3-8-2017

Montana Kaimin, March 8-14, 2017

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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Sneaker culture still running strong
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Sudoku

Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:

```
5 2 7 1
2 3 9
3 8 7 5
1 6 8
```

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.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

```
ACROSS
1 Guitar accessory
2 Like tears
5 Daisyleaf bloom
6 It may be bright
14 Letters on an F-16
15 Innocent
16 Middle value
17 Like some experts
19 Auditor's aim
20 Completely around
21 Divination deck
23 Funny fellow
25 Funny fellow
26 Geometric solid
28 Upholstery trim
30 Like some experts
33 Bonanza find
34 Prepare to surf, perhaps
36 Cut, as ties
37 Tusked animal
39 One who goes for the gold?
41 High praise
42 Back, in a way
44 Dry (off)
46 Kind of party
47 Sit tight
49 Serious warning
51 Viper snake
53 Jen's "Friend"
54 Flavor detector
57 Deralict
61 Initiation, e.g.
62 Part of Huac
63 Roman date
65 Light purple
66 NASA scrub
67 Fresh
68 Regarding
69 All over

DOWN
1 Codger
2 Fishing, perhaps
3 Gloomy atmosphere
4 Raim Wilson sitcom, with "The"
5 Waiting area
6 "Come to think of it..."
7 Scramble piece
8 Happening
9 Railroad station porter
10 Just not done
11 Turn off
12 British blueblood
13 Advance amount
15 Grow viciously
18 Flower with a bulb
24 Finger or toe
26 Dry
27 Inclined
28 Boarding school biggie
29 Philanthropist
31 Now or __________
32 Distinguished
33 Street post
34 Car shopper’s tryout
35 Tray
38 Cat
39 Prosecutor’s option
40 Off-target
41 Light in a light show
43 Astronomer’s sighting
46 Vener
52 Lick
54 Field follower?
55 - - - - - -
56 Chip’s partner
58 It’s clicked on a computer
59 Fragrant herb
60 Kind of job
63 1952 film, "The Quiet __________"

Sudoku Difficulty: Medium

```
9 6
6 7
2 8
5 3 6
4 8
7 9 5
1 2 3 9
```

Answers to Last Week’s Crossword:

```
BEDLAM SAPPHO MEDITATE EDITOUL ASUNDER REGITTA DECAY CHIPS TRI REAR SHAFT VIAL ACT SCANS DISCO SHEETING CIPHER SOOT LOVE PROTON VIGARAGE LINED BISON DAG AVER HASTA NAZI CUT BANAL NAMES ELITIST ELEVATE REMORSE SAVANTS TENDER SVELTE
```

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Opinion

Each week the Kaimin will take a look back in time to see what we were reporting about in the old days.

1938

“Local Boy Makes Good; Kills Milkshake a Minute”
Bill Comings of Hamilton drank one milkshake per minute for three minutes, making him the University’s unofficial champion.

1969

“Pot Pushers Selling Drugs”
Capt. Dean Lockeridge of the Missoula Police Department warned that many “kids” buying drugs might be buying ground up alfalfa, sage or even manure. He also said a student was caught selling perfume samples for $3 and saying they were LSD.

ON THE COVER

Cover design by Zoie Koostra / @zoiekostra

Cover story continues on page 8.

Classifieds

City of Missoula Parks & Recreation: 16.8733/hr, Food & Beverage Program Coordinator www.ci.missoula.mt.us/jobs EEO/AA/ADA/Vet Pref Employer

Selling perfume samples for $3 and saying they were LSD.

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Week of 3/13/17

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```
2 1 6 9 8 4 5 3
9 3 4 5 7 8 1 6 2
6 5 8 3 1 2 7 4 9
7 8 6 2 4 3 5 9 1
5 9 2 1 6 7 4 3 8
4 1 3 8 5 9 2 7 6
1 2 5 7 3 6 9 8 4
8 6 9 4 2 5 3 1 7
3 4 7 9 8 1 6 2 5
```

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KAIMIN EDITORIAL

University budget: Students, it’s time to get busy

The University’s budget will decrease by $7 million by fiscal year 2018. That’s in a best-case scenario. At its worst, we could see a $12 million drop, just over 8 percent of UM’s current annual budget of $146 million.

And yet the loudest voices on campus are those eager to rail against suggestions to cut liberal arts programs or tenured professors. Why should students and faculty be made to bear the burdens of past sexual assault scandals, administrative bloat, recruitment failure and overconfidence in post-recession enrollment levels?

Why isn’t the commissioner of higher education or the state legislature swooping in to save our sinking university?

In the past, the Kaimin has been eager to join the finger-pointing fray. We advocated for students chaining themselves to the football goalposts in protest of humanities cuts. We harangued George Denison, Royce Engstrom, Clayton Christian and anyone else who could ostensibly be blamed for the budgetary catastrophe UM finds itself in today. And while we will continue to advocate for increased state funding on higher education, we also acknowledge that the legislature isn’t likely to prioritize it this time around.

We’re standing on a sinking ship, neglecting to fix leaks simply because we aren’t the captain.

It’s time for someone to play Paul Revere: the budget cuts are coming and we need to deal with it. It’s time for student activists to choose our role. We can stand on the sidelines clucking our tongues and rueing the loss of UM’s vision, or we can wade into the problem in search of creative solutions to restructure and reorganize academic offerings without sacrificing the soul of the University. We can strive to understand how a budget is made and learn where money is being wasted.

The Faculty Senate took the first steps Tuesday, Feb. 28, when they voted nearly unanimously to appoint representatives to the University’s new budget cuts committee and take a prominent role in the process.

Admittedly, faculty choosing who among them should lose their jobs is a little “Lord of the Flies.” And maybe it deprives faculty, staff and students of a common enemy. But having a common enemy has done us little good, and to cower and fear for the future of our programs while the administration plucks out those it deems weakest based on some unknown criteria is worse.

This university doesn’t belong to the administration, or the Board of Regents, or the governor. It belongs to its students, the faculty that serve to educate us, and the staff that make day-to-day operations possible. When hard decisions have to be made, we are best suited to make them. The faculty has already spoken. It’s time for students, both individually and in groups, to speak up about who and what is important in our shared vision of UM’s future.

By Editorial staff
editor@montanakaimin.com

KAIMIN COMIC

By Delaney Cummins
delaney.cummins@umontana.edu

montanakaimin.com March 8-14, 2017

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By Editorial staff
editor@montanakaimin.com

KAIMIN COMIC

By Delaney Cummins
delaney.cummins@umontana.edu

montanakaimin.com March 8-14, 2017
A Chinese international student at the University of Montana received a phone call last Thursday from people posing as FBI agents. They threatened to revoke his degree, arrest him and deport him back to China.

Haodong Xu, a junior from central China, received a call on his cell phone at 11:25 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23, from a female caller claiming to be an FBI agent. Thinking it was a prank, Haodong hung up the phone, but the number called him back four times. He picked up on the fifth.

A man and then a woman, both claiming to be from the FBI, threatened Haodong after saying he had not filled out the proper IRS forms. Worried that this was legitimate, Haodong recorded part of the conversation with the female.

In the call, Haodong asked what office the woman was from. She said she was from the FBI and told him to Google the phone number. She insisted multiple times that Haodong Google the number to verify her claims, which he did.

According to Google, the number belonged to an FBI building in Billings, which scared Haodong.

He said he had recently watched the TV show “How To Get Away With Murder” and believed the call might be real.

Still, he said he thought it was strange the FBI could call his personal phone. So he asked the caller how she was able to contact him, to which she replied, “I have the rights. I have the rights, sir.”

This type of language didn't coincide with Haodong’s impression of a federal agent, which is mostly formulated from TV shows. As she kept talking, he said he knew it must be a scam.

The woman continued, telling Haodong the FBI was going to talk to the University of Montana and cancel his degrees, then call the embassy and cancel his passport. She said, eventually, they would take him into custody for two months and then deport him to his mother country.

“You don’t deserve to live in the United States,” she said in the recording.

Haodong was surprised the woman could access his name, email address, phone number and where he was studying. He said access to this information scared him.

He hung up the phone after the woman said she was going to arrest him. He immediately emailed his adviser and then contacted the Office of Global Engagement and UM Police.

At first, when Haodong called UMPD, they told him there wasn’t much they could do. They recommended making sure his phone number was marked confidential in Cyberbear. Haodong was frustrated by this response and later went into the station with his adviser.

At this time, UMPD asked Haodong for the phone number and told him to report it if he ever received a call from it again. They warned him to never share information, especially about banking.

Interim Director of Global Engagement Effie Koehn said Haodong isn’t the only student to have received a call from a person claiming to be an FBI agent. She advises students to ignore such phone calls and report all communication with them to UMPD.

An FBI report of a similar incident in Wisconsin said:

During each attempt to gain personally identifiable information from the students, the caller claims to have specific student information. The originating number used by the fraudsters, which appears on students’ caller ID, is masked as the number for the FBI’s local office in Wisconsin. In some cases, the fraudsters will direct potential victims to the FBI Milwaukee homepage on the Internet, claiming they can verify the caller ID phone number in an attempt to keep victims on the phone and legitimize the scam.

The same report said the FBI never calls private citizens requesting money and warns people to never provide sensitive, personal or financial information to unsolicited callers.

To contact UMPD about a similar scam, call 406-243-6131.
Students contribute to solving food waste crisis

By Cassidy Alexander

A pair of University of Montana students are leading an effort to distribute leftover lunchtime food from Missoula high schools to the Poverello Center in Missoula. By donating unconsumed food, Dow and Morris hope to mitigate one of the issues that our world is facing.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, 30 to 40 percent of food produced becomes waste. This translates to 133 billion pounds of food waste, worth $161 billion. This constitutes the largest proportion of waste going to municipal landfills and the third largest source of methane in the United States, the USDA said.

When asked what Dow’s idea began when he implemented a similar program as a senior in high school in Ashland, Oregon. Donating unconsumed food is a small step toward reducing food waste globally, he said. “It’s very marginal, it’s very incremental and it’s not perfect by any means,” Dow said. “But it’s at least some way to help mitigate one of the issues that our world is facing.”

Feeding the 406, led by Mason Dow and Willem Morris, has been collecting food since November 2016.

Dow said his idea began when he implemented a similar program as a senior in high school in Ashland, Oregon. Donating unconsumed food is a small step toward reducing food waste globally, he said.

“It’s very marginal, it’s very incremental and it’s not perfect by any means,” Dow said. “But it’s at least some way to help mitigate one of the issues that our world is facing.”

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, 30 to 40 percent of food produced becomes waste. This translates to 133 billion pounds of food waste, worth $161 billion. This constitutes the largest proportion of waste going to municipal landfills and the third largest source of methane in the United States, the USDA said.

Morris said his participation in UM’s climate change studies program alerted him to the consequences that can come from wasteful habits. “Producing food takes a certain amount of water and energy,” Morris said. “Every pound of food that goes to waste is a marginal increase on the harm to our climate.”

The overproduction of food will decrease if people become more conservative in their wasteful habits, Morris said. By donating food that would otherwise go un-eaten, the environmental footprint of the Missoula area can be diminished, he said.

Morris said he and other volunteers weigh all the food they collect before distributing it to the Poverello Center. In the past two months, Feeding the 406 has donated approximately 400 pounds of food. The group hopes to increase this number to one thousand pounds by the end of spring semester, Morris said.

Eric Luongo, kitchen manager for the Poverello Center, said he makes good use of the donated food, whether it’s cheeseburgers, chicken patties, fresh produce or anything else.

“99 percent of the food I cook with is donated from within the community,” Luongo said. “It’s great that it’s saved from going in the garbage. When we’re short on food, it makes a big difference.”

Though planned daily meals typically come from other donation sources, Luongo said the donations from Missoula high schools are helping fill the gaps for people who can’t come to the Poverello Center during the times the three daily meals are provided.

“They need little supplemental foods in between their big meals,” Morris said. “[Our program] fits pretty well with what the Poverello Center does, which is feeding mouths that are hungry.”

Morris said he believes Feeding the 406 is successful because college students in particular have the desire to make a difference in their communities. Volunteer opportunities can be difficult for students because they don’t always know where to go or what’s available, Morris said.

“People generally have the inclination to help one another and just generally do good in the world, but it’s kind of un-harnessed energy,” Morris said. “Starting our own program kind of gave us an outlet, and we hope by expanding to other students we can give them an outlet to help other people.”

Morris said the task to create the program seemed daunting for just two people, but it was important to believe no problem was too big to make an impact. “All of the people in the world are just one person, but if they put their minds together, I think we do have the ability to make a difference,” Morris said. “You just kind of have to have the will and the perseverance to do it.”

Dow said Feeding the 406 might seem insignificant on the larger scale of the food waste issue, but he is happy with the outcome of the efforts he and the other members are making.

“If we look at ourselves as just simply individuals... It’s really easy to feel small,” Dow said. “It’s about whether you choose to be optimistic, and we always try to be optimistic.”

Morris said his group operates on a rotating system where one or two people will transport food from Sentinel or Big Sky High School four days a week from noon to 1 p.m.

Hellgate High School has its own program in place, that allows students to take food which would otherwise be disposed of for themselves and their families at the end of the day, Dow said.

Anyone who is interested in joining Feeding the 406 can contact Willem Morris at willemmorris17@gmail.com. Volunteer opportunities can also be found at the Poverello Center by calling 406-532-6682.
Warmer temperatures over the past few weeks have left pedestrians in Missoula hopping over large puddles on sidewalks and streets. While the amount of water on the streets may seem immense, the snowpack in the mountains surrounding Missoula is still pretty average.

Despite significant thawing in Missoula, the headwaters of the Clark Fork contain a slightly below-average snowpack so far this winter, according to the Natural Resource Conservation Service of Montana.

Scientists measure the snowpack year-round in order to predict low river levels, which affect the quality of fisheries and availability of irrigation water, among other things. SNOTEL, or snowpack telemetry, is the technology that measures snowpack and precipitation as well as air temperature maximums, minimums and averages. There are 131 SNOTEL stations around Montana, which are all monitored by NRCS.

“The mountains hold the bulk of the water in Western Montana,” said Lucas Zukiewicz, a hydrologist at NRCS. “A cool spring with a slow release of water is generally good and sustains the rivers throughout the summer, but we could also have a rapid thaw like last year.”

Hydrologists measure snowpack by calculating the snow-water equivalent, or the amount of liquid water contained within the snowpack, according to the NRCS.

Scientists measure the snowpack year-round in order to predict low river levels, which affect the quality of fisheries and availability of irrigation water, among other things. The flow rate measures how much water is moving down a river. If the flow rate is high in early spring, water levels will be lower in the summer.

The National Weather Service’s long-term forecast predicts a roughly equal probability that Missoula will have above-average or below-average temperatures over the next three months. •

If you are interested in immersing yourself in nothing but photography for six weeks, visit rmsp.com/summer to learn more about Summer Intensive at RMSP. Then, plan your summer by contacting Andy Benson at andrewb@rmsp.com or by calling 406-543-0171. And, be sure to join us for our Open House on March 18th.
It was the last day of my freshman year of high school. I patiently waited for the clock to strike 3:15 to rush home, but it wasn’t because school was finally out. My new Jordan Spizikes just arrived at my house.

I had researched and spent hours of landscaping and window washing to finally buy my first pair of Jordans. Nike ran a clearance sale on their website that cut the price of Spizikes in half, making my final decision easy.

The hours of constant labor had finally paid off. So began my love for sneakers.

Sneaker culture has been around for decades, ever since Larry Bird laced up his Converse for the Boston Celtics in the 1970s and Run-D.M.C.’s 1986 song “My Adidas” lifted sneakers into the music industry.

This shoe phenomenon keeps people waiting in lines for hours and sometimes days. And they come willing to spend gobs of cash just to own the latest pair of kicks.

These people, like myself, are proud of the brand “sneakerhead.”

“Part of the whole culture is each one is an experience, it’s not just a pair of shoes. You remember where you were, the feeling, the smell of opening the box, walking goofy to not scuff your shoes,” Montana freshman Henry Charpentier said. “It’s a passion.”

Charpentier’s passion started in eighth grade when he wanted the Jordan 2011’s. He tried to find various jobs to scrape together cash for a trip from his hometown of Billings to Boston where he bought his first Jordan retros.

“I had saved up money for a trip to Boston with my dad for the release of the military blue 4’s. I remember waking up at 6 a.m. to get them, that’s when I realized how much sneakers meant to me,” Charpentier said.

Griz basketball forward Alphonso Anderson stood in the cold for his first-ever camp out experience to buy a pair of Air Jordan 6’s. Anderson sat in a mall parking lot for six hours to purchase the shoes in the bitter Tacoma, Washington, weather.

In retrospect, he doesn’t think the time commitment was quite worth it.

“They still scuffed the first day I wore them,” Anderson said.

The promotion of these signature kicks have made more sneakerheads go to ridiculous lengths to acquire these shoes. Professional athlete endorsements and personal collections have snowballed into a footwear craze.

From LeBron James, Kyrie Irving and Steph Curry to Allen Iverson, Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O’Neal and many more, all contributed to the idea that Jordan started. Air Jordan retros paved the way for future professional athletes.

However, whether it’s Charpentier’s military blue 4’s or Anderson’s sport blue 6’s, they weren’t the Jordans that started it all.

The Air Jordan 1 takes flight

The phenomenon that is sneaker culture began in 1985 after Nike and Michael Jordan announced the release of Air Jordans, the first signature sneaker of the six-time NBA champion.

The magnitude of having the greatest basketball player ever release the first hyped-up basketball sneaker brought sneaker culture to a new level.

Jordan walked out during the 1985 Slam Dunk Contest with laced-up red and black Air Jordan 1 high-ops, not knowing the buzz he would build.

It was perhaps the most stunning Slam Dunk Contest ever, featuring Clyde Drexler, Julius Erving, Larry Nance, Dominique Wilkins and the rookie sensation Jordan. Despite taking second place, all eyes were still on Jordan and his sneakers.

The NBA reportedly fined Jordan $5,000 for each game he wore them in his 1984-85 rookie season. At the time, the league had a policy of wearing shoes that matched uniform and the shoes of their teammates.

Jordan continued to wear his banned sneaker and let the fines build up.

During a David Letterman interview,
Ahmaad Rorie’s favorite pair of shoes are his Kyrie 2 What The Kyrie’s. He ID’d them on Nike ID and said they’re his favorite because they have every color imaginable on them and he can wear them with anything.

Jordan famously said the reason the shoe earned fines was because the shoe “didn’t have any white in it.”

“When Jordan is what started it all, there is no question. Without him there might not be the term sneakerhead,” Anderson said.

Nike purchased Converse in 2003 for $305 million, trying to remain the leader of all sneaker companies, dominating the business.

Now older brands are starting to catch on and old rivals are resurfacing.

Adidas made a deal with collab sensation Kanye West in December 2013 after West severed ties with Nike, the undisputed sneaker king until then. West released his first Adidas sneaker collection, the Yeezy Boosts, in February 2015.

Christian Cantelon, a Toronto-raised host of Youtube’s “SneakerTalk” said West was a monumental moment in Adidas’ sneaker story.

“I think what Kanye did for Adidas could have never been done on their own,” Cantelon said. “Adidas grasped the lifestyle look and it took over.”

Nike has been trying to recover ever since.

Jordan has been releasing retros heavily since 2013 to clash with Adidas, and not making them all limited releases.

The competition only intensifies in the resale market.

**THE IMPACT OF RESALE**

Reselling, in sneaker terminology, is a person buying shoes in bulk with the intent to sell them, making incredible profit depending on the shoe. These people drive the culture but upset sneakerheads trying to pick up personal sneakers for their own collections.

For example, West’s signature sneaker, the Yeezy Boost 350, retailed at $200 and could resell anywhere from $750 to $1000, a markup of more than 300 percent.

Sneaker resale makes collecting difficult with prices so high. This publicity began turmoil over some releases.

The Nike Pigeon Dunk Riot of 2005 stunned the world. Police locked down a whole block in New York because people were waiting with weapons at the corners to steal the shoes.


“Sneakers have changed my life by how it basically is my job now, I live and breathe it everyday. From a passion to a job is a dream come true,” Cantelon said.

“Sneakers have changed my life by it depending on the shoe. These people are capable of making you recall a memory or remember how important an item can be.

The Jordan Spizikes taught me to save money and fellow Griz teammates like Ahmaad Rorie are die-hard sneakerheads. Rorie has 60 himself.

Charpentier has spent more than $5,000 on shoes.

Cantelon makes a living hosting SneakerTalk. His show has reached more than 85,000 Youtube subscribers.

Sneakerheads don’t buy countless sneakers to resell them or to just collect. They do it because sneakers have substance. Sneakers are nostalgic.

“It would make me mad when I first started seeing someone have five pairs of a sneaker I wanted that I couldn’t find, not even mentioning the markup,” Charpentier said. “You would try to buy a pair of $160 Jordan’s that would be reselling for $290.”

Anderson sees the cup as half-full. He understands that as the sneaker market expands, resale will at some point decline.

“When the Concord 11’s came out during Christmas and people were killed and riots broke out at malls. That’s when it hit me like this stuff is real life,” Charpentier said.

“Sneakers have changed my life by how important it is my job now, I live and breathe it everyday. From a passion to a job is a dream come true,” Cantelon said.

For me, being a sneakerhead is a way of life.

There are very few tangible things that are capable of making you recall a memory or remember how important an item can be.

The Jordan 4 Toro Bravos brought me memories of my final summer before college and the Cardinal 7’s remind me of playing my last full year of baseball.

These sneakers don’t just sit on your feet and get beat up. They convey stories or times and put it all into perspective.

That’s sneaker culture.

And one thing is for certain: as long as sneakerheads, in the words of Yeezy himself, “our work is never over.”

Anderson owns more than 50 pairs. He and fellow Griz teammates like Ahmaad Rorie are die-hard sneakerheads. Rorie has 60 himself.

“Sneakers have changed my life by how it basically is my job now, I live and breathe it everyday. From a passion to a job is a dream come true,” Cantelon said.

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That’s sneaker culture.

And one thing is for certain: as long as sneakerheads can continue to be an expression of people’s personalities, sneaker culture will always be around.”
**Review: Crystal Fairy**

**Album combines vixen vocals with Melvins metal**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

By Brooke Beighle
brooke.beighle@umconnect.umt.edu


This supergroup consists of Dale Crover and Buzz Osborne of the Melvins, Teri Gender Bender of Le Butcherettes, and Omar Rodríguez-López of At the Drive-In/Mars Volta – and fans are stoked.

Bender’s vocals dance through the 11 heavy yet artfully calculated tracks and further prove that lady singers are as badass as they’ve ever been. Crover and Osborne hint at their Melvins doom-metal/hardcore-punk style while also embracing psychedelia and rock. Multi-instrumentalist Rodríguez-López contributes his usual artistic brilliance to the project.

Though the term supergroup can garner heavy and often skeptical anticipation from hardcore fans of the members’ original bands, Crystal Fairy’s blend of musical powers does not disappoint.

Teresa Suárez Cosiol, who goes by the stage name Teri Gender Bender, is the lead vocalist/guitarist for Le Butcherettes, the Mexican punk band she formed at the age of 17 in Guadalajara. Known to be an intense frontwoman who uses blood and other yummy props in live shows, Bender lends dramatic vocals to this promising project.

Roger “Buzz” Osborne, guitarist/songwriter/vocalist/ founding member of the Melvins and Dale Crover, drummer for the Melvins since 1984, do their thing with ease and a little artistic flair. Having played together for over 30 years, this duo offers creativity and a sound to Crystal Fairy that even Melvins devotees should dig.

Omar Rodríguez-López toured with Le Butcherettes and is well-known for being the band-leader and guitarist for The Mars Volta until their disbandment in 2012. He currently plays with At the Drive-In, Bosnian Rainbows and Antonemasque and is an obvious talent that binds this group together.

“Crystal Fairy” is an 11-track album that contains a mixture of heavier tracks like “Moth Tongue” and “Vampire X-Mas” and moody yet downtempo tracks like “Sweet Self” and “Under Trouble.” The album never gets Slayer or Pantera heavy so those who are afraid of heavy metal need not be. With hints of PJ Harvey, The Dresden Dolls, Melvins (obviously) and even some Black Sabbath, Crystal Fairy’s sound is inviting for those who want to hear a collaborative record done well.

The album opens with “Chiseler” which sets the stage nicely for the album. Already a fan favorite, there is an old-school feel to parts of the track that hint at the band’s affinity for Sabbath and Iron Maiden while also sounding current. “Crystal Fairy” track five on the list, has definite mass appeal and could attract listeners who already follow Bender’s Le Butcherettes.

“Necklace of Divorce” starts off as a moderately upbeat track that takes a detour into a breakdown that almost serves as an aside, like Bender wants to provide dialogue as to why the track deserves its title. Her sleepy vocals complement lyrics such as, “An angel with a razor in her pockets slowly slips/onto the streets a vaporous haze/ craves tomorrows pills/she creeps into a corner made for sneaking up on fools/was never sure she’d hunt one till the moles released their sounds.” Poetic? Yep.

The listener will hear bassist Rodríguez-López’s influences in the intro to “Bent Teeth,” quickly followed by Osborne’s tasty riffs while Bender barks out semi-guttural sounds throughout. She sings, “I’m not depressed/Your teeth are bent/Don’t tell me how to repent,” in the chorus.

Overall, the album hints at heaviness while never really crossing into the threshold where the Melvins like to live. Bender’s vocals are executed with freedom and precision and should be the envy of many female-fronted hard rock bands. The band members reported having a good time in the studio together and found ease in writing the album. They look forward to setting tour dates in the near future, as do their newly acquired fans.

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**Hot Pockets: It doesn’t get better than ham and cheddar**

By Drew Novak
drew.novak@umontana.edu

College students aren't well known for their healthy dietary habits. Ensuring one is getting a full and balanced meal plan is often forgotten when time is divided among classes, homework, weekend jobs and (hopefully) a party or six. It’s unsurprising many of us turn to cheap food, flash frozen and ready for consumption after a few minutes in the microwave. Who hasn’t hurriedly scarfed down an Amy’s Kitchen burrito moments before a test? It’s practically a rite of passage.

But there is a convenience food that stands head and greasy shoulders above the rest: Th Hot Pocket.” That archetypal semi-cylindrical conveyance of gooey cheese and questionable material. The end result was an expectedly salty smell of cheap dough. After a brief cooldown, the pocket became a flaccid mess. Cutting it open so it came as no surprise that it was all horrible.

First up was ham and cheddar, a fairly innocuous pairing. The plastic wrapper helpfully advised us to nuke the food-ish tube for over four minutes. That seemed excessive, but rules are rules. The pocket came out of the microwave exactly as one would imagine, steaming with the smell of cheap dough. After a brief cool down, the cheese product had congealed into a jelly-like material. The end result was an expectedly salty experience, a reheatd grilled cheese with ham slices thrown in for good measure. Unsurprising but not unpleasant.

The tasting was off to a good start. So it was with some hope that we turned to the mozzarella meatball. That’s just pizza! How could pizza be bad? Even bad pizza is edible. But four minutes in the microwave turned it into a soggy mess. There’s truly nothing sadder than a limp Hot Pocket. On second thoughts, I take that back. There’s nothing sadder than whatever is being passed as a meatball in a Hot Pocket. While the cheese and tomato sauce were a decent parody of Olive Garden “Italian,” the gumball-sized nuggets of mechanically-shaped protein were gristly disappointments. “Chewy” and “mushy” are two words that should rarely describe food, but those meatballs did their very best to make it happen. Removing them was all but necessary to make the pocket palatable.

At this point trepidation had replaced hope. Somehow Hot Pockets brand had managed to fuck up pizza, which is not a good sign. There was little faith the Philly cheese steak could be better, but into the overworked microwave it went. Once again, the pocket became a flaccid version of its formerly frozen self. Cutting it open revealed a mess of yellow and white cheese enveloping chunks of red and green bell peppers. The steak was gray, a color no natural meat should be. Taste-wise, it was basically a Hot Pocket hand-me-down version of a Philly cheese steak.

Maybe it used to resemble the famous sandwich, but processing it had created something no one could ever mistake for the real thing. The worst part was a sharp tang that camped out on the back of the tongue like a squatter occupying an empty building and lingering for the rest of the day. It was then I began to hate Hot Pockets and all they stood for.

If there’s one thing to take away from the event, it’s that chicken is not meant to be cooked in a microwave. I'd had my suspicions before, but Chicken quesadilla Hot Pockets confirmed them. Undoubtedly the worst pocket up to that point, it was like taco-flavored vomit flecked with pencil erasers. No amount of chewing made what was occurring in our mouths acceptable. Poor Tate looked physically hurt by the experience. You’d be better off hanging around Taco Bell and scavenging the dumpster.

The only way to go was up, or so we thought. The beef and cheddar had purposefully been set aside for last. Nothing about it was enticing; the same neon orange cheese that is apparently standard in most Hot Pockets sat uncomfortably next to browned beef slices. The taste testing thus far had left me deeply distrustful of animal products, so it came as no surprise that it was all horrible. Chewing the sadly familiar rubbery texture of twice-cooked beef was so upsetting, I actually swallowed the first bite whole. Tate looked defeated, as though this would make an exceptionally dark passage in her eventual memoir. We’d been bested by beef.

Five horrifying flavors of Hot Pocket weighed heavy in our bellies like gut bombs of chemical preservatives and regret. Tate and I could barely look each other in the eye. A rumble deep within us let us know we had made a huge mistake, and the pile of half-eaten food mocked our foolish efforts. We won’t be eating Hot Pockets again for a very, very long time.

Except for that ham and cheese. Ham and cheese can stay. •
Covering President Trump:
The inside story from the reporter Trump called a “nasty guy.”

March 13, 2017 at 7 p.m.
Free and open to the public
UC Ballroom, 3rd floor
Griz women finish indoor track season second

The women’s program wrapped up the 2017 Big Sky Conference Indoor Championships in Pocatello, Idaho, last weekend in second place, while the men’s team tied for sixth.

Northern Arizona won both the men’s and women’s titles. The Montana women scored a program-record 102 points, but NAU scored 114 points, putting Northern Arizona and Montana in a tie for second in the conference championship, shot just 74.8 percent. Last year’s Grizzlies, the program director Brian Schweyen.

Going from seventh to second in just one season is usually a mark of improvement. But second place is still second place for track and fieldcoach, and that’s something, for me, that doesn’t happen often,” Macnab said.

Macnab said both teams will be hungry going into the outdoor season, especially the women’s team, which was a favorite to win the indoor title this year.

But Macnab was proud of his teammates regardless, comparing them to the underdog 2002 Oakland Athletics.

“Yes, it’s in the free throw numbers. This year’s Grizzlies straight-up dominated at shooting free throws — a dynamite 74.8 percent. Last year’s Grizzlies, the powerhouse that lost to Weber State 62-59 in the conference championship, shot just 69.6 percent.

So plain in black and white it might as well be maroon and silver.

It has to be in the free throw percentages, doesn’t it? The answer has to be somewhere.

It’s not in their ho-hum 74.6 points per game. Their 10th-ranked rebounding average 81.4 points per game — and juicy consistency from the charity stripe.

They should practically send us that invite to the Big Dance right now.

Relax, Griz fans. Montana can’t disappoint this season. They’ve got the numbers on their side.

My Call: Gotta have faith in the foul shot

Montana will hoist the Big Sky Conference trophy this year.

Don’t be quick to judge the fate of the Grizzlies come tournament time. It’s been a rough season. Some ups, some downs and tons of outrageous ticky-tack foul calls on Fabijan Krslovic. But we can survive this.

Oh yes, it’s in the free throw numbers. This year’s Grizzlies straight-up dominated at shooting free throws — a dynamite 74.8 percent. Last year’s Grizzlies, the powerhouse that lost to Weber State 62-59 in the conference championship, shot just 69.6 percent.

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