Montana Kaimin, April 26, 2017

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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Native American Student Association hosts 49th Annual Kyiyo Powwow

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SUDOKU

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.

Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:

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Q: In my home, I am very honest and open with any questions my kids have. They understand love is love is love is love. And other kids can have a mom and a dad like they do. They can have just one parent, divorced parents, step parents, and/or a mom and a mom or a dad and a dad. Though this seems easier to explain than gender.

We have been at the store and questions come up about gender. “Is that a boy or a girl?” …such a hard question to answer at times. You may not know yourself as to the true gender of a person, and that person may prefer to not be gender defined.

So how would I approach this conversation?

A: This is a really good question, and one I think a lot of parents and people who spend time with kids are thinking about these days. These questions also don’t stop as kids grow old. Often, college students ask the same thing.

Traditionally, gender has been strictly binary, meaning there are two options: Man and woman. These genders have also traditionally been associated with sex, so when a doctor delivers a baby and says, “It’s a boy,” or, “It’s a girl,” the child is raised within gender norms and parameters based on their sex.

But sex and gender are different. Sex is based on biological characteristics such as hormone levels, genitalia, chromosomes and secondary sex characteristics (facial hair, breasts and Adam’s apples). Sex is often described as binary, but some people are born intersex, meaning their sex characteristics are not easily identifiable as male or female. Intersex babies often undergo unnecessary aesthetic surgeries to “correct” their ambiguous sex at a young age.

Gender, on the other hand, refers to the internal identity of a person. Transgender and nonbinary people have genders that do not match the sex assigned to them at birth. Gender, like sex, is not binary. There are infinite ways to express your gender, not just “man” or “woman.”

Children are growing up in a world where the binary of gender is breaking down. When teaching about gender, I don’t think it’s particularly useful to pretend that transgender and nonbinary people don’t exist because, obviously, we do.

While it might be socially useful at the moment for children to learn how to identify the physical and visual differences between genders, I don’t think that’s necessarily a good thing. For one thing, it reinforces gender stereotypes. It teaches children that gender fits into a very small box, and that certain things such as hairstyles, clothing, toys and even colors are off-limits for certain people.

Additionally, it teaches children that gender is one of the most important, immediate things you can find out about a person. Will that information change how you interact with someone? This goes for everyone, not just people who have kids. Does a stranger’s gender matter?

I’d say probably not.

Got a queery? Send any questions you have to calreynolds.queeries@gmail.com. Ask me what you’ve been afraid to ask or what you’ve always wanted to know. Your name and any other personal information will not be published.

Cal Reynolds is a Kaimin opinion columnist. Email them at calreynolds.queeries@gmail.com or at @CalReynoldsMT

Queeries: How do I teach someone about gender?
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Budget crisis forces UM to step up enrollment strategies

By Cassidy Alexander
cassidy.alexander@umontana.edu

Thomas Crady is no stranger to employing unusual tactics to attract incoming freshman. In his previous job at Gustavus Adolphus College, he sent out over 600 leaves of Swedish bread to prospective students — and it worked.

Now, Crady is the University of Montana’s vice president for enrollment and student affairs, tasked with creating new strategies to raise enrollment numbers at UM.

Crady said UM recently became a Coalition for Access & Accessibility member school, a national platform to help students apply for college, along with Ivy League schools such as Columbia University, Dartmouth College and Harvard University. Member schools must be recognized for their affordability and access, he said.

UM also joined the Raise.me scholarship program to engage with students at the beginning of high school. Over 12,000 students are registered with UM through this program, with an average of 300 students joining every two weeks, Crady said.

“We want to get on the radar for students at an early age,” he said. “It’s important to expand our marketing and visibility to the rest of the country.”

Crady said UM’s enrollment has been continually decreasing since 2008 due to factors beyond budget constraints.

“The magnitude of what we’re experiencing on campus is often not felt in our applicant pool,” Crady said. “We keep open communication with our applicants … and we are trying to stabilize the size of our incoming class.”

The graduating class of 2017 consists of about 2,200 students, 1,255 of which are graduating with bachelor’s degrees, Crady said. The size of this year’s graduating class is significantly larger than those below it, and incoming classes are not as large.

Enrollment has had a significant impact on budget restraints, he said, and solving the enrollment crisis cannot happen in a single academic year.

“If we ever want to pull out of this, we have to bring more students in,” he said. “But you can only impose so much change so quickly.”

Crady said a lack of recruitment staff has forced leaders to emerge from all corners of campus. UM Interim President Sheila Stearns has spearheaded many crucial efforts to bring in more students, he said.

“We are taking advantage of getting everybody involved,” Crady said. “Our president has been our biggest asset.”

Brook Tessman, dean of the Davidson Honors College, said that in addition to existing efforts, the DHC has been more dedicated to recruitment and retention than ever before.

Tessman said he personally makes phone calls to high-achieving potential students, including Presidential Leadership Scholarship finalists and strong candidates for the Montana University System Honor Scholarship. Student ambassadors have also been helping with outreach efforts through phone calls, emails, social media and postcards, he said.

Increasing the visible presence of the DHC during UM Days and on-site visits has become a targeted method of attracting students, Tessman said. The honors college also appeals to potential students by encouraging them to take advantage of opportunities where they can become acquainted with UM before having to make a college decision, such as the Schwane Honors Institute.

“Our entire office has been restructured with more emphasis on recruitment and outreach,” Tessman said.

Emily Ferguson-Steger, director of recruitment and enrollment services, said keeping recruitment personal is a crucial factor in attracting students.

Through campus visits, phonecasts, UM Days and communication streams, students are finding their home away from home at the University of Montana, Ferguson-Steger said.

“We believe bringing the students here really allows them to find that affinity with UM,” Ferguson-Steger said. “It’s something that you can’t really put your hands on, but it’s that true college-town feel that a lot of students are looking for, and they find it in Missoula.”

Students fight for UM Foundation seat

By Mollie Lemm
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The University of Montana Foundation contributes more to UM than most sources, including state funding. Yet students have no say in how and where that money is spent.

In an attempt to rectify this, the Associated Students of the University of Montana are working to add a non-voting student seat to the UM Foundation’s board. They have been unsuccessful so far, ASUM President Sam Forstag said.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization, meaning it isn’t directly associated with the University, which is why students have not been involved in the past. However, Forstag said students need to have a say because the Foundation directly impacts buildings and programs students are involved in.

“A student on the Board of Trustees is the only way for a student to be meaningfully and substantively involved,” Forstag said.

Forstag said the process began last year when ASUM passed a resolution asking for the student seat. It took the Foundation eight months to respond with a no, making it the only entity on campus without a student voice representative.

Last year, the Associated Students of Montana State University also asked for a student seat on the MSU Foundation’s board, following an incident with a building name, and Forstag said they were immediately granted an ex-officio seat.

In a letter to Forstag, the UM Foundation said:

“The Trustees concluded that the goal of improving engagement with students does not require creation of an ex officio Trustee position for the ASUM President. In fact, we are confident that we can share information and respond to questions with a broader number of students through a different approach.”

Representatives from the Foundation talked to ASUM during a weekly meeting on April 5 and reiterated the position.

As a result, ASUM passed a second resolution demanding a seat and included threats of legal action if the Foundation did not respond by Wednesday, April 19. Forstag said the first step in pursuing legal action would be to file a formal letter of grievance, which the resolution serves as, then find someone to represent ASUM for free.

Similar cases have happened in 20 states, and Forstag said 11 of the 20 have been resolved in favor of the students.

The Foundation’s Governance Committee responded during a conference call with Forstag, saying the committee would be willing to meet with next year’s executive team after they are elected.

UM Foundation interim President Cindy Williams declined to comment and said in an email that none of the trustees were available for an interview.

Some senators, such as Daisy Ward and Garrett Morrill, believe greater dialogue with the Foundation is possible without a student seat, and to pursue one after a rejection, and with the threat of legal action, would be unwise.

Ward said when members of the Foundation came to speak to the Senate, they legitimately seemed like they wanted student input but didn’t think having a seat would be an effective way to accomplish that.

“I think that having a student seat on the Foundation sounds really good, but it doesn’t really make sense in a lot of other ways,” Ward said.

In addition, she said initiating litigation seems premature and extreme.

Morrill has a similar view and advocates opening up dialogue in a non-threatening way, such as with more meetings between the Foundation and ASUM.

Other senators feel only a student seat will fulfill the requirements for dialogue. During the April 19 Senate meeting, Sen. Lexi Klawitter said asking for a meeting with the new executives was far less than an invitation to the table.

Both 2017-18 executive candidate teams confirmed they plan to pursue a student seat on the Foundation if elected. Sen. Elle Fettig, a presidential candidate, said this would be her No. 1 priority going into office. Braden Fitzgerald, the other presidential candidate, said he too would fight for a student seat.
ASUM executive face-off

ELLE FETTIG & MARIAH WELCH

SUSTAINABILITY
“We have been very involved in sustainability both inside and outside of ASUM. Some things we have worked on in the past are increased sustainability at UM Dining, which we think should be highlighted with the new UM Dining director. We will be very dedicated to beginning large-scale solar panel projects on campus in addition to exploring other renewable energy sources, and encouraging administration and the UM Foundation discontinue investing in carbon offsets.”

LIBERAL ARTS VS. HARD SCIENCES
“We think the needs of students in each of those areas need to be evaluated when looking at those programs. We think that quality over quantity must be kept in mind on both sides of those issues. Part of having a functional college campus is having a plethora of choices. We think both are crucial to UM. We think it is important to stress that we are a liberal arts campus, but they are not mutually exclusive.”

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
“We find it important that faculty and staff are trained properly on how to work with students with diverse needs. One thing we have heard across campus is that students often put their mental health last, and it is important that that is a forefront of the conversation. We want to reduce stigma and introduce more training about the needs of people with mental illnesses.”

ADVISING
“The Advising Committee has been looking at multiple ways to create a basic advising set of guidelines for advisors to abide by. We also believe that advising should cater to different groups on campus that may need specific help, such as minority groups, LGBTQ, transfer students and first-generation students. We think advising in the liberal arts departments have both serious flaws and strengths, but uniformity across campus is necessary for advising. We believe that advisors should focus on how to get students through college as cost and time efficiently as possible.”

BRADEN FITZGERALD & BRENNA LOVE

SUSTAINABILITY
“Sustainability is a core value on this campus. A solar parking lot is an ongoing fight and hopefully we can have it come into play next year. We would love to see recycling efforts continue. We think sustainability should come from each department and that we should continue to enable our Sustainability Committee by putting passionate students onto it.”

LIBERAL ARTS VS. HARD SCIENCES
“This is a liberal arts college, and we are in a situation where we want to give students the education they need. We want students to come to this college, figure out what you want to do and recieve a well-rounded education. Making sure we identify as a liberal arts college is really important but we still need to make sure we have the courses in science we need. When we recruit, we should be highlighting our awesome liberal arts programs.”

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
“Mental health is always going to be an issue on college campuses. Curry [Health Center] does a wonderful job with what they have. We would love to see the number of counselors and the times they are available expand.”

ADVISING
“It is an issue that is there isn’t any consistency across departments. We want to make sure advisors know about degree requirements and are consistent about the information they share. We will keep writing resolutions to further our endeavors to create consistency.”

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George M. Dennison

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Friday, May 12, 2017, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
University Center Ballroom, University of Montana

All are invited to attend and celebrate the enduring impacts of Dr. Dennison’s Presidency and his lasting legacy on higher education in Montana.

Photo by Erik Steinbakken
Participants in the 49th Annual Powwow Celebration gather on the floor of the Adams Center for the third and final grand entry of the weekend. The two-day student-run event works to unify Native Americans from across the nation for singing, dancing and storytelling.

The Kyiyo Powwow Celebration is one of the oldest traditions of Kyiyo. This year’s event, the 49th, took place in UM’s Adams Center bringing together Native Americans from across the nation for singing, dancing and the sharing of stories. The two-day event included competitions for all ages with men and women’s dance style that include Traditional, Fancy, Grass, Chicken and Intertribal Dancing. Kyiyo members host the oldest student-sponsored powwow in the nation, and contribute to various other events on UM’s campus. The University of Montana has over 600 Native American students enrolled on average, the most within the Montana University System. The Kyiyo Native American Student Association works to bring members of UM’s community together to celebrate diversity among students.
BOTTOM RIGHT: A Kyiyo Powwow participant holds her grandchild as members of the event prepare for the third grand entry.

TOP LEFT: Joey Jayne came from Arlee to dance in the Golden Age portion of the event. “I came here to get reconnected to myself, my family and my friends,” Jayne said at the April 22 powwow.

TOP RIGHT: Kyiyo Powwow contestant prepares for the Men’s Traditional Dance competition. The dances are inspired by imitations of the animal spirit world, retelling war stories and re-enacting battle victories.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A Kyiyo Powwow participant holds her grandchild as members of the event prepare for the third grand entry.

LEFT: A powwow contestant grabs his son’s hand during the Men’s Traditional dance competition April 22.
Kyiyo Powwow contestants redress for the third and final grand entry of the weekend, preparing for the Inter-tribal Dancing and Singing portion that follows.

A participant in the Men’s Grass Dance competition uses movements to tell the story of the early scouts seeking a site. It also reflects warrior movements such as stalking an enemy or prey.

Members of the Blackfoot Reservation form one of the many drum circles represented at the 49th Annual Kyiyo Powwow Celebration. They played the flag song and victory song to welcome in the second grand entry of the event.

Kyiyo Powwow contestants redress for the third and final grand entry of the weekend, preparing for the Inter-tribal Dancing and Singing portion that follows.
A participant in the Men’s Chicken Dance competition shows off his feathers to the crowd. The lively dance was originally a mating dance, similar to how roosters attract female mates.

A Women’s Fancy Dance competitor takes the floor of the powwow. Young women who dance this style wear elaborately beaded capes, moccasins and leggings. The colorful regalia match the spirited movements of the dance.

A Kyiyo Powwow Celebration participant looks into the crowd before joining in the Intertribal Dancing and Singing.

A participant in the Men’s Chicken Dance competition shows off his feathers to the crowd. The lively dance was originally a mating dance, similar to how roosters attract female mates.
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Local artists struggle in changing Missoula music scene

By Abby Lynes
abby.lynes@umontana.edu

A recent loss of music venue options has left local musicians struggling to find their identities in a community that has always been transient, diverse, talented and a little weird.

The Palace Lounge, one of the main music venues that booked local acts, has transitioned into being a pool hall and “beercade.” Other staples in Missoula’s live music scene have followed suit, closing their doors to performers. Stage 112 stopped booking as many shows, and Sean Kelly’s, now Thomas Meagher Bar, no longer features live music.

However, two of the larger venues, the Top Hat and Wilma, have thrived over the past few years since Nick Checota took over as owner. He remodeled and renovated both buildings to accommodate bigger crowds and musicians with more complex sound equipment. This successful business model has helped make Missoula more of a destination for national touring acts, like Slayer, Fleet Foxes and Milky Chance.

Some local artists feel that it has created a sort of “artistic gentrification,” since people are spending more time at places like the Top Hat or Wilma instead of patronizing smaller venues.

“There needs to be space in this city for small impoverished bands to experiment, mature, become rich and rewarding, and give you more to hear,” said Mack Gilcrest, keyboardist and vocalist for Pale People.

“We’re losing that space.”

Pale People used to perform at Stage 112 and the Palace Lounge. Now, they’ll still play local shows occasionally, but they get paid more to play shows in cities like Kalispell and other out-of-state venues.

It isn’t the Top Hat or Wilma’s fault for subscribing to a consolidated business model that has worked for them, Gilcrest said. It’s a combination of things: Consumers of music not always choosing to invest in local bands, the constant influx and outflux of new people in a college town and the closure of a few of the local artists’ primary music venues over the past few years.

Checota disagrees that booking larger acts hurts local bands. Bringing in bigger artists to Missoula only improves the town’s music scene, he said.

This raises the question: Does the music-scene pie stay the same size, leaving large music venues with more pie as they gain more success and smaller venues with less? Or does the pie get bigger?

The answer, as with most consumer-driven questions, is complicated.

Checota argues he’s only made the pie bigger. Before he came to Missoula, the music scene was controlled by a small group of local promoters who didn’t have a lot of capital to bring in more widely-recognized artists, he said. The only national promoter was the Knitting Factory, and they’d mostly use Missoula as a routing stop for artists headed to places like Spokane.

Checota’s business is entirely Missoula-based, though. And because he had the capital to invest in his infrastructure and create a space able to accommodate more people and complex equipment, bigger bands have been able to come to Missoula more frequently.

His company has also started booking shows at its KettleHouse Amphitheater in Bonner, which will have a 4,000 seat capacity and is currently under construction. He hopes to make Missoula even bigger destination for national touring acts as well as concert-goers.

He said he tries to book a lot of local bands as well. Local bands play at the Top Hat two to three times a week, and he often tries to arrange for them to open for national acts.

They have to be of a certain quality, though, he said. The Top Hat doesn’t have open-mic nights or any similar events. There’s a general consensus among Missoula musicians that if you play at the Top Hat, you’ve reached a certain degree of local fame.

Local musician Nora Justice, who has been in Missoula for 10 years, said she wants spaces for more weird, experimental music that might not fit into the mainstream Missoula music scene. She wants to see more cohesion, and a more Marxist approach to the ways and places people listen to local artists.

When Justice was a student at UM, there were five house venues within a two-block radius of where she lived and many more venues downtown than there are today. The venues “built themselves up with shows full of poor kids, weirdo rock, crazy parties, experimental stuff, and more,” she wrote in a recent Facebook status.

Small communities formed around this music. The scene had a strange charm, she said, though it was fleeting.

She wants to see smaller venues flourish again, and for there to be more all-age, sober shows and collaborations.

She wants artists to “own our town’s weird ‘Twin Peaks’ darkness, and do something cathartic instead of just getting a ‘Keep Missoula Weird’ sticker, because you secretly know you’re part of the reason it’s losing that authenticity.” •
Every Sunday for the last eight years, a happy group of pugs and their humans meet at Jacobs Island Bark Park, adjacent to the Washington-Grizzly Stadium. The group calls themselves the Missoula Pug Club.

The club has gained some popularity over the years, with fans and curious onlookers frequently gathering to inquire about the pack of pugs and how they came to be. Sneaking in a few pets and a little pug love is also a common occurrence at the Bark Park on any given Sunday from 1 to 2 p.m.

Jennie Marxer Pak had the idea to start the Missoula Pug Club after realizing that her pug, Chloe, would be happier with a few friends during afternoon strolls through the park. So Jennie did what any dog lover would do — she hung a sign on the entrance gate to the park advertising the idea for a Pug Club and quickly formed a little community.

Only a few pugs would show up, but the day after Missoulian ran a story on the club, nearly 50 pugs showed up, Pak said.

The Missoula Pug Club participates each year in the University of Montana Homecoming Parade.

“They’re a big hit. They like to crowd surf, get pets, and eat candy off the ground,” Pak said.

In addition to appeasing their many fans at the annual Homecoming Parade, this pack of attentive, wrinkly pups can be found serving the greater good every year at their annual service-oriented community event — the Missoula Pug Club Birthday Party.

“We do one philanthropic event a year. We have our birthday party in May where we do a supply drive for the Humane Society,” said Pak.

This year’s event will be held at the Jacobs Island Bark Park on Sunday, May 21st from 1 to 2 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring their pugs or other furry companions and supply donations for the thousands of hungry and homeless animals served by the Humane Society each year.

When the Missoula Pug Club stars are not busy participating in community events, they can be found doing what they do best — being pugs.

“They don’t socialize like normal dogs,” said Sam Warren, a club member and steadfast Sunday afternoon attendee. He has a laid-back black pug named Zoula.

“You don’t see any of these guys being like, ’Who’s the toughest?’ who’s the fastest?” Warren said. “They just sit there and bump around together. Little dogs sometimes think they’re big. These guys have no such delusion.” •

Photo by Brooke Bieghle
Sam Warren hold his pug, Zoula, during the Missoula Pug Club meeting at Jacob’s Island Bark Park on April 16.

“Every Sunday for the last eight years, a happy group of pugs and their humans meet at Jacobs Island Bark Park, adjacent to the Washington-Grizzly Stadium. The group calls themselves the Missoula Pug Club.”

Brooke Bieghle
brooke.bieghle@umontana.edu
An audience member is lifted above the crowd in his wheelchair during Keys N Krates' set at Socotra at the Wilma on April 22.

Minnesota looks out over the crowd during the drop of one of his songs at Socotra at the Wilma on April 22.

A couple shares a moment during the end of Keys N Krates' set during Socotra at The Wilma on April 22.
Griz softball cash in on opportunities

By Isaiah Dunk
isaiah.dunk@umontana.edu

Montana softball head coach Jamie Pinkerton was never worried about any of his team’s struggles early in the season. He was just waiting for the snow to melt.

Montana (24-19, 9-3 Big Sky) is in the midst of its best season ever, and it could be even better had the Grizzlies cashed in on opportunities to win close games. Before the weather allowed them much outside time, the Griz sat at 9-14, despite outscoring their opponents 209-181. Of those 14 losses, eight were decided by three runs or fewer.

But since hosting the Grizzly Classic in mid-March, the Griz have figured out how to win the close games. They’ve gone 15-5, catapulting themselves into first place in the Big Sky Conference. Nine of those wins were by three runs or fewer. The timing is no coincidence for Pinkerton.

“I knew that when we were able to get outside and practice, that kind of stuff would work itself out, and it has,” he said. “We’re still making a mistake here and there, but we come back and refocus on it in practice.”

Much of the new success stems from stellar pitching by Michaela Hood and Maddy Stensby, as well as the offensive reliability of middle-of-the-lineup veterans Bethany Olea and Delene Colburn.

But Pinkerton has been pleasantly surprised at the way other players have contributed to the team’s success, especially since the March knee injury to outfielder and leadoff hitter MaKenna McGill. Junior infielder Gabby Martinez, who normally hit near the bottom of the order, has filled in at leadoff, and Alex Wardlow replaced McGill in centerfield.

Dani Walker, a catcher, has been seeing time as the designated player to fill the offensive void left by McGill.

“I’m just trying to get better each week and use my at-bats to help us get the win,” Walker said. “Being the DP is kind of hard, because you just get to focus on offense throughout the whole game, you don’t get to get your mind off it. If you have a bad at-bat, you have to stay in the game the whole time, even if you’re not out there on defense.”

Pinkerton also said outfielder Sydney Stites has provided a lift. Stites, who struggled early in the season, has 10 hits in Montana’s last 12 games and batted .444 against Northern Colorado last week.

“When things like that happen and you have an injury, different people have to step up and those players have done a good job of that,” Pinkerton said. “I think over the course of a lineup, everybody has kind of stepped up their game a little bit to help with the loss of Makenna.”

Photo by Skylar Rispens / @skylarrisp
Bethany Olea, Haley Young and Gabby Martinez cheer for the Grizzlies from their dugout during the second game of the weekend April 14.

Montana throwers shine in spring

By Zac Allen
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The Montana women’s track team have dominated the conference all year long, with four throwers in the top 10 of the Big Sky Conference.

That trend continued Saturday afternoon at the Montana-MSU dual. Four Griz threw the discus over 150 feet. Hana Feilzer anticipates the team improving even further as the season progresses.

“I see it going up from here, I see us working hard and having all of us push each other,” she said. As a close team off the track, Feilzer anticipates their marks to improve from friendly competition.

“I think there’s going to be a little competition on the team to see who can throw the farthest,” she said.

Schweyen said the closeness has been a huge benefit for their team’s success. “Everyone likes everybody,” he said. “That makes it easier to be a team when you achieve that.”

The Griz finished second at the Big Sky Conference Indoor Championships by scoring 102 points. Northern Arizona won with 114. The Griz did so without the discus, an event not offered in the indoor season. Feilzer also ranks second in the conference in the hammer throw, another event unique to outdoor.

Feilzer said that if four of them can throw over 150 feet, they could get much-needed points at conference.

The early successes are reason to cheer for Grizzly fans. The Grizzlies may have their best chance at earning a conference championship in the 2017 season on the track.

Only two meets remain before conference championships May 10 in Sacramento, California. By that time, Schweyen thinks the discus throwers will add an element that can give them the conference championship.

“I think they’re really starting to buy in and believe they can do it,” Schweyen said. “The mental side is more important and that mental side is starting to really grow on this team.”

Photo by Bethany Blitz
Hana Feilzer practices the discus during track practice at Dornblaser April 6, 2015.