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Montana Kaimin, March 7, 1997

Associated Students of the University of Montana

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The University of Montana Montana Kaimin

Our 99th year, Issue 78

Kaimin is a Salish word for messages

Friday, March 7, 1997



Jeff Turman/Kaimin

HEAVY USE of equipment in the Recreation Annex has been the leading cause of down time for many of the Rec's machines. Long waiting lists result at busy hours.

Rec Annex machines getting a workout

Néomi Van Horn
Kaimin Reporter

The exercise machines in the Recreation Annex fitness room are so popular, they're smoking. Literally. "A couple of them have caught fire," Campus Recreation Director Keith Glaes said.

A long, icy winter meant an average of 1,000 students streamed into the rec annex daily for their fitness needs this season, said facilities manager Paula Pease.

"It's higher this year than it's ever been," she said.

And for machines made for average folks, the constant wear means "out-of-order" signs are a familiar sight in the workout room.

"We figure they get at least 12 to 13 hours a day (of use)," Glaes said. "They just get pounded."

Constant use by fit, aggressive UM students is the main reason Rec Annex machines have such a short lifespan, Glaes said.

Dust from the annex's poor air circulation system also goes up the machines, making them more prone to break-downs, Pease said.

A forlorn-looking treadmill sits unplugged and dismantled in a corner of the gym where it has been waiting weeks for a replacement for its melted circuit board.

Another "guaranteed to last a lifetime" NordicTrack gathers dust under an out-of-order sign after being used

for less than a year.

And a \$2,000 Versaclimber needs almost \$600 in repair to its high-tech computerized console.

All the machines are less than three years old, and most of them are still under parts warranty.

"Most of those machines are not made for those people you see on TV," Glaes said.

Diagnosing the problems and then finding people knowledgeable enough to repair the computerized machines is one problem.

Waiting for out-of-state companies to ship the parts also prolongs the wait, Glaes said.

Last semester, students voted against a

\$63 Rec Annex expansion fee that would have helped pay for more workout space and exercise machines.

The fee "would have taken a load off us," Pease said. "Something is going to have to happen because of the number of students who want to use the facilities."

Paul White, a graduate student in environmental studies, said he was disappointed that students didn't pass the fee.

"I felt like we were selling ourselves short," White said.

White said long lines, crowds and machine shortages sometimes make working out in the Rec Annex a frustrating experience.

"That's why I'm here—to get rid of frustration, not to find more," he said.

See related story on page 3

Former ski coach charged with theft

Jennifer McKee
Kaimin Reporter

Botched bookkeeping and a chunk of missing cash could mean a maximum of 10 years in jail for former UM ski coach Scot Rooney, who was charged Thursday with felony theft.

Missoula Deputy County Attorney Jim Mickelson filed felony theft charges against Rooney in District Court, following a two-month investigation by UM officers after ski team members complained Rooney owed them almost \$5,000.

Rooney skimmed thousands of dollars from team accounts and later lied to members who asked to see the team's books, according to the affidavit.

He also told a crowd of 200 people the team was recognized by the UM Athletic Department at a meeting last fall, according to the investigation. But Al Kempfert, of the Athletic Department, told both the Kaimin and UM investigating officer Steve Tompkins his department has never recognized the team and has no plan to do so.

Rooney had sole command of the team's books and accepted thousands in donations from local businesses, the

investigation found. Rooney told the Kaimin in an earlier interview he spent all the money covering traveling and racing costs for the team.

But when members asked to see a breakdown of the team's budget in January, Rooney bloated some expenditures to make up for missing dollars, the affidavit stated. He claims he spent \$2,500 to rent Urey Lecture Hall for a fund-raiser showing of The Rocky Horror Picture Show last fall, but the investigation could only account for about \$1,000 of the money.

He also said he spent \$1,200 for United States Collegiate Ski Association dues. But that's double the membership costs quoted by association representatives in the UM police investigation, leaving another \$600 unaccounted for.

In addition, Rooney trimmed some donation amounts he recorded in the budget and couldn't explain the missing dollars, according to the affidavit.

He sliced \$625 from the recorded donations from Harry David's Bar, claiming he received \$875 while other members told investigators the team received \$1,500.

Promising thrifty gear at a group rate, Rooney accepted about \$5,000 from members and \$1,668 from Bradley

Morris of Snowbowl to buy skis and ski gates. He never delivered the gear and, according to the affidavit, never ordered the equipment.

Rooney hasn't entered a plea to the charge. If a jury finds him guilty, he could spend a maximum of 10 years in jail and pay a \$50,000 fine.

Rooney was unavailable for comment Thursday.

The charges represent only checks Rooney pocketed, and say nothing of cash he received and never reported, said Keila Cross, the team's new coach and program director.

"No cash went through the bank," Cross said. "All cash that went into his hands he did not record."

Cross said she didn't know how much money Rooney raised and spent.

Rooney left the team with outstanding bills when he was forced to resign in January, she said.

He also sold ASUM property to the Montana State University Ski Team, said ASUM Business Manager Jeff Merrick. ASUM gave the team \$600 to buy gates, but Rooney resold some of them to make extra money, Merrick said.

Cross said she also knew about the resale.

ASUM election petitions available

Students who want to try their luck in ASUM politics can pick up election petitions Monday in room 105 of the University Center.

Students who want to run for ASUM president, vice president or business manager have until March 28 to collect 100 student signatures. Senator candidates must collect 50. Party slates, president, vice president and senator candidates running together, need 200 signatures.

All candidates must attend a mandatory informational meeting April 1 and can begin campaigning April 7. Students who campaign before April 7 will be disqualified from the race.

Forums will be held in the UC on April 9 and 23. Candidate for executive positions will debate in the UC April 24.

Primary elections are April 16. Final elections are April 30 and May 1.

—Jennifer Brown

Opinion

Don't take parking away from residents

We agree with the ASUM senators who believe lifting the ban on student parking in the University Homeowners District is a bad idea.

Those who voted to send the bill back to committee argued that lifting the ban would only create tension between the university and the community.

The University of Montana is not an island. Most students make Missoula their home for only a part of the year. The residents of this city, however, buy homes here, educate their children here and pay taxes here.

In fact, residents in the University Homeowners District went to the City Council nearly 10 years ago and requested they be allowed to buy decals so they could park in front of their own homes because so many students were parking in front of their houses.

Now, after Missoulians agreed to pay to park in front of their own homes, Student Political Action Director Ben Darrow wants to petition the city to take those parking spots away from good.

This course of action is misguided for two major reasons. First, students at this school have no right to take parking away from anyone but themselves. Secondly, the Montana Supreme Court told ASUM in 1993 to knock it off and keep university cars where they belong — at the university.

This city does a lot to accommodate the more than 11,000 students who make Missoula their home during the academic year.

Students take up jobs, fill up housing and overflow into restaurants and bars. UM is out of line in trying to shove its parking problems onto a community that already deals with the manifold dilemmas a university can present.

The university needs to come up with its own solutions to the parking crisis, rather than passing it off as the responsibility of the city.

Eliminating reserved parking spots is one place to start. Another solution is limiting the number of decals sold. It makes more sense to sell 4,663 decals for 4,663 decal spots than to turn parking lots into an arena of self-righteous gladiators, each claiming an inalienable right to a parking spot.

Maybe the university should consider a lottery system for selling decals. Set the decal limit at 4,663 and assign them to students at random. Parking becomes a premium, and the \$98 students shell out for the now-precious decal seems all the more worth it.

UM has gotten greedy about selling decals, collecting the money for hundreds more stickers than there are parking spots. By the same token, students have been forced to exercise the same greed in trying to snatch the parking spots of people who pay not only to park in Missoula, but to live here as well.

Thank you to the ASUM senators who had the foresight to realize that trying to allow students to park in residential areas is a bad move. Thank you for sending the bill back to committee.

We hope you will now do your best to kill it.

Sonja Lee and Molly Wood

Montana Kaimin

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Letters to the Editor

Parking problem solution: bike

Editor,

In response to Jeff Moncalieri's letter, March 6th: Give me a break! I've never had trouble parking my car when I got to school early enough. That's beside the point, though. Get off your lazy butt and ride your bike if you don't like the parking situation.

Further, what about the free public transportation system? This reminds me of those cry-babies who couldn't stand the fact that they couldn't ride their bike and park in front of every single spot on campus they needed to go to. They needed to have racks everywhere because they couldn't walk a little. For Christ's sake—don't you people have anything better to complain about (like other people's complaints)?

Jerry Buck
junior, accounting

Kudos for column on gay marriages

Editor,

Three cheers to Philip Connors for his article defending gay and lesbian marriages. All of his points are well taken, but it is instructive to further note the transparency of the hypocrisy of the fascists of the religious and political right wing. For years, gays and lesbians have been criticized for being promiscuous and for being unable to make a commitment to loving, long-term relationships. Now, when the legal framework is put into place to smash this stereotype, the shrieking fundamentalists squeal. "No, no, no, a thousand times no!" Because they realize that their spurious arguments will be disproved, the only recourse of this intolerant,

hate-filled minority is to try to legislate away any chance of gays and lesbians practicing "family values."

About the time of the fall of the Soviet empire, an article in "Rolling Stone" prophesied that conservatives in this country would no longer have an external enemy on which to turn their anger when the "Evil Empire" collapsed, and that they would turn their sights inward toward the powerless of America. How frightening that this has come to pass. Who else is lined up in their cross hairs? Again, thanks, Philip, for the great article.

Ron Anderson
freshman, English

Another possible parking solution

Editor,

I have been reading the various articles written in the Kaimin lately about the parking dilemma around campus. I have my doubts about the points both sides make on the issue, but I have to take the side of Kaimin news editor, Matt Ochsner. The problem can't be solved unless some long term solution is considered. I know that my suggestion is not the answer to everyone's problem, but I believe it would help some of the students who already live on campus, at least those on the southwest corner of campus (near Pantzer Hall). I realize I probably don't know all the facts on the matter and that is specifically why my solution is not relevant to the long term. But before I tell everyone what it is, I would like to address Mr. Willett's suggestion.

To even consider not allowing freshmen students to bring their vehicles to school is both foolish and bias. To punish freshmen by not allowing them

to bring their vehicle to school is unfair and should not even be considered.

Freshmen have rights too, and they should not be punished for a problem the university has failed to acknowledge and deal with. I was a freshman once, (boy was that a long time ago) and I didn't have a car to get around town. You have to start asking friends for a ride or end up borrowing their car, and it gets to be a hassle and a burden after a while. A vehicle is almost a necessity for any college student. There are times when you want to go to a movie, go to the mall, hang out with friends who live off campus, times when you want to go home, and oh yeah, what about a job. Not everyone wants to work on campus. So to Mr. Willett, please try again.

My solution, if you can call it that, is to open up the eight rows of parking spots on the south side of the Health Science Building. Residents of Pantzer, Craig, Miller, Elrod and Duway only have a limited amount of spaces in front of Pantzer to park, and it seems like if you leave campus even for a few minutes you end up parking over by Aber for the night. I do realize this will not solve the problem of students who live off campus and come to school everyday about 45 minutes to an hour early just to drive around wasting gas trying to find a parking spot, but maybe it would help students in the other dorms that have their parking spots in front of their dorms taken by someone living across campus. I don't know, maybe it's just me.

Beau Stange
junior, business administration

Concerning U

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 Griz, 8 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.

Rugrat Society — For single parents, students of any institution in the Missoula area are eligible, meeting every Friday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., UC, room 216, for more information call 549-8061.

Lecture program

— "The Bicycle: Vehicle of Social Change," by Missoula collector/historian Mark Kleffner, 2 p.m.,

Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, free admission.

Interview Announcement

— Prudential Preferred Financial Services, special assignment/registered representative, all majors eligible, in Western Montana, more information in the Resource Library, sign up for individual interviews at the counter in room 148, Lodge.

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.

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Rec Annex on list for field house leftovers

Jennifer Brown
Kaimin Reporter

Editor's note: This is the last story in a series focusing on the \$23 billion renovation of the Harry Adams Field House slated to begin in September.

If Harry Adams Field House officials don't spend nearly every cent of the \$23 million the Board of Regents approved for the building's renovations, UM students could see a few new improvements in the Recreation Annex.

Money left over after completing the major renovation project will be spent on a list of alternate projects sorted in order of importance. Constructing a lobby area large enough to accommodate a refreshment stand and a new weight center rank third on the list behind a second practice gymnasium between the field house and the Grizzly Pool and a set of office suites.

Director of Campus Recreation Keith Glaes said it's hard to predict whether there will be enough money left over.

"Who knows," he said. "One of the things I do know is that when Pantzer (Hall) and Miller Hall were renovated, they had some left over."

Gary Hughes, associate director of the field house, said it all depends on the amount of the contractor's bid and whether problems arise during construction. If money intended for unexpected construction mishaps goes unused, it will be put toward the alternate plans.

But students could end up with a new weight room even if no funds are left over.

If construction of new dressing rooms and concession areas requires intrusion into the Rec Annex's current weight room, the field house must build a new one, Glaes said.

"One thing I know for sure is that if they take our old weight room, they're going to have to make a new one," he said.

Hughes said private donations will pay for \$7 million of the field house renovation. The remaining \$16 million, which will be funded with bonds, will be paid back by field house revenue and not student dollars.

Glaes said he isn't especially angry that more of the funds aren't being spent on the annex, but he doubts the plan is fair to students. If field house events don't rake in as much money as expected, the financial burden could land elsewhere, he said.

"I'm not upset," Glaes said. "I just think it's not going to be fair for (students) if they end up having to pay for it."

Glaes cited students' refusal two years ago to pay a new \$70 fee that would have funded renovations in the annex as proof that students may not have supported the field house renovations had they been given the choice.

Glaes said he is planning another fee proposal that would fund new exercise machines and construction of additional space.

"We're trying to figure out what all we can get for a price cheap enough that students want to pay," he said. "It's nuts in here all the time. Something really needs to be done with this building."

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Spring Semester 1997

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UM's Crumbling CLASSROOMS

Looking for repairs in all the wrong places

Laundry list of repair requests seek fee funds

Kim Skornogoski
Kaimin Reporter

Last week, when a UM botany class turned on a plant growth light, it shorted out the whole building. The professor had to run an extension cord up to the attic so the class could finish the experiment.

Most of the university's buildings haven't been touched by the hand of construction in more than 25 years. UM's classroom and lab renovation wish list spans 28 buildings and includes 261 rooms, and it's still growing.

Departments are now vying for a piece of the \$7 million garnered from the classroom renovation fee passed this fall. But officials say there isn't enough money, especially now that the Legislature is currently rejecting the state's matching \$7 million.

"I look at all these problems, and I wonder if we're even going to make a dent in these buildings," Associate Provost Fritz Schwallier said.

The requests range from fixing window screens to controlling temperature and ventilation systems.

The math department is asking for white boards to

keep chalk dust out of computers and desks and chairs large enough for both notebooks and calculators.

Walls that are strong enough to hold up students' art work and lights to properly display it are on the School of Fine Arts' list.

Many of the science labs are asking for money to meet current safety standards.

Safety showers aren't turning on, fume hoods used to expel hazardous vapors from the labs aren't functioning and work benches are decaying, allowing chemicals to seep into the wood and remain there.

"It's embarrassing that it's been allowed to get that bad," Chris Krumm, the biological sciences lab supervisor, said. "Students have to walk into classrooms that are literally falling apart."

Of the 261 rooms on the repair list, 116 fail to meet federal accessibility requirements.

Rooms eligible for the renovation money couldn't have been updated since 1971 and must be used for instruction or labs. Alan Mulkey, UM's bond project inspector, said only 60 percent of those eligible could apply.

"We have money for new

computers and some maintenance," Schwallier said. "But then you put new computers in rooms that are falling apart."

UM professors are saying that the deteriorating classrooms are more than an eye sore or an inconvenience. They interfere with curriculum.

"I've had to try to limit labs to what won't be hazardous under those conditions," Krumm said. "These are basic needs. We're trying to get labs up to safety codes and functioning for the purpose they were intended for. Right now it just doesn't cut it."

Construction turns off legislators

Néomi Van Horn
Kaimin Reporter

UM President George Dennison hasn't given up on getting matching funds from the Legislature for renovations at UM.

"It ain't over 'til it's over," he said Thursday from Helena.

But legislators have mixed opinions about granting UM's request for \$7 million to match the money students pledged for renovations last semester.

It was an easy decision for the House Appropriations Committee to reject UM's request two weeks ago, said committee chair Rep. Tom Zook, R-Malta.

"We didn't spend much time on it at all," he said. "I really think it's probably not going to be in the cards this time."

Zook said UM's request came along too late to get more priority than other requests.

"The state is in good shape financially, but that doesn't mean we're going to saddle future taxpayers," Zook said. "That's irresponsible."

Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella, D-Missoula, said recent building activity on campus has given

some legislators the impression that UM already has enough money.

"This Legislature would rather not spend money on anything that goes to education," she said. "The perception is that there is plenty of money there."

The private funds UM used to complete obvious, edge-of-campus projects like the Washington-Grizzly Stadium renovations and the Gallagher Business Building just perpetuate the idea that UM can raise its own money for construction, she said.

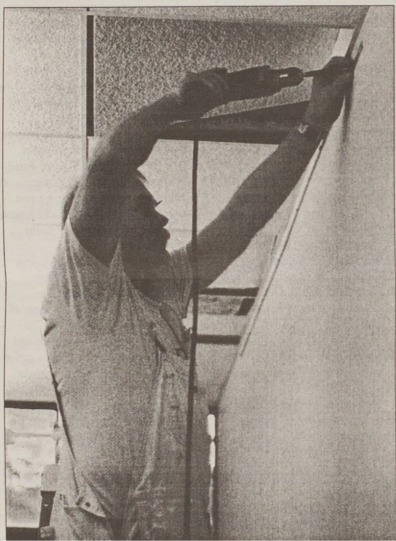
Rep. Matt Brainerd, R-Missoula, said funding should go toward improving Montana's corrections facilities because the public is clamoring to end "this business of having to send prisoners to Texas."

It's "disdainful" that other legislators would favor prisoners over education, Cocchiarella said.

She said she remembers attending class in dilapidated buildings when she was a student at UM. She said it is important that UM maintain its existing buildings before adding new ones.

"It makes no sense to let these buildings go into disrepair," Cocchiarella said.

Gov. Marc Racicot did not recommend the renovation funds.



Tucker Brooks/Kaimin

LODGE RENOVATIONS are one piece of the construction puzzle.

Picking private pockets, coming up empty handed

Kim Skornogoski
Kaimin Reporter

UM's private fund-raising campaign is more successful than any other on a Montana campus, but school officials say they still can't find donors for classroom renovations.

Vice President for Administration and Finance Jim Todd said private donors aren't interested in investing in things they can't see, like putting desks in classrooms, updating science labs or making buildings handicap accessible.

"It irritates me that some people have an attitude that you can direct donors as to where they donate their money," Todd said. "It's the psychology of the dollar. People want to give money for something visual and concrete."

Donors say it's the state's responsibility to bring buildings up to code, but that doesn't mean they aren't willing to chip in for classroom and lab

renovations - if asked.

"I'm not saying we don't or we won't," Russ Ritter, president of the Washington Foundation, said. "We'll look at anything they send us. The university is responsible for what they ask for, and they've never requested money for that."

"You can't take little sections out and be critical," said Ian B. Davidson, one of UM's top donors. "It's over-simplification to say we don't have desks so let's not have a new field house."

"I'm not going to justify \$23 million

for the field house," Davidson said.

"But a pivotal part of getting people involved in the university is (athletics). People are not going to respond to a postcard. You have to have a personal

interest in something."

Each year President George Dennison prioritizes renovation and construction requests from campus departments, list-

ing 50 projects to target for private funds.

The list includes construction projects that "beautify and accommodate existing needs," Todd said. Some of

those needs include providing student housing, classrooms and handicap accessibility.

Topping the UM Foundation's fund-raising priorities were the Gallagher Business Building and the Davidson Honors College.

Now that the projects are finished, the Center for the Rocky Mountain West and additions to the Pharmacy Building are the Foundation's focus, UM Foundation Director Larry Morlan said.

Accessibility in the University Center and Lodge and gender equity in the Rec Annex locker rooms haven't appeared on Dennison's priority list. Todd said those buildings won't ever be a priority because they can generate their own revenue by charging businesses rent or students fees.

"It's harder to raise money for buildings than it is for scholarships," Morlan said. "If there are people out there that want to donate to fix classrooms, we haven't found them."



Major construction projects at UM:

Classrooms/ labs renovations	\$7,000,000
University Theatre Renovation	\$2,000,000
Pharmacy Building Additions	\$10,400,000
Residence Hall Renovations	\$1,835,000
Prescott House Restoration	\$650,000
Lodge Renovations	\$3,800,000
Harry Adams Field House	\$23,000,000
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Hideto Masukawa
Kaimin Reporter

Staff at UM and Montana State University are collaborating to make it easier for Montana students to earn a few credits and spend the summer abroad at a reasonable price.

Staff from MSU's Office of International Education are coming to UM Tuesday to discuss a summer program that sends students to Morocco or Japan for about \$3,000. The presentation and slide show, which is open to the public, will be held at the Gallagher Business Building in room 382 from noon to 1 p.m.

"We think this is a good opportunity for the two schools to work together," said Beth Davenport, an OIE special projects manager.

OIE offers three to five week Special Summer Programs Abroad to three

countries. Aside from Morocco and Japan, students can go to Mexico for \$2,300. The program focuses on cultural aspects and is worth up to nine credits.

Davenport said this summer program will expand students' opportunities for Montana students to study abroad.

But this isn't the only summer program offered to

Presentation and slide show —
Gallagher Business Bldg.
room 382 from
noon to 1 p.m.

Montana students. UM and MSU offer others, like UM's Department of Foreign Language and Literature's Japanese exchange, and MSU offers some by individual professors.

Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry, a student exchange coordinator at UM's International Program Office, said it's the first time since she's started working at UM that MSU's OIE staff have visited UM, although the offices communicate on a regular basis.

UM ethics team wins first in national championship

Kristen Jahnke
Kaimin Reporter

Four UM students are returning from Washington, D.C. with a trophy for their first place win in the Third Annual Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl.

"We came and we won," said UM ethics team member Brenda Copeland.

This was the first year UM

had sent a team to compete in the Ethics Bowl, and members said they were surprised they won.

Copeland, Dixie Dishon, Alan Miller, and Amy Ingebritson beat out 14 other university teams Thursday with their answers to ethical dilemmas ranging from personal relationships and conduct to social and political issues.

The team's supervisor was UM ethics professor Deni Elliott.

Copeland said the team got the sample questions a little bit late, so they didn't have much time to practice.

"We really didn't antici-

pate winning," she said. "We just came to have fun."

The UM team had to solve four ethical dilemmas in a quiz show setting, and their answers were evaluated in terms of clarity, focus, depth and judgement.

As the winners of the Ethics Bowl, the UM students were invited to appear on the Fox network, but because the network would only allow two spokespersons,

the UM team declined.

"There's four of us, and we came into this as a team," Copeland said.

The Ethics Bowl

has included universities nationwide since 1995 to encourage students to tackle ethical issues quickly and clearly.

Past Ethics Bowl questions included situations like this: "You live in a community where a convicted sex offender moved in a few blocks from your child's school. Do you have a right to know? Does the city have a right to enact an ordinance supporting such full disclosure?"

"We really didn't anticipate winning. We just came to have fun."

—Brenda Copeland
UM ethics team member

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Sports

Northern Arizona outlasts Weber

Kevin Darst
Kaimin Sports Reporter

Silenced for the first 38 minutes, Northern Arizona forward Jessica LeBlanc made quite a showing for herself in the final two.

With her fourth-seeded Lumberjacks down 61-59 to no. 5 Weber State, LeBlanc hit a jumper to tie the game with 1:37 to play. Thirty-three seconds later, she hit another to give NAU a 63-61 lead and a date with no. 1 Montana tonight at 8 p.m. in Dahlberg Arena.

"She's our go-to player," said NAU head coach Meg Sanders. "I'm just really, really excited," said LeBlanc, whose six points in the final 1:37 equalled her game total. "I didn't want the season to end."

The win tied Northern Arizona's school record of 17 and gave the Lumberjacks their first-ever Big Sky tournament win.

"You've got to give NAU credit. They played harder than we did as a whole," said Weber coach Carla Taylor, whose team lost to the 'Jacks each of the three times they played this season.

After trailing by 16 points with 12:06 left in the game, Weber cut the deficit to four

with a 12-0 run.

A Theresa Martin three pointer gave the Wildcats a two-point lead with 4:52 left in regulation.

Freshman Shelly Olson almost saved Weber single-handedly with her long-range shooting, canning three treys in just over three minutes to give the Wildcats a five-point lead with 2:59 to go.

"I gave it all I had, left it all out (on the court)," said Olson, who scored 11 in the losing cause.

Weber's inside tandem of Stephanie Sorensen and Jodi

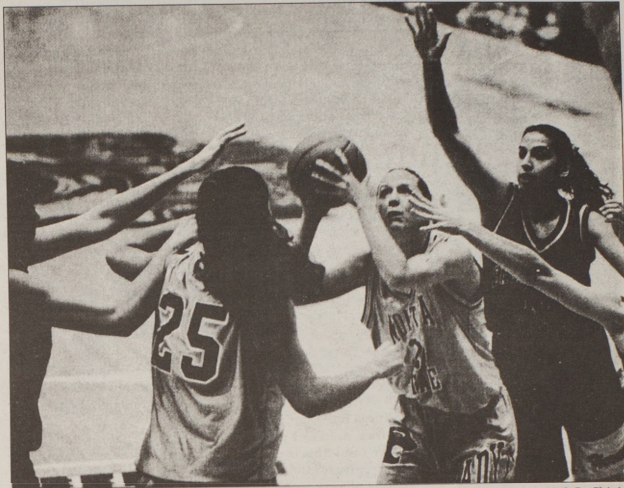
Wimmer took LeBlanc out of the game early, holding the Big Sky's second-leading scorer to only two points in the first half.

LeBlanc finished with 12.

Sorensen's 14 points led Weber, and Wimmer had a team-leading 12 boards to compliment her 12 points.

Northern Arizona's Jenny Shayani paced all scorers with 16 points. Liz Metters of NAU had 15 points, 12 of those in the first half.

Overall, the 'Jacks shot better than 45 percent from the floor compared to Weber's 34.5 percent. NAU also converted on nine of ten free throw attempts in the second half to the Wildcats' 13-17 performance.



Jordan LaRue/Kaimin

MSU'S JULIE Brown fights her way through a blockade of shot blockers during Thursday night's play-off game against Sacramento State. Bozeman went on to win by eleven, and will be playing Idaho State tonight at 6p.m. in Dahlberg arena.

Sac State scares Lady 'Cats

Bill Foley
Kaimin Sports Editor

Sacramento State proved to be more than just a warmup for the Montana State Lady Bobcats in the opening round of the Big Sky tournament Thursday night.

After seeing its 14-point second half lead cut to two, MSU battled back and hung on for a 66-55 win in front of some 2,112 mostly anti-Bobcat fans in Dahlberg Arena.

An aggressive zone defense helped the undersized Hornets wreak havoc with the 'Cats ball handling all night, forcing 29 turnovers with a tournament record 20 steals.

"They underestimated us," Sac State senior guard Kris Karley said. "We beat NAU, and they're a good team. We

came in knowing that, and we scared them."

After taking a 36-24 half-time lead, the 'Cats led 50-36 with 12:33 remaining in the second half.

Then, Sac State made things interesting.

The Hornets went on an 11-0 run to cut the lead to three at 50-47 with MSU's 5-foot-5 point guard Jamie Spring resting on the bench. Spring then re-entered the game.

The Hornets closed to 57-55 with 2:47 left, but the 'Cats closed the game with a 9-0 run for the 11-point win.

MSU head coach Tracey Sheehan said her team didn't overlook Sac State, which the 'Cats beat 70-51 in Bozeman and 74-51 in California.

"I think it's tough to play anybody three times," she said

in a post-game press conference. "They caused us some matchup problems, so I don't think we looked past them at all. We didn't blow them away at either place (Bozeman or Sacramento) until very, very late either."

Big Sky MVP Blythe Hommes led the Bobcat attack with 23 points. The 5-foot-10 senior forward also pulled down 12 rebounds and had five steals.

"It was pretty intense, I've got to admit," Hommes said. "It's a game of runs. They made theirs, and we made ours."

Next up for MSU is second-seed Idaho State, which gained a bye over the 'Cats by winning a coin toss.

Tipoff is at 6 p.m. in Dahlberg Arena.

Men's 20+ baseball league adds six Missoula teams

Steven Parker Gingras
Kaimin Sports Reporter

First it was football, now it's amateur baseball that's making a start in Missoula.

Marty Essen moved to Montana from Minneapolis, Minn., last year and said he loves where he is, but didn't like the fact that there was no baseball here.

"Being a natural organizer, I had to start a league here," Essen said.

The product is approximately six teams from Missoula and the Bitterroot Valley that will start play this summer.

There will be around 18 Sunday night games for each of the teams during the season.

At the end of the season, a tournament is scheduled that will include all of these teams, and possibly others

from St. Paul, Minn., Spokane, Wash. and Boise, Idaho.

"It'll be a lot of fun," Essen said. "There's a lot of excitement because there hasn't been baseball in Western Montana until now."

People of all skill levels are invited to show up, and Essen said there will be people of all ages playing.

"There is a guy playing who was drafted by the Houston Astros when he was younger," he said. "But most of the people there weren't have played since they were in little league."

The schedule won't conflict with the UM baseball team, club president Trey Magnuson said. Magnuson also said that players could try out for the league if they wanted to.

"We might play them once, but our seasons are very different," he said.

Big Sky Men...

Northridge upsets Bobcats

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—Cal State Northridge's upset of Montana State in the first game of the Big Sky Conference tournament was about respect.

"It means a lot to us," said Derrick Higgins, who had eight of his 17 points early in a 23-4 run that carried Cal State Northridge to a 74-56 upset of the Bobcats on Thursday night. "No one believed in us. Oh, little old Northridge."

Trenton Cross scored 16 points for the Matadors and Gerald Rhoden had 11.

Nate Holmstadt had 15 points for Montana State (16-14) and Dan Sullivan 12.

MSU swept the Matadors (13-14) in their first Big Sky season, compiling a 10-6 league record that made them the No. 3 seed in the tournament, and dropping Northridge to No. 6, the bottom team to qualify.

But this time Northridge out-rebounded the Bobcats (16-14) 45-39, outplayed them and out-shot them. By a mile.

MSU made only eight field goals in the second half, going 10 1/2 minutes without one as the Matadors opened their insurmountable lead.

The Bobcats had shot an average 37 percent in four games since Danny Sprinkle, last year's tournament MVP, was sidelined with wrist and shoulder injuries. In this one, MSU shot 34 percent overall and 26 percent in the second half.

"We got good looks," said Holmstadt. "We just couldn't hit our jump shots. We couldn't find anything."

There were 25 lead changes, the last when Higgins made a 3-pointer with 10:54 remaining, sending the Matadors ahead 52-

50. Northridge scored 20 more points before the Bobcats scored again.

"I think in the first half we were just trading baskets. We had to turn it up a little bit," said Cross, who buried a 3-pointer of his own to make it 55-50 with 9:52 to play — the first time either team had led by five points.

Northridge led 37-34 at half-time after a 7-0 spurt. The Bobcats' 34-30 lead was their biggest of the night. But in the final 2:47, Cross made a free throw and a layup. Kevin Taylor produced the 17th lead change of the first half with a jumper, and Higgins made a follow shot for the halftime lead.

▼ Weber State beat Idaho State 68-58. Weber now advances to play UM.

Sports

Weekend Sports Calendar



Montana Ski Report

HELENA (AP) — Here are the latest reported ski conditions on Montana slopes:

Big Sky — packed powder, 90-140 base, 75 trails, 14 of 15 lifts, 100 percent open, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bridger Bowl — packed powder, 96-124 base, 60 trails, 6 of 6 lifts, 100 percent open, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Discovery — packed powder, 74-112 base, 38 trails, 4 of 4 lifts, 100 percent open, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Great Divide — 1-3 new inches, packed powder, 30-70 base, 60 trails, 3 of 3 lifts, 100 percent open, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Lost Trail Powder Mountain — 5 new, powder, 115-125 base, 18 trails, 4 of 4 lifts, Marshall — powder, 52-80 base, 3 of 3 lifts, 100 percent open, 9:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Maverick Mountain — 3 new inches, powder, 70-142 base, 2 of 2 lifts, 100 percent open, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Montana Snow Bowl — packed powder, 70-114 base, 32 trails, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Red Lodge Mountain — powder, 72-82 base, 7 of 8 lifts, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Showdown — 10 new inches, powder, 60-82 base, 34 trails, 4 of 4 lifts, 100 percent open, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Big Mountain — 4 new inches, powder, 98-154 base, 63 trails, 7 of 9 lifts, 100 percent open, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

BASKETBALL
Friday and Saturday
 • UM women host Big Sky Tournament.
 Lady Griz play Friday at 8 p.m. in Dahlberg Arena.
 KGOV Radio 1290 AM and Fox Sports Northwest television.
 • Men at Big Sky Tournament in Flagstaff, Ariz.
 Griz play Friday at 7:05 p.m. KYLT Radio 1340 AM.

TENNIS
Saturday

• Women at ISU Invitational at Pocatello, Idaho. Montana vs. Utah State at 9 a.m.; Montana vs. Idaho State at 3 p.m.

Saturday—Monday
 • Men at Air Force Invitational at Colorado Springs, Colo.

GOLF
Sunday—Monday
 • Montana at University of Idaho Invitational at Lewiston, Idaho.

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We need your information for the 97/98 BEAR FACTS Calendar Planner. If you have information to submit, add, or change, please send to The Bookstore, in care of Denise Person, e-mail: gotsann@selway.unt.edu, or call 243-4921 ext.623, by April 1st.

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Volunteers needed! Telephone follow-up of survey on drug process. Training Sat., March 8th. 8am-12am, 728-1613. Please help!

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Lost: There are still 16 gray green bikes lost in the community (hopefully!). Please bring to Building 18 at the Fairgrounds, or call 721-3879 with any information.

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New Party promotes students' education

Kristen Jahnke
Kaimin Reporter

Joel Rogers, co-founder and national chair of the New Party, will be at UM today discussing the state of American politics and the environment as it relates to New Party beliefs.

"We're a country rich in resources, and we're squandering a lot of it," Rogers said in an earlier interview.

He also said the government needs to stop "treating people like roadkill," and start treating them like the viable parts of the economy and society that they are.

Thursday night in the Gallagher Business Building, Rogers discussed the future of the Republican and Democratic parties with former U.S. Representative Pat Williams, New Party member Secky Fascione and state legislator Caroline Squires, D-Missoula.

He will be speaking today at 9 a.m. in the Liberal Arts Building, room 11. At noon he will be talking about "green politics" at a brown-bag lunch in Jeannette Rankin Hall, room 202.

Rogers said the New Party should be important to students because of its focus on

education and future job markets and training.

"People can't be good citizens unless they're well-educated," Rogers said.

Jesse Poppick, a UM student and New Party member, said New Party politics affect young people in their 20s "more directly than they may even realize."

He said the UM chapter has been active in coordinating an upcoming anonymous AIDS testing drive on campus along with urging the student senate to reimplement glass recycling.

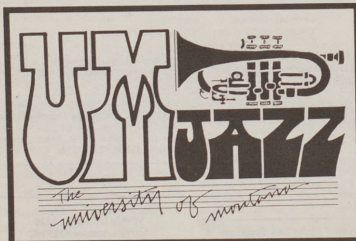
Missoula New Party member Jeff Smith said his party represents an alternative to Democrats and Republicans. He said Rogers' visit is important to students to broaden their political perspective.

"Students need to learn about other political figures, rather than the same old rereads like Bob Dole," Smith said.



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UM Wildlife Society educates community

Jennifer Brown
Kaimin Reporter

A dusty deer skull sits on the bookshelf next to a wooden birdhouse. Inches away, the brown matted hair of a buffalo hide pokes out of a cardboard box on the floor.

In the closest-space of UM's Wildlife Society chapter, animal artifacts are abundant — and inanimate. It's in the classrooms of Missoula's high schools and elementary schools that they come alive.

Through a program called Education Outreach, and the society's collection of animal remains, the student organization brings meaning to the textbook readings of young students. Members of the Wildlife Society give about 20 educational presentations each

year.

"We're calling it 'Kids and Critters,'" President Deb Elwood said Monday. "We focus on all wildlife issues. We've got skins, slides and skulls."

Missoula teachers can sign up for a Wildlife Society presentation through the Missoula Area Research Corporation (MARC).

Mary Rector, a Sentinel High School English teacher who recently invited the society to give two wolf presentations, said that was a great success.

"The kids just eat it up," Rector said. "They always ask a lot of questions."

T.J. Fontaine, a junior in wildlife biology who gave the presentations, said spreading knowledge is a personal learning experience as well.

"The more ignorance there is in the world, the more people tend to ignore the problems," he said. "They don't want to agree with me. I just want them to think enough to have an opinion."

But members of the Wildlife Society aren't the only students volunteering for community education.

MARC coordinator Carolyn Abbott said by contacting the university, she can supply teachers with almost any program they want. The law school, science departments and The Davidson Honors College are especially helpful, she said.

"You name it, we have it," Abbott said. "We teach the whole gamut. Having the university here is a wonderful asset for this community."

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