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Montana Kaimin, April 27, 2016

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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MAIN HALL'S TRANSPARENCY PROBLEM

Confusion and contradiction surround budget cuts and layoffs

page 10
Backhands to the Beyonce fans who went after Rachael Ray instead of Rachael Roy.

**Big Ups** to Target for their bathroom equality. We should all have equal access to where we shit.

**Backhands** to Prince for reinforcing that every music legend will be dead by 2017.

**Big Ups** to Tidal for managing to stay relevant through Beyonce. Fingers crossed that it dies before Paul McCartney.

**Backhands** to Donald Trump for confusing 9/11 with 7/11. Now I’ll feel guilty double-fisting surpees.

**Big Ups** to the Ted Cruz look-a-like who agreed to be in a porno.

**Backhands** to Missoula liberals for finally demanding the deportation of a Muslim.

**Big Ups** to Missoula conservatives for finally demanding stricter sexual assault sentencing.

**Backhands** to “Game of Thrones” for fulfilling their weekly boob quota by showing 90-year-old woman tits.

**Big Ups** to Cruz and Kasich for teaming up against Trump. We haven’t seen a move like that since Hitler and Stalin partitioned Poland.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Your vote is your voice

I remember the first time I voted. The 26th Amendment had recently been enacted by Congress changing the voting age from 21 to 18, which meant as a senior in high school I would get to vote in my first election.

It wasn’t until I closed the voting booth curtain behind me that I realized that I had the power to affect change really sink in.

This is a big election year for our country and for our state. Not only do Montana voters get to cast their ballot for the next president but they will choose who will be our congressional representative, governor, legislative representatives, statewide officials and will vote on the many issues vying for a spot on the ballot.

Being 18 doesn’t come without its challenges. Many of you are still in school and are working tirelessly to graduate, get accepted into college or find employment. You are busy with SATs, ACTs, sports, clubs and all the other goings-on of this unique phase of life.

Forty-five years ago people your age fought determinedly for the right to vote. They believed deeply that if they were old enough to be shipped off to war (Vietnam) that they should have the right to cast their vote. That fight was won and the right to register and vote as an 18-year-old is now something I would encourage each of you to take advantage of.

I believe so passionately that your vote is your voice and if you do not exercise that hard fought right then you are letting others choose the path of this country and state for you.

Many Montana races come down to a very thin margin. One vote can make a difference in the outcome of an election.

We’ve come a long way since 1971. Times have certainly changed; the issues we face are significantly different than the ones we worried about back then. You have your whole life to live; it should be you who helps decide how it will look, what progress will be made and the issues that need to be addressed.

On this 45th anniversary of the 26th Amendment I want to encourage all eligible voters to register and vote. Believe in your voice, just as I much as I believe in it.

--Blaire Fjeseth
The need for a new Missoula College campus has been known for some time. The current facilities, which could be described as “somewhat ramshackle,” consist of a building technically owned by the public school district and several trailers outfitted as classrooms. According to UM’s spring 2016 census, Missoula College currently serves roughly 1,600 students. The current situation is intimate at best, crowded at worst.

A solution in the form of a new campus has been in the works for some time. University of Montana Registrar Joe Hickman said that, as far as he is aware, “this has been something they’ve been trying for 15 years.” Missoula College has seen peaks and valleys in enrollment due to everything from the state of the economy to the closure of factories and sawmills. But regardless of the state of enrollment, it is abundantly clear that a new facility is long overdue.

I don’t think anyone would dispute that. It’s a great idea in theory. However, in practice, it’s a little less rosy.

The new Missoula College has had a troubled history for some time but especially so in late 2012 and early 2013, when plans were in place to build the new campus on the fields where Dornblaser is located. It was referred to as the “south campus,” and almost no one was happy about it. Legislative session minutes from January 2013 include friendly jabs like “the south campus site … was chosen without any public participation on the location,” and “The University of Montana is unaccountable to taxpayers.”

The campus has since changed locations and is now situated past the Eastgate Albertsons on 909 South Ave. West. It’s a significant upgrade from the old campus and, despite the bizarre choice of coloring the building a reptilian green, is a sleek, modern building. (There’s even a restaurant at river level, which reportedly will have a beer and wine license, thank you very much.)

Yet, there is no parking plan that will accommodate all of these students. Katie Dalessio, director of fiscal and personnel services at Missoula College, speculated that “students will just purchase a Mountain Campus parking permit … the hope is that students may park on Mountain Campus and use the bus.” And that is totally fine, because as we all know there are a million free parking spaces. The Madison Street Bridge will hopefully be finished with repairs by then, but that is also unclear.

Furthermore, though enrollment is much more in flux at a vocational-style school than at a state university, Missoula College has seen a significant drop in enrollment. Nonresident freshman enrollment is down a staggering 50 percent, while even resident freshman enrollment has plunged 28.7 percent, according to the most recent census. Barring a sudden economic collapse, history shows that those numbers aren’t due to rise significantly any time soon.

The time for this building is long-overdue, and as Hickman said, “Missoula College enrollment alone isn’t indicative of how much that campus is used.” But a new building is not necessarily the solution to all of Missoula College’s problems. There are elements that will become problematic as my class moves toward graduation — let’s pray to God that a plan to fix some of it is in the works. •

**POLICE BLOTTER**

Peter Friesen
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April 21
**A VISIT FROM PAUL BUNYAN**
UM Police put in a work order for the grounds crew to clean up several branches and trees that were pulled out of the ground next to the Gilkey building. There are no suspects.

April 14
**STRIPLING SPIRITS**
Several kids were reported climbing on the roof of the law building. UMPD couldn’t find the children.

April 15
**ONE MAN’S TRASH…**
A Health Sciences employee called UMPD to report a custodian for throwing away equipment.

April 16
**LATE NIGHT, LACERATED HAND**
Just after 2 a.m., a passenger punched a window on the bus as they exited, cracking the glass. The driver called UM Police to report the vandalism.

April 17
**HIV AID**
An alarm connected to an HIV freezer in the Charles H. Clapp building went off Sunday night. Freezer number 4 is down until further notice. A Clapp building faculty member was called.

April 19
**EVERYTHING IS FINE NOW**
A custodian heard a loud beeping noise coming from behind the Adams Center. After investigating, he found the alarm was coming from the outdoor elevator at Washington-Grizzly Stadium. He shut off the alarm.

**The President’s Lecture Series**

This year’s President’s Lecture Series will consist of eight talks on vital topics by distinguished guest speakers. The University community and general public are cordially invited to attend all the lectures. Admission is free.

**Hedrick Smith**

Pulitzer Prize-winning former New York Times reporter and editor, Emmy Award-winning PBS “Frontline” producer/correspondent

“Who Stole the American Dream?”

*(Lucile Speer Memorial Lecture in collaboration with the Phi Beta Kappa Association of Montana)*

A journalist with a distinguished 50-year record of reporting from all over the world, Smith is the author of the best-selling “Who Stole the American Dream?” In his lecture, he will analyze the forces shaping contemporary political and economic trends with their self-evident threat to the long-term prosperity and stability of the country.

Thursday, April 28, 2016
8 p.m. Dennison Theatre
http://www.umt.edu/president/events/lectures
Student Political Action Committee holds gun control forum

Abby Lynes
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Student Political Action, a committee of ASUM, hosted a forum consisting of four panelists who discussed gun rights on Tuesday, April 19 in light of issues Missoula has been facing surrounding guns. Around a dozen people attended.

Missoula’s city council has been considering revising the city’s gun ordinance to require background checks for all gun sales, and a bill allowing concealed carry on Montana campuses gets brought up nearly every year in the state legislature.

“Things like campus carry will definitely come up in future legislatures and most likely will not get passed,” panelist Mike Hopkins said. Hopkins is running for the state legislature.

If the campus carry bill gets through the House and Senate, it’s usually vetoed by Gov. Steve Bullock, Hopkins said.

Currently, guns toted to campus have to be kept locked, unloaded and hidden from view in a car, gun sales-man Chris Morozumi said. They can also be registered and stored with UMPD.

Discussing the city background check ordinance, law professor Anthony Johnstone said there’s also conflict between what the city and the state control. Ultimately, the state could deny Missoula the right to enforce background checks for the private purchase of guns.

In addition to legislation, panelists discussed everything from mass shootings to gun sales in Montana.

There’s no clear-cut definition for a mass shooting, political science professor Abhishek Chatterjee said. There usually has to be an element of surprise to it.

They tend to happen more often in countries with greater access to firearms, he said, because guns have the power to quickly kill people.

Laws requiring background checks for the private sale of guns are difficult to enforce, Hopkins said.

Morozumi said that on a day when President Barack Obama introduces plans to propose gun control legislation, he has a line going out the door at Frontier Guns and Ammo, where he works.

“Obama’s my best salesman,” he said.

Morozumi also added that in the three years he has worked at Frontier Guns and Ammo, he has only had one background check result in the customer being denied.

He encourages people who plan on purchasing guns to do their research and take gun safety courses.

“There’s a lot of options out there if people go look for them to learn about safety,” Morozumi said. ▪
Security prepares for Luke Bryan

Brian Walton/@brian.walton  Luke Bryan walks out onto center stage while performing “Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye,” as part of his Kill The Lights Tour at the Adams Center on April 20.

The University of Montana’s Adams Center hosted Luke Bryan for two nearly sold-out nights last week, an event that spurred UM Police to prepare their security officers nearly six months before the shows.

Captain Ben Gladwin said with such a big name coming to Missoula, UMPD was expecting a large and enthusiastic crowd in need of a little control.

“The University of Montana is unique in that we don’t contract private security for big shows,” Gladwin said. “The University Police Department hires and trains all our own non-sworn security. Then we also provide all the law enforcement personnel needed.”

Gladwin said the non-sworn security team consists of about 55 retired officers who are still certified peace officers in the state of Montana. UMPD hires and trains these officers, the ones seen in khaki shirts and baseball caps, to work part time and supervise special events on campus.

“So they basically aren’t out on the street answering calls for service, but they’re showing up and working special events like basketball, football, concerts and things like that,” Gladwin said.

For concerts like Luke Bryan, Gladwin said there is a security presence of three to five non-sworn officers as soon as the first truck rolls in to set up. UM police officers show up a few hours before the first act and they all stay until the entire crowd has gone home.

Gladwin said officers are trained to supervise special events every year just before football season, whether they’ve already been through training or not.

“That covers everything from emergen-
The inspiration for his art started on the wall of his childhood bedroom, which was covered in magazine cutouts of shirtless male stars. The obsessions of a self-described “chubby gay kid who idolized male celebrities” have evolved into a critique of the modern media’s interpretation of the male body.

Justin Bieber, Chris Hemsworth, Daniel Craig, Ryan Gosling and David Beckham’s distorted bodies are strewn across bone china plates, “the kind your grandma would hang on the wall,” BFA artist Nick Kakavas said.

“Guise,” his upcoming show at the Real Good Art Space on Thursday, explores the effects of media on the male psyche through ceramics and film, with interpretations of stereotypes of gay culture, such as twinks and bears.

Kakavas returned to UM in 2012, seven years after leaving Wheaton, Illinois at the age of 17, studying journalism, art and science before settling on a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

He sees parallels between the work he does now and his childhood dreams of being a scientist, experimenting with glazes and kilns like chemicals and bunsen burners.

His draw to ceramics and pottery comes from the unpredictability of the medium. “With clay, there is always that surprise,” Kakavas said. “I love that chance that it could come out really bad.”

Many of his pieces have cracks or are downright broken, emulating frustration with modern male vanity. In between tries at college, Kakavas had to return home to care for his sick mother. The gravity of the situation changed his thinking about the way people look.

“After you take care of someone like that, looks are so petty,” he said.

Kakavas’ work will also be shown along with the 2016 BFA class in the Gallery of Visual Arts in the Social Sciences building from April 28 - May 13. •
CONGRATULATIONS UM CLASS OF 2016!

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Will diverse candidates increase voter turnout?

Silas Miller
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The upcoming ASUM election's diverse slate of presidential candidates could lead to a higher voter turnout than in recent years. Every candidate said they expect a larger turnout than last year.

Nearly 2,400 students cast their vote for a presidential team in 2015, according to ASUM's website. There were two sets of candidates to pick from, and both were Greek-affiliated.

“I think this is the first time in a few years that we have any non-Greek teams, and I imagine those teams are reaching out to corners of campus who might be left out of the election process,” ASUM senator and presidential candidate Wyatt Smith said.

Smith and his running mate, Taylor McDermott, are both members of Greek organizations. Candidates will have to tap voting blocs elsewhere around campus to win this year.

“It's the swing votes that matter,” Smith said.

Garnering attention from those swing voters are Sam Forstag and his running mate, Elizabeth Engebretson. The only female member of her ROTC class, Engebretson said "It's the swing votes that matter," Smith said.

Also hoping for a larger turnout are candidates Antonio Morsette and Isaac La’a, who are both of indigenous backgrounds.

Aside from aiming to tap the Native vote on campus, La’a is drumming up support from students at Missoula College, where he is enrolled full time. He said although students there pay the same ASUM fees as those on the Mountain Campus, the distance leads to more voter apathy because they feel disconnected from the services ASUM provides.

“I'm trying to bring about awareness of the benefits they are entitled to by paying the ASUM fee,” La’a said.

Back on the main campus the duo plans to gather support from students of Native backgrounds and “minorities in general who feel we can represent their vote,” Morsette said.

Recent Pulitzer winner shares about his experience at UM

Silas Miller
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University of Montana Master of Fine Arts graduate William Finnegan was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his memoir, "Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life," Monday, April 18.

The 63-year-old New Yorker staff writer said in an email his time in the MFA program at UM was “terrific.” He got to learn from literary heavyweights like Richard Hugo, Bill Kitteredge and Ed McClanahan.

Though he was just awarded the most prestigious writing award in the biography or autobiography category, Finnegan was writing fiction while he was in the program.

“I was not a good workshopper — too arrogant, defensive, unreceptive to constructive criticism.”

Having barely published anything at that point in his career, he said, “the experience forced me to reckon with readers, which was overdue.”

Though there weren't any waves in Missoula during his time, he did enjoy living here. Eventually, he grew “surf-starved,” heading off for the South Pacific after receiving his master's in 1978.

In “Barbarian Days,” Finnegan tells tales of adventure and self-realization brought about from his passion for surfing, on which he journeyed to distant corners of the globe, including Southeast Asia, Africa and the South Pacific.

Of his award, Finnegan said, “Winning a Pulitzer is a great kick in the ass, so far.” The book took him decades to write, so he would like it to “find as many readers as possible.”

The University will feel shockwaves from the award as well, said Kevin Canty, director of UM's nationally recognized creative writing program.

“It obviously does wondrous things for the program as far as visibility and prestige is concerned,” Kanty said.

Finnegan will visit Missoula for a book reading at Shakespeare and Co. on May 26 at 8 p.m.

Photo courtesy of William Finnegan

Photo courtesy of Ken Seino
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Finnegan will visit Missoula for a book reading at Shakespeare and Co. on May 26 at 8 p.m.
Celebrate Philanthropy Day
14,000 donors kept UM #MontanaStrong in the last year.
Join us in celebrating their support, which funded scholarships, research opportunities, facilities and more.

Free ice cream, music and more!
April 28 | 11am – 1pm | The Oval

CARRIE MERRILL
BOOK SIGNING
Local author Carrie Merrill will be hosting a book signing for her book:
ANGEL BLADE
“Nikka is dying of cancer until a stranger provides her with a cure, but it comes at a steep cost: she must become a Seraph, an angelic being with the power to exorcise and destroy demons.”
carriemerrill729.wix.com/author
SATURDAY, MAY 7TH
1 PM TO 3 PM
BARNES & NOBLE

A CAREER OF GIVING DESERVES A RETIREMENT WORTH GETTING.
Rediscover what makes us a different kind of financial partner at the new TIAA.org

INVESTING | ADVICE | BANKING | RETIREMENT
CREATED TO SERVE.
After ruling out chaining themselves to the rails of Main Hall and climbing onto the roof to hang a banner with “Listen Up Royce” painted across it, the protesters settled for a standing banner. It read “Cast Your Vote,” and was staked into the grass in front of Main Hall.

University of Montana students Cameron Best, Rena Thiel and Isabel Langlois gathered in front of Main Hall on Tuesday, March 15 in a bid to draw attention to the lack of communication and transparency between the administration and the campus community during the budget crisis this semester.

Handing out flyers with a list of demands for Main Hall on one side and a survey on the other, participants voted on whether or not the administration was honoring a crucial part of UM’s mission statement, “the staff strives to maintain open lines of communication.”

As well as a call for open dialogue, Best said the group wanted to draw attention to the $500,000 “raise” President Royce Engstrom will receive in November.

“It’s crazy that he gets a $500,000 bonus in the midst of this,” Best said. “That money needs to go into the general fund.”

The $500,000 is neither a raise nor a bonus, but it’s not surprising people think it is. The lack of transparency and communication from the administration this semester at the University of Montana has resulted in campus-wide confusion among students and faculty members. Since November, the administration has released a series of ambiguous numbers, facts and names, which fail to explain, comprehensively and simply, the reasons for, and results of the budget crisis.

The ambiguity has resulted in students and employees being forced to draw their own conclusions, which the administration deems to be wrong, while still refusing to set the record straight.

Deputy Commissioner for Communications and Human Resources Kevin McRae and the Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian both said the administration as a whole has been transparent, making information available to students who want to find it.

Engstrom sent out a campus-wide email in November listing areas affected by low student enrollment and a decrease in revenue. The email stated the impact of the numbers and the implications for the following Spring semester.

Although information was provided, it was confusing to those outside the administration who know less about the specifics of the situation.

“I read the paperwork and looked at the Excel documents [listing departmental reductions], but it was impossible to decipher,” said David Riley, a senior majoring in ecological restoration.

University of Montana student Danielle Vasquez said she didn’t know where to go to find information, and would sift through newspaper articles to find the facts.

On numerous occasions the Kaimin requested public data from Main Hall that listed employee layoffs by name. The administration refused to provide the information, resulting in Main Hall releasing a list of cut positions by department.

The administration says information regarding the budget crisis is readily available to those wanting to find it. Yet Kaimin reporters, trained to find such information, are also being stonewalled by the administration.

Throughout the semester, the Kaimin has published a series of stories about the effects of the budget cuts. Vice President of Integrated Communications Peggy Kuhr has alleged errors in several stories, which after investigation were found to be the result of inaccurate and contradictory information released by the administration.

A story addressing the layoffs within the Office of Planning, Budgeting and Analysis,
listed the termination of the position of budget director, Edward Wingard. Kuhr stated in an email that the position had been “eliminated last fall,” and has not existed since October 2015.

The employee directory, however, listed Wingard as budget director when the article originally ran. The list of employee reductions by department provided to the Kaimin by the administration also stated that the position of budget director was occupied and to be eliminated.

The inaccuracies in the story were caused by the discrepancies between official releases of information, and contradicts facts Main Hall made public only after stories were published.

The directory was also updated after the story’s publication, and after the Kaimin demonstrated to Kuhr that the error was the administration’s. Wingard is now listed as a fiscal strategist for Administration and Finance by the administration, a previously unlisted position. The position of budget director for OPBA was also removed from the directory after publication.

Wingard would not confirm the change in his job title, and Human Resource Services would not release further information without another public records request.

Wingard was already listed as a fiscal strategist for Administration and Finance according to a Feb. 17 information request into the employment status of OPBA employees by Human Resource Services, contradicting official UM directories and lists of laid off positions.

The merging of OPBA employees into Administration and Finance could account for the discrepancies released by Main Hall, but administrators have kept mum on their merger. Who moved upstairs and who — if anyone — was laid off is unknown.

High-level administrators deny anyone at UM has been laid off at all by the budget cuts.

Deputy Commissioner Kevin McRae noted an error in the use of the term ‘layoff,’ stating the term was not accurate “legally or practically.” This contradicted Engstrom’s use of the same term in a January email that stated, “we are putting into effect 27 layoffs, which take effect on or before June 30.”

The Missoulian, the Missoula Independent, KPAX, MTPR, NBC Montana, the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Newstalk KGVO, ABC Fox Montana, the Flathead Beacon, the Great Falls Tribune, the Billings Gazette and the Independent Record are also using the term “layoff.”

When Engstrom announced the campus-wide realignment program, he created an email address where people could send opinions and suggestions. He did not make himself available to meet with students to discuss their concerns.

Attempts made by the Kaimin to contact the administration at UM continue to be lengthy and the responses to inquiries are rarely detailed.

In an attempt to convey the perspective of concerned employees, the Kaimin contacted numerous faculty and staff members. Many voiced their concerns about the lack of transparency from the administration, but few would go on the record for fear of the repercussions their words could have on their jobs.

Anthropology professor G.G. Weix said since Vice President of Administration and Finance Mike Reid answered questions about the budget at a faculty senate meeting on March 10, there has been little conversation regarding budget matters.

“There is an absence of any conversation at all on campus, which is remarkable,” Weix said. She suggested the level of discussion on campus may have been reduced so student enrollment for next semester is not impacted.

Laid-off staff and faculty aren’t the only employees leaving next year. Over the course of the academic year, four leading members of the administration sequentially announced their plans to retire at the end of the fiscal year.

Last semester, Vice President for Student Affairs Teresa Branch announced her retirement. This semester the retirements of Kuhr, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Perry Brown and Director of the Office of Alumni Relations and UM Lobbyist Bill Johnston were also announced.

While their near-simultaneous departure seems too suspicious to be merely coincidental, Engstrom said the exodus of cabinet-level administrators has no relation to the budget and enrollment crisis.

“All the people came to a decision that it was the time in their life to retire,” Engstrom said. “None were precipitated by the budget situation.”

In Engstrom’s email at the end of last semester, he stated that 27 employees would be laid off by June 30. After record requests received by the Kaimin, those numbers were found to be misleading. A list of departmental cuts shows instead that 35 employees will be affected by budget cuts. Although the University states it has reduced 192 employee positions, the departmental list shows 305 removed positions.

Exactly who decides who is laid off is also a point of confusion. The Board of Regents oversees the University’s funding allocations, making sure the administration stays within their budget. Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian said.

The decision to lay off employees at UM was made at the university level by the administration, with no influence from the Board of Regents, Christian said.

“The local campus CFOs determine what is in the best interest for the institution and how the cuts are deployed,” he said.

Among the employees laid off were key personnel geared toward recruiting students on a local and national scale, who had the potential to boost enrollment numbers and increase revenue.

Director of External Scholarships and Advising Laure Pengelly-Drake will be laid off from the Davidson Honors College on June 30. As the face of the DHC, Drake mentors students and helps them with their scholarship applications on a daily basis. Over the past 11 years, Drake has helped countless students receive prestigious scholarships from around the world.

The decision to lay off Drake was made by DHC Dean Brock Tessman upon instruction from Provost Brown. Tessman had to choose from the four employees in the DHC, he said during an interview in February.

Drake recruits students who are eager to serve, lead and excel academically. The administration will remove her position, which brings students to UM and helps them during their college career, she said during an interview in February.

“The job is essential from the perspective of the students, faculty and parents,” she said.

Drake made $36,779 in fiscal year 2015, according to the University’s Budget Book from that year.

The names of employees being laid off were not announced in a supposed bid to protect the privacy of those losing their jobs. Students weren’t told which of their professors would not be returning come Fall, unless a professor announced it themselves.

Not releasing names also confused students whose professors are departing for reasons unrelated to the sudden budget cuts. Cameron Best, a senior majoring in geography was shocked to learn his geographical theory professor Tom Sullivan was being cut due to what Best believed was a lack of funding allocated to that particular position.

Sullivan was contracted as a visiting professor for one year. At the end of this semester his contract will end, Department Chair of Geography Christiane von Reichert said.

The position will remain empty next semester.

Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian said it is dangerous to speculate what may happen next fiscal year, across the system, not just at UM. The University’s revenue is made up of state funding and tuition. If one is low, the other might be high enough to balance out the other, he said.

“UM needs to work as a team, meeting the needs of students and living within the budget,” Christian said.

Administrative claims of transparency are complicated by releases of information that are both cryptic and contradictory. Clarification often comes only after publication of facts provided by Main Hall that are later denied to be true. When the administration cannot communicate consistent facts surrounding budgetary layoffs, it is no wonder students and employees feel left in the dark.
Get spring ready with the newest styles from Volcom!

Left: Solid Stone tee, $25.00. Frickin chino short, $45.00.

Right: Wowzer polo shirt, $35.00. SNT Static boardshort, $54.50.

Check out these other skate brands:

Dillard's
The Style of Your Life.

Brand selection varies by store. Call 1-800-345-5273 for a store near you.
I tried and mostly failed to meditate

Rylan Boggs
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I sat cross-legged, counting my breaths, with my eyes barely open, trying to look at the tip of my nose.

Am I doing it right?
That girl with the dreads was kinda cute. Was she staring at me?
What breath count am I on again?
Shit.

I was at Osel Shen Phen Ling, a Tibetan meditation center in Missoula. The center offers a class called Meditation 101. I stumbled upon it during hours of aimless Facebook scrolling.

...and decided to give it a shot.

Meditation has always struck me as slightly pretentious. I’ve always assumed that people meditate so they can smugly tell their friends about it later, not unlike sex.

However, I was willing to put my doubts aside to give it a try. I’m quite glad I did.

A dozen of us sat in a room surrounded by portraits of the Dalai Lama. We relaxed cross-legged on small cushions in a circle, while drinking tea and talking quietly.

The group ranged from those who had been meditating for over 20 years to college students who were just trying it for the first time.

Bob Jacobson, a jovial older man and director of the center, led us in meditation with Bill Fieffer, an equally jovial yet slightly younger bearded fellow.

We moved through several different types of meditation focused primarily on breathing and clearing the mind. Occasionally our meditation leaders would have us focus on the tips of our noses or have us feel the energy flying out of our toes and scalps.

The idea of energy flying out of my scalp rather terrified me and broke my concentration, but as I kept at it, I began to feel something. I became more aware of my breathing and felt my body line up in a way I hadn’t experienced before. I felt calm for the first time that day.

But was that girl with dreads maybe into me?

Shit, got distracted again.

Meditation 101 is held each Monday night at 7 p.m. until the last class on May 14. Osel Shen Phen Ling, which is Tibetan for “land of clear light benefitting others,” is located at 441 Woodworth Ave. The center suggests a $15 dollar donation.

ARTS+CULTURE

BFA seniors display work at annual exhibition

Kate Shea
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This Thursday, 20 seniors in the School of Art will display their art in the annual Bachelor of Fine Arts Senior Thesis Exhibition. The students’ work will be split between the UC Gallery and the Gallery of Visual Arts in the Social Sciences Building. The exhibition will be the final chance for seniors in the program to display their art at the University.

Cathryn Mallory said the exhibition is mandatory for seniors in the arts department because it gives them the opportunity to professionally display their work and is a “culmination of [students’] ideas and techniques.”

“It’s a really diverse show because there are so many different artists exploring different ideas, different techniques,” Mallory said.

Senior Josh Taira’s exhibit, “the Event of the Century,” is a combination of screen-printing and performance to analyze advertising and its effects on people. The big “event” Taira’s piece promotes is actually nonexistent.

“A lot of what I think marketing and advertising does is it creates a cycle of desire and subsequent disappointment,” Taira said. “And then they come out with something else, and you go through that cycle again. That’s what this is trying to explore.”

Taira’s piece is more of a culmination of technique than it is content. He said screenprinting, a printing technique involving mesh, can be incredibly difficult to master to make it look clean, something he’s tried to do during his time in the art program.

“I’ve graduated from not being good to being kind of good,” Taira said.

Taira’s is one of 14 pieces on exhibit at the Gallery of Visual Arts, while six of his fellow seniors will be featured at the UC Gallery.

One such senior is Kara Maul who will be presenting a series of portraits collectively called “Past and Present.” The 25 panel drawings use a combination of graphite, wood burning, ink washes and a varnish on masonite board to depict everyday objects that have secret, significant meaning to Maul herself.

Ranging from a polar bear puzzle that Maul used to try to solve with her father, to an avocado plant she and her boyfriend tried desperately to keep alive, Maul sees the paintings as an extension of the self-portraits she usually specializes in.

“I’ve always worked in a self-portraiture way but always very obvious. Like I would render my face and always have an extreme part of me visible in the artwork,” Maul said. “So for this, I still wanted to stick with the self-portraiture and identity route, but I wanted to make it easier for viewers to connect with and for the audience to relate to it on a personal level themselves.”

All the senior artists’ work will be for sale in the two galleries. While the work in the UC Gallery is already available for students to view, the official opening reception for both galleries will take place Thursday from 4-6 in the UC and 5-7 in the Gallery of Visual Arts.
On a scale of zero to major country music fan, I rank about an 8.5. I’ve been to Dierks Bentley, Carrie Underwood and Taylor Swift concerts, two times each. So when the Kaimin asked me to cover the Luke Bryan concert, I slipped on my cowboy boots and moseyed on down to the Adams Center on Wednesday night. I walked by two hours earlier and a line of big-haired, cowboy-booted and flanneled people already stretched from the entrance and around the Campus Rec parking lot.

Dustin Lynch and Little Big Town started off well. Both acts were very interactive with the crowd, signing hats on stage and taking selfies on people’s phones. I got pretty jazzed when Little Big Town sang “Pontoon,” all four members of the band performing their parts well. Then it was time for Luke Bryan to appear.

It took him awhile. The concert started at 7:30, but Bryan didn’t come on until 9:50. He started off with “Rain Is a Good Thing.” He did four songs in a row before greeting the crowd, saying he had been fishing on the Bitterroot all day, which got a big round of applause.

Bryan’s songs and concert were a bit vanilla to me. He had all the makings of a good concert: a good crowd, a good band and a solid smile. But Bryan seemed a bit jaded and tired. Don’t get me wrong, he was funny and worked the crowd into a series of cheering frenzies. It wasn’t until Dustin Lynch came back on stage to duet with Bryan that I realized how little energy Bryan was putting behind his songs.

Afterward, I chatted with two UM alums, Randy Munden and Jessie Cunningham, about the show. They both agreed that the concert was just okay.

Cunningham joked that his favorite song was “probably the one about hot girls,” pointing out that Bryan’s songs have little variety.

Overall, it was not a bad way to spend a Wednesday night. But I would hesitate to pay $75 for general admission.
The best and worst of Missoula’s bar bathrooms

Rylan Bogg
rylan.boggs@umconnect.umt.edu

Bathrooms are gross. There’s no getting around that. However some are worse than others, so we went on a Thursday night bathroom bar crawl to let you know which ones not to puke in. Though honestly, if you’re puking in a bar bathroom you’re probably not super concerned with your surroundings. Anyway, be safe out there.

Charlie’s

Goddamn, this is gnarly. I think it’s the only heated room in the bar and it feels about 90 degrees. There’s some serious piss-trough action completed by a condom dispenser that’s selling some decently depraved shit like a “Glow-in-the-Dark Tinger Ring” and something called “Pandora’s box.” Additionally, the staff looks like loose tobacco. Can’t get out of this one fast enough.

Badlander

Yup, this is it. I’m dying in here. Almost everything in here that can be broken has been and the place is covered in graffiti. The music from Dead Hipster is booming and the walls are closing in. My chest starts to constrict and I lunge for the door kicking a piece of tile loose from the floor. Jesus.

Rhino

The all metal reflective walls make the room feel like a martian spaceship. Albeit a shit, piss filled spaceship with a logo-less condom dispenser that I can only assume dispenses condoms, I mean, I doubt it is full of tampons and I really hope there’s no snacks in there.

Stocks

Wow, actually not that bad in here. Nice little wood shelf above the urinals where I can rest my beer or head while I pee. There’s a sign warning me If I fight I will be banned for six months and for some reason there’s two plungers as opposed to one. Have I been using plungers wrong my whole life? Are you supposed to have two?

Oxford

Pretty sure a customer started twerking right after what looked like a marriage proposal went down in the seating area. The staff looks super non-phased and is locking all the booze behind this massive metal cage since it’s 2 am. Anyway, the bathrooms. People don’t appear to be big fans of flushing here, but save the whales right? There’s another machine selling “Rough Rider Condoms” and “Horny Goat Weed,” whatever that is. All in all, not that gross in the big scheme of things.

Feruqi’s

Holy shit, not sure what’s going on here but these bathrooms are super nice.

Like maybe a 4 -star hotel in a decent neighborhood nice. Wood floors, actual mirrors, stall doors that close; this place is locking all the booze behind this massive metal cage since it’s 2 am. Anyway, the bathrooms. People don’t appear to be big fans of flushing here, but save the whales right? There’s another machine selling “Rough Rider Condoms” and “Horny Goat Weed,” whatever that is. All in all, not that gross in the big scheme of things.

Easy Star All-Stars to play Top Hat

Rylan Boggs
rylan.boggs@umconnect.umt.edu

Easy Star All-Stars are a New York reggae collective that made a name for themselves creating reggae covers of whole albums. The group chooses albums like Pink Floyd’s “Dark Side of the Moon” and Michael Jackson’s “Thriller,” and recreates them as “Dub Side of the Moon” and “Thillah.”

The Easy Star’s have also covered The Beatles’ “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” calling it “Easy Star’s Lonely Hearts Dub Band,” and Radiohead’s “OK Computer” as “Radiodread.”

The group first chose “Dark Side of the Moon,” to cover as an experiment and their curiosity yielded the first of many cover albums.

This will be the group’s first time playing in Montana.

“It will be invigorating to play in and around the mountain states, since we love experiencing the beauty of nature while on tour to contrast with how much time we spend at the shows and on the bus.” vocalist Kirsty Rock said.

The group is playing at the Top Hat this Wednesday, April 27. Their stop in Missoula is part of Easy Star’s Dub Side of the Moon tour on which they will primarily play from their Pink Floyd cover.

Despite the band losing and gaining members over the years, the group is very tightly knit, “it is a core of players and we kind of have a language and we’re kind of like a big family,” Ivan Katz, a drummer for the group, said.

Katz has been playing drums since he was a teenager and he’s been a band member for 13 years. He is inspired by reggae drummers and looks up to musicians like Bob Marley, Prince and Stevie Wonder.

“I am in shock over the news of Prince’s passing,” Katz said. “When we lose somebody great I know that artists have to play even stronger, you keep the music playing.”

Katz cited Prince’s stage presence and influence as a huge inspiration.

“Prince just brought this energy and this message that you can’t even describe and his legacy manifests through practically everybody on the music scene today,” he said.

Opening for the Easy Stars is Colorado reggae band, Tatanka. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. and the show starts at 9:00. Tickets are $15-$18 and the show is 18 and over.

Movie review:

JUNGLE BOOK

RATING: ★★★★★

Bowen West
bowen.west@umontana.edu

People love the cabaret extravaganza that is the original 1967 animated rendition of “The Jungle Book,” but there is something that feels more sincere and fun with the latest release.

Directed by Jon Favreau, “The Jungle Book” is a fun adventure film that is well worth your time.

For the unaware, “The Jungle Book” is the story of Mowgli (played by newcomer Neel Sethi), an orphaned human boy, who’s raised by a pack of wolves in the jungle. Mowgli sets out on a journey of self-discovery to find his place in the jungle, all the while evading the man-hating tiger, Shere Khan.

“The Jungle Book” is a story that survives off of its characters and cameos from some of Hollywood’s biggest names. From Bill Murray’s charming portrayal of Baloo, to Christopher Walken’s mafia boss-inspired King Louie, every performance is spot on. At the end of the movie you are left wishing you could spend more time with these animated characters.

Idris Elba gives a standout performance as the utterly terrifying Shere Khan. Elba owns every scene as Shere Khan and has a presence that rivals some of cinema’s best villains.

Even though the characters are phenomenal, they are nothing compared to the impressive visuals and animations. Seriously, this film looks amazing. The way that the animals move reaches a level no film has reached before. There are moments in the film where you have to remind yourself that everything save for Mowgli is a computer-generated image.

“The Jungle Book” captures the magic and the mayhem of the classic 1967 animated film. It’s a testament when you can have a movie that can strike a perfect balance between endearing and dark, kid-friendly and mature. The film has a couple of awkward moments, such as the snake Kaa only appearing for one scene to tell Mowgli how his parents died and King Louie breaking into song in the middle of an intense monologue, but at the end of the day “The Jungle Book” is an incredibly enjoyable movie. •

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APRIL 27, 2016 / MONTANA KAIMIN / MONTANAKAIMIN.COM

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Anna and McKenzie Weber set up for the second run of the day, with Anna sitting in front and her twin sister Kenzie in back. Friends Amanda Foley and Ashley Millard kept a steady grip on the sled so that they didn’t unexpectedly plummet towards the bottom of the hill.

Once situated, Foley and Millard let go, and the two sliced through the snow with serious speed.

Halfway down the hill, the sled hit a bump. Anna’s hat slid over her eyes, and they were suddenly going down the hill blind. A chorus of screams ensued, and Anna threw her legs out of the sled. There was no direction to her actions except to stop their downward plunge.

A few seconds later, Anna woke up in a cocoon of snow after being thrown off the sled.

“We hit the one tree that was on the hill,” she said.

About 45 minutes later, Anna and Kenzie were sitting in the ER waiting room with their dad. Kenzie’s head had slammed into the back of Anna’s head, and Anna blacked out momentarily after impact. It wasn’t until she was waiting for a medical consultation that Anna’s back finally began to hurt. Kenzie’s eyes were beginning to swell, and she was limping from an injury to her left knee.

As the two waited to hear the verdict on how a seemingly harmless day of sledding would affect their upcoming track season, Anna was clueless as to just how much this ER visit would affect the rest of her life.

The two were called into separate rooms. Kenzie got an MRI for her knee, while Anna got an X-ray for her back.

When doctors analyzed Anna’s X-ray results, there was a strange shadow hiding part of the picture. The doctors had no idea what this shadow was, so they took her to get a CT scan.

Rules of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act required Kenzie and Anna’s overall health; the shadow could have been cancer, Anna’s father was concerned for Anna.

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Griz track’s Weber balances motherhood and sprints to do or that was important to her anymore. Go downtown wasn’t something that she wanted to do, but it’s different. Being able to go out or hang off Kenzie’s hand. The sight of Zoey brings a smile to not only Anna and Kenzie’s faces but all the other athletes and coaches flanking the track. Brief greetings of “Hi Zoey” and “She’s so cute” come from people walking by. Zoey is like the light of all of our lives,” Connors said. Her presence brings a bit of joy to another exulting practice but sometimes can be a distraction for Anna’s progress. “It feels like there’s more eyes on me, which makes me nervous, but it’s better because you perform better that way,” she said. “But also, I think it may make me perform a little bit worse because I’m always looking around wondering where she’s at. But I’m in short sprint and only running for like 12 to 25 seconds, but it’s always on the back of your mind — where is she.” Distraction or not, Anna said that Zoey only influences her school, track and future career endeavors in a positive way. Zoey has changed and added to her life, not ended it. And whenever she’s busy in class, at practice or at work, there is usually somebody available and more than willing to look after Zoey.

“Zoey is the best thing to have ever happened to me, Anna, our family, everyone involved,” Kenzie said. “She is so cute and so much fun. She has become one of the most important people in my life.” Right now, Anna is working towards beating her personal record in the 100 meter, graduating with a degree in psychology and having a job. For others, having a child may have taken the energy out of their drive, but it has only fueled Anna’s. She has big goals for her future, but being a mom may just be the biggest reward of all.

“Family comes first. As long as I’m happy and fulfilled, I’m happy,” Anna said. “I’m a happy person and it’s kind of just what I know, and it’s that. It feels like there’s more eyes on me, which makes me nervous, but it’s better because you perform better that way,” she said. “But also, I think it may make me perform a little bit worse because I’m always looking around wondering where she’s at. But I’m in short sprint and only running for like 12 to 25 seconds, but it’s always on the back of your mind — where is she.” Distraction or not, Anna said that Zoey only influences her school, track and future career endeavors in a positive way. Zoey has changed and added to her life, not ended it. And whenever she’s busy in class, at practice or at work, there is usually somebody available and more than willing to look after Zoey.

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“My favorite part about being Zoey’s mom is that, no matter what happens in my life, I can look at her and boom — I am filled with happiness and fulfillment,” she said.
Track athlete Matt Quist running for ASUM senate

Tiffany Folkes
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With voting season taking over the University of Montana campus, it means the typical outpouring of pamphlets, brochures and other promotional efforts to rally support for campaigns. This spring, a Grizzly track athlete is looking to throw his hat in the ASUM election ring.

Matt Quist used to be involved with his middle school’s leadership group, but once he entered high school, his passion for track and basketball outweighed his other priorities. His grades were an important aspect of his goal to attend college, but he put everything else on the backburner. Once he came to college, though, he began to see the bigger picture.

“While you still love sports, you understand that sports are temporary, and what you choose to do after college is forever,” Quist said. “Ultimately, I decided that I wanted to really buckle down, get involved and get serious about school, and I love it.”

Now, as he rounds out his sophomore year, he has decided to run for a position on the ASUM Senate.

Quist is currently a jumper on the men’s track and field team. In late February, he placed third in high jump and 14th in triple jump during the Big Sky Indoor Championships. He’s trying to stay healthy and strong in preparation for the outdoor championships in May, where he hopes to qualify for the NCAA West Regionals.

Last fall, Quist had a class with current ASUM president Cody Meixner. They were partners for an assignment and, when working together in the ASUM offices one day, they began to discuss ASUM. Quist wanted to extend himself beyond athletics and become more involved on campus, so Meixner helped him do so.

Quist is currently a student at large for both the Board on Budget and Finance and Student Political Action Committee.

“I made connections there, and there’s so many people in ASUM that I really admire and want to surround myself with,” he said.

Quist wants to be a positive contributor to the Senate, but only time will reveal what causes he will become most passionate about. He knows that being an athlete may give people the impression that his only goal as a senator is to serve student athletes, but he’s interested in learning more about issues on campus so that he can better serve the student body as a whole.

He’s excited to learn something new and continue to build new connections, but he will also learn more about the art of balancing priorities.

As an athlete, he’s been juggling school with practices and travelling. It’s going to be a lot of work, but track and field head coach Brian Schweyen is confident that he’ll be able to balance everything just fine.

“Tiffany Folkes
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Email: cstinwnd@msn.com
701 Northern Lights Road Livingston, MT 59047

Suspended in the air, Matt Quist prepares to land in the sand pit during the men’s triple jump in the spring of 2015.

Loren Benoit / Montana Kaimin
HELP WANTED

Part-time work, irrigation pipe changers, Missoula area. $10/hr. Must be good worker, responsible. Contact Josh 544-5155.

Rockstars Wanted! Missoulas Premier Painting business is looking for Full time seasonal Painters and a Part time Marketing position. $10.00-16/ hour D.O.E + incentives/ piece work. text/call 4065391091 for more information.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Celebrate Give Local day on May 3rd. Give local is a nationwide 24-Hour online giving event. All day, May 3rd, log onto GiveLocalMissoula.org and donate $10 or more to one or all of your favorite local non-profits.

GIVE LOCAL MISSOULA COUNTY

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GIVE LOCAL MISSOULA COUNTY

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Cast your vote!
On Cyberbear Wednesday, April 27 & Thursday, April 28

Visit: https://goo.gl/7Xo78d or scan the code below to view the

2016 ASUM CANDIDATE & REFERENDUM GUIDE