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Paycheck to Paycheck

Student votes will kill or save campus child care

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OPINION

TRANNY 911
Expressing white pride without sounding like a Nazi

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The release of Macklemore’s most recent album, “This Unruly Mess I’ve Made” was met with less attention than the singles that led up to it. While we all were able to enjoy the profound terribleness of his Valentine’s Day effort “Spoons,” a more culturally notable song can be found in “White Privilege II.”

Macklemore has always been aware of his whiteness, but his sequel to 2005’s “White Privilege” is arguably his most noteworthy exploration of it. Throughout the song he asks questions like “is it my place to give my two cents?” and wonders whether or not he’s allowed to say “black lives matter.”

To say that “White Privilege II” is meritless would be too harsh. Macklemore certainly makes some good points. He intends this song to be instructive, to open up a conversation about his place in the hip-hop world and how privilege bolsters the place of white supremacy, both societally and culturally. But, the song still winds up placing Macklemore in the spotlight. It is more an exploration of whiteness than it is an exploration of privilege.

That is a problem. Many people have expressed frustration with the rhetoric of the Black Lives Matter movement. One only needs to briefly peruse Twitter to find “#AllLivesMatter,” a response to what is perceived as exclusionary race politics. Then, there is the age-old question that gets brought up every February by your Facebook friend with a fish-toting profile picture: “Why isn’t there a White History Month?”

It’s understandable why these are seen as legitimate questions. Racism, especially in America, is an issue that we’ve been taught to think of in very literal terms. The way we’ve traditionally thought about equality is what leads many to question why a phrase like “black lives matter” isn’t racist. We’ve traditionally been taught that racism is a broad, sweeping concept, rather than a systemic set of prejudices that affect some groups and not others.

When we ask why there isn’t a white history month, we’re asking why black culture takes precedence over white culture. This is fundamentally supremacist. While there is an argument to be made that in order for there to be true equality all races must be equally represented, it is easily broken down when we consider that most history is white history. As the saying goes, “white history is a required course, black history is an elective.”

This frustration is being voiced about representation across all identities. Whether it’s the complaint that feminists fucked up the new “Star Wars” or that a black Hermione is disgraceful to the “Harry Potter” series, the fear seems to be that we’re unnecessarily forcing identity politics into our culture. And yet, like it or not, identity politics are quickly becoming our culture. Our art, media and history have been predominantly focused on white stories and white characters. That’s why Macklemore is one of the most financially successful hip-hop artists in recent memory, (something he recognizes.) Now that we’re seeing a shift, with more diverse voices sharing their stories and telling their history, the fear of change has amplified.

The exploration of straight whiteness is quickly becoming antiquated. We should not see it, however, as an attack on our sensibilities. We should see it as an opportunity to diversify our stories, to go beyond a singular perspective about the world.

Of all the opportunities UM has to attract new students, the next two months are crucial. Each semester the University puts on “UM Days,” inviting potential students to campus in a rare concerted PR push to raise enrollment. There are two more UM Days this semester, March 25 and April 1.

UM’s website calls these days, “our most popular campus visit program for prospective students to experience campus.” April 1 is International UM Day, imperative for courting the lucrative foreign students who pay the highest tuition rates, as well as out-of-state students who have few opportunities to tour the University while it’s in session.

But it’s obvious, even to bright-eyed freshmen with visions of beer pong, that UM is in trouble. The University lost 690 students over winter break, the most since the enrollment decline began. That’s less students throwing Frisbees, eating in the Food Zoo and filling up classrooms. The typical bustle of springtime on the Oval is already noticeably lacking compared to years past.

In a national survey, college freshmen said cost, academic ranking, financial assistance and a visit to campus were the major factors determining how they made their choice of university.

UM is not excelling in any of these categories. Even if we convince students to come to UM, there is less financial incentive. Decreased scholarship money, dwindling enrollment and a budget crisis do not look good on a brochure. UM’s reputation for sexual assault still haunts the campus, this spring rousing in the form of Jon Krakauer’s upcoming Montana Supreme Court trial against the state university system on April 27.

There are still reasons to come to UM. The liberal arts education and diverse campus UM offers differs from any other school in the state, but as budget cuts nickel and dime the humanities into shadows of their former selves, UM’s unique strengths are defunded into weaknesses.

There are no signs the enrollment spiral won’t continue, and UM’s latest scholarship refinement looks to do more harm than good. Students with good grades from out of state are up against increased grade requirements for Western Undergraduate Exchange funds, and GPA requirements for freshmen needing financial aid will go from 2.0 to 2.5 for the fall semester. Overall, fewer students will be eligible for less money. While pinching pennies might help in the short term, the students it turns away affect UM’s long-range fiscal stability.

Main Hall is promoting growth through austerity, which any Greek students UM attracts will find sadly reminiscent of home in the absence of a robust classics department. UM Days are about showing off what the campus has, and it’s distressing that the most visible aspects of the University are what it has lost.
Forestry layoffs hit science writing

**Abigail Lynes**  
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Carol Woodruff's office walls were once "120 percent" covered in photos, artwork and cards. She had her own peace sign, prayer flags and curtains hanging up in the window. She said students used to sit in her rocking chair and get distracted by the busy décor. It was "the cutest office on campus."

Now, all that remains are a couple of chairs, a desk and a lamp. Dismantled framed artwork on the ground leans against the walls. Thumb-tacks spell out "bye!" on a small bulletin board on the ground. Non-resident students outside the western states as the value of a merit-based scholarship will decrease from $8,000 to $4,000 over four years, according to Sharon O'Hare, the associate vice president for enrollment and student success.

"That's where the cost savings will come in," O'Hare said. "We are awarding the same amount of scholarships but with a lower value."

The University made it more difficult for incoming students, in Fall 2016, to obtain a Western Undergraduate Exchange Scholarship by increasing the grade requirements, O'Hare said.

High school students who score 1860 to 2400 on the SAT or 28-36 on the ACT and have a Grade Point Average of 3.5 or higher will automatically receive a WUE scholarship. States that qualify for WUEs can be found here: https://admissions.umt.edu/scholarships/wue.php

Previously, students with the same test scores and a GPA of 3.0 would also receive a WUE, however those students will now only receive $10,000 over four years.

For Fall 2016, incoming freshmen must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher to even qualify for any financial aid. In previous years, the lowest GPA to obtain a scholarship was 2.0, according to the scholarship rubric on the University's website.

O'Hare said that last year's students who didn't meet the WUE criteria were awarded a $6,000 scholarship over four years. Come Fall 2016 that figure will increase, offering students $10,000 over four years.

She thinks those figures are more attractive to prospective students because although they are not receiving a WUE, they are still getting more money compared to previous years.

O'Hare said the University wouldn't be making these changes if it didn't think the yield of students and the University's net tuition revenue would increase.

Tuition and fees at UM for an out-of-state student are $23,072 per year. Resident tuition and fees amount to $6,182. Recipients of the WUE scholarship pay 150 percent of in-state tuition and fees totaling $8,440 a year; meaning WUE scholars save $14,632, according to the fiscal year 2015 Budget Book.

Non-resident students from outside the western states are awarded merit-based scholarships before they are considered for need-based scholarships based on the fact that lower quality students aren't retained by the University, according to O'Hare.

"We want to invest in the best and brightest that we can," O'Hare said.

Grants or financial aid are awarded to 85 percent of full-time undergraduate freshmen at UM. In Fall 2015, an average of $3,708 was given to 67 percent of resident and nonresident students, excluding WUE scholars. WUE scholarships were awarded to 203 students, amounting to 16 percent of incoming freshmen, according to O'Hare.

The reduction of tuition waivers will be replaced by funding through the University of Montana Foundation from private donations specifically for scholarships, President Royce Engstrom said.

Engstrom said the UM Foundation has been successful in raising money for scholarships and the amount of money coming in increases every year. He anticipates a healthy growth over several years.

The financial aid office is still working on the international scholarship policy, O'Hare said. •

Greene loves being around young people who are passionate and just starting out with their careers, she said.

"I feel very privileged to help them," she said.

Upon leaving the University, Greene plans to do more writing workshops and freelance work.

The forestry department is still in the process of determining which classes will be offered next semester, Associate Dean Mike Patterson said.

Adjunct Ashley Preston, who teaches 21 credits of classes at UM and Missoula College, is the only other professor aside from Greene who teaches the required writing course.

Preston was told she would not be teaching the course next fall.

Although Greene and Preston will not be teaching NSRM 200, Patterson said the class will likely be offered next semester. Students shouldn't see a big change in the variety of course offerings, he said.

Patterson declined to comment on how the College of Forestry and Conservation decided which staff members to cut. •
As Eduardo Chirinos walked around his classroom at the University of Montana, his students settled into groups and discussed the poetry they were assigned to read. Pen in hand, Chirinos moved from person to person, drawing cartoon animals in the margins of his students’ papers and books.

Many of the students, like a lot of people, wanted nothing to do with poetry. But there was something everyone loved about how Chirinos approached it — he made it fun. To him, it was.

“Every class was a surprise,” Micaela Downey, a former student of Chirinos’, said.

Chirinos, a prize-winning author, published 20 books of poetry, several books of criticism and taught literature classes at UM. He was known for his playful use of words and his approach to life.

Chirinos’ first book, “Cuadernos de Horacio Morell,” was about a suicidal poet. Although all the poems were his, many people, including critics, thought the fictional main character was a real person and that Chirinos simply found his poems and organized them in a book.

This was the subtle, witty humor Chirinos used to become so popular with students and colleagues.

Chirinos’ vehemence for writing was the product of his meticulous observations and eclectic knowledge.

Chirinos knew everything, Downey said as she laughed, and would frequently go off on tangents about the smallest details included in poems. How did he retain so much? His students wondered.

Chirinos taught his students to research and learn when they were unsure what something meant.

“He was like an encyclopedia,” Downey said.

Eduardo Chirinos died of cancer on February 17, 2016. He was 55.

Chirinos’ health problems began when he was born in a Peruvian hospital, where he got a staph infection.

Although antibiotics saved his life, the only drugs available in Lima, Peru in 1960 were adult doses that impaired his hearing forever.

Chirinos was in and out of hospitals for various ailments throughout his childhood, many of which were oddities of medical science. At age four, Chirinos had kidney stones.

Because of his health, Chirinos was never able to be too physically active. So while his brother and three sisters played sports, Chirinos wrote and drew.

Jannine Montauban laughed as she sat in her office in the UM Liberal Arts building — only a few doors down from Chirinos’ office — and talked about her husband of 22 years. Everyone laughed when they talked about Chirinos.

“There was something magical about Eduardo,” Montauban said.

Because he couldn’t hear well, Montauban said Chirinos was able to concentrate to a high degree. He was capable of retaining full texts in his mind.

“He would be correcting things while on the bus, in his mind, or while walking,” Montauban said. “So he was constantly working on his writing.”

The coupling met in Peru and came to the U.S. in 1993. Chirinos and Montauban were able to teach for years in the same place, allowing them to work as the “tight knit unit,” their colleagues so frequently referred to them as.

Chirinos put students on the spot in class to assure they had done their reading. The only excuse to come to class unprepared, in his opinion, was being distracted by love. Montauban said Chirinos asked his students, “Are you in love? Because if you are, then it is OK you haven’t read the text for class.”

Chirinos loved children and they seemed inexplicably obsessed with him, Montauban said. He drew pictures of talking dinosaurs for a student’s son who always referred to Chirinos as his “favorite.”

A neighbor kid, who had never met Chirinos, once knocked on their front door. When Chirinos answered, the child was holding a turtle. He simply wanted Chirinos to look at it, and look at it Chirinos did.

“That’s why I don’t have kids, because I really like them,” Chirinos told Montauban.

Chirinos’ drawings are perhaps as famous as his love for the Beatles and his poetry. He drew cartoons for students during school, neighbor kids who loved him and strangers during benefit dances.

In meetings, Chirinos’ colleagues said he would draw cartoons that captured the essence of the room in an attempt to stave off boredom.

“That would be the worst thing you could ever be,” Montauban said. “Boring.”

“Boring” Chirinos was not, and neither are his poems, which were described by critics David Ball and Charles Cutler as simple in language but quirky, funny and beautifully unique in style.

His ability to read poetry was directly correlated to his ability to read people’s emotions. Much like poetry, Chirinos knew that people often said one thing, but meant something else entirely. The surface is never the whole story.

“He loved words,” Montauban said. “But he wouldn’t be deceived by words either.”

I, too, have shut my eyes
and endured the leather thongs that strapped me to the mainmast
(…) She covered the world with her eyes and erased me with a glance.
Now I only wish to awaken.
- “Dream of Sirens”

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Food delivery services are growing fast throughout the U.S., making it easier and less time-consuming to eat on the go. Unlike larger cities, Missoula mainly offers a range of mass-produced meals like pizzas and subs with a side of heartburn, stomachache and clogged pores.

The solution: Kayle.

The Missoula based startup company has created a healthy, affordable alternative. Kayle offers a choice of daily smoothies, superfood breakfast bowls, salads, wraps and more hearty options for under $10 an item with delivery guaranteed in less than 30 minutes.

Kayle President Harry Ward got his first taste for delivery services while living in New York. The process of delivering food on a bike was “seamless,” and Ward lived on that for lunch every day.

As a Missoula native, Ward thought about the business opportunities he could bring back with him and realized Missoula was lacking a healthy food delivery option. He teamed up with high school friend and Kayle’s senior vice president of logistics, RJ Wimett.

“Missoula needs it and is ready for it,” Wimett said.

Ward and Wimett sought the help of Ben Sokoloski, the owner of Market on Front, to be Kayle’s vice president of kitchen operations. Sokoloski sources Kayle’s products locally.

“Kayle launched in early February and has been a hit among local businesses in Missoula and most recently students at the University of Montana. Ward said students have been ordering Kayle to their classes on campus.

Lauren Christian works in downtown Missoula. Because of her busy schedule and time constraints, she orders Kayle to her office for lunch. The superfood breakfast bowl and the smoothies are among her favorite items.

The business is unique in Missoula not only for the health aspect but also because of the technology behind the operation. Kayle is more than a website. Like Uber, customers can download the app onto their phones. Once the payment information is inserted, Kayle does the rest.

The drivers’ cars are equipped with iPads that text the customer when the driver is 10 minutes away and again when they arrive. The customer also receives a text with the name, location and contact information for their driver to make communication easier. There are no cash transactions and no waiting around, Wimett said.

Ward, a self-taught software engineer, sits at his desk looking at three wall monitors. The one on the left shows the exact location of the four drivers. The cars are purple until the delivery is made and then the cars turn red. Ward plays around with the screen on the right, checking how many customers are viewing the site and what they order. He updates the menu, which instantly changes on the middle screen.

“The menu changes daily to keep the people guessing,” Ward said.

Kayle is open from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Customers can place orders a couple days in advance and also request catering services for parties of 20 to 30 people. Kayle hopes to extend its hours and offer a dinner service, eventually expanding to other cities in Montana, Wimett said. •
Jacob Smith and Jessica White had been dating for three months when they learned they would be parents. They were both 19 years old.

The surprise pulled White out of college and thwarted Smith’s plans to travel to Southeast Asia and visit Laos, where his mother is from.

“So now I plan to make enough money for Lillian to travel when she grows up,” Smith said.

Smith and White are now 22-year-old undergraduates at the University of Montana, which they couldn’t attend full time without dropping their 2-year-old daughter Lillian off at ASUM Child Care.

Impending state regulations and declining enrollment have burdened ASUM Child Care, but ASUM voted to maintain the program’s current size through next year. They will subsidize the program with around $200,000, up from about $120,000 this year.

Parents turned out for several public ASUM meetings last month to share how integrated the program is with their lives. Some explained how difficult it is to find adequate child care elsewhere in Missoula, while others said they wouldn’t be able to attend class or work at the University without the program.

Smith is majoring in UM’s new neuroscience program. When he isn’t in class or caring for Lillian, he’s studying organic chemistry and genetics.

White studies full time as a psychology major and wants to attend law school.

Prior to enrolling Lillian in ASUM Child Care, Smith and White alternated days of the week caring for Lillian while the other attended school. They couldn’t complete credits quickly, and it was hard balancing their focus on Lillian with schoolwork.

“We now both have an equal opportunity to be in school, and ASUM is the reason,” White said.

Kelly Rosenleaf is executive director of Child Care Resources, an organization that trains child care providers and helps families find affordable care. She said enrollment would drop at the University without a child care program.

“The children would pay the price, she said. The best way for parents to learn skills and land a well-paying job is through higher education.

“A job in a restaurant or retail isn’t going to get you out of poverty,” Rosenleaf said.

Smith worked as a security guard at a shopping center through the first six months of White’s pregnancy and White now works part-time at Tamarack Brewing Co. Smith knew he had to head back to school after the baby arrived; he just wouldn’t make enough money without a college degree.

Over winter session, Smith earned his EMT certification as a backup career if he can’t finish school.

“Basically, it’s insurance for Lillian; and ASUM Child Care helped facilitate this, because I needed to save money over the break working while Jacob was in class,” White said.

Smith and White pay $3,500 each semester for Lillian to attend ASUM Child Care. Their tuition and child care bills are largely paid with financial aid and student loans.

Lillian and around 85 other children of University staff, teachers and students attend ASUM Child Care, where they experience an extensive all-day curriculum while their parents work and study.

“Students must approve a fee hike between $6 and $12 in April for ASUM Child Care to carry on in its current capacity past next spring.”
Prices and waitlists at child care centers around Missoula are similar to ASUM’s. There are nearly one hundred children, some unborn, waitlisted for ASUM.

Smith and White say they’re uncertain they would be able to find quality care elsewhere in Missoula, especially as new state regulations threaten to shrink the capacity of large centers.

“Everywhere is getting slaughtered right now,” Smith said.

New federal mandates require the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services to implement new and stricter regulations on licensed child care providers across the state.

DPHHS decides some regulations, such as the number of children a center can care for. The current plan may shrink centers across Montana.

Fort Courage Child Care in Missoula, for instance, cares for around 140 children, aged five years and younger.

Director Dana Lozier said the proposed group size requirements, which limit how many children can be cared for in a room at a given time, would decrease revenue and may force the center into closing.

Lozier’s worried about caring for less children because there aren’t enough reputable programs around Missoula to take infants in.

“They’ll have to settle, and that’s not fair to them,” Lozier said. “There are a lot of crazy places out there.”

ASUM Child Care will survive through next year, thanks to dramatic budget maneuvering.

UM Productions will not receive funding next year, which saves around $90,000. The agency will survive next year on a surplus of cash accrued over the past few decades.

According to ASUM President Cody Meixner, this move is temporary. UM Productions must receive funding in the future, likely around $100,000 after next year.

The University’s faculty union donated $10,000 this year to ASUM specifically for its child care program, which cares for twenty faculty children, with another twenty-four on the waiting list.

Senators also voted to allocate $35,000 of unused student group funding toward next year’s budget. The emergency account has $70,000 left, which is significantly lower than in past years.

Meixner said he doesn’t believe that senators will want to dip into emergency funds to budget again next year.

These stopgap measures mean child care will survive through next year. But with further depleted funds next year, on top of a likely drop in enrollment, maintaining the program will be even tougher.

The solution is a hike in student fees paid to ASUM, which must be passed by the student-body on the ballot this spring.

“If the student fee increase doesn’t pass in the end of April, child care can easily cease to exist after next year,” Meixner said.

Students pay $61.35 a semester into ASUM, and the fee increase will up it to $64 to $74. If the student body votes for the fee, the Montana Board of Regents will hold final say over whether it is implemented.

An infant care fee increase of $2 passed by a large margin last year, with 1,974 students voting in favor, and 630 against.

Meixner called voting “yes” this spring for the fee-increase a “no-brainer.”

“I’d be more than willing to give up a lunch each semester to support child care,” he said.

Smith and White are anxious over how students will vote come April, as they don’t envision completing school as quickly—let alone at all—without it.

“I understand the notion of wanting to save money where you can and opting out of having to pay fees,” White said. “Now that I’ve stepped into these shoes and I have a kid who I want to support as much as possible, I hope to appeal to people to say it’s not that much more money in the long run.”

It’s hard enough for Smith and White to surrenders their daughter to ASUM for eight hours a day, but Lillian’s noticeable progress with learning and her enthusiasm for being there alleviates her parents’ anxieties.

ASUM Child Care Director Lauralea Sanks is resigning at the end of the month to work at Child Care Resources. She said her job has been very stressful over the last year to make ends meet for the program. She organized around 45 different budgets before finding one that works, she said.

Smith and White both said they couldn’t imagine anyone else as qualified for the job. Smith recently wrote to Sanks thanking her for all she’s done in pulling everything together for the program.

“I’m sure that most day care center directors don’t undergo nearly as much stress as she has,” White said.

Budgeting for ASUM Child Care won’t be as strenuous for the next director.

Sanks said the circumstances will be, “a lot more cut and dry, as the upcoming fee increase vote will determine whether or not the program will be able to continue in the same capacity.”

The impending fee-increase is on the agenda for ASUM’s public meeting on Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the University Center, rooms 330-331.

Smith attended several meetings after the funding crisis began.

“I think it’s incredibly important for parents to show up simply to just show our support. It reassures people like Lauralea we appreciate all the work they do protecting the interests we have for our children.”
I got drunk and watched “Fuller House” (and so should you)

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This past week, Netflix released their latest binge-watching experience in the form of “Fuller House,” a reboot of the classic 1990s sitcom that followed the white bread and inescapably sappy escapades of the Tanner family in their San Francisco Victorian.

The old show, while beloved, was not exactly Emmy-award winning material, so I decided to go into the reboot with low expectations and high blood alcohol content. This is the story of 11 (maybe 12) drinks, nine episodes and infinite Tanner family group hugs.

The first episode started out with a shot of tequila and the title sequence from the first season of “Full House.” The Tanner family (sans Olsen twins) is reunited with the white bread and inescapably sappy escapades of the Tanner family in their San Francisco Victorian.

This time around, it’s OG widower Danny Tanner’s eldest daughter DJ, who’s raising three kids on her own. DJ was married to a firefighter who maybe burned to death but could have died from just about anything because all we know about him is that he was a firefighter.

The child actors playing DJ’s sons are insufferable, particularly 7-year-old Max, whose cutey one liners are so shrill they drove me to down an Angry Orchard before the 10 minute mark.

The original cast has aged incredibly well, with the exception of Bob Saget, who plays Danny.

Unfortunately, all the former adults including Joey (David Coulier), Aunt Becky (Lori Laughlin) and Uncle Jesse (John Stamos) are all conveniently moving away from the old homestead at the exact same time.

But don’t worry, they’ll find increasingly random reasons to pop back up throughout the season. (To my dismay, none of these reasons included John Stamos trying to sell me greek yogurt while shirtless.)

The once-kids of the show also aged fabulously, including DJ, (Candace Cameron Bure), Stephanie (Jodie Sweetin and her gigantic new boobs) and Kimmy Gibbler (Andrea Barber). The once-insufferable girl-next-door, Kimmy, has become one of the more tolerable characters in the reboot.

Maybe it’s the fact that her wacky 90s throwback style reminds me of Mindy Kaling, or maybe it’s the fact that her teenage daughter Ramona (Soni Bringas) is the only child actor on this show who can actually act, but Kimmy is ten times more likable in her old age.

The pilot itself was an adorable, if half-hearted, excuse for a reunion show that was really more for the cast than the audience. If it had been a one-off episode, it may even have been enjoyable, but “Fuller House” decided to do a full 13 episodes of saccharine nonsense that Ramona deserves her own spin-off, and Soni Bringas should be on Disney Channel.

The alcohol finally started kicking in just in time for episode 3’s dance-off sequence, which included one re-creation of “Dirty Dancing,” two guest stars from “Dancing with the Stars” and Macy Gray, who apparently has a Grammy. The dance-off took place in a fever dream of a girl’s night out, with Kimmy doing her best Zach Galifianakis in “The Hangover” impression.

At this point, I ordered a large pizza with a family order of breadsticks.

Episode 4 is when I began to lose track of drinks because my friend Emily kept refilling my wine glass, and I was too absorbed with figuring out how DJ’s blockhead ex-boyfriend Steve got through medical school to notice how much she gave me.

To be honest, I remember very little of episode 4 because I was eating pizza. This is also where I handed the computer off to Emily to type so that my notes would be more legible.

Highlights from my notes for this episode include:

• “There’s a skunk! A fucking skunk!!”
• “Kimmy is such a cool moooooooooom!! DJ shouldn’t give Kimmy advice!”

I could probably tell you the plot context for these quotes, but to be honest, they make it sound much more interesting than it was.

By the time I reached episode 5, the marathon became a bit of a blur. There was a lot of me praising Ramona, wishing I had Stephanie Tanner’s boobs and apparently, at one point, there was a wrestling scene. Around episode 9, I had too much to drink and was put to bed.

I can’t say I remember too much of “Fuller House,” and to be frank, I can’t say I’m that sorry about it. I can definitively say, however, that the show was much better once I was twelve drinks in.
The tramp stamp is dead, and tattoo artists are bummed.

“I wish they would come back. I love lower back tattoos,” Blaque Owl Tattoo artist David Shaffer said.

For an artist, the lower back is a great canvas to work with. It’s relatively flat and fairly meaty, meaning less pain relative to other locations on the body.

“I think lower back tattoos were awesome. There was nothing wrong with them, but at some point they got dubbed a tramp stamp, and nobody wants to be a tramp,” Blaque Owl Tattoo artist Lana Zellner said.

While lower back tattoos have fallen out of style, sternum, or “underboob,” tattoos have sharply increased in popularity.

“I would say the underboob is the new lower back tattoo,” Zellner said.

Zellner recently tattooed a half mandala on UM senior Caitlin O’Connell’s sternum. O’Connell knew she wanted a tattoo on her sternum, she just didn’t know what of.

After working with O’Connell to see what she liked, Zellner designed a geometric mandala using AutoCAD, a designing software. No tattoo is painless, and sternum tattoos are no exception, but O’Connell said hers wasn’t overly unpleasant.

Tattoo artists at Bound by Glory Tattoo know how painful getting a chest tattoo can be.

“It’s not one of those spots you’re going to encourage someone to get if it’s their first tattoo,” said Rob Rez of Bound by Glory Tattoo.

When Adam Plon, a senior at UM, got his chest tattooed, it was excruciating.

“Like someone was cutting me open,” Plon said.

Plon brings themes or ideas he wants in his tattoos to Ian Caroppoli, an artist at Blaque Owl, and lets Caroppoli have creative control of the design.

The result reflects Plon’s personality and Caroppoli’s artistic style. However, some people are choosing their tattoos a different way.

Pinterest and Instagram have become hugely influential in dictating what trends are popular.

“What,ever new fresh tattoos are on Pinterest are what people are into and what people are going to get, and it changes pretty much on a weekly basis,” Bound by Glory Tattoo artist Buck Miller said.

Some of these popular designs are feathers turning into birds, dandelions blowing away in the wind and infinity symbols with the words “sisters” or “friends” in them.

While Plon prefers working with an artist, the idea of following social media trends doesn’t seem to bother him.

“Whatever makes them happy. Who gives a fuck, right?” Plon said.
In recent years, Montana players like Jordan Tripp and Zack Wagenmann have used the college pro day to improve their times and numbers from the NFL combine. For players invited to the combine, pro day is another chance to prove themselves.

This year, the Montana Grizzly football program will host its annual pro day on March 21 in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. Pro day will start with weigh-ins and measurements and cover agility and sprint drills.

Scouts from across the United States and Canada will hold on to their stopwatches and quietly observe the players as they go through the tests.

But before the highly anticipated day, the players must prepare.

For Tyrone Holmes — FCS Defensive Player of the Year and lone Montana representative at the 2016 East-West Shrine Game — this day means everything, especially after not receiving an invite to the combine.

“It’s not my place to speculate on things I can’t control, like not receiving an invite,” Holmes said. “At this point, I’m trying to focus on the things I can control. If someone says I can’t do something, I’m going to prove them wrong.”

Holmes, an Eagle Point, Oregon native, has been training at California Strength in San Ramon for the past two months. Monday through Friday, he arrives at the field at 10 a.m. for linear or lateral speed workouts. After lunch, he heads to the gym for rehab lifting. Then he focuses on lower or upper body lifting before dinner. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, he attends yoga at 7 p.m. Saturday calls for position-specific work.

Holmes said he’s seen improvements in his body through strength and training since starting at Cal Strength. He said he hopes he is able to show his overall athletic ability, especially his strength and speed.

Last season, Holmes lead the nation with 18 sacks, one short of the Montana football school record for most sacks in a season. He finished his career second for all-time sacks in program history with 34.5 and second on the list for all-time tackles for loss with 49.5.

On the opposite side of the country, former Grizzly wide receiver Jamaal Jones is preparing for the big day in Orlando, Florida under legendary speed coach, Tom Shaw.

“For me, a lot relies on this day,” Jones said. “If I can do well, show all of my hard work and what kind of athlete I am, I have a good future ahead of me. This day will set that up.”

Jones wakes up at 8 a.m. for breakfast before lifting at 9 a.m. After that, he practices sprints, runs drills and throws to quarterbacks. At 4 p.m. he works on technical skills, including his 40-yard dash technique. He is in bed by 10 p.m. every night and wakes up to do the same routine all over again.

After a tough transfer from the University of Washington in 2012, the Spanaway, Washington native had a successful career at Montana. Jones finished his career as Montana’s all-time leading receiver, with 3,021 receiving yards. He also landed fifth in program history for best receiving season with 1,207 yards in 13 games last season. Jones said his time at UM has set him up for the opportunity he has now.

“At one point, I didn’t know if I was going to play football anymore,” Jones said. “Now I’m training for the NFL Draft. I just have to believe in myself and the things I know I can do.”

Holmes and Jones were named the University of Montana’s 2015 Steve Carlson Award co-winners for offensive and defensive MVPs after their final season with the Grizzlies.

Holmes said it’s been a long road to get to this point, but Montana prepared him for it.

“I’ve had great coaches and teammates and have gotten better every year,” Holmes said. “I’m thankful for the people around me, last season’s success, and to be able to go out there on pro day is a true blessing.”

Tyrone Holmes
FCS Defensive Player of the Year
18 sacks this season
87 tackles this season

Jamaal Jones
UM’s all-time leader in receiving yards in 3 seasons (3,021 yards)
93.6 yard average
11 touchdowns
184 career catches
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**SUDOKU**

Edited by Margie E. Burke

**Difficulty: Easy**

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**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 Last Week’s Sudoku**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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**THE WEEKLY CROSSWORD**

*by Margie E. Burke*

**ACROSS**
1. Bottom line
2. Petty malice
3. Aquarium growth
4. School founded in 1701
5. Knight’s “suit”
6. Frost lines
7. Organ knob
8. W.C.Fields persona
9. French door part
10. Churchill’s “___ Finest Hour”
11. Get into
12. Like days of yore
13. Alluring
14. Whistle blower?
15. Exploitative type
16. Brawny
17. 12/31 race
18. Characteristic
19. Amount of work
20. Call from the flock
21. Warm-up at the Belasco
22. Theaters
23. Youngster
24. Youngster
25. Platoon member
26. Demeanor
27. What a hold
28. Neptune’s domain
29. Beat
30. Bit of high jinks
31. Artillery burst
32. Youngster
33. “___ alive!”
34. Sauerkrat, essentially
35. Mona
36. Allegro
37. Ball material
38. Connections
39. Part of EGBDF
40. Toff
41. Artillery burst
42. Virility
43. 41-42, “___ alive!”
44. Roped by all fours
45. Artillery burst
46. Exuberance
47. Bit of high jinks
48. Movie genre
49. Bit of high jinks
50. Get smart
51. Exuberance
52. Allegro
53. Ball material
54. Connections
55. Part of EGBDF

**DOWN**
1. Dermatologist’s concern
2. Solemn vow
3. ___ gin fizz
4. Not so hot
5. Girder material
6. Calendar abbr.
7. Bring in
8. Hammer slantingly
9. “To ___ is human ...”
10. Big name in computers
11. Amount of work
12. Characteristic carrier
13. Call from the flock
14. Artillery burst
15. Youngster
16.早起的人
17. Exuberance
18. Youngster
19. Exuberance
20. Youngster
21. Exuberance
22. Youngster
23. Youngster
24. Youngster
25. Youngster
26. Youngster
27. Youngster
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**Answer to Last Week’s Crossword:**

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1. Bottom line
2. Petty malice
3. Aquarium growth
4. School founded in 1701
5. Knight’s “suit”
6. Frost lines
7. Organ knob
8. W.C.Fields persona
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39. Part of EGBDF
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