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5-5-2022

Montana Kaimin, May 5, 2022

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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A PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTION

Seth Bodnar charts the ups and
downs of a turbulent year at UM

Interview by Austin Amestoy



6 Pending rape cases

12 'She Loves Me'

14 Muscle 'n hustle

Cover photo by Antonio Ibarra

May 5, 2022 | Volume 124 | Issue No. 29

Kiosk



The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. The Kaimin office and the University of Montana are located on land originally inhabited by the Salish People. Kaimin is a derivative of a Salish language word, "Qe'ymin," that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means "book," "message" or "paper that brings news."

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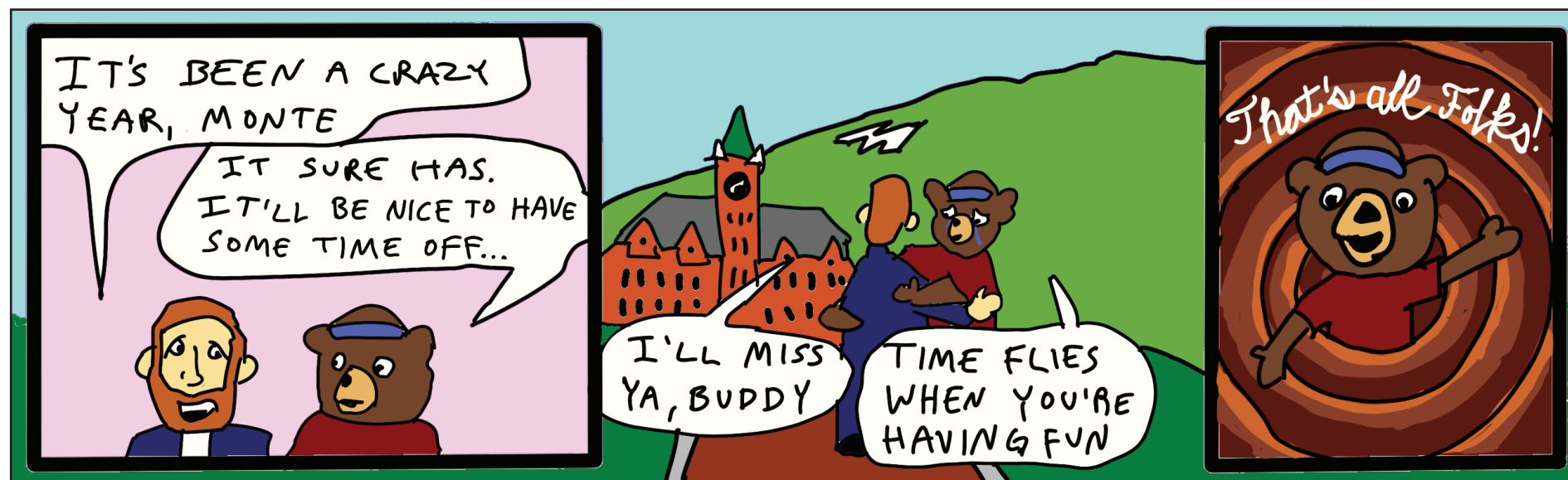
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THE GARAGE: SE 2 EP 15



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Celebrating graduating student artists



Daphne Sweet stands next to one of her art installations in the Social Science building at a Gallery of Visual Arts BFA exhibition on April 28. Sweet, along with friends and supporters, showed their support by wearing red outfits. The room, covered in red art and red walls, cast a red glow on viewers as they walked through the gallery. Sweet recalled picking up a red colored pencil when she was younger and said she just couldn't stop from incorporating the color into her art. The BFA exhibition featured and celebrated 11 graduating student artists. The gallery will be open to the public until May 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. **NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Keep the momentum

Returning to school last fall felt like a reawakening.

Classes were back in-person, the COVID-19 vaccine was ubiquitous and there was a consensus that maybe now, after more than a year and a half, things were finally returning to normal.

It'd be irresponsible not to acknowledge the delta and omicron variants that swept through campus and Missoula, halting plans and claiming lives. But throughout it all, an indescribable energy remained on campus — one the 2020-21 school year could never capture.

Last spring, as the school year came to a close, our outgoing editor-in-chief wrote about reclamation. Ahead of a socially distanced graduation and behind the turbulence of a hybrid school year, she wanted us to celebrate our wins and reclaim what we felt we had lost to the pandemic.

I'd say we've done that this year.

As students, we've rallied and protested and celebrated all year long. We've won scholarships and passed resolutions and demanded transparency from those in power. We've relished the good and shouldered the bad.

It seems, in a way, like we're rediscovering our voices and our public selves. And for the last editorial I'll ever write for the Montana Kaimin, I want to encourage everyone to keep up this momentum — to continue staying engaged and present.

This University needs us — graduates and underclassmen alike — to keep paying attention, and keep speaking out through the good and the bad. Demand transparency and truth, show up and speak out for what you believe in, rally around a cause and celebrate your wins and the wins of your communities. Don't forget your priorities, whether that's following up on the impact of student government resolutions or the results of anti-racism audits.

We've seen the good our reclamation brought us, and it's up to us to remember what it feels like to have a voice as we prepare for our next chapters.

As graduation day looms, I'm feeling a complicated mixture of relief and fear. I bet I'm not the only one. But I think that's a testament to the resilience we displayed this year and every year of our journeys at UM.

There will be more roadblocks ahead for all of us, there's no doubt about that. But, looking back on the last few years, I'm comforted that we'll always know how to pick ourselves back up — how to rediscover our voices.

I saw that in so many UM students this year. Even when it wasn't easy or comfortable, we showed up. Now, let's keep it up.

— Addie Slanger, Editor-in-Chief

Like it? Hate it? Have a different opinion?
email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

					8			
6		4	3					
				7	6		9	
	2					4	1	
		9		4		2	7	
				5			8	
	3		1		2		5	
						8		
5		1		8	3			

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

6	5	8	2	4	9	7	3	1
3	4	2	1	8	7	5	6	9
7	1	9	5	6	3	4	8	2
5	8	4	7	2	1	3	9	6
2	7	6	3	9	4	1	5	8
9	3	1	8	5	6	2	7	4
8	6	3	4	1	5	9	2	7
4	9	5	6	7	2	8	1	3
1	2	7	9	3	8	6	4	5

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Meet the 2022-23 Kaimin Editor

One of my favorite jobs while working at the Montana Kaimin has been getting up a little earlier each Thursday to deliver our newspaper. For a college student being awake before sunrise, it ain't pretty.



I like to deliver because it is the Kaimin's final promise to readers that we will get UM's news out to you, like we have for more than 100 years. In my three years working here, I have grown to love the responsibility of reporting the news.

I have worked at the Kaimin as a sports reporter, news reporter, design editor and news editor over the last three years. Now, I look to lead a talented team as editor-in-chief next year. I have seen the school change through the pandemic, and I can't help but notice a new wave of energy coming to UM.

I will look to continue our coverage of the important decisions UM's administration makes that will affect students. We will show the day-to-day life here, providing you, the reader, with knowledge you can use.

The Kaimin will strive to be more inclusive across campus and work to find the voices that have often been left out of the conversation. We are excited to get to work in August.

— Griffen Smith,
incoming Editor-in-Chief

Briefs: Campus bar in works, Missoula deputies cleared in shooting, April showers bring May snowpack

GRIFFEN SMITH

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BEER, WINE A NEAR POSSIBILITY ON CAMPUS

The University of Montana is in the process of purchasing a liquor license, so campus could be seeing a taproom in the near future.

The Kaimin previously reported the University Center planned a bar and grill in 1996. The Associated Students of the University of Montana passed a resolution supporting the new bar, called "The Study Break," before student protests over underage drinking halted the plans.

The University recently allowed beer and wine sales at UM football and basketball games, using the Badlander Complex's liquor license. Alcohol sales at six football games last year totaled more than \$130,000.

Students also formed a committee to debate liquor sales in 1976, either in the form of a regularly operating bar or at special events hosted by UM.

INQUEST: MAN SHOT IN BACK BY POLICE

A trial over Missoula County deputies' decision to shoot a man last year ruled that law enforcement was not liable for his death, but also revealed the responding police shot the man in the back as he fled officers from dozens of feet away.

Johnny Lee Perry, who was 31, was passing through a homeless encampment west of Missoula when Missoula County Sheriff's Office received a call that Perry was swinging a machete and threatening another man.

After a 30-minute standoff in an open field, deputies attempted to use non-lethal weapons to subdue Perry, according to bodycam footage shown at the inquest. Perry fled when shot with foam projectiles. Bodycam footage showed officers shot him at least once in the back. He died from blood loss two hours later.

The video came to light during Perry's coroner's inquest — a hearing for someone who died during conflict or supervision with law enforcement. At the hearing, officers said they ran out of non-lethal

options to stop Perry, who had a machete and was reported to have a firearm in his waistband.

The inquest revealed Perry did not have a firearm and did not injure anyone with the machete.

APRIL ONE OF COLDEST ON RECORD

A mild and cool spring brought mountain snowpack back to normal levels as Missoula's average temperature was more than four degrees colder than normal in April.

The average April 2022 temperature in Missoula was 40.2 degrees, just shy of the all-time record low of 39.3. Much of western Montana saw colder temperatures last month, leading to more snowpack retention in higher elevations.

"We have seen a series of weather disturbances that have brought cold air from the north and a lot of cloud cover," said Joe Messina, meteorologist for Missoula National Weather Service. "We were not looking great for snowpack, but April really helped build things up."

The Upper Clark Fork basin, which includes Missoula, stood at 75% of its normal average April 1. Messina said snowpack generally peaks in April, but the cold weather for the month increased the amount of snow-water equivalent during the month. The Upper Clark Fork is now at 101%.

The National Climate Prediction Center said temperatures in western Montana will warm up for May, closely following Missoula's average May temperature of 53 degrees.

COOK SIGNS WITH TAMPA BAY BUCS

A University of Montana offensive lineman and former Butte High quarterback

is continuing his football career after signing a professional contract with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Dylan Cook, who plays right tackle for the Grizzlies, signed a free agency contract with the Bucs on April 30 as the National Football League draft concluded last weekend. He first played as a quarterback for Montana State University Northern in Havre.

After two years, the 6-foot-6-inches, 305-pound Cook transferred to Montana, making 23 starts with the Griz. He was selected 4th string all-Big Sky Conference and played in the College Gridiron Showcase in Texas. Cook is currently the only Griz player in the NFL.

Cook's signing comes as Montana State linebacker Troy Anderson was selected as the 58th pick in the NFL draft, the highest selection of a Montana-based player in recent history. Former UM wide receiver Samori Toure, who transferred to Nebraska in 2021, was picked by the Green Bay Packers in the seventh round of the draft.

Blotter

CHRISTINE COMPTON

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It's been a wild year with ups and downs, both in crime numbers and adventures shared. As we sign off for the season, we'll leave you with a brief summary of some of the seven crimes University of Montana officers responded to between April 22 and 28. Ah yes, the lucky number. Let's hope it brings good fortune to all of us as we head into summer.

SUNDAY 4/24 - DOOR DESTRUCTION

There are some crimes where you can't help but wonder what the backstory was. It's unknown if it was a kick, a screwdriver or dumb kids hanging from the edge, but something tore a Craig Hall communal bathroom door halfway from its hinges. The poor stall door was barely holding onto its top link when it was found by a resident assistant around 7 p.m. We're all glad the bathrooms don't have cameras, but it leaves us without any leads or suspects.

MONDAY 4/25 - JUST THE U

So, bike locks are cool. But what happens if someone literally dismantles the bike from around the lock? That's right — just outside the Curry Health Center, someone took apart a bike piece by piece, leaving a U-lock sadly dangling from a bike rack. Only the front fork remained.

WEDNESDAY 4/27 - BIKE RACKS BE CRAZY

If you thought that last bike theft was bad, this one is worse. Instead of breaking a bike apart, try the whole rack. As much as we wish it were, this isn't a joke. Someone took apart a bike rack with a wrench just to get to the U-locked bike it was attached to. The owner noticed it was missing at 7:30 a.m. Really, how did this person get away with this? Dismantling an entire bike rack? It gets worse every day.

WEDNESDAY 4/27 - HOLLERING HOOLIGANS

A group of skateboarders near the Skaggs Building launched a verbal assault on Skaggs personnel when they had the audacity to ask the skaters not to grind on the walls of the building. The profane exchange ended with Skaggs personnel calling the cops. When officers arrived, the skateboarders had left the scene. Win-win for all, really. Here's hoping the skaters will take the message to heart. We wouldn't bet on it, though.

SACNAS VOLUNTEER DAY AT WILD SKIES

RAPTOR CENTER
Wild Skies
Raptor Center

WHEN: SUN. MAY 8

WHERE: MEET UP 9:00AM @ EAST ENTRANCE OF FORESTRY BUILDING & WILL DRIVE TO SITE (35MIN DRIVE FROM CAMPUS). WILL BE THERE FOR FEW HOURS AT LEAST! CARPOOL ENCOURAGED.

WHAT TO BRING: LUNCH, WATER, SUNSCREEN, COMFORTABLE WEAR

JOIN SACNAS FOR A DAY OF VOLUNTEERING AT A 501(C)(3) RAPTOR REHAB. & RELEASE IN POTOMAC! WE WILL BE WORKING ON A PROJECT ON-SITE TO HELP GIVE BACK TO THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION & THE CONSERVATION WORK IT DOES.

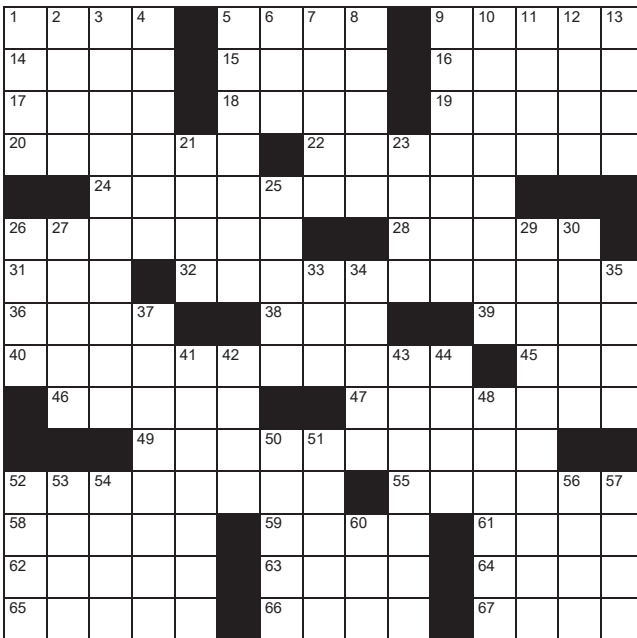
SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN-UP

PHOTO CREDIT TO WILD SKIES RAPTOR CENTER (WILDSKIES.ORG)

RELEASE OF A RED-TAILED HAWK

MINERVA (NON-RELEASABLE)

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

- 1 Excitement
- 5 Vehicles for hire
- 9 Country singer Black
- 14 Glazier's item
- 15 Cream additive
- 16 Rodeo contestant
- 17 Line on a graph
- 18 Farm equipment
- 19 Past plump
- 20 Ab exercises
- 22 Split up
- 24 Give an example
- 26 Burger flipper
- 28 Glinda, e.g.
- 31 Manx, for one
- 32 Sprouting
- 36 Kind of rock
- 38 Pinup's leg
- 39 Dog in "Beetle Bailey"
- 40 Resound
- 45 Gun, as an engine
- 46 Gross out
- 47 Healthy snack
- 49 Legal hunting period
- 52 Certify, as a college
- 55 Taxonomic categories
- 58 Sales rep's goal
- 59 Turn over
- 61 Plane wing part
- 62 Surprise win
- 63 Nail part
- 64 "Slam" anagram
- 65 Contents of some urns
- 66 Nelson of early film musicals
- 67 Cash register supply

DOWN

- 1 Health retreats
- 2 Curbside call
- 3 First step
- 4 Spring (from)
- 5 Tablet alternative
- 6 "Is that ___?"
- 7 Shoplift, slangily
- 8 Waste conduit
- 9 Neighbor of Slovenia
- 10 Opera text
- 11 Brainchild
- 12 Raven's haven
- 13 Sloth's home
- 21 Something to pull
- 23 Chess piece
- 25 Barracks boss
- 26 Melee memento
- 27 Race's rate-setter
- 29 Insect-repelling oil
- 30 Vacationer's quarters
- 33 Spring mo.
- 34 Corporate concern
- 35 Exploding star
- 37 One expelled from a country
- 41 Says again and again
- 42 Ran, as colors
- 43 Shakespearean genre
- 44 Ill at ___
- 48 Milk option
- 50 Market segment
- 51 Trusty mount
- 52 Blue hue
- 53 Coffee holders
- 54 Bludgeon, in Britain
- 56 Alternative to steps
- 57 Church area
- 60 June honoree

Answers to Previous Crossword:

	O	V	E	N		S	O	R	T		P	R	O	F
B	R	A	V	O		A	M	E	R		R	U	N	E
E	A	G	E	R		R	E	V	E	R	E	N	C	E
S	T	U	N	T	M	A	N		M	U	S	S	E	L
T	E	E	T	H	E		R	O	B	E				
			S	C	A	T	T	E	R	B	R	A	I	N
R	O	T		A	L	I	A	S		E	V	O	K	E
S	H	I	R		S	P	A			R	E	N	E	W
V	I	D	E	O		S	E	L	L	S		E	A	T
P	O	E	T	L	A	U	R	E	A	T	E			
			R	I	S	E			M	A	R	M	O	T
A	L	I	E	N	S		T	E	A	M	M	A	T	E
H	O	B	N		A	I	L	E	D		P	I	N	T
E	P	I	C		S	I	N	G		E	N	T	E	R
M	E	S	H		T	I	D	Y		D	E	A	R	



CLARISE LARSON

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Well, well, well. The time has come ... graduation. Though some of us have been dreading this day — what the hell are we supposed to do in the real world? — it's still a time to celebrate, right? But first, we have to shout out all the boomers out there for rejecting us from job positions because we are too inexperienced, have one nose piercing and an infinity tattoo ... WOOHOO! Here's how you're celebrating this gLoRiOuS day, according to the stars of course.

TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20): Bro, trying to hide that forbidden lettuce by blowing the smoke into your gown is doing nothing but making you look like the goddamn grim reaper with smoke coming out by your ankles. Bonus points, though, for making everyone around you higher than a bat's ass.

GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20): POV: You're standing in line and the person next to you said the breeze feels nice, right? Little do they know, it feels extra nice for you because you're buck-ass naked under your gown. Going commando never felt so good, but the chafing is lowkey awful. #wildandfree.

CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22): Daddy just said he's proud of you for the first time in your life. Too bad you don't get Curry's student-rate therapy any more — have fun raw-dogging your mental health.

LEO (JULY 23–AUG. 22): You've been waiting four years for this moment. Daddy Bod, you better pucker up, because we did not pay thousands of dollars to NOT kiss you on stage.

VIRGO (AUG. 23–SEP. 22): You're so excited to finally achieve this amazing accomplishment, congrats queen. But oh no! They mispronounce your name so fucking hard you can hear your family laughing in the crowd. Everything is ruined. Fuck college. Fuck the system. I hate my degree.

MAKAYLA O'NEIL | MONTANA KAIMIN

LIBRA (SEP. 23–OCT. 22): Fuck Libras, I never liked you. This is a personal attack. It's a genuine miracle you made it to this point. You should have dropped out freshman year. Getting a journalism degree? WTF is wrong with you? I hope everyone boos you off stage.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23–NOV. 21): You're just gonna sit in the crowd and vibe. Are you supposed to be down there with the other graduates getting your diploma? Technically yes. But is sitting next to emotional MILFs a better alternative? Absolutely.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22–DEC. 22): FACT: You do not know how to do a backflip. FACT: That won't stop you from doing one as soon as you're handed your diploma. Getting a private escort out of the stadium by the ambulance will be lit AF tho.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23–JAN. 19): You feel nothing but power and vodka running through your veins. College is weak shit, it's time to grab life by the ass and DOMINATE your way to the top of the corporate ladder. Watch out, Elon.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20–FEB. 18): Hell yeah lil mama, you made college your bitch. HELLA honors and a 4.0 — you should feel proud. But, instead, all you can feel is dread because you just got your 43rd job rejection letter this morning lmao. I heard Scheels is hiring...

PISCES (FEB. 19–MARCH 20): Wow. The moment is finally here. It's so emotional. It's actually too emotional and you cry so hard you pass out in your chair and miss your name being called.

ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19): You are an unknown number of shots in. Your piss is green. It's a miracle you made it up on stage, but you don't care — you made it. It's go time. Time to go shit acid. #bestyearsofyourlife

UM investigates three sexual assault cases as survey reveals student safety numbers

CHLOE OLSGAARD

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The University of Montana is investigating three sexual assault cases from last fall, so far sending two of the cases to Missoula County prosecutors for pending felony rape charges.

Missoula Chief Criminal Deputy Attorney Matt Jennings told the Kaimin two on-campus assaults involve the same suspect, but are two separate cases. Those cases are currently under review after a follow-up investigation by law enforcement, Jennings said.

Because the charges are still pending, there have been no names or personal information released about the suspects.

The pending charges came after text and email warnings notified the UM community of the on-campus assaults reported to UM police.

UMPD sent out two alerts on Nov. 18 and Nov. 23. The first was about a September sexual assault that occurred in an on-campus residence hall. The survivor knew the suspect.

The second alert was about another September sexual assault and strangulation, where the survivor also knew the suspect, in an on-campus dorm.

UMPD sent out a third alert on Dec. 1 about a third dorm assault that occurred a few days prior. The case, still under investigation by UMPD, is expected to be sent to the county attorney's office for review in the coming week.

Each of the three alerts stated the suspect was known by the survivor. The survivors chose to pursue criminal charges in all three investigations.

UMPD is working closely with the county prosecutors to lead the investigations for the cases, said Dave Kuntz, director of strategic communications at UM.

"When UM Police receive information regarding a sexual assault, a process is started that emphasizes the needs and interests of the survivor," Kuntz said in an email. "If the survi-

vor chooses to press charges, UM Police work closely with applicable law enforcement agencies to conduct evidence-based investigations to ensure perpetrators are held appropriately accountable. UM Police also provides survivors with information about on- and off-campus resources."

The Student Advocacy Resource Center — which offers counseling services and a 24-hour crisis line for students and others dealing with sexual assault, relationship violence, bullying, intimidation or discrimination — recently helped put together UM's 2021 Safe Campus Survey for students to report their safety experiences at school last year.

The questionnaire survey sampled 845 UM students for perceptions of safety, prevalence of sex-based harm, and students' familiarity, comfort level and perceived effectiveness of campus resources, according to SARC.

Out of the 845 students, 167 identified as cis men, 575 identified as cis women and 100 identified as gender non-conforming or transgender, according to Alison Pepper, SARC prevention education and advocate coordinator.

Pepper joined professor of clinical psychology Christine Fiore and clinical psychology doctorate student Nora Uhrich to present data from the survey for Sexual Assault Awareness Month on April 27 in North Urey Lecture Hall.

Several questions on the survey asked about sex-based harm. One prompt revealed 7% of cis men, 13% of cis women and 8% of the nonbinary/transgender group reported they've faced unwanted sexual advances toward them while at UM.

Pepper said her "most glaring" response was the 59% of cis men who had not reported receiving unwanted advances, compared to 30% of cis women and 29% of nonbinary/transgender demographics.

Another question found 17% of cis men, 27% of cis women and 33% of nonbinary and transgender respondents said sexual violence

on campus was "very much a problem."

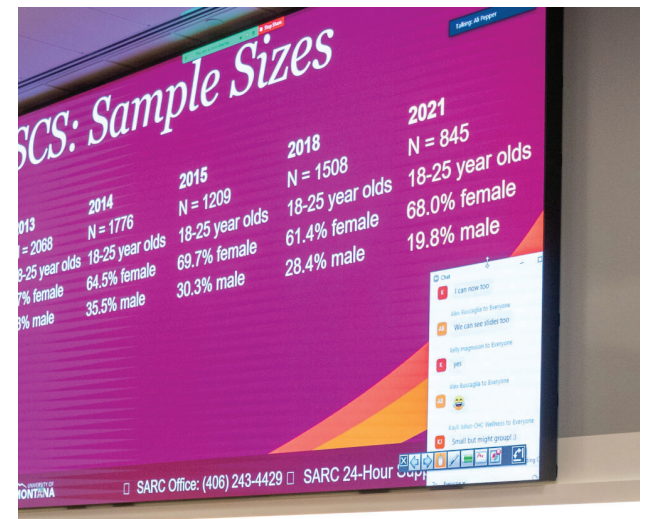
One question on the survey asked if the respondent had been raped at UM or another time. That question found 1% of cis men, 4% of cis women and 2% of nonbinary/transgender groups reported they had been assaulted at UM.

One percent of cis men, 15% of cis women and 19% of the nonbinary/transgender group said they had been raped in their lifetime. Pepper said the high proportion of cis women and nonbinary/transgender group reporting these experiences is a pattern that needs further recognition.

Pepper said there is a big gap in the survey among cis women, cis men, and the nonbinary/transgender groups' responses. She advocated for more bystander training and trauma-informed response by tailoring these trainings to specific groups of students.

"We've talked about graduate versus undergraduate and athlete vs. non-athlete, but also gender," Pepper said. "Being able to provide specifically tailored content — maybe even by having different facilitators provide that content to specific groups. That's how I receive the information and hope to make changes."

The Safe Campus Survey was developed in 2012 by SARC and a consultant from the Department of Justice. Since 2013, the survey has been distributed to UM students five times.



Christine Fiore, a professor of clinical psychology, presents campus survey results from the 2021 Safe Campus Survey on April 27 during a lecture at Urey Lecture Hall. The Student Advocacy Resource Center (SARC) asked students to rate their safety experience at the University.

RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

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UM Housing expected to expand student housing near University Villages

MATTI OLSON

matti.olson@umontana.edu

The University of Montana Housing department is making new phase plans to increase apartments near campus. The project — which could take up to 20 years to complete — would replace some UM apartments south of campus with more dense housing.

The University is working with the architecture company Mosaic to potentially develop a three-to-four phase apartment project near the University Villages. The company is in the feasibility stage of figuring out site plans and where the apartments should go.

Phase one is expected to be the construction of all-new apartments in a space owned by the University near the UM golf course.

Phases two and three are projected to add new apartments after demolishing older units in that same area, like the Elliot Apartments, but also to renovate existing University housing like the Craighead apartments, known as “The Xs.”

Ben Tintinger, principle architect for Mosaic Architecture, said the process could start in as soon as three years, kicking off a long

process of demolition and construction.

“We’re looking at the best ways to phase this so that UM Housing doesn’t lose any rooms,” Tintinger said. “The first phase could add 200 apartments.”

Mosaic’s role in deciding how to expand includes land surveys, market studies and student surveys to understand people’s wants and desires in new housing.

“Feasibility tests include looking at space availability to build, where to build, how many and what’s the right fix of units, parking and whether we have enough space for parking to accommodate the number of units, and pricing,” said Sandy Curtis, executive director of UM Housing.

Planners sent a survey out in early April to all students who are currently using UM housing, including residence halls and University apartments. The survey looked to find students’ optimal apartment size, number of rooms, laundry, costs and more.

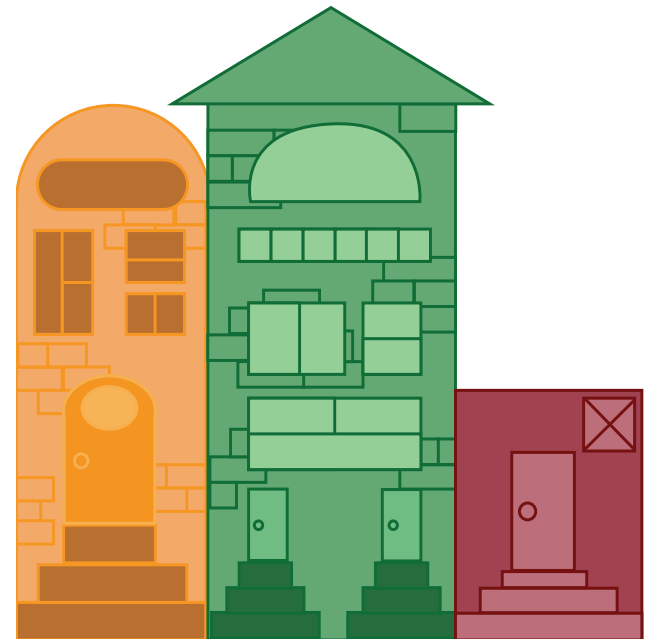
The survey received more than 650 responses. The results of the tests are expected to be available in July, when the University will decide the next steps in the housing

project.

“As we’re looking at this feasibility study we’re looking at how we can accommodate single students and how we can also accommodate families,” Curtis said.

Mosaic has provided more than a dozen different models that the University can choose from, ranging from studios to three-bedroom apartments. The models include layouts that can be changed to fit students’ needs, like optional in-unit laundry machines.

The University plans to expedite the development and building process and ensure it can build the most apartment options possible in the space available for phase one.



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A PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTION



Montana Kaimin Audio Editor Austin Amestoy, left, speaks with University of Montana President Seth Bodnar from the Don Anderson Hall audio booths on April 21. In an interview with the Kaimin, Bodnar reflected on his administrative work at the University since becoming president in 2018 and the current state of UM. **ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

A Kaimin **Q&A** with 'The Bod' himself

8 May 5, 2022 montanakaimin.com

Interview by Austin Amestoy

This Q&A has been condensed and edited for clarity. The full interview — including additional questions — is available online at montanakaimin.com. Or, hear Bodnar in his own words on the Kaimin Cast wherever you get your podcasts.

It's been a hell of a year at the University of Montana. Over the last two semesters, students protested misogynistic and racist professors, worked to oust law school leadership for allegedly bungling Title IX complaints, set record attendance at Washington-Grizzly Stadium, boosted UM to its first overall enrollment increase in a decade and shook off the dust of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UM President Seth Bodnar, a corporate executive and special forces commander-turned-education administrator, hired to lead UM in 2017, was at the center of many of the issues that mattered to students this year. In a February opinion piece he wrote, "Our job as leaders in higher education is not to quell dissent or resolve debate, but rather to sponsor that spark within our students."

In that spirit, Bodnar agreed to sit for an interview with the Montana Kaimin. We also solicited questions from a few students on campus. Here's what he had to say.

PARKING BLUES AND ARTSY NEWS

AUSTIN AMESTOY: President Bodnar, thanks for coming in.

SETH BODNAR: It's great to be here. Thanks, Austin, for having me.

AA: The thing that came up the most when we were soliciting questions from students is where I'm going to start today, and I really wouldn't be doing my duty as a journalist if I didn't. So, I've got to ask: Where did you park this morning?

SB: (laughs) Well, I parked in a lot beside Main Hall, actually — over by the UC.

AA: Well, of course, this question didn't just come out of the blue. There's been some controversy in the student body over the location choice for our new permanent home of the Montana Museum of Arts and Culture. Why did the location for this building have to come at the cost of 200 parking spaces in the Adams Center lot?

SB: Yeah, it's a great question. I, first off, want to acknowledge the frustrations with parking. That is something that we're keenly focused on.

A couple of years ago, we went through a student life master-planning process ... and we identified that portion of campus as, really, the arts and entertainment quarter. We have the Adams Center there, you have Memorial Walk, which is one of the most beautiful parts of campus heading north that, frankly, just ended in a street. And we thought: Hey, there's a great opportunity

here to think about the use of this space to build upon that arts and culture center of campus. With the support of a donor, we have the opportunity now to bring the treasure that is the Montana Museum of Art and Culture — much of which is stored underground, in hallways — we have the chance to bring ... those treasures into the public domain.

And so, Lot P — that's the lot that's been taken offline — is over 200 spots, and that has caused disruption this semester. I want to say that by next semester, half of those spots will come back online. We have brought, even as of now, I think, about 40 more spots from what were pay lots back into permit lots. And we're actually looking at spots across different areas of campus that we're going to expand parking by perhaps up to more than 500 additional spots. So there is a temporary pinch, and I want to acknowledge that that does pose some difficulty to students, but we are addressing that in the long run.

Is the new heat plant that's being built going to be eco-friendly or a sustainable form of energy, or is it just going to replace the old coal heat?



GABRIELLA WEIDA, FRESHMAN, NEUROSCIENCE



Bodnar addresses state officials regarding public safety in and around the University of Montana campus at a roundtable at the University Center on March 3. President Bodnar, Governor Greg Gianforte and other state officials discussed public safety matters in Missoula. According to state officials, in 2021, 43% of Missoula County's cases were considered violent crimes.

NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

SB: It's a great question — thank you, Gabriella. That is something we should ask with every project we undertake: The impact on the environment. And I'm proud to tell you that the conversion of our heating plant to a combined heat and power plant will result in the largest single reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the history of this University ... What we're doing right now is we're still taking that natural gas, but we're first running it through a gas turbine to create electricity and then using the waste heat from that process to create the steam we need to heat campus. And then, even getting where there's still some energy left in that steam, we use it to spin a heat-recovery steam turbine generator to create even more electricity.

We're going to not just reduce significantly this University's carbon footprint, but save over a million dollars every year on electricity expenses, much of which comes from coal-fired power plants. This is a big step forward in terms of reduction of our carbon footprint here at the University.

LAWSUITS AND DISCRIMINATION

AA: We saw a couple of lawsuits last semester dominate coverage in the first part of the year. There was the August suit filed by four women — current and former employees with UM — who alleged that UM

discriminated against them on the basis of sex, which 18 more women later signed on to. I have to point out, you are named in that suit.

But of course it's still working through the courts, as is a second suit that was filed in November by former Lady Griz basketball coach Shannon Schweyen, who alleges that her gender played a role in UM not renewing her contract.

We also saw controversy in the School of Law that saw its deans step down from leadership after allegations that they mishandled sexual assault claims. And I think it's right to point out that UM has a history that extends back years of being investigated for mishandling Title IX complaints — the most recent was a federal investigation in 2018.

Is UM doing enough to correct its years of documented problems handling discrimination based on sex?

SB: I think we always need to be asking that, because we need to be doing everything we can to make sure that we have a campus that not only praises diversity, but is inclusive and is pushing for greater equity at all levels.

With regard specifically to the lawsuits, as you can imagine, I won't comment in detail about ongoing legal matters. But I would echo, with regard to the suit filed in August, the statements the university system has already made that these accusations are not based on facts, and we don't believe that this case has legal merit. But it's going to run its

way through the court system.

With regard to the case regarding the Lady Griz, I have the utmost respect for Coach Schweyen — the impact she had not just as a coach, but as a student athlete, and not just on this University but our entire community. But we disagree with the allegations in that complaint, and we'll handle those through the appropriate matters.

What I would tell you, though, is that this is a university that is committed to equity, and in particular gender equity, and it's been a priority of mine since joining the University. In fact, in 2019, we launched what's called our "SEA [Safe, Empowered, Accelerated] Change Initiative," which "SEA" stands for the idea that we want not just to have a campus that's safe for women, but a campus that uniquely empowers women and helps to accelerate them into careers of impact.

As you look at my leadership team — my direct report, executive leadership team — it is about two-thirds female. When you look at the people who are currently serving in positions as deans, they are majority female.

Since I joined in 2018 ... at the director level and above, when you look at the people who have been hired into those positions, about 60% of them have been women. And when you look at internal promotions to that rank of director and administrator, about 75% of them have been women. This has been a priority for our institution and something that I think we're making progress on.

Are we done? Absolutely not. Does sexism exist in the world? Does racism exist in the world? Absolutely, it does — and it's something we all need to work to address in every way that we can.

AA: Do you believe the lawsuits and these headlines going around social media hurt UM's image on the public stage? And how do we remedy that?

SB: One thing I've learned in life is you focus on what you can control. You can't necessarily focus on false claims that are made by individuals. What you can control, though, is what you do as an individual, what you do as a leader.

And driving toward a more equitable, inclusive workplace and leadership environment here at this University is something that's been a priority of mine since I got here. It's an area in which I think we're making good progress, and it's an area in which we're going to continue to focus moving forward.

ENROLLMENT ON THE RISE

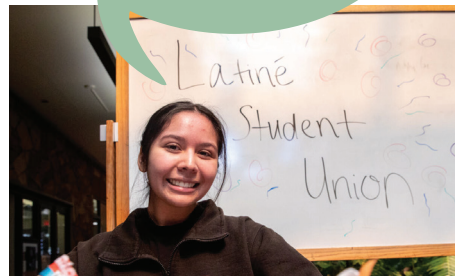
AA: UM's experienced an overall enrollment increase last fall for the first time in more than 10 years. Of course, there is still more work to be done, as we're still thousands of students short of our peak in 2011. But it is progress. Who do you credit for this positive increase we've seen?

SB: Well, it is really exciting. And as you

alluded to, we had an increase of about 30% in our incoming class in the fall of '21 versus the previous fall. And we're seeing continued momentum. We expect to see continued growth in the years ahead.

I want to give great credit to our vice president for enrollment, Mary Kreta. She and her team have done really a phenomenal job over the last year and a half of addressing some of the challenges we had and better reaching out to students, following up with students, helping make them more aware of the tremendous opportunities here at the University of Montana. So Mary and her team deserve a tremendous amount of credit, of course.

BIPOC students currently make up only 20% of UM's population, and to me, that feels a little low. What are you going to do in order to advertise to BIPOC and increase representation on campus?



**ZYANNE CERVANTES, SOPHOMORE,
POLITICAL SCIENCE & ECONOMICS**

SB: Well, it's a fantastic question and absolutely a priority for us. I think it's really a two-fold solution. Number one: How do we do a better job of outreach to students outside the state of Montana and other communities, and particularly BIPOC students, to make them aware of the opportunities here? That's part of our recruiting efforts.

Over the past year, we've seen a much stronger outreach to students across Montana. Montana is, just by nature ... not a state with a tremendous amount of diversity. As we look to enhance diversity, we are looking at recruiting out-of-state. That's been a big focus. In fact, we're in the midst right now with Vice President Jenny Petty, who joined us last March. She's done a phenomenal job over the past year of doing some analysis of how we're talking about this University in ways that resonate with a more diverse population of students.

That's one of the reasons last year we hired Dr. Salena Beaumont Hill as our first ever director of inclusive excellence. Salena's job is to work with our student groups, whether it's our Black Student Union or Asian Pacific Islanders' club ... to make sure



Ajaysia Hill, a former psychology student at UM, speaks to Bodnar about professor Clayton Looney's racist remarks while she partakes in a student protest outside Main Hall on March 3. Hill called on Bodnar to take action regarding Looney's employment, and to protect UM's BIPOC student community.

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that these clubs are supported, that we as a campus are doing an effective job of supporting BIPOC students and making them feel at home and supported in an inclusive environment here on campus.

PROBLEMATIC PROFESSORS

AA: Last fall, we saw a professor in the computer science department, Rob Smith, resign his post after it came to light that he wrote some very problematic blog posts about the roles women should play in society — how they should marry young — some of which contained homophobic and Islamophobic sentiments.

Protests sprang up again this semester over the private messages and speech that were delivered by UM business professor Clayton Looney. There was racist content in those messages. However, Looney is still scheduled to take on classes this fall after stepping away. UM deemed this as a non-workplace issue.

In both of these cases, President Bodnar, students looked to you to fire these professors. Smith resigned, Looney's still on — why can't UM do more? And has it done enough in this situation?

SB: I want to say right up front and reiterate what I've said publicly already, that the comments made by these individuals are abhorrent. They go against what UM stands for, they go against my personal values, the values of this institution and they make me angry.

What I would tell you is we are limited in our ability to take action based on speech between an employee and a family member. That's something that's important, really, for

all of us to understand.

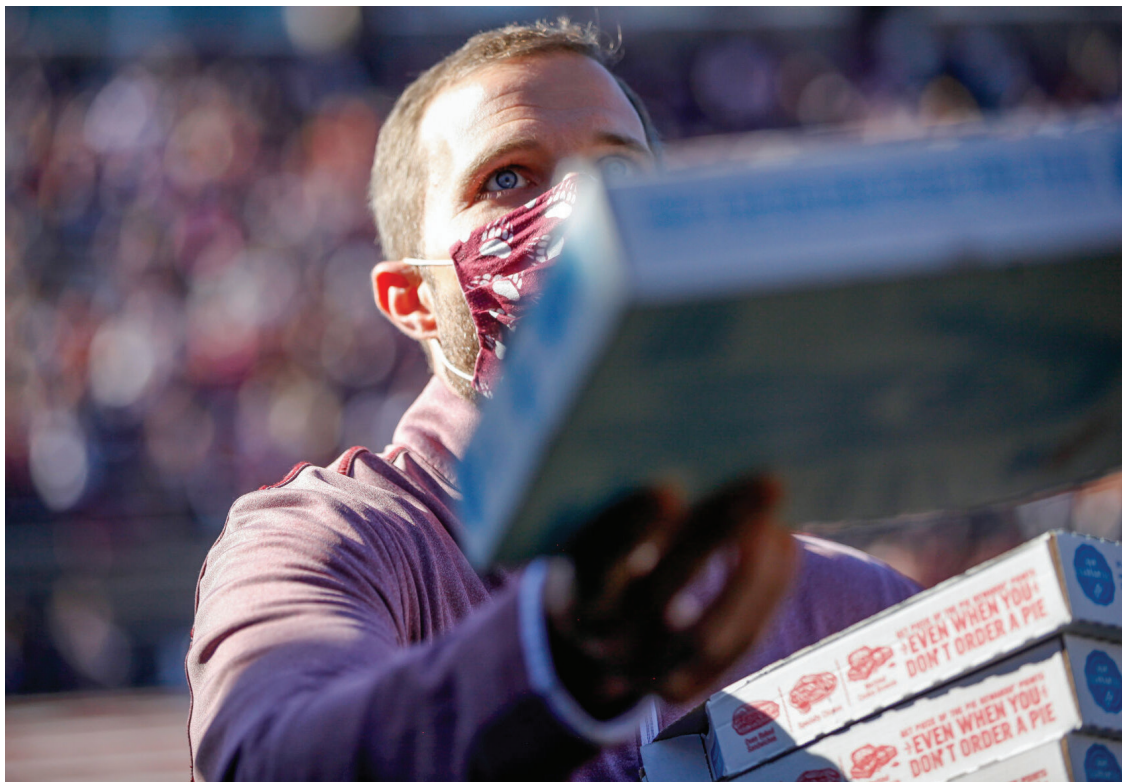
We're a state institution, and there are limits, again, to our ability to regulate and act on speech by an employee and a member of their family. But it doesn't take away from the fact that we remain committed to making sure that we have an inclusive, supportive environment here. And I want to commend students who are speaking out and helping us to work toward greater equity and a more inclusive environment here on our campus and across our community.

What are you doing in your day-to-day life to be actively anti-racist?



**ERIN HEATON, FRESHMAN,
SOCIAL WORK & SOCIOLOGY**

SB: Erin, great question. It's something that I work continually on, whether it's through reading, whether it's through talking with students to get a better understanding of their perspective, whether it's with our Title IX Coordinator and Director



LEFT: Bodnar delivers boxes of Dominos pizza to fans in the student section at Washington-Grizzly Stadium as the Griz face off against Sacramento State on Oct. 16, 2021.

ABOVE: Bodnar makes an appearance in front of the student section at Dahlberg Arena during the Brawl of the Wild match between the Griz and Montana State, Feb. 27. UM 's Dahlberg Arena welcomed students and fans after bouncing back from COVID-19 closures and restrictions.

ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN

of Equal Opportunity Alicia Arant, learning from our President's Native American Advisory Council that I created upon joining here, working with our Diversity Advisory Council to help gain perspectives on some of the systemic aspects of systemic racism that still exist and how we can address that.

Admittedly, as a white male, my lived experience is very different, so it's very important for me to seek to understand some of the barriers that exist to some individuals on our campus achieving their full potential.

GRIZ ATHLETICS

AA: A recent 406 Sports piece on Montana State University's President Waded Cruzado touted her impact on their athletic successes over there at MSU. I'm just wondering if you're feeling left out at all.

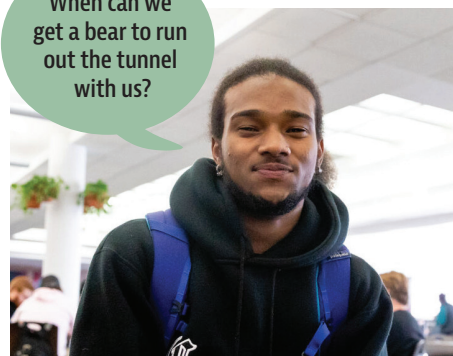
SB: (laughs) It's always fun to have our rivalry discussions. I think it was a very good year for Grizzly athletics. We came out of a really disruptive year of a pandemic, and I want to give a huge kudos to our department of athletics for the way in which they supported our student athletes through a really difficult year of competing through COVID.

It was great to see Washington-Grizzly Stadium filled to capacity multiple times. This year, we had a Zoo Crew student section that was really nice and lively, and we want to build upon that next year. Our rival team — you mentioned them — they came to town in November, and it was a pretty sound beating, and that felt pretty good, I think for everybody. We have high expectations for the season ahead, but it was nice to get

that Brawl of the Wild trophy back here in Missoula where it belongs.

And then men's and women's basketball — I think we saw great progress in the Lady Griz program this year. It was really exciting to see, again, the rivals come to town and go home defeated, both on the women's and men's side. Our men's team is young this year, but I think there is great potential ahead. ... I think our men's team has beat our rivals on the other side of the divide, I think, 20 out of the last 22 times. So I feel pretty good about where we're headed athletics-wise.

When can we get a bear to run out the tunnel with us?



AARON FONTES, SOPHOMORE, ANTHROPOLOGY, GRIZ FOOTBALL #16

SB: Whoa. Aaron, that's a good question. Well, Monte already does it, I guess is what I'd say. But, you know, having seen grizzly bears in the wild from a very safe distance, I'm not sure I want to run beside a grizzly bear.

I think we got a bunch of grizzlies that run out of that tunnel, and I want to keep Aaron and his teammates safe. I think it might be a while before we actually see — intentionally, at least — a live grizzly coming out of that tunnel.

MOVING FORWARD

AA: What are you most proud of for this year at UM?

SB: I think the way that this community has bounced back from COVID. I've served in combat zones with people trying to kill me for extended periods of time. But the last two years have been the most difficult two years of my life as a leader, dealing with the uncertainty of COVID, the stress of COVID.

But they've also been the most rewarding and inspiring of my career as well, to see the way that our entire community, from our faculty, of course, to our staff, our advisers, our facilities team, our athletics team, our dining team, our Residence Life team — I could go across the board — the way that everyone really rallied together to help ensure our students were able to keep on learning through the challenges of this pandemic has been awe-inspiring. And to see our retention rate increase in the midst of a global pandemic is really a testament to our faculty, to our staff, but also to our students.

We use that term "Heart of a Grizzly" quite a bit, and you've seen the heart of a Grizzly on full display this past year, and I've just been enormously proud to be a part of this community.

AA: And our final question for you today,

President Bodnar. There's always conversation about people wondering what's next for you. So, a two-prong question: How long do you see yourself staying with UM? And I'm obligated to ask — there have been some rumors of you setting out on a political career, and I was hoping that you can respond to those as well.

SB: (laughs) Look, I have no plans to go anywhere else. I feel very privileged to be in this job right now. When I came here, I came here with three young kiddos in tow. My oldest are at Washington Middle School, and my wife grew up here in Missoula. So, this has been a home away from home for me for 20 years now, and it's been such an honor for the last four years for it to be home for my family. It's the place where our kids have lived the longest.

I've moved around a lot in the military and a corporate career, and Missoula is the place where I've lived the longest since my childhood home. We're very happy to be here.

And, I'm going to continue to serve the University as long as I feel like I can do the job that this campus deserves. I mean, this campus and this community is an incredibly special place. I feel really excited about the leadership team we've built. ...I'll continue to keep pushing on this until somebody taps me on the shoulder and tells me it's time to do something else.

AA: Once again, I'd like to thank you, President Bodnar, for agreeing to this interview and for your candor on our final Kaimin Cast of this academic year.

SB: Thanks, Austin. It's been a pleasure to be here.

Theater students bid goodbye to UM in 'She Loves Me' musical

HALEY YARBOROUGH

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During their freshman year at the University of Montana, Arwen Baxter and Jack Broadway nervously auditioned for their first major roles in the University's production of "White Christmas." Nearly four years later, the two musical theater majors are stars and star-crossed lovers in the last play of their UM careers.

"Being my last show at UM, it's bittersweet," Baxter said. "This show has definitely been a highlight of my four years, so it feels like a way to say goodbye."

On April 27, the romantic musical "She Loves Me" premiered as UM's School of Theatre and Dance's last play of the spring semester. The play followed the absurd travels of co-workers Amalia Balash (Baxter) and Georg Nowack (Broadway), whose contentious rivalry in a high-end Budapest perfume store during the day blooms into a smitten exchange between pen pals at night.

According to Pamyla Stiehl, an associate professor of theater and the director of the play, "She Loves Me" was originally meant to premiere in 2021 before the pandemic halted production.

Now that the play is back on stage, Stiehl said she feels relieved, excited and sad. UM is the only university in the region that offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts in musical theater, and the BFA program only started four years ago. Stiehl said this year's graduating class, many of whom acted in three or four of her plays, are the first to graduate with their BFAs in musical theater.

"It's a little sad to see them graduate," Stiehl said. "I don't want to see them go."

Baxter acted in four of Stiehl's plays, starting with a lead role in "White Christmas." She first found her love for theater at 12 years old, when she attended the Artquest School of Theatre's production of "Peter Pan" in her hometown of Pocatello, Idaho. She saw the musical three nights in a row. She was entranced by the costumes, acting and story that brought one of her favorite books to life.

"It was the first time I realized theater had the power to re-instill a sense of wonder in the world and make you feel like a kid again," Baxter said.

Since seeing "Peter Pan," Baxter has spent year after year practicing as both an actor and a writer. She's a double major in musical theater and English literature. During her time at UM, she self-published a collection of poems, contributed to the Oval student magazine and participated in a series of local and University-based plays. When she's not working, she said she enjoys running, singing and reading Agatha Christie novels.



She said her understanding of literature influences her performances as an actor.

"A lot of literature is taking a deep dive into what a text means and looking at a story from all these different layers," Baxter said. "And that's really how I like to approach a play."

Broadway follows a similar philosophy. As a double major in theater and psychology, he enjoys reading into characters just like he reads into his favorite comic-book superheroes, Batman and Spider-Man. He said he found his way into theater during his high school years in Chicago. Broadway now uses it as a creative outlet and enjoys integrating his knowledge of psychology with his knowledge of theater.

"Part of my process of pulling out a character is going through the script and finding out everything the character says and everything other people say about the character," Broadway said. "Reading into what they're saying and why they're saying it, you eventually can get a very good idea of who the character is."

Since playing the pessimistic Bill Crosby in "White Christmas," Broadway said he has grown as an actor. He particularly likes playing Georg because he can be more of himself. He said he enjoyed "She Loves Me," because it felt like a "music box musical" — sweet, self-contained and a heartfelt memory to store away.

To both Broadway and Baxter, the play is a goodbye to college, but not a goodbye to



Missoula. Both plan to stick around after they graduate, with Broadway working full time on campus as a hall administrator for UM dorms and Baxter pursuing her own artistic interests, with plans to release her first music album and work on audition reels for prospective jobs.

Both said they hope to perform in local plays because they think theater is an integral part of campus and the Missoula community.

"You can bring people joy and solace and a sense of homecoming and belonging through music and through theater," Broadway said. "It can test you, it can make you question things and it can also make you feel like you're home."

"She Loves Me" runs May 5-7 at 7:30 p.m. and May 8 at 2 p.m. at the Montana Theatre in the PARTV building.

TOP LEFT: Music theater majors Arwen Baxter, left, and Jack Broadway perform their dress rehearsal at the PARTV theater on April 26 as characters Amalia Balash and Georg Nowack in the UM School of Theatre and Dance's production of "She Loves Me." The play is based on the book by Joe Masteroff and featured a cast of 16 student actors.

BOTTOM LEFT: From left: Logan Lasher, Bailey Carlson, Elle Fisher and Austin Mowat perform at the PARTV theater on campus on April 26 as characters Arpad Laszlo, Ladi Sipos, Ilona Ritter and Steven Kodaly. Director and choreographer Pamyla Stiehl said she had been waiting two years to put on the production and with her "dream team" cast of students.

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Rally demands reform after jury rules police-involved death was suicide

WORDS BY **CHRISTINE COMPTON**
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PHOTOS BY **ANTONIO IBARRA**
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After a coroner's inquest looking into the shooting death of a 21-year-old man following a high-speed police chase, a jury found April 29 that he had taken his own life.

However, his family expressed frustration after being denied police videos until only a day before the inquest. They also said the man died needlessly because police couldn't assist him through a mental health crisis.

"If done right, they could've prevented a suicide," said the man's brother, Terrance LaFromboise.

Brandon Galbreath, an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation, died on Aug. 12, 2021, after a pursuit that ended near the intersection of Florence Street and Stephens Avenue.

Because Galbreath died while engaging with Missoula police, a coroner's inquest

was required. It meant Galbreath's death would be investigated and presented to a jury to decide if the officer was responsible for his death.

The jury concluded Galbreath died by his own hand, clearing Missoula Police officer Garrett Brown of liability.

Brown may have been found not guilty, but that doesn't absolve the Missoula Police Department in some people's eyes. LaFromboise said the inquest was too narrow.

He said further investigation should explain why a young person of color would rather die than face the criminal justice

system. While he and his family attempted to process their loss, LaFromboise said law enforcement denied the family's means to fully understand Galbreath's death.

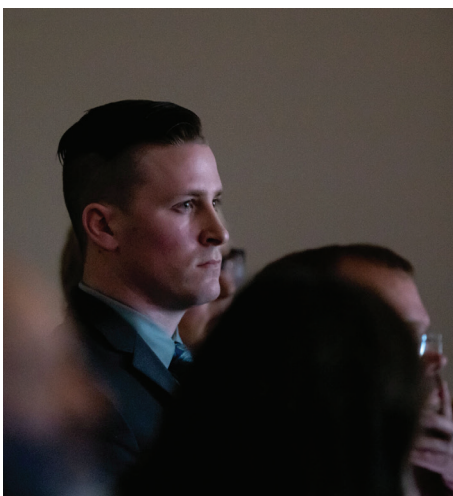
LaFromboise counted seven months and eleven days since the investigation's beginning and the day his family was allowed to see footage of Galbreath's death. Family members also weren't allowed to see Galbreath before he died due to technicalities in policy.

"We could've been there before 5:30," LaFromboise said, thinking of Galbreath's official death time.

BELOW: Cole Wells, a relative of Galbreath, reacts as he and other family members watch dash and body-cam footage of the night Galbreath died, presented by county officials during a coroner's inquest on April 29. It took the Galbreath family almost a year to see footage from last summer's incident.



RIGHT: Missoula Police Officer Garrett Brown stares at a TV showing dash and body-cam footage from his Aug. 12, 2021, altercation with Brendon Galbreath during the inquest.



FAR RIGHT: Phillip Small-Ray, a member of the Blackfeet Nation, bows his head during a community-led rally outside the county courthouse.



ABOVE: Terrance LaFromboise, Galbreath's older brother, helps lead a Blackfeet song outside the Missoula County Courthouse next to UM students O'Shay Birdinground, left, and Zach Rides At The Door, center. "The Missoula Police Department is creating a 'perfect storm' culture that targets people of color," LaFromboise said. "When you have a system that upholds racist systemic policies [you're] going to continue seeing people of color being targeted by police."

UM track athlete sets his mark as independent designer

MAX DUPRAS

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After losing his fall season to injury, Rogelio Mares fought back not by running, but through his other passion: graphic design.

Mares is more than halfway through his track and field career at UM. After battling a leg injury and adjusting to life away from home, he found solace in graphic design to keep his passion for running alive.

"I was pretty hurt. So not that good, but track, just getting back into it is still kind of hard. It's getting better for sure. Just looking forward to more races," Mares, a redshirt junior, said.

Mares joined the Grizzly cross-country and track and field squad as a promising runner, most recently placing top-10 in the 1500m at the Al Manuel Invitational and the Griz-Cat Duel.

After starting hot the season prior, a leg injury during his indoor season put Mares in a tough position as he nears the end of his running career at UM.

While holed up in his room, Mares took

some notes from his design classes with UM professor Michael Musick and started designing.

"I tried drawing and painting. I just am awful at it. Like it is really bad. For Touch-Designer, you don't really need to draw. It's just putting programs together and it kind of makes it up on its own. But yeah, I'm awful at drawing and painting," Mares said with a light laugh.

After some trial and error, Mares started designing regularly, bringing him joy in a time where he couldn't be a part of the team he worked so hard for.

"He's been able to step back and relax a little bit, trust that the fitness will carry him. He's just running a lot more confident. But it's just been a joy to work with him in the past two and a half years," said Clint May, UM head track coach.

Now, Mares has mostly recovered and ran for most of the outdoor season, while still having the time to start up an account for his passion.

"After the fall semester was over, I just really enjoyed just making graphics and posting

them online. And, I know I don't get a lot of views, but it's something I enjoyed. And that makes me pretty happy," Mares said.

Going by rogelios_visuals on Instagram, Mares describes his art as psychedelic, as it challenges the idea of expressionism more than everyday life.

His pieces aren't still images either. They are flowing masses of intense color, moving erratically both in and outward. One image is a ribbed circle that changes between red, blue and yellow everytime it rotates.

"It's kind of trippy, but I just kinda like the abstract kind of 'calling music abstract' look. I don't really know, but it's just something I enjoy and it's pretty weird," Mares said.

Each design is not meant to describe anything in particular, but Mares still loves making them.

Being far from home and suffering an injury spells disaster for a lot of young athletes, but art became the medium that Mares used to keep him focused. Now, it has become the pipeline for a hopeful career in the design industry.

"I just didn't really enjoy (computer science) that much. And, I know for media arts, you can do game development, mobile games and designs. And that's what I really like more than computer science," Mares said.

Mares struggled to find time to play his favorite video games like Call of Duty Warzone and Lego Star Wars, but he still has time to produce consistent art that he is proud of.

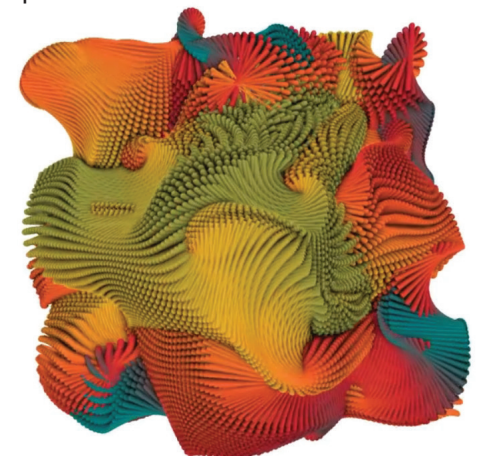
"I feel like both art and athlete, you just have to put that time in and be devoted to it and just enjoy it. If you don't enjoy it, you're not gonna like what you do."

Grizzly track resumes on May 6 and 7 for the Tom Gage Classic in Missoula. This will be the team's final home meet for the season before the conference championship in Pocatello, Idaho, and the regional tournament in Fayetteville, Arkansas.



Rogelio Mares stands for a portrait after track and field practice at Dornblaser Field on April 20. Mares is one of UM's top-seven runners on the cross-country and track team. When Mares is not on the track running, he studies media arts with a focus in app and graphic design.

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ROGELIO MARES | CONTIBUTED

Summer 2022 - ANTy 133

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SUMMER. FOOD & CULTURE AND UM ARE A GREAT COMBINATION.



Meet Juliet Warren, a powerlifting wildland firefighter

EMILY TSCHETTER

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University of Montana sophomore Juliet Warren is a self-proclaimed people pleaser.

As she steps up to the pull-up bar, she glances around at the other gym-goers in the Adams Center before jumping up and gripping the bar to support her entire body weight. Warren always ensures she has perfect form, in case others decide to watch her during her 10-rep sets.

Warren began working out six days a week in April 2021 to prepare for her wildland firefighting job over the summer, but transitioned to devoting all her focus to her training in the fall for a May 7 bodybuilding competition.

After struggling with the extreme dieting and the mental toll of a regimented lifestyle, Warren now has shifted to powerlifting, and said she is finally doing something for herself rather than to impress others.

"I liked feeling strong, and I liked showing other people that I was strong," Warren said. "I've realized through my whole process that I don't have to prove to people I'm in good shape and strong, though. I can just do that for myself."

Warren has always been a high achiever in athletics, even if she refused to acknowledge her success. She is from Des Moines, Iowa, and was a successful swimmer in middle school. Despite her competitiveness, including placing high in regional competitions, she quit when she was 14 after forcing herself to continue to please her team.

"You get kicked in the face for three hours at a time, and I just kept thinking 'Why am I just staring at the bottom of the pool?' I kept going because I was good at it," Warren said.

Like her efforts in school, Warren also put significant work into soccer to follow in her parents' footsteps and make them proud. Warren did not miss a single soccer game despite struggling with central sensitization, a form of chronic pain with no treatment or cure, that impacted her leg mobility throughout high school.

"I just didn't let myself miss it. I didn't want other people to know that I was going through this. I just wanted to seem like I'm normal and OK," Warren said. "It is hard, though, because you don't see anything wrong with me, so people just assume that I'm fine. But it's not going to kill me so I might as well just deal with it."

She played through high school and saw multiple scholarship offers in the Midwest, but decided to go to UM to live somewhere new and for the peaceful wilderness environment. She discovered her true sentiments about soc-

cer during her senior year of high school when she enjoyed the absence of practice.

"School was shut down during the season and I realized 'Damn, I'm really happy when I'm not playing soccer. What the fuck am I doing?'" Warren said.

Warren was refreshed when she came to UM and felt at home in Missoula. Although focused on the environment in some way, she switched majors multiple times during her freshman year, at one point planning to speed through her undergraduate to become an environmental attorney at age 23.

She settled on resource conservation and a minor in wildland fire science after she dropped everything last summer to work as a wildland firefighter in the Pacific Northwest. She applied as a joke in April and discovered her love for the work — and her love for the physical training — throughout the summer. As one of two women on her 20-person team, she fit in well by keeping up with the physical labor and endearing the men with her obscene vocabulary, throwing out at least one "fuck" in almost every sentence.

"Her spontaneous decision and completely reorienting her life goals was so cool to watch," Warren's roommate Amelia Hawes said. "When she's passionate about something, I've always known her to be a focused and driven person. This was a new side of her, but I felt like it was there the whole time. She's just so unapologetically herself."

From her time lifting when she trained for the job, she returned in the fall determined to jump into the bodybuilding lifestyle. Aside from enjoying the increased strength, Warren sought after the pumping iron-esque extreme body type, where people's first impression of her were her muscles.

"I know it might not be appealing for most people, but in my mind, the more muscle I have, the more physically attractive I am," Warren said. "I try to be more accepting of myself but sometimes I'll be in the gym and think 'damn, my arms look so small.' I'm trying to work on it."

Warren created an Instagram account for her fitness journey to display her progress, which she said was a "fuck you" to popular students from her high school and a big part of her motivation.

Warren thrived during her bulking period to build up muscle mass. When she shifted to begin cutting, the term for trimming down fat to expose muscle, her bodybuilding journey took a turn. Between adding more intense cardio on top of lifting and eating very little to lose weight, the drastic routine worsened her anxiety, and her chronic pain became more persistent. Rather than the pain arising



Juliet Warren stands for a portrait on April 28 at UM's Fitness and Recreation Center, where she regularly works out. Warren, 20, began her powerlifting journey in May 2021. Although she started out to prepare for her wildland firefighting job last summer, she discovered a deep love for powerlifting.

RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

occasionally, Warren felt the pain afflict a different part of her body each week, 24/7, and had to adjust exercises to accommodate the symptoms.

She went to the ER during a severe panic attack at the end of March, at which point she realized bodybuilding was damaging her physical and mental health and she needed to shift to a new athletic endeavor.

"I want to compete in powerlifting now because then I don't have to starve myself, it's just about lifting the heaviest. I don't need to push myself to the limits when I'm about to break," Warren said. "My attitude is a lot more positive with food and working out in general

now. Before I wasn't working out for me, but now it's just for me."

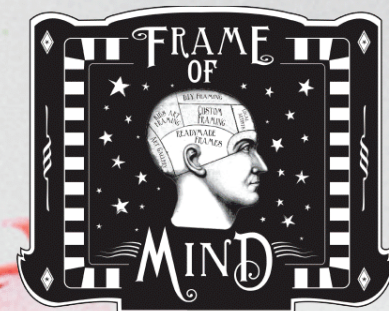
Warren's goals of feeling strong and at peace with her physique remain the same, but she said working for herself instead of impressing her peers and bodybuilding judges has improved her self-worth and her training habits. But one of the best perks of her new powerlifting journey? She can preserve her body hair two years in the making.

"Fuck the patriarchy, bodybuilding is built on patriarchy. I would have had to shave my entire body because they'll take off points for it," Warren said. "I'm so happy I don't have to do that now. Fuck them, I love my armpit hair."

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