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Montana Kaimin, October 25, 2017

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MONTANA KAIMIN

THE HALLOWEEN ISSUE

*With centuries
of censorship
buried in her
reptilian heart,
she attacks!*

*Amazing!
Blood-curdling!
A Must Read!*

NEWS Where are the
international students?

ARTS Shut up during
the opening band!

SPORTS UM Basketball
grows vertically



Issue No. 8 October 25, 2017

ON THE COVER

DESIGN ZOIE KOOSTRA

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19					20					21			
22					23					24			
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31	32				33					34			
36					37					38			
40					41					42			
44					45					46			
					48					49			
53	54	55								56			
58										59			
61										62			
64										63			
										65			
										66			

- ACROSS**

1 They may be loaded

5 Toy gun ammo

9 Calcutta wrap

13 Emanation

14 Small brook

15 Poisonous plant

16 McCarthy, e.g.

18 Shelved for now

19 Break

20 Open to other ideas

22 Lift up

24 Part of VHF

25 Little 'un

26 Soothing word, when repeated

28 Ind. neighbor

31 Brunch order

34 Not a nice guy

36 Wrapped up

37 Prying person

39 Priest from the East

40 Elvis played one in "Change of Habit"

42 Bewilder

44 Farm pen

45 "On call" device

47 Blockhead

48 Carte du jour

49 Speak evil of

53 Ballpark figure?

57 Campaigned

58 The "A" in "CAT scan"

59 Well-kept, to a sailor

61 Drizzly

62 Ill at ____

63 Molecular bit

64 Catch sight of

65 Sloth's home

DOWN

1 Artful move

2 Something to shoot for

3 Resume item

4 MLB stat

5 One-time Yugoslavian

6 Feathered headdress

7 Bang the drum for

8 Ace place?

9 1922 Berlin song, "Some ____ Day"

10 Encircled by

11 Dash

12 Bumped off

15 Evening wingding

17 Clearing

21 Ethel of Broadway

23 Hotel employee

27 Consequently

28 Induct into office

29 Depict

30 Starring role

31 "What are the ____?"

32 Debatable

33 Ruthless ruler

35 Viva voce

38 Victor in a fabled race

41 For all to see

43 Utah's salt ____

46 Garment insert

48 Substantial

50 Bengaluru bread

51 Castrated rooster

52 Opposition

53 Watered down

54 Line on a graph

55 Speech problem

56 Burn a bit

60 Owned once

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

R	A	I	L		F	A	S	T		S	W	E	P	T	
A	L	G	A		O	B	O	E		A	R	M	O	R	
N	O	U	N		R	A	F	T		G	E	C	K	O	
D	E	A	D		L	E	T	T	E	R		S	E	E	P
		N	A	I	V	E		A	U	S	T	E	R	E	
A	R	O	U	S	E		S	T	E	E	L				
B	I	D		T	R	A	C	E		D	E	A	L	T	
E	L	O	P	E		L	O	T		A	R	D	O	R	
T	E	N	O	N		T	R	E	A	T		M	O	O	
		R	U	P	E	E		D	I	M	I	T	I	T	
C	L	I	P	P	E	R		S	A	V	O	R			
H	E	R	O		R	E	C	U	P	E	R	A	T	E	
A	G	A	I	N		G	A	I	T		A	B	E	D	
F	A	T	S	O		O	N	T	O		S	L	A	G	
F	L	E	E	T		S	E	E	R		S	E	R	E	

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SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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:

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

KAIMIN EDITORIAL

Has UM reached the point of no return?

The prospect of program prioritization and the uncertainty of its outcome looms over campus. Media outlets and the campus community have focused almost exclusively on the cuts that will eventually come from the prioritization process. People fear for their jobs, their majors and their futures.

The three top administrators at UM — President Sheila Stearns, Provost Beverly Edmond and Vice President of Administration and Finance Rosi Keller (all interims) — have stressed UM's habit of living beyond its means during the enrollment decline and the structural changes that need to be implemented to prevent total bankruptcy.

As a University, we have reached a point where we can no longer be bailed out, no longer scrape by on one-time-only funding sources. Cuts have already been made, largely on the backs of staff, with the hope of preserving academics. More cuts are needed, we're told, as enrollment continues to drop and state funding slips away. But all of these cuts have ignored, and even exasperated, the root of the budget problem — enrollment.

When the APASP committee members analyze every pro-

gram that makes up this University, the Kaimin encourages them not only to look at the metrics, but to use common sense, too. Enrollment in a program may be down, but that doesn't say much about the quality or potential of a program. Data tells what, but not why.

Consider what brings students to UM. Consider what is going to raise enrollment and actually fix these problems. We can't cut academics and expect more students to come. We can't cut student services and expect students to stay once they're here. We can't expect enrollment to fix itself without a serious, strategic investment in recruiting, especially international recruiting.

UM's rhetoric on the prioritization process revolves around one word: strategy. Strategy is what this University needs, and what it has needed for a long time. But that strategy should not entail cutting vital services and academic offerings. Strategic investment in services that bring students here, and keep them here, is the only way to solve our problems.

International enrollment is dismal. We have no international recruiter, and the Global Engagement office has been

cut to the bone. Just 40 international students would generate \$1 million in revenue. But instead, UM has zero international students coming this spring, according to the assistant director of international students, Mary Nellis.

UM spends half as much as MSU on general recruitment. Tom Crady, UM's new enrollment mastermind, has a proven record of success at past schools, but with no money to work with, his hands are tied.

The faculty, staff and students making up the APASP committee have the University's best interests at heart. They are among the most dedicated people on this campus and have invested huge amounts of time and energy into this process. They could help UM rethink its priorities in strategic ways, but years of administrative inaction and scapegoating has left UM at a point of no return. Before blaming APASP for cuts, remember how we got here.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?

Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

KAIMIN COMIC

3rd FLOOR CLASSES



RENE SANCHEZ

rene.sanchez@umontana.edu / @ReneSanchez440

KAIMIN COLUMN

Queeries: Maybe you weren't looking hard enough

Why should I care about all these new trans issues? This stuff wasn't a problem when I was growing up, and I don't see why that should change now.

When I was growing up, taxes weren't a problem for me, and yet I still have to deal with paying them. They didn't cease to exist because I didn't know what they were. These "new" trans people are a lot like taxes in that way. Except we're way more fun.

The important thing to remember is that trans and non-binary people have always been around. It might seem like there has been a bigger focus on them within the past five years or so, but that doesn't mean we all sprang up out of the Berkeley Pit in 2012. We've been around, by one name or another, for thousands of years.

But that's not really the point. Transgender people shouldn't have to prove their historical background for you to acknowledge their existence. Requiring trans people to give you a history lesson before you believe them forces them into a weird place. Most historical evidence of LGBTQ people is based on non-Western cultures because European colonization pushed modern gender roles onto those cultures. The problem is that the words

"transgender" and "gay" obviously didn't exist then. In fact, the concepts of being trans or gay didn't exist exactly the way we understand them today.

The problem with today's definition of "transgender" is that it depends on our modern understanding of gender. The idea that there are only two genders didn't exist everywhere. In South Asia, Hijras have a government-recognized third gender classification. The category includes intersex and transgender people. Many Native American tribes have specific roles for two-spirit individuals, but the word "two-spirit" doesn't necessarily refer to their gender or sexuality. Rather, it is a separate category altogether, and its exact meaning varies from tribe to tribe. In Arabic, the word "mukhannathun" refers primarily to trans women or intersex people, though it also implies that they were exclusively attracted to men.

It's nearly impossible to separate the elements of sex, gender and sexuality from these words, and that's partially because the cultures they come from don't separate those concepts the way we do today.

Comparing your own experience in today's world to the experience of a person living in a completely differ-

ent culture and time period erases the actual historical meaning and value of those people. Imposing a modern, Western label on people doesn't actually help your argument and isn't necessarily accurate.

In short, LGBTQ people have been around for a while, but if you're looking for the words "transgender," "non-binary," or really any modern label in your history books, you won't find it. That doesn't mean we are new, it just means our words are.

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

calreynolds.queeries@gmail.com

@CalReynoldsMT



KAIMIN COLUMN

Ghosts breathe life into dying markets

The University of Montana campus is especially beautiful this time of year, as anyone who experiences the Oval during fall knows. Autumn colors and crisp air combine to make a uniquely Montana experience.

But the true hero of Halloween season at UM is the ghost of Jeannette Rankin. She roams the lonely corridors of Rankin Hall and, according to a vague story I heard from my RA freshmen year, she is frequently spotted on the balcony of her building, wearing all white and whispering about pacifism and the Sheppard-Towner Act to passersby.

As someone with a deeply-ingrained interest in both spooks and economics, I was curious to find out what the connection is between those who have not yet passed into the great beyond and supply-and-demand curves. Was our own Jeannie complicit in the bursting of the tech bubble? It's clear to me that ghosts play a very important role in banking circles, and I was determined to find out what exactly that role is. Are ghosts good for our economy?

Spectral activity accounts for at least 65 percent of fiscal growth in the U.S. in the past 15 years, based on calculations I just made up. Taking into consideration that at least

40 of the top 100 CEOs nationwide are demons inhabiting reanimated corpses, that number increases significantly. If I had a nickel for every ghost tour that exists in the United States, I could make 50 cents in Butte alone. Think of all that delicious tourist fear money stimulating our towns and cities, not to mention the monetization of movies like "Ghost," starring the specter of Patrick Swayze.

To get more information, I spoke to one of my favorite professors and campus expert on behavioral (boo-havioral) economics, Matt Taylor. When initially confronted with the notion that ghosts are vital to the continued health of our nation's pecuniary condition, Taylor was unimpressed.

"Ghosts are what we create when we can't explain something we experience," he said.

Soon though, with a little encouragement, he was Googling "economic value of ghosts" and looking at an article from Forbes entitled "The Boo-tiful Business of Ghost Tourism." He agreed with my point about ghost movies and tours, but was not yet convinced that ghosts even exist. He is more interested in the role human emotion plays in market fluctuations.

Ultimately, Taylor and I disagree on something fundamental. He doesn't believe ghosts exist. I believe they are the sole reason our economy functions. My proof? The concept of the "invisible hand" is much more than abstract theory. It's the ghost of Milton Friedman sticking his spindly little fingers into futures markets and making sure they run smoothly. When certain naysayers create unnecessary dialogue about how ghosts should be "busted," they are not just taking away remnants of our collective cultural past like Jeannette, they are destroying the foundation of American economics.

So to all you ghostbusters, ghosthunters, Ghostface Kil-lahs, please stop. Kill all the ghosts and you'll send the nation into another haunted housing crisis.

CAYLEY BOYD

cayley.boyd@umt.edu

@cayleyboyd



BUDGET CUTS



GRAPHIC RENE SANCHEZ

International enrollment continues to fall

MELISSA LOVERIDGE

melissa.loveridge@umontana.edu / @mel_loveridge

It's no secret that UM has been struggling with enrollment for the past few years, and international enrollment is no different. It is, however, dropping much faster than overall enrollment.

"We have zero students [coming in the spring]," said Mary Nellis, the assistant director of international students.

She said normally there were around 30 or 40 international students coming to UM for the spring semester, bringing in thousands of dollars in tuition and fees to the University. International students pay out of state tuition, so if 40 international students pay full tuition, that's \$1 million in revenue.

Nellis explained that there were two big groups of international students: exchange students, who are here temporarily, and degree-seeking students, who are planning on graduating from UM.

Nellis also said that the Global Engagement Office had been hit hard with budget cuts, drastically affecting its ability

to do outreach.

"Our recruiter left last December," Nellis said. "We don't have anyone going out and doing recruiting."

Down eight staff members, without printed recruitment materials and a budget cut by over 20 percent, the Global Engagement Office is doing the best it can with the resources available, she said.

"I'm working three positions right now," Nellis said. "The last round of budget cuts was on the backs of staff ... it's just getting dumped on us."

Ashlesha Khatiwada, a 19-year-old physics major, is an international student from Nepal. She met UM's former recruiter when she was in high school.

"A person from UM came to introduce [the University of Montana]," Khatiwada said. "Missoula looked really beautiful."

She said that she was interested in coming to Missoula because it was so close to Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks and for the holistic approach to education.

Khatiwada said that by the time you graduate, you are "broadly informed about other subjects."

Tom Crady, vice president for enrollment, said he couldn't say why international enrollment dropped but is hopeful for its future.

"I can't really tell you why it dropped," Crady said, who started in April of last year. "I can tell you that it's unbelievably low ... we're just kind of underfunded."

Crady's office has about half the funding for recruitment compared to Montana State University.

When Crady arrived last year, he said, recruiting was over and UM knew it wouldn't have a good year for international enrollment.

"The problem I have here is we're literally starting from ground zero. I don't think it'll take that long to get up and running, but it has to be funded appropriately and we still have a ways to go with that," he said.

Crady said in March or April, UM will look to fill the international recruiting position. In the meantime, he's working with faculty members who plan to travel abroad.

"A lot of faculty want to help me do this, which I think is really good," Crady said. "To be honest, the recruiting numbers are horrible. I would say that to anybody."

UM FOLKLORE

Squash spikers: A history and how-to of the Main Hall pumpkin prank

SHAYLEE RAGAR

shaylee.ragar@umontana.edu / @shay_ragar

Halloween at the University of Montana wouldn't be complete without the spiked pumpkin atop Main Hall. The pumpkin returned early this month, much the same as it has for decades.

A secretive group within the local rock climbing community is known to be responsible for the spiking, but members are not keen to expose their practices or identities. The Kaimin spoke with an experienced rock climber on UM's campus who asked to remain anonymous.

The source described the hypothetical process to the Kaimin: One person uses the fire escape, passes the "No Trespassing" sign, then scales the building and hops up onto the steep roof. This is where it gets difficult, the source said. There is no way to secure oneself to the brick building on the way up. The pumpkin spiker must climb solo — without the safety of a belay partner — up the clock tower to the top of the spire.

"If you fall, you're going to hit the ground," the source said.

Once the pumpkin spiker has accomplished the mission, they can rappel down off the spire, which is a little safer. The climber said overcoming the mental barriers is the hardest part of the endeavour.

"The head game is 95 percent of it."

Kirk Hash Jr., 41, first remembers seeing the pumpkin in October 1995, his freshman year of college. He said he was shocked one morning to look out his window and see a giant orange pumpkin on the tallest spire of Main Hall.

"That struck me as really odd and mysterious," he said.

Hash returned to campus for summer school and said he recalls the pumpkin still being there. With no way to remove the gourd, it sat there to rot. He didn't know who could've pulled the seemingly impossible stunt.

The Kaimin first reported on the Main Hall pumpkin the following year, on Oct. 31, 1996. With the alliterative title, "Puzzling Pumpkin prank will cost a pretty penny," a reporter wrote that UM Facility Services considered hiring an "expert climber" to remove the pumpkin, but decided it wasn't worth the risk.

On Nov. 7, 1996, an editorial in the Kaimin applauded the University for deciding to let the pumpkin be. Apparently, Facility Services proposed paying for a crane at \$110 an hour to remove the pumpkin because Main Hall wasn't "architecturally suited" for it.

The Missoula Independent claimed in a 2012 blog

post that UMPD arrested a pumpkin spiker in 2004, and charged the person with trespassing. Campus police tracked him down through climbing gear left behind and campus gossip.

The campus community rallied last year around Peter Breigenzer after he was arrested during the daring feat. Outcries on social media called for Breigenzer to be freed from county jail. Former ASUM President, Cody Meix-

ner, shamed the University for "attempting to put a stop to this noble UM tradition."

Breigenzer could not be reached for comment, but a source close to him said charges were later reduced, and he was sentenced to community service for the incident.

UM administrators are reportedly good natured about the annual prank, but safety concerns mean they still keep a watchful eye on Main Hall in October.



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BUDGET CUTS

Administration reveals details of staff buyout offers

CASSIDY ALEXANDER

cassidy.alexander@umontana.edu / @cass_dizzle

Eligible University of Montana employees will be offered six months' salary and a year's worth of health insurance if they take a severance offer and leave UM in December, according to details discussed at a joint meeting of the University's staff senate and the president's cabinet.

Staff must make final decisions about accepting this offer in December, but if any decide immediately to take the offer, the process could be finalized this month, according to UM spokesperson Paula Short.

Those staff positions won't automatically be refilled, as UM will be taking a hard look at what Interim President Sheila Stearns calls "creative recombinations" — finding ways to merge positions and reduce the total number of employees.

This is all part of a grander scheme at the University to reduce the percentage of its budget spent on personnel. Stearns has said UM currently spends about 90 percent of its budget on employees, and that number needs to decrease to around 75 percent.

Buyouts were announced Oct. 17 in a press release sent over

email that will be offered to full-time administrative professionals who have worked for UM for at least two years and are paid through UM's general fund, according to Rosi Keller, vice president for administration and finance.

Eligible employees, hired before Aug. 1, 2015 must express interest in the severance package by Nov. 22. All decisions must be made final by Dec. 6.

Keller said the severance packages are "totally different" from layoffs and are completely voluntary.

Staff who choose to accept the buyout will receive a lump sum of their wages to be paid through the fiscal year, Keller said. They will also continue to receive health insurance six months beyond the fiscal year, which can be used for an employee's family, she said. If the staff member declines the insurance, he or she can receive a lump sum of equal worth.

There is uncertainty regarding which jobs will be cut looking ahead, Stearns said. UM doesn't have a targeted number of employee buyouts — the only goal is to achieve a balanced budget, she added.

Stearns said UM must save money through a "creative recombination of people with different skillsets to share responsibilities."

Maria Mangold, registrar at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law, said some staff will use the buyout as a "swan song," while others could use it as a "cushion" while they explore other jobs.

"It is a gamble in that you're trying to predict 'Will I be in that pool for layoffs?'" Mangold said. "This is a better option."

Tom Crady, vice president of enrollment and student affairs, said the buyouts could have severe effects for departments like financial aid, which has already been halved. Parts of campus rely on specially trained professionals and the prospect of losing them creates an "element of worry," he said.

To mitigate the effects of departments losing critical employees, section heads will be notified of which staff are choosing to leave so they can restructure and continue to provide services, Keller said.

Provost Beverly Edmond said in response, "As long as we provide the quality service, the structure is secondary."

Mangold said she is concerned whether the APASP rankings, which may not be available until Nov. 30, could provide critical information for staff considering whether to accept a severance package.

Edmond countered by saying APASP evaluations shouldn't be the sole source for making a decision because the recommendations are not final.

ENROLLMENT CRISIS

MSU outpaces UM on recruitment spending, and it's showing

SHAYLEE RAGAR

shaylee.ragar@umontana.edu / @shay_ragar

This time of year, high school seniors are bombarded with university recruitment materials, and Kiah Hohenstein, 17, is no exception.

The Belgrade High student said she receives emails daily from colleges. Most of these materials come from Montana State University, located in Gallatin Valley where she grew up. She has received far fewer emails from the University of Montana, and not a single physical pamphlet.

"I get so much stuff," she said. Any undergraduate who has applied for college can relate.

Recruitment efforts fall under Tom Crady, UM vice president of enrollment and student affairs. UM reported in a preliminary census last month that freshman enrollment had increased by about 2 percent.

"We've made incredible progress," Crady said. He pointed out that even with a presidential resignation and a tuition hike, UM was still able to bring in more freshmen than

last fall.

UM spends around \$1.4 million a year on recruitment and admissions, according to Crady. That's about half of what MSU spends, according to numbers given by MSU spokesperson Tracy Ellig.

Ellig said the Bozeman school spends around \$2.2 million annually on recruitment and admissions efforts. This includes a \$1.2 million contract with marketing firm Royall. He said that it's difficult to directly compare the two budgets because each admissions office performs different duties.

The next phase of Crady's current recruitment strategy will be to send out 35,000 to 40,000 "premier applications," which are paperless and meant to streamline the process. These applications are sent directly to potential students and link to the UM website.

Crady said that UM has become a member of the Coalition Application, a network of over a hundred schools that accept one universal form. UM is the only university in Montana to have joined. Members must meet eligibility criteria that include affordability and student success, ac-

cording to its website.

Idaho State University is another school comparable to UM. The university based in Pocatello spends around \$1 million on recruitment, according to Scott Scholes, vice president for enrollment management.

"We're really focused on serving our Idaho students," Scholes said.

This year ISU has adopted a common application that is accepted at all state institutions in Idaho. Scholes said ISU has not released an official enrollment number yet, but last fall it was 13,629.

UM counted 11,865 students enrolled this fall. MSU reached a record-high enrollment number this year with 16,703 students, according to a press release.

In some cases, university efforts may not matter. For Kiah Hohenstein, advertisement materials have not influenced her decision at all. She has yet to apply for college, but said she's leaning toward the University of Montana. Hohenstein said she likes the campus and the attitude in Missoula.

"I'm looking for a good atmosphere. You know, nice, open-minded people."

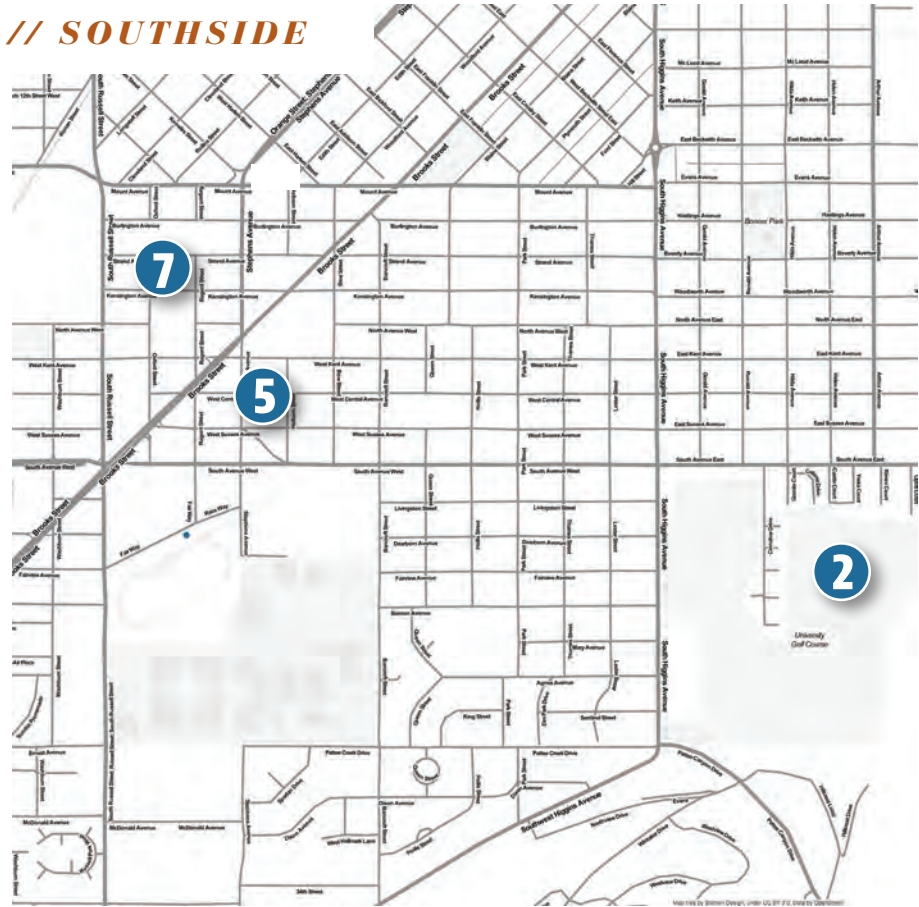
// DOWNTOWN



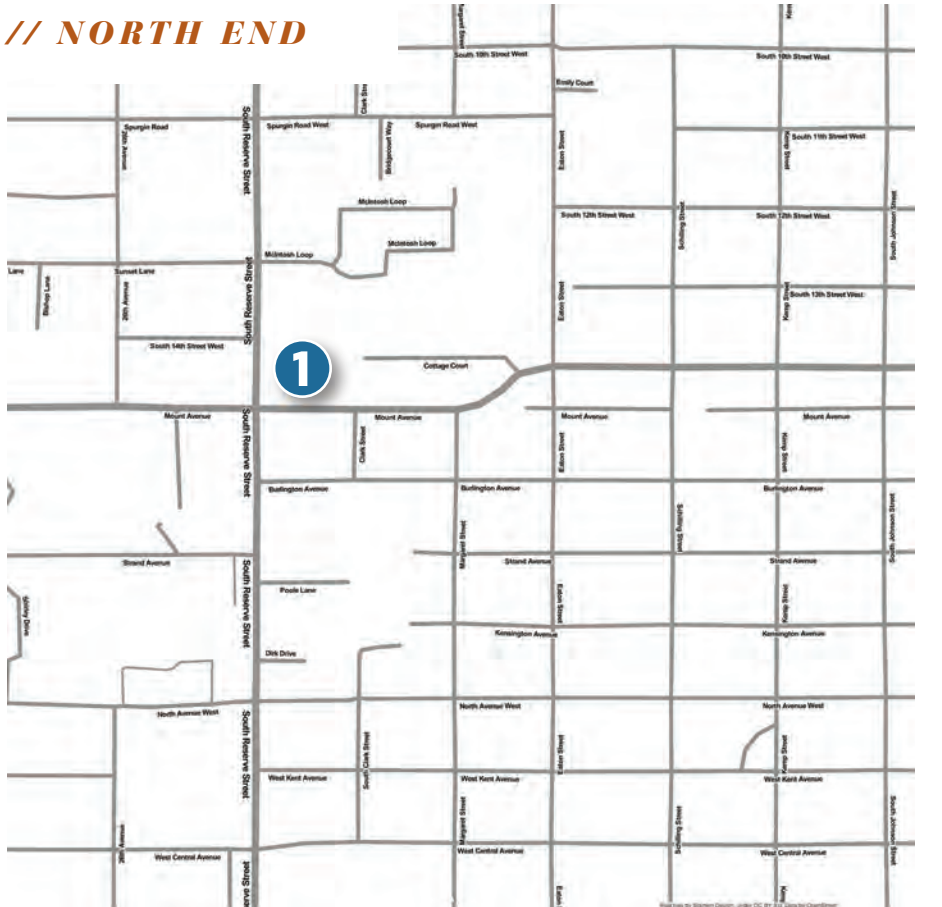
// U DISTRICT



// SOUTHSIDE



// NORTH END



halloween

1 All Hallow's Eve Psychic Wine Night

Oct. 27 | 6 p.m. | Water Lilies

Wine may blur your vision, but fear not! The future will become crystal clear once you have your energy read in honor of Samhain. "Celebrity medium" Tesa Harster will be making an appearance. All ages are welcome, so even sober psychics are welcome to join. Reserve a spot by calling (406) 926-1566.

2 Skeleton Skedaddle 5k

Oct. 27 | 6 p.m. | University Golf Course

Halloween candy will put a strain on anyone's health, so get your bones moving to counteract all that sugar. Costumes are encouraged, and a soup and cornbread meal after your run will bring that tired body back to life. Plus nothing says "terrifying" like exercise.

3 The Rocky Horror Show Live!

Oct. 27 | 11 p.m. | The Wilma

Your favorite Transylvanians are back! The talented crew at the Montana Actors' Theatre will resurrect this sexual seasonal standard, performing iconic scenes from the 1973 classic musical that inspired the film of the (almost) same name. Bring your fishnets, corsets and an open mind. Call (406) 728-2521 for tickets.

4 Halloween Lit Party

Oct. 27 | 6 p.m. | Adams Center

XXXTentacion may have backed out of this hip hop bacchanal, but Tyga, Lil Pump and Famous Dex are still ready to bring the house down. Claiming to be "the biggest party to ever hit Missoula," Lit Party may be your only opportunity to see Pump's literary smash hit "D Rose" in person. Tickets are available at www.griztix.com.

5 The Zombies Are Coming!

Oct. 28 | 7 p.m. | Painting With a Twist

Looking for something a touch more low-key? Unwind and get creative with a canvas and a paintbrush! Paint terrifying scenes of Halloween carnage, (or fluffy bunnies in a flowery meadow if that's not your thing). This is an all-ages gathering, but the venue has a BYOB policy, so feel free to bring your favorite bottle of Merlot. Make reservations at www.paintingwithatwist.com

6 Disco Bloodbath

Oct. 28 | 5 p.m. | Caras Park, Monks Bar, VFW, American Legion Hall, Downtown Dance Collective

If you're looking for the local music festival of the year, look no further than the seventh annual Disco Bloodbath. Though previously known for its focus on electronic music, this year promises to be a multi-genre blowout encompassing everything from house DJs to a suite of local bands covering artists as diverse as Rihanna and the Misfits. Oh, and it lasts all night, so don't plan on getting anything done the next day. Tickets are available at www.discobloodbath.net

7 Missoula Haunted House

Through Oct. 31 | 7 p.m. | Missoula Fairgrounds

Roothead Studios is going all out for this year's nightmare-inducing fright fest. This haunted attraction is in its fifth year, and the twisted minds behind the event have screams down to a science. This time around, the theme is "The Reaping," an experience in the worst roadside motel you can imagine. All you daredevils out there can't miss this one. Tickets can be purchased on site for \$10.

8 Photos for the Dead

Oct. 29 | 11:30 a.m. | Slikati Photo Video

It's easy to forget this time of year was originally about reconnecting with those who've passed on, but this non-denominational photoshoot focuses on the spirit of the season. Attendees are invited to bring departed loved ones' personal items. Slikati's photographers will shoot portraits in a cathartic and celebratory process meant to inspire healing. Make reservations at www.slikati.com/dead

9 Halloween Choral Spectacular

Oct. 30 | 7:30 p.m. | UM Music Recital Hall

Our university is home to some of the most talented artists around. Come show support for your vocally-gifted peers and witness a performance that will include spooky Halloween icons like witches, ghosts and goblins. Tickets are available at www.griztix.com

10 Tortured Souls Investigations

Oct. 30 | 6 p.m. | Missoula Public Library

Hear from the local organization that dedicates itself to uncovering the truth about paranormal activity

right here in our little town. You'll learn about the history methods of Tortured Souls Investigations and even have the chance to ask these experts your own questions about the spiritual realm. Free.

11 Kaleidoscope Karaoke

Oct. 30 | 9:30 p.m. | The VFW

Let's be honest, at this point of the Halloween weekend, you're probably more than a little exhausted. So kick back with a drink or two and watch your friends make fools of themselves trying to hit the high notes in Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On." Or you could stick with the spirit of the season and do "Monster Mash," but your friends will definitely make fun of you. Free.

12 The Jesus and Mary Chain

Oct. 31 | 8 p.m. | The Wilma

Scottish brothers Jim and William Reid will knock your socks off, bringing their particular brand of alternative post-punk to an iconic downtown Missoula venue. These guys combine feedback noise and melodic throwbacks with classic 1960s pop songwriting to create shoegazey vibes you'll fall in love with. Modern goth icons Cold Cave will be opening, ensuring a fitting end to your extended Halloween weekend. Tickets are available at (406) 728-2521.

13 Halloween Show!

Oct. 31 | 10 p.m. | Union Ballroom

Looking for a show that's a little more eclectic? Listen to Missoula musicians Cairns and Wilma Laverne Miner rock out with Atlanta-based trio Omni, self-described as "minimalist funk-fused agit-pop." What does that word salad sound like? You'll just have to find out for yourself. Costumes are encouraged. \$6 at the door.

14 Night of the Living Dead Hipster

Oct. 31 | 9 p.m. | The Badlander

Missoula partygoers know this to be one of the city's most reliable nights out. You go to Dead Hipster, you're going to have a good time. Is there a better way to ruin your Wednesday morning than drinking, dancing and awkwardly flirting with that cutie in the corner? Event photographer Abi Baumann will be there to capture every moment, so practice that scary face now. \$5 at the door.

Check out the full interactive map online at montanakaimin.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO SEDA SPETTACOLI

Landmark slasher “Suspiria” will shock Roxy audiences

NICK RUDOW

nick.rudow@umontana.edu / @nickrudow

Horror fans and gorehounds rejoice: Dario Argento’s classic slasher flick “Suspiria” is playing at the Roxy Theater for one night only Saturday, Oct. 28, at 9 p.m. Presented in a new digital 4K restoration, this 1977 Italian horror classic centers on a young American ballet student named Suzy (Jessica Harper) who travels to Germany for dance school. Early on, we see another student fleeing from the dance school and later murdered by a mysterious serial killer. As Suzy struggles to settle into her new life in Germany, more and more students are killed as she unearths dark secrets about her school.

Fair warning: If you’re grossed out by gore and blood, this movie is not for you. The film’s violence is still shocking by today’s standards, with its death sequences as surreal as one’s nightmares. But even as gory as the film is, it’s also remarkably artful. From the school’s unique architecture to the beautiful murals, the production design is spellbinding.

Perhaps the biggest star of this film is its score by the Italian progressive rock group Goblin. Full of ambient noise and soft whispers, it creates a moody atmosphere that’s perfect for the film’s tone. Luciano Tovoli’s cinematography adds to the dreamlike nature of the film, with fluid camerawork and vibrant colors.

Argento is simply one of the masters of horror and “Suspiria” is his magnum opus. His use of color and music in this film has influenced dozens of films, most recently Nicholas Winding Refn’s “The Neon Demon,” which practically feels like a “Suspiria” remake.

Director Luca Guadagnino’s remake of “Suspiria” will open in theaters next year because, apparently, good things can’t be left alone. But this remake isn’t the usual cash cow — it’s set to feature music by Radiohead’s Thom Yorke and a performance by acting queen Tilda Swinton.

Synapse Films, according to Indiewire, spent four years on this 4K restoration of “Suspiria,” which entailed brightening the film’s color palette and restoring the film’s soundtrack. “Suspiria” is playing in the Roxy’s Movie Cult slot, an ongoing series airing every Saturday night. Tickets can be purchased for \$8, or \$7 with a UM student ID.



Bitsy Tits Blitz, of the Nylon Sisters Burlesque, starts her routine during last year’s Grotesque Burlesque at the Dark Horse Bar on Oct. 28, 2016. The burlesque troupe, consisting of two sisters, plans a Halloween-themed show every year. PHOTO REBEKAH WELCH

‘Gorelesque’ offers camp, eroticism and satanic imagery

JESSICA SHELDAHL

jessica.sheldahl@umontana.edu

A night of sexy gore awaits all who enter the Grotesque Burlesque Carnival of Flesh. Missoula’s only heavy metal bar is hosting performances from the Nylon Sister’s Burlesque, filling the gap in this city for horror-themed burlesque, or “gorelesque” as it’s known, with sultry, scary fun.

“This show will be different than most of the other burlesque you’ll see here (in Missoula),” said Saquoia Penelope. She’s an organizer for the Carnival of Flesh as well as one of the burlesque performers, and goes by the stage name Bitsy Tits Blitz. “The costume contest is fierce and fun as hell,” she said.

For the past seven years, Grotesque Burlesque Carnival of Flesh has provided Missoula with an outlet for its freakiest fantasies. Burlesque is essentially an irreverent striptease, campy and erotic, a way for people to push the boundaries of their sexuality. Gorelesque, a subsection of the burlesque world, focuses on bloody seduction, incorporating corpse-like makeup, a heavy dose of the occult and plenty of fake blood into performances. In the past, performances have featured clown masks, blood-covered breasts, harnesses, satanic imagery and everything in between.

This year will feature musical performances from Montana metal bands Mahamawaldi, Chaos to Clarity, Switch OFF Safety and blessiddoom. And of course, there will also be live burlesque performances from local burlesque artists Bitsy Tits Blitz and Ambrosia Salad.

“Missoula has a small but wonderful metal scene,” Penelope said. “It’s good to have a big event to celebrate it.”

Although some performers are members of other burlesque troupes (Penelope was previously a member of Cigarettes Girls Burlesque), the Carnival of Flesh is an especially raucous opportunity to indulge in Halloween-themed drinks and win prizes from the “wheel of misfortune.” There will also be a large prize giveaway for the winner of the costume contest. The ladies even have a special surprise for the night that will, in their words, make sure it’s unlike any other burlesque show in town. Bring your best costume and Halloween spirit.

The event is sponsored by 96.3 The Blaze and Montana Tattoo Company, with an affordable \$5 cover at the door. Penelope said she hopes the community dresses up, assuring the Kaimin she’s personally going to “bring it.” The Carnival of Flesh takes place at the Dark Horse bar, located at 1805 Regent St. off Stephens Ave.



Get your sober DIY fix at the ZACC

JESSICA SHELDAHL

jessica.sheldahl@umontana.edu

Get phantasmal at Missoula's own Ghost Carrot Record's Music and Art festival, featuring bands ranging from surf rock to psychedelic paired with visual artists.

"We have poured a lot of time into this event," said Joshua Bacha, organizer and spokesperson for both the festival and Ghost Carrot Records. "[We're] just excited to see it come together and we are stoked to hang out with our friends and have a dang good Halloween."

The three-day, all-ages festival will start with a free house show on Thursday and includes two full days of musical performances on Friday and Saturday at the Zootown Arts Community Center on the North Side. Passes are \$15 for both days and \$13 for a single day.

The bands represent many different subgenres of rock. Relatively new Missoula bands Sunraiser and Mossmouth, as well as Tiny Plastic Stars and Charcoal Squids, provide a good sampling

of the kind of D.I.Y rock you can expect — everything from emotional hardcore to high energy psych has its place in this festival's lineup. Even more mellow, dreamy jams can be expected from bands like Tispur, from Boise, Idaho and @tlas from Moscow, Idaho.

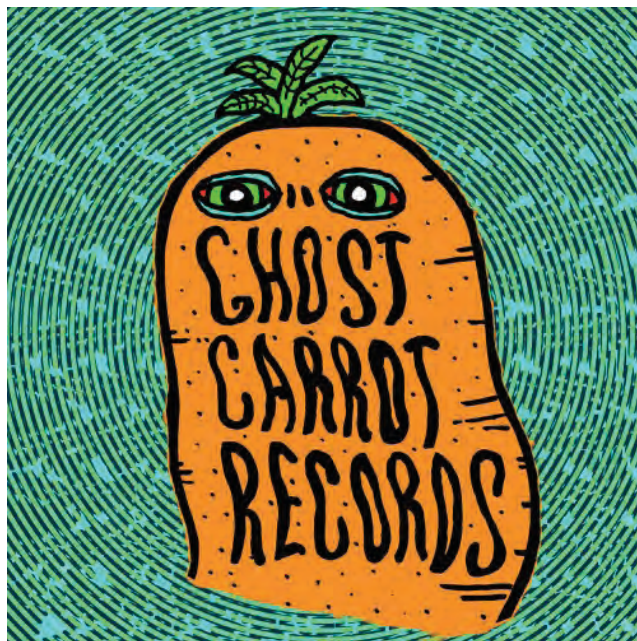
This is the first year that Ghost Carrot Records will host its showcase of independent music in Missoula. The lineup features local and out-of-state bands, as well as visual artists who will take turns projecting their art over the stage.

"A lot of the bands are bands we're just friends with or have met through touring and playing shows ourself," Bacha said. "Or people's music we super dig."

The Basement Fund, a collective that books all-ages shows in Missoula, helped organize the event to carve out an option for Halloween lovers who are either too young to drink or have no interest in libations. The Zootown Arts Community Center doesn't allow alcohol into the basement where shows are held, making it a sober alternative to the usual glut

of bar shows.

The Basement Fund and the ZACC are planning on "hibernating" from December till February, so this will be the last music festival they host before next year. It hopes to be coming back next year with a larger staff.



YouTubers John and Hank Green to visit UM

NICK RUDOW

nick.rudow@umontana.edu / @nickrudow

For more ten years, brothers John and Hank Green have made a name for themselves by creating funny and educational YouTube videos, acquiring millions of subscribers in the process. The siblings are making a stop at Urey Underground Lecture Hall Friday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. to promote and discuss John's new book, "Turtles All the Way Down." They will also talk about their careers and even perform some original music. While this may not necessarily be a Halloween event, we couldn't help but fill you in on what may be one of the most entertaining highlights of your Halloweekend.

John Green is best known for his 2012 smash hit novel, "The Fault in Our Stars," about teen romance amidst dealing with a terminal illness. With his long-awaited follow-up, John Green finds himself once again working within the genre of fiction. The new novel centers on a 16-year-old girl named Aza as she develops a friendship with David, a billionaire's son. The two begin to fall into a romance together. John Green's books often involve romance, but also tackle darker subject matter like death, anxiety and loss. His latest novel looks to be very much in his wheelhouse.

John's brother Hank Green is an online-video entrepreneur and Missoula resident who started making YouTube videos with John as the VlogBrothers. They expanded their content to multiple channels as their videos grew more and more popular and created the educational channel Crash Course, which tackles subjects as far-ranging as computer science and the history of film. That channel has earned more than 6 million subscribers. Hank hosts videos on the YouTube science channel SciShow as well, with that channel's videos produced in Missoula.

John will be talking about his career as an author and his close relationship with his brother Hank at this week's event. They will also perform a selection of comedic songs.

Tickets are \$23.50 and available for purchase at brownpapertickets.com/event/3083401.



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SUNRISE Saloon

WEEKLY LINEUP:

Thursday, Oct. 26

Rockin' Country
Dance Party
at 8:30

Friday, Oct. 27

Western Front
at 9:30

Saturday, Oct. 28

Halloween Party at 9
(Costumes, prizes and
music!)

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CONCERT REVIEW

Hey Wilma audiences, stop ruining openers' sets

ERIN GOUDREAU

erin.goudreau@umontana.edu / @ErinGoudreau

Standing in the appallingly long line for the women's bathroom at the Wilma Tuesday night, I overheard a man talking to his friends about Iron & Wine's opening act, singer-songwriter and Tulsa, Oklahoma native, John Moreland.

"He's the best songwriter of my generation," the man said. When one of his friends mentioned the particularly short length of Moreland's set — about 35 minutes — he launched into a screed about audience behavior at the Wilma.

Missoula resident and avid Wilma attendee, Willy, 39, asked, "Why do you think he only played for half an hour?" His friends shrugged. "This is a constant thing with openers," Willy said. "There needs to be a manager at the beginning of the show who asks people to be quiet."

I went to Iron & Wine with the intention of reviewing the concert. As a massive John Moreland fan, I expected to write about him as well, perhaps even making the controversial claim that there's no way in hell Moreland should still be an opener at this point in



Iron & Wine paused his show to interact with concert-goers many times throughout his performance at The Wilma Theatre on Oct. 17. PHOTO SKYLAR RISPEMS

his career.

And it was a great show. Iron & Wine was charming, and he and his band were incredibly talented. The theater was packed, and the audience hung on to every lovely, folksy, impeccably harmonized line. During the encore, the women in his band even came out sporting beards!

But I found myself walking away from the show frustrated,

yet again, with the way audience behavior at the Wilma during opening sets discourages attendees from showing up early to experience potentially great musicians they've never heard of before.

Iron & Wine is not the only artist to bring an opening act on the road with a much quieter sound than the headliner. This August, singer-songwriter Amanda Shires opened for Ryan Adams at the Wilma. Shires' entire set up included herself and a ukulele, whereas Adams was touring with a full band. Before the show, Adams came out on stage and asked the audience to remain quiet for Shires' set, likely thinking that hearing it from the source himself would inspire some conscientiousness among the audience.

He was wrong. The audience was loud, some were belligerently drunk, and though Shires was gracious about it, Adams made his dissatisfaction clear when he and the band came out. He ended up arguing with drunk audience members and playing an hour long set before storming off stage.

John Moreland's setup included one lead guitarist and himself, seated, playing acoustic guitar. Though he was only on stage for 35 minutes, the man poured his heart out, his typically raspy but rich voice telling stories of heartbreak, addiction, depression and religion. I just wish more people had a chance to hear it.

FILM REVIEW

Big emotions in Big Sky Country make 'Walking Out' a winner

NICK RUDOW

nick.rudow@umontana.edu / @nickrudow

Man vs. nature survival stories are as common as ever in film these days. From Oscar-winner "The Revenant" to this month's "The Mountain Between Us," it's become a genre rife with clichés and predictable plots. But "Walking Out," the latest film from directors Andrew and Alex Smith, goes in a different direction. Instead of making an action adventure out of its survival story — although there are moments of that — the Smith brothers are more interested in focusing on the bond between a father and son and how a tragic situation strengthened their relationship.

As the film opens, we see a teenager named David (Josh Wiggins) on a plane traveling to visit his reclusive father in the closed-off wilderness of Montana. David is a typical teenage boy. We see him playing a video game on his phone and acting as any moody teenager would. When his father Cal (Matt Bomer) comes to pick him up at the airport, the relationship between the two of them is clearly strained and distant. "Did you have a good year?" Cal asks him, the kind of vague, awkward question that indicates how

unconnected they really are.

As they go hunting for moose in the snowy mountains, something Cal is much more excited about than David is, they come across a badly injured bear cub and begin to worry that the cub's mother is close by. As David is climbing a tree to keep himself safe from the bear, he accidentally shoots his father as he's being handed his rifle. With Cal unable to walk, David is forced to carry his father on his back and attempt to get back to their Range Rover safely. This proves to be much more difficult than it sounds, as they trek through sub-zero temperatures and search for food to stay alive. The two cling to survival, their bond growing stronger, and Cal realizes how much of a man his son has become.

This all may sound like the sentimental trappings of a Hallmark movie, but the Smith brothers bring such honesty and nuance to this story that you feel emotionally invested throughout. Wiggins gives a dynamic performance in the same caliber as a young Leonardo DiCaprio. Bomer, playing against his usual clean-cut look, has never been better. The film also stars Bill Pullman, seen in dreamy flashbacks, and Missoula's own Lily Gladstone, who is unfortunately only given a couple lines of dialogue, but is a welcome presence nonetheless. Shot in Bozeman and Livingston,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO IFC FILMS

the film's lavish cinematography and haunting score evoke the work of director Terrence Malick, who similarly focuses on nature and fractured relationships in his films.

The Smith brothers have set an extremely high bar for the survival genre with this emotionally layered and heartfelt film.

You can catch it playing through Thursday, Oct. 26, at the Roxy Theater.

INDIE VOICES

Local musician makes her own space for pop in Missoula music scene

JESSICA SHELDAHL

jesicahazel@gmail.com / @jesicahaze

As one of the few Missoula musicians with a pure pop sound, Chloe Gendrow, 21, puts everything she's learned over the past few years into her debut album, "Glow."

With songs she described as "downtempo, melodic indie pop," Gendrow sings about transitioning into life as an adult and the light that exists within people when they overcome challenges.

The Top Hat will host a release party for the album on Nov. 30th. The release party is free and will feature the first live performance of "Glow."

Gendrow spent the past two years writing lyrics, composing music and doing the production for the project. Working on the album has consumed her life, and exhausted her in the best way, she said.

"19 to 21 years old was the most introspective time of my life," Gendrow said. "I definitely did a lot of soul searching. Some of the songs were easy to write ... it's kind of like an out-of-body-experience."

While writing songs, Gendrow draws on her own experiences as well as the observations she makes about her friends lives. "Forest Fire" is the only song on the album for which Gendrow had a topic in mind straight away. Gendrow calls the song "the pioneer of the album" a song about the light within someone that shows when that person pushes themselves to do their personal best, a theme that carries throughout the rest of the album.

"When you are doing your best there is a light that comes from inside you," Gendrow said. "That's where the name 'Glow' came from."

Gendrow provided the Kaimin with two singles off the album as a preview of what to expect from the project. "Hold Me Close" and "Old You" combine high quality production with lyrics that can easily get stuck in your head. Gendrow uses imagery and metaphor to broaden the scope of her lyrics, making them more relatable.

While Missoula has a fairly diverse music scene genre-wise, it lacks a big pop presence. Gendrow sees this both as an obstacle and an advantage. Although it makes it difficult to fit into the Missoula music community, it also allows her to shape her own place within the city and Montana as a whole. She is strategically planning a tour for "Glow" that will likely focus on Montana, but she would like to extend to places like Portland, Oregon.

Gendrow said that she thinks the biggest roadblock for artists in Missoula who are trying to get their music out of state is that a lot of people don't take it seriously. This



COURTESY PHOTO CHLOE GENDROW

challenge is also something she faces as a result of being a woman in male-dominated arena. Gendrow sees very little space for pop music in Missoula, much less for female pop artists. Most electronic DJs are guys, and even the D.I.Y. rock bands in the area are mostly men. Gendrow chooses to learn from this barrier by making music for herself, not for the approval of others.

"With art you're allowed to be selfish," Gendrow said. "You can't be truly authentic if you're trying to impress

someone."

After her first EP release at the beginning of last year Gendrow was overwhelmed with emotion at how people she didn't even know listened to her music. Getting feedback from people who don't know anything about her — positive or negative — is something that Gendrow relishes.

"I hope [the album] evokes some kind of emotion in people," Gendrow said. "The message of 'Glow' is to not lose hope. You can be the light of your own life."

BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Montana adds depth and height for tough 2017-18 season

ZACH FLICKINGER

zachary.flickinger@umontana.umt.edu / @zflickinger7

The Montana men's basketball team continue the early season practice grind leading to its exhibition game against Saskatchewan on Nov. 6. Montana is looking to improve on its 2016-17 season when the Griz lost out in the quarterfinals of the Big Sky Tournament as a No. 5 seed.

Montana brought in six freshmen and three transfers to combat their lack of depth and height in the '16-17 season. This year, nine players are listed at 6-foot-6 or taller — last year they only had four.

"You're usually really excited the first week of practice and then it becomes a grind," Head Coach Travis DeCuire said. "We are a little different. Last year's team was undersized and more of a perimeter team (and) shooting team. This team is bigger, more versatile and balanced."

Junior transfers Jamar Akoh and Donaven Dorsey, who both sat out last year due to NCAA transfer rules, should provide great inside scoring and defense for the Griz.

Akoh led Cal State Fullerton in 2015-16 with 6.3 rebounds per game, nine total blocks and three dou-

ble-doubles. Dorsey earned eight starts for Washington in two years (55 games total) and made 44 field goals from long range.

On top of bringing in new talent Montana returns most of last year's squad. Lone senior Fabijan Krslovic, Big Sky Preseason All-Conference selection Ahmaad Rorie and junior All-Conference guard Michael Oguine all return.

The Griz also bring back Ryan Dick Award recipient Sayeed Pridgett and three-point specialist Bobby Moorehead. All five players started at least 10 games for the Griz.

Pridgett spoke about the excitement in the locker room approaching the regular season. He also mentioned the force of the incoming freshmen defensively.

"Having a lot of height on the team makes a real difference. We have more shot blockers with the freshmen so we can space the floor," Pridgett said. "We got guys that can play down low so it should be really fun to watch."

The Grizzlies will play one of their most difficult schedules in years. They have several matchups against schools from the Power Five conferences, including Pittsburgh, Penn State, Stanford, UCLA and Washington.

Montana ranked third in the Big Sky Preseason Coaches' Poll behind Weber State and Idaho. No Big Sky



Griz guard Michael Oguine drives the ball past forward Karl Nicholas during practice at the Adams Center on Oct. 19. The Griz are preparing for their first exhibition game of the season against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies on Nov. 6. PHOTO LIAM KESHISHIAN

team has won more conference titles than Montana (10) since the first championship in 1975.

The rankings may put them third, but Pridgett believes they can be the best in the Big Sky.

"Third is good, but we want to be a for sure number one. We just have to prove it to them," said Pridgett.

KAIMIN COLUMN

Views from the 406: We're finally seeing a fully formed Bob Stitt team

There have been many harsh critics of Montana head football coach Bob Stitt, myself included. I've even said that the administration should consider not re-signing him at the end of the year. But as Montana prepares to return from the bye week, it might be time to admire the job Stitt has done.

Montana's only two losses this season have been against Washington, then the highest-ranked team the Grizzlies had ever played, and Eastern Washington, the top-ranked team in the Big Sky.

And the Eastern loss came during redshirt-freshman Gresch Jensen's first career start.

There have been three major knocks against Stitt since he came to Montana. The Griz were bad on the road, they tended to get out-coached in the second half and he didn't seem to personify Griz Football in a way that coaches like Bobby Hauck and Mick Delaney had in the past.

Hauck's teams were built on defense and special teams and littered with Montanans. They were also dominant. Del-

aney was a Butte guy, the prototypical Montanan. Stitt is an outsider with a new-school way of thinking. The older Griz fans don't like his propensity to go for it on fourth down and throw the ball twice as often as he runs it.

But he has started to address these concerns. The Griz picked up big road wins against Portland State and Idaho State. They are both toward the bottom of the conference, but wins on the road are always important. It gave the Griz more away wins than in all of 2016.

He also made halftime adjustments in the Idaho State game to seal the victory. The Griz looked different, better, in the second half of that game, something that hasn't been true for much of Stitt's tenure. Throw in his post-game reaction to Idaho State coach Rob Phenicie, who sarcastically called Stitt "an offensive genius" and said they were lucky to be on the field with Montana, and Stitt is winning over Griz fans.

Then the Griz beat a battered and injured preseason No. 1 North Dakota, putting Montana exactly where it needs to be

coming out of the bye.

It became clear to me when interviewing Reese Phillips for a story just how close this Griz team was, and how much they bought into the family bonds that Stitt has preached. He has clearly won over the players inside his program.

With four weeks left in the season, Stitt has the chance to finally win over Griz fans. They are a tough bunch to please, but a playoff run with a redshirt-freshman quarterback would make sure the Stitt-era continues for many years to come.

JACKSON WAGNER

jackson.wagner@umontana.edu

@jackson_wagner



PLAYER PROFILE

Jamar's journey: Transfer looks to make big impact for Griz basketball

ZACH FLICKINGER

zachary.flickinger@umontana.umt.edu / @zflickinger7

The 2015-2016 Cal State Fullerton men's basketball team started the season well, winning six of its first seven contests. After that, success was hard to come by. They won just four more games and for the fifth consecutive year lost out in the first round of the Big West Tournament.

After the disappointing season and lack of support from the fanbase, Jamar Akoh uploaded a video highlighting his talents in his sophomore year at Fullerton. The coaches at Montana were interested in his versatile skillset and Akoh signed with the team in May 2016.

Akoh grew up in Hesperia, California, where he was a two-year starter at Los Osos High School. His senior year, he averaged 12.6 points, 6.2 rebounds and recorded a 23-point, 20-rebound outing in a CIF-Southern Section Division 1AA first-round game.

Fullerton associate head coach John Smith started watching Akoh when he was in fifth grade and saw his talents while playing against his own son in high school. The two swapped numbers, and during his senior year Jamar signed on to play for the Titans.

Smith reminisced on his personality and character in his two years at Fullerton, specifically talking about the guidance Akoh provided for his son Jamal Smith when he was a walk-on.

"He is just a good guy," Smith said. "A lot of times walk-ons don't get treated the same way and he included my son in everything that they did. Not because he was my son but because that is who he is."

On the court, Akoh's skill set separated him from other big men, according to Smith, who called him the "the poor man's version of Draymond Green."

Akoh's departure from Fullerton wasn't cold-blooded or a result of the basketball program. He simply wanted to play in front of a community that was more involved in basketball. Smith had nothing against his decision.

"There is so much going on in Southern California, it isn't the same college town as Missoula. I'm happy for him and I wish him nothing but the best," Smith said.

Montana finished 16-16 and 11-7 in the Big Sky to finish in a tie for fifth place last season. The Griz lost in the quarterfinals of the Big Sky Tournament against Idaho. Akoh had to sit out the 2016-2017 season due to NCAA transfer regulations.

However, the California native knew that came with the transfer and enjoyed learning the culture of Missoula. Yes, that means 6-foot-8, 250-pound athletes can have fun in the snow, too.

"For me having a redshirt year, the team was traveling a lot, I went out sledding, snowmobiling and got out. I wasn't going to just sit in my apartment and watch the snow. I went out and enjoyed it," Akoh said.



Redshirt junior Jamar Akoh defends teammate Karl Nicholas during practice in the Adams Center on Oct. 19. Akoh will play his first games as a forward for the Griz this season, after being ineligible during the 2016 season.

PHOTO LIAM KESHISHIAN

Head coach Travis DeCuire stressed the importance of Akoh defensively with his ability to slide his feet and stay in front of fast guards. DeCuire similarly spoke highly of his offensive talents, stretching the floor with his perimeter shooting and his presence in the post.

The Griz brought in six freshmen and three transfers to venture away from the smaller perimeter shooting line-up they had last season.

"Jamar's presence around the basket is huge, the ability to throw the ball into a post that can score or demand double teams is a luxury," DeCuire said. "On top of that, he can play away from the basket, can handle the ball and pass the ball. His versatility inside and out will be good for us offensively."

Akoh hasn't played in a NCAA Division I game since Fullerton lost to Hawaii in the quarterfinals of the Big West Tournament on March 10, 2016. But that hasn't kept his spirits down.

A year and a half later, in a whole new environment, he now has the opportunity to display his dominant abilities in front of thousands of fans in Dahlberg Arena. This season you won't see him wearing a Griz polo and khakis while sitting on the bench.

That polo will be exchanged for a jersey displaying the number 15. And when the Grizzlies' opener against Whitworth on Nov. 10 finally arrives, Akoh starts a new chapter.

"It's been a long time since I've been on the court," Akoh said. "I'm preparing every day to help my team win and looking forward to having a good season."