Montana Kaimin, September 6, 2017

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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Introducing the new Montana Kaimin

The University of Montana is going through some serious changes. For starters, we’ve gone from seeing clear skies above our sprawling mountainside campus to walking into every class with noses bleeding from smoke inhalation. We’ve shifted from having a wealth of students to having ... not as many of those students. And, perhaps worst of all, we won’t even be able to get coffee from the UC Market until it re-opens.

We at the Montana Kaimin decided to make some changes, too. Since we began printing only once a week over two years ago, we’ve experimented with the format of the physical paper — how it looks, what stories go in it, and just about everything else. This summer, we decided that the physical Kaimin works best not as a regular newspaper, but as an alternative weekly. Think a little less New York Times, a little more Village Voice.

We’ve made some substantial changes to the way the paper looks, altering the cover design so it has more of a magazine feel and reducing the number of columns so the stories inside have a little room to breathe. We’ll be able to fit bigger pictures and let our excellent designers get more creative with the look of each section.

The look of the Kaimin isn’t the only big change. We’re also changing the way we cover stories, encouraging our arts writers to fill you in on Missoula’s weirdest and our news team to report with grit, ferocity and fairness. We want the paper to take risks, to be daring and to stir conversation. We want to give you a publication that you’ll want to read cover-to-cover, even if the Opinion section might piss you off.

It’s not just about the print product, though. Our team of news editors are working as hard as ever to bring you timely, useful information about the trials facing our campus. We’ll continue our tradition of bringing you regular breaking news, as well as more in-depth features tackling the complexities of life in Missoula. Our video team is already hard at work making the Kaimin a true multimedia experience, and our photographers are as talented as ever.

Perhaps most importantly, we want to hear from you. This is, after all, YOUR paper, not just ours. If you hate an article, we want your letter to the editor. If you want to write a column about why the lack of pizza in the Food Zoo signals the end of mankind, we want you to pitch it to us. We want to know what you think and how we can improve.

What’s going on at UM can feel chaotic and opaque. We want to help you make sense of it all, to hold truth to power, and be the best goddamn college newspaper in the country. We hope that you’ll join us for the ride.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?
Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY? EMAIL US YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AT editor@montanakaimin.com

RENE SANCHEZ
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Thank your local Antifa

There seems to be an insatiable appetite among the punditry class for the “anti-fascists are as bad as fascists” argument, a subset of that orthodoxy of the moderate which argues for peace in the face of violence and love in the face of hate. In the last week alone, The Guardian published “Step Aside, Antifa. You Undermine the Trump Resistance,” Truthdig published Chris Hedges’ “How Antifa Mirrors the Alt-Right,” and Trevor Noah devoted an entire segment of his show to the issue of the “Punch Drunk Left” in which he referred to Antifa as “vegan ISIS.” The Department of Homeland Security has just formally classified Antifa’s activities as “domestic terrorist activity.”

It would be useful to acknowledge that generally speaking, white people in the United States have been and continue to be uncomfortable with explicit political violence. This was true during the Civil Rights Movement, which was supported by only 40 percent of white Americans at the time, and was frequently depicted as aggressive in nature, despite the contemporary insistence that it was a purely peaceful movement. It was certainly true with regard to white Americans’ fear of the Black Panther Party, and the discomfort with what is often called violence, but should really be referred to as property damage, that has been evident since the first Black Lives Matter protest in Ferguson, Missouri. The violence of institutional white supremacy and capitalist exploitation that these movements were reacting to often goes unnamed.

In fact, what came as a surprise was Antifa’s brief moment in the sun in the wake of Charlottesville. As the country watched the news coverage of the Unite the Right rally, they saw neo-Nazis and members of the “alt-right” and KKK beating protesters. They witnessed white supremacist terrorism as a man drove his vehicle into a crowd of protesters, murdering activist Heather Hayer. They watched the police escort white supremacists to their vehicles but stand by as protesters were beaten. And they watched armed groups like Antifa and Redneck Revolt protect the church where Cornel West was speaking, making sure clergy members made it safely to their car.

On Democracy Now, Cornel West was clear about his view of Antifa: “The anti-fascists… they saved our lives, actually. We would have been completely crushed, and I’ll never forget that.” Logan Rimel, parish administrator at University Lutheran Chapel of Berkeley, California, traveled to Charlottesville to stand with his fellow parishioners. He had this to say about the condemnation of Antifa he heard from fellow liberals and Christians:

“They came to defend people, to put their bodies between these armed white supremacists and those of us who could not or would not fight... My safety… was dependent upon their willingness to commit violence. In effect, I outsourced the sin of my violence to them. I asked them to get their hands dirty so I could keep mine clean.”

This is, in fact, the actual history of nonviolent resistance in the US. To white liberals who are quick to pull out their favorite MLK nonviolence quotes: please know that you are whitewashing his legacy. The narrative of the peacefulness of the Civil Rights Movement versus the militancy of the Black Panther Party was always ahistorical.

To my fellow Montanans I say: support your local Antifa. You never know when you’ll need protecting.

ERIN GOUDREAU
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Did y’all get enough Snapchats before halftime?

Before the Montana Grizzlies’ season-opening game against Valparaiso September 2, the entire stadium was a sea of white in support of the hometown Griz. Come halftime, the bleachers and ticketed seats still sparsely resembled the white-out, but the student section turned gray, revealing of the concrete-covered general standing area.

They took their Snapchats and Instagram photos as proof that they were there, then presumably bailed early.

The support that fans, particularly rowdy and louder student fans, give has an intangible impact on the players. Fans can’t call plays or affect outcomes directly, but they can affect morale, which, in a low-stakes game like Montana’s against Valparaiso on Saturday, can make all the difference.

It’s sad to watch fans trickle out at halftime when you know most of them won’t come back -- not even if the score were 17-13, which it was, against a team that shouldn’t even be close, which Valparaiso was.

Ask any Griz football player, and they’ll tell you that playing at Washington-Grizzly Stadium has overwhelming advantages over opponents. Why? Because of its massive fan attendance.

Montana leads every FCS school in the nation in attendance with an average rate of about 25,000 fans per game. That’s 5,000 more than the 2016 national champion James Madison University at No. 2.

That all goes moot when most of the stadium leaves at half and never comes back.

Player excitement feeds from the electricity in the stands, and when they come back at halftime to see the air deflated and most of their fans gone, it gives the impression their fans don’t really care about them at all — that they would rather drink themselves senseless than sit through 30 more minutes of football.

It’s fine if you didn’t care and left the game early. It’s fine if you don’t care about football, or even care just enough to show up and then leave. Showing up at all is, in fact, better than not.

But students have a weightier obligation than regular ticket-goers to stay the length of the game. It’s free to get in, they’re peers to the players and, truthfully, have little better to do on a Saturday afternoon.

Leave at halftime if you must. If that’s what it takes for you to return in full force, then I encourage it. Get more drunk or buy a cheap lunch — do whatever you need to do to prepare yourself for another 30 minutes of football.

Take your Snapchats and Instagram photos, paint your faces and spoil the beloved “Go Griz” trademark. But stay until the end, when the players need their fans the most.

By the way, we kicked Valparaiso’s ass, 45-23. I wish you were there to see it.

NICK PUCKETT
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Finding and paying for quality child care just got easier.

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Ambition has been the mission of UM Dining as students’ favorite foods have been reconfigured for the fall semester. Included in these changes was removing pizza from the Food Zoo.

Camp Howard, the new director of UM Dining, said modifying student pizza options and other changes was strategic to improve the student dining experience at UM.

“We made a focus group of students… and one of the things we asked them about was the pizza,” Howard said. “[Students] said they wanted pizza on campus that they could take with them.”

According to a study done by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about 1 in 8 Americans and more than 1 in 4 males eat pizza on any given day.

“Our pizza consumption on campus was not huge,” Howard said. “Pizza, as we knew it last semester, the concept has moved to the Corner Store.”

Howard emphasized that the reason for this change was to give students customizable pizza they could get any time the Corner Store is open.

Pizza Pi is the new station serving students with personal size servings starting at $3.14, an intentional pun, Howard said.

The new artisan style pizzas not only look good, they are good. I remember browsing the Food Zoo options on any given day and cringing at “Cheeseburger in Paradise” and “Hot Mama” pizza.

Pizza Pi pizzas are flavorful, texturally appealing, and perfectly portioned. I’m glad to be at the University of Montana at a time that positive change is happening, like delicious pizza.

Replacing pizza in the Food Zoo is Etcetera, or as Howard explained it, “A little something extra, and then some.”

Currently in rotation for Etcetera is a noodle stir fry station where students can choose their noodles, vegetables, protein, and sauce to be cooked on an open grill in front of them.

“So far it’s been extremely successful,” Howard said. “It’s healthy and something we don’t have here on campus.”

After trying the noodles myself, I’ve impressed.

The combination of perfectly sauteed zucchini and noodles from anywhere other than the pasta line makes the Mongolian-grill-style dishes the savior students like me have been waiting for.

The presence of Noodle Express and Pizza Hut in the University Center is not competition to UM Dining and did not drive the decision to make these changes, Howard said.

The noodles, however, are not here to stay, Howard said. Every couple months or so the station will change to a new menu option.

“Etcetera is an ever-evolving concept designed to keep students surprised,” Howard said. “We’re giving students more variety.”

UM Dining is ranked the 45th “Best College Dining Experience” in the country by College Rank, based on factors such as versatility, nutrition and wellness, sustainability and accessibility.

“People have this special affinity for food,” Howard said. “We’re trying to mix things up a bit … the response from students has been overwhelmingly positive.”

UM Dining has made concept changes with Pizza Pi and Eson Gib in the Corner Store, Harvest and Espresso in the Food Court the addition of both the Commuter and Food Zoo Unlimited meal plans and the acquisition of the UC Market.

CASSIDY ALEXANDER
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Engstrom gets back to his roots as chemistry professor

Weaving through rows of his classroom, Royce Engstrom shook hands with all 46 students in his first chemistry class on Friday, after serving for six years as University of Montana president.

As Engstrom made his way to the front of the classroom to begin his lecture, he said “This is my opportunity, my chance and my privilege to return to teaching chemistry.”

As a former professor with full tenure in the chemistry department, Engstrom chose to return to teaching while after serving as president, according to a University press release.

Engstrom’s annual salary will be $119,106, which is comparable to other professors within the department. The chemistry department declined to comment on the financial effects of adding Engstrom’s position amidst budget-cutting measures throughout the University.

Engstrom will be teaching CHEM 104, Preparation for General Chemistry, as well as an honors Ways of Knowing class.

Engstrom served for three years as UM provost and vice president for academic affairs prior to being president. Engstrom was awarded a position of full tenure by the Faculty Advisory Board, according to communications director Paula Short.

“It’s fairly common for an administrator to have tenure and be an administrator,” Short said. “When he stepped down, he had the choice to opt to teach as a chemistry professor.”

Short said Engstrom’s eligibility as a tenured faculty member was not affected by the end of his time as an administrator.

“Teaching is my first love, it’s why I got into education in the first place,” Engstrom said. “At first some students express some surprise that the former president is there to teach them. Eventually the shock will go away and it’ll be a normal class and everyone will really enjoy themselves.”

The chance to return as a faculty member was one Engstrom was enthusiastic to make, he said.

“I am very grateful for the opportunity to come back and teach,” Engstrom said. “I’m having a blast getting back into the coursework and teaching students again.”

UM-licensed Beer will Fund Alcohol Prevention Program

The University of Montana and Big Sky Brewing Company partnered to support DUI prevention programs and ASUM Transportation through a new brew: Griz Montana Lager.

The beer, officially licensed for UM, is on sale now through spring 2018, to celebrate the University’s 125th anniversary. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Curry Health’s substance abuse prevention programs as well as ASUM Transportation’s gold line, commonly referred to as the “drunk bus.” UM’s sense of irony remains strong.

ASUM President Braden Fitzgerald said this partnership is a great opportunity for Big Sky Brewing Company to give back to the University, especially to help fund programs like the drunk bus. “If we’re helping even one student get home at night, we’re going to run the service for the whole night,” Fitzgerald said. The gold line runs between downtown and the University District from 7:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., Thursday through Saturday.

Although increased use of the drunk bus may be an unintended consequence of the griz lager, the new brew is not intended to increase undergraduate drinking, Mario Schulzke, UM’s chief marketing officer, said UM graduates are the target audience for consumption.

“I love the idea of using this to connect with our younger alumni,” he said. Schulzke said this partnership has been in the works for specific reasons, Schulzke said. Pilsners are more neutral-tasting beers so they appeal to a larger base, and they have a lower alcohol content than other popular beers, such as IPAs.

Fitzgerald and Schulzke agree this beer was brewed with tailgating in mind—they both said it has a light, refreshing taste great for a warm day. (This information cannot be confirmed because I am 20).

Montana Lager, brewed by Big Sky Brewing Company, hit shelves on Aug. 22, 2017. A portion of the proceeds will benefit student-focused wellness, ASUM Transportation programs and community outreach.

Shaylee Ragar
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WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

A USER’S GUIDE TO BUYOUTS, PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION AND WHY THE SKY IS FALLING AT UM

In case you didn’t notice, Montana is currently engulfed in flames. A thick blanket of smoke hangs over nearly every corner of the state; scores of homes have been evacuated, and just last week Gov. Steve Bullock declared a state of disaster. Missoula residents bike to work in protective masks. On the worst days, the M is barely visible.

It’s an apt metaphor for the situation at the University of Montana. Once a titan of higher education, UM has been besieged by one setback or controversy after another. Our educators — professors, lecturers — are haunted by the spectre of “program prioritization,” a phrase that means just about nothing to the ever-decreasing student body.

The fog or rather, “smoke,” of confusion and uncertainty is thick as we enter fall semester. And with talk of unions filing grievances, programs being cut and the end of the world imminent, it feels as though the fire that produced it might reach us any second.

For as much as we’ve heard about the struggles at UM, we must also understand that our troubles are just beginning. It’s more important than ever that students and faculty have a grip on what’s happening now and what is to come. For this reason, the Montana Kaimin Editors have prepared a user’s guide to ... whatever the hell is happening. You’ll find explanations of terms like “buyouts,” understand why the faculty union is so pissed and what the deal with that ritzy new locker room is.

Dive in, and consider investing in flame resistant clothing. You might need it.
WHAT IS “PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION”?

“Program prioritization” is one of those obfuscating terms that, much like “corporate synergy,” “disruptive innovation” and “core competency,” means little to non-business majors. The University of Montana defines the term as a process that “ranks programs according to a set criteria and then uses those rankings to redistribute funds and resources across those programs.”

Six months ago, University of Montana Interim President Sheila Stearns announced the goals of Forward125, an initiative to align university spending with declining enrollment. The Missoulian reported that the projected headcount for Fall of 2017 is 11,000 students, down from last fall’s 12,400. The UM budget for the 2017-2018 school year is $143.5 million, a $3 million drop from last school year. “Align university spending with declining enrollment” likely means cuts to program funding.

But which programs will bear the brunt of these cuts, and how will that be determined?

In 2016, the University of Montana hosted higher education consultant Robert Dickeson to lead “a workshop on academic and administrative program prioritization” based on his book “Prioritizing Academic Programs and Services: Reallocating Resources to Achieve Strategic Balance.”

The Dickeson Model includes ranking programs based on 10 criteria including the program’s size, scope, cost, and the revenue it generates, followed by graphing the programs and organizing them into quintiles.

It’s all very complicated. Essentially, the administration is going to assess which departments at UM cost the most while contributing the least, either in terms of revenue or enrollment. Those programs will likely be first in line for “consolidation or elimination.” Just as one feels a sense of urgency to visit Glacier National Park while it still has glaciers, take those creative writing workshops while you still can, kids.

WHAT’S A “BUYOUT,” AND HOW DO I GET ONE?

While Montana legislators debated the merits of funding public higher education, they earmarked $2 million for UM to buy senior faculty into retirement. By offering select faculty a half year’s salary as incentive to retire, UM hoped it would, in time, save $4 million in personnel costs.

The Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Plan, or VERIP, was built to identify senior faculty and offer them buyouts. But executing the program turned out to be harder than planned.

According to MUS spokesperson Kevin McRae, buyouts should not have targeted only the most ancient faculty, but departments that weren’t pulling their weight, the Missoula Independent reported in April.

McRae told the Indy, “you lose the whole point of what this is about,” if the buyouts were offered across the board.

Buyouts were offered, and taken, this summer — six months before the prioritization process could identify which departments should be targeted for cuts.

UM’s only Nobel Prize-winning faculty member, Steve Running, took a buyout. Departments identified in a 2015 review as “poised for growth” lost faculty to buyouts, the Missoulian reported. Even fiery, anti-establishment French professor Michel Valentin took one.

There has been no indication that strategy was deployed with the rollout of VERIP, with the first round being offered to faculty over 65 years old, and a second round to those over 60 after not enough professors in the eldest range accepted the offer.

According to University documents available on its website, the buyouts were indeed offered to any faculty within the targeted age range, despite McRae’s early hopes for more strategic offerings.

Matthew Neuman

Matthew Neuman

What is “Program Prioritization”?

The University Faculty Association, aka the faculty union, makes sure the Montana University System doesn’t bully professors like the nerds they once were and still are. It helps negotiate employee contracts, and holds a seat in the President’s Cabinet.

Primarily, it’s upset about lecturers being asked to give up any semblance of job security. Lecturers are faculty hired annually that don’t qualify for tenure. On Aug. 11, almost all lecturers were sent an encouraging welcome back letter, politely informing them they won’t have jobs come Dec. 31.

“As stated in President Stearns’ email dated Aug. 11, 2017, individuals on non-tenurable appointments have no expectation to reappointment or renewal,” the letter, signed by Interim Provost Beverly Edmond, said. “Per University Policy 350, the purpose of this letter is to give you one semester’s notice that your employment contract with the University of Montana will end as of December 31, 2017 and to clarify that, at this time, we do not have an intent to provide you with a contract thereafter.”

UM must provide a minimum of one semester’s notice to lecturers before letting them go, which it did. University policy also guarantees lecturers year-long contracts, but with the letters, UM only offered work for the autumn semester.

The UFA, led by political science professor Paul Haber, decided to fight UM over its treatment of lecturers. In a formal grievance sent to Stearns, the UFA claimed that UM violated its own annual hire policy. If the University does not concede that it made the wrong call, UFA leaders said the battle could go on for months and cause a “domino effect” of further grievances.

UM has implied that many of the lecturers will actually be hired back in the spring, which seems contradictory to the language of the letter it sent to lecturers.

It would seem UM may have sent out a blanket notice so it could freely cut where needed without worrying about contracts. And, yes, the point of the minimum notice policy is to provide a little heads-up time to find new work, but instead lecturers are left wondering whether they will have a job until decisions are made at the end of the year.

Matthew Neuman

Erin Goudreau
Royce Engstrom, a former UM provost who was selected to replace former President George Dennison in 2010, assumed the role of president optimistically. With Engstrom focusing on increasing recruitment and retention of students, the University of Montana was, at the time, the most-attended school in the state.

Then, in December of 2011 the Missoulian published an anonymous tip alleging that three UM football players were involved in sexual assault investigations. More allegations involving UM students and sexual assault came to light in the years following, culminating in the United States Department of Justice investigating and concluding the university was “a hostile environment based on sex.” The University of Montana’s enrollment numbers began to fall.

Since the start of Engstrom’s presidency, enrollment declined by 21 percent. The school has been plagued with budget cuts and layoffs in attempts to adjust to the belt-tightening since. People weren’t happy, and things were in dire need of change. A solution needed to be found.

That solution doesn’t include Engstrom. According to Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian, “a change in leadership direction is the right step for UM going forward.” Engstrom’s presidential term officially ended Dec. 31, 2016.

But finding a replacement takes time, and a school without a president probably wasn’t the change in leadership direction Christian had in mind.

Enter Stearns. The Montana native is a former UM vice president and served as the state commissioner of higher education for a record-breaking nine years from 2003 to 2012. More important still, Stearns has experience managing a school in crisis. As president at Wayne State College in Nebraska, she faced a $1.2 million budget cut from 2002 to 2003. As in most areas of life, experience is everything.

While Stearns continues to lead the campus during this transition period, the University is moving closer and closer to finding a permanent president. In an update on Aug. 31, Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian said candidates would be announced in the near future, and tours of campus will begin in the next few weeks.

There were initially 99 applicants for the job, which was then reduced to the 13 best applicants. Names and faces will be revealed soon for the judgment of the entire campus community.

Christian expects a “substantial update” very shortly after Labor Day, but this process still has a ways to go before we know who the next Royce Engstrom will be.

Stearns has provided some change already after a run of old, white males in charge of campus, and according to Christian, the trend of female leadership may continue. In an update in early August on UM’s website, he said nearly half of the candidates are female and there is also other diversity in the finalist pool “in terms of EEO/Affirmative Action protected-class categories.”

It would be a welcome change to see diversity in the position, and it just might be a good first step toward rebuilding confidence in the administration on campus.

Jackson Wagner
HOW’S MSU DOING THROUGH ALL THIS?

By now, we’re sure you’ve heard of Montana State University, home to new buildings, skyrocketing enrollment numbers and slightly more breathable air.

Early estimates for MSU’s freshman class are around 3,000 students. Enrollment has been rising steadily since 2008, and sat at more than 16,000 in fall 2016. Everything from an increased student interest in engineering, which MSU has and we don’t, to MSU outclassing us in every aspect of student recruitment has been accredited to its success over UM. The lack of a city-wide sexual assault scandal probably also helps.

Despite rolling in the tuition dollars, the situation at MSU isn’t all pretty, and for that you can credit a state legislature that didn’t prioritize higher education. Legislators voted to slash state appropriations to colleges and universities, and now we’re facing down additional budget cuts that could amount to up to $44 million over the next two years. McRae, spokesman for the Commissioner of Higher Education, told the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, “Every campus would be cutting educational programs if it’s $44 million.”

UM probably won’t be feeling those cuts this year — the commissioner’s office gave us a free pass to get our ducks in a row, i.e. make cuts before absorbing any of the University System cuts. But that means next year will likely be particularly brutal and other campuses across Montana will be taking the hit for us this time around.

To make up for that loss of funding, tuition has gone up at all state campuses for the first time in eight years. UM students saw an increase of between 3 and 8 percent, depending on their level in school and where they’re from. Our tuition is now level with that of MSU.

ONE LAST THING: WHY ARE WE BUILDING A NEW SPORTS COMPLEX?

If you’re living in Aber Hall and looking for a convenient parking lot just behind your dorm, you’re out of luck. Instead, you get to look out upon construction trucks and fences for the first leg of the semester, at least.

The athletics department is nearing completion on the newest construction project at UM, the Washington-Grizzly Champions Center. The 50,000-plus square foot facility will mostly serve the Grizzly football team with a new locker room, but it also brings a much-needed improvement to Grizzly Athletics in the form of a new locker room. Oh, and it also cost $14 million.

It may seem outrageous in a time like this to be spending so heavily on weight and locker rooms for athletics, and while it is understandably upsetting for some people, the situation isn’t as black-and-white as it may initially appear.

The University privately raised the funds, half of which came from a donation by Kevin and Kyle Washington on behalf of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, that led to the construction of the Champions Center. Construction began about a year ago, even though the Board of Regents OK’d the project in 2014.

The Champions Center will serve all of Grizzly athletics, not just the football team. The current weight rooms inside the Adams Center have seen better days. They are small enough that teams have to separate and schedule just to get workouts in. This new two-story weight room will address those issues.

It’s unfortunate that parking is limited, and it is disappointing for a lot of people to see the student-athletes get another nice new building, but the football team and the University could see a benefit in the long run. Let’s hope donors start sliding money in the direction of other programs, too.

Margaret Grayson

KEY PLAYERS

SHEILA STEARNS
Interim President of the University, former Montana Commissioner of Higher Education
Selected to temporarily lead UM after Royce Engstrom was ousted last year. Will be responsible for executing cuts determined by APASP.

BEVERLY EDMOND
Interim provost and vice president of academic affairs
Top of the line for the deans, which lead academic departments. Leading the APASp committee.

TOM CRADY
Vice president of enrollment and student affairs
Selected by Engstrom, Crady has led the crusade to get enrollment up since Fall 2016. Perhaps the most vital position in bringing UM back from a steep decline in students, which has led to all the budget problems.

SCOTT WHITTENBURG
Vice president of research and creative scholarship
Leads the one section of UM performing exceptionally well, research. External research funding has grown by about 50 percent since Whittenburg took over.

PAUL HABER
President of the faculty union and political science professor
Leading a fight against UM’s treatment of lecturers, and representing the interest of the faculty throughout the budget cut process.

PAULA SHORT
Director of Communications for the president and Forward125

BOARD OF REGENTS
The very top of the university system
The regents are responsible for approving things like this year’s tuition increases, the appointment of a new UM president, and other large scale projects. Includes one student seat, currently held by former ASUM business manager Chase Greenfield.

CLAYTON CHRISTIAN
Commissioner of higher education for the Montana University System
Chief executive for all of the state schools in Montana, below only the BOR. Currently in a legal battle against Jon Krakauer, author of “Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town.”
Gallery: Griz start season with 45-23 win

Jerry Louie-McGee, no. 16, dodges several Valparaiso football players during the game at Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Sept. 2, 2017.

The audience stands to sing "The Star Spangled Banner" at the beginning of the Montana vs. Valparaiso game.

Sammy Akem, left, and Samori Toure celebrate Toure’s touchdown during the third quarter.
MUSIC REVIEW

Sounds of summer: August music highlights

“American Dream" - LCD Soundsystem

Weren’t these guys supposed to have retired in 2011? Their “final” show at Madison Square Garden in New York City was a cathartic moment for fans of frontman James Murphy’s dance-punk collective. It was the end of an era that gave us three finely-tuned records filled to the brim with sharp wit and Murphy’s penchant for pulling inspiration from the rock, funk, disco and electronica of the 1970s and ‘80s.

But there was always a small kernel of hope that the man Slate once called “king of the hipsters” would return with company in tow. And seven years since their third record, their latest, “American Dream”, is finally here.

“Oh Baby”, which sounds like Murphy and company paying homage to Suicide’s “Dream Baby Dream”, is by far the band’s most understated album opener. The group’s signature analog synths bounce softly while staccato keyboards punctuate Murphy’s hushed murmuring: “Please wake me, for my love lies patiently.” It’s a surprising move for a group that kicked off its last album with an explosive testament to the cleansing power of losing it on the dancefloor and dryly humorous lyrics about “blowing Marxism to pieces.”

“Other Voices” bumps up the BPM a bit and brings us back to what LCD Soundsystem does best: Make people move. Cowbell and atonal guitars fall in step with a bassline that can only be described as “groovy,” and the always welcome band member Nancy Whang deadpans, “I’ve heard it, it sounds like the ’90s.”

The sharp-tongued “How Do You Sleep?” is a brutal nine-minute epic likely aimed at Murphy’s former production partner at DFA Records, Tim Goldsworthy. The record label sued Goldsworthy in 2013 over allegedly embezzling funds, and it’s evident the wounds have not healed. Murphy is at his acerbic best over a rolling drum machine beat, eventually taken over by a wickedly dark synth. “You warned me about the cocaine,” Murphy wails. “Then dove straight in.”

But there’s a beauty in LCD Soundsystem’s music that really only reveals itself over time. Murphy writes songs that often exceed seven minutes in length, layering instruments over one another with a deliberate sense of building to a well-earned end. You don’t just listen to an LCD Soundsystem song. It takes you for a ride.

Long live the king.

“Rainbow” - Kesha

Kesha Sebert, formerly rowdy party girl Ke$ha, has had a rough few years since the release of her second album, “Warrior”. In 2014, she sued her long-time producer Dr. Luke for alleged sexual assault and emotional abuse. The lawsuit was eventually rejected by the New York Supreme Court two years later, and all allegations against Dr. Luke were dropped.

Those turbulent times culminated in Kesha’s first album released in five years: The country-tinged pop/rock collection “Rainbow”. The public’s first taste of the new Kesha was the appropriately dramatic ballad “Praying.” Showcasing powerful vocals largely free of studio trickery, the sparse piano-driven track confronts an unnamed wrongdoer with anger in her voice and a directness that may surprise those familiar with her older electropop material. “You brought the flames and you put me through hell,” could easily be about an ex-lover, but framed in the context of Kesha’s very public controversy, it’s clear she is aiming at a different target. “Praying” is the sound of a woman turning her pain into power, refusing to be beaten and embracing the concept of letting go. The sense of relief is palpable.

There are still floor-fillers sprinkled in the 14-track album. “Boogie Feet,” a guitar and handclap-laden collaboration with the Eagles of Death Metal, sounds tailor-made for the jukebox at the Golden Rose. The woman who infamously revealed she brushes her teeth with a bottle of Jack Daniel’s is still there in the tongue-in-cheek stalker anthem hoedown “Hunt You Down,” warning a suitor that any infidelity could result in his death.

But it’s that spirit of catharsis that offers a common thread through the record. Album opener “Bastards” is a stripped down “fuck the haters” anthem, calling out the “assholes” and “scumbags” that drag her down. “Learn to Let Go” finds the joy in plucked banjo strings, inspiring both herself and her listeners to do what’s right there in the song title.

The true heart of the album can be found in the title track, produced by Ben Folds and written during Kesha’s stint in rehab. At one point Kesha admits that, “Maybe [her] head’s fucked up, but [she’s] falling right back in love with being alive.” Notably, the anger felt in “Praying” is absent here, and Kesha allows her vocals to float and flutter unburdened over crescendos of strings and woodwinds.

Kesha’s storm clouds have finally passed, and she wants the world to know it.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY RECORDS

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY RECORDS

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS
**COMEDY**

Women sharpen storytelling skills at comedy workshop

In a dark corner of The Badlander bar, members of the Women’s Comedy Happy Hour and Workshop drank, made jokes and discussed how analyzing comedy is a lot like dissecting amphibians in high school biology class.

“You can figure out why one joke is funny, but you can’t create a new frog,” said the workshop’s creator, Sarah Aswell.

Women and those who identify as nonbinary meet the last Wednesday of every month, gaining the skills necessary to break into the world of standup comedy. Those at any experience level are invited to join.

“[The] goal of the whole deal is to get more ladies in Missoula involved in the comedy scene,” Aswell said. Though the city’s standup community is very welcoming, she said, it can be hard to find your place as a woman and an outsider.

For some women there is the fear of failure, of telling a joke that falls flat in front of an audience.

“I talked to so many women after [a] show who are like, ‘Oh my god how do you do that’?” Aswell said.

Though the workshop has only been running for two months, Aswell says the desire for such an event is there. She said the open mic itself is open to any gender, but the workshop hour before is open only to women and non-binary people.

“I am always encouraging men, women and nonbinary to come down,” Aswell said. “I hope seeing a woman running an open mic is encouraging.”

One attendee, Misty Sandberg, started doing stand-up to get over her stage fright. She also said that with having kids, she is starting to look for humor in this sometimes troubling modern world.

Gilmore McLean has been doing stand-up for a year and a half. She took a moment during the meeting to describe how nerves can affect her before a show.

“For a time my right leg would be going numb,” said McLean. “I take a massive anxiety shit before every show.”

Though the attendees’ backgrounds and stories are varied, Aswell emphasized the importance of finding humor in the things they are passionate about. Anything in their day-to-day life, or something that gets under their skin can be inspiration. In the end, what matters is that it makes you laugh.

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**FILMS**

“Desert Hearts” brings romance to the desolate west

The Roxy showed its sensual side last Wednesday with the 1986 romantic lesbian-themed drama “Desert Hearts”. Directed by Donna Deitch and based on a 1964 novel by Jane Rule, the film is known as one of the first full-length lesbian love stories, captivating audiences both LGBTQ-identifying and straight in the years following.

Set in 1959, the plot centers on straight-laced English professor Vivian Bell (played by Helen Shaver), who takes up residency in Reno, Nevada to make filing for a divorce easier back in New York. While in Reno she temporarily moves into a guest house run by a friendly country woman, Frances Parker (Audra Lindley). Bell becomes good friends with Cay Rivvers (Patricia Charbonneau), the daughter of Frances’s late love. Cay, a spunky, somewhat rebellious young woman eventually opens Vivian up to discover and explore her sexuality, something that in 1959 was extremely taboo.

The acting in “Desert Hearts” by both Shaver and Charbonneau is heartfelt, with the love scenes portrayed as simultaneous-ly awkward and raw. Frances’ role at times becomes cliché, especially when speaking of her late husband, but Lindley does well in spicing up her character, specifically in the film’s early scenes.

The soundtrack was strategically picked with iconic songs by Elvis Presley, Patsy Cline and Ella Fitzgerald. The cinematography is well done, displaying the setting as dusty and desolate as Vivian steps off the train. It eventually shifts to show the beauty of the landscape in a later scene when Vivian and Cay go for a walk with their horses, mirroring Vivian’s view of the west as it changed with Cay’s influence.

This film has not only served as one of the first cinematic voices for the lesbian community, but speaks to the feminist community as well, featuring more one-dimensional male characters where other films feature underdeveloped women. Characters like Cay’s brother Walter, Cay’s ex-boyfriend Darrell, and Silver’s fiancé Joe, seem to only serve the purpose of benefitting the female leads. Walter and Darrell both serve a similar purpose as men who are attracted to but cannot have Vivian or Cay, and Joe is simply the supporting husband of performer and casino change operator, Silver.

Seeing this film years later, after same-sex marriage has been legalized, one can’t help but to feel a twinge of pride for how far the United States has come. However, the Roxy wasn’t just showing this arbitrarily. Though it’s an older film, “Desert Hearts” reminds us of the fear, anger, and guilt these marginalized people go through every day. This is still a subject that needs to be talked about, and the Roxy Theatre did well in spurring on the conversation.

Though “Desert Hearts” has a fairly predictable, cookie-cutter ending which is almost unbelievable (would Vivian truly be willing to soil her status after many hard years at work on it?), it is a triumphant way to finish up the forbidden love story with hope.

EMMIE BRISTOW
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Griz volleyball deals with preseason action on the road

It may be Allison Lawrence's first year as head coach of Montana volleyball, but she's already had a taste of success after a 2-1 opening weekend in Texas. Now, she hopes to build a strong team identity during the rest of the preseason before coming home to play in front of their fans Sept. 28 against Sacramento State.

"Your beginning road trips turn into as much team bonding as they are how we play on the court. We have to establish trust quickly, to me you can't have an identity as a team without trust," Lawrence said.

The Grizzlies have four road tournaments, 13 matches in all, before opening up their Big Sky Conference schedule against Eastern Washington Sept. 21 in Cheney, Washington. Out of those 13 matches, one included a matchup against nationally ranked No. 9 Kansas, who defeated the Griz in three sets.

It is a difficult schedule, but setter Ashley Watkins said she is excited to get the opportunity to play other teams outside of the Grizzlies' conference.

"We play some better competition, which helps prepare us for conference play," Watkins said.

The Griz have won just six non-conference games over the last three years, including a wireless slate in 2014. They also have a record of 6-24 over the past two seasons in Big Sky action.

"This being a program that hasn't had much success in conference the last two years we really need to feel like we have things to prove," Lawrence said. "We are a tough team to beat and that edge to our belief and to how we carry ourselves will make all the difference in the five set matches we encounter on the road games."

Lawrence expects the team to have unshakable confidence during the remaining preseason matches. She said they will have had a successful preseason if they go into the Big Sky thinking they can beat any team they face.

Montana won't play a home non-conference match this season. In fact, the Grizzlies haven't hosted a tournament since 2014. They only hosted one non-conference match last season against Gonzaga. Lawrence is doing her best to talk teams into coming to Missoula.

"You just have to try to convince people that you're going to put on a tournament and the hardest part is getting the first team to join," said Lawrence

Staying focused while on the road will be a challenge, but Watkins said it's important to just concentrate on the match that's in front of them and not future ones. Watkins said wherever the team plays they aim to make it feel like they're playing on their home court.

The Griz went 2-1 in the opening weekend of play and followed that up with a win against Long Beach State to get Montana off to its best start since 2008. But the wins aren't the first thing on Lawrence's mind.

"We try not to focus on, 'We have to win,'" Lawrence said. "The winning indicates things are going well, but really what we want is momentum and to be in rhythm. Gaining momentum is the goal."

LUCAS AILPORT
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Unranked and unfazed: 2017 Griz football preview

The 2016 Montana Grizzlies, ranked No. 6 in the country at one point, were expected to make a deep run in the playoffs. Or at least make the playoffs. Instead, the Griz fell to Northern Colorado and then to Montana State in the final two games, abruptly ending their season.

What followed was a long offseason. Frustrated fans called for the firing of head coach Bob Stitt, who, now in his third year, led the Griz through an up-and-down season.

Now, the Griz enter the 2017 season ranked outside the STATS FCS preseason national top 25 for the first time since 1991.

“We’re not thinking about last year at all,” senior quarterback Reese Phillips said. “I think we’re in the perfect spot. I know I love where we’re at. I love flying under the radar.”

Stitt’s first order of business for the new season was to replace two-year starting quarterback Brady Gustafson.

Phillips, the backup in 2016, earned the job after an intense battle with junior Caleb Hill and freshman Gresch Jensen. Phillips will lead what should be one of the best passing attacks in the Big Sky Conference and the country.

On the other side of the ball, Montana’s conference-best defense reloaded with fresh faces. Senior Tucker Schye and sophomore Jesse Sims will lead a green defensive line, while sophomore safety Josh Sandry will start after an impressive off-season.

Two weeks of practice and three scrimmages later, the Griz opened the season with a 45-23 win against Valparaiso.

The Griz are one game into the season, but here are some major storylines you may have missed over fall camp.

The battle for the starting H-receiver between senior Josh Horner, senior Makena Simis and sophomore Colin Bingham drew attention at camp. The competition was so strong, in fact, reporters wondered if Stitt would put two H-receivers, bigger players that are the closest translation to a tight end in Stitt’s offensive system, on the field at once.

“I don’t know if I can get myself to do a two tight end set,” Stitt said. “I don’t know if I’ll be able to sleep at night.”

Horner put up 242 yards and four touchdowns last year, but after suffering a knee injury Oct. 29, was replaced by Bingham.

“We’re finding ways to get the ball to those guys because it’s a very strong group athletically, but we’ve got a couple seniors in there, with Bingham having all that playing time as a freshman (last year), we’ve got to find ways to get the ball to them,” Stitt said.

Then came Simis, a former quarterback who converted to H-receiver this season. During the second fall scrimmage, he leaped over a defender in the back of the end zone for an improbable touchdown catch. He scored two touchdowns in the three scrimmages, leading the H-receivers.

“I think we all would like all three of us on the field, if that was possible,” Simis said after the scrimmage Aug. 19. “But that’s not really our offense. We’re going to take our own times and see how things go.”

For a full recap of the biggest storylines of fall camp, and for coverage of the Valparaiso game, head to montanakaimin.com.

KAIMIN COLUMN

Views from the 406: Nord the right man for the job

Even if there are no student-athletes on campus or games to be played over the summer break, Griz Athletics never sleeps. And this was a particularly long summer for Griz Athletics as far as coaches are concerned.

Montana lost Jamie Pinkerton, the softball coach who built a program and then turned it into a Big Sky champion in just three years, to Iowa State (more on this next week). Then golf coach Matt Higgins left to accept an administrative position at Upper Iowa.

While we still don’t know who will mentor the softball team through the fall season, Griz Athletics recently made a big announcement in the process of replacing Higgins. Kris Nord, the men’s tennis coach since 1986, will step away from the program for the fall season to guide the women’s golf team through its four tournament fall schedule.

And he is the perfect man for the job.

You won’t meet a more composed man on the sidelines than Nord, who was first hired by Montana in 1982. He has the calm hand of experience on his side, and golf isn’t something new to him. When the program began in 1993, it tabbed Nord as the first ever coach.

From then until 1996, he coached women’s golf, men’s tennis and women’s tennis, all at the same time. Oh, and he was recruited by the university out of high school to play football for the Griz, showing he’s talented at just about everything he does.

He didn’t miss a conference tournament in his 20 years in charge of women’s tennis, and the Grizzly men have played in the postseason every year since 1991. His track record speaks for itself, spending nearly four decades bringing wins to Montana, whether in Copper and Gold or Maroon and Silver.

It isn’t an ideal situation to be in, for Nord or for Montana. But this solution is one that makes sense for the short term transition. There is a national search under way for a permanent replacement, who will arrive in Missoula before the spring season, when golf has its conference tournament. For now, they just need a guiding hand to make it through the next few months.

The men’s tennis program needs a mentor while Nord is away, and luckily enough they have the perfect interim coach in Jason Brown. Brown has been an assistant at Montana since 2012 and is close to Nord. He provides the experience necessary to get the men through this transitional period until Nord’s return.

Even when a new replacement is hired, the Griz will have three first-year head coaches within the department. But Allison Lawrence, a first-year coach in charge of volleyball, has shown that new blood can sometimes work out for the best.