August 20, 1974

Greetings from the Garden City.

Thursday, August 15, President Bowers ruled out a mandatory student fee for alleviating the projected deficit in the department of intercollegiate athletics.

It is time to start looking ahead to the work that must be done this fall. In my opinion, ASUM must give serious consideration to the following issues:

- Student Affairs Reorganization Committee’s (SARC) final report.
- Law school and the University activity fee.
- Pre-paid legal services plan.
- Off campus housing union.
- Cleaning up ASUM budgeting procedures.
- The U of M budget priorities.
- Montana Student Lobby.
- Commission on Post-Secondary Education.
- Coal and the power lines.
- University and the quest for community.

Over the past four years, student government at the University has worked hard to develop a strong political base in Helena and have done so we will continue to work on improving that base. However, I feel it is now the time that we come home to our University community. There has been much left undone. Let's catch up and build.

Please let me know when you will be arriving in Missoula.

I have enclosed part of President Bowers' statement.
No student fees for UM athletics

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — Richard C. Dowers, president of the University of Montana, said Wednesday he will not ask the state board of Regents to impose a mandatory fee on students for support of the school's financially troubled athletic department.

Dowers, who became president July 1, said ways should be sought to reduce athletic budgets nationwide.

Earlier this summer, the University asked the board of Regents to impose a $3 quarterly fee on students to support intercollegiate athletics. That action came after Central Board, the student-body governing council, voted to withdraw about $100,000 in student-fee support from men's intercollegiate athletics.

Dowers said his decision will not affect the University's intercollegiate athletic program this coming school year.

"We ought to look to ways to reduce athletic expenditures nationwide, and particularly in the Big Sky Conference," Dowers said.

Schools fielding football teams for Big Sky competition, in addition to UM, are Montana State, Idaho, Idaho State, Weber State of Utah, Boise State (Idaho) University and Northern Arizona State.

Jack Swarthout, UM athletic director and head football coach, said he agreed with Dowers' decision.

Dowers said that given Board of Regents' policy concerning fees, he does not feel the proposed mandatory fee would be appropriate.

Dowers said his decision was based on opinions of student leaders, faculty representatives, administrative personnel and supporters of the athletic program.

"He said his decision probably will mean that students will have to pay higher admission fees for University football and basketball games.

Dowers said the growth in enrollments and institutional budgets during the 50s and 60s enabled athletic budgets to surge upward. "The growth period in higher education has now, by every indication, ended and the institutions are facing serious budgetary restraints and continually escalating costs," he said.

He said that rather than finding new sources of money for athletics, we should concentrate our efforts in finding ways to reduce costs.