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10-6-2022

Montana Kaimin, October 6, 2022

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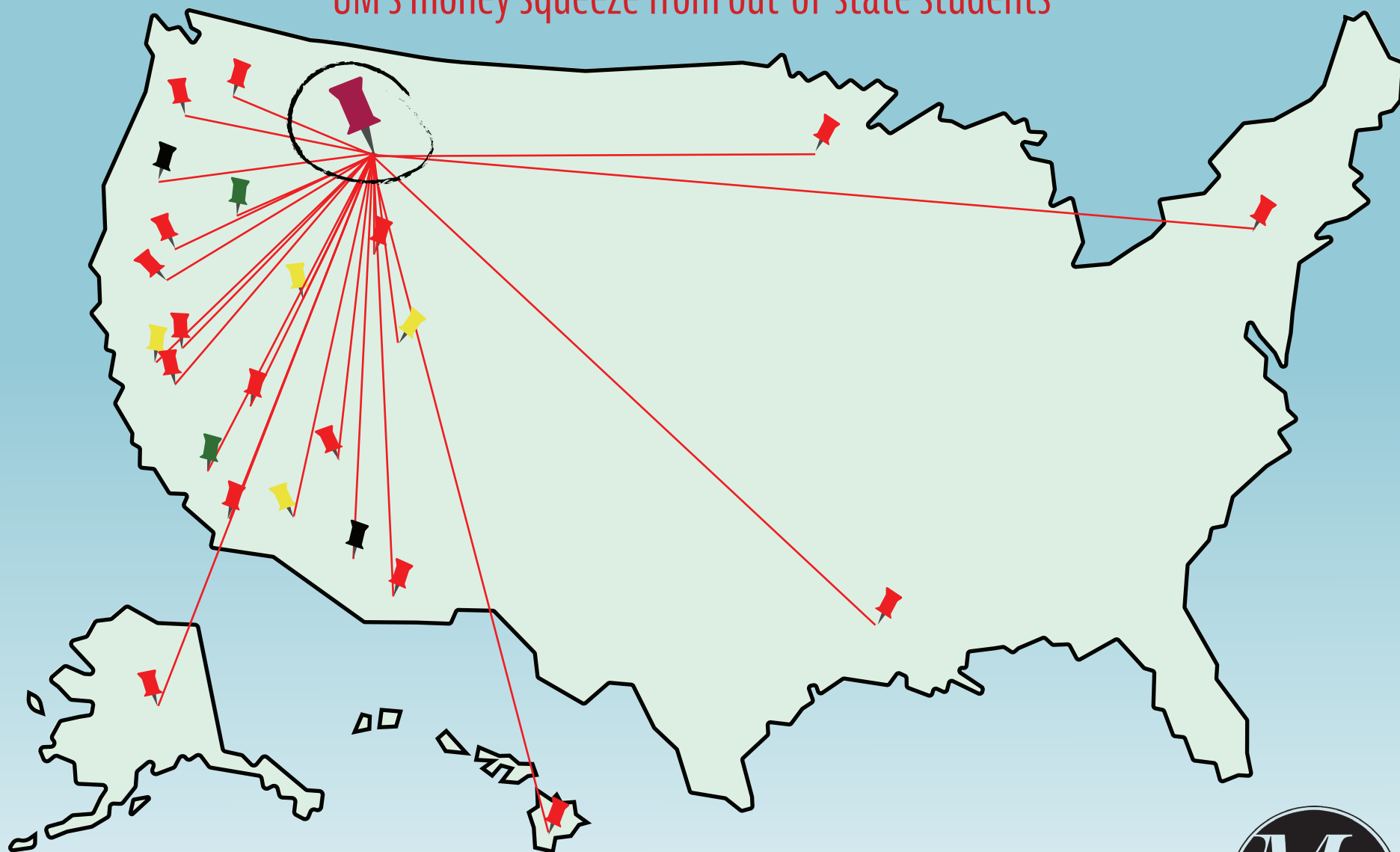
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MONTANA KALIMIN

Stretching more from less

UM's money squeeze from out-of-state students



Story by Christine Compton

7 Preferred names streamlined

13 Punk rock sensation

14 Monte wants you





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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THE GARAGE: SE 3 EP 6



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN

UM’s scholarship changes are not equitable

Last week, The University of Montana revealed it brought in the largest incoming freshman class in six years. Social media posts by the University celebrating the “win” soon flooded the feeds of UM students.

While some view the large new class as a success despite the total number of students dropping, the Kaimin can’t help but point out how UM quietly reported a sharp decline of first-generation college students and Pell Grant recipients.

First-generation college student enrollment dropped by 8%, to roughly 2,690 students. In 2017, first-generation students peaked at 3,787. While enrollment increased in 2021, first-generation students continued to decline.

Pell Grant recipients, who qualify for federal financial aid grants, have dropped drastically too. This year there are only 879 people at UM who got a Pell Grant, which has dropped from 1,600 students in 2017.

Mary Kreta, the University’s leader in admission and recruitment, told the Kaimin in this week’s feature story that her department has restructured how it gives out scholarships.

Instead of giving more money to fewer students, Kreta argues UM should give less money to more students. It’s worth noting that UM added nearly \$8 million to its scholarship

funds this year, meaning the University gives out roughly \$20 million to students each year.

However, there are two problematic implications of UM’s plan. First, giving out money to more students might attract more people to UM, but it changes who UM is available for.

Someone who can get a \$5,000 scholarship from California can likely afford UM more than someone from North Dakota who gets the same reward. There are plenty of data points to back this, like the relative cost of living and income rate in these states.

Part of the scholarship restructure comes from UM’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan. In the plan, the enrollment office prioritized need-based scholarships to underrepresented communities.

Most define equity as setting an even playing field for people, rather than offering people identical resources, which would be equality. But settling for equality over equity is problematic.

Some people have more resources to begin with than others – that’s just the fact of the matter. And making things “equal” by doling out money to everyone just gives those with more another leg up.

Equality is certainly better than nothing, but UM should stop arguing it has an equitable

financial aid process. It’s not equitable. Instead, UM is looking to find people who have a larger wallet, and is succeeding.

UM increased its tuition-based revenue by about 12% this year with fewer students from last year. That means on average, each student on campus is paying more than they did last year for school.

The second reason UM’s recruitment plan is problematic comes specifically from the Western Undergraduate Exchange scholarship restructure. The scholarship awards students from western states to pay roughly 150% of in-state tuition.

The scholarship has been used by a large chunk of UM students in the past, but UM made it near impossible to get the full award starting this year. Previously, a student needed a 3.0 grade point average in high school to get the WUE. Now students need a 3.95 GPA.

This means that hundreds of students across the West had to pay more if they wanted to go to UM. Administrators pointed out that the scholarship was so popular that UM couldn’t afford to pay out all the WUE students.

I ask, why make the scholarship so difficult now? UM’s 3.95 requirement is the highest in Montana, and the highest in the Big Sky Conference. The University could have incremen-

tally increased the requirement. Or they could have set it to a more manageable GPA, like 3.5.

Making the WUE only available to those with an elite GPA not only gives fewer students a good scholarship, but it leaves the money for high schoolers who might not have to sacrifice their grades for a job or other passions.

The University is after money, and it’s succeeding. The University predicts an even larger increase of out-of-state students for next year, while in-state students stand stagnant, according to Board of Regents data.

As a first-generation college student, I worry for the next generation of Grizzlies. I did not know what a four-year University experience was like growing up, and much of the process I had to take on alone. I’d argue that is common for those who do not have parents with degrees.

Will UM be a place for people who might have not envisioned getting a degree growing up? Or is this campus looking for kids with generational wealth who can afford paying more?

-Griffen Smith, Editor-in-Chief

Like it? Hate it? Let us know.
Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com



Backstreet music

Mudslide Charley rocks the stage at Ear Candy Music’s 25th anniversary celebration on Sept. 25. The event featured seven local bands that played tunes in the alley behind the record store.
LUKAS PRINOS / MONTANA KAIMIN

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

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:

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

Briefs & Blotter

Missoula expands bear smart, UM ranked first in service in national ranking, YMCA plans to double its child care capacity

EMILY TSCHETTER

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CITY COUNCIL, MISSOULA COUNTY EXPANDS 'BEAR SMART' PLANS

The Missoula City Council approved a plan to incorporate more "Bear Smart" practices into the city and county's government codes, including expanding the bear conflict zone and more security for garbage to prevent human-bear conflicts.

The Missoula Bear Smart Working Group developed the plan and a supporting study of bear hazards, incorporating local government officials, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, bear biologists and conservation groups.

The plan, which City Council approved on Sept. 28, called for an expansion of Missoula's Bear Buffer Zone, where garbage is heavily regulated. The new area covers all of South Hills, Pattee Canyon, East Missoula, the Rattlesnake, Grant Creek, La Valle Creek, Big Flat, O'Brian Creek, Blue Mountain, east of Higgins Avenue and along the Clark Fork River west of Reserve Street.

The plan recommends bear-resistant garbage cans in the buffer zone, electric fencing around gardens and banning bird feeding from April 1 to Dec. 1.

Garbage led to 49% of bear conflicts in Missoula, and bird seed led to 16% from 2018 to 2021, according to the working group's study.

City Council's Public Safety, Health and Operations Committee voted unanimously to pass the resolution, and the county commissioners will consider the resolution Monday night.

UM RANKED NUMBER ONE IN SERVICE, 154 OVERALL IN NATIONAL COLLEGE RANKING

The University of Montana placed 154 overall out of the 391 four-year universities Washington Monthly magazine ranked, but beat out all the colleges in the service ranking.

Washington Monthly determined the service ranking using AmeriCorps and Peace Corps data, the percentage of federal work-study grant money used for community service and whether a college received the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, among other factors like student voter registration and the types of degrees offered.

UM ranked toward the bottom of the list at 343 for the social mobility metric,

which Washington Monthly said also doubles as its "best bang for buck" ranking. This includes the college's eight year graduation rate for all students and compares graduation rates for Pell Grant and non-Pell Grant students.

The ranking also factors in the college's affordability by average net prices for full-time, first-time and in-state students with family incomes below \$75,000 per year over the past three years.

UM ranked 156 overall in research after receiving its R1 designation earlier this year. Washington Monthly also measured 80% of UM graduates are at least 150% above the poverty line. The D.C.-based magazine measured UM has a 44% eight-year graduation rate.

PULITZER FINALIST TO JOIN UM AS VISITING WRITER IN SPRING 2023

Sierra Crane Murdoch, a Pulitzer Prize finalist and the author of the non-fiction book "Yellow Bird," will be the 2023 Kittredge Distinguished visiting writer at UM.

Murdoch, from Hood River, Oregon, will teach a graduate workshop in environmental writing in spring 2023. Previous Kittredge Distinguished Visiting Writers in environmental studies include Terry Tempest Williams, Rebecca Solnit, Craig Childs and Latria Graham.

"Yellow Bird" follows an Arikara woman, Lissa Yellow Bird, in her search for a missing young, white oil worker on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota. The book was named one of the best books of 2020 by National Public Radio and The New York Times and is being made for TV on Paramount+.

Murdoch began researching the book from her first journalism job out of college for High Country News covering fracking

on the reservation. Her work has been published in Harper's, The Atlantic, "This American Life" and The New Yorker.

"I'll guide students in how to use reporting in personal writing to generate depth and expansiveness and to clarify their voices, discovering more honest and transparent positions in the stories they choose to tell," Murdoch said to UM News.

Graduate students interested in the course should email mark.sundeen@umontana.edu.

MISSOULA YMCA RAISING \$15 MILLION FOR CAMPUS REMODEL, DOUBLING CHILD CARE CAPACITY

The Missoula Family YMCA hopes to build a new child care building and extensively remodel its campus on Russell Street through a public fundraising campaign on Oct. 6 to raise \$15 million.

The YMCA has been fundraising without the public campaign since Sept. 2021 and will announce how much they've raised so far at the YMCA Here For Good kickoff event from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Missoula County Fairgrounds on Oct. 6.

The nonprofit started in 1967. CEO Heather Foster said it has grown exponentially over the past 10 years. But the buildings have remained largely unchanged. The current facility was built in 1987 and the child care center is working out of a donated building.

The plans involve a new youth innovation center, a new fitness studio and an expanded drop-in child care center in a new building. The expansion will double the YMCA child care capacity after they had 50 people on a waitlist to get infant care in June, according to the Missoulian.

POLICE BLOTTER

CAVEN WADE

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University of Montana Police responded to a plethora of interesting crimes across campus this week. It's mind blowing that they could even keep up with the reported fake people and Nerf gun threats. Here are four reports from Sept. 22 to Sept. 28.

THURSDAY 9/22: PINTS AND POSSESSION

At 8 p.m. UMPD responded to a report that two people were trying to get into the Schreiber Gym. They were found to be heavily intoxicated and under the legal age to purchase alcohol. They were given minor in possession charges and referred for disorderly conduct to the University. Shocking that they even stumbled out the door past their RAs...

9/25 - 9/27: AWKWARD OVAL

UMPD responded to reports throughout the school week of individuals yelling at students and faculty on campus about the gospel and word of God. These people were warned throughout the week by UMPD, but couldn't be given citations because of free speech laws. UMPD ruled they were not causing disruptions to the learning environment. It can be hard, but please try to be civil on the Oval.

MONDAY 9/26: MATRIX MADNESS

UMPD received a call from an unknown person at a bus station on campus. This person reported that a man in a wheelchair at the bus stop appeared to not be real. Officers responded to the situation and determined that the man was in fact a real person. It's valuable to know that a call to UMPD can clear up any unknowns about whether someone is a wax figure or a statue.

WEDNESDAY 9/28: NO NERFIN' AROUND

At 7:30 p.m. UMPD responded to a report that men on campus were shooting Nerf guns at parking signs. The officers were unable to locate them and weren't able to confiscate the toy guns. Always remember folks, "it's Nerf or nothin'," and they chose Nerf in their vendetta against UM parking.

Tired of reading? Start Listening.

K THE KAIMIN CAST

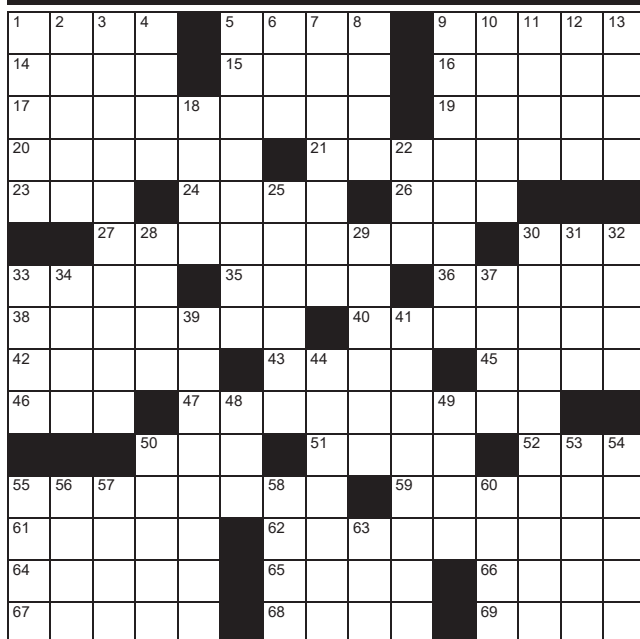
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New episodes Monday

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

- 1 Heavy reading
- 5 Pageant wear
- 9 Rosie, on "The Jetsons"
- 14 Enthusiasm
- 15 A while ago
- 16 Day or thing starter
- 17 Message in a cell
- 19 Arctic bear
- 20 Snub, in a way
- 21 Texas town in a George Strait song title
- 23 WSJ alternative
- 24 Sharp blow
- 26 Tupperware top
- 27 Joint woe
- 30 Type
- 33 French cheese
- 35 Part of the foot
- 36 Type of campus bldg.
- 38 Semicircular window
- 40 Backslide
- 42 More than plump
- 43 Do laps, perhaps
- 45 APR part
- 46 River bottom
- 47 Ones seeking change
- 50 Luxurious resort
- 51 Meeting, slangily
- 52 Test for teens
- 55 Apt to topple
- 59 Schumer's group
- 61 Kind of panel
- 62 Not up to a task
- 64 Calendar entry
- 65 De Niro film, "Cape ____"
- 66 Basketball dunk
- 67 Sugar ____

- 68 Swirling current
- 69 Name on toy fuel trucks

DOWN

- 1 "Round and Round" singer Campbell
- 2 Scientific suffix
- 3 Kept up
- 4 Gas brand of old
- 5 To an extent
- 6 Santa ____ winds
- 7 Kind of nerve
- 8 Control spot
- 9 Payback of sorts
- 10 Grape-shaped
- 11 Fight starter
- 12 Kind of surgery
- 13 Novice
- 18 Formerly, once
- 22 ____ Baba
- 25 Make a collar
- 28 Roger of "Cheers"
- 29 Flourish
- 30 Like some winter roads
- 31 Lean to the side
- 32 Spoon-playing site
- 33 Amorphous mass
- 34 Bumpkin
- 37 Pub projectile
- 39 Alice's affair
- 41 Go-between
- 44 Saw the light, with "up"
- 48 NYC sight
- 49 Herding dog name
- 50 Blackjack option
- 53 Trip planner's aid
- 54 Overflows (with)
- 55 Like hand-me-downs
- 56 Old Chevy model
- 57 Downhill racer
- 58 Mikey's cereal
- 60 Don Johnson series, "____ Bridges"
- 63 Scoundrel

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Squirrel-o-Scope

HALEY YARBOROUGH

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It's that time of year again: the trees are turning, pumpkin spice is in the air and the squirrels are performing their daily acts of terrorism on the University of Montana's campus. Sure, it's spooky season, but what about squirrel season? Seems like squirrels and horror stories go hand-in-hand. Makes you wonder what's going on in their pea-sized brains. If your brain was the size of a squirrel's, how would you act? Only the stars can tell.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):

All squirrels are natural acrobats, but you're Cirque Du Soleil material. You jump from tree to tree without breaking a sweat. Under the cover of darkness, your true identity is revealed: Bat-Squirrel, protector of nuts.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):

Honey, you're horny and as a squirrel, you have no sense of public decency. On a tree branch, on the sidewalk, in the middle of the oval — it doesn't matter. When there's a will, there's a way. Maybe David Attenborough will narrate the trials and tribulations of your sex life in his next nature documentary.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21):

You believe you can fly. You believe you can touch the sky. Except you don't have wings, you only have a fat-ass tail. That won't stop you from nose diving onto any passing student's head. Their hair will make a mighty fine nest.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19):

You're like Remy from Ratatouille, except you're a squirrel and cook all the *delicious* Food Zoo meals. Just don't forget to wear a tail-net, or a poop bag for that matter. That brown stuff in the ice cream? Definitely not chocolate chips.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18):

Remember the University Center koi fish that went missing? Yeah, well, you stole them. You're a conniving little bastard with a knack for performing sting operations on campus. No sacrifice is too great for the satisfaction of stealing all that is sacred: food.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):

The squirrels around campus call you the human whisperer. Maybe it's because you're an unusually kind squirrel or maybe you're really just craving Pizza Hut, but college students love you. Little do they know you're plotting the demise of the human race.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):

You and your squirrel partner are having trouble in the tree. Naturally, you resolve your relationship problems by fighting in the middle of the Oval. All those pesky college students can skirt around you. That bitch will think twice about stealing your nuts again.



MAKAYLA O'NEIL | MONTANA KAIMIN

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):

Taurus, you're a material squirrel, meaning you hoard more than nuts. With winter closely approaching, you need all the necessities: pocket watches, pizza, nail polish and unused condoms (they make perfect sleeping bags). You're gonna hibernate *comfortably.*

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):

If squirrels had Poop Maps, you would rightfully claim your porcelain throne. It doesn't matter where you are, when you have to go, YOU GO. The college students will have to suck it up and face your brown rain.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):

You've got beef with every dog on campus. You've mastered at least five martial arts, along with the art of belly rubs. It's all fun and games until you confuse a campus bear for a big dog. Now, everyone calls you the three-legged squirrel. #bEBeaRAwaRe

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):

There's no way in hell you're sleeping in a scraggly-ass tree again. The moment any unsuspecting college student leaves their dorm window open, you're crawling in. You'll fight their bitch-ass hamster if it means you can sleep in a warm bed.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):

You enjoy gracing UM's campus with the sounds of your beautiful singing. And when I say singing, I mean incorrigible screeching. A lot of the other squirrels think it's your mating call, but we all know you're just fantasizing about being a songbird.

UM streamlines process to show students' preferred names on records

ANDY TALLMAN

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For years, the Office of the Registrar and other University of Montana administrators have been on the steady path to make it easier for students whose chosen name differs from their legal name, like trans students, to change their name on as many UM records as possible.

The process has been streamlined significantly, but there are still changes the Office of the Registrar hopes to make.

"I think the progress that's been made is really good and really important, but there are lots of places that aren't accurate, and those are the places that students are dealing with the most," Beckett Redinger, LGBTQIA+ student group Lambda secretary, said.

The process of streamlining the chosen name system has been in the works since 2017 or earlier, according to Cal Erasmus Tronson, director of the Campus Activities Board. The process was similar at that time, but students had to go to the registrar's office in-person to change their name in Navigate, CyberBear and the UM directory.

Currently, students can send an email to registration@umontana.edu to get their chosen name updated. According to the Chosen Name tab on the UM registrar's website, this will update the student's email, Moodle, CyberBear and Navigate. It will also allow students to request a new Griz Card with their chosen name on it, and will update their name in the public directory. Students will still have access to messages from their old email, but any emails sent to their old address will bounce back.

Maria Mangold, UM's registrar, explained that students can ask for their legal name to still be used in the public directory, a decision made after talking to students who didn't want to disclose their chosen name outside of UM.

Many UM records still use a student's legal name. Mangold explained that any records that are used for tax purposes, like financial aid and housing documents, need to use the name that the government has for a student. Only a legal name change can change the name listed on those documents.

"For those aspects, we're not at liberty to change that," Mangold said.

NetIDs will still use the initials of a student's legal name.

Redinger wants to see chosen names



Your preferred name here

123456789

Student

GRIZ
CARD

MCKENNA JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

on class rosters. Currently, students need to email their professors individually to inform them of their preferred names and pronouns.

"It's a humiliating email to send, at least personally," Redinger said. He described a class where he was misgendered at first because his deadname was listed on Moodle.

"We are still just so, so behind on this," Erasmus Tronson said.

They said that class rosters can provoke a lot of anxiety for trans students, because the decision of what to do with the chosen name and how to keep track of it is left up to the professor.

The Kaimin did not hear an example of professors choosing to use someone's legal name after being asked to use a different name. According to the chosen name website, updates to class rosters are coming soon.

Erasmus Tronson said they'd had trans friends during their time as a student at UM who struggled with not having their chosen name reflected on University records. At the time, the process wasn't publicized for students, and the option to change a chosen name was mostly spread through word of mouth.

Both Alex Realini, Lambda vice president, and Redinger emailed the Office of the Registrar recently to update their chosen names.

"We both heard back really quickly," Redinger said.

Though the existing process went smoothly, Redinger said there are still things that need to be done. He'd like to see chosen names and pronouns on as many documents as possible. He'd also like UM to adopt the expectation that everyone knows that chosen names are correct names and pronouns aren't optional.

"If the question is can we do more, the answer is always yes," Redinger said.

The Office of the Registrar doesn't plan to stop at the current system, and plans are in the works to streamline the process even further.

"The biggest change we hope to launch is

a form within CyberBear that students can fill out with their chosen first name, middle name, pronouns and gender identity," Associate Registrar Dawn Barnhart said. "To be clear, they can do all of these things right now, but it's all done via email."

Erasmus Tronson said that they think change would help students have more autonomy and privacy in the process, something they think is important. They would like to see more advocacy and education on how students can legally change their names.

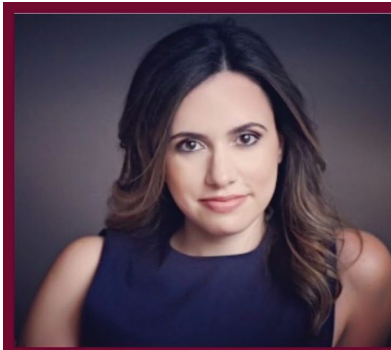
Beckett also encountered a glitch in the system. He updated his name in Moodle before sending the email to registration. When his name updated in his email and Navigate, it reset to his deadname in Moodle. He was able to easily change it back, as one's name can be easily edited on the Moodle website.

When Realini applied to UM, he listed a chosen name that was different from his current name. That name was shown on his Griz Card and his email, but not in many of the other places where the current system updates a

chosen name.

Mangold did not know why some forms would not update, but guessed that there were still some hitches to work out with how chosen names fed in from applications. It's possible this has been fixed since Realini applied in 2019. According to the website, students should still send an email to registration if they applied to UM with a chosen name.

"Names are really important," Erasmus Tronson said. "As someone who's put a lot of time and effort and thought into the name that I have, it was important to have a process that reflected that at the University."



**Amanda Coletta, Canada Correspondent for the
Washington Post**

**Missing Children, Cultural
Genocide: Residential
Schools and Their Legacies**

**October 24 at 7:00 p.m.
University Center Theater**

The 2022 Marjorie Nichols Lecture

ASUM expands DEI committee role, debates violations in interview committee

CAVEN WADE

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana opened up its diversity, equity and inclusion committee for more student input while increasing promotion of DEI-centered student groups on social media during its Sept. 28 meeting.

The resolution looked to reform the duties and responsibilities of the current committee. Senator O'Shay Birdinground, chair of the committee, authored the bill revising the committee's purpose in the ASUM bylaws. The committee will look to develop a media plan to promote diversity, equity and inclusion, and will help member organizations share their missions.

The DEI committee will now prioritize reposting Branch Center group information on social media and seek out other student groups that have DEI as "a key role in their mission."

The committee will collaborate with the Office of Student Success to host listening sessions open to all students to find "how the committee can create everlasting change." The resolution also prescribed meetings with contributors on the UM committee on how to execute the University's DEI plan and increase student, staff, faculty and administration awareness of what groups working on DEI across campus do.

Erin Heaton, a former ASUM senator and current student-at-large, made an appearance at the meeting during public comment to critique the resolution clarifying the role of ASUM's DEI committee.

"I support the intentional broad language used to outline the duties of the DEI committee, and I think it's nonsensical to limit what the committee can do," Heaton said.

However, Heaton, the director of the Gender Equity Resource Center, outlined their concern that the DEI committee should do more than just reposting student groups on social media.

"It needs to be tangible proof that the senate is going to take action for these groups, and stand with these groups," Heaton said. "Sharing student group posts is not enough."

There were also questions raised regarding the senate's relationship with the Branch Center, which labels itself as "the space for student diversity and inclusion at the University of Montana."

"I want to caution the senate not to just use the Branch Center for their DEI expertise without giving back," Heaton said, "I want to make it clear that it's the respon-



Vice President Alexandra Berna, center, addresses the ASUM senate during the first meeting of the semester Aug. 31. **ASTON KINSELLA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

sibility of the whole senate to repair this relationship with the Branch Center."

The resolution, authored by Birdinground, passed overwhelmingly.

The renewed purpose of the ASUM DEI committee will be sent to the provost, vice provost of student success, President Seth Bodnar's chief of staff, the director of inclusive excellence, the director of S.E.A Change, the co-chair of the Diversity Advisory Council and the director of the Student Advocacy Resource Center.

The senate also discussed a potential rule violation in its interview hiring committee.

ASUM is currently processing applications to fill senate seat vacancies.

Senators questioned fellow Senator Zyanne Cervantes about sharing confidential documents about an interviewee outside of the interview committee.

The ASUM interview committee video records all interviews that take place between a person applying to the senate and the members of the committee.

The interviews got out through a link contained within a folder that normally would not be available for others to access attached to an email.

The file was seen by a handful of people, but was quickly closed to outside access. It raised the senate's concerns of a possible breach of Cervantes' duties on the committee. The senate did not disclose who the interviewee was or who Cervantes sent the files to at its meeting.

The senate has not made a decision on what action should be taken regarding the alleged breach, but debated whether or not Cervantes should lose her seat on the committee. The senate is expected to discuss it further at its next meeting.



Stretching more from less

Students question fairness of UM changes — and tuition bills — for Western scholars

Story by Christine Compton | Photos by Nate Sanchez | Graphs by McKenna Johnson

Zain Bravo walks into the Music Recital Hall with his French horn to practice on Sept. 30. Bravo is a transfer student from California who was enticed to attend UM because of its music program.

SOPHOMORE ZAIN BRAVO, 19, sat in a dingy hotel a few weeks before the start of school. The drive from his hometown of Taft, California, to the University of Montana takes around 18 hours, and he needed to get to Missoula for marching band camp.

After eight hours of driving and at least five more to go, Bravo and his father checked into their room in Idaho Falls.

They did their best to relax in the potent room, which smelled of cigarettes and old people, when Bravo opened his laptop. An email caught his eye. He said the email read something along the lines of: “Your financial aid award offer has changed.”

Confused, he checked his registration bill. That’s when his eyes landed on the Western

Undergraduate Exchange scholarship underneath the itemized list of bills.

“Holy shit!” Bravo yelled.

“What?” his father asked.

“My registration bill is different,” Bravo replied, tense. “I owe almost \$10,000.”

His scholarship was supposed to cover \$17,000 a year. Now, it’s paying less than \$5,000 a year. He has a new bill of \$9,855, and he doesn’t know where the money will come from.

Bravo’s father stepped away to vent, spitting profanity in a flurry of panic and frustration.

“What am I going to do?” Bravo finally asked.

“We’ll figure it out,” his father reassured after cooling off. “It’ll be OK.”

The next day, Bravo, a music education major, called the financial aid office to investi-

gate, but staff there didn’t have an explanation for him, Bravo said. He just suddenly wasn’t receiving the money. They talked him through his options — more loans, in short, Bravo said. He hung up feeling resigned.

He still doesn’t know what exactly lost him the money. He had a 3.89 GPA in high school, and he made the dean’s list his freshman year at UM. He can only assume it has something to do with shifting WUE requirements, but he can’t say for certain and didn’t get an explanation from UM.

The Kaimin inquired on behalf of Bravo about his lost scholarship. A UM spokesperson said the University cannot comment on individual students because of privacy laws.

This year at the University of Montana, while total full-time students dropped by 1.5%, tuition revenue increased by 12.4%, partially

thanks to a higher percentage of out-of-state students.

UM has 1,351 new students and Missoula College has 244, totaling 9,995 students in all. There are 151 fewer students across all UM and Missoula College programs than last year. It’s a drop, but not a huge one, and that has some UM staff breathing sighs of relief.

But at closer inspection, the numbers are raising eyebrows. There are more freshmen on campus, more money in tuition revenue, but fewer people overall. Something had to have changed in how money was handled. Enter: WUE.

Under new WUE requirements, incoming freshman WUE recipients at UM and Missoula College dropped by 71.6%. Meanwhile, students classified as fully nonresidential — and likely paying the full out-of-state tuition —

BELOW: Mary Kreta, associate vice president for enrollment, stands outside the UM welcome center for new students. Kreta is starting her third year at UM after working the same position at the University of Alaska for four years.



ABOVE: Scout McMahon, an 18 year old freshman studying international relations, works on homework at the Davidson Honors College. McMahon is from Whitefish and received the Presidential Leadership scholarship. On top of that, she is the Initiatives Committee Chair for Montana Youth Action.

increased by 151.6%.

Tuition at UM costs \$7,412 for an in-state student, \$10,160 for a WUE scholar and \$27,238 for an out of state student.

While administrators claim the changes made allocations to students more equitable, some in-state students are struggling to afford school with the cost of living, and some out-of-state students say they feel taken advantage of. According to some studies, students from Montana attending college dropped at the highest rate nationwide.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

For the first time in around a decade, UM has had two years of increasing freshman enrollment.

In 2011, 10,567 students enrolled at UM, a number the University hasn't approached in years. By 2017, enrollment had dropped to 8,958, a 30% decrease. That was the worst drop in any state-run flagship institution in the same time period.

The recent and large first-year class comes from a change in marketing and scholarship strategies, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Mary Kreta said. By giving less money to individual students, more is left in the pool to give to others.

Overall, more people will be offered some sort of relief instead of fewer students getting more aid, Kreta explained. The idea is that with more awards, more students will be inclined to come to UM.

It also means that current students from the

West Coast, UM's largest out-of-state population, also have a larger bill because WUE is covering less, generating thousands more in tuition revenue per student.

UM tightened the requirements of the Western Undergraduate Exchange program, Kreta said. The scholarship helps students from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming receive reduced out-of-state tuition at 160 participating schools across the same states.

WUE's creators, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, estimated Montana students saved \$8 million through WUE in the last academic year.

It's one of the most commonly used scholarships at UM, and to receive the full award, previous years' students only needed a 3.0 grade-point average. Now, the bar has been lifted to a 3.95 unweighted GPA. Students from western states can still receive partial scholarships with a lower GPA. The change should not affect upperclassmen, Kreta said.

UM has one of the highest GPA requirements within schools that participate in WUE. For context, the University of Idaho requires students to have a 3.2 unweighted GPA. The University of Utah and Portland State University require a 3.0.

The raw number of students from beyond Montana didn't drastically change, the enrollment report revealed. Not including international students, UM welcomed 686 new out-of-state and WUE students in fall 2022. In fall '21, it was 647.

The primary difference was how the students were categorized: nonresident and WUE. Both nonresident students and WUE students are from out of state, but WUE students will only pay 150% of the in-state tuition costs.

The massive shift means hundreds of students are paying far more for their college than they would have in previous years.

Fewer students qualify for the full waiver, so the remaining scholarship money can be spread farther across more students, Kreta said. When more students get that added boost, more students make the leap to fully committing to the University, bringing heftier payments for out-of-state tuition.

Kreta reasoned it's a surefire way of inching closer to equity. While Kreta knows students will be upset at losing some of their scholarship, she believes spreading smaller sums to more students will provide more opportunity.

"We have offered substantially more money this year than we have in past years to students," Kreta said. "We are giving out more scholarships to students, and we have a higher discount rate to students."

The current enrollment services' planned budget for fiscal year 2023, which began Oct. 1, 2022, shows a huge jump in funds for scholarships and tuition waivers – to nearly \$20 million. In the 2019 budget, \$11,946,078 was set aside for scholarships and waivers, and budgets leading up to 2022 hovered around \$11-\$12 million.

This year, \$19,677,692 is set aside, an unprecedented growth of \$7-\$8 million. It takes up over 77% of the enrollment services'

budget.

Summer, fall and spring tuition revenue for the upcoming fiscal year of 2023 is budgeted to increase from about \$73 million to about \$85 million, Vice President for Operations and Finance Paul Lasiter said. That's an increase of nearly \$12 million in just one year.

Kreta also said marketing approaches will change depending on where students come from. Admissions teams will look at who shares the most similar traits and modify their practices based on where they're trying to find students.

For example, UM recruits new students from Spokane, Washington, at the same rate as eastern Montana, so marketing will use similar strategies at both spots, even if one is technically out of state.

IS UM CROWDED?

It's the morning of new student orientation, and Scout McMahon of Kalispell, 18, is dressed in her maroon orientation shirt. It's surprisingly soft, she noticed, running her hands over the fabric edges, but she vows to never wear it again. She doesn't want to be identified as a freshman so easily.

She's waiting to enter the Food Zoo for breakfast, and the line is spilling down the hall. *There's so many people*, she thinks.

She rushes through her meal to meet her orientation group. A male student with long, bushy blond hair is her leader, and she's funneled with her fellow first-years into the Adams Center to watch Monte dance with



Zain Bravo plays the French horn in the UM music building on Sept. 30. Bravo had his WUE scholarship drastically cut without notice during his sophomore year.

cheerleaders and learn the lyrics to the fight song.

A huge crowd is chanting muddled words, syllables overlapping each other as new students fumble through a tune they don't know.

The squeal of the pig, huh? she thinks when she finally deciphers a phrase. *That's a raw line.*

McMahon thinks of UM, and she remembers when President Seth Bodnar visited her at Flathead High School. She thinks of the emails the Davidson Honors College sent her. She thinks of the moment she found out she received the Presidential Leadership Scholarship, a full tuition waiver awarded to particularly impressive students.

McMahon tunes out her orientation leader's instructions for the next group activity and looks around. The banners around the Oval are bright and coordinated. The sky is a clear, cloudless blue. McMahon's orientation circle is one of several littering the campus lawn.

There's so many people, McMahon thinks again, this time considering how different all their backgrounds are from each other. There are people who just graduated from high school, like her, and there are people who are

transferring sophomores and juniors. There are students from Whitefish, Bozeman, Butte, California, Virginia, Missouri, South Korea, Zambia and beyond.

"But I guess that's college," McMahon said.

McMahon is part of the largest freshman class the University of Montana has seen since 2016. She could've aimed for fancier, more expensive schools, but she said she wasn't interested in the pretentious culture those tend to have.

While not as directly obvious, the bigger freshman class is the payoff of marketing campaigns years in the making, Kreta said. Director of New Student Success Devin Carpenter agreed.

Carpenter designed a summer communication program to keep in touch with freshly recruited students by emailing them 15 to 20 times a summer. And they're making it easier to get information to parents with the aptly titled Griz Family Portal, which debuted in 2019 with essential news, instructions and deadlines for new students.

As the direct supervisor to the UM Advocates and a central organizer in new student orientation, Carpenter knows that some stu-

dents will typically drop out by the Thursday of orientation week, but he noticed more were staying through the week.

He teaches new student seminars and was stunned at the consistent turnout he saw.

"I think we're starting to see the shift from COVID as people are reshifting towards engagement," Carpenter said. "I saw it in my first-year seminar. I didn't lose any students, and that has never happened in the history of my teaching that class."

Even the rebrand, a revising of UM's color scheme and marketing materials that launched last year, is starting to see results, Carpenter said. McMahon was already committed to UM, but liked what she saw with the new branding.

"I like that it flows together," McMahon said. "It's like the pumpkin on the clock tower tied in a bow."

MAKING UP THE DIFFERENCE

While giving less money to individual students may bring more people to UM, it won't always be easy to fill in the financial gaps.

As he enters his third semester at UM, Bravo and his mother are around \$30,000 in debt to help pay for school. He's earned some music scholarships, one for leadership in marching band and another for jazz piano.

He's applied for work study through the campus bus system, UDash. It helps in some ways, Bravo said, but it doesn't come close to the end sum. He's grateful he can make it work, and he's grateful he has parents who can help him out.

He's also grateful to have as much of the WUE scholarship as he can get. But it doesn't change the real stress he feels thinking about how he'll repay his parents, he said.

"I didn't think I'd have to think about that," Bravo said. "I didn't think about how much it's going to suck coming out of college."

So when Bravo heard about the plan to revise how WUE scholarships are awarded to get more students into UM, he said he had mixed feelings.

Even if his financial aid change has nothing to do with the WUE rearrangement, he's seen firsthand how important that money is. He isn't sure if it's better to only give out part of the scholarship.

"I'm trying to have a good mindset about it," Bravo said. "But it doesn't seem totally fair."

GROWING PAINS

As UM aims for larger and larger class sizes, there's a hum of rebuttal among students who are already here, some of whom thought their financial aid awards were going to be a lot larger. Now, they have to make up the difference. Some students don't think there's any room for more people. Others wonder what would need to be changed to accommodate them.

Rachel Nelsen is one of those UM students. Each weekday morning, Nelsen wakes up at 4 a.m. in Helena, Montana. She lives with her mother, her two cats and a horse.

She makes Fruity Pebbles and drip coffee with a splash of Irish cream-flavored creamer. If she's in a hurry, she eats a brown sugar cinnamon Pop-Tart in her car. When she pulls onto the road to get to school at 6 a.m., it's still dark out.

One benefit of having to drive from Helena every morning is seeing the sun rise, Nelsen said.

It's a rosy view. Nelsen can't afford to live in Missoula, she said. Earlier in her UM days, she shared an apartment with her boyfriend, but a breakup ended that situation. Driving isn't much cheaper, she said, but at least she can pay gas in increments instead of up front in rent.

A few years ago, rent in town could've been plausible, Nelsen said. But with more people moving to Missoula, fewer rentals on the market and a drive up in prices, Nelsen just can't do it. Rental networking website Zumper calculates that in 2022 alone, the median rent for

a one-bedroom apartment jumped to \$1,225 per month. That's a 20% increase in one year. The few rentals that come up aren't realistic for a college student budget, Nelsen said. So she drives 113 miles, even in the winter over a mountain pass. Nelsen is in her last semester at UM and she's exhausted, she said.

"It's been three weeks, and I've nearly had three mental breakdowns," Nelsen said earlier in the semester with an almost bitter smile on her face. "I'm so tired all the time."

She doesn't blame anyone for her situation, she said. Times are tough, and everyone has their burdens. But when she hears about UM aiming for bigger class sizes, she can't help but tilt her head.

"It's not the institution's fault," Nelsen said. "I think it's, in broad, a societal thing."

Across the state of Montana, 53% of students aren't returning to college this year, according to insurance analysts from data comparison organization QuoteWizard.

While it's uncertain how much the data relates to UM, in-state peers are changing classes, shifting back online or staying out of college entirely. Montana students are dropping out at some of the highest rates in the country. At the same time, Montana State University in Bozeman welcomed the second largest freshman class in its history at 3,752.

"I think people need to start looking at the big picture of the issues instead of what's going on in its niche little area," Nelsen added. She knows that residence halls and parking lots are being torn down during renovation projects and wonders where all the newcomers will go.

Carpenter noted the especially poor timing of construction this year, even though the infrastructure projects were aimed at improving students' experiences on campus.

The makeover of Knowles Hall, a residence hall that historically houses Davidson Honors College students, will have expanded study lounges and a classroom when it's done. However, its temporary closure wipes out the living space that would have housed upward of 260 students.

The construction zone required for the new dining facility has a similar catch. In order to make room for equipment, a portion of Craig Hall had to be torn down, cutting out more housing space.

But Carpenter isn't worried about the University outgrowing itself anytime soon. UM isn't growing large or fast enough to warrant it, despite student complaints of full parking lots, inaccessible housing and confusing financial aid changes.

"I don't think we'll ever need to worry about leaving behind our students," Carpenter said.

NEXT STEPS

Part of the push for student recruitment is building up resilience for a potentially rocky

future ahead. Brian French, executive director of the Office for Student Success, said some UM staff have been discussing a looming enrollment cliff of 2025, which predicts a drop in higher education enrollment.

Accelerated by the pandemic and inflation, fewer high school graduates are pursuing higher education, especially when some can find jobs that pay \$20/hour without a degree.

"[W]hen the Great Recession hit in 2008, the birthrate took a nosedive that many attributed to the economy," College and University Professional Association for Human Resources, or CUPA-HR, explained in a 2019 article. "However, while the economy has rebounded in the decade since, the birth rate has not."

The implications of a declining U.S. birth rate are widespread, not the least of which is how the nation's colleges and universities will be impacted by a rapid drop in college-aged individuals in the next generation population.

This, combined with lessened student engagement brought on by COVID-19, makes for an uphill battle UM faces years into the future to increase enrollment.

When McMahon steps on campus and sees the crowds of students, she gets excited. She's heard about the controversies regarding enrollment and campus reputation, and she has her opinions on them, but she's happy UM is picking up. She'd rather it help create a new generation of excellence than die out quietly.

Even driving several hours a day, Nelsen feels the same. She's happy to see some improvements and some cash flow where it didn't before, she said.

There are big plans on the horizon, UM staff promise, hinting at academic restructuring, new programs and renovated buildings. But a common question seems to be when the cost of success is still worth it.

Bravo couldn't imagine going anywhere other than UM. He remembers professors of the music school reaching out and chatting with him over email, and when he met them in person, everything felt right.

He now has tens of thousands more in debt that he wasn't expecting with five more semesters in front of him. He said he feels cheated and confused. He loves his program and where he's at, but he doesn't know what the future will hold.

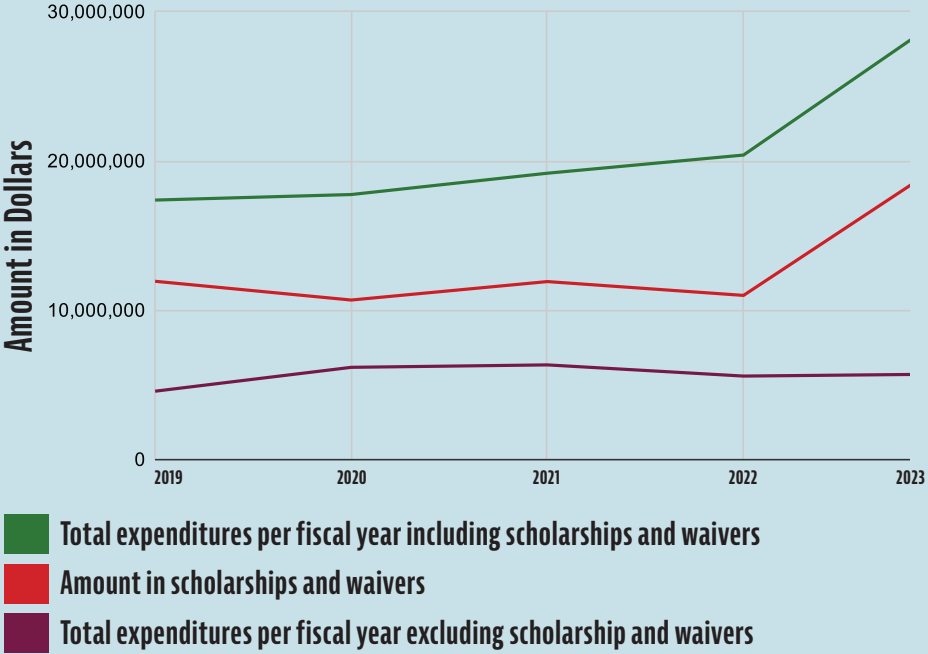
Bravo plans to trek forward regardless. He wants to stay at UM, finish his degree in music education, and find more to do.

"They're giving less and taking more, in my opinion," Bravo said. "I can imagine why people charge out of state students more."

"It gets you down, thinking about how you're going to pay for this stuff, especially going into a career that's not necessarily going to pay," he continued. "But this year, I'm taking a different approach to it. I'm trying to stay positive and find ways to help myself. I want to put myself in a good spot."

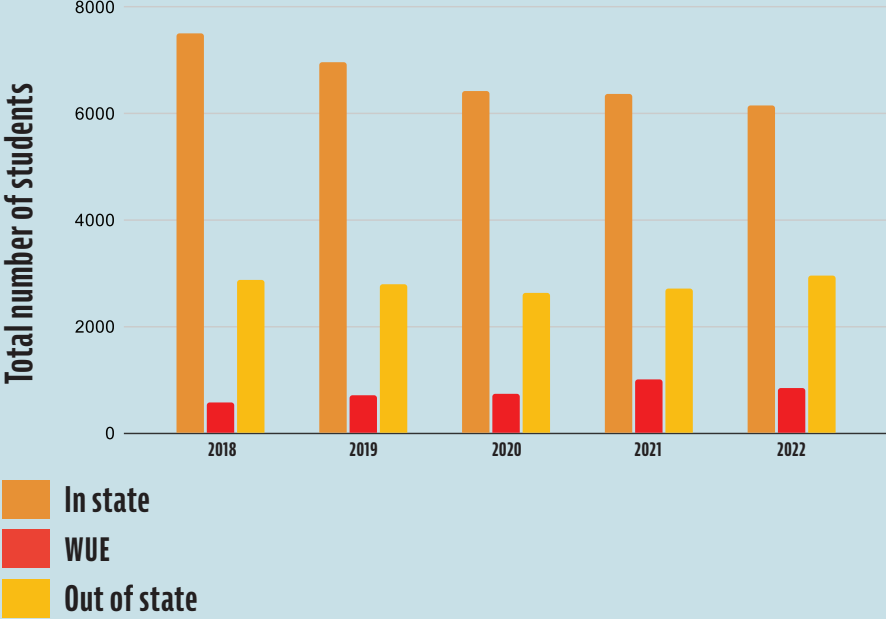
BY THE NUMBERS

MARKETING AND ADMISSIONS BUDGET CHANGES OVER 5 YEARS



Data from the Vice President for Operations and Finance.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS BY RESIDENCY



Data from University Data Office: Institutional Research.



The band Supersport plays for a crowd at the University of Montana on Sept. 16, hosted by Switchback Records, a student-run record label. **CHRISTOPHER LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

From the garages of Great Falls comes Missoula's new rock sensation

ASA THOMAS METCALFE
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Growing up in the heart of Big Sky Country, the three-piece rock band sensation Supersport got its start playing punk rock in the humble garages of Great Falls.

A post-industrial flat spot in the dead center of Montana, Great Falls doesn't seem like a place for rock, let alone punk rock.

Yet, this kind of working class city is exactly the environment that inspired the wild antics of MC5, the Stooges and Cheap Trick. It shouldn't be surprising when the same atmosphere breeds a later day power-punk trio.

The three teenagers, who found inspiration in the rock bands of the late '60s, are repackaging the sound ever-so-slightly for a new generation, like a new motor in an old Toyota Hilux.

"I feel like Great Falls is a pretty rock-and-roll place," said Tanner Showen, bassist for Supersport.

Showen is a lanky, soft-spoken kid who dresses like an extra on "That '70s Show," with bell-bottomed blue denim and tucked-in checker or plaid button-down shirts. He could just as easily be a specter of some student past, flitting quietly between campus buildings.

He came to UM to study history and, de-

spite the subject he chose, he knows what his future holds. Showen is only a freshman but he already wants to be a history teacher.

"I'd like to stay in Montana," Showen said. "I think it'd be cool to see myself in Butte, actually, because there's so much rich history."

That dream of teaching high school is a theme in Supersport. Zane Lambert, the band's drummer, is studying music instruction at UM with the intention of becoming a school band director. They hope to work at the same school someday.

Kelsie Rupnow, Supersport's guitarist and vocalist, is currently attending trade school in Bozeman, so the trio has a difficult time

meeting up consistently for shows and practices during the school year. But during the summer, all three work for the city of Great Falls in the Parks and Recreation Department under Showen's father.

They relish in the dirty, hands-on kind of jobs they do there. While playing in front of Main Hall on Sept. 16, they looked out over the wide expanse of the campus Oval and critiqued UM's groundskeeping.

"Don't even get us started on irrigation," Rupnow warned the crowd jokingly.

Rupnow is a goof, maybe even a goon. He is the more rough-and-tumble looking of the trio, with a greaser haircut and general



LEFT: A crowd listens to Supersport play on the Oval during Switchback Music Festival. The festival organized by Switchback Records, hosted three bands.

ABOVE: Kelsoe Rupnow, of Supersport, throws himself into the performance on the bricks in front of Main Hall.

CHRISTOPHER LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN

aesthetic. Equal parts Pony Boy and Iggy Pop, he goes by his first-name mostly and jokes that he's just like Ashton Kutcher's character, Kelso, from "That '70s Show."

Rupnow is the type to receive the high school superlative of "Most Likely to Say Anything."

"When I was a kid, I just wanted attention. I'd do anything to get it, usually act out or just do crazy kid stuff," Rupnow said.

When Rupnow performs, he channels that manic energy. He writhes around on stage, sometimes rolling on the ground. It's very Mick Jagger, sometimes Jim Morrison.

For a while the band had a fourth member who took over guitar duties, allowing Rupnow to completely lose himself on stage. But now they're back to three and he is just getting comfortable going crazy with a guitar in his hand.

"For a little bit there I was just being boring, standing around and looking down," Rupnow said. "But now I don't care if I break the damn thing."

Out of all their work, it's their live shows that stand out the most. This brand of classic garage punk isn't typical in Montana, but it serves as a bridge between the psychedelic rock crowd and the punks. Supersport falls into an age-old gap of being hard to define because of their appearance more so than their music, something Rupnow calls "lipstick

and leather."

"We get compared to the Foilies sometimes, but they're probably heavier than us," said Rupnow. "Not even a little, just straight up heavier."

Three skinny teenagers with long hair used to signal a 30-minute bore of jam band blandness, but with Supersport you're watching hold-out freaks of '80s hard rock, not wannabe hippies.

"People call it proto-punk," Showen said. "I like that label a lot more. I don't really like putting us into boxes."

Whatever it's called, it's familiar and people like it. Although they've yet to perform outside the state, they've made a name for themselves in Billings and Missoula, sometimes playing multiple times per week and accompanying bands from across the full rock spectrum.

They jump on almost any bill at any venue, sometimes playing bars they aren't old enough to drink at, and other times playing house shows or Missoula's new warehouse art space, Squish.

The Sept. 16 show on the Oval was part of a small festival organized by Switchback Records, the UM-affiliated label located in the bottom floor of the business school.

"It's really been a dream for me," said Showen. "I've always thought it'd be super cool to play in front of Main Hall."

The meager sound system, folding tables

of Switchback merch and speakers on stilts played beautifully in front of the austere archway of Main Hall. Power cords invaded every inch of the college campus. It was almost the Ramones' Rock and Roll High School.

Lambert's snare reverberated off the same stone steps that resonated with his mother's marching band percussion during her time as a student.

"She definitely thought it was super cool," said Lambert. "I didn't really have that in-depth of a conversation about it with her. I'd like to, but I don't know. I think she just thought it was a really cool opportunity, because I bet they did some pretty cool stuff on the Oval back when she was attending."

Lambert is tall and scrawny with rimless glasses and straight, shoulder length hair. He looks like he listens to Rush, and he does listen to Rush. He and Showen are both built similar: slim, elongated, goose-like.

But if those roles were any deeper than appearances, they both would be playing side-kicks to Rupnow's Maverick. The fact they both came to UM with clear career paths and life goals speaks volumes to the contrary.

Although their songs pack that tongue-in-cheek "break the rules" and "don't listen to authority" spirit, they personally exude a parental admiration that is altogether wholesome. There's a gratitude for support given and inspiration received. Supersport is in

many ways a second generation band.

"My mom got me a little kid drum set that I played right next to her when she was playing the drum set that I play now," said Lambert. "At the time it was her drum set and still is technically hers, but she never uses it."

Lambert and Showen both learned their musical trade from their parents. While Lambert followed his mother into higher education at UM, it's Showen's father that keeps them literally grounded all summer.

That overarching motif of the blue-collar minstrel is what ties them together.

"My dad definitely helped me out a lot. My dad was always wanting to play Neil Young covers and stuff with me," Showen said. "He had some bands in Whitefish when I was growing up, Monica's Hot Tub and Plastic Window."

While he is having a lot of fun in rock-and-roll, he still plans to be that high school teacher of his dreams.

Despite sharing a bond over music, Showen admitted his journey with Supersport is not the same as his dad's musical journey.

"My dad walked all over the place," Showen said. "I'm kind of walking more of a straight line."

Supersport will play at Monks on Oct. 18 with Portland psychedelic rock band, Tigers on Opium. They are currently recording their first demo album.

The quarterback of Griz volleyball

HOLLY MALKOWSKI

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Carly Anderson is the only setter listed on the University of Montana volleyball team's roster, leaving no backups or second choices.

"It gives our team a ton of confidence in just rallying around [Anderson] and I think it gives her a ton of confidence because she has to figure it out and do it. There's no one else that can do it," said Allison Lawrence, head coach of the Griz volleyball team.

The setter is often called the "quarterback" of volleyball, as they are the one who calls the plays and gets to touch the ball nearly every possession. Typically, any team would want to have a backup for an important position like a setter, in case of injury or other fluke accidents.

The Griz are not worried about having only one though, and actually think it might be to the team's advantage.

"There's no missed connection," Anderson said. "Every setter sets in a different way, sets in a different tempo, so all of our hitters are hitting off the same consistent setter."

Anderson is a junior majoring in health and human performance. She was nominated to the Montana Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Committee in the Spring of 2022. The organization strives to combat inequalities among student-athletes at the University and beyond.

Anderson came from Ontario, Canada, and is in her third season setting for the Griz. She has played every single set since joining the team, and started every match at setter, despite only starting to play volleyball a few years ago when she was a sophomore in high school.

"I think she's athletic in a way that she's really dynamic, she can get to balls that other setters can't get," Lawrence said about Anderson. "She keeps a clarity of focus,

where she can run the offense and give hitters confidence and just be the person that organizes us offensively."

Anderson ranked second in the Big Sky Conference for assists last year, with 9.40 per set, and helped her team have a much better hitting percentage than the year prior.

Anderson runs a 5-1 offense for the Griz, meaning she plays all around and is the only setter on the floor. The last two years she has led Big Sky Conference setters in kills and was ranked second in blocks.

Anderson has great connections with the middles on the team, which proves that having a consistent setter really helps. The Griz volleyball team got a freshman setter last year, Paige Clark, but as the season went on she became a standout outside hitter, and now starts there most sets.

The UM volleyball team has had its best start to a season in 17 years. The team is 2-0 in conference this season and 9-5 overall, including a conference road game win against Northern Arizona University.

After beating NAU, the Griz volleyball team headed to Bozeman to take on its rival, Montana State University. The game was played in a bigger gym, the Brick Breiden Fieldhouse, larger than MSU's normal volleyball gym. A Big Sky Conference volleyball record of 6,457 fans attended the game.

Anderson stepped up to the plate and had 39 assists in a gym full of rival fans. Her "quarterbacking" helped the Griz win 3-1 over MSU and stay undefeated in conference play.

"Every conference game is a step towards something we are trying to build," Anderson said.

In the preseason coaches poll, Northern Colorado

University was picked to win the conference tournament. Montana was tied for seventh with Eastern Washington. The Griz was behind NAU as well.

In a tournament last season in North Dakota, Anderson was named to the UND Classic All-Tournament team, along with players from teams like Drake University and the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay.

"I'm excited to see this team's confidence grow as the season goes on," Lawrence said. "It's such a fun team to be around, and I think just watching them come into their own and have this really great, aggressive start to conference is something that was a major goal for us."

Montana is on the road for its next few games, but it will come home to take on Northern Arizona again on Oct. 13.



ABOVE: University of Montana setter Carly Anderson sets the ball in a match with Idaho.

LEFT: Carly Anderson stands in the gym after volleyball practice at the Adams Center on Campus. She has been named Academic All Big Sky Conference twice.



CHRISTOPHER LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN

UM adds second Monte due to increased demand

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The University of Montana's beloved bear mascot, Monte, has become a staple of the Missoula community, and all the requests for Monte to appear at businesses or events is too much for just one bear to handle.

The University has begun tryouts for a second suited bear, including one on Sept. 29 in order to add more Monte appearances.

"It was (a) two-fold of the demand and the reach out of individuals saying 'hey I'd love to try out, I'd love to be the mascot,'" said Greg Sundberg, deputy director of athletics at UM. "Some have come across my desk and the marketing desk."

The tryouts are structured to allow the current Monte to train and prepare the next in line to take over in full capacity. In the meantime, the Monte-in-training will help share the load and make sure everyone who wants Monte gets just that.

The student who wears the Monte costume gets a full-ride scholarship and joins a historic lineage of people in the fursuit. Monte has been the National Champion Mascot of the Year twice and has appeared in a commercial next to legendary football player Joe Montana.

Historically, people playing Monte have gone on to be professional mascots, like Barry Anderson, who went on to play the Benny the Bull for the Chicago Bulls. UM graduate and former Monte Lane Hamilton went on to become the Houston Rockets' mascot, Clutch.

In UM's homecoming game against Portland State this year, Hamilton actually turned up in the Clutch suit and paraded around the field with Monte. Hamilton's parents, Marsha and Terry, own Roots Gymnastics and Dance in the Bitterroot and have trained most of the previous Montes.

The University developed Monte in 1991 and the bear made his debut in 1993. There were attempts at creating a mascot with sponsors like Hamm's Beer.

At one point even the famous Ronald McDonald was involved with the University.

Monte's first appearance did not disappoint. It was at the start of the 1993 football season when Monte first took the field and the Grizzlies managed to overcome a 31-point deficit by South Dakota to achieve victory. This year, Monte has also been lucky, as UM is 4-0 so far, and ranked top-five in the country in football.

According to Sundberg, in the past UM traditionally had two Montes – one upperclassman and a lower-classman – which allows for a full academic year to train the new Monte.

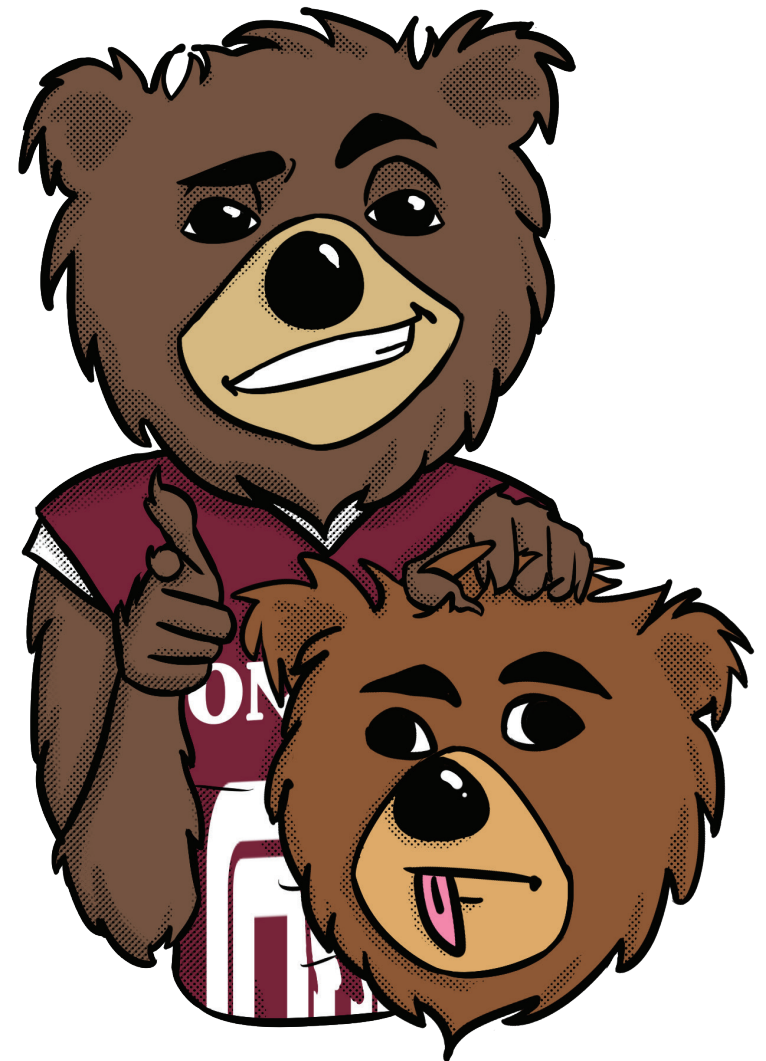
"There's a ton of things that can come up, and in a perfect world we have a veteran Monte, which we do right now," Sundberg said. "Then bring someone in who can do it for more than one year."

Sundberg said that there was an outpour of applicants who wanted to try out to be Monte. He was very assuring that there was nothing nefarious going on. However, he did mention that the amount of appearances and appearance requests are more than one would think. There are more than 200 requests coming in per year.

On UM's website, an ad reads "Interested in becoming the next back flipping, motorcycle riding goofball we call Monte?" along with a number to call. The ad also details how the new Monte will train this year to be the full-time bear entertainer next year.

Under UM's callout for wannabe fursuits is a capitalized message stating "NO MONTE APPEARANCES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE." Previously, fans could request and pay for the bear to come to private events via a portal on UM's website.

The Monte tryouts were held on Sept. 29, but as of Oct. 2, UM's website still displays the recruiting call for a new Monte.



MAKAYLA O'NEIL | MONTANA KAIMIN

COVID 19'S CHALLENGE FOR SCIENTISTS AND SCIENCE JOURNALISTS ALIKE

October 12th, 7pm UC Theater



AAAS Kavli Science
Journalism Award lecture by
Wired journalist Megan
Molteni

Go Beyond Your Major Influence Your University Experience



BECOME A
STUDENT AT LARGE

Griz hockey dominates in first game back

WORDS BY **MADDIE CRANDALL**
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Montana Griz hockey returned to Glacier Ice Rink with a bang for its first game of the season on Friday, Sept. 30, coming out with a 17-1 win against the University of Idaho Vandals. Forward Max Troijala kicked off the scoring just three and a half minutes into the first period. Troijala went on to finish the game with two goals and two assists in the first period. The Griz scored three more times, going into the second with a score of 4-0. The Vandals came out in the second ready to put up a fight, scoring a minute into the period. But the Griz pushed back. Henry Morrison scored the fifth goal just two minutes later. An Idaho penalty led to a power play goal for the Griz by Pablo Frank just before the six-minute mark. Two more Griz goals finished out the second period with an 8-1 score. The Griz dominated the third, shutting out the Vandals for the rest of the game and finishing strong with 9 more goals in the period, bringing the final score to 17-1. Dylan Ferreira had three goals, the most for the Griz. Griz hockey will be back in Glacier Ice Rink on Oct. 7 and 8 for a series against Western Washington University.



ABOVE: Griz fans and event staff come together to dance to "Cotton Eye Joe" during the game. **NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

LEFT: Parker Todd celebrates after scoring the final goal of the night, bringing the score to 17-1 with just 28 seconds left in the game. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

BELOW: Griz hockey defenseman Teag Wagner passes the puck in the Griz's first game of the season at Glacier Ice Rink on Sept. 30, 2022. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**



The Griz players watch from the bench as their team dominates the Idaho Vandals. **NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

