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Montana Kaimin, March 6, 1997

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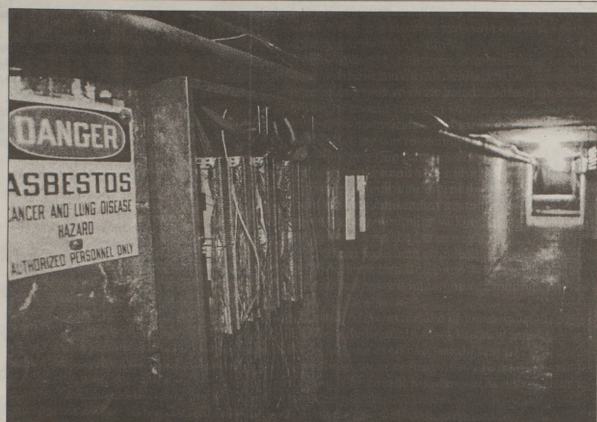
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The University of Montana Montana Kaimin

Our 99th year, Issue 77

Kaimin is a Salish word for messages

Thursday, March 6, 1997



Tucker Brooks/Kaimin

THERE ARE more than three miles of tunnels underneath the sidewalks of UM. These tunnels, once regularly used by UM students, are now closed.

UM tunnel system off limits to students

Néomi VanHorn
Kaimin Reporter

Steamy, ice-free sidewalks in wintertime are just one clue that there's more going on underground at UM than meets the eye.

More than three miles of pressurized steam, electricity and asbestos snake underground in a tunnel system that connects almost every building on campus.

Two feet below the ground, steel pipes carry 290-degree steam heat, 13,000 volts of electricity and the rest of UM's vascular system of cables, fiber-optic lines and computer wires.

UM's tunnel system was constructed in the 1920s to house the pipes that transport steam heat from the heating plant to every building on campus.

Even the newest campus buildings are connected to the system because tunnels make repairs easier than buried utility lines, said Mike Burke, the chief engineer of the heating plant.

Only Schreiber Gym and the Lodge are not connected to UM's underground maze of cables, wires and pipes.

UM utility crews are the only ones permitted in the bowels of campus now. But

students used to be allowed to use the tunnels as a toasty alternative to the cold walk across campus to dinner.

"A long, long time ago," students used the tunnel connecting Turner Hall, Brantly and Corbin as a winter access between the dorms, Burke said.

Female dorm residents used the dry, warm tunnels to get back and forth to meals, when Turner Hall housed the dining services in the '30s and '40s, said Residence Life Director Ron Brunell.

Locked, glass-paned French doors next to Corbin Hall's computer lab are the only reminders of the time when students could roam freely underground.

Now, basement-access doors are kept bolted and weekly security checks make sure that mischievous moles of the human variety stay out, Burke said.

He said asbestos, hot pipes and power lines might mean legal trouble for the university if students were allowed underground.

Security was never a problem until 15 years ago when the tunnels became popular with Dungeons and Dragons players, who took to shimmying through unlatched man-hole covers to play their

games in a more medieval setting.

"It was one of the 'areas to go and do it,' he said. "But it's really not an area conducive to play."

It was a "constant battle" to keep students from sneaking into the tunnels, he said.

Crew workers once placed a plastic skull at a tunnel entrance to scare people off, but the skull disappeared, he said.

Security gates were installed at 100-foot intervals to prevent pranksters from going too far into the network and getting lost or hurt.

Now, only maintenance people with keys to the network traverse the tunnels, and they don't find it very exciting.

There's nothing fun about lugging heavy tools over pipes, banging their heads on low ceilings, and crawling through dank spaces, Burke said.

"They're square, dark, dingy and wet. It's like walking through a cement vault." He said the leak-free, spacious new tunnel to the Gallagher Business Building is one of the nicest.

Tunnels like that can cost up to \$750,000 per mile, he said, but UM's tunnels come in all shapes and sizes.

Off-campus parking issue faces ASUM

Jennifer Brown
Kaimin Reporter

A proposal to lift the ban on student parking in the University Homeowners District didn't fly with the ASUM Senate as well as its drafters expected it to.

Instead of throwing their support behind a proposal that would allow students to park in the four-block radius surrounding the university, several senators complained the bill was unfair to university homeowners and the senate voted Wednesday to return it to committee.

"(The vote) kind of caught me off guard," said ASUM Business Manager Jeff Merrick who has been researching the proposal. "Parking has been a big issue lately. We're trying to take baby steps to fix the parking problem, and now you have people who don't want to do it."

But some senators said allowing students to park in the residential district wouldn't make a dent in UM's parking problem and would only cause strife.

"I strongly feel our parking problems aren't going to be solved by creating more parking spaces," Sen. Kathleen Kennedy said. "We need to look at alternative parking plans. I see this as only causing a strain on relations with the community."

Sen. Laura Garber said the senate should instead be urging students to walk, ride a bike or take the bus to school.

"We are avoiding the problem if we accept this," she said. "We're just saying, 'come on, drive, pollute the air, be lazy.'" Ben Darrow, stu-

dent political action director, said he will send memos to opposing senators this week in an effort to change their minds before Wednesday's senate meeting.

The senate's endorsement of the proposal would give Darrow the bargaining power to negotiate with the Missoula City Council and University Homeowners Association, he said.

ASUM challenged the district in 1993, but the Montana Supreme Court upheld the parking restrictions.

The senate would need to collect more than 10,000 signatures to place the measure on November's city ballot.

In other ASUM news:

•University Center Director Gary Ratcliff asked the senate to consider allowing students to vote on the proposed UC third-floor renovation fee. Ratcliff said students should be given two options: paying a fee that would cover only the construction needed to meet fire code standards, or paying one that would allow for extras like a movie theater. ASUM President Jason Thielman said students will get to decide if the fee will be implemented.

•The order of categories for the final budgeting session Saturday will be ASUM Agencies, Support, Broad-based, Programming, Professional and Sports Union. Budgeting begins at 8 a.m.

•A Student Legislative Action Movement table in the UC will provide students with information about bills in the Legislature. Students can use the SLAM table's phone to call for additional information.

•A survey polling students about intercession will be circulated this spring. Results will be given to the administration before they plan next year's calendar.

Formal charges intended for former UM ski coach

Jennifer McKee
Kaimin Reporter

Following a UM police probe into slack bookkeeping by UM's Ski Team club, the county attorney's office expects to file criminal charges today against ousted coach Scott Rooney.

Missoula Deputy County Attorney Jim Mickelson didn't say Wednesday what charges he intended to file against

Rooney.

Rooney, a former UM student, came under police suspicion last month after several members of the Ski Team complained that Rooney never delivered skis he'd promised after taking their money.

Rooney admitted earlier that he mis-spent dollars earmarked for other things, like skis and equipment, but told the Kaimin he had struck an agreement with some of the skiers to repay them out of his own pocket.

Rooney didn't keep regular books, but spent money as it came in, according to an earlier interview.

The club now owes about \$12,000 and has no way to pay it back, said the club's new treasurer Keila Cross.

Rooney may have misrepresented himself when raising money for the club, UM Sgt. Dick Thurman told the Kaimin earlier in the investigation.

Rooney apparently flashed an "official-looking" business card to businesses

known to contribute to other UM teams like football and basketball.

The club is not an official athletic team, but an ASUM recognized club like hockey, said ASUM business manager Jeff Merrick.

So far, only one regular UM donor has complained to the Grizzly Athletic Association about Rooney's money-raising tactics, said Director of Development Al Kempfner, who handles donations for all UM athletic teams.

Opinion

Gay marriages will strengthen, not tear down, civilization

Sometimes I almost—almost—feel sorry for the beleaguered proponents of "family values." Listening to them defend their canon is like watching a person with only ten fingers try to plug holes in a crumbling dike. Just when one leak is plugged another springs, and before long the dam bursts and comes crashing down.

This is what's happening with gay marriage. The first leak is about to spring in Hawaii, where state courts are poised to legalize same-sex unions. To plug the leak, conservatives all across the country rushed to fortify the institution of heterosexual marriage. First, Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, which gives individual states the right to reject the legality of same-sex marriages sanctioned by other states. Montana legislators took the cue and drafted a bill that would do just that. It passed the House last week.

All of this would be merely comical if it weren't so pernicious. I mean, come on, the Defense of Marriage Act? Cultural conservatives solemnly intone that they are the guardians of a sacred

institution. But it's tough to take them seriously when the median length of a marriage in America is 7.2 years, and nearly half of all marriages end in divorce. And all the self-righteous preaching about the sanctity of marriage rings even hollower when it comes from the mouths and pens of people like Ronald Reagan, Newt Gingrich, Bob Dole and George Will—all of whom have been divorced themselves.

These politicians and pundits are defending an institution that is quickly becoming obsolete. What they really yearn for is a return to the halcyon days when marriage was a hierarchical, gender-polarized relationship whose permanence was enforced by law, tradition, the stern gaze of the man and the firm hand of God. Now, though, marriage is more often practiced as a fluid and optional union of equals, whose permanence depends on the mutual consent of the partners.

As society evolves (greater mobility, urbanization, the eroding of sexism, the backlash against domestic violence and the rising self-esteem and economic inde-

pendence of women), so does social convention. It's called progress, and the same conservatives who praise economic and technological progress but want to freeze social mores in a time warp from the 50s are living in a dream world.

"I have yet to see an argument (against gay marriage) that doesn't dissolve into bias and prejudice and thinly disguised religious folderol," feminist pundit Katha Pollitt wrote recently, and I'd have to agree with her. Nor have I seen a cogent argument explaining how my parents' marriage would be denigrated if my uncle were allowed to legally wed his partner of 14 years, or how my right to someday marry would be impinged upon if my best friend, who has had the same partner for four years, were given the same option.

All the indignant demagoguery and quoting of scripture is reminiscent of the last

great civil rights struggle in this country, when southern Christians pointed to their good books in defense of the crumbling system of segregation. Then, as now, conservative Christians warned against the imminent collapse of civilization. And then, as now, the voices of their "moral" leaders gave credence to acts of violence against the minority.

The founders of our nation rightly saw a need to separate the apparatus of the state from the institution of religion. Pretend, for a moment, that the Catholic Church had ruled over the machinery of the state since the founding of America, and had never had to cope with the inexorable march of democracy—which, over time, inevitably acts as a solvent on prejudice. Based on the patriarchal nature of Catholicism, which to this day denies women a place in church hierarchy, logic dictates that women would still be barred from acting as bureaucrats and politicians and foreign diplomats in a church-run government.

The passions and dogmas of religion inevitably conflict with science and human reason.

because religion concerns itself with constructs that cannot be explained by reason or scientific evidence. In that context, religion may certainly have its place in our society. One of the beauties of our democracy is that individuals are free to pursue a religious faith, without the interference or coercion of the state. But on one condition: that in that pursuit, the individual does not deny another member of society his or her rights. Unfortunately, that is precisely what too many conservative Christians would like to do in the case of gay marriage, and when the dogma of religion comes into conflict with the premise of democracy, democracy must always triumph.

It will, eventually, in this case, just as it did with slavery and women's suffrage and segregation. And despite the protests of the family values crowd, civilization will not crumble. We have been strengthened by the extension of freedom to minority Americans, and we will be strengthened even further when the last legally persecuted group in America is given full protection under the law.

Letters to the Editor

Parking problem proposal

Editor,

I have an excellent idea for solving the parking problem that plagues the UM. First we remove the reserved status from all parking spaces, this will do two things, the first of which will be to increase the total number of spaces available for EVERY-

ONE. Secondly it will then place the policy makers in the same boat the rest of us are in. I have learned that people's compassion increases dramatically when they themselves are in some sort of pain.

The other option is to begin systematically firing the policy makers from the top down until some solution is found. This beckons back to my pain/compassion theory.

Naturally this will never happen, the priority of the policy makers is not the students, any student who has spent the better part of a day in line, or didn't get any of the classes they needed can testify to this fact. Their priority is their own comfort. Has anyone else noticed that the sidewalks around the staff buildings are always shoveled, salted and absolutely ice free? Yet the sidewalks elsewhere on campus are ice packed and dangerous. It's also an interesting coincidence that these same buildings, the ones with

the clear sidewalks also have the reserved spaces. Is there equity here, sure there is, at least from the policy makers point of view.

Jeff Moncalieri
senior, anthropology

Question on Kaimin murder story

Editor,

In today's issue, Ms. McKee states that suspect Martin Swan was "[o]ne of the last men to see [her] alive." How did she become privy to this knowledge? We know from her story and from

Missoulain coverage that she was supposed to meet a person who most likely was Swan at the Kmart lot.

But do we definitively know whether they met? If so, why was that important information not part of the story? If it turns out that Mr. Swan didn't meet her, Ms. McKee is going to look pretty foolish.

John Bulger
journalism, '94



Montana Kaimin

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Recent advances in clinical medicine lecture

"Future Directions in Valve Surgery," by Dr. Carlos M.G. Duran, UM professor, noon-1 p.m., Chemistry/Pharmacy room 204, free.

Concert — Jack Cook, from the Phantoms of Soul, blues music, 7 p.m., UC's Black Soup Bistro, free.

Center for the Rocky Mountain West lecture — "Writing Montana: Twenty-six Ways of Looking at a Literature," by poet and anthropologist Rick Newby, 7:30

p.m., Milwaukee Station's main floor meeting room, free.

Sigma XI meeting — noon, Science Complex 304/334.

Lecture — "Motivating and Rewarding Employees," by Nancy Bernius, Tom Javins, Jennifer Jensen and Susan Matule, Kathy Crego, facilitator, two sessions 10:15 a.m.-noon or 1:10-3 p.m., UC Montana Rooms.

Film — "The Mission," Jesuits encounter with native peoples in 16th century South America, with Associate Provost Fritz Schwallier, 5 p.m., at the

Lifeboat, 532 University, followed by worship with music from Taize at 9:15 p.m.

Wellness Center

— "Upper Body Power," by Mary Frank, Physical Therapy, 12:15-12:45 p.m., cost is \$3, call 243-2027.
Jazz Bands — 7:30 p.m., Wilma Theatre, tickets \$3/general, \$1/student and seniors at the door, call 243-6880 for ticket information.

Women's Big Sky Conference basketball tournament — Lady Gri, 8 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.



Concerning U

Alternative transportation new goal in parking solution

Kim Skornogoski
Kairin Reporter

Sandwiched between concrete and asphalt sits a popular parking solution, but that doesn't mean everybody is doing it. UM spends nearly \$100,000 to encourage commuters to walk, ride the bus, car pool or bike each year, yet 4,463 parking spots fill each day.

Bike racks were added in front of the Gallagher Business Building, the Harry Adams Field House and in the parking structure in the last year.

Campus Security Director

Ken Willett said future bike racks will be inspired by what's being used now—the fences by Jesse Hall.

"To add any more racks we'd have to cement a pad area," Willett said. "More racks equal dead grass and dead dirt. It gets bigger and bigger, so you have to put them on concrete pads."

But rather than spotting campus with concrete pads, Paul White, a graduate student in environmental studies and member of the UM Alternative Methods of Transportation club, suggests using some of the parking lots.

"Each of those parking spaces costs the university thousands of dollars to maintain," he said. "Parking lots are ugly and take up valuable land that could be used for green space or buildings."

The student club is working on getting a free bike kiosk near the River Bowl so people with Griz cards can ride, reducing pollution and traffic. The group would also like to see longer Mountain Line bus service hours for students who stay on campus past 6 p.m.

Between 500 and 600 UM students, faculty and staff ride the bus daily, and the university pays \$83,000 a year to keep it that way.

Mike Kress, assistant manager of Mountain Line, said the company is considering extending its hours, but it depends on money because each bus costs \$45 an hour to run.

Mountain Line and UM have worked together to get bike racks on all buses and four new bus shelters. Willett said he hopes Mountain Line will extend the new green trolley service to campus.

UM was also willing to fork over \$3,000 to light trails to campus.

Trails bring people right to the campus door," Willett said. "We devote time on bus and trail boards. Anything to cut down on the SOD—single occupancy drivers. They're the trou-

Reserved parking spots for the few and the lucky

Kim Skornogoski
Kairin Reporter

Students gaze wistfully upon them each morning—reserved spots. They are the golden grid of UM's parking lots, available for all, but with a waiting list three years long. UM has 383 reserved parking spaces, each costing \$273 a year. A good meld of faculty, staff and students form the more than 180-person waiting list.

The list is first come first serve, but many departments have special reserved spots for deans or administrators. The names at the top of the list have been waiting since 1994.

"A lot of the time it takes so long that students would be graduating when they finally

bleakers."

But as attractive as the options sound students aren't chomping at the bit.

"If people are making car payments they want to drive their cars," said Rod Souza, a University Affairs member, the student committee responsible for parking. "It's a novel issue, but it's been beat to death. Nothing is going to change."

Other campuses in California

got to use it," Shelly Harshbarger, Campus Security office supervisor, said.

Brenda Mahlum, director of the Physical Therapy Clinic and the last person on the waiting list, signed up for reserved parking in September.

"I've known about it for three years," she said. "I just didn't realize how difficult it was to park with a regular decal."

The price tag and wait didn't turn Mahlum away from the prized spots.

"I guess I'd wait forever," she said. "I might not be working here by the time I get my parking pass, but there's no many options. I'll just stick with what I have and wait for a primo spot."

and Wisconsin are demanding students car pool, bike or bus. White suggests UM take similar steps to promote a safer and cleaner environment with fewer cars.

"I know how much people love their cars," White said. "Is it unreasonable to make people get out of their cars and onto their bikes? Yeah, probably. But to get more people on bikes isn't."

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Matt McKinney
Kairin Reporter

Annie Pontrelli changed copper into maroon and won gold last week for her work to unify UM's colors and logos.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education awarded Pontrelli, Community Relations and Outreach Coordinator at University Communications, a "Grand Gold Award" for her work. Last year Pontrelli headed a project that standardized university logos and made maroon the school's primary color.

The council is made up of professionals in school communications from universities in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and four Canadian provinces.

Pontrelli said the changes help show the university as a "unified entity."

"Before, there was just a hodgepodge of different things," Pontrelli said, referring to university logos on letterhead and other products.

Susan Matule, director of UM's Printing Services, said before the changes, "People would make up their own letter-

head."

Matule said the changes have helped Printing Services because now "printed pieces are more aesthetically pleasing."

Cory Atkinson, director of UM Productions, said he opposed the color change before it happened, and said he hasn't noticed the change.

"It hasn't affected us one way or another," Atkinson said.

Steve Hackney, equipment manager for the athletic department, said the change helped because teams got new equipment.

Despite UM's newly unified color scheme, Hackney said getting consistent jersey colors in maroon won't be any easier than in the old "texas orange" or copper.

"It's hard to get consistent color in any color," Hackney said. "When you order, you always get different dyed batches."

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More students but not more funding

Kristen Jahnke
Kaimin Reporter

Despite reports touting record increases in spring enrollment, enrollment numbers have been holding steady for the past couple of years, and Registrar Phil Bain says that's a good thing.

Bain said right now UM seems to have hit a delicate balance between the number of students and the services it offers.

"I would hate to see it (the student body) grow without more resources," he said.

The number of students enrolled at UM has hovered between 11,000 and just under 12,000 for the past three years. Another 185 undergraduate students were added to UM's rosters this spring, bringing the total number of undergraduates to 11,565.

Laura Carlyon, associate registrar, said she doesn't know yet if the recent increase in students will mean more crowded classes, but she said she hopes the numbers keep going up.

But Bain said more new students at UM doesn't necessarily mean more money for campus and classes, especially if the students are from Montana.

In-state students pay about one third of the full UM tuition, while the state sub-

dizes the rest.

Sylvia Weisenburger, director of the budget office, said the money to operate campus comes from tuition dollars, and state-subsidized tuition doesn't yield as much money as out-of-state tuition.

She said she fears a diminishing quality of education if UM can't raise enough money through tuition, or through state funding.

"The situation is, we will be educating more and more students on the same budget," she said. "A huge enrollment in spring doesn't mean you have more money to work with."

Weisenburger said if UM took on more students than it could afford, it could mean bigger classes and a higher student-to-faculty ratio.

"There's a cost associated with every student we enroll," she said. "The problem is whether or not to limit enrollment for residents."

Bain said limiting the enrollment of residents is not a new idea, "but that certainly one of the ways and institution might respond."

He said, as an optimist, he doesn't think it will come to that, if the number of UM students doesn't increase drastically.

"Some say it's (enrollment) is too high now," Bain said, "but personally, I think it's not too bad of a fit for campus."

Paoli declined comment. Curry and Bryant, and Sigma Chi fraternity member Roger Sandwith were all charged with misdemeanor assault last September after a brawl erupted on a fraternity house sidewalk.

Curry squared off with several fraternity members after someone spit on him shortly before 1 a.m. Sept. 15, according to the police investigation. The fight boiled over when Sandwith bloodied Curry's face with a plastic gas can and Curry ripped off his own shirt before leaving for the Tenth Street Tavern.

He returned with several carloads of friends and some members of the Northern Idaho wrestling team, looking for Sandwith. After checking a neighboring fraternity house, Curry attempted to push his way into a party at the Sigma Chi house, touching off a brawl that could have involved more than 100 people.

Alcohol played a role both before and after the fight, Missoula Det. Greg Jacobson said at the time of the investigation.

A new federal law requiring clerks to ID anyone buying tobacco products who looks under the age of 27 has gotten mixed reviews from people around the country. The Kaimin asked people on campus what they thought about the new law.



"IT DOESN'T really bother me too much, because I'm one of those people who has always been carded for everything anyway," said UM student Matt Leonhardt.



"I DON'T have any problems with it," said Amy Yazettis, a UM student. "It makes sense because it stops underage people from smoking."



ANOTHER STUDENT, Jen Sauer, said, "It's silly because the majority of campus is already over 18. On the other hand, it's good because it keeps the youth from smoking."



Danielle Smith/Kaimin

A "lake" by the Performing Arts Building reflects a passerby.

Sentencing reached in assault incident

Jennifer McKee
Kaimin Reporter

City attorneys agreed to sit on a pair of assault charges slapped on two Grizzly football players last fall until after the football season, according to a deferred sentencing agreement signed last November but not filed until Feb. 10.

Scott Curry, UM offensive tackle, and Kelley Bryant, UM defensive tackle, and their lawyer David Paoli struck a deferred sentence agreement last November in which the city won't prosecute the two on misdemeanor assault charges.

In exchange, the two cannot break any city, county or state laws and can't possess or consume alcohol.

In addition, they must pay \$200 each to the Missoula Police Department for camera film and supplies detectives used in their investigation.

Neither the clerk of city court nor personnel at the police station knew if the two had paid the fine.

Head Coach Mick Dennehy declined to comment on the agreement.

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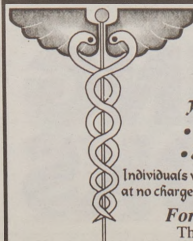
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UM to host state's first computer fair for area youth

Dennis Redpath
Kaimin Reporter

UM will host Montana's first Computer Fair on March 10, although western Montana middle and high school students haven't shown much interest in the special event, Computer Science chairman Jerry Esmay said yesterday.

The event was originally envisioned as a competition, enabling Montana students to demonstrate their computer skills in a variety of categories ranging from computer generated music and art to new inventions such as robots and household controls.

Because of the scarce number of

participants, the fair will be more of an exposition rather than a competition, said Adam Montville, a junior in computer science and psychology who has been helping to coordinate the fair since late November.

He said organizers hope to get UM departments to show up and demonstrate what has been done with computers in their field.

"We've just come too far to say 'let's deep-six it,'" Montville said. At the time of the Feb. 28 deadline, only three applications had been received to participate in the event. Since then, only one more participant has applied.

"The interest we thought would

be there on the part of students and teachers isn't there this year," Esmay said.

Despite the low number of applicants, however, there will still be a number of students taking part in the event.

More people seem to be interested in bringing their students here on a field trip to watch rather than to participate, Montville said. But Montville said spectators are welcome, because even if students are only in the audience, at least the program will be successful in "sparking interest."

Much of last year was spent polling students and teachers to find out if a computer fair would be

of interest, Esmay said. The initial response was promising, and there was some concern that there would be too many competitors, he said.

Because of space concerns, participation was limited to schools west of the Continental Divide, he said. However, next year's fair may be open to participants state-wide.

Esmay said he didn't know why more schools weren't participating. He said it was possibly a bad time of year athletically and academically, and if that is the case, next year's fair might be held at a different time.

The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday in the Mount Sentinel Room in the UC.



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Sports

Big Sky women: Lady Griz await next challenge as tourney opens



Bruce Elyfor the Kaimin

ALL-CONFERENCE forward Greta Koss finds herself in a losing battle over a loose ball during the Cat-Griz game Friday night. The senior finished her regular season play with 19 points, 12 rebounds, seven assists and five blocks.

Kevin Darst
Kaimin Sports Reporter

They own the Big Sky's best record, best offense, best defense, and haven't lost at home to a Big Sky opponent since 1992.

So with the Big Sky Conference basketball tournament being played in Missoula, are there any words of encouragement for the remaining five tournament teams?

"Nothing surprises me in basketball or sports," UM head coach Robin Selvig said. "A lot of things are said on paper, but that's why you play the game."

When UM takes the floor for the first time Friday night (they have a first-round bye) at Dahlberg Arena, only two things will be for sure: they won't be playing Idaho State or Montana State and they won't care who they're playing. After all, they swept the Big Sky on their way to a 16-0 conference campaign (23-3 overall).

"I don't have a preference. We've played them all and beat them all," said senior forward Greta Koss. Koss,

one of only two unanimous all-conference selections, finished the season averaging 14 points, 9.8 rebounds, and 1.3 blocks a game.

Selvig isn't concerned about his team's opponent, either.

"We're just going to go see who we play and go play them," he said. "It's hard to think about what you can't control. There's enough stress worrying about things you can control."

Montana sends such a balanced team to the floor, it's scary. The tournament's No. 1 seed has three starting players averaging double figures in scoring (Koss, Krista Redpath, Skylia Siso), not to mention a bench that produced the Big Sky's outstanding sixth player award winner in Angella Bieber and Lauren Cooper, the conference's outstanding freshman.

UM's other two starters, Katie McElmurry and Allison Turner, have started all but one game between them. Each is averaging more than five points per game.

•**Idaho State** (15-11 overall, 11-5 Big Sky), the tournament's second seed by way of a coin toss, will also have a first-round bye. The Bengals, under first-year coach Ardie McNelly, are entering just their second tournament. Center Mandi Ortega has played the leading role for ISU this season. The junior is 10th in the nation and first in the Big Sky in blocked shots (3.2 bpg) and ninth in the Big Sky in scoring (13 ppg). Defense is ISU's strength, as they led the conference in steals with 11.3 per game. They won five of their final six games.

•**Montana State** (16-10, 11-5) enters the tournament as the third seed, but may have best chance to meet UM in the championship game. Led by Big Sky MVP Blythe Hommes (18.8 ppg, 9.7 rpg), the Lady Cats are appearing in their sixth straight tourney where they are 6-12. With the biggest starting lineup of the group, MSU brings three of the Big Sky's top five rebounders into Dahlberg Arena, where they have never beaten the Lady Griz. In addition to Hommes'

league-leading scoring, senior Julie Brown leads the conference in steals with 2.8 per game.

•**Northern Arizona** (16-10, 10-6) is making its third trip to the tournament, this year under first-year head coach Meg Sanders. The Lady Lumberjacks are 5-1 over their last six games, but have lost six of nine conference games on the road. They will open against Weber State after sweeping the Wildcats in the regular season. The Big Sky's second-leading scorer, sophomore center Jessica LeBlanc (16.4 ppg) is one of only two NAU starters averaging over eight points per game. Marisa VonBromssen comes off the bench to average 12.4 points for NAU. The Lumberjacks lead the Big Sky in three-point percentage

(.371) but are last in rebounds (37.5 rpg).

"We're just going to go see who we play and go play them. It's hard to think about what you can't control. There's enough stress worrying about things you can control."

—Robin Selvig
Lady Griz head coach

•**Weber State** (15-12, 9-7) tore through their final ten games, winning eight, to gain the fifth seed. The Wildcats took UM to double overtime in Ogden, Utah on Jan. 30 before falling

78-72 to the Lady Griz. Weber's strength is on the boards, where they lead the Big Sky in rebounds (44.8 rpg) and rebound margin (+6.3). Senior forward Julie Wimmer is the Big Sky's individual rebound leader (10.7 ppg) and is ranked fourth in the league in scoring (14.3 ppg). Senior center Stephanie Sorensen has been a steady complement to Wimmer, posting a 13.9 scoring average and 7.2 rebound average, both eighth in the conference.

•**Cal State-Sacramento** (6-20, 4-12) gets into the tournament through the back door because Portland State (15-12, 7-9) is not eligible for tournament play until the 1998-99 season. The Hornets, behind 12th-year head coach Sue Huffman, upset NAU 77-69 on their way to ousting Eastern Washington and Cal State-Northridge for the sixth seed. Sophomore guard Julie Westall is third in the Big Sky with 15.1 ppg, and leads a Sac State team that is last in scoring defense (64.3 ppg) and field goal percentage defense (.415). The Hornets should be nothing more than a good warm-up game for the Bobcats.

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Sports

Griz set out for Big Sky battle in Arizona

Steven Parker Gingras
Kaimin Sports Reporter

All the talk about favorites, rankings and everything else is of no use anymore.

The men's basketball team left around two o'clock Wednesday for Flagstaff, Ariz., and the Big Sky Conference Tournament.

The tournament runs Thursday through Saturday, with the winner going on to the NCAA Tournament.

Thursday night's games almost included the Griz, but their 65-47 mauling of Montana State gave them the first round bye.

Third seed Montana State will be playing sixth seed Cal-State Northridge in the early game, while fourth seed Weber State will take on fifth seed Idaho State in the nighttime.

Weber is the only team to sweep Montana in the regular season besides Northern Arizona. Both games were decided by less than ten points.

The Griz swept Cal-State Northridge, and split the games with Idaho State, which makes for an interesting semi-final Friday.

Both semi-final games will be televised on FOX Sports, and if their are no upsets, Montana will play the Bobcats for the second time in six days.

Montana State will go into Thursday night's game with it's worst loss of the year, not by a score standard, but by losing to the in-state rival by 19 points the

last game of the year.

If Montana State wishes to beat Montana, they will have to beat the zone defense that kept them to under 28 percent shooting for the entire game.

"I bet they are starting practice with zone defense breakers, ending practice with zone defense breakers, and doing zone defense breakers in the middle," UM head coach Blaine Taylor said when asked about MSU preparing for the next games against the Griz.

MSU has had serious problems filling the space left by the injury loss of leading scorer Danny Sprinkle.

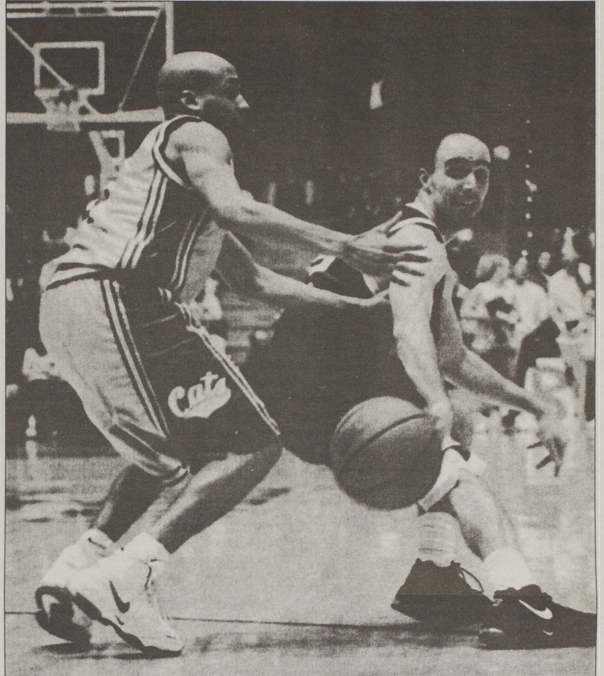
NAU, besides hosting the tournament, is the only team to win 20 games overall this season at 21-5. Montana is second at 19-10.

NAU was undefeated for the better part of the season, but an overtime loss to Weber State and a loss to Portland State put a dent in the once unbeatable Lumberjacks.

"NAU would have to be considered the heavy pre-tournament favorite," Taylor said. "As you look at the rest of the field you see a lot of parity. I think any of the five teams have the ability to make a run in this tournament."

Montana is on a current 11-2 conference run at the moment. Sweeps over Eastern Washington, Cal-State Northridge, Sac-State and hard fought victories over Portland State and Idaho State have kept confidence high.

The championship game will be Saturday night, and televised by tape delay by ESPN.



Kim Eiselein/Kaimin
KIRK WALKER shields the ball from a Bobcat defender last Saturday night in Bozeman. The Griz' opening game in the Big Sky Conference tournament is Friday night in Flagstaff, Ariz.

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New regulations could hurt ASUM Child Care

Jennifer Brown
Kaimin Reporter

Students who use ASUM Child Care might have to give up the cheaper service and turn to community day care centers if the state approves proposed changes in its regulations.

The revised regulations would eliminate most of the ASUM-funded child care in married student housing. Most of the 19 people living in University Villages who provide child care would be affected by the revisions planned by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

The revisions would prohibit giving child care anywhere but ground level, and most of University Villages' apartments aren't on the bottom floor.

The revisions also stipulate the building have two exits, another feature most family housing apartments lack.

Of the 570 University Villages apartments, only 37 could meet the new law. And only one of the 19 people currently providing day care for UM students lives in a ground-level apartment with two exits.

The department also proposes to change the age categories for children, which would affect ASUM's on-campus day care center.

Infants would be defined as birth to 30 months, instead of birth to 24

months. Toddlers would be 31 months to 4 years.

Because laws require infants have more one-on-one attention than toddlers, child-care providers would be forced to hire additional employees with no extra funding. And for ASUM Child Care, that could mean eliminating the bargain for UM students, said Marcia Ronck, ASUM Child Care program director.

The revisions, which are intended to improve Montana's child care, could end up hurting children in the long run if providers are forced to increase rates or care for fewer children to make up for the extra costs, she said.

Ronck fears child care providers living in family housing would continue to provide the service outside the realm of ASUM if the revisions are approved.

"People won't stop just because it's illegal," she said. "That can be pretty detrimental to children if the work is going to be done underground without any regulation."

But Edie Cloud, a family resource specialist for the department, said she's doing her best to keep ASUM Child Care afloat.

"I'm not out to see any provider shut down," Cloud said. "There's no way I want to see anything happen to those programs."

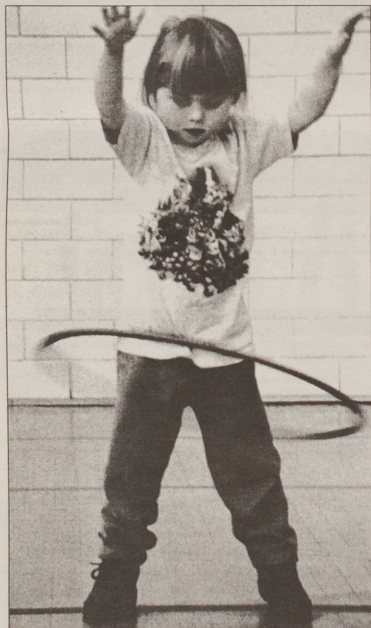
Cloud said that because of protests heard during the public comment period that ends March 10, there's a strong

possibility the ground level requirement and the staff-child ratio could be changed before the revisions are final.



Tucker Brooks/Kaimin

ANNIE GELLATLY from ASUM Child Care plays mother while the children's parents attend class. A new ASUM Senate Bill may make it harder for parents to leave their children at day care.



Tucker Brooks/Kaimin

HULA HOOPING is one of the activities the children at ASUM Child Care enjoy.

Student parents find on-campus support

Kristi Langdon
Kaimin Reporter

UM student Sherri Gangitano's school schedule is planned around carpools, day-care, cartoons and soccer practice. Her day begins at 5:30 a.m. and doesn't end until her three children are tucked into bed and she has a few late-night hours to study.

The daily trials of parenthood enticed her to search for other single students with children who are facing the same obstacles.

This semester, she founded the Rugrat Society of Single Parents, a support group for college students who are moms and dads or even expectant moms.

As a senior in sociology at UM, Gangitano is a single mom who also practices with the National Guard one weekend each month.

"It's like living two to three lives in a 24-hour period," she said.

She started the group to

give herself, and others in similar situations, a place to network and socialize.

"It gives parents a chance to realize that they are not the only ones with these problems," Gangitano said. "When new students come, we can say, 'Hey, we've been there,' and make it easier on them."

The group discusses parenting techniques, provides encouragement and members exchange advice on raising kids while going to school.

Patty Beauchene, a senior in social work with two kids, enjoys the moral support that the group supplies.

"All the parents can relate," she said.

Sarah Cooper, a sophomore in pre-education, has an 11-month-old baby and said she likes the social aspect of a parenting group.

"My social life has totally stopped," she said. "All of your interests and activities change when you have kids."

A few single dads have also brought unique outlooks on

single parenting, the female group members agreed.

"They give us a whole new perspective," Beauchene said.

Brian Gunderson, a junior in medical technology, is a father of three.

"You can only get so much intellectual conversation out of small kids," he said. "It's nice to have another adult to talk to."

Even though there are a few regular members, the turnout on campus has been sparse, Gangitano said.

"I'm hoping that more people will start to join in and that we can form a network to help each other out," she said. "Like if my car is not working, I can exchange a few hours of babysitting for a ride."

"Right now, we just need more people. That way we can increase our ability to network and help ease them into becoming better students and parents," Gangitano said.

The group meets every Friday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in UC Conference Room 216.

UM campus ranked 22nd nation-wide in family-friendly programs

Kristi Langdon
Kaimin Reporter

The first comprehensive study of "family-friendly programs" at national colleges and universities recently recognized UM as one of the most successful

work-family campuses across the country.

The College and University Reference Guide to Work-Family Programs acknowledged 29 leading campuses that provide faculty and staff with successful opportunities to balance work and families.

Ranked 22nd on the list, UM's program, seeking a more satisfied and productive staff, helps employees accommodate work into family life.

"Our program is really progressive," said program specialist for Family Care Services, Corinne Cramer.

"It gives people the opportunity to make individual choices about their own life."

Family Care Services at UM organized in 1993 to research the child care needs of faculty and staff. Since then, several new programs have emerged to make work at UM more flex-

ible.

For example, the school offers job sharing and flexible hours in which staff members, if arranged with a supervisor, can share a full-time position or work at home for a few days each week. Work site child care is sometimes also available.