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**NEWS RELEASE**

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April 15, 2002

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**34TH ANNUAL KYI-YO POWWOW COMES TO UM APRIL 26-28**

**MISSOULA—**

American Indian culture will take center stage at The University of Montana April 26-28 during the 34th annual Kyi-Yo Powwow. Held at the Adams Center, the event is organized by UM's Kyi-Yo Native American Student Organization.

Montana's premier college powwow kicks off at 7 p.m. Friday, April 26, with a grand entry. Other grand entries, which feature dancers dressed in traditional American Indian finery, will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. Dahlberg Arena will blaze with color and culture as champion dancers and drummers from across the region display their artistry.

Admission is \$3 Friday and Sunday and \$4 Saturday. The event is free to children 6 and under and elders 60 and over, as well as registered dancers and drummers. Dance registration, which starts Friday and runs through Saturday at 2 p.m., costs \$5 per contestant.

The days leading up to the powwow -- Kick-off Week -- will feature events to educate and inform the public about Indian life. They are:

- an Indian taco sale at 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, in the University Villages Community Center.
- an information table in the University Center Tuesday, April 23, through Friday, April 26, where powwow raffle tickets will be sold. Items to be raffled include a cotton star



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quilt and a hand drum.

■ the Jordan Carson Memorial Scholastic Bowl for high school students from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 25, in the University Center.

■ a round dance at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25, in the University Center.

■ a teepee display, drumming and singing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, April 26, on the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Mall.

The eighth annual Bonnie "Sim-Sin" Heavy Runner Memorial Tipi Race at 11 a.m. Saturday in the River Bowl practice field north of the Adams Center. Named for the former director of UM's Native American studies department, the race challenges contestants to erect a teepee as fast as possible.

Indian crafts will be on sale in the west wing of the Adams Center throughout the weekend.

The powwow masters of ceremony will be Earl Old Person of Browning and Dave Brown Eagle of Washington state. The host drum will be The Boyz from Minnesota. The head man dancer will be Alden Spoonhunter, a Northern Arapahoe with Blackfeet, Lakota and Dakota affiliations. The head woman dancer will be Vina Little Owl, a member of the White Clay Nation. The arena director will be Adrian Maine, also of the White Clay Nation.

The Kyi-Yo Powwow is a drug- and alcohol-free event. The word kyi-yo means "grizzly" in Blackfeet. For more information, go online to [www.umt.edu/asum/kyiyo/powwow.htm](http://www.umt.edu/asum/kyiyo/powwow.htm) or e-mail [kyi\\_yo\\_nasa@hotmail.com](mailto:kyi_yo_nasa@hotmail.com).

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