-half-point spread to which I had dedicated most of my buying power.

In a moment of weakness and blind curiosity, I had wagered \$500 with a major gaming agency, betting that the Green Bay Packers would win the Super Bowl by at least 15 points. Instead, I

watched in a dazed state of self-questioning as the Packer sideline emptied onto the field fully accepting a victory of the 14-point variety. I felt sick.

Reaching this lowly state was easier than it sounds. In fact, thanks to electronic money transfer technology and a loophole in international gambling laws, anyone these days can experience the sea of emotions that comes with losing enough money to run a respectable local election campaign. Here's how I did it:

A week prior to the big game, I responded to an ad on AM radio promoting a legal sports gaming operation somewhere in the Caribbean. I dialed the corporation's toll-free number and found nothing short of a fool's bitter splendor. Talking to an employee named Dave, I stated my intentions and he informed me of the company's process: one must set up an account with the agency before placing a wager. This

Column by



Thomas Mullen

entailed wiring the company any amount in excess of \$50, which would then be used to start a gambling account under the company's control. This setup, I thought, was ripe for a big bet. In the event of a win, I would have a substantial foreign gambling account ready to live up any ESPN telecast; with a loss, I at least avoided the risk of bouncing a check and being subsequently bounced and checked by a duo of under-

world ilk. Dave assured me that this account could be activated in a matter of minutes, whereupon I could begin wagering on that night's college basketball games if I wanted to bet the small stuff first.

"Uhhhh, I think I'll wait for the Super Bowl," I said, knowing full well that practice was not key to gambling success. Instead, I placed \$500 on the Packers to beat the aforementioned spread.

The week leading up to the big game was enjoyable. Though many a friend warned that the point spread seemed risky, my faith in the Packers was such that I was comfortable with any spread resembling my taste in women (anything in the mid-teens). I felt empowered by my new-found hobby, and trumpeted it to anyone who would listen. Game day, however, quickly evolved into a roller coaster of nerves and human emotion until it was

brought to a striking end by a head coach with a sudden attack of late-game sportsmanship.

Sports gambling is a nasty habit. It can divide homes, decimate paychecks, and turn a simple football game into an ill-fated horse race between the forces of brawn and the throes of statistical probability. Worse yet, the sports gambler receives none of the sympathy other similarly weak sects of society do: churches shun him, relations yell at him and league coaches ignore his very existence. Chewed and purged by the process, I watched the post-game celebration ensue — the cheerleaders, coaches and banner-waving fans oblivious to the plight of thousands of disaffected gamblers across our country. For shame, I buried my face in my hands, taking my only solace in the fact that during the game I had made a head start on what was sure to be a wretched night of drinking.

Montana Kaimin

The Montana Kaimin, in its 99th year, is published by the students of The University of Montana, Missoula. The UM School of Journalism uses the Montana Kaimin for practice courses but assumes no control over policy or content.

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Letters to the Editor

Dining Services not eco-friendly

Dear Editor,

The sickly-sweet smell of Stone Container reminds me. The bare patches of clear-cut forest in the mountains surrounding Missoula reminds me. But going to the University Center and the Black Soup Bistro someone forgot about the price we pay for disposable products.

University Dining Service's newest restaurant is definitely a step backwards in time. Here one can enjoy food on a bleached paper tray with plastic flatware and sip from a disposable cup, all the while pretending to be in the eighties. Those with conscience enough to bring in reusable mugs must ask for a discount when ordering coffee. As my

anger grew during the end of last semester when the weather got colder and pollution got worse, I wrote.

"Why is the newest and most upscale addition to Dining Services exclusively disposable when there is a large cafeteria with a dishwashing facility right next door?"

The only response I have yet to receive came from a Bistro manager who answered my question: "Why can't the Black Soup Bistro at least use reusable plastic trays when serving food?"

"It costs too much," was the reply.

Nevermind the fancy modern wallpaper and new televisions. Nevermind the smoked salmon and draft root beer. Nevermind that countless little restaurants still find it profitable to use

those little red baskets, even without fresh-grilled pasta primavera on their menus.

What is evident is the total ignorance Dining Services has for responsible, sustainable business behavior. The large number of people who dutifully carry reusable coffee mugs and bicycle to school to save the air quality are completely invisible to Dining Services. I encourage anyone who is equally upset about this to speak up and fill out the comment cards available behind the cashiers in the UC Food Court. Or, better yet, use a recycled piece of paper to let them know.

Peter Taglia
junior, liberal studies

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be no more than 300 words, typed and double-spaced. Writers are limited to two letters per month. Letters should be mailed, or preferably brought, to the Kaimin office in room 206 of the Journalism Building with a valid ID for verification. E-mail may be sent to editor@selway.umt.edu. Letters must include signature (name in the case of E-mail), valid mailing address, telephone number and student's year and major, if applicable. All letters are subject to editing for clarity and brevity. Longer pieces may be submitted as guest columns.

Adult Re-entry meeting—6 p.m., Office of Career Services, Lodge 148.

Basketball—7:35 p.m., Grizzlies vs. Weber State, Dahlberg Arena.

Art Exhibit—"From Thumbnails to Telephone Poles: Eleven years of Theater Posters," by Kirk Johnson, today through March 7, Paxson Gallery.

Blood Drive—11 a.m., Mount Sentinel Rooms, University Center.

President Lecture Series—8 p.m., Robert Booker, "The Black Struggles of the 1960s and the 1990s Compared," Montana Theater.

Women's Center—7 p.m., Informational meeting, University Center Montana Rooms.

Music Recital—7:30 p.m., Nancy Cooper, organist, Music Recital hall. For ticket information call 243-6880.

Artist reception—11:30 a.m., "The Madness of Queen M.," Alex Wiesefeld, University Center Gallery. Free.

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January 31
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February 2
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Robert Booker

Director, Beck Cultural Exchange Center (Knoxville, Tennessee's Museum of Black History and Culture)

"The Black Struggles of the 1960s and the 1990s Compared"

(In conjunction with the Martin Luther King Jr.
Committee of The University of Montana)

Thursday, January 30, 1997, 8:00 P.M. Montana Theatre



The University of
Montana

UM to offer doctorate in wildlife biology

Néomi VanHorn
Kairim Reporter

The Board of Regents approved a proposal Thursday to allow UM students to get a doctorate degree in wildlife biology.

Forestry Dean Perry Brown said he is confident the program will be approved and available to students by next fall.

But Montana State University has concerns about the proposal that may lead to modifications, said Dr. Ernest Vyse, the interim department head of MSU's biology department.

UM's proposal declared that there is currently no wildlife doctorate program available in Montana, when in fact MSU has one, Vyse said.

Since 1982, MSU has offered a doctorate degree under a Biological Sciences "umbrella" that combines Biology, Botany and Fish and Wildlife Biology. The combination quieted the regents' request to abolish the program because of low enrollment, Vyse said. There are currently eight doctoral students enrolled at MSU.

UM forestry professor Dan Pletscher, who wrote much of the proposal, said it may be modified to reflect the concerns expressed by MSU.

"MSU has a few concerns, but they can be worked through," Pletscher said.

Vyse said representatives from both schools will meet next week to discuss the possibility of offering a joint degree program.

"Now that UM has suggested a Ph.D. we'd like to offer one in Fish and Wildlife management," he said.

Student exchanges and maybe even Internet classes are options they will discuss, Vyse said. If the collaboration doesn't work out, MSU will propose it's own doctorate degree in Fish and Wildlife Management, Vyse said.

"I'm cautiously optimistic," Pletscher said. "If we can come to an agreement." He said MSU has concerns that there might be "duplication" between the two schools' programs.

Pletscher said he wants the degree because wildlife biology is an area where UM has the potential to have a world-class program. A doctorate program will bring recognition and the best graduate students and faculty possible to UM, Pletscher said. Former U.S. Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas recently joined the faculty of the forestry department.

"We can attract people like that because of what we have here," he said. "This program is a natural for Montana."

Brown agreed that a doctorate program in wildlife biology is a natural addition to a state that is known for its wildlife.

"It is a tremendous boost to us in establishing that the University of Montana and the state of Montana are ideal places to study wildlife," he said. "It's an attractive addition."

Brown says his department receives many inquiries about a doctorate program.

"Over the years, wildlife biology at the University of Montana has developed an outstanding reputation," he said. "People are surprised we don't have one at this time given the reputation the program has."

Brown said the doctoral program is good for students because it would give them a clearly defined wildlife biology degree that isn't "buried" in the current program, which is a cooperative effort between the Forestry and Biological Sciences departments and the Wildlife Research Unit.

Brown said the regents seemed to like the proposal, which has already been unanimously approved by the UM faculty senate and the graduate council.

The proposal, which requests authorization to offer a doctoral degree, will be reviewed again in March for consideration at the board's May meeting.

The program would require an addition of five new faculty members, who would be phased in over five years.

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Interviews begin February 18, 1997

Faculty workload top issue in upcoming talks

Néomi VanHorn
Kaimin Reporter

The teacher's union is going to try and keep upcoming contract negotiations simple, said the University Teacher's Union president, Dick Dailey.

Workload issues are going to be foremost on the UTU's agenda when negotiations with the governor's office begin in February, he said. "My goal is to make these next rounds of negotiations very narrow," he said.

Dailey says he doesn't want to open up the contract any further than he has to.

Faculty expressed concern last semester that contract workload requirements don't fairly count out-of-class work as a part of the required equivalent of 16.5 semester hours.

The negotiations will address the two "out" years left of the current faculty union contract. The contract will be evaluated and modified to stay in place until June 30, 1999. The next two years of the contract call for an equivalent of 18 hours of workload.

Dailey said contract negotiations will focus on the breakdown of the workload between time in class and research.

Len Broberg of the environmental studies department said his department is especially affected by workload issues because it is exclusively a graduate program. The contract doesn't count the time faculty spend with graduate students, he said. "We're concerned that will negatively impact our ability to serve our students," he said.

Broberg is his department's

representative on a bargaining council formed of 35 faculty members. The council will meet next week to present faculty concerns to the UTU executive board.

"Our concern from the anthropology department is that the interpretations of the contract value program strengths," said G.G. Weix, anthropology professor.

Weix said her department already has high teaching loads, with four of their seven faculty teaching six courses per year.

"We want some assurance from the bargaining council that we won't be asked to teach 20 credits per year to make up for programs in which faculty teach only 12 to 15 credits per year in order to achieve a campus average of 17.3," she said.

Civil rights leader to visit UM

Robert Booker, a leader in Tennessee's civil rights movement in the turbulent 1960's, will help the Missoula community usher in Black History Month when he visits UM Thursday.

Booker, executive director of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center at Knoxville's Museum of Black History and Culture, will discuss "The Black Struggles of the 1960's and the

1990's Compared," at 8 p.m. in the Montana Theatre.

The free lecture is sponsored by the 1996-97 President's Lecture Series and UM's Martin Luther King Jr. Committee.

As a student at Knoxville College, Booker led sit-ins to desegregate downtown lunch counters and movie theaters in his native city. In 1966, he was the first black to be elected from Knoxville to the Tennessee

Legislature, where he served until 1971. Later he became the first black to serve on the Tennessee Civil Service Commission, appointed by then-Gov. Lamar Alexander.

Booker is the author of two books, "Two Hundred Years of Black Culture in Knoxville, Tennessee, 1791-1991" and "And There Was Light! The 120 Year History of Knoxville College, 1875-1995."

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Debt does not deter students from Financial Aid

Kristen Jahnke
Kairim Reporter

When Dixie Cook graduates in about six years with a degree in psychology, she will be more worried about finding a job in her field than paying off her student debt.

Cook, a UM freshman, took out the maximum amount of money she was eligible for last semester, around \$1,265. She says she couldn't afford school otherwise.

"I'm not too worried about paying (the loans) back," Cook says, citing the earning potential in psychology.

But some people in the Financial Aid department think that students should be worrying, or at least thinking about how they're going to pay off their loans when they graduate. Mick Hanson, director of the department, says students today are borrowing more than ever to pay for school.

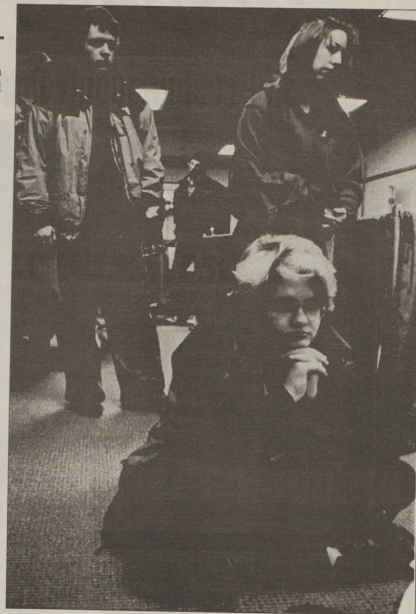
"I've seen the average debt go from under \$8,000 to around \$15,000," Hanson says.

He estimates that a little more than half of the students at UM get some type of financial aid through his office. Hanson says part of the reason for the increase in loans is the decrease in the number of grants available.

Five years ago, Pell Grants accounted for 26 percent of the financial aid pie. Now the slice is a much smaller 13 percent.

The amount of money loaned by the Financial Aid department in 1991 was just under \$9 million. Last year that number grew to just under \$25 million. Hanson calls this a "huge increase," but he says with the lifetime earning potential for college graduates being around \$500,000, "a \$15,000 investment in their future is well worth it."

Despite the fact that students are borrowing more than ever, Hanson says the default rate, which applies to loans students don't make payments on after graduating, has not significantly increased. But he says that will probably change when the students who are borrowing the maximum amount



Terry Stella/Kairim

TRANSFER STUDENT Sarah Plucker gets comfortable while waiting in a slow-moving financial aid trouble-shooting line on the third floor of the UC. A couple of minutes later, she is elated to hear her aid has come in.

graduate in a few years.

The default rate for Montana schools is around 5 percent, one of the lowest in the country, says Mary Rehm, program specialist for Montana Guaranteed Student Loans. She estimates the rate for other schools at 7

can't make their payments, Rehm says the most common solution is to get them deferred or delayed until they are more financially stable.

Hanson and others in the Financial Aid department worry that in some cases the average salary won't be

"When we do counseling, we find they haven't given a lot of thought about how to pay it all back. The problems really crop up after they leave."

—Barbara Johnson
Financial Aid department

to 8 percent.

Rehm says the increase in loans does not necessarily mean an increase in student defaults.

"If the average pay (after graduating) is decent enough, then they will probably earn enough to make the payments," she says. If a student

enough to make the payments if students borrow too much money.

"There are certain professions where people ought to be aware of potential earning later," Hanson said. "The fine arts students are borrowing as much as the business students."

For a psychology major like Cook, the average starting income is around \$18,000, according to a 1995 graduate survey done by UM Career Services. If she graduates with \$15,000 in loans, she will be paying about \$180 each month for the next ten years. That may not seem like much, but it's the equivalent of a car payment, Hanson says.

Cook says she hopes to make enough money working at a cannery next summer to pay for most of her school so she won't start her career with such a large debt.

Barbara Johnson at the Financial Aid department does exit counseling for students graduating from UM, and says she has seen some students leaving with \$46,000 in debt. While the average monthly payment on a student loan is \$125, some students with bigger loans find themselves paying almost twice as much for a longer time period.

Johnson blames easy access to credit cards for making an additional burden on the budget of recently graduated students. She says students who "maxed out" several credit cards find that those payments along with their loans and living expenses, add up so that they just can't pay the bills.

"When we do counseling, we find they haven't given a lot of thought about how to pay it all back. The problems really crop up after they leave," Johnson says.

She also says that, while in school, some students are living a better lifestyle than when they leave because of loan money and credit cards. When they graduate, Johnson says, "they're in hartsville."

Despite the pitfalls, Johnson and Hanson don't see big problems with student debt in the future, but they do warn students not to live beyond their means while in school, and to think about their future financial situation when borrowing for today.

"One of my fears is that I won't get a job in my profession," says Cook. But she and other students continue to pay for their education any way they can.

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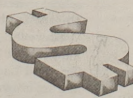
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Sports

Griz aim for sixth straight win against Weber

Steven Parker Gingras
Kaimin Sports Reporter

A 104-95 final score is rarely achieved in college basketball, but Weber State and Montana nearly reached the magic 200-point barrier Jan. 3 in Ogden, Utah.

Tonight, the rematch could be just as explosive.

The last time UM allowed an opposing team to score 104 points or more was in 1971. The Griz have only given up three 100-point games since.

On the other hand, 95 points is a season high for the Griz. With late surges from senior forward Chris Spoja and sophomore center Bob Olson, triple digits is not an unreachable barrier.

Weber State is led by sophomore forward Damien Baskerville, who averages 18.4 points and 6.9 rebounds a game.

Though Weber beat the Griz the last time out, they find themselves tied for fifth place with Montana State at 4-4 in conference play.

The Griz (5-3) surged to a second place tie with a five-game winning streak.

"After the 0-3 start, we worked on the things that we needed to work on," Spoja said. "It wasn't that practices changed, but the team started to click together offensively."

Spoja is also on his way to becoming a member of the 1,000 point club. Currently, he has 976



SENIOR FORWARD Chris Spoja stares down a MSU player during Saturday's Griz-Cat game. Spoja is 24 points shy of scoring 1,000 points during his college career.

points—20th on UM's all-time list.

"I had heard a little about being 20th, but I didn't know

anything about 1,000 points. It's nice though."

Tippoff is at 7:35 p.m. in Dahlberg Arena.

Jordan LaRue/Kaimin

Foley's Follies:

Cheese heads, Rodman, Bobcats and Da Saint

• Too much cheese

I don't care if Green Bay won the Super Bowl, Packers fans still aren't winners in my book. They just look too ridiculous in those cheese heads to have any bragging rights.

The fans who were truly winners on Sunday were the ones who do not worship dairy products.

• Speaking of golfy

The crowd at Saturday's Griz-Cat game was treated to the antics of the worst mascot in the history of mascots. Yes, the Bobcat is even worse than the Z100 Chicken.

That poor excuse for a cat just once again proves my long standing theory that UM is better than MSU at everything.

• Just wondering

Packers fans call themselves cheese heads, Jimmy Buffett fans are parrot heads, and Grateful Dead fans are dead heads.

So now that Mike Ditka is coaching in New Orleans, what should we call Saints fans?

• Speaking of Da Coach

I've been saying that Ditka is a saint for about 15 years now. Finally, someone listened to me.

• He said it

When Randy Riley was on a recruiting trip to Montana State, Bobcat head coach Cliff Hysell told the UM defen-

Column by

Bill Foley

sive end he wasn't Big Sky Conference material.

He told Riley to try some smaller schools like Montana Tech in Butte or Carroll College in Helena.

Hey coach, decisions like that are why the Bobcats

were watching the Griz play for the national title the last two years.

• Bad boy

Say what you want about Dennis Rodman, he can really kick the ball.

Maybe a few NFL teams interested in improving their punting game should give him a try. With all his fines, he could use the extra money.

• I think...

I think Packer receivers should try jumping into the crowd next time they play in New York or Chicago... I think the Lady Griz are going to win the Big Sky Conference (a bold prediction).

I think Marshall bought a national championship... I think I would never tell that to a Marshall football player's face—

at least not without a few Griz linemen with me.

I think I like the new women's basketball league better than the NBA, even if ESPN won't show the highlights... I think the NBA stinks ever since Larry Bird retired.

Finally, I think the Red Sox will win the World Series this year... I think I'm setting myself up for disappointment, again.

Construction closes Field House for '98-'99 season

Bill Foley
Kaimin Sports Editor

In two years the Griz and Lady Griz basketball teams will go on a road trip they will never forget.

Because of changes in renovation plans, Dahlberg Arena will be closed during the 1998-99 basketball season, meaning the teams might have to play their home games as far away as Butte, Great Falls and Billings.

Athletic Director Wayne Hogan said the original \$23 million renovation plan wouldn't have interfered with the basketball season, but safety and financial factors made it impossible.

Major construction won't start until after the 1997-98 season.

"When we first got into this, we thought we could actually complete all the construction around the basketball season," he said. "It's too complex of a job."

Several games could possibly be played in Missoula's Sentinel High school gym if the floor can be lengthened by 10 feet, Hogan said.

However, Sentinel's gym only holds about 3,000 people while the Griz and Lady Griz routinely attract crowds between 3,000 and 6,000.

So most, if not all, home games

will be played more than 100 miles away.

But Grizzly coach Blaine Taylor said it will be a worthwhile sacrifice.

"We would love to play our games in Missoula," he said. "It's probably more of an inconvenience for us than anybody. We don't get to pick and choose what games we go to."

The year could be bittersweet for center Bob Olson. He won't play his senior season in Dahlberg Arena, but he might play in his hometown.

"It'll work out for me I guess," the sophomore from Butte said.

"But I think it's bad for the Missoula community going through that. Some of them like to watch us."

The renovation will not affect the volleyball team, however. A 1,000-seat auxiliary gym in the south end of the building will be completed and serve as a practice facility and the permanent home of the volleyball team.

Hogan said the renovation is a must for the outdated facility.

"We can't continue to play basketball and hold other events in this building," he said. "So we've got to bite the bullet and enjoy the benefit of what we're going to have, which is going to be the best facility that there is in the Big Sky and one of the best in the Northwest."

Wildlife biologist says...

Mount Jumbo elk still threatened but hanging on

Jennifer McKee
Kaimin Reporter

The Missoula City Council closed Mount Jumbo to foot traffic two weeks ago, but one biologist said that plan still leaves the mount's threatened elk herd wide-open to recreationalists.

The council voted Jan. 13 to close all but the "L" trail and two private roads for the winter until it can settle on a long-term management plan for the newly acquired mountain. The closure is a temporary plan to protect the threatened herd and maintain the mountain while the coun-

cil develops a long-term use plan, said Greg Tollefson of the Five Valley's Land Trust. The land trust owns part of the mountain and asked people to voluntarily stay off the groups' plots of Mount Jumbo.

But the "L" trail leads directly to a threatened elk herd wintering on the mountain's bald face, said Mike Thompson, wildlife biologist for the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

"Those bumps up there are elk," he said.

The herd, numbering between 40 and 70 elk, are counting their calories this winter, Thompson said, struggling

to survive by sitting still and saving their energy. The herd is already cornered on Mount Jumbo, squeezed for space with other elk and people living in the area. Even slight contact with people this winter could thin the herd, Thompson said.

"Just the bother of standing up raises their heart rate and uses energy," Thompson said. "You're talking about burning calories they can't replace."

Kate Supplee, the city's open space program manager, agreed that leaving the "L" trail open disrupts the herd. "That's a problem,"

Supplee said.

Protecting the elk's winter range was a lynch pin in the drive to buy the land from developers, Supplee said. And protecting wildlife is the number one priority in constructing a management plan, she said.

Striking a balance between outdoorsmen and wildlife will be tough as the council hears input from citizens, biologists and state and federal agencies in the ongoing process of writing a land use plan for the mountain, she said.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, National Forest rangers, and private

citizens groups, all of which own snippets of the mountain, have already cooperated to come up with the current winter use plan, Supplee said.

And Thompson stresses the closure, but he stresses that the herd needs protection, especially this winter.

"Closing was the prudent thing to do," he said. "But if we're claiming that we're doing these things for the elk, we need to make sure that we don't compromise too much."

The council is still developing its year-round use plan, which will involve public open houses later this spring, Supplee said.

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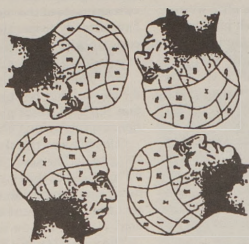
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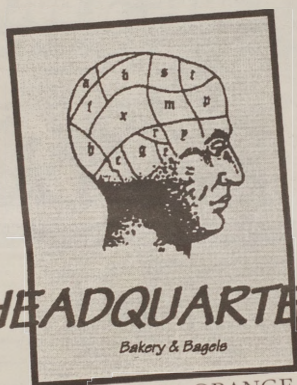
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