THE END OF ENGSTROM

Page 8
I lost my watch (women’s Ebell, two-tone, mixed metal) on campus, most likely on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 2, on the third floor of the University Center (I took it off to time myself while speaking at the Diverse U Interfaith conference). It was a gift and its return would be much appreciated. No questions asked. Reward $50. ruth.vanita@umontana.edu

FOUND: Purple, stainless steel, coffee mug. Salish Kootenai College logo. Found in bathroom on the 2nd floor of the Emma Lommasson Building. Also found lime green hydroflask with MCLL and “Blaine Janes” stickers. Claim either item at the Human Resources Office in Emma Lommasson.

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 406-240-3017 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. Nice, ugly, running or not 327-0300

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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

Leann Skach / @leannskach

OPINION

BIG UPS & BACKHANDS
The Kaimin’s take on this week’s winners and losers. Have a big up or backhand to contribute? Tweet us at @montanakaimin!

Backhands to the College Football Playoff selection committee. Seriously, it should be Penn State who should get to lose to Alabama.

Big Ups to Royce Engstrom for surviving years of Kaimin abuse. May you never be bound and gagged in a photo illustration again.

Big Ups to Obama and the Army Corps of Engineers for figuring shit out (kind of).

Big Ups to the finals week as convoluted as our administration.

ON THE COVER
Photo illustration by Jake Green
KAIMIN EDITORIAL

A dating guide for the new year

By Editorial staff editor@montanakaimin.com

Dating is at least half the fun of college. The thrill of meeting someone new, the excitement of the first few weeks of a relationship and then the crushing depression when it inevitably ends are memories you’ll cherish for the rest of your life.

After the resignation of President Royce Engstrom, the University of Montana is going through a breakup of its own. It was a tough end to a rocky relationship, but we’re now officially in the healing phase — and with that, we’re beginning to look for someone new. In the spirit of change, the Kaimin is here to dispense some dating advice you can take into the new year.

First, communication is the key to any successful relationship. If you can’t let your partner know about your feelings and intentions, you’re setting your relationship up for disaster. If you’re considering making major changes, whether they pertain to your financial situation or immediate friend group, make sure your partner is in the loop! It’s important to let them know as soon as possible so they can prepare themselves if you decide to, say, cut 201 people out of your life or make sweeping changes to your personal budget.

Next, when you say something, you better mean it. Don’t lie to your partner, and especially don’t deny that you said something when you definitely did. It can leave your partner feeling confused, wanting more transparency and a greater understanding of your motivations. It’s important to make sure you know exactly what you want to say before you say it. Don’t go sending them multiple conflicting emails about your feelings and intentions!

We all know that college means sex for many students. As you’re navigating the wild and slippery world of intercourse, make sure that you keep an open mind and are willing to explore the desires and interests of your partner. If they’re demanding creativity, you should do your best to be accommodating — you wouldn’t want them marching around the Oval carrying signs or anything!

Don’t spend all your time comparing your relationship to others. If you’re going through a rough patch and your neighbors are flourishing, don’t lose hope! Work diligently to solve the problems you’re facing. (Use some of that creativity you found in the bedroom!) Finally, and most importantly, make sure that you never go to bed angry (if the two of you can fit in the same bed, that is — a lot of us have twin mattresses). Solve your problems like adults and always make sure that you’re respectful of each other’s feelings.

The world of dating can be tough, but also incredibly fulfilling. The excitement of meeting someone new, and realizing that you might be able to settle down with them is one of the best feelings a person can experience. Just make sure that you’ve found the right person for the job — someone who will not only be strong in times of crisis, but who will do their best to help you succeed.

Features

Rebekah Welch / @bekahdee123

Members of Letter B take a smoke break during band practice, Nov. 27.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS
1  Part of a calyx
2  Caustic chemical
9  Bed board
13  Belief
14  Aquatic shocker
15  Tiresome task
16  Kansas City stadium
18  Company dodger
19  Cut (off)
20  Street musician’s instrument
22  Depressing
24  Computer command
25  Number in a Kutcher TV title
26  Dull
28  Any doctrine
31  Sham argument
34  Hypnotic state
36  Pinocchio, at times
37  Go fish
39  Astronomer’s sighting
40  Aim
42  Audio accessory
44  Casual attire
45  Before the due date
47  Witch’s work
48  Joined the party
49  Mackerei’s cousin
52  Power cable with extreme voltage
57  Arresting figure?
58  Model
59  Climate type
61  Like some vegetables
62  Horse-and-buggy __
63  Carpenter’s joint
64  Weight deduction
65  Electricity source
66  Accumulation of fluid
67  Insignificant
68  Buttonhole
69  Fork part
70  Butterfly, e.g.
71  Pale with fright
72  Not of the cloth
73  In a tidy way
74  Unit of speech
75  Signed a lease
76  Irritate
78  Clobber
80  In a tidy way
81  Red Cross
82  Spur or helical
83  Muslim leader
84  Do away with

DOWN
1  Burn badly
2  Trial partner
3  Commit
4  “Without further ___...”
5  Uncultivated
6  Give the eye
7  Orbital period
8  Alec, among the Baldwin brothers
9  Driftwood site
10  Marathon
11  Environ
12  Fork-tailed flier
13  Shade of green
14  Cow chow
15  Not the former
16  Sentient
24  Word before and after “oh”
27  One of Charlie’s trio
28  Inebriate
29  Glance over
30  S  insignific
31  Buttonhole
32  Fork part
33  Butterfly, e.g.
35  Pal
g
36  Not of the cloth
41  In a tidy way
43  Unit of speech
46  Signed a lease
48  Irritate
49  Clobber
50  ___ pole
51  Verdi specialty
52  Sword handle
53  Creative spark
54  Spur or her
55  Red Cross
56  Muslim leader
57  Do away with

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Answer to Last Week’s Crossword:

C A M E R O N  F R O S T
E V E N I N G  B L O A T E D
V E R A N D A  L A T R I N E
O N I C E  S P I K E  L O B
L U S T  P R U N E  C E N T
T E E N  S L I N G  F A T S O
F R A N C  G U I T A R
S T R A I G H T  A R R O W
S T R A N D  L E M O N
T R U N K  L I N E R  L I D
R O C K  W I N D Y  W A N E
E L K  D I V E R  L A R V A
A L A M O D E  I N I T I A L
M E G A T O N  L I M E A D E
R E N E W  P O R T E R
We are the Griz’s worst enemy

It was only one game, and Montana has lost to Montana State before. But the Grizzlies’ Brawl of the Wild defeat this year felt more disheartening than before. A three-year winning streak was snapped, but worse, Montana was booted from the playoffs — a scenario that seemed as unlikely as a loss to the cellar-scrapping Bobcats.

The players of a clearly mismatched Montana State team could grin in front of a background of Griz logos and call themselves “Griz Slayers.” That line alone should make any Montana student, alumni or fan cringe.

The way the Griz went out — with a whimper — exposed the glaring issue with Montana football: the apathy of its student fans. It suddenly became okay to lose to the Cats.

This indifference could’ve been caused by the game’s odd noon start time. Perhaps the new Griz card student-ticket system discouraged those who hadn’t used it yet from trying.

Too many hungover veteran students who had “seen it all before” covered up with a sparse viewing of the game on TV while they nursed their hangovers with beer and brunch. The younger fans, ones who hadn’t participated in a Missoula Cat-Griz weekend, inevitably failed to carry the torch. The result was underwhelming school spirit.

The Griz rivalry fizzled.

The Griz failed at the end of the season because of the fans who didn’t bother to watch them spiral. The lack of attention when things were bad allowed it to get worse. And it started with the loss to Eastern Washington, one that spurred a string of four losses and Montana’s unforeseeable flop.

Montana students let the Grizzlies down because they failed to be fanatics. Students, after all, are college football’s most acceptable demographic. But on campus, there was no true spirit for the Cats, and there was no temporary condemnation of those who cheered for them. There was no rivalry.

The hatred of another school fuels pride for your own. It’s the reason we watch sports and it’s the leg up college sports have on the profession — your own. It’s the reason we watch sports and it’s the reason we watch sports.

Because I am a blossoming young woman, my mother is constantly inquiring about when she will have some grandchildren. Although I have never expressed as much of an interest in procreation as my two sisters, I have, of course, considered it. When I was younger, I imagined I would have three kids and live in North Carolina, somewhere with a tire swing.

By middle school, I was still eager to have babies, but I was less fixated on the absolutes, willing to sacrifice here and there. Maybe it didn’t have to be North Carolina. Maybe I could forgo the tire swing.

By my second year of college, I had decided I would never have kids. Not because I don’t like them, but because I like them so much I knew it wasn’t ethical.

To many, global warming seems like a problem that is hundreds of years off. But many scientists today warn that a catastrophic tipping point may be coming in the next few decades. Somewhere around midcentury, if not before, the average temperature is estimated to rise by more than two degrees Celsius. Without dramatic action, some climatologists predict that the earth may warm by four degrees Celsius near the end of the century. Four degrees of warming would mean an Earth that is largely uninhabitable for human life.

We must accept that we can no longer continue having children in the quantities we have in the past, not only to reduce the strain an ever-growing population will have on our resources, but because it is simply not ethical to bring a child into this world knowing that they will struggle with water scarcity, unsafe temperatures, natural disasters and food shortages.

Dangerous climate change will have already happened by 2036. To be good parents, a clear majority of us must choose not to be parents at all.

Reducing global fertility down to half a child per woman could, theoretically, eliminate one-fifth to one-quarter of the carbon emissions that need to be reduced by midcentury, to avoid the devastating tipping point. But no woman will have half of a child. This means that a huge portion of us have to stomach the truth — if we want our posterity’s future to be livable, many of us simply cannot have kids.

There are alternatives, of course. Adoption will always be a viable route for people who want to be parents, but not at the cost of their children’s future. For others, the stigma of not having children finally feels away, many will naturally decide not to have babies without the added social pressure. However, each one of us must think critically about this and weigh our options today. It’s much simpler to create fewer humans than it is to find a way to save them after it’s too late.

**Family planning and climate change**

**Intervention is your moral obligation**

Too often, we only offer concern for those who are struggling after they have had a crisis. The response to Kanye West’s recent rant in front of thousands of people showed that we view warning signs as cultural entertainment, until they come full circle, to a complete mental breakdown.

We don’t fully understand that it is our duty as citizens, friends and family to intervene when someone could potentially harm themselves or others.

“People don’t intervene as often as they should when someone else is in a mental health crisis,” said Matt Kuntz, executive director of the National Alliance of Mental Health of Montana. “We leave each other to each others’ paths and lives, but there is a point when it is the right thing to do, to step into somebody else’s life to make sure they’re okay.”

And if you don’t think these crises are happening within close proximity to you, you’re very wrong — especially if you’re a college student.

About 20 percent of college students are on the path to becoming alcoholics, according to the National Institutes of Health. Likewise, according to a survey by the National Alliance of Mental Illness, more than 45 percent of college students stopped attending college for mental health-related reasons, and did not receive accommodations. Additionally, 50 percent of them did not access mental health services and support.

One can imagine how different these statistics would be if we helped reach out to someone in need. It may be unfortunate that their problem could temporarily become your burden, but ignoring it will only make the situation worse.

If you see someone who you suspect could be in serious trouble, speak up. There are most likely underlying factors, ones that perhaps not even the individual themselves is aware of, that could be subconsciously guiding a person’s behavior.

This doesn’t mean you have to entirely take on the burden, but you must take proper actions to help. Reach out, listen and figure out how you can help. You’re probably no professional in the field of intervention, but there are plenty of institutions and 24-hour hotlines that are awaiting your call or visit.

We must stop seeing intervention as an act someone else will take care of. If you see that your actions could help a person in crisis, that makes you the best person to handle it. It’s your voice and your actions that can save someone’s life. You never know whose life you might change for the better if you never try to intervene in the first place.
As the wind whipped through the Great Plains and into her long black braids, Mary Ellen Little Mustache rattled off her plans for the spoils of a successful bison hunt — stomach soup, baked heart, hoof bags, rope, tacos, toys and games.

“This is the greatest moment in a Blackfeet woman’s life,” she said through a weather-worn smile. Stoooping over the remains of the gutted-out bison at her feet, she laughed at her blood-stained hands, dyed red up to her elbows.

“As I always say, I’m happiest when I’m covered in blood and stink.”

Little Mustache, a 58-year-old great-grandmother who has trouble remembering just how many grandchildren she has, lives on the Blackfeet Reservation outside Glacier National Park. She was born in Browning, Montana, and raised in the tradition of her Blackfeet grandparents.

The bison carcass she carefully picked through was farm-raised on the ranch near Browning. Out-of-state hunters paid to come to the private ranch and shoot the trophy animal. But as a cultural educator and traditional toymaker, Little Mustache relished the opportunity to come scavenge through the unwanted bits.

When asked how she learned the traditional uses for the bison parts, the answer was simple: necessity. She said the choice was either to learn how to use every nutritious part of the animal or waste her limited resources on unhealthy, processed foods.

“It’s common knowledge that our reservations are poverty-stricken,” she said grimly as she squeezed waste out of the intestines.

As modern culture threatens to choke out the traditional ways of her fellow native peoples, some have found a way to strike a balance.

On top of the neighboring hill, the rest of the hunting party hacked away at the one other bison downed that day. Alger Swingley, owner and operator of Blackfeet Outfitters, called out for the electric power saw he had left in the truck.

With a pull of the saw’s trigger, blood droplets spewed from the carcass, turning the dry golden grasses into a rustic Jackson Pollock.

“One time I stuffed a heart with those roasted garlic Triscuit crackers and some onions I had laying around, and then baked it,” Little Mustache said. “Oh, and the gravy from it was just amazing. Some of our elders on the reservation are still talking about that meal.”

Before the sun rose that morning, Ben Rupert and his son, John, could be found burning sage and tobacco leaves, deep in wispy smoke and prayer for the hunt that lay ahead. They are from Carson City, Nevada, and members of the Duck Valley Paiute tribe.

Diesel-powered Fords and Dodges rumbled and bounced across the prairie, jostling the anxious hunters toward their domesticated prey. Swingley tried to focus his binoculars through the window of the truck, honing in on the herd of about 25 bison.

“These bison are used to trucks,” Swingley said, almost solemnly. “We’ll be able to get right up next to them.”

The Ruperts met Swingley at an American Indian tourism expo in California. Ben works as a firefighter in Carson City, but he clings tightly to his Paiute heritage. He and his son have traveled the world performing cultural dances and handcrafting traditional bows.

Bison scattered frantically as John tried to get close enough for a clean kill-shot with his compound bow. Trapping the herd in a corner of rusty barbed wire, the hunters closed in on their prey.

John downed the bison easily. It stumbled a few yards before lying down to die. Its eyes rolled wildly as Ben and John approached the heaving animal.

Ben, head lowered and sage in hand, prayed for the bison to pass into its next life. As he thanked the Earth for the day’s bounty, a tinny jingle blared out from nearby.

Swingley hurriedly silenced his phone and bounded away to answer the call.

Brushing off the interruption, Ben soberly returned to the ritual.
Intimacy and honesty: Elisabeth Sheff on polyamory

By Abby Lynes
abigail.lynes@umontana.edu

As a blogger, author of three books and CEO and legal director of a think tank that deals with legal issues facing sexual minorities, Elisabeth Sheff is one of the nation’s top experts on polyamorous relationships.

Relationships involving multiple partners are becoming more of a social norm, Sheff said, especially among young people.

As they become less taboo, poly people navigate jealousy, child rearing and discrimination, she said. The Kaimin sat down with her to discuss these issues.

Sheff will be coming to Missoula on Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. to give a talk on poly family life in the University Center.

Q: To start off, could you define polyamory in your own words for me?
A: It’s a form of consensual non-monogamy that emphasizes emotional intimacy, honesty and compassion.

Q: What are some common misconceptions about people who identify as poly?
A: I would say the primary misconception is that it’s all about the sex. Often, poly people are interested in sex, but the relationships take so much more discussion, and negotiation and talking about people’s feelings, that it ends up being much more about the communication and relational aspects than it is about the sex.

Q: What’s the truth then?
A: The truth is that it’s all about the communication. It’s all about the emotional intimacy, which is developed through and maintained with honest, compassionate communication. In the best-case scenario, sometimes it’s all about feeling terrible and feeling angry and upset. Like, the best-case scenario is that everybody is able to communicate and get along with each other. But sometimes it doesn’t happen that way.

Q: What makes for a successful polyamorous relationship?
A: I would say that the primary thing is that everyone wants to be doing it. Very frequently, I see relationships fall apart when one person is pushing for it and the other person or people are not comfortable with it. Or, if people begin to experience jealousy or discomfort and make that other person’s problem... usually beneath jealousy is insecurity. And the solution is not necessarily asking your partner to stop what they’ve been doing, but for you to get more secure.

Q: What advice do you have for college students who might be exploring their sexuality and finding they identify as poly?
A: I would say, work on your communication skills. They’re really important in poly relationships. And work on your insecurities, because polyamory can really touch on those insecurities. And be flexible. Be open to a wide range of things. Be ready for things to go differently than you had expected. Be ready to shift and renegotiate as things go along.

Q: Have you found that younger people tend to be more open to poly relationships, or is it more the older people who’ve been in monogamous relationships for longer who might have found that they’re dissatisfied with them?
A: I would say that it’s both. But the expectation of monogamy is much less among younger people. That younger people tend to assume that monogamy must be negotiated and not that it’s just this de-fault that everyone does. So I think that’s a significant change, generationally.

And a lot of young people don’t think of themselves as polyamorous per se, but have open and flexible relationships, and think of polyamory as sort of an overarching thing to do. But young people will often have multiple partners who all know about each other but don’t actually call it polyamory.

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

Prioritization will lead to academic program cuts

By Lucy Tompkins
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University of Montana faculty, staff and students gathered for an emergency meeting in the University Center Theater on Wednesday, Nov. 30, to express their fears and ideas regarding the University’s plan to rank and evaluate academic programs, potentially to eliminate or reconfigure them. More faculty and staff could be laid off in the process.

About 80 people attended the meeting to discuss what the administration refers to as the program prioritization process. Comments ranged from criticism of the administration’s lack of transparency, insufficient data collection on why students are leaving UM and the dangers of implementing a process that might pit academic departments against each other.

The meeting was called in response to a series of emails and a Missoulian article published over Thanksgiving break, which raised concerns that more staff cuts could be coming. The email also said cuts will be made to bring personnel spending with enrollment. Last year, over 200 full-time positions were eliminated due to dropping enrollment and inaccurate budget projections.

Faculty and staff said in the emergency meeting they still feel the loss of their friends and colleagues who were laid off, and they don’t want to see more people lose their jobs.

Attendees passed around a microphone and expressed their concerns and confusion over why the University is undertaking this process, what it will look like and what voice faculty and staff have going forward.

Tom Crady, vice president for enrollment and student affairs, fielded many of the questions. He and the presidents of faculty and staff senate, and the ASUM president, took turns responding to questions in the front of the room.

UM lags behind most campuses when it comes to administrative systems, Crady said. Instead of focusing on recruitment and enrollment, he has spent a lot of time bringing these up to par. He said retention should be a major focus for UM, and the University can make more money by keeping the students it currently has than by recruiting new ones.

He added that student services like advising need improvement, as faculty don’t currently have access to student records. This makes quality advising nearly impossible.

Stephen Greymorning, an anthropologist and Native American studies professor at UM, said students are leaving because they know UM is struggling.

“Students are not oblivious to what’s going on on this campus,” Greymorning said. “It’s smoldering. And if it’s smoldering they’re going to get out of it.”

After the emergency meeting, Interim Provost Beverly Edmond attended the ASUM meeting and student listening session, which is part of the first phase of program prioritization. She said that for the next nine to 12 months, the process will only involve listening sessions and conversations with different campus groups to develop a plan. But the end result will involve cutting programs, she said.

“Prioritization is for growth and enhancement but also for discontinuation,” Edmond said. “I don’t want to play a game that this is all one-sided. That doesn’t make sense.”

She said that the discontinuation of a degree program won’t necessarily mean the elimination of faculty within that program. Their roles may be “reconfigured.”

Once the listening period is over, and criteria for ranking programs have been created, Edmond and a team of administrators will write a set of recommendations for where funds will be appropriated and which programs will be cut. While the process is intended to be collaborative, the final decision rests with an executive team.

“This process will not result in consensus,” Edmond said. “You do not administer in consensus.”
Despite women’s advocates pushing for paid maternity leave at the University of Montana, policy change won’t happen until the whole Montana University System implements it.

Last spring, the Women’s Leadership Initiative, a program aiming to increase female leadership at the University of Montana, was asked to come up with a small solution that could have a big impact.

A few different ideas were tossed around, but the group of female faculty and staff members decided on paid maternity leave, English advisor Maria Mangold said. Missoula City Council’s recent decision to offer six-week paid maternity leave to all city employees has brought the issue to light at UM.

Maternity leave at UM is great for faculty, not so great for staff, said Jennifer Combe, a tenure-track assistant professor for art education. Faculty (people in teaching positions) can take off an entire semester from teaching while doing research and service from home during their maternity leave. For staff members (employees not in teaching positions) there is no guaranteed paid maternity leave.

According to federal law, an employee can take up to 12 weeks of unpaid maternity leave with job security.

Since UM is a state-run institution, it must follow state regulations, said Terri Phillips, associate vice president for human resources. Even if the University wanted to implement a paid maternity leave policy, she said, it couldn’t. That would be left up to the Montana University System.

The issue of paid maternity leave for state employees hasn’t come up in the Legislature, according to Diane Sands, who has been a state legislator for almost 20 years and served on the Interim Children, Families, Health and Human Services Committee.

Different governmental bodies could decide to offer paid maternity leave; it would just have to be a decision made in the human resources of the MUS, and there would have to be room for it in the budget, Sands said.

Combe is one of many women across campus who believes things should be different.

She said she was grateful for her leave plan, but feels bad for coworkers who didn’t have the same opportunities. One of her friends decided to take off extra time and ended up being out of work for six months, costing her family about $30,000.

“When I think about how it played out, I get sad,” she said. “Because I’m one of the ‘haves.’”

One option available to staff is opting into a sick-leave pool. To join the pool, one must have accrued 80 hours of sick leave. Staff get eight hours of sick leave each month they work at UM. They can draw available sick leave hours from the pool if needed.

Maria Mangold initially thought she would have to take this route with her first child and signed up for the program. But then her supervisor told Mangold she could send out an email asking faculty and staff in the English department to donate extra sick and annual, or personal, leave hours to her. This is different from the sick-leave pool because it isn’t anonymous; people knew it was Mangold requesting the hours.

For faculty, sick leave hours roll over to the next year unused. When they retire or quit, they get paid out for 25 percent of the hours they didn’t use. Some faculty have accrued close to 500 hours, she said.

Mangold said it was very generous of faculty members to donate hours to her they would have otherwise gotten paid for upon retiring. She was also fortunate to work in academic affairs, she said. Part of the reason why faculty in the English department donated to her was because they knew her and valued her work, she said. A staff member working somewhere else on campus may not know that many faculty members with extra hours to donate.

While UM follows state and federal laws and finds ways to accommodate employees, there’s still progress to be made, Mangold said.

“I would just hope that we as an institution would be more progressive and move the dial forward,” she said.
How UM'S PRESIDENT fell from grace

I. A hopeful beginning

Former President George Dennison announced his retirement from the University of Montana in January of 2010. He was well-known for his 20-year tenure, the longest anyone had held the office at UM, as well as his penchant for constructing new buildings. He chose to hold off retirement until Montana State University concluded its search for a new president, who they found in Waded Cruzado in Oct. 2009.

His departure came at a time when the U.S. economy was still in recovery. A Missoulian article announcing Dennison's departure described UM's financial situation as, “strained,” and Dennison was quoted saying that budget cuts and revenue shortfalls are perennial occurrences. A new president would have to bring fresh ideas about how to weather the challenges ahead.

In September of that year, Royce Engstrom was selected as UM's new president. Enrollment was at 15,642.

Formerly the University of Montana's provost, Engstrom assumed office on Oct. 15, 2010. He immediately began shaking things up, promoting Perry Brown to the role of provost from his position of the dean of forestry and conservation. Increased recruitment and retention were essential goals at the beginning of his term, and for a moment, he seemed on the path to success. Engstrom almost immediately began to receive praise. Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts Stephen Kalm said in a Missoulian article that Engstrom was going to make a “tremendous” president.

His first year as president saw few major conflicts and little of the broad criticism he would soon face.

II. Enter the DOJ

Then, on Dec. 16, 2011, when enrollment was at 15,669, the Missoulian published an anonymous tip stating that three UM football players were alleged assailants in a sexual assault investigation.

From there, all hell broke loose.

Former Montana Supreme Court Justice Diane Barz stated on Jan. 31, 2012, that “UM has a problem with sexual assault.” Then, on Feb. 10, 2012, two female students reported that an international student had sexually assaulted them. The student fled the country after a campus-wide email was sent out alerting campus that both head football coach Robin Pflugrad and Athletic Director Jim O'Day would not have their contracts renewed.

1. October 15, 2010
   Royce is hired as president from the provost position after George Dennison's resignation.

2. December 16, 2011
   The Missoulian publishes an anonymous tip stating that three UM football players were alleged assailants in a sexual assault investigation.

   Former state Supreme Court Justice Diane Barz states that “UM has a problem with sexual assault.”

4. February 10, 2012
   Two female students report that an international student sexually assaulted them. The victims blamed the University of Montana for its inaction.

5. March 29, 2012
   Engstrom sends an email alerting campus that both head football coach Robin Pflugrad and Athletic Director Jim O'Day would not have their contracts renewed.

6. May 2012
   The Department of Justice signals their intent to investigate roughly 80 rapes that had occurred in Missoula. The Department of Education also opens its own investigation regarding purported Title IX violations.

7. 2013
   Budget cuts continue.
ing students of the assault, and when the assaults were eventually reported to police, the victims blamed the University of Montana for its inaction.

Meanwhile, former Griz linebacker Beau Donaldson was being held in Missoula County Jail on $50,000 bail after being charged with sexual assault. Former quarterback Jordan Johnson was the subject of a restraining order filed on March 15 by a female student who said Johnson sexually assaulted her. After the restraining order was dismissed, then-head coach Robin Pflugrad allowed Johnson to return to play for the team on March 24, 2012.

Days later, on March 27, Engstrom sent an email alerting campus that both Pflugrad’s and Athletic Director Jim O’Day’s contracts would not be renewed. The swift firing of a winning coach was a gutsy and controversial move at a university where football reigns supreme.

This was quickly overshadowed, however, by the entrance of the United States Department of Justice. In May, the DOJ signaled its intent to investigate roughly 80 rapes that had occurred in Missoula over the previous three years. The Department of Education also opened its own investigation regarding purported violations of Title IX, a law aimed at gender-based discrimination in education.

At the same time, it was revealed that then Vice President for External Relations Jim Foley had asked via email if a student who spoke to the press regarding her sexual assault could be punished.

Foley stepped down in June, and Engstrom continued to make clear his commitment to preventing sexual assaults through educational programs. He also announced that four vice presidential positions needed to be filled, and named Peggy Kuhr vice president for integrated communications in August, a new position created in the wake of the rape scandal.

The Department of Education investigation concluded a year later, in 2013, finding that the University of Montana was not in compliance with Title IX. The DOJ ended its investigation as well, describing UM as a “hostile environment based on sex” with a resolution listing a multitude of requirements for UM going forward. Beau Donaldson pleaded guilty, while Jordan Johnson was acquitted of all charges.

By fall, enrollment was at 14,525.

Engstrom saw the outcome of these investigations as a “triumph” for the University, according to an October 2013 Kaimin story. But faculty were already beginning to doubt him. History professor Michael Mayer was quoted in that story saying the administration had let the DOJ walk all over the University.

“I’m not claiming we got this 100 percent right,” Engstrom said in the article. “But we took a very campus-centric approach to protect our students and employees. There were bound to be mistakes along the way.”

### III. Cuts, cuts and more cuts

None of this boded well for enrollment.

Under Engstrom, the University of Montana had seen decreases in student population every year from 2011 to present. The economy had begun to recover in the midst of the sexual assault scandal, which meant less interest in higher education. But as UM failed to bring up its numbers, Montana State University was flourishing.

MSU’s enrollment has thus far risen every consecutive year under President Waded Cruzado, currently sitting at a high of 16,440 students. And while UM certainly carries a stigma with regard to sexual assault, that does not seem to be affecting Montana high schools’ choice of university. The University of Montana has a fundamental recruitment and retention problem.

While Cruzado had a one-year head start on Engstrom, the fact remains that she is largely responsible for MSU’s ascension. UM’s enrollment has fallen every year since 2011, a 21 percent drop in total. Fewer students has meant fewer dollars. UM administration’s frequent ineptitude and inability to retain students over the past half-decade secured Engstrom’s legacy as one of budget cuts.

And cut he did. While some budget cuts were certainly made between 2011 and 2014, it was fall 2015’s decimation of 201 employees and veritable gutting of the humanities that would stand as one of Engstrom’s defining moments. That year, enrollment was at 13,044.

The University of Montana budgeted for a 5 percent decrease in enrollment in the 2015-2016 school year. Main Hall released a preliminary enrollment report in the beginning of October 2015 reporting that enrollment had only declined 3.8 percent. By November, the numbers were quietly updated on the University’s website to a 6.5 percent decrease, with no public announcement from the administration. This did not help with Main Hall’s perceived transparency problem, and was a warning sign for the massive axing of faculty and non-faculty positions that came on Nov. 17. While Engstrom did not reveal the budget deficit, Peggy Kuhr reported to Montana Public Radio that it was around $5 million.

Targeted programs included journalism, anthropology, English, geography, liberal studies, art, political science, forestry management and the Missoula College programs of carpentry, building maintenance and recreational power equipment. Those affected included faculty, staff, student employees, graduate assistants, administrators and part-time positions.

Most of the positions cut were done so through retirements, not filling open positions and 27 individual layoffs. The cuts shocked and infuriated those on and off campus, and Engstrom’s efficacy as a leader was again called into question.

It didn’t help that he used departmental reviews done by faculty members to determine which programs to cut.

The tides had shifted. Professors and other faculty felt deceived by the use of the review, conducted in spring 2014. Engstrom initially denied that the reports would be used to determine which programs to cut. Faculty Senate Chair Stephen Lodmell quoted Engstrom as saying via email, “you don’t cut your way to success.”

It would be a mistake to place the blame for plunging enrollment solely on Engstrom. But, the indiscriminate cuts, as well as the staggering lack of transparency from Main Hall, were poor responses to a chaotic situation. In the years that Engstrom has led UM, the executives have failed to give concise ex-
plannations or justifications for many of the innumerable problems facing campus. Par for the course are the murky, conflicting emails sent to students and faculty within the last few weeks regarding further cuts from both Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian and Engstrom.

Matters were made worse when news of Engstrom’s $500,000 in deferred compensation entered public consciousness in November 2015. While both Engstrom and Cruzado receive such payments, the knowledge that Engstrom would begin receiving annual payments of $50,000 for the next 10 years did not sit well in the wake of the budget cuts. These plans exist to incentivize university system presidents to take the job, as Montana schools pay less annually than neighboring schools in North Dakota and Idaho.

Yearly, Engstrom made $309,207. When he received a raise of $6,093 in January of this year, he pledged the money to a leadership scholarship.

Students protested the slashing of the humanities in December of last year. Calling themselves “UM United,” the group marched across the Oval chanting “What do we want? Creative solutions.” While the movement offered little in the way of concrete suggestions, it is true that Engstrom and his cabinet failed to offer many clear enrollment solutions, relying mostly on harm reduction methods like budget cuts. It was this lack of creativity that helped cause Engstrom’s fall from grace.

IV. Denouement

Engstrom also saw the collapse of his cabinet last spring, when long-standing Main Hall inhabitants Teresa Branch, Perry Brown, Peggy Kuhr and Bill Johnston retired in quick succession. Tom Crady and Beverly Edmond were hired as vice president of enrollment management and student affairs, and interim provost, respectively. Mario Schulzke took over Kuhr’s position, and was named associate vice president of integrated communications and chief marketing officer. Paula Short was named director of communications, absorbing some of Kuhr’s duties. Some of these titles, like Crady’s, were new, combining elements of multiple positions.

Despite widespread criticism and some calls for his resignation from community members after the events of last fall and spring, things did not truly fall apart for Engstrom until this fall, when enrollment once again dropped — this time by 6.1 percent, slightly lower than expected.

Engstrom found a guardian angel in Tom Crady, whose actions this fall also showed that UM was committed to making necessary changes. His elimination of roughly 50 potential registration holds, transition to a paperless application system and hiring of an outside firm whose aim is to recruit high school students displayed the kind of creative enrollment solutions so desperately needed.

Another major break came Engstrom’s way during this time — a $24 million gift benefitting the College of Forestry and Conservation and the Global Leadership Initiative, a program Engstrom spearheaded during his time as provost. It was the largest single-donor gift ever received by the University. Multiple events across campus were held Nov. 18 in celebration, just two weeks before Engstrom resigned.

The Associated Students of the University of Montana addressed the issue of program prioritization in October of this year, with President Sam Forstag calling it “the single most important thing this Senate will have the opportunity to deal with.” Prioritization was again discussed in the emergency meeting held by ASUM the night before Engstrom resigned.

The same day, Clayton Christian denied mandating staffing reductions. While they may not yet have given the order, Kevin McRae said in a Missoulian article that “UM currently has too many faculty and staff.”

There was radio silence from Engstrom himself for an entire day after Christian announced that he was being asked to step down. In his first public statement, on Dec. 2, he asked the campus community to support Sheila Stearns, his interim replacement, during the transition period. He signed off with a “Go Griz!”

V. The road ahead

Engstrom will depart from the University on Dec. 31, at which time Sheila Stearns will promptly take over his duties until a replacement is found. Enrollment is currently at 12,419.

His departure will have immediate consequences. UM’s relationship with the Montana state legislature will now be helmed by Stearns, who Forstag said should fill the role well.

Still, Forstag questioned the commissioner of higher education’s decision.

“We’ve made some really positive changes recently at UM, and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education just stepped in the middle of it all with their comments to the Missoulian,” Forstag said. “There is [a] a top-down approach happening now where the community has less say in who is leading the U.”

Regardless, the search for a new president is already underway. And, in roughly a year, Edmond said more program cuts will be made. With things as unpredictable as they are, those cuts could always come sooner.

The University of Montana has signaled that it is ready for new ideas. What exactly will change in the coming years remains to be seen. But Engstrom’s sudden and swift departure signals that more sweeping changes could be coming.

Temporary leadership will guide UM through the next several months, as well as the upcoming legislative session. Royce Engstrom will remain in office until New Year’s Eve, at which point his future becomes uncertain. While he has the option of retaining a position in some capacity at the University, he has not said if he intends to do so. He declined to comment for this story.

He leaves behind a complicated and messy legacy. He took the reins during a difficult financial period, and was unable to make many improvements. It is impossible to quantify the degree to which he is at fault for the problems of the last five years. There is only speculation, and the knowledge that Royce Engstrom, the soft-spoken chemist, will not lead the University into the new year.

Additional reporting by Kasey Budnash, Matt Neuman and Claire Chandler.
Imprisoned and in recovery: a look inside prison alternatives for Montana drug offenders

By Lucy Tompkins
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A couple of weeks after his 18th birthday, Tommy Holliday’s mom found an ounce of cocaine in his room and turned him in to the police. Heartbroken from a recent breakup and depressed from his parents’ divorce, Holliday, now 28, said he bought the cocaine as a temporary escape from his emotional turmoil.

That was Holliday’s first felony drug charge. In the years that followed, he dropped out of high school, flunked college and sank deeper into the world of painkillers, heroin, Adderall and alcohol — anything that could put a filter on his life for a little while.

“It was too intriguing to me — too easy of an escape from the depression, the social anxiety, the disconnect that I felt in general,” Holliday said.

When he was 24, nearing the end of probation for his first drug charge, Holliday overdosed on heroin and was charged again for drug possession. He was sentenced to eight years in the Department of Corrections, with four years suspended. As a repeat drug offender, Holliday qualified for the NEXUS program, a nine-month alternative to prison programs for addicts. After waiting in jail for 18 months, a spot at NEXUS opened up, and Holliday was sent to Montana’s most intensive treatment facility.

NEXUS, which opened in 2007, is co-run by the Department of Corrections and the non-profit organization Community, Counseling and Correctional Services Inc. NEXUS seeks to reduce recidivism, the rate at which offenders return to prison, by providing counseling and social skills training to ease their reintegration with society and interrupt criminal thinking patterns.

Drug offenders have the second highest rate of recidivism in the country. Seventy-eight percent return to prison within five years of their release, according to a 2014 Bureau of Justice Statistics report. A lack of treatment and mental health services in prison can exacerbate this problem. Programs like NEXUS are trying to change that, and it appears to be working.

In 2011, over 40 percent of people incarcerated in Montana returned to prison within three years. Of the 410 offenders who have completed NEXUS since its inception, only 20 percent have returned. The NEXUS program is based on the therapeutic community model, which treats drug addiction by focusing on the lifestyle and thought patterns of an individual, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

At 28, 10 years after his first felony conviction, Holliday is back in school. He’s studying psychology and philosophy at the University of Montana and works as an administrative assistant on campus. His college application process was more demanding than it is for most students because of his criminal record, but persistence and strong reference letters earned him another chance.

Completing NEXUS helped Holliday change his lifestyle, but he doesn’t remember the nine-month treatment process as encouraging or hopeful, he said.

“It’s by far the hardest thing I’ll ever do in my life,” he said.

In NEXUS, offenders present their life story in a group setting through the lens of everything they have done wrong, said Rick Barman, the program’s administrator. Each person receives critical feedback from their peers. Positive feedback is discouraged, as it hinders the person’s growth by not holding them accountable for their actions.

Barman said feedback cannot be malicious, but it will almost always be negative, “because what they’ve done is negative.” A major part of the process is showing offenders that their behavior victimized people. For drug addicts, it’s usually their families, Barman said.

Barman transferred to NEXUS in 2007 after working in a prison, where he said rehabilitation is practically nonexistent. Now, he feels he’s part of something meaningful, as NEXUS gives tools for interrupting the cycle of addiction and incarceration that can plague families for generations.

“In here, I like to think that we treat them like people, like you and I want to be treated,” Barman said. “They call me by my first name. And in prison, that’s not generally the way people are treated.”

Because of the mental challenges NEXUS presents, Holliday said most people try to avoid it.

“It’s kind of dreaded within the Department of Corrections,” he said. “Most people prefer to go sit their time in Montana State Prison instead.”

The program is voluntary, and about one person a month drops out to return to prison.

Bryan Cochran, UM psychology professor and director of clinical training, said the therapeutic community model is long-standing and works to comprehensively rehabilitate people. But like any model, it doesn’t work for everyone.

“Aspects of the treatment that focus on the harm caused by one’s use can feel shaming and punitive; this should be balanced with helping the client to build useful skills and reinforcement for positive behavioral changes,” Cochran said.

Holliday said NEXUS is a definite improvement from prison, but the emphasis on negative feedback can be psychologically taxing. It’s assumed that addicts have a plan to systematically destroy their own lives and victimize their loved ones “for some nonexistent game,” Holliday said. But nobody plans to become an addict.

“As soon as you realize that you may not want to be going down that path, is the point in which it’s the only path you can follow without willingly subjecting yourself to excruciating pain and depression,” Holliday said.

While NEXUS helped Holliday stay clean, he said it’s hesistant to credit the program with his recovery. Institutional and personal barriers that felons face after their release can drive people back into their addictions, making every day a decision to move forward and replace drugs with healthy habits. For Holliday, exercise, playing the guitar and school help fill the void.

“[Prison] isn’t enough because every person has their own will,” Holliday said. “And no one has ever maintained sobriety or done anything to better their lives because someone else willed them to. Those things help, but in the end, the final decision always rests on the addict, on the criminal. Eventually you have to put your own work in and deal with it yourself.”

Will McKnight / @WillMck_Photo
Administrative assistant for the liberal arts school and student Tommy Holliday talks about his experiences in a jail diversion program and how it differed from conventional correctional practices on Nov. 10, 2016.
A Semester in Photos
Fall’s most memorable moments

1. Lacey Young / @laceyyoung87 A police officer walks by an empty gurney on the first floor of Building H in the Lewis and Clark Village on Saturday night, Sept. 17. A body was found and later identified as Rhianna Dilworth, a 22-year-old UM student.

2. Kira Vercruysen / @kiravphotography Lead ballerina, Rustem Imanguliev, left, and prima ballerina, Natalia Ivasenko, right, run backstage between dances during their last dress rehearsal of the Moscow Ballet’s Great Russian Nutcracker at the Dennison Theatre on Nov. 6.

3. Jake Green / @jake.m.green A pumpkin appeared on the top of Main Hall Thursday morning, Oct. 27. A student was arrested on charges of criminal trespassing and obstruction of a peace officer.

4. Will McKnight / @WillMcK_Photo Griz wide receiver James Homan jumps to catch the ball for a touchdown in the second quarter at Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Oct. 8. The Griz beat Mississippi Valley State, 67-7.

5. Sydney MacDonald / @sydneysmacdo Two protesters stand in protest on a blockade between police and the construction site of the Dakota Access Pipeline on Highway 1806, north of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation on Nov. 5.

6. Rebekah Welch / @bekah2493 Opening for the Caravan of Glam, a dancer from The Cigarette Girls Burlesque, Brianna Watkins, dances and lip syncs at Stage 112 on Sept. 23.
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The Weeknd shines on ‘Starboy.’

Abel Tesfaye is conflicted. After releasing the hugely successful “Beauty Behind the Madness” last summer, the man professionally known as The Weeknd was on top of the world. The Max Martin produced “Can’t Feel My Face,” a song about the effects of cocaine, conquered the music charts and became an inescapable radio staple.

But listening to his newest album, “Starboy,” one gets the impression he isn’t sure how to handle that fame. The man responsible for nihilistic songs about anonymous sex and the virtues of recreational drug use was suddenly nominated for a Nickelodeon Kid’s Choice Award. What does that make The Weeknd in 2016? “Starboy” is Tesfaye coming to terms with the flashing lights and worldwide recognition. It’s an enjoyable album for most of its runtime, though it runs about six songs too long. It’s also a work that sounds like the artist can’t decide what he wants from his art, himself or the public.

Lead single, “Starboy,” opens up the collection on a high note. The track is one of two featuring French electronic superstars Daft Punk. The song is already a hit and it’s easy to see why. Tesfaye rides a clippy beat, demanding listeners to acknowledge all the women, cars and illicit substances he has access to. He’s a motherfucking starboy, and damn if he’s not going to reap the benefits that come with that. Daft Punk also lend their skills to album closer “I Feel It Coming.” Sounding a little like the duo’s own “Get Lucky,” The Weeknd gives us what might be his warmest song yet. Funk guitars pair with sweet lyrics about monogamy and taking it slow. Unexpected.

Everyone’s favorite femme fatale, Lana Del Rey, makes some welcome appearances on the set. Not only did she co-write the hedonistic slow-burner “Party Monster,” but she also gets her own chance to shine on “Stargirl Interlude.”

And shine she does. Her trademark breathy vocals swirl around lyrics like, “My back arched like a cat / My position couldn’t stop you were hitting it,” while dreamy synths and drum machines bump. It ends up being one of the best songs on the album.

Considering how monstrously successful their initial collaboration was, a follow-up with co-writer Max Martin was all but inevitable. The Swedish pop virtuoso teams up with Tesfaye on four tracks here, the best of which is the upbeat house groove, “Rockin’.” Honestly, it wouldn’t sound out of place on Ariana Grande’s “Dangerous Woman.” The Weeknd certainly has come a long way from “High for This.”

Unfortunately, “Starboy” really starts to trail off in the back half, and it’s there the juxtaposition between what The Weeknd was and what he wants to be is especially clear. The interesting excursions into zipper material are replaced by more predictable R&B sludge. Tempos screech to a crawl and the enormity of 18 tracks really starts to sink in. The slow-as-molasses trap beats on “All I Need” might mimic the effects of codeine cough syrup, but they had me reaching for the skip button.

Eight things about the holidays that are the worst but also the best

1. Winter Break
   We’re almost there! Once we survive finals, no schoolwork is great and sleeping in is even better. But after we catch up on sleep and eat whatever we want at home, the break can get old, and it gets old very quickly after running into high school classmates we forgot about.

2. Salvation Army
   Speaking of grocery stores, the Salvation Army bell ringers with their Red Kettle campaign are the worst. Sure, the organization said it made almost $150 million last season, which provided services to 30 million families. That doesn’t change the fact that those bell ringers bring guilt with every chime of their bell. What do they think the holidays are about? Charity? Helping others? Being a decent person? As if.

3. Starbucks
   It’s ridiculous that Starbucks is now a huge part of the holidays, but here we are. Its holiday cups have somehow become the symbol for anti-Christianity which, this year, display sketches showing how its employees and customers are all connected. Starbucks is great because it has perfectly locked down capitalizing on the holidays — people buy their coffee to be festive or they buy coffee to protest said coffee. Starbucks wins, logic loses.

4. Mariah Carey
   “All I Want for Christmas Is You” is the best holiday song of the 90’s. Those first notes really bring in the holiday season, but once the song has played more than 50 times and people are stuck in the grocery store listening to it, it gets old.

5. New Year Resolutions
   Resolutions are great for exactly 24 hours, when we all convince ourselves that the new year is going to be the best year, and we’re going to be our new selves! Then we remember that the only thing that’s changing is the number at the end of the date, which will be confusing for the next three months.

6. Sufjan Stevens’ “Silver and Gold”
   This album has 58 songs on it, and it’s a followup to Stevens’ “Songs for Christmas” which has 42 songs. Just for clarity, that’s 100 holiday songs, which is about 90 too many for one artist. This album is the best because it’s a good mix of old carols and recent songs mixed with banjo and Stevens’ voice. But it’s the worst because, let’s face it, Sufjan Stevens’ music is sad music, which can kill the holiday buzz.

7. Walking (or skiing or sledding) in a Winter Wonderland
   Winter sports are the best thing in the world, whether it’s flying through powder on the mountain, slipping down hills on a sled or packing the perfect snowball. The second that it gets just a bit too cold, though, the only thing that sounds fun is indoor heating.

8. Ugly Sweater Parties
   These parties were great when they meant rifling through thrift stores to find the worst sweater imaginable. Now, though, these parties are popular enough that regular stores sell ugly sweaters that are flattering at the same time. People are spending more than $5 on these sweaters, it’s time to come up with another holiday tradition.

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December 7, 2016
montanakaimin.com
Pridgett shining in freshman season

By Isaiah Dunk
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If Sayeed Pridgett was asked to play all five positions on the basketball court in a single game, he wouldn’t shy away. “I’ve done it growing up all my life. I did in high school. We lost a lot of guys, so I had to play center, guard, everything,” Pridgett said.

Pridgett is listed as a guard, but the 6-5 true freshman has also had to do some work down low for the Montana Grizzlies early in 2016-2017.

“My mind-frame coming in was, ‘Whatever coach needs from me, I’m going to do it. If he needs me to play center, I’m going to play center. Point guard, I’m going to do it. I’m going to do whatever it takes for us to win,’” Pridgett said.

For this year’s team, Pridgett’s versatile skills are invaluable.

Since the graduation of last season’s star center, Martin Breunig, the Griz have faced a shortage of eligible big men to fill the void. Junior Fabijan Krslovic is the natural replacement, having started alongside Breunig the past two seasons. After Krslovic, the experience drops off to redshirt-freshman Jared Samuelson, while senior Jack Lopez occasionally helps in the post too.

The shortage made the Griz rely on Pridgett to go up against bigger players during the team’s recent road trip, where they faced the likes of Mississippi, North Carolina State and Washington State.

Despite the tough competition, the extra roles haven’t affected Pridgett’s productivity. He was second on the team in scoring through UM’s first seven games, averaging 11.7 points, and he averaged four rebounds per game too.

Fellow guard Michael Oguine noticed how focused and ready Pridgett was while rooming with him on the road trip.

“He’s really been a bright spot. It’s great to see him coming in and playing hard,” Oguine said. “It’s refreshing to see his passion for the game.”

Oguine, a sophomore who averaged 11 points per game last year, said he sees similarities between Pridgett and himself, noting that they each saw big roles on the team as soon as they arrived at Montana. Both players hail from California as well (Pridgett from Oakland, Oguine from Chatsworth). The amount of basketball talent and competition in the Golden State helped create both players’ passion, according to Oguine.

“I see the same kind of drive and hunger,” Oguine said. “Coming from California too, he’s just had that mentality that he didn’t want to come here and waste time. He wanted to be ready to go from day one and it’s good to see him accomplishing that.”

Plus, “he’s just a cool dude to be around,” Oguine said. In fact, Pridgett’s favorite hobby since he was young is collecting Jordan sneakers. He said he has about 50 pairs.

Oguine missed UM’s first six games with a hand injury, but he’s excited to finally join Pridgett on the court and try to get the Grizzlies back on track after starting 1-6.

Pridgett isn’t excited that his freshman campaign started with so many losses, but he isn’t too worried either. The team’s chemistry hasn’t quite fallen into place yet, but he thinks the Griz improve when it does.

“We’ve taken a lot of losses, so it takes away from how good I’m doing,” Pridgett said. “But I know for a fact we’ll do better in the future.”

Views from the 406: Lady Griz can’t catch a break

It was always going to be a difficult first season for Shannon Schweyen. She had to replace Rob-in Selvig, a man that won 865 games, more than coaches like Roy Williams and Bob Huggins.

Selvig built a dynasty at Montana. The Lady Griz haven’t had a losing season since the 1998-99 campaign. Before that, you have to go back to 1978 to find another season where the Lady Griz had more losses than wins.

It is a program rich in tradition, and the expecta-tions are always high from the fans that fill up Dahlberg Arena through the winter months. The winning ways will be expected to continue under Schweyen’s charge, but the first year coach has been dealt the equivalent of a 7-2 off-suit hand in poker.

From the start, the Lady Griz were only going to go as far as Kayleigh Valley could take them. The senior was tabbed the preseason Big Sky MVP after averaging 22 points and seven rebounds a year ago.

Then Valley went down for the season with a knee injury and things started to look dreary. They turned to the only other senior on the team, Alycia Sims, to be the leader and primary scoring threat. But in the season opener against Great Falls, Sims suffered a season-ending injury as well.

It was an unbelievable run of bad luck. The two cornerstones of the program, the two best of-fensive options, the two senior leaders, both gone for the season. That left just one upperclassmen on the Lady Griz roster, and I think you know where this one is going.

Mekaya Isaak, a redshirt-junior from Bend, Oregon, broke her hand against Utah State and will be out for four to six weeks.

After all the injuries, Schweyen persuaded Ra-chel Staudacher, who decided in the summer that she wouldn’t play her senior season, to rejoin the team. She has played in two games, coming off the bench in both, since returning. She averages four points and just over five rebounds per game.

There is no precedent for what the Lady Griz are going through this season. They have started 2-5, with the only wins coming against the NAIA’s Great Falls and a wireless University of the Incar-nate Word team.

The Lady Griz are going to have a losing sea-son this year, that much seems to be clear. In the game against Cal State Fullerton on Nov. 30, four freshmen, a mixture of redshirt and true, started.

But that doesn’t necessarily mean the whole season is lost.

Taylor Golligeshi, a redshirt-freshman who was a star high school player just down the road in Hamilton, has been thriving in her new role as a versatile offensive weapon. She leads the Lady Griz with 12 points per game and is shooting 38 percent from three-point range.

True freshman Madi Schoening is the only other player to start all six games, averaging just over five points per game. McKenzie Johnston, another freshman, leads the team with 20 assists and also averages over five points per game.

It is going to be a difficult season for the Lady Griz and Schweyen, but it will be nearly impossi-ble to judge her on this trial run. She worked the sidelines with Selvig for years and knows what it takes to build a winning program.

This season, the Lady Griz shouldn’t be fo-cused on winning. Instead, they should be fo-cused on getting the young players valuable experience. It is a rebuilding year, but Valley, and possibly Sims, will be back next season. Then we can see what Shannon Schweyen is really made of.
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