NO ONE ELSE IN SIGHT

BLACK STUDENT EXPERIENCE AT UM

PAGE 4
### KIOSK

#### HELP WANTED

Computer/gamer to work with autistic young man who loves computer games, and has multiple systems. Also includes light house work, Wednesday, Friday, and Sundays 12:00 to 3:00 pm, $12.00 per hr. Home is within the University area. Please call 240-3017 for more details.

Office Specialist: PT, immed start. Small company looking for confident, self-starters who enjoy engaging responsibility and are team players. Must be available half day on Saturday in addition to hours M-F, up to 25 hrs/week. Willing to work around class schedule, need to be available over break. Starts at $9/hr. Send resume to Niki at cfsmmt@blackfoot.net.

#### SERVICES

- I Buy Imports < Subaru < Toyota-
  Japanese/German Cars & Trucks.

### SUDOKU

**Difficulty: Easy**

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*Edited by Margie E. Burke*

**HOW TO SOLVE:**

- Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

*Answer to Last Week’s Sudoku*

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KAIMIN EDITORIAL

Christmas is good, capitalism is bad

By Bo-ho-howen West

Howard Langston, a mattress salesman, missed his 9-year-old son’s karate class graduation. Langston has really screwed the pooch this time. Now he only has one shot this Christmas to make his son happy. He has to buy the deluxe Turbo-Man action figure.

Oh shucks, that’s the plot to the Arnold Schwarzenegger vehicle, “Jingle All the Way.” But the point still stands — capitalism has taken over Christmas, and it sucks.

It seems like Christmas comes earlier each year. The moment people put their Halloween costumes away, the Christmas music starts playing. The sooner Christmas decorations pop up, the sooner the pressure to buy presents looms over us.

The time of peace and goodwill toward our fellow human has been taken over by advertisements convincing us to make sure that “Christmas happens.” There is a threat that without us purchasing anything, there will be no celebrating the holiday.

Myron Larabee, a postal worker, had an intense ambition to get his child the highly sought-after Turbo-Man action figure. This ambition drove him to do unthinkable acts. He caused mayhem in a children’s play place, threatened police with a bomb and left a child hanging off the roof of a high-rise building — all for an object that doesn’t mean anything.

Oh my gosh, I just realized that was Sinbad’s character in “Jingle All the Way.” I can’t believe I did that again! But the message is still true — capitalism drove a fictional mailman to do some pretty terrible acts. This greed during the holidays is unacceptable!

There isn’t a problem giving gifts. Everybody likes receiving a well thought-out gift that makes them feel appreciated. The real problem lies with these items mean — the promise of fulfillment through these things. We can never get everything we want, and because of that, we will never be happy.

We need to become a society geared toward organizing productive efforts of humanity to solve our crises of education, oppression and housing. We need to become a society driven by empathy and collective action.

But this consumerism does come out of a place of love. Christmas extravagance only happens because we want it to. Our futile spending and meritment comes from the heart. Maybe we just use these gifts as a way to show that we love these people but are too afraid to say it.

This holiday season let’s take a hint from Jamie Langston. His father didn’t get him the toy he needed that holiday season, but it didn’t matter because the love of his father was enough. This wonderful boy can teach us all a thing or two about the true meaning of Christmas.

Shoot! You are going to kill me, but Jamie was actually just a fictional character in the Brian Levant directed film “Jingle All the Way.” That movie just gets what is so bad about consumerism during the holidays.
On the first Monday evening after the presidential election, roughly 20 students gathered in a circle in the living room of the Black Student Union house. Above them, a sign read “Life does not have to be perfect to be wonderful.” Around them were posters displaying newspaper clippings from the past few decades about the Black Student Union.

Of these 20 students, five were black. This number may seem small, but it’s significantly more diverse than the campus as a whole. Of the nearly 8000 undergraduate students at the University of Montana’s mountain campus, only 76 are black. There are an additional 11 black graduate students.

Montana’s racial demographics as a state are even lower. As of 2015, self-identified black people made up 0.6 percent of the entire population.

“Sometimes it feels like you’re a single cocoa puff floating in a bowl of milk … just surrounded by a sea of white,” said LeShawn George, a former Griz football player who is now a senior studying community health. George works as the outreach coordinator at the Student Advocacy Resource Center, and is the current president of the Black Student Union.

UM’s Black Student Union, George explained, was started shortly after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., when black students experienced trauma and increased racism on campus. A local family bought the Black Student Union house at around the same time. Originally, the student group and the house were a safe space specifically for people of color. Now, it’s open to everyone.

At the most recent meeting, students, professors and staff members went around the room introducing themselves and discussing how they felt about the election’s outcome. They expressed fear of increased violence against minorities, their anger at people who did not vote and about being ready to actively fight.

With the election of Donald Trump, George said that it will be more important than ever for students to work to understand each other. Trump, George said, exposed intolerance, racism, sexism and homophobia.

“We thought [these problems] were gone from America because we were supposed to be in a post-racial society. He actually showed us that we are not,” George said.

George mentioned that there has been an increased aggression in Missoula in the last few weeks. These aggressions range from yelled racial slurs, to racist notes left on cars and to spitting in peoples’ faces because of their sexuality.

“It’s very important that people are realizing that people are using his presidency to legitimize their hate,” George said. “There have been numerous instances of hate crimes happening in the last couple days in his name.”

But George explained that this issue is less about the president-elect, and more about the people actually committing violence.

“I don’t even blame Trump for all of the nonsense that people are doing out there,” George said. “Because that’s like blaming Black Lives Matter for all the nonsense that people are doing.”

During the meeting, George explained his “three strikes policy.” He would wait until there were three definitive instances of racist behavior on campus before he made a report to the Title IX office.

The first strike was the “Identity Evropa” posters that appeared on campus in late August. Identity Evropa is known white nationalist group.

The second strike was when posters advertising UM’s talk by Patrisse Cullors from Black Lives Matter were taken down.

After Trump’s election, the strikes were too many to count.

“What is it about my black life that makes you feel afraid?” asked George, addressing the students who took down the Black Lives Matter posters. “Don’t cling to your ignorance, don’t cling to your cowardice, and pull down some posters because you feel a certain type of way, especially when nobody’s watching.”

**ACTIVISM**

“Run home MONKEY!!!!!!”

It appeared on Dejianna Ahanonu’s car windshield, printed on top of an upside-down map of Africa six days after Trump’s election. Before then, she had heard men chanting “Trump!” near her window. She felt that her car had been tampered with, but didn’t assume anything until the sign. Now, she feels she was targeted.

Ahanonu is a sophomore who was technically the first student to declare African-American studies as a major at the University of Montana. She grew up in Bozeman and Layton, Utah, both predominantly white towns, with a white family.

On Ahanonu’s first day of kindergarten, a classmate told her she was ugly because his least favorite color was brown. She’s been dealing with similar insults since, but explained that she hadn’t had to deal with the blatant racism of the sign left on her car since junior high.

She spent the day after she found the note recovering, and ended the evening by live-streaming her story. Within a few days, it gained thousands of views and many supportive comments.

Although she moved out of that apartment to feel safe, she said that she felt somewhat sorry for whoever left the note on her car. Whoever left the note, she said, is coming from a place of extreme misunderstanding about who she is.

This is an issue for our country in general, Ahanonu said. She talked about how this election was full of people adoring one candidate and despising the other, which made unity difficult.

Now, she is working to dismantle this divide through activism and community organization. She works for LAMBDA, and hopes to use her education as a tool to become an activist, organizer and educator, working with issues of race, sexuality and gender.

She said that her activism started with self-care. She allowed herself to grieve. The next day she woke up and was ready to start organizing. Now, she's working with Missoulians to organize protests and demonstrations, as well as working on more long-term community organization, providing resources and support to her community using her strengths.

Despite her efforts, as well as those of her fellow organizers, Ahanonu said she still generally doesn’t feel completely safe on campus. She explains that the most recent election cycle has “brought racism to life in a new way” by giving people the validation to speak their bigoted opinions. Those people could be right next to her on the Oval.

“At any point, I could pass someone who would prefer me not to exist,” she said.

Ahanonu emphasized being supportive of other students, improving representation in administration and education. She explains that students should not shy away from their privilege, and instead use it as a “tool to correct the system.”

Ahanonu wishes the administration was more representative of its students, or at least listened to their issues.

“I would love to see the higher ups at the University of Montana ask questions,” Ahanonu said. “Sit down with a group of students, and listen and hear us.”

Ahanonu is aware of the potential pushbacks of activism. When the Black Student Union held a Black Lives Matter rally some argued that there was no place in the community for a BLM movement. Ahanonu said this translates to “there’s no place in the community for black lives to matter.”

The best solution to misunderstanding is education, Ahanonu said. She said that on the first day of her African-American studies class, there were students behind her complaining about how they didn’t want to be there. Now, she says, “they’re some of the loudest voices in my class talking about how egregious [oppression] is.”

For now, she has no plans to stop her activism.

“I am black, and I am queer, and I’m proud about it, and I’m happy and excited to be who I am,” she said. “It does make me feel a little bit like a target and I just kind of have to accept that and use my time, whether it’s a day or years, to do as much as I can.”

**STEREOTYPES, MICROAGGRESSIONS AND EXOTIFICATION**

Meshayla Cox is a senior studying Spanish and African-American studies. She said she has had a “fair experience” at UM, particularly because of her involvement with the Black Student Union. She’s the student assistant director of the Student Involvement Network, and her sociology, African-American studies and Spanish classes foster open conversations.

She said Missoula as a whole is not as open as UM. She often encounters “cowboy types,” who she explains are from small towns and don’t understand different perspectives.

“There’s a level to it,” Cox said. “It’s not as easy to point out the big racist versus someone who’s not. It’s levels of prejudice, it’s levels of discrimination.”

She has been followed in stores, called the n-word and dealt with stereotypes. She said she has also struggled with arguing about racism both online and in real life.

“People who view life in this colorblind lens have this idea that there’s no inequality and there’s no longer segregation,” Cox said. “That’s what they pin as racism and systematic racism.”
It’s easy to overlook all of the other oppressive systems in our society.”

She weighs these arguments with the concern that if she acts angry, she’ll simply be deemed an “angry black woman.” If she acts sassy, she’s the “strong independent black woman who don’t need a man.”

On campus, Cox deals with microaggressions — statements that might seem harmless, but are ultimately derogatory. For example, white people often touch black people’s hair without permission. Cox explained that people often try to touch her hair or make a big deal when she changes it.

“arrested a white girl who got extensions, what are the chances that you’re going to comment like ‘Your hair is a lot longer than it was yesterday?’” Cox said. “But if I do anything to change my hair, it’s a huge conversation.” She said she never got this much commentary in Southern California, where she’s originally from.

And dating in Missoula is “hell” she said. She taught an entire workshop on exoticification, or the over-sexualization, of black women based solely on the messages she has received on Tinder.

She said people have assumed that she’s overly sexual because of her skin color. Growing up, she was cognizant of what she wore, knowing that wearing things like a pencil skirt would be perceived as sexual because she’s curvaceous.

She points to celebrities like the Kardashians, white women whose curves and sexuality are “so much more accepted than every other black woman in the game,” like Nicki Minaj or Lil’ Kim.

“It’s little things,” Cox said. “It’s that double consciousness all the time where you’re just aware of how other people are viewing you. So it’s constantly being on edge where if you do this thing or act a certain way, is someone going to tie that to the stereotypes of your race?”

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Tobin Miller Shearer, director of the African-American studies department, starts each of his classes by saying, “I want you to know that I know I’m white.” Both Cox and Ahanonu said his whiteness doesn’t discount his ability to direct the program, as he has spent his career referencing and holding himself accountable to African-Americans, and by using his privilege as a white person to help.

Shearer explained that, historically, the University of Montana generally has had about 200 black students on campus each semester, with influxes due to race-specific scholarships, which were later outlawed.

He isn’t sure why the number is so low this semester.

UM’s Africa-American studies department started in 1968, and is one of the oldest in the country. In the past there were several staff members, a director and a program director. Now it’s just Shearer.

He says the lack of black students “makes it more difficult for a black student to come and feel at home,” which is why the number remains so low.

He also attributes the fact that the Northwest in general is associated with racism. Tucked back in a side hallway in the Liberal Arts Building, his office has a Black Lives Matter poster outside of it. He said it has been torn down.

“One of the hardest audiences to work with is a white liberal audience who doesn’t think they have a problem with racism,” Shearer said. “It’s a dangerous thing, because people aren’t aware that they’re racist.”

He explained that the taking down of Black Lives Matter posters points to the larger political and social reaction to the movement.

“The assertion that black lives do matter gets this really intense reaction which is its own self-evidence of racism here or in many, many other white communities,” Shearer said.

In order to increase diversity, Shearer explained that the best thing to do is teach students to resist racism in society. He stated that if students and the school attempt to fight racism, increased diversity will follow.

RECRUITMENT

Cox said that she decided to come to UM because she wanted to go to a school where she wouldn’t know anyone from high school. UM was also best at keeping in contact with her. She said that whenever she had a question or needed to talk to someone, she could reach someone — not the case for California schools.

Emily Ferguson-Steger, the associate director of recruitment management for UM has spent the last 12 years working as an admissions counselor for the University of Montana. A woman of color, she has focused on recruiting minority students in the past.

“We are a predominantly white institution,” she said. “There’s no getting around that.”

While Tom Crady (vice president for enrollment management and student affairs) said he is focusing on increasing enrollment in general, he acknowledges the need for more racial diversity. Steger said that attempting to recruit more racial diversity is more complicated than it seems, because the school needs to be a good fit for the student, and low racial diversity makes that fit difficult.

“One of the codes of ethics for all admissions personnel in the United States … is that you are transparent and truthful when providing information to students and their families,” said Steger.

When she’s working on recruiting students, she explained that African-American students want to find a school where “you looked to your left and you looked to your right, and there’s someone that looks like you.”

A third concern is similar to what Shearer discussed — the Northwest’s reputation for racism.

Steger explained that lots of families, especially families from the East Coast, associate Montana with all of its nearby states. So they conflate Montana with Idaho’s Ku Klux Klan community, or with Wyoming’s lynching of Matthew Shepard.

“The reality is most students choose local and/or historically black institutions,” Steger said. “Without us having that home away from home, sometimes I think students make the right decision for themselves.”

One positive strategy Steger finds is encouraging students to learn about themselves by stepping outside of their comfort zone.

“In a perfect world, people can move boxes around and make everything equal,” Steger said. “The reality is we need to look at equity. Because we are Montana, and we should have a more rich ethnic diversity of our student body. And then we step out of Missoula and we realize how rich the ethnic diversity of our campus really is. We just can’t compare ourselves to a California.”

REVOLUTIONARY EXISTENCE

Patrisse Cullors yelled “black lives matter” at the beginning of her Nov. 2 speech, to the multiracial audience’s applause and cheers. Despite the fact that the majority of posters for her event were taken down, nearly a thousand people came to hear Cullors, the co-founder of Black Lives Matter.

Cullors focused on the power of social media, discussed the fear black people have of “becoming the next hashtag” and talked about the need for solidarity among social movements.

After Patrisse Cullors’ speech, audience members lined up at the back of the auditorium to meet her. Some bought gifts, like local coffee or a handmade hemp bracelet. Some told her about their experiences as a black student on campus, and some just hugged her, thanking her for coming.

As the line thinned out, she was asked about the 76 black undergraduate students at the University of Montana. After gasping at the number, she took a breath and addressed the black students:

“I’m really sorry that you have to be in an environment that there are so few of you. And, I’m really gonna encourage y’all to stick together. To be supportive of one another, to show up for each other. It’s in these spaces where some of the most historical change has happened because the issues around race and bigotry are so alive. So, thank you for your work. Your existence here in this state on this campus alone is revolutionary.”

montanakaimin.com November 30-December 6, 2016
UM alum receives 'Genius Grant' for revitalizing tribal language

By Mollie Lemm
mollie.lemm@umontana.edu

Daryl Baldwin counts himself among just a handful of people who can introduce themselves in the Myaamia language.

"aya! kinwalaniihsia weenswiaani niila myaamia."

That means, "Greetings! My name is Daryl, and I am from the Miami tribe."

After graduating from the University of Montana in 1999, Baldwin has almost single-handedly revived the Myaamia language.

The last Myaamia speakers died out in the mid-20th century, so when Baldwin, who was raised in Ohio, visited Indiana and Oklahoma to search out speakers of the language, none could be found.

With only some written documents and a few French-made dictionaries for reference, Baldwin and his wife Karen began to practice the language at home. Karen eventually stopped working to homeschool her kids and teach them the Myaamia language.

"I can carry on basic conversation, especially with my kids," Baldwin said. He estimates that since he began his work revitalizing the language, the number of people knowing at least a word or two of the language has gone from zero to almost 500.

Baldwin was recently awarded the MacArthur “Genius Grant,” which, according to the MacArthur Foundation website, is a no-strings-attached award of $625,000, disbursed over a five-year period. Grant recipients must show exceptional creativity in their work and the prospect for still more in the future. Baldwin has no idea who nominated him to receive the award or how long he was on the list for it.

"They literally contacted me three weeks before the public announcement, and I was only allowed to tell one person," Baldwin said.

He initially thought the phone call from an unidentified number in Chicago was a hoax, and even after they explained it thoroughly, it didn't quite feel real.

Baldwin graduated from UM with a master's degree in linguistics. It was in his late 20's that Baldwin became interested in learning about his heritage as a citizen of the Miami tribe, which includes parts of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio.

During trips to Indiana and Oklahoma, he crossed paths with David Costa, a graduate student from the University of California, Berkeley who, like Baldwin, had a keen interest in the Miami tribe and its language. The two ended up working together, along with Julie Olds, the cultural resources officer for the Miami tribe.

In 2001, Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, created the Myaamia Project to devote space and time to language and cultural research and educational development for the tribal community. This transitioned into the Myaamia Center in 2013, directed by Baldwin.

To students looking for the type of success Baldwin has had, he suggests letting passion be the leading force in life.

"I have always been driven by my passion, and I know that doesn't always work out, but sometimes it does," Baldwin said.

His passion for nearly the last 20 years has been helping young Myaamia kids connect to their culture. Baldwin is currently working on developing an assessment program at the Myaamia Center in order to better measure how the language is impacting students in the program. He has already seen a positive correlation between the language restoration and a renewed invigoration in the tribe, but he is striving to accurately display that correlation.

Baldwin is still unsure what the money from the grant will be used for. Because it is such a large sum, and there are a lot of people tied to the work, he wants to make sure to consult everyone involved before making any decisions.

Baldwin said he believes his quality of education and overall experience in Montana really shaped his work with the Miami tribe.

"Because I wasn't from [Montana] — because I was a stranger — I got a chance to interact with a few of the tribes. I think it really contextualized for me the reservation experience," Baldwin said.

---

 Courtesy of Andrew J. Strack  MacArthur fellow Daryl Baldwin teaches Myaamia, the native language of the Miami tribe of Oklahoma, to students in 2010.
There is no cooler than James Bond. The international secret agent has been saving the world, seducing beautiful women and doing it all in style since his debut in Ian Fleming’s 1953 novel, “Casino Royale.”

And while I’ll never be as impeccably dressed as the famous super spy, I can certainly try to drink like him. So I threw on my finest denim duds, a “Canadian tuxedo” to those in the know, and tackled downtown Missoula in an attempt to find a martini Bond would be happy to drink. Bond’s code number may be 007, but you can call me 0.08 percent.

**Mission one:**
From Russian vodka with love

The search for a Bond-worthy martini in Missoula

By Drew Novak
drew.novak@umontana.edu

There is no one cooler than James Bond. The international secret agent has been saving the world, seducing beautiful women and doing it all in style since his debut in Ian Fleming’s 1953 novel, “Casino Royale.”

And while I’ll never be as impeccably dressed as the famous super spy, I can certainly try to drink like him. So I threw on my finest denim duds, a “Canadian tuxedo” to those in the know, and tackled downtown Missoula in an attempt to find a martini Bond would be happy to drink. Bond’s code number may be 007, but you can call me 0.08 percent.

He was confused. Clearly Plonk doesn’t get many secret agent patrons, but I was prepared for this. I searched for a recipe on the flashy phone Q gave me back at the lab — the one that doubled as a stun gun and laser pointer — and pointed to a recipe containing gin, vodka, bitters and a sweet French wine called Lillet.

Before long, the gentleman presented a clear drink in a tall glass, with a lemon twist floating lazily near the rim. A sip revealed a floral fruitiness, bright and smooth. There was no lingering nail polish remover burn of cheap vodka afterward. This was a very good cocktail.

The server helpfully suggested that I pace myself this evening. That martini had roughly four shots of the good stuff in it.

My eyes narrowed, my suspicion raised. Someone was definitely trying to kill me.

**Mission two:**
You only drink twice

There was no denying it. The two cocktails in my system were working their magic. I began to realize my suspicions were correct; some enemy of the state had slipped a slow-acting poison into my drinks, affecting my cat-like spy senses. A blessedly short walk was made to James Bar on West Alder.

My wit had abandoned me, so I just asked the bartender to make “whatever you feel in your heart of hearts James Bond would drink.”

That turned out to be something the color of watered-down cranberry juice in a stemless martini glass. The old favorites vodka and gin were there, but with the addition of St. Germain, an elderflower liqueur. I recall it being sweet. At least, I think it was sweet. Three drinks in and I can’t really be sure my refined palate was working at its peak.

I found myself starting to think that “Die Another Day” was a great movie. When you start to think that Pierce Brosnan at his worst is tolerable you know you’ve gone too far. I’d not only hit my brick wall, but smashed through it. I’d become a victim of cocktail carnage.

The next morning I gathered my intel. My missions had uncovered Plonk’s classified secret: they’ve got the best classic martini downtown. I dialed up the greasiest pizza joint in town for some much-needed sustenance.

**Mission three:**
Octo-boozey

James Bond might be a glamorous agent of the British Secret Service, but he must spend a fortune on aspirin and food delivery.
When the Griz football team jumped out of the gates to a 5-1 start and a top ten national ranking, fans in Missoula started imagining how far this Grizzly team could go. The hype and expectations surrounding the team made the collapse to 6-5 and missing out on playoffs seem unimaginable.

But Griz fans can learn from putting too much stock into early results, and can apply the lesson to this year’s basketball squad.

The Griz men currently sit at 1-6, but that is more a result of coach Travis DeCuire’s scheduling and less a reflection of talent. In order to give the team more experience against NCAA-tournament-worthy teams, DeCuire picked games against teams from the Power Five conferences.

Montana has already played against two Pac-12 opponents, undefeated University of Southern California and Washington State. They traveled to Oxford, Mississippi, to play an Ole Miss team with just one loss, and that came against No. 12 Creighton.

In the Virgin Islands, Montana faced off against a then-undefeated North Carolina State team, hanging around in the first half but fading in a 13-point loss. The Wolfpack are now 5-1 and, like Ole Miss, have only lost to Creighton.

Add close losses to 3-2 Wyoming and 6-2 South Dakota, and you get Montana’s six losses, all to teams with records of .500 or better.

The Griz have played a tough schedule, and they have been without a key player. Michael Oguine made his return in the South Dakota game, playing 14 minutes in his season debut. He should see increased minutes as he gets more comfortable back on the floor.

Walter Wright has started slow, making just two of his 24 3-point attempts. The preseason All-Big Sky guard also has a negative assist-to-turnover ratio and is averaging just 6.9 points per game, tied for the fourth best mark on the team.

A primary threat from 3-point range has also started the season cold, with Bobby Moorehead shooting just 24 percent.

But it hasn’t been all bad for the Griz. Oregon transfer Ahmaad Rorie has lived up to expectations so far, leading the Griz with 13.7 points per game and 21 total assists. He is also making 41 percent of his attempts from beyond the arc.

A couple of freshmen are contributing as well. Sayeed Pridgett has stepped into the roster emphatically, averaging 11.7 ppg, the second best number on the team.

Redshirt freshman Jared Samuelson has been Montana’s most efficient offensive weapon, scoring almost nine points per game on 68 percent shooting from the field.

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The Griz return home for a couple of games against sub-.500 teams, which provides an opportunity to get back to their winning ways. After that, they head to Laramie, Wyoming, for a rematch with the Cowboys and then to No. 23 Oregon for a meeting with Rorie’s former team.

It might not get any easier soon, but Griz fans should judge this team not by its record, but by the progress made so far in a grueling non-conference schedule.

Wright and Moorehead have struggled. Oguine has been hurt. But they will likely return to the form they showed last season. Add that to the new talent, and Montana will be just fine come Big Sky conference season.