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SPECIAL SECTION

MONTANA KAIMIN

Kaimin is a Salish word for paper

Friday

October 25, 2002

TOWN AND GOWN:

AN EXPLORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA'S IMPACT
ON THE GARDEN CITY AND A PANORAMIC VIEW
OF THEIR INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP



Table of Contents

Social Impact

The history of occupancy

A look at the ordinance that has riddled Missoula Page 3

Standards, Bobcat style

How Bozeman has handled the occupancy question Page 4

Life as a student renter

UM roommates share their rental concerns. Page 5

UM's impact on crime

Do students contribute to crime in their host city? Page 5

Political Impact

Leaning left, pulling right

UM's proverbial push on politics in western Montana Page 6

Activism Impact

Thinking 'green'

UM breeds environmentalists and feeds activism in Missoula Page 8

Building a community

UM students and philanthropic endeavors in Missoula Page 9

Economic Impact

\$how me the money

Study quantifies dollar count on UM and the economy Page 10

Brewing business

How one alum has found a home and a business Page 10

Cultural Impact

The color of Missoula

African student talks about diversifying Missoula Page 11

Rockin' in Zoo town

UM's impact on hippin', hoppin' Missoula music Page 11

Most of Us

How student patronage livens Missoula nightlife Page 12

Town and Gown

Town, (noun); a small community, a settlement, a dwelling place for a section of a society.

Gown, (noun); a long dress-like garment, often refers to, or pertains to a college, university or other higher education institution, can be partnered with Town, (see above entry) to refer to the relationship between a university and its hometown.

Imagine, more than 100 years ago, when Missoula was home to about 4,000 people. A group of Missoulians fenced off 40 acres at the base of Mount Sentinel hoping that, someday, the pasture would grow more than grass and trees. They hoped it would grow minds.

The best part? Once the first buildings — Main Hall and the Science Building — went up, the fence came down.

Today, where the pasture once stretched, there are more than 70 buildings that are home to about 13,000 students, more than 700 faculty members and approximately 1,000 staff members.

Since 1893, the relationship between the two communities has been a symbiotic one — often a peaceful one, and at times a divided, contentious one.

Within the last year, the relationship has taken on a dynamic that is not new, but is certainly in the spotlight. A proposed occupancy standard, which ultimately failed to become law, grew from fierce arguments about bad neighbors that often focussed on student renters. Funding slashes from the state Legislature forced the University to launch a public relations campaign to convince legislators that UM is worth investing in. University-area homeowners, Greek houses and University ambassadors gathered one weekend for an ice-cream social to iron out chilly relations between the city and campus.

The need for an ice-cream social is precisely why the Kaimin decided to take a look at the many relationships between the town and the University — from cultural, to political, to economic, to social. With all the discussion, it just seemed time to explore the ever-changing, 109-year relationship.

Some impacts are easier to measure than others, such as the economic effect, which can be traced by dollar amounts. Take one stroll through Missoula and the physical evidence is hard to miss. Missoula's abundance of coffee houses, restaurants and bars is due in part to business from the university population. But it's not just students spending their money in Missoula that feeds the economy. Walk through the tailgate parties on a fall Saturday afternoon and you'll see more than 16,000 Griz football fans flocking to the stadium.

Those descending on Missoula have to eat, sleep and shop while they're in the Garden City, and most have deep pockets.

Other impacts, however, are not as easy to define or measure. For instance, UM surely affects the culture of Missoula, but the impact is hard to assess. As the weeks fill with plays, concerts,

poetry readings and festivals, it's easy to see why Missoula is considered a "mecca" of sorts for Montana. When a small city in a rural state can support UM-affiliated groups like the nationally-renowned Montana Repertory Theatre and the Mo-Trans Dance troupe, it becomes more than just another Montana town. Similarly, when you can see a New York-caliber Opera put on by the music department at the University Theatre and then be in the middle of a pasture with a sky full of brilliant stars 10 minutes later there is a certain sense of utopia.

But we're not about to say that all of UM's impacts on Missoula are beneficial. When Missoula's population swells each fall as 13,000 students descend, increased traffic and stress on the housing market, more alcohol consumption and heightened neighborly tension come too. The influx of student workers takes jobs from people who might otherwise get them. And when school lets out and students head for home, many businesses are left without their regular customers.

And some impacts can be seen just by looking into some of the most recognizable faces in Missoula — faces like that of Mayor Mike Kadas, who exemplify how UM can supply the movers-and-shakers of today's politics, activism and public service.

Before taking his post as mayor, he was a student, and at that, a student politician. While running for re-election in the state Legislature in 1984 as a part-time UM student, Kadas urged students to vote because, "Students can have an impact on politics in Montana. I'm an example of that," he told the Kaimin at the time.

Today, UM student Jesse Laslovich is the modern day Kadas, looking to serve in the Legislature for the second time as the youngest current legislator in Montana's history.

It's abundantly clear: Regardless of how measurable the impact is, UM is no longer a fenced community and hasn't been since 1893.

As ASUM President Jon Swan said, "The Missoula community wouldn't be a community without the University of Montana."

The two societies are interchangeable and ultimately, today's UM students are tomorrow's Missoulians. Hence, the need for ice-cream socials. ASUM's political action director and one of the ice-cream social coordinators, Matt Jennings, saw the need early for some "community outreach" because the bottom line is, "Students who do want to stay in this community will have families and their own houses, and we want to put in motion the community building in the students' first days in Missoula."

The relationships between Missoula and UM are many in number and kind. In these pages, we hope to show a few of the people and their stories that make UM's impact so evident.

— Courtney Lowery
Special Projects Editor

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Montana Kaimin

Our 105th Year

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TOWN AND GOWN: UM's SOCIAL IMPACT

Occupancy standard dead but not gone

Natalie Storey
Montana Kaimin

The occupancy standard may technically be dead, but the issues that led to its creation are not. Proponents of the measure, which was vetoed by Mayor Mike Kadas, say Missoula can expect to see a new version of the occupancy standard introduced if alternative solutions are not found.

Once the citizen-proposed occupancy standard died after proponents failed to muster enough support from City Council to override Mayor Mike Kadas' veto, proponents say it's the responsibility of its opponents to find solutions.

"During the whole debate about the occupancy standard, never once did the other side come up with an alternative," said Clayton Floyd Jr., Ward 6 councilman and proponent of the occupancy standard. "Right now I don't think it should be my or Mr. Baskett's responsibility to solve the problem. We've done our share."

The occupancy standard would have limited the number of unrelated people who could live in the same house. It would have affected the whole city, but the number of occupants allowed in each house would have varied depending on which neighborhood, or district, the house was in. Three unrelated people would be allowed to live together in the Farviews/Pattee Canyon, Lewis and Clark, Southgate Triangle, South Hills, Lower Rattlesnake, Slant Street and University neighborhoods. Four unrelated people would be allowed to live together in the Upper Rattlesnake, Canyon Gate, Bellevue, Orchard Homes/Riverfront, Elk Hills, Franklin to the Fort, Northside, Westside, Southside and historic

Eastside neighborhoods. Five would be allowed in every other part of town.

In September, the City Council narrowly passed the ordinance. Amid a flurry of public comment from citizens, students and home owners, Mayor Kadas vetoed the measure, citing legal questions and the enforceability of the standard.

Local attorney Rick Baskett helped draft the occupancy standard. After its rejection by the city, he says he wants others to come forward with ideas to address Missoula's housing problems.

"The responsibility is on (the opponents) to come up with workable solutions," Baskett said. "The burden is on them at this point."

He said he thought it was unlikely that opponents would come up with and implement any workable solutions to rental-related problems in Missoula.

"The greater possibility is that this will become an election issue," Baskett said. "After elections we will see what the make of the City Council will look like. Then we would look at bringing up something that would be very similar to the occupancy standard. For the next year, we will keep reminding Mayor Kadas and City Council that something needs to be done."

City Council elections will be in November 2003. Six of the 12 Council seats will be up for re-election.

Opponents of the occupancy standard at UM are seeking solutions to renter-related housing problems as they relate to University students.

This year ASUM hired Judy Spannagel as the director for its new Off-Campus Renter Center. The main goal of the Renter

Center is to be a connection between students and the Missoula community. It gives advice about rental-related problems to students who are renting houses and apartments in Missoula. Spannagel has been looking at a number of solutions to the various problems associated with student renters.

Among the solutions mentioned has been the development of cooperative housing at UM. Co-op housing essentially takes all the positive aspects of the Greek system, like a sense of community, but doesn't include the rituals and expensive fees, said Matt Jennings, ASUM student political action director. Students would own a portion of a house that would be converted to accommodate eight to 20, students depending on the size of the dwelling. When they graduate, they would sell their share of the housing complex to other students.

"Co-ops themselves are a social movement in themselves," Jennings said. "They don't have employees or ceremonies. Everybody pitches in to maintain the house, and the cost is brought significantly down. They are a great, energy-filled and innovative way to cure housing-related problems in Missoula."

Jennings, ASUM Business Manager Heather O'Loughlin and ASUM Sen. Katrina Mendry will be attending a conference on cooperative housing in Ann Arbor, Mich., in November to see how other campuses have approached it.

"Co-op housing has been used very successfully at many other universities, and there is no reason why it can't succeed here," Spannagel said.

Co-op housing is still in planning phases and will be devel-

Occupancy Standard Timeline

- **1974 Family Definition Act** established. The Family Definition Act made it illegal for more than two unrelated people to live together anywhere in the city.
- **January 1996** The City Council repealed The Family Definition Act under pressure from the Human Rights Commission and ASUM Legal Services.
- City Council promised to find a substitute for family definition within 30 to 40 days.
- **August 2001** Citizen-drafted occupancy standard first proposed.

• **Summer 2002**

Community forums regarding neighborhoods and "occupancy" issues sponsored by the city and the University of Montana.

• **September 2002**

Occupancy standard revised multiple times.

• **Sept. 17** After five hours of debate, City Council approves the occupancy standard by a vote of 6-5, with one abstention.

• **Sept. 20** Mayor Mike Kadas vetoes the occupancy standard.

• **Sept. 23** A motion to override Kadas' veto fails by a vote of 6-5, with one abstention.

oped and implemented in the future depending on when financing can be made available and when an affordable and feasible house comes up for sale, Jennings said.

The Renter Center is also developing a program that will provide all UM students who rent with tools and equipment for household and yard maintenance. Students will either be issued a voucher that will enable them to purchase tools at a discounted price, or the Renter Center will loan tools to students.

Administrators at UM are also looking at solutions to student renter-related problems in Missoula.

The new housing complex at South Dornblaser, slated to be completed in July 2004, will house 432 students.

"This may not be the end of building new housing," said Bob Durringer, vice president for administration and finance. "But it depends on affordability and availability. However, many other discussions need to occur before that happens."

Vice President for Student Affairs Barbara Hollmann said the University will continue discussions with City Council members and community members.

"With or without the occupancy standard, the University is moving forward, creating new housing and helping students become better renters," she said.

Though the University is taking steps in the right direction, its efforts might not be enough, proponents of an occupancy standard said.

"The only plus that came out of the debate over the occupancy standard was the additional housing that is going to be made available by the University," Floyd said.

"Unfortunately, the growth of the student population far exceeds what they are building. But I applaud their efforts; it is a step in the right direction. They are taking steps in the right direction, but I don't think it is going to be enough. If the University wanted to take a more pro-active stance, there is lots of things they could do as far as student renters go to solve part of the problem."

Floyd said the new housing and the new Renter Center are both good additions on the part

of the University. He didn't suggest any new ideas the University could implement.

Other people opposed to a housing standard say they will continue to encourage dialogue among neighbors.

"There is energy among folks to move in positive directions, and there will be continued talks," said Deb Halliday, a public policy analyst who organized meetings of a loose coalition of community members who were opposed to the occupancy standard. "We will push toward non-regulatory, non-discriminatory approaches."

As far as "non-regulatory approaches" go, Halliday mentioned the possible development of a peer reporting program. The program, if developed, would encourage students to report their peers who are bad neighbors after they graduate. The peer reporting program is only in the discussion phase, and it's too early to say if and when it would be implemented, she said.

Kadas said the city will continue to review policies and work on enforcement issues with existing city ordinances. The city will also continue discussions with the University and community regarding housing problems in Missoula.

"The city needs to facilitate ways to create new housing," Kadas said. "But we need to do it in the context of building new neighborhoods; just building boxes for people to live in willy nilly isn't going to cut it."

Baskett said there is still a need to address rental housing-related problems in Missoula, and he will not let the issue die without reaching some sort of solution.

"I know students get this perception that this is not in their best interest," he said. "I would ask them to stop and look at the reason why their landlords are not supporting this." Baskett studied accounting and received his law degree from UM in 1979. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

"This is an issue of stewardship for me," he said. "I would like to be able to turn over a Missoula that is in good shape to the students of today when they are in my position. The students of today will be the homeowners of tomorrow."

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Occupancy standards nothing new for MSU

Tiffany Aldinger
Montana Kaimin

While limiting the number of people who can live together is a hot topic in Missoula, the idea is nothing new to Bozeman, home of Montana State University.

The city has an occupancy standard that defines "household" and limits the number of unrelated people living together.

"Our code was written in 1972, and has been revised in 1990 and 2002," said Vicki Hasler, code enforcement officer for Bozeman.

The city uses a definition of households, not families, Hasler said. A household could be a number of situations. Any number of related people can live together in a house, she said. However, no more than four unrelated people can live together.

"A brother and sister could rent to two additional people," Hasler said. "Three related people could rent to one more person, but four related people can't rent to anyone else."

There are groups that are exempt from the household standard. The definition of households specifically excludes some groups and defines them separately, said Chris Saunders, associate planner for the city of Bozeman. Households do not include fraternities, sororities, temporary or seasonal workers and groups of people who have committed crimes and are placed together in a house, among other groups, Hasler said.

"We have not had any court cases challenging the definition of household," Hasler said. "We've had threats, but no

one has done it."

The occupancy standard affects households citywide, Saunders said. "It is uniformly applied to any class of housing regardless of who lives there."

Hasler is notified of possible violations when somebody calls in a complaint.

"I work by complaint only," she said. "Someone has to call. I don't go looking for them."

When she receives a complaint, she generally sends a letter to the house letting the residents know of the problem and that it is a criminal offense. The first visit is by appointment, Hasler said.

She then gives them around 30 days before she visits them again. "I try to do a surprise visit. So far I haven't caught anybody."

"The complaint is usually generated by excess cars," Hasler said. "That's generally how we become aware."

Saunders said, "We try to work through it on a more pleasant level. It's an ongoing education process."

Most of the complaints are about college students, Hasler said. She said she tries to educate college students on how to keep neighbors happy by doing things such as spreading parking around, keeping parties quiet and maintaining lawns.

Most people are willing to comply, Hasler said, but they can be fined if they ignore the warnings.

Violating the occupancy standard is a misdemeanor and can result in a fine of \$100 to \$500, which may include up to six weeks in jail, Hasler said. No one has been charged with violating the ordinance.

Kickin' it



Lisa Hornstein/Montana Kaimin
Students relax on their porch in the University area of Missoula. A proposed housing ordinance, which was hotly debated in the community but did not pass, would have affected how many people could live together in a house.

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TOWN AND GOWN: UM'S SOCIAL IMPACT

The house next door

Roommates discuss the roles of students in neighborhoods

Natalie Storey
Montana Kaimin

Roommates James Clavadetscher, Bryson Ekle and Kevin Conway admit to having an occasional party at their South Sixth Street home, but overall, they say they are pretty considerate of their neighbors.

"I'm sure if we were going to have a large party here we would want to walk over and say something to our neighbors beforehand," Clavadetscher said at his home last week. The three roommates live in a four-bedroom house near the University with one other student, Ryan Gaylen.

"I have a lot of friends who do go and tell neighbors when they are going to have more than six or seven people over at their houses," Clavadetscher said.

Clavadetscher, Ekle, Conway and Gaylen are just one example of the many different varieties of student renters in Missoula. There are good student neighbors, bad neighbors, bad neighbors who want to be good and student renters who simply don't care.

Students who have loud parties and fail to take care of their homes became central arguments of people who supported the citizen-proposed occupancy standard, which would have

limited the number of unrelated people who could share the same residence based on the region of Missoula the home is located in.

The occupancy standard was vetoed by Mayor Mike Kadas after originally being passed by the City Council Sept. 16. Proponents needed a two-thirds vote of the Council to override Kadas' veto for the ordinance to become law. The motion to override the veto failed, and the ordinance was dropped.

If the ordinance would have passed, Clavadetscher, Ekle and Conway said, it would have forced them to find another place to live because only three of them could live in their four-bedroom home.

"The roommates said they were concerned when they first caught wind of the citizen-proposed occupancy standard.

"Obviously, it was a concern for us because we wouldn't be able to live here legally," Clavadetscher said. "It didn't seem like students had much of a voice. I was angry with the people raising the issues. It seemed like they were really targeting University students."

Ekle agreed.

"I think it would have discriminated against us as students because the people that



Olivia Nisbet/Montana Kaimin

Roommates James Clavadetscher and Kevin Conway chat about their lives living together in their Sixth Street home, Tuesday, Oct. 15. The house of four admits to hosting parties but think that, overall, they've been respectful to their neighbors.

live around here who are unrelated are students," he said. "It was mostly us that they were targeting."

However, Conway offered a different opinion.

"It isn't necessarily discrimination, but what people need to realize is that this is a college town," he said. "The number of students far exceeds the num-

ber of houses. Students have to live somewhere."

The roommates didn't have many solutions to student renter-related problems in Missoula, but they did offer some suggestions as to how their individual neighborhoods could deal with problems associated with bad renters.

"I would much rather prefer

our neighbors to come over here and talk to us if they have a problem," Clavadetscher said, "because we would be respectful, and we would tone it down."

Conway added, "The problem would be solved much more efficiently if they would just come over and talk to us."

Police: Students don't create serious crime

Kellyn Brown
Montana Kaimin

People who break the law make the news, and with several media outlets in a town of just over 40,000 people, Missoula may be portrayed as more dangerous than it actually is.

"I think the perception of crime is higher than the actual level of crime," said Ken Willett, the director of the University of Montana's Public Safety.

He said this can be a good and a bad thing.

It's good because people's concern remains high.

"Concern is another word for awareness," Willett said. "If (our community) is aware, then it is healthy."

The bad is that good students often get overlooked.

"For every incident that happens and makes the press, we have students that wake up and do not create a ripple in the pond," Willett said. "Those students are why we're here."

The perception that the community becomes more dangerous with the influx of students in September is misleading, Willett said.

Lt. Greg Willoughby of the Missoula Police Department agreed.

"Violent felonies don't go up number-wise," Willoughby said. "The percentage matches

the number of people living here. Violent felonies for us are not that high when compared to the rest of the country."

That includes when classes are in session.

Missoula Police Department Capt. Marty Ludeman said the increased number of people in the community during the UM semester does not mean an increased number of officers. He said the same number of officers cover the same number of shifts all year round.

He did add that most officers take their vacation time during the summer, and more overtime is needed during the school year, particularly during large events like football games.

College students are not the only concern for city and campus officers in the fall. There is also an influx of returning vacationers, more people staying in town during the weekends and an increase of high school gatherings as they return to school.

"It is not just University-related," Willoughby said.

What UM students do bring to Missoula is noise, alcohol and drugs. But, Willett said, incident reports have to be read with care. He pointed to alcohol violations as an example.

"MIPs are part of campus," Willett said. "The minute you

stop them you make a stat."

He then referred to the amount of DUIs given around campus. "Does this say DUIs are high in the area or Public Safety and city police are watching the area?"

There are problems in the area, and many residents in the University area have expressed anxiety over enforcement by city police and Public Safety on University property.

"I've got concerns," Willett said. "I would like to see a larger force out there and more officers per shift. But I'm also a realist, and there is no

budget to do that right now."

Willoughby said that a long history of good relations with the University community cannot be negated by a few incidents.

"How long has the University been here?" Willoughby asked. "How long have the police been here? Historically the relationship between the city police and the (University community) has been a very good relationship."

Willett said UM and the surrounding area have thrived together and as the area faces growing pains, it will face them together.

"Many people prefer this area," Willett said. "The University district is prestigious. Would it be if the University wasn't here? I don't think so. Maybe homeowners need to talk to landlords more so than the University."

With young people comes crime, but while petty crime may be up a little bit at UM, Willett said, serious crime is down, and students have asserted that they feel safe on campus.

"If things are going well, interest (from the press) isn't high," Willett said. "Maybe it should be."

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TOWN AND GOWN: UM'S POLITICAL IMPACT

The political lean is often the liberal mo

UM adds politicians,
volunteers, new ideas to
Montana politics

Kristen Inbody
Montana Kaimin

Liberals are becoming Montana's latest endangered species, with Missoula acting as a refuge in an increasingly conservative state. Part of the reason for Missoula's liberal outlook is the University of Montana, state politician Harry Fritz said.

"Missoula now has 25 to 30 percent of the Democrats in the Legislature, so the difference is sharper than it used to be," said history professor and former legislator Harry Fritz.

During the 2001 session, 19 of the 50 members of the Senate were Democrats. In the House, 42 of the 100 representatives were Democrats. Missoula representatives made up 14 percent of the House's Democrats.

"Not all supporters of the Universities are Democrats, but in Missoula they go together," Fritz said.

The University, one of the largest employers in Missoula, contributes to making Missoula more liberal, said Jim Lopach, professor of political science.

The University is liberal because the faculty is liberal, he said. The University, as a public institution, is not opposed to higher taxes and more spending. The University has so many employees that the Missoula legislative delegation naturally takes a pro-university position.

"If you talk to any legislator, you'll find the Missoula delegation is distinctive because of its University constituency," he said.

"Even though the University prides itself on diversity, it lends a dominantly liberal cast to the University," Lopach said.

MSU, with a different kind of faculty, tends to be more conservative, he said.

"An opinion poll of the two faculties on various issues would yield quite different results," Lopach said.

Fritz said, "The faculty has a reputation of being liberal, but that is a public reputation based on the actions of a few. Publically, the faculty tends to support liberal's issues like state support for public institutions."

The students at UM also are more liberal, Fritz said.

"College is a liberating experience for most people," he said. "It's not because the faculty is indoctrinating them, but because college opens them up to other people and ideas."

The liberating experience of college occurs at every college, but the difference in the politics of Missoula and Bozeman is that UM draws more students from western Montana, while Bozeman draws from more conservative eastern Montana.

"Eastern Montana doesn't have the mix of economic interests, and that is reflected in the student body," he said. "There used to be portions of eastern Montana that were extremely liberal, like Scobey and Plentywood, because of small farmers, but there are not as many small farmers anymore."

"Whenever somebody from eastern Montana comes to Missoula for college, the whole community is shocked, but we're recruiting football players from Hysham, and they do all right."

About his experience as a Democrat in Montana's

Legislature, UM student Jesse Laslovich said, "It's just assumed when you're from Montana that a fellow legislator from Missoula is going to be leaning left, and not moderately left but far left, so they stick out like a sore thumb."

Republican Sen. Ric Holden of Glendive said, "They stick out all right. It's pretty obvious the demographics of the state have changed, and Missoula has not."

"There's been a big change in the U.S. in the past 10 years. There has been a whole movement in the U.S. away from Democratic politics. The Democrats have gone overboard on environmental issues. Nobody said enough is enough ... Missoulians are voting as their parents did without really looking at the issues."

UM's population makes the area more liberal, Holden, an MSU graduate, said. "Liberal arts-type schools have those sorts of people who have gravitated there."

The University affects the outlook of Missoula's legislators, said state Sen. Mike Halligan, D-Missoula.

"It helps to have the University here. It makes the community more cosmopolitan and more open to new ideas," Halligan said. "It makes us better legislators because we don't think we're the only ones whose opinions count. We're used to the diversity of opinions because we're so cosmopolitan for Montana. The University creates that more than any other influence."

Pat Williams, a former nine-term Montana congressman, said while representing Montana, he found it to be almost two separate states.

"The eastern half has historically been moderate to conservative and the western half has been moderate to liberal," Williams said.

"Eastern Montana has one basic economy: agriculture; whereas, western Montana is more diverse economically," Williams said. "The people of western Montana, it always seemed to me, were political experimenters and risk takers, while eastern Montanans were more cautious about letting government try new things."

The University is not active enough in influencing Montana politics, Williams said.

"The University should be more aggressive about offering help and opinions to elected officials," Williams said.

"The University of Montana and the Montana University System have enormous amounts of expertise in a great many policy issues. I found while I was in office is that the expertise of the University system is virtually untapped by Montana's elected officials."

There should be a greater connection between elected officials and higher education, Williams said.

"Higher education is not the only place to go for answers, but it is one of the places, and politicians rarely seek help from the universities, and the university rarely invites inquiries," he said.

"About the only time the University and the Montana legislators come together is to argue over the budget for the University," Williams said. "An every two-year, tense, combative relationship is bad for the legislators and bad for the University."

Williams, the former chair of the Senate education committee found that Montana is not alone in disregarding the expertise of the universities.

"In state after state after state, I found that politicians did not seek out the expertise of the universities, though the universities were also at fault for acting like islands," Williams said.

When it comes to local politics, the University is also a



Deya Kemmis (middle) and Chris Laslovich (right), students working gate party for Baucus Saturday afternoon, during a Grizzly football game.

liberal force, said Missoula City Councilman Jim McGrath.

McGrath was a member of the New Party, a party founded nationally to be a counterpoint to the right-wing Christian Coalition. The party folded on the national level.

A lot of people involved with the University were involved in founding the New Party's Missoula chapter, McGrath said.

"The whole project of the University — to think about things — helps in a project like that," he said.

"Of course the University supported that in a way because we were able to have just that much more interesting stuff people that were smart and useful information," McGrath said.

The New Party was able to draw together environmental and women's issue supporters, unions and peace center activists, McGrath said.

"What happens in Missoula is because Missoula is the focal point for social change movements. It's a center for that kind of activities," he said. "I would be the last to say the crucible and intellectual energy of the University isn't useful in this, because it is."

SUPPLYING POLITICIANS

As a 20-year-old Green Beret in Vietnam, Mike Halligan realized he needed to get involved in politics.

"The fact is, I was a C student in Billings and ended up

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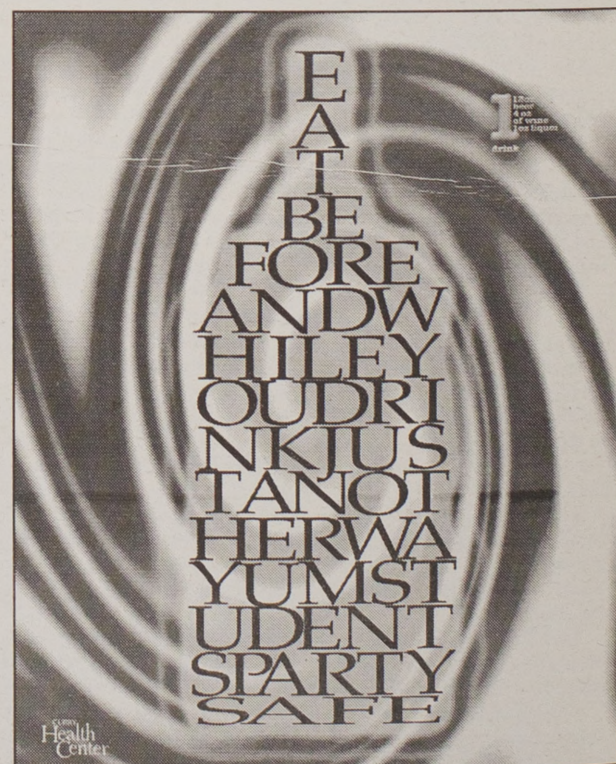
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TOWN AND GOWN: UM's POLITICAL IMPACT

an when it comes to University politics



Macall McGillis/Montana Kaimin
the U.S. Sen. Max Baucus campaign, talk to Chris Peterson at a tail-

Laslovich stood on the House floor and argued against cuts to the budget for higher education, he said.

"I wasn't voting based on being a student and having to pay more in tuition," Laslovich said. "I'm one of the lucky ones who can afford a tuition increase, but I would argue the majority of students on this campus can't afford a tuition increase, large or small."

Opposing the cuts wasn't just about being a student, Laslovich said.

"It was just that not investing in higher education is wrong," he said. "If I were still in the Legislature at 45, I would be making the same argument."

While representing Anaconda comes first, being the youngest member inevitably means representing young people in general. The two are not mutually exclusive, Laslovich said.

"While the budget vote would benefit students by supporting education, at the same time it would benefit families in Anaconda who have students in higher education," he said.

Laslovich introduced an amendment to House Bill 2, the budget, that would put back in \$6 million that was cut from university funding.

Billings senator Art Peterson argued against the amendment, saying public and private colleges should cost students the same. As evidence that students could afford the tuition, Laslovich quoted Peterson as saying, "If students such as Representative Laslovich can afford to drive a truck like his, I say they can afford to pay more."

Laslovich drove a white 1995 Chevy Z71 4X4 pickup, which he has since sold because of the gas mileage, not legislative hassling, he said.

He now drives a 2002 Nissan Maxima.

"I'll pull up to a political function with that car, and people will go crazy," Laslovich said. "They say, we increased tuition and Representative Laslovich got a new car."

Peterson will not be back next session, so there will be one less legislator to harass him about his wheels, Laslovich said.

Laslovich was at UM three semesters before his first term in the Legislature.

"The Legislature changed my outlook," Laslovich said. "At the University there is an atmosphere of learning, and in the Legislature there is a completely different atmosphere of learning, at a much faster pace with a steep learning curve."

Laslovich has returned to finish his degree between legislative sessions.

"Coming back to the University was perfect," he said. "I got to take upper-division classes in specific areas like legislative politics and state and local government."

One class this semester, on health care and public policy, is proving particularly useful.

"I thought, quite arrogantly, that I knew everything there was to know about the health care system, but I'm learning a ton," Laslovich said.

For his first term in the state Legislature, Laslovich got 10 political science credits.

STUDENTS AS POLITICAL ACTORS

In state, local and national campaigns, UM students make a difference.

"Students volunteer a lot in this community, whether with initiatives, environmental or political campaigns. It's something students have always done," said Jim McGrath, a Missoula City Council member from Ward 3 and UM graduate.

"In '99 I would not have been elected without the tremendous help of an intern, who happened to be a University student," McGrath said.

While students may come through as campaign volunteers, in other areas of involvement on student affairs, they have not been as important as a force.

"Students have been notoriously non-participatory in city politics until very recently," McGrath said. "Students as voters, at least on campus, have turnouts that are a consistent disappointment to someone like me involved in municipal politics."

This is nothing new, McGrath said.

"When I was a student at the University, I remember trying to inspire fellow students to be involved," McGrath said. "They might have plenty of energy on a Nader campaign, but couldn't grasp that they lived in a particular place, and politics went on there, and participation was more important there than at some abstract national level."

Missoula County was one of only 29 counties in the United States and the only one in Montana where Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader got more than 10 percent of the vote in 2000.

This campus, like many campuses, offers "youthful passions later characterized as idealism," said Chris Zeek, campus organizer for the MontPIRG chapter at UM.

The Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG) at UM is a student organization that works on political, environmental and consumer advocacy issues.

UM's liberal arts environment makes the University more conducive to MontPIRG's activities than Montana State University at Bozeman, Zeek said.

"Bozeman has more of a science, technical orientation," Zeek said. "The University of Montana always has more liberal arts, so UM has a long history of political activism, and Bozeman less so."

"Missoula in general has been a cradle of social movements," Zeek said. "Social movements orientate themselves on social campuses, with a marketplace of ideas."

The perspective of a liberal arts student is different, he said.

"If you're getting a degree in engineering, you're going to work for the government or a corporation, but if you're a liberal arts major, you don't go to work for anybody," Zeek, a communication major, joked. "It's just that their options are more touchy-feely, with option like non-profits, newspapers and politics."

Though MontPIRG has a lot of citizen involvement, there's no replacement for the passion students bring, Zeek said.

"MontPIRG is student-based," Zeek said. "Campaigns are carried out by student volunteers. Without the University, MontPIRG wouldn't exist."

Zeek's five years at MontPIRG have worn down some of the idealism he felt as a freshman, he said, but the new students who come into the movement motivate him to continue with MontPIRG.

"The passion they have is contagious," Zeek said.

The constant turnover of students is a drawback to campus organizations, but the group has a "constantly new and different perspective," Zeek said. "Unless they shut the University down and send all the 18-year-olds to labor camps, MontPIRG will exist in some form."

Students get involved because "students see that four years down the road they will inherit this world. Students say, 'Before I get there, I want to make it right for me,'" Zeek said.

The political science department oversees a large number of internships in campaigns, in Congressional offices and in the state Legislature, professor Jim Lopach said.

"Without the student body, they would have a harder time finding interested, energetic, competent and cheap labor," he said.

Susan Reneau, a local author and former officer in the local Republican chapter, said the involvement of the Campus Republicans has been helpful in local politics by manning booths, passing out fliers, posting signs and attending meetings that are political in nature.

"The young Republicans are dynamic. There's some really fabulous young people involved," Reneau said. "Young Republicans are making a difference in many elections."

"The fact that many in Generation X don't vote makes the willingness of some to get involved that much more important," she said. "We need to have people willing to stand up and be counted."

"I was first of the 18-year-olds to get to vote. I feel very bad my generation has given to the world drug addiction, free sex and a cynical attitude that one vote doesn't mean anything," Reneau said. "Your generation seems to be more hardworking. You're still cynical but seem less drug addicted."

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TOWN AND GOWN: UM's ACTIVISM IMPACT

Campus a hotbed for environmental change

UM programs, research feeds activism in community

Casey Trang
Montana Kaimin

Whether directly or indirectly, the University of Montana influences the way the city of Missoula thinks about, acts on and understands environmental issues.

"I don't know if there is so much implementation, as it has helped focus where the efforts go," said Garon Smith, UM chemistry professor. "It helps to distract people from working on the wrong problems."

Students, faculty and alumni are involved with a wide range of programs — from groups that try to solve Missoula's transportation problems to groups that push to improve Missoula's watershed — it's no secret that in the scope of other Montana cities, Missoula is a hotbed of environmental activity.

A pipeline
for implementation

In many ways, the University is a perfect place to take the first step in solving community problems.

Paul Miller, a graduate student studying for a doctorate in chemistry, is the mastermind behind the biodiesel program. The offspring of the program is the Bio-Bus, which uses french fry oil for fuel. The Bio-Bus can be seen rolling down the streets of Missoula nearly everyday. The bus cuts back on pollution while recycling oil.

Miller is also involved in a program to remove nitrogen and phosphate from Missoula's waste water. Miller's project is funded by a partnership between the city and UM. Ideally, his research would provide a cost-effective alternative for treating waste water in small communities.

UM also has a partnership with the city to reduce noxious weeds. Marilyn Marler, director of the UM weed management program, has worked to reduce non-native weeds from city and University land for the past three years. City Councilman Jim McGrath told the Kaimin at a previous Council meeting that it's important for small communities and city governments to team up.

"It doesn't make sense for the city to have one person doing something and have the University doing the same thing when we can combine them," McGrath said. "It's an efficiency thing."

Smith said much of the research performed by students has been presented to the health department, which has influenced the direction that the department has gone.

A little less than 10 years ago, the chemistry department was concerned with the chemicals released into the Clark Fork River by de-icers used on Missoula streets. So, chemistry students took a sample of water from underneath the Orange Street Bridge where

drainage water is released.

When the students examined the water, they found high levels of lead and chromium, which are toxic heavy metals. Lead is specifically toxic for children because it interferes with enzymes that make red blood cells, Smith said, and chromium is a cancer-causing agent.

"It was clear from looking at what was in the chemical de-icer that the numbers weren't right for that being the source," Smith said.

Since the presence of the lead and chromium wasn't caused by the de-icer, a student went downtown and collected samples of yellow paint chips for students to study.

"It turned out that the yellow paint had what is called chrome yellow as the pigment, and that's made out of lead chromate," Smith said. "And that was the source of it."

Based on the chemistry department's findings, the city, and eventually the highway department, changed to a different type of yellow paint that didn't contain chemicals high in lead and chromium.

Just a general way
of thinking

UM's Environmental Studies Program is a link between students and environmental organizations, often helping students to land internships for future research. More than two dozen active environmental groups are located in Missoula, most of which are nonprofit organizations. They all differ in their influence and size.

The Environmental Studies Program is more than 30 years old. During the majority of this time it was exclusively a graduate program, but in recent years an undergraduate program has been added.

"The graduate program has been focused on training for the next generation of environmental leaders," said Neva Hassanein, a UM environmental studies professor. "As a professor, I really try to give students the opportunity to understand the issues and get involved."

Hassanein teaches a 200-level course called Community and Environment. She said one of the requirements of the course is for her students to volunteer for the Clark Fork Watershed Festival, which is held every spring.

"There's like 800 sixth-graders from around the county," Hassanein said. "Students in my class help teach the younger folks and help volunteer."

Professors help students get connected with local, state and national organizations through programs offered in their departments. Many of these groups are run by graduates of the University.

A couple of those are run by Bob Giordano, who graduated from UM with a master's degree in resource conservation. Giordano is the director of the Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation

and is the coordinator of MIST's sister organization, Free Cycles Missoula. Both groups are nonprofit organizations and deal with Missoula's transportation issues. A major concern of the two groups is the widening of the roads as an answer for increased congestion, Giordano said.

"A lot of people began to understand that widening the roads has created more traffic and was not a long-term sustainable solution," Giordano said.

Free Cycles does exactly what its name implies; it gives away free bikes.

"Right away we knew that we had to do a lot of different programs," Giordano said. "Free Cycles has evolved from some free-roaming green bikes, which is its original vision, but it is more about getting donated bikes from community members and giving them away for free."

Giordano said his group has given away more than 1,000 bikes in the seven years the group has existed. The group creates a cycle of giving in the community, he said.

"Getting the bikes was nice, but we needed a connected trail system," Giordano said. "We needed a place to ride."

Subsequently, he helped create a group that looked at transportation problems in the fast-growing Missoula community.

Thus, MIST was formed to give a holistic picture of Missoula's transportation. MIST is an organization designed to improve transportation options for Missoula. The organization also seeks to find optimal designs for Missoula's streets.

Since the beginning of both groups in 1996, Giordano said, he has received a large number of student volunteers.

Since Free Cycles' inception, Giordano said, they have received help from about 1,000 volunteers, many of whom are students. Now MIST receives fewer volunteers, with about 50, but he said about 30 of those have also been students at UM.

Another group with a large presence of student volunteers is the Missoula Urban Demonstration Project. MUD was first started by five environmental studies students and was called the Down Home Project. MUD has a large community gardening presence around Missoula. The group is responsible for the coffee to compost program, where coffee grounds are converted to compost and used in community gardens.

"It's important for us to see



Lisa Hornstein/Montana Kaimin

ASUM's Cruiser Co-op program allows students to borrow cycles from the yellow bike fleet. Students can check out the bikes at the Info Desk in the UC with a Griz Card.

this as a community commitment," said Karin Schalm, director of MUD. Schalm received three master's degrees from UM. Her degrees are in creative writing, environmental studies and English literature.

Schalm said that at the height of the season, she usually has 20 student volunteers at a time. Currently, MUD has eight UM interns helping with the organization.

Bottom Line

Whether people agree or disagree with the functions of local environmental groups and their causes, the people who

help run them are usually volunteers — community members and students alike. These groups usually aim to improve aspects of community life through improved transportation and community planning, trying to enrich the area for everyone.

"Organizations work with the citizens, and they help empower citizens," Giordano said. "And, that helps shape attitudes, and that trickles up to decision makers. In turn, the decision makers make the necessary changes in public policy that reflects the citizens desires for positive change."

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TOWN AND GOWN: UM's ACTIVISM IMPACT

UM volunteers donate blood, food, hope

Ramey Corn
Montana Kaimin

FROM students who devote their time to after-school programs, to those in the Greek system who raise money for charities in Missoula, to those who grow vegetables for the community, one thing is certain – students at the University of Montana contribute to the philanthropic atmosphere in Missoula.

For almost every community chapter of a volunteer group, UM has one to match. Through the Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) alone there are 14 different programs in Missoula that students can participate in, said Amy Esp, program manager for OCE.

"A good number of students do volunteer," Esp said.

Although much of the volunteer work that comes from UM students is an academic requirement, like for students studying education or social work, the desire for many comes simply from wanting to volunteer, said Esp. During 2001 and 2002 1,745 students, who were required to volunteer in their classes, donated 25,103 hours of academic service to community organizations, according to OCE records. And there were 568 students who served 3,506 hours.

The "BIG" impact with youngsters.

Flagship is an after-school program where students are mentors for K-12 students who are "at risk," or are recommended by a teacher. Flagship allows UM participants to either tutor one-on-one, or teach after school programs. The programs range from teaching fly fishing to African dance. Whatever skill the student wants to teach is up to them, said Amber Kyle, Flagship coordinator. Last year, Flagship in grades K-8 had 28 volunteers who donated 367 hours to 282 grade school students. In grades 9-12 there were 20 volunteers who donated 415 hours with 22 students, Kyle said. There are 11 schools that participate in Flagship, Kyle said.

"It's pretty cool," Kyle said. "If someone wants to volunteer and get something out of it for themselves, this is a really good program. You get to reap the benefits from it."

Students who participate in Flagship are able to see their students grow throughout the year, which benefits both sets of participants of the program, Kyle said.

The program is different than most volunteer work where a person works with new people every



Stetson, a seventh grader, returns the table tennis ball (in the UC Gameroom Tuesday afternoon) to his Big Brother Andy Oldenburg, a senior in political science. The duo has been paired for almost a year and they spend most of their time playing sports like golf and football.

Olivia Nisbet / Montana Kaimin

day. Flagship is more like teaching or coaching because a person is able to see what a difference he or she is making, she said.

"It's easy, you just have to be a positive role model and a good listener," said Kaylene Hudson, a Flagship volunteer at Hellgate High School. Hudson, a finance major, is in a course called Business and Society. The class requires her to volunteer 15 hours in the semester. Although volunteering is required, Hudson said that she will continue to work with her student all year, after her class ends.

"You get to make a difference in their lives," Hudson said. "It's a way to give back to the community."

America Reads and America Counts is a program that works with elementary students who struggle with reading and math. The program places work study and volunteer tutors at six elementary schools in Missoula, said Jill Irey, a recruiter for America Reads and America Counts at UM.

Currently, there are around 33 UM students in the program.

"I find it rewarding. It's something to do outside of work and school," said Stacey Siebrasse, a sophomore in pre-physical therapy. This is Siebrasse's second year with the program. She spends two mornings a week at Lowell Elementary School. The program is rewarding because she has built a close bond with the students, and because they love to learn, Siebrasse said.

Rose Hammand who teaches second and third grade in a

multi-age classroom at Lowell has been impressed by the volunteers she's seen with America Reads and America Counts for the past six years.

"They're reliable, consistent—those things you look for in a volunteer," Hammond said. "The best part is that they become a member of the community, not just UM."

Beyond students who are required to volunteer for academic reasons, there are also those who volunteer on their own accord, or through an on-campus organization, such as the Greek system.

In the Greek system, although each sorority and fraternity belongs to a national organization, there is no set required number of hours that each individual or house must donate, said Eldridge Moore, Greek Life adviser. Instead, projects are required, which are stipulated from each organization, Moore said. There are between 8,000 and 10,000 hours that are combined among individual members of the houses, and all the houses together, Moore said. The Greek system helps out with everything from raking leaves in the University district to helping with the Big Brothers and Sisters "Bowl for Kid's Sake," Moore said.

"I feel that it is one of the main pillars of the Greek system and that we strive to help out the community that we're in and the university that we're at, by giving our time to philanthropy," Tyler Chapman, president of Sigma Nu, said.

Last year, the Big Brothers and Big Sisters "Bowl For Kid's Sake"

fund-raiser, which consisted of 18 teams from the University, raised more than \$10,000, said Danette Rector, executive director of Missoula's Big Brothers and Big Sisters. The money raised went to the fund that matches up participants, and for things like case workers for each child, said Rector.

The groups that participated in the fund-raiser consisted of the Greek system, a few residence halls, one team from the forestry school and a team of law students.

"It was an incredible success thanks to the University students," Rector said. "Students are so supportive of our organization."

Last year, there were between 150 and 200 volunteers at Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Rector said.

UM students are a tremendous support to the program, Rector said.

"I don't know what we'd do without the time, interest and guidance that college students have given us, believe me," Rector said.

Many UM students have gone beyond fund-raising and taken on the role as a big brother or sister. Andy Oldenburg, a senior in political science, has been partnered up with his little brother Stetson for a year come this November.

"It's fun to fulfill a role that most of those kids don't have," Oldenburg said.

Give PEAS a chance

Mentoring youth isn't the only way UM students find philanthropy in Missoula. Many students

find outlets volunteering their time by helping to provide the community with food or housing. For example, many students participate in organizations like the Program in Ecological and Agriculture and Society (PEAS), and Habitat For Humanity.

During the summer there are between 15 and 20 students who take PEAS as a course, said Josh Slotnick, director of P.E.A.S and a part-time farm coordinator at the Rattlesnake Community Farm. PEAS is hands-on work that teaches the environmental and social issues that are involved in agriculture. PEAS and Garden City Harvest work in a partnership to provide the labor that comes together at the Rattlesnake Community Farm. Students who are taking PEAS work at least a third more than their required hours, said Tim Hall, the community director of Garden City Harvest.

Last year, the garden provided tens of thousands of pounds of food to the Missoula Food Bank and the Poverello Center, Slotnick said.

"You get a deeper view of what your food is and where it's coming from," said Martin Fahrney a PEAS participant and volunteer.

Building more than just houses

Habitat for Humanity works to build and renovate houses for low-income families, said Mitch Robertson, CEO member and UM's Habitat for Humanity coordinator.

Affiliated with the Missoula chapter of Habitat for Humanity, UM's chapter has helped to build 13 houses since it was created last September, Robertson said.

A goal for the group this year is to have a house that is completely "Griz" built, Robertson said, meaning the home would mainly be constructed by UM students, faculty and staff.

As well as donating their time, students at UM also donate their blood. The local chapter of the Red Cross comes to the University every 56 days, or about every two months.

Sherrie Adolphson, a donor recruitment representative, said that she has been known to walk around the UC with a clipboard in her hand and ask students to sign up.

Students are very receptive, Adolphson said.

"The students are a very generous group of people that seem willing to participate, ready to serve," Adolphson said. "They don't question it; they just do it."

UM students have a better sense of community than most of the college campuses that she has worked on, Adolphson said.

Those campuses include Westminster and Salt Lake Community College, she said.

Along with these programs there are countless others such as: Trick or Eat, Adopt a Family and Women's Opportunity Resource and Development's McKinney Tutoring Program, through the office of OCE.

"Students make a difference in the community and it shows," Kyle said.

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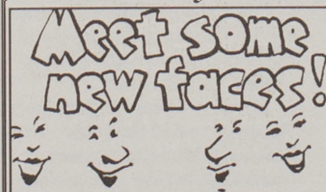
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Montana Kaimin

Study breaks down UM's economic impact

The impact of the University of Montana on Missoula's economy can be seen almost everywhere. If students don't buy products, they provide employment or purchase services. Businesses, from windshield repair to chiropractors, seem to have some connection to University demographics.

The University and all of the visitors it attracts pumped \$233.7 million dollars into the Missoula economy last year, \$14.4 million more than the year before, according to a study by UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

A 1996 survey of campus students, visitors and employees is the benchmark by which this year's spending was gauged. The study was commissioned by the UM Excellence Fund.

Steve Seninger, who oversaw the study and is director of economic analysis for the bureau, said it is still an accurate measure of how much economic impact the University has on Missoula.

Seninger is in the process of recalculating the numbers and producing a new economic impact study for next fall.

Some businesses are almost completely dependent on University consumers. Restaurants located in the area around campus say they depend on UM students

to further their business.

A manager at Food for Thought, which is located directly across from campus on Arthur Avenue, said 75 percent of its business comes from the University.

Other nearby businesses are in the same boat.

"If it weren't for the University, we wouldn't be able to make it here," said John Barthelme, general manager of Finnegan's Family Restaurant on Broadway.

Students provide the bulk of many restaurants' business, and when summer comes, tourists to the city fill the void left when students skip town.

Location plays a big part in the impact the University has on the Thunderbird Motel. The neon-lighted building attracts parents of students and visitors to the campus with its prime position across the Clark Fork River from campus.

"We try and have a good relationship with students," said Thelma Baker, owner of the motel.

Hotels and motels across the city sell out their rooms weeks in advance of big events like Grizzly football games and graduation.

Last year, UM brought \$2.5 million in revenue to local hotels and motels, according to the study.

University Motors of Missoula sees a significant portion of its business come from its namesake.

Tim Hubbard, president of the car dealership, said students make up about 8 to 10 percent of his business, but after adding on professors, staff and other University employees, that number rises higher and higher.

People who come to town to visit their children, watch a game or attend a concert also stop by to look at and purchase vehicles. Add them all together and it seems UM practically keeps Hubbard's business alive, he said.

The story is the same with other dealerships in the city: UM brings visitors who bring in business. \$8.2 million is spent annually on automobile sales by the University and its visitors.

"I think the University brings a lot of people to the community that aren't students, but bring business with them when they visit," he said.

While some businesses may not see business come from students in the form of purchases, they often see UM's effect through student employees.

Earth and Wood, a landscaping company based out of Stevensville, said few University students use them for their services, but they do make great employees.

Marla Hennequin, one of the company's four owners, said Earth and Wood's operations were geared toward homeowners, but students are "generally very responsible people" as employees.

"They get out of school in May and work for us in the busy season, then go back to school just as things are starting to slow down," she said. "It's nice to have that base of employees that help during that season."

Hennequin said their company hires about seven students each summer, which makes up about 10 percent of its workforce.

Mike Kadas, a UM graduate and mayor of Missoula, said the city benefits from the University. Even though a majority of students don't pay property or income taxes, they end up supporting the tax base indirectly by renting property.

Kadas said the University gives Missoula the unique touch that separates it from other cities and makes it desirable to live in.

"Missoula wouldn't be Missoula if we didn't have the University," he said.

School of Business bolsters Montana's economy

Big Sky Brewery bubbles with success with UM business BA

Katherine Sather
Montana Kaimin

Drive to Bjorn Nabozney's new brewery, near Missoula's airport, and take your senses on a trip.

Two steps through the door and you get your first whiff of barley and hops.

Continue walking into the main level, and you might pick up a few riffs of Stevie Ray Vaughn amid the clatter of machinery filling 220 bottles a minute, each with Big Sky Brewery's beverages.

Now look up.

Three hundred and sixty kegs of beer ferment above your head in a steel bin. Ten more of the vats loom nearby.

Once the brew is bottled, perhaps in the brewery's new aluminum bottles, it will be shipped to nine states, including Washington, Idaho, Minnesota and Alaska.

The brewery is just one of the businesses that found its birth at UM.

Big Sky Brewery's fast growth in the seven years since it was founded required the construction of the new brewery this year. Another 20,000 foot expansion is planned for the spring.

When it comes to his brewery, Nabozney is focused on the future.

But the University of Montana graduate will won't soon forget the past, when he and two college buddies founded the brewery with just a college degree and a home brew. Nabozney is one of many UM graduates who have developed cash-generating businesses in the state.

"We didn't have any practical experience; we didn't even have a sample that investors could try," Nabozney said. "What we had was good solid research. We knew the market was ready for another brewery in Montana."

Much of their research was completed by Nabozney while he was enrolled in UM's School of Business, which he graduated from in 1994. Staff at the business school recognize his brewery as a success story, said Jack Reece, an adjunct professor.

The school offers many resources for other such entrepreneurs, in the hopes that they'll be as lucky as Nabozney and his friends.

"If we can start a business, then that creates jobs, and that's a big plus," he said. "It's good for Montana's economy."

Students can enroll in an entrepreneurship class that focuses on developing a business plan, like Nabozney did with Big Sky Brewery, as well as a class that helps them convert the plan into a real venture. Reece teaches the course in the spring.

"We talk about the laws that regulate kinds of businesses, whether you're a sole proprietor or a full corporation," Reece said. "We also talk about how to raise money, and when to go to a bank or when to go to private people for funds."

Obtaining funds can be an entrepreneur's biggest hurdle, he said. Some borrow money from relatives and others max credit cards. Still other entrepreneurs seek out investors. That's what Nabozney and his friends did.

As a UM student, he was encouraged to make the Big Sky Brewery the focus of his business plan by his co-workers at a downtown sporting goods store. Neal Leathers and Brad Robinson, a fellow UM student, often talked about starting their own brewery. Both moved to Missoula from Michigan 12 years ago. They picked the city after driving through on trips to Alaska.

Craft breweries were just starting to pop up across the Northwest, Leathers said.



Bjorn Nabozney, vice president of Big Sky Brewery, moves empty kegs Monday afternoon at the new brewery near the airport. Nabozney is a graduate of the University of Montana and has recently expanded his business, allowing his beer to be bottled in Missoula.

"We'd also come through cities like Portland on those trips, and the breweries were just getting started," Leathers said.

It took two years for him and Nabozney to find their first investor, a Missoula resident who was willing to take a chance on the business.

Reece calls such residents "angel investors."

"They're local people who have a mass of money, and they're interested in putting some out to help a business get started," he said.

Developing their products was the fun part. Nabozney and his buddies made their first beer, an amber ale called Whistle Pig, in June of 1995. It came after hours of home brewing experiments.

"We made a lot of bad brews," he said. "But no matter how bad

it tasted, we always drank it."

Marketing the brews proved to be an easy venture as well. Nabozney and his friends frequented the bars in Missoula, and were already familiar with most of the bartenders, who obliged to give their brew a test run.

Next they produced Moose Drool, their best-selling dark ale, followed by a pale ale called Scape Goat, and an oatmeal stout called Slow Elk. Today they offer two seasonal beers and 12 specialty brews.

"We're the 45th largest brewery in the country, out of 1,500 craft breweries," Nabozney said. "We expect to be in the top 30 by next year."

He maintains a close affiliation with UM, often giving guest lectures at the business school. He and Leathers consider the

University a source of employees.

"I bet we've got about 10 graduates working here," Leathers said. "A major part of our work force are UM folks."

They also continue to take risks with their company. In a few weeks, they'll be releasing Moose Drool, their most popular brew, in aluminum bottles. Nabozney developed the product to compensate for Missoula's lack of glass recycling. Big Sky Brewery will be the first brewery in North America to offer aluminum bottles.

Nabozney hopes the novelty will fare as well as his brewery has in Montana.

"To start a business in Montana, you don't have to be smart," he said. "You just have to be tenacious. You need sound fundamentals and to be tenacious."

TOWN AND GOWN: UM'S CULTURAL IMPACT

Kenyan student thrives in Missoula

Jeff Windmueller
Montana Kaimin

One of the most important reasons David Gachigo has stayed at the University of Montana is the comfort he feels in Missoula. The University and the city are welcoming places to many foreign students, he said.

"It's laid back and a nice place to be," Gachigo said. "I think it is common for foreign students to come here. There is all this curiosity, and everyone wants to know your side of the story."

The 30-year-old Gachigo came to Missoula in the spring of 1998 to study wildlife biology, but what he found was that a school famous for its liberal arts programs would give him an opportunity to study something he is even more interested in: politics.

In 1991, his home of Nairobi, Kenya, underwent a major political change. The country split from a one-party system to multiple parties, allowing more people to affect elections and creating term limits for otherwise unending presidential reigns.

"There is a big change. The President's term is ending in December ... It will be interesting to see who will be elected," Gachigo said.

UM politics have kept Gachigo busy and well-supported. In the spring of 2000, Gachigo was elected to the ASUM Senate with 614 votes, the most a candidate had ever received.

As president of the African Student Association, Gachigo has also been a student of other international students can emulate.

In many ways, international students attracted by the University increase the diversity of the community. Students like



David Gachigo, originally from Kenya, will be finishing up his five-year undergraduate career at the University of Montana this spring. Gachigo, an assistant head RA in Craig Hall, is looking at graduate schools at the Nelson Mandela School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., or the University of North London.

Gachigo come to learn at the University, but in the end, it turns out they are also the ones doing the teaching.

"We like to say our students are ambassadors of their countries," said Effie Koehn, director of Foreign Student and Scholar Services. "They are willing to share their country and culture with the other students."

Gachigo will leave a legacy when he graduates this year.

He has been assistant head resident of Duniway and Craig Halls, was recently crowned a prince at homecoming and for two years co-hosted a popular KGBA radio show, "Strictly Roots," with a friend, Winger Lepotokisi.

"He's an excellent gentleman; he's been on our staff for awhile and is wonderful," said Ron Brunell, director of Residence Life. "I told him on the day he made prince, that 'It is too bad you didn't make king, but I'm still voting for you to be president of Kenya.'"

When Gachigo graduates, he hopes to take the knowledge that he has acquired in Missoula back to a rapidly developing Kenya. For now, he is interested in finishing his education and becoming more involved with ways he can help the urban areas of Nairobi.

"I grew up in the slums, and to be paying for my college is something I have to work hard for," he said. "My ambition

is to someday run for mayor of Nairobi."

In his spare time, Gachigo surrounds himself with two of his favorite interests: soccer and politics.

"I can sit and read Time and Newsweek from cover to cover ... I constantly compare it to Kenyan politics on the Web," he said.

Gachigo sees a link between his homeland and Montana and also sees the possibility of a sister-city development between his two homes. Montana and Kenya are both big in agriculture and are linked by this trade, he said.

"When you walk down the street, you can see people drink coffee from Kenya," he said. "There will be an exchange ... It just needs input."

Gachigo has not seen Kenya since he left for the United States. He spends most of his days in class, performing his responsibilities as an assistant head resident or working a job as a waiter at the Edgewater Doubletree Inn. Since he is not a citizen, Gachigo cannot qualify for federal aid.

"I don't think I've ever seen a harder worker," said Drew Cardy, a resident assistant in Craig Hall and friend of Gachigo. "He's involved with the campus and is working to pay for college. He says he will be mayor of Nairobi, and I think he has the determination to do it."

Gachigo said he would like to follow his UM education with graduate work, possibly in Europe.

There is one thing for certain: he has been welcomed in Missoula.

"I left UM to go to a school in Arkansas on a soccer scholarship ... It lasted two weeks," he said. "It was very different. My instincts brought me back to Missoula."

University of Montana can really help rock Missoula

Students inject fresh flavor into local music scene

Ira Sather-Olson
Montana Kaimin

Looking out from a venue in Missoula, an artist will see the same thing every time — a sea of 20-something, sweaty, gyrating fans.

It is this sea, this crowd, that tends to attract music to Missoula, create music in Missoula and guide music in Missoula.

Kevin Head owns the Blue Heron, where music followers in Missoula have had the chance to see acts like jazz phenom, Eden Atwood, Atmosphere, conscious-minded hip-hop and the alt-country act, the Gourds.

Students are what help attract this kind of late-night entertainment, Head says.

"Basically, college-age people set the tone for the music that's out there," Head says.

Head has noticed that people between the ages of 21 and 35 usually stay out much later, while people over 35 usually only stay out until 11 or 12 p.m.

Ritz bar owner Chris DeSoto agrees with Head that the University has been good for the music scene. He said a fair amount of college-aged people attend shows at his bar, but people between the ages of 25 to 29 frequent the bar as well.

DeSoto said that once classes start, "there's more of a general flow of people downtown."

The variety of music showcased at the Ritz is the thing that attracts students and non-students alike, he said.

Head believes the University's fine arts and music courses help foster creativity in the music scene, creating a "melting pot" of different tastes in Missoula. He says certain things the University offers, such as public radio, help to expose new bands.

Colin Hickey, the booking agent for Jay's Upstairs, feels the University has had an impact on the music scene.

Hickey says mainly students come to the shows at Jay's, "because it's the only rock 'n' roll/punk/emo bar in town."

He added, "When school is in session the shows are always bigger."

One of the main efforts to attract music shows to Missoula comes directly from the students themselves.

UM Productions, which is staffed mainly by students, helps to book and coordinate big shows like Bob Dylan, Ani DiFranco and recently, Weezer.

Allyson Ruvolo, director of UM Productions, says the bottom line is that students are the priority. She says this is reflected in the push to keep ticket prices down and bring in shows like the String Cheese Incident who have a strong college-aged fan base.

Besides helping attract shows, the University also helps to sustain some of Missoula's local music stores.

John Fleming, owner of Ear Candy Music, says, "if the University wasn't here, I'd be concerned."

Although college students don't make up all of his customer base, they do have a considerable impact. Fleming is able to spend more money on music products because of UM, and he would have to cut spending and his ties with certain music distributors if it wasn't for the significant amount of business from college students. He noted that the most popular artists college kids tend to buy at his store are bands like the White Stripes, Volumen, Built to Spill and Modest Mouse.

Greg "Gil" Keeler, the "indie music buyer" at Rockin' Rudy's, shares Fleming's feelings. Keeler says that students have helped to bring in new music to Rockin' Rudy's by name-dropping bands that Keeler may have never heard of. Keeler then tries to order that particular band's CD through independent music distributors.

Keeler thinks that Rockin' Rudy's large amount of inventory appeals to college student's wide variety of musical taste. Keeler says the new Beck and Jurassic Five albums have been big sellers among college students.

Perhaps one of the University's most important impacts on the community of Missoula was the introduction of KGBA radio in 1996.

KGBA Music Directors Scott Calanca and Jamie Boschee think that KGBA is an alternative to the corporate radio that rules the airwaves. KGBA offers a platform for local artists to be heard. They support local music venues and businesses through underwriting, the Community Events Calendar and other on-air mentions.

KGBA brings some of the biggest names in underground music to Missoula, they say.

Calanca and Boschee say KGBA helps to provide music according to its mission statement: "obscure, diverse and refreshing programming."

Within its six years of existence, KGBA has expanded its musical selection to over 12,000 CDs. The ever-growing number of specialty shows on the station cater to specific genres of music. Listeners can expand their musical tastes beyond what most top 40 radio stations play, they say.

Calanca and Boschee also think KGBA is important because of the opportunities for students to learn the trade of being a radio DJ.

Calanca and Boschee said, because they are a student-run station, we have a better understanding as to what students want to hear. Being a non-commercial station, they are not held down by the same restraints as other Missoula stations. The freedom that stems from being a student-run organization is reflected in KGBA's overall on-air sound.

The thriving venue and music retail environment also tends to breed musicians, some of whom are students.

At Jay's, Hickey points out that many of the bands that play there are made up of UM graduates or current students. Bands like Sweet Low Down, Moksha and other student-based bands can give students an outlet to expand their musicality while they are expanding their education.

But students aren't the only way the University feeds the music scene in Missoula. The music department provides the community with a "rich offering" of events, ranging from operas to faculty and student recitals, says Stephan Kalm, department chairman.

The department sometimes hosts up to three live performances a week.

Additionally, the drama/dance department offers a variety of other performing arts. Shows like the Smuin Ballet, the University's own Mo-Trans performances and the Montana Repertory Theatre productions all enrich the role the University plays helping to make Missoula the cultural hub of Montana.

TOWN AND GOWN: UM's CULTURAL IMPACT

Students keep coffers full and kegs empty at local bars

Luke Johnson
Montana Kaimin

Twenty-one-year-old Eon Day, who happens to be a college dropout, may describe the University's impact on nightlife in Missoula the best.

"You've got something like 13,000 people enrolled at the University," said Day, between games of pool at Ferqui's. "So that means that there are at least 10,000 kids who are ready to party and have fun. That's why Missoula's so great. You've got to like those numbers."

Day may have decided to bag school, but he still knows numbers when he sees them. Although there is no way of knowing exactly how much impact college students have on the bar scene in Missoula, a quick survey of many of the bars downtown shows that the University does indeed affect the life of the night in Missoula.

Kyle Riggs, a bartender and night manager at The Iron Horse, said his bar gets a different crowd in the daytime than it does at night.

"In the day, we have mostly businessmen and women who come in to eat and get a drink or two," Riggs said. "But, after about seven at night, the crowd turns into college kids. I'd say that college students make up at least 70 percent of our business at night."

The phenomenon of crowds turning from businessmen into students is not unique to The Iron Horse. Other places that serve food during the day such as The Bodega and Stockman's reported similar patronage patterns.

"During the day, we have our regulars who want to grab a bite to eat, and later on the college kids come in," said Bodega bartender Luke Rouns, who estimated that 90 percent of the bar's business comes from students. "You definitely notice the drop in business that happens when the students go on summer break. The bars are dead."

According to Rouns, some adults leave when the kids start rolling in, while others hold their ground.

"With some of the older crowd, the noise and rowdiness bothers them and they leave, but with a lot of them it doesn't," Rouns said. "Some of them even stick around and BS with the kids and have a good time. It's sort of expected to have a lot of students since we're in a college town."

Some bars, such as Stockman's, go out of their way to draw business from students.

"We want as many students as can fit in here on any given night," said Brian Wasick, who has worked at Stockman's for more than four years. "We try to provide a fun atmosphere where students will have a good time, and I think we have done that

judging by our success."

Wasick estimated that 75 percent of Stockman's business comes from students.

"We treat students right and they seem to enjoy themselves," Wasick said.

Other bars, like The Rhino, see a more mixed crowd than Stockman's.

"About 35 percent of our business is from college kids," said Chad Maus, who tends bar at The Rhino.

Some older adults choose to go to a slightly more relaxed place like The Rhino rather than known student spots like Stockman's.

"If things are out of hand, I just go to a different bar," said Chris Dombrowski, while shooting pool at The Rhino with a couple of middle-aged friends. "I can't really get mad at (college students), because I used to be one, and I know how that goes."

Dombrowski's playing partners agreed.

"There's room for everybody at the bars," Dan Gilliland said.

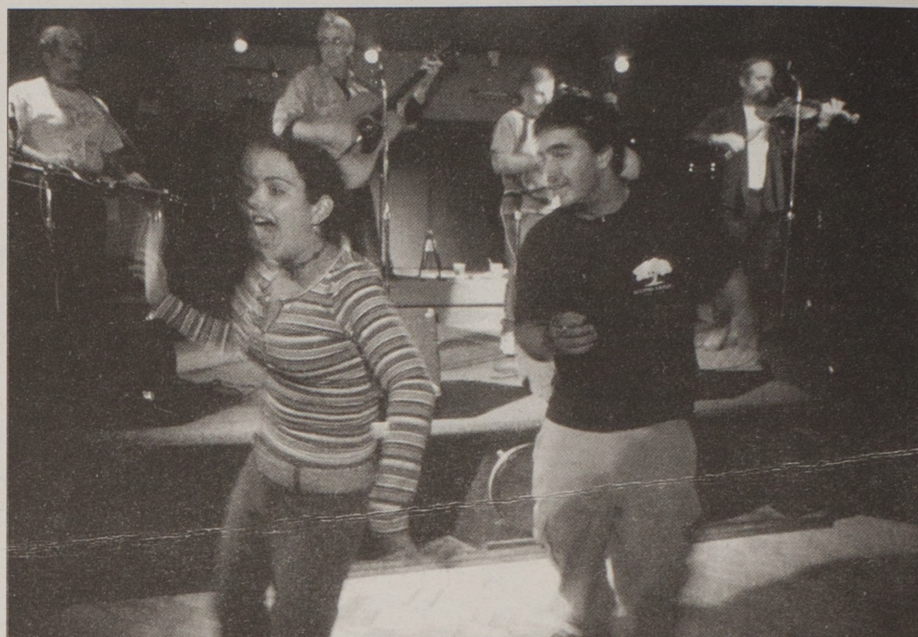
"I don't mind college kids at all," Jim Calvin said. "Half of the time I come downtown just to look at the college women."

Middle-aged bar-goer Bonnie Saxton agreed that college kids are not to be feared.

"I don't think that college kids get out of hand. They're just sort of feeling the ropes," Saxton said. "In fact, we're usually rowdier than they are."

Bars such as the Missoula Ale House, Red's and Montana Club all estimated that around 30 percent of their business comes from students.

"People come to places like this to get away from the loud atmosphere, to chill out and



Emily Bachman (left) and Jake Goodwin bust a move, to the band Pine Grass during a weekly performance Tuesday night at the Top Hat

have good conversation," said Missoula Ale House bartender Kevin Morgan.

Bars are not the only businesses that benefit from students going downtown.

El Cazador's Taco Truck, which serves quick Mexican cuisine to go from an RV downtown, makes about \$1,000 every Friday and Saturday night.

"I'd say about 85 percent of our business at the Taco Truck comes from college kids," said El Cazador owner Alfredo Hernandez. "I love the business that they give, which is why I support the school and the Grizzlies any time."

Many people said that if the University was not in Missoula, many of the bars would not exist.

"Probably close to half of

the bars in town wouldn't be here if there were no school here," said Joey Parchen, a bouncer at The Top Hat.

One of the reasons that students and young people not in school, like Eon Day, choose to

live in Missoula is because of the increased nightlife that a college town provides.

"I've been all over the state and there's definitely no place in Montana as fun as Missoula," Day said. "I love it."

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