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Montana Kaimin, 1898-present

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5-1-1998

### Montana Kaimin Special Section, May 1, 1998

Associated Students of the University of Montana

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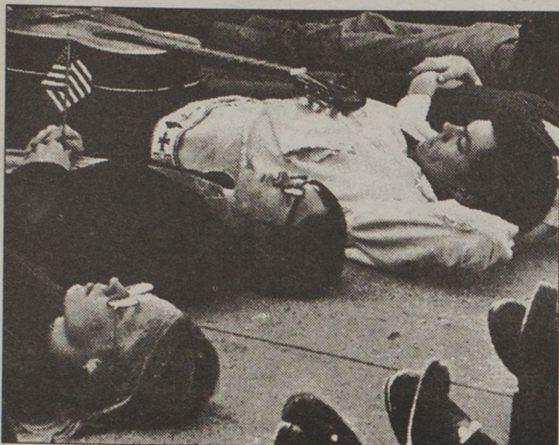
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# REBELS

## now and then

1990s

1960s



UM students put their bodies where their mouths are, lying on the sidewalk to protest the Vietnam War.



Environmental Action Community members U-locked themselves to Missoula's downtown federal building earlier this year to protest logging in the Cove/Mallard area.

## UM's elder generation paves the way for today's student activists

**Kim Skornogowski**  
Kaimin Reporter

From his Main Hall office window this February, Bob Frazier watched nearly 40 protesters wearing animal skins and sporting squirt guns with red-tinted water prance around the Oval.

And he remembers the "instant buzz" he got nearly 30 years ago as a student protester.

Along with the other members of the Kansas State football team, Frazier, now an assistant to UM President George Dennison, was one of the first people to go through the draft physical for the Vietnam War. In 1970, his injured knees kept him from boarding a Vietnam-bound plane that blew up over the ocean, killing his teammates.

Hearing that news report, and other stories like it, spurred Frazier into joining the protest movement.

"People were affected a great deal by what they saw on TV every day," he said. "Many of us had friends who came back in body bags."

He attended an anti-Vietnam rally with nearly 9,000 others, marching to the county courthouse and protesting until the police broke up the rally. He camped out in front of the ROTC building when they were recruiting students, and he joined the VISTA volunteers.

For sociology professor Fred Reed, asking if he protested during his college days is like asking if hippies smoked dope.

He and other North Carolina students put 1,500 white crosses on the school lawn to protest the war in Cambodia. To protest substandard wages of North Carolina food service employees in 1969, he donated money and blocked food-service doors, preventing people from eating in the cafeteria. More than 30 state

troopers lined the sidewalk outside the cafeteria to control Reed and the other picketers because university officials were concerned there would be property damage or violence.

Now he wishes more students would follow in his footsteps.

"The thing that concerns me as a citizen are people who have grievances and never speak up," he said. "To not vote is one of the greatest marks of stupidity and laziness."

Frazier said the lack of human issues and the creation of other venues for activism have slimmed the number of student protesters.

"The biggest difference is that it was a human issue in the '60s and '70s," he said. "Now it's about the earth or regional issues. It's just not as compelling as it was then."

People have also found ways of working within the system, like cleaning the M Trail, painting a day care or volunteering for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Frazier said.

Political science professor Bill Chaloupka used his positions in student government in Nebraska to try to motivate change in Vietnam. Today he sees that same spirit in students.

"I'm impressed people are committed to protest in a way that attracts a positive opinion," he said. "Some are witty; some mirror the old format. Clearly it's possible to put on a protest that makes a difference."

Despite large numbers of student volunteers, people U-locking their necks to the federal building for the sake of Cove/Mallard woodland areas and the get-out-the-vote campaigns, students still have a reputation for apathy.

"(The word) 'apathy' is always used around students," Chaloupka said. "Sometimes it's justified; sometimes it's not."



Professor Fred Reed (right) struts through a line of North Carolina state troopers who were trying to contain a 1969 protest.

*You've heard the words before: students are apathetic. Here are three UM students who have spun '60s activism to fit '90s attitudes and lifestyles.*



Bryce Smedley shrugs off punches and insults in his quest to save the environment.

See story page 2



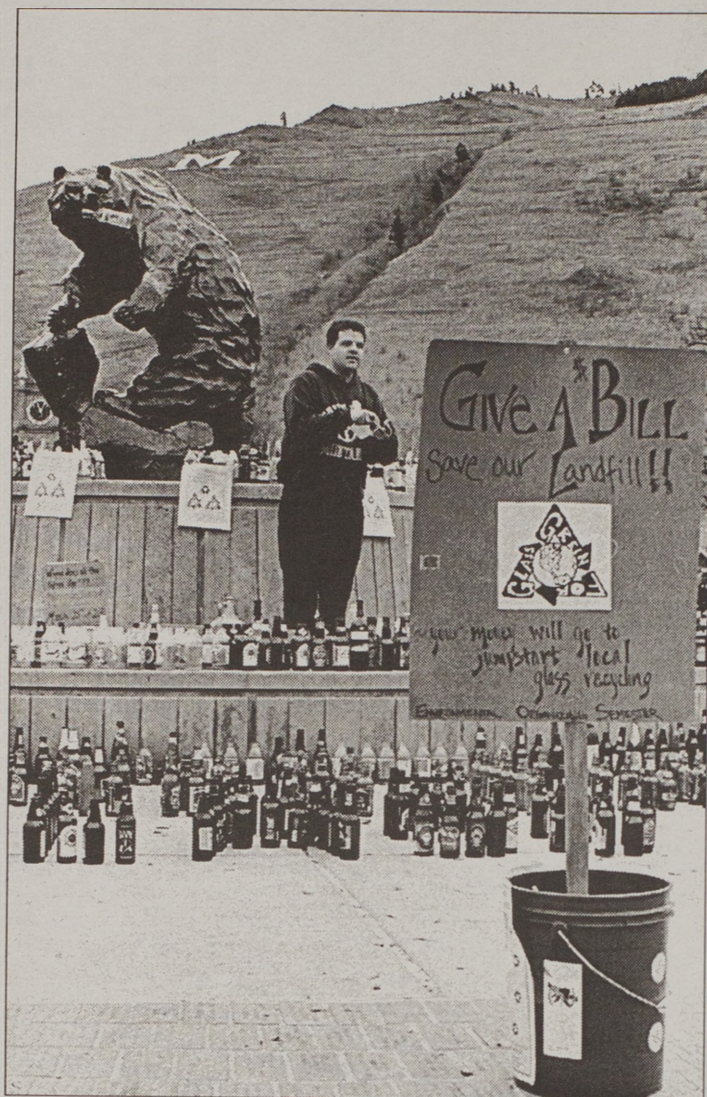
A quiet force, tireless volunteer Laura Garber leads one example at a time.

See story page 3



Whether she's playing the role of mother, leader or dancer, Cheryl Smoker is all-action, all the time.

See story page 4



UM activist Bryce Smedley preaches about the lack of glass recycling in Missoula. The "Green for Glass" campaign is aimed at raising money for glass recycling.

# PROTESTING OLD WORLD STYLE

STORY BY  
ROB LUBKE

PHOTOS BY  
CORY MYERS

## SMEDLEY PRACTICES IN-YOUR-FACE ACTIVISM

Sometimes standing up for what you believe comes at quite a cost.

Just ask Bryce Smedley.

Since arriving at UM in 1995 and becoming an environmental activist, he's been punched, spit upon, arrested, criticized by his friends and ridiculed by strangers. He's even been the recipient of a death threat or two. And recently he lost a bid for the ASUM presidency by a 2-1 margin.

But through it all, Smedley has never been a quitter.

"I think Thoreau said 'I should have the right to do what's right whenever I feel it's right,'" said Smedley, a 22-year-old environmental anthropology major from Springfield, Ohio.

Smedley is the founder of UM's Environmental Action Community, a student-based organization which works on environmental projects, ranging from protesting logging to protecting bison in Yellowstone National Park. In its third year, the group has attracted more than 50 members and a whole lot of attention.

Last semester the group protested logging in the Cove-Mallard area of Idaho's Nez Perce National Forest by constructing a tripod on campus made of logs. A protester dangled from the center of contraption, which was designed to collapse if anyone tampered with any of its legs.

Smedley and company later staged a protest at Missoula's Federal Building where they U-locked themselves to doors and hand rails. It was that incident that led to Smedley's only EAC-related arrest.

"What's a mere ticket, citation, when something that is beautiful is being destroyed?" Smedley asked. "That mere ticket and that citation will last the rest of my life, which could be today or tomorrow, or it could be 60 years. But that place, hopefully, will remain for the next two million years."

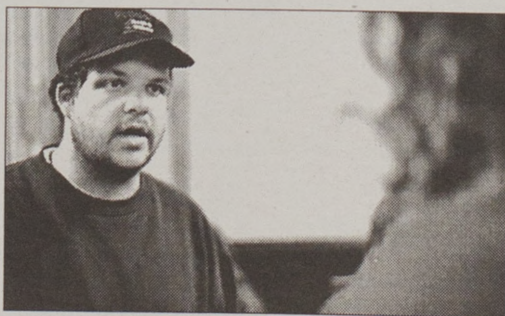
While Smedley recognizes that protests like these might not always bring the desired result, such as a permanent ban on logging in Cove-Mallard, they are important because they get media attention. And that, he said, gets people talking.

"We're making things that aren't familiar, familiar in people's heads," Smedley said. "We want peo-

ple to talk about things; we want people to form their own opinions and become empowered by what they hear. That's our big goal: empowering students."

Smedley's own empowerment as an environmentalist occurred relatively recently and was fairly unexpected.

"I was anything but an environmentalist," he said. "I was the exact opposite. I was a young Republican."



Environmental Action Committee Chairman Bryce Smedley delivers the week's news at an EAC meeting.

It was after he transferred to UM from Heidelberg College in Ohio that Smedley began to see the environment in a different light. He was awestruck by Montana's beauty and then troubled when he found a clear-cut just on the other side of the mountain.

"At some point, you wake up and it's like, 'Man this sucks! Something needs to be done,'" he said.

Smedley then began forming the EAC. Thirty people attended the group's first meeting in his UM dorm room three years ago, and it's been going strong ever since.

Initially some people questioned why a newcomer to Montana would play such a role in protecting the state's environment, but Smedley said he is uniquely qualified for the position.

"I know what we have in Ohio which is one of the largest clear-cuts in the world," he said. "There are

no forests left. Our environment has been totally devastated."

And he knows some people roll their eyes and crack jokes about him and the tactics of EAC, but he takes it in stride.

"They say I'm too radical, too extreme, things like that," Smedley said. "My reply always is that, I mean, what is radical, what is extreme? I think it's a lot more radical to cut down a 500-year-old tree, which you'll never see again, than it is to just put your neck on the line once in a while."

Smedley said he relates what EAC is doing to the practices of Gandhi and Martin Luther King - men who also were often seen as radicals and agitators, but who brought significant changes in peaceful ways. Smedley said he and the other members of EAC have pledged never to resort to any form of violence in their protests or do anything that might endanger the lives of EAC members or others. In fact, all EAC members must complete eight hours of nonviolence training.

In addition to getting motivation from Gandhi and King, Smedley has also found strength in his own religious background.

"In Christianity, the first direct action person was Jesus Christ," he said.

"He didn't strike his hand against anyone else. He stood up for his moral beliefs and he got hung on a cross, you know, for what he stood for. I'm not like a Christian zealot or anything, but that's my heritage. I was raised Christian; I was raised Catholic. That's my role model to some extent: Jesus Christ. He stood up for what he believed in."

Regardless where the future will lead him, Smedley said he will always be an activist.

"When it comes down to it, being an environmental activist isn't what I'm all about," he said. "When you cross this line of opening your mind to like, different paradigms of different groups, you become a gay activist. You become a women's activist. You become all these."

"I'm all of these activists. The environment just happened to be the way to open me to all these different kinds of struggles. And I think that's the most important thing."

# UNLEASHING the POWER of example

Laura Garber stands quiet. Her activism is not in your face. But if this were show and tell, Garber would show. And she'd clean up afterward.

Garber, 23, is known in the UM community as the volunteer coordinator of Volunteer Action Services, as the woman behind the presentation of the AIDS Quilt in Missoula, as the chief gardener of the Garden Club's summer plot, as a regional coordinator for Montana's Americorps and as a Big Sister.

"Volunteerism is what people need to do," says Garber, a senior in elementary education and German. "Setting an example is the best way. You can ask until you are blue in the face, but I don't feel I am in people's faces about how to live. I set a strong example."

Garber, a Wisconsin native, and her husband, Paul Madeen, share a taste in environmental consciousness.

They hang their wash to dry on lines strewn about the house to save energy. They recently bought a 10-acre parcel of land near Ennis. They want to build on it and provide their own food. This August they will have their first child.

"We don't want to have day care or television," Garber says. "There's so much that's exciting for us."

Garber was raised with traditional Christian values but holds the environment central to her spirituality.

"To me, being in touch with my spiritual world would be going for a walk or a hike. I feel really connected to the earth," Garber says. "I believe in the ideals of the Christian principles, but people in general don't live up to them."

This fall, Garber argued that ASUM should support grizzly bear reintroduction in the Selway-

Bitterroot Wilderness. After a couple of Senate meetings on the topic the Senate agreed with Garber.

She received several letters complaining about her position.

"People on this campus don't take a stand about anything," Garber says. "I wrote every single person back. I wanted to get people talking and acting. I think the Senate should discuss political issues that affect students. It's awareness-raising and we're supposed to be setting an example."

Garber's friend Molly Scanlon says Garber is doing just that.

"Her activism isn't about fighting for the sake of fighting," Scanlon says. "Laura really knows how to work within the system."

This fall, Garber taught a fifth-grade class at Missoula's Prescott School. She assigned the children a river project to help them learn about the environment.

Each child was given 50 acres of imaginary riverbank that flowed through the classroom.

"A lot of the boys, unfortunately, chose really environmentally destructive stuff," Garber says, "like a football field, an oil refinery or a stockyard. Most of the girls seemed to have peaceful things like orchards."

Near the end of the project, a boy and a girl at the end of the river were asked how they felt about the pesticides, manure and oil spills floating toward them.

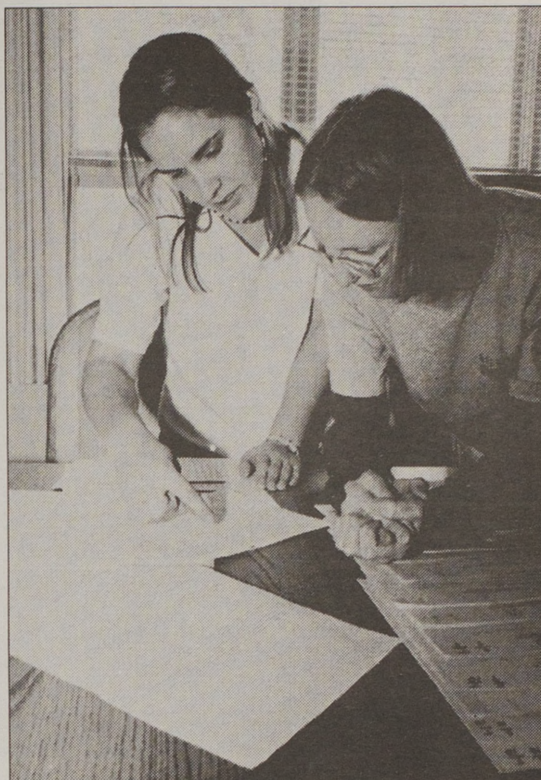
They said they were angry. They said it was unfair.

So Garber asked the angry kids if they ate the cows or used the oil their peers were producing. This prompted some defensiveness but also discussion among the students.

"Some of us are idealistic in theory but not in practice. Laura's idealistic, but she can carry it out," Scanlon says.



"We even canned our potatoes because we were so proud of our crop," says Garber about her and her husband's very first home canned vegetables. "There's nothing like homemade salsa made from our canned garden tomatoes."



For Garber volunteering is a way of life. She's involved in the Gardening Club, Volunteer Action Services, Americorps and is a Big Sister.

Story by  
Katja  
Stromnes

Photos by  
Brigitte  
Moss



"(The UM Gardening Club is) a special thing for a university to have, and more than 75 students benefit from it," Laura Garber says. As club president, Garber lobbies for funding at a ASUM Senate meeting.

# A taskmaster with a smile



A TIME FOR OLD FRIENDS AND NEW ONES: Cheryl Smoker and her daughter fawn over one of many babies presented to them at a recent powwow in Bozeman.

Story by  
Katie Oyan

She's been in Missoula for only three years, but Cheryl Smoker has already established a reputation for action.

Depending on when you catch her, Smoker is a student, a mother, a traditional dancer, an activist, a leader and a friend.

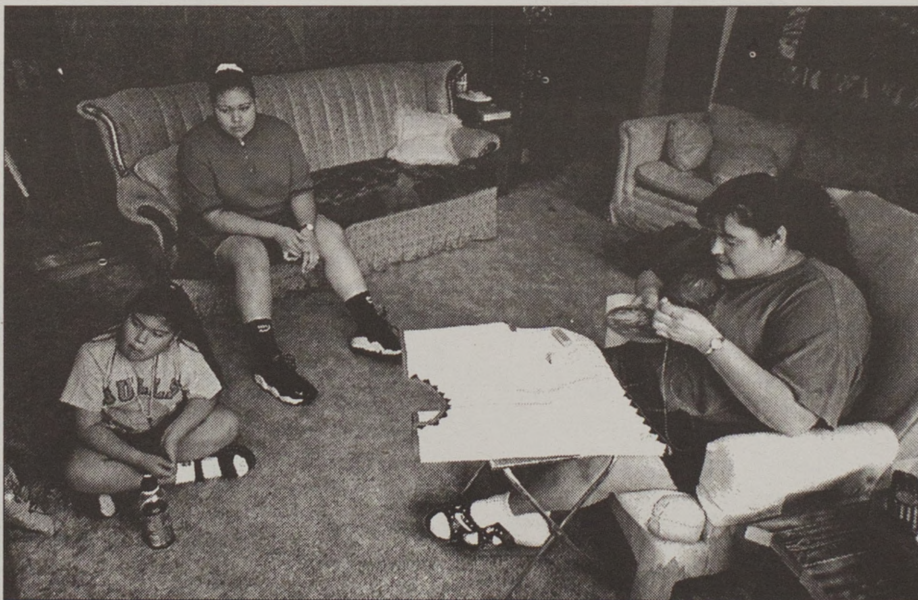
"She's like a taskmaster," says Janet Robideaux, who serves with Smoker on the board of directors for the Missoula Indian Center.

Smoker, a full-time student double-majoring in communications and Native American studies, is the president of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), and is active in the Kyi-Yo Native American Student Association, the Native American Law Student Association and the College Democrats. She is also a member of Indian People's Action.

"You have to stand up for what you believe in," says Smoker, an Assiniboine and Paiute Indian. "It's like that old country-western song says, 'You have to stand for something, or you'll fall for anything.'"

Her attitude has paid off. She was recently given one of 20 nationwide Morris K. Udall Scholarships for excellence in tribal public policy, and she won the 1997 Minority Achievement Award for promoting multi-cultural events at UM. At the AISES national conference in Houston, Texas, Smoker was selected to be the student representative for the 36 chapters in the Northwest region.

Smoker, 32, had already spent six years as a tribal council member at the Big Pine reservation in California before she came to UM three years ago. She was chairperson for the Big Pine Paiute tribe for four years, and in 1994, President Clinton



Smoker beads a powwow dress as her daughters Kree and Kylee watch television after school.

Photos by  
Sam Dean

acknowledged her as the youngest tribal leader in the country.

"She keeps up on issues back at home, and she's also active here," says Twila Old Coyote, vice president of AISES. "We're lucky to have Cheryl. She's a good role model."

Smoker says her most important reasons for being a good role model are her daughters Kree and Kylee.

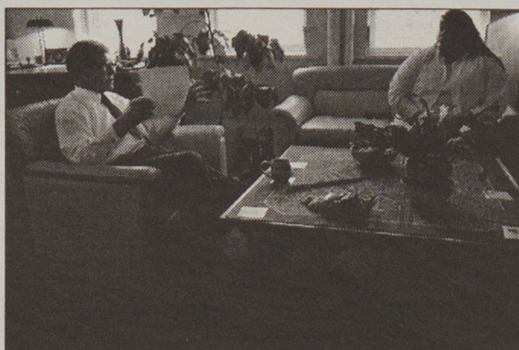
"I want them to grow up with tradition and become active in what they believe in," Smoker says. "My oldest daughter is already a little activist. She won't pledge allegiance to the flag."

A single mother, Smoker says she spends as much time with her 7- and 14-year-old daughters as possible. Her mother, who shares an apartment with Smoker, makes that a little easier.

"Her help with the kids enables me to do a lot," Smoker says. "And she gives me encouragement — I call that 'spiritual food for the mind.'"

In what little spare time she does have, Smoker writes poetry and teaches her daughters how to do beadwork, a skill she learned from her mother. On weekends and during the summer, she travels to powwows and dances with her daughters.

"What amazes me is how Cheryl can be so involved in outside groups, and yet she gets really good grades, and she's a great mother," says Old Coyote, who has been friends with Smoker practically since she arrived. "She defines her different roles — time to be serious, time to be a student, time to be a mom, time to be a friend. I don't



Smoker meets with UM President George Dennison to discuss funding for the Night of the Native Arts, an annual event of dancing, singing and storytelling.

know how she does it, but she always has a smile on her face."

# Club gets physical with mathematical theorem

**Nate Schweber**  
Kaimin Reporter

The thought of mathematics makes some students shudder, but the Math Club is hoping that the sight of math will stir some people's curiosity.

Pi Mu Epsilon, UM's math club, has erected a multi-colored geometric structure outside the Math Building. The structure is made out of PVC pipe painted black, red, green, blue and yellow.

"Who needs pink flamingos?" Math Club president Jennifer Berg said. "This is really cool lawn art."

The piece represents Desargues' Theorem, which goes something like this: The three black lines ascend from a single point and represent rays of light. The red, green and blue lines represent sides of a

triangle that have vertices on the black lines. The top black triangle on the black lines is a shadow cast by the smaller black triangle. Each of the corresponding edges of the triangles can be extended and the edges themselves will intersect at a point. What's remarkable about this is that all three points created lie in a straight line, which is illustrated by the yellow line.

Berg said that the black lines are a statement, and the colored lines are the action and the interesting part of the theorem — especially the yellow line.

Berg said that the model isn't quite up to being physical proof of Desargues' Theorem because the corresponding triangle sides aren't parallel. If they were parallel, as the theorem dictates, they'd run on to infinity. But Berg said the Math

Club "can't afford that much PVC pipe."

Berg added throughout the week, knowledgeable people will hang around the structure for anyone who has questions.

Berg said that the Math Club chose to build the structure because they thought it would be simple enough to create physically. She added that they almost decided to build a Möbius band — an infinity symbol that Berg has tattooed at the base of her neck — but the M.C. Escher-esque piece would be a bit too complicated.

Math Club co-adviser Keith Yale first had the idea to build the Desargues' Theorem model for Math Awareness Week. He said he got the idea from friends who built a geometry float for a parade in Park City, Utah, and won the award for most unusual float.

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# Zapping the competition

Lazer tag comes to UM in a blaze of glory

**Travis McAdam**  
for the Kaimin

There's going to be an old-fashioned shootout on Friday night. However, the Harry Adams Field House will replace the OK Corral, and shotguns will be discarded for laser guns.

UM's Nite Kourt is holding a laser tag game in the field house Friday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The game is a contest between two teams made up of six to eight people who hunt each other in a constructed maze, said Dave Johnson, Nite Kourt coordinator.

"It's like a big capture the flag game," he said.

Party Works, a company based out of Portland, is providing the guns and chest packs for the participants, along with the surroundings.

"They are bringing in walls, smoke, music — the whole nine yards," Johnson

said.

Admission is \$1 and entitles people to as many games as they can play.

"People who want to watch can get spectacular viewing from the bleachers," Johnson said. "They will be able to look down and see all the chaos."

Departments and organizations on campus are encouraged to sign up to compete against each other.

"Some challenges have been issued," he said. "We're waiting for responses."

Any groups or departments interested in setting up grudge matches should call Johnson at 243-5776 to set up specific times to compete.

Nite Kourt is an organization founded three years ago to generate alternatives to the bar scene for students.

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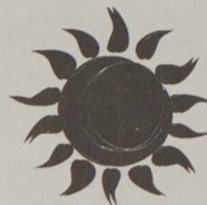
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# Classes add sun bathing to syllabus

Travis McAdam  
for the Kaimin

Scattered amongst the frolicking Frisbee players are a select group of students sitting through class. As they enjoy the benefits of spring, their counterparts sit in the stifling heat of classrooms, reminded of spring only by the laughter wafting through an open window.

Why do some students enjoy the good life? Because their professors are willing to conduct class outside. Sometimes, it isn't the professors' choice.

"My students just got up and went outside," said Tom Power, professor of economics. "I prefer to be inside where it's more disciplined, scribbling on the chalkboard."

Power believes if students want to be outside it takes too much energy to persuade them otherwise. He said giving in will at least keep them in class instead of not showing up at all.

"Higher education is a funny thing," he said. "The students are happy when they don't get what they're paying for. They didn't want to be at school

today. They wanted to be sun bathing."

Frank Clark, chair of the social work department, also fell victim to his students' outdoor urges, and he gave in because the class could accomplish its goals outside as well as it could inside.

"The distraction level is much higher outside, but at the same time, there are times when it's OK," he said.

It comes down to the professor focusing on what needs to be done and making sure it can be done without tools like chalkboards or overheads, Clark said.

Tom Hayes, a senior in business administration and a student in Clark's class, said concentration can be difficult.

"Sometimes, I focus on the Frisbee," he said. "It's just so mesmerizing."

The discipline and structure may be lax outside, but Power doesn't seem worried about trying to get the class back indoors.

"I'm just an ex-hippie who's facilitating their dysfunction," he said.

## A mime of a different color



Adrienne Gump/for the Kaimin

"What's the magic in it?" a drama instructor asks freshman Riley Meredith, while conducting a drama session outside. Riley received tips on how to make his character more believable.

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## Missoula's own River Dance

WaterWise Fair combines food, music and fun with responsible water use

**Katie Oyan**  
Kaimin Reporter

The first annual WaterWise Fair, with educational exhibits, garden tours, live music and food, will be held on the banks of the Clark Fork River Friday.

In conjunction with the Clark Fork Watershed Festival, the fair boasts about 20 interactive exhibits on water quality, with topics ranging from the Missoula aquifer, water conservation ideas for home and garden and discussion of currently proposed gold mines.

"People can come to the fair to enjoy and learn from interactive exhibits and take home some useful information about being a good watershed citizen," said Wendy Moore, director of the event. "They can get good ideas for protecting the watershed, beginning with their own backyard."

The fair, sponsored by the Montana Natural History Center, will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the WaterWise Garden and Clark Fork Native Prairie, east of Higgins Avenue at the end of Fourth Street near the Missoulian.

The WaterWise Garden demonstrates water-saving landscaping techniques, and the Clark Fork Native Prairie is a restoration project that focuses on native plants. Thirty-minute tours of both gardens will be offered at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m.

Live music will be provided from noon to 2 p.m. by local musicians John Floridis and Michael Moore. The event is free and open to the public. Lunch will be available from several food vendors. For more information, call Wendy Moore at 273-2446.



roxy theatre

Find IT

## Kaimin Archives

**KAIMIN ONLINE**  
www.umd.edu/kaimin

## Homecoming Royalty

Applications due  
July 10 by 5 p.m.

Can't Wait?  
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Homecoming 1998 • October 2 & 3

All students encouraged to apply  
Applications available at Brantly 115  
& UC Information Desk

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### The Annual University of Montana COMMENCEMENT BRUNCH

Saturday, May 16, 1998 • UC Commons Dining Room  
Two Seatings: 11:30 am OR 1:30 pm

Seating is limited and reservations are encouraged.  
Please call University Catering Services at (406) 243-4899  
to make reservations or for more information.



\$12.25	Adult
\$11.00	Students
\$5.95	Children ages 4-10
FREE	Infants (4 and under)

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Pork Loin w/ Cranberry Sauce  
Steak Diane  
Fresh Fruit Blintzes  
Batter-dipped Texas Toast  
Eggs Choron  
Potatoes O'Brien  
Grand Fresh Fruit Display  
Gourmet Cheeses  
Bear Claw Bakery Specialties  
Beverages  
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### PEER EDUCATORS & GROUP LEADERS NEEDED

The UM Self Over Substances Program is seeking students interested in learning and gaining experiential training in the substance abuse field. With the focus on responsible decision-making, students will be trained to assist other students through education presentations and small groups. Student leaders will facilitate an alcohol awareness group with trainer supervision, plan and participate in drug/alcohol free social activities and campus-wide events involving drug/alcohol awareness. Training to be provided will consist of:

- GROUP FACILITATION
- ETIOLOGY AND PREVENTION OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE
- AND ADDICTION
- COMPONENTS OF ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR CHANGE
- PEER COUNSELING
- LIFE SKILLS TRAINING
- INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL PROCEDURES

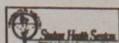
COLLEGE CREDIT AVAILABLE

#### Requirements to Become a Peer Educator

- (1) Successful completion of course work in psychology, social work, nursing, interpersonal communication, guidance & counseling, pharmacy, art of drama is helpful. You must have an overall GPA of 2.5 or above.
  - (2) A statement of your philosophy of substance abuse education, including your career goals and reason for wanting to be a student worker in peer educational group.
- Students recovering from substance abuse and other addictions need a minimum of 12 months abstinence from all drugs and alcohol and must be attending an ongoing recovery support group. ACOA's need to have been in a recovery program for at least six months.

As a PEER EDUCATOR, you will provide a much needed service to UM students. You will also have a tremendous learning and growth experience.

For an interview, please contact:  
JoAnne Blake, Coordinator  
S.O.S. Program, 634 Eddy Avenue  
243-4711 or 243-2261



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11 am to 2 pm

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