MONTANA KAIMIN
The Love Issue

NEWS Backcountry dogsledding in Lincoln
ARTS DIY music after net neutrality
OPINION A field guide to dating with anxieties
**The Weekly Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1. Chowderhead
2. Yarn mop
3. Nickel, e.g.
4. Ready for plucking
5. Toy with a tail
6. Conception
7. Careless omission
8. Compare
9. Home with a view
10. High schooler’s infraction
11. Cross
12. Flatter, in a way
13. Golden Horde member
14. Farm grazer
15. Code starter
16. Deep-sea sport
17. Served with a scoop
18. Small stationery item
19. Warning wall
20. Eastern ruler
21. Caustic cleaner
22. Walk like a 2-year-old
23. Store up
24. H., e.g.
25. Trustworthy
26. Well-meaning sort
27. Doom’s partner
28. One way to be taken
29. Separation
30. Reel
31. Wavelike design
32. Stuff
33. Any time now

**DOWN**

1. One of the Greats
2. Nervous
3. Stitch up
4. Do as directed
5. After the buzzer
6. Theater group
7. Mixed dish
8. Hospital wing
9. Cartoon genre
10. Run-of-the-mill
11. Witness
12. Surgery
13. Costume
14. Assistant
15. Blocker
16. Downhill fast?
17. Kind of blocker
18. Distance indicator
19. Cardinal address
20. Scene attempt
21. Ripens
22. Periscope part
23. Clairvoyant
24. Highlands hat
25. Shoreline debris
26. Seaside sober

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**SUDOKU**

**Edited by Margie E. Burke**

**Difficulty: Medium**

**HOW TO SOLVE:**

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

**Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:**

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**LOST AND FOUND**

FOUND! Silver earring between Skaggs and Health buildings, 1/24/18. Please call/text Emily to identify: 406-531-4485

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**HELP WANTED**

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**KIOSK**

**ON THE COVER**

PHOTO LIAM KESHISHIAN

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The blotter is back, but it's not about shaming

If you’ve been a regular reader of the Montana Kaimin for a few years, you’ll notice this week that an old fan favorite has reemerged on our pages. The police blotter is back!

There were a few reasons for its extended absence. Mostly, we didn’t have a proper police blotter steward, the news reporter who steps up and takes this particular needy baby under his or her wing. But we do now, and the blotter will rise again, hopefully weirder than ever.

But bringing back the blotter didn’t come without some thought, so we wanted to clue you in on some of our considerations.

Former Kaimin managing editor Hunter Pauli wrote for the Guardian in 2017 what he learned while writing about crime at a daily newspaper in Butte: that publishing minor crime stories smears the reputations of many people and does nothing to help rehabilitate criminals.

The University of Montana Police Department doesn’t release names and recognizable details in its weekly crime log, and we wouldn’t print them if it did. But it does beg the question: At what point does a police blotter cross the line into public shaming for petty crimes that might stem from poverty or mental illness? Even if it’s anonymous, what value does it add to the conversation about crime?

This is what our news editors considered when discussing the return of the blotter. Ultimately, we decided the focus needs to stay on the more lighthearted stories, so as not to trivialize the real effects crime can have on communities. We’re also instituting a few new policies on what information we choose to include. For example, when the UMPD log says a person is homeless, we won’t include that in the blotter. People are people, and they do ridiculous shit sometimes. Whether or not they have stable housing is irrelevant. Publishing that fact would simply be contributing to any stigma against homelessness, and that certainly isn’t the intention of the blotter.

The police blotter is also the home of Jesse Hall weed busts — seriously, just go smoke in the woods with proper ventilation — and the occasional library porn-watcher. But new cops and courts reporter Ryan OConnell will be taking a more serious look at crime trends and police activity on and off campus. The pages of the Kaimin are still the space to watch for coverage of the issues that affect students today.

We’re still learning, and we’re definitely not going to get it perfect every time. But we wanted to make it clear to readers the factors we considered.

If you have any input, questions or hate mail, let us know on social media at @MontanaKaimin or by email.

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

RENE SANCHEZ
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A field guide to dating for anxious people

I have nearly thrown up before every first date I’ve ever been on. In romantic comedies, the female protagonist always spends three hours before a date doing her makeup, picking an outfit and gazing romantically into a mirror. I spend it avoiding eye contact with the toilet bowl in an attempt to convince myself I don’t need to puke.

Once, I went on a distinctively good first date on a Saturday. That Monday, still brimming with anxiety that I couldn’t place, I actually did puke. I’d had time to process the whole thing, and the guy had texted me afterward and was very nice, but I was still so on edge that I vomited an entire 48 hours later.

And that was a good date.

All of this is to say that I am epically bad at dating. I hate it. And while the easiest solution is to just avoid dating, occasionally I meet a person decent enough to make me want to engage in this particularly painful societal convention. So I have developed some truly weird coping mechanisms for doing the dating thing and managing not to die.

First, craft an exit strategy. You told your friend you’d watch a movie with her later, remember? Alternatively, you have a paper due tomorrow. Or your cat is sick. I don’t care. State this exit strategy at the beginning of the date, because the number one thing all dates need is a timeline. There’s literally nothing worse than lingering over empty cups of coffee because neither party knows when it’s reasonably polite to leave.

The best thing about the exit strategy is that if the date is going surprisingly well, you can just blow it off. This is why you can’t use work as an exit strategy. If someone on a first date was like, “This is going so well I’m going to throw up!” it would be weird.

But now there’s an awkward silence. And, oh my god, you just want to fucking die. They hate you now. They think you’re boring and horrible and they regret ever beginning this date.

But consider this: The other person is probably thinking the same thing. Crazy how human beings are almost universally predictable. In all likelihood, your date is also worried about impressing you — unless your date is a sociopath! But the odds of that seem slim. Filling the awkward silence is only 50 percent your job. You’re in this shit together, damn it.

Sometimes, though, your nerves will still not free you from their grip. This leads us to my number one, stomach-calming date tip: Pretend it’s just practice. You’re practicing for the real date, which will come up someday in the future and obviously reveal itself as the Real Date.

Until then, you are just getting better at dating. This is pre-season shit. You care about winning, for pride’s sake, but you also aren’t necessarily going to risk the health of your starters. This strategy works a lot better if you’re on a date with someone you are ambivalent about. If you actually really, really like a person before you go on the first date? I’m sorry. You are inevitably, irrevocably fucked no matter what you do. Just own it.

And if all else fails, get a little drunk. Not if you’re driving, obviously, and not, like, super drunk. Beer-and-a-half drunk. I believe the word for that is “tipsy.”

Also, if you’ve made it this far and you’re a member of the pool of (largely very nice) gents who’ve been on a first date with me, all I have to say is: LOL. Sorry.

Embracing your partner’s flaws: A Valentine’s Day lesson

I recently learned that my boyfriend of one (long, tedious) year thinks the song “Fix You” by Coldplay is “actually pretty good,” which has made me do a lot of self-reflection on the flaws in our partners we choose to ignore because of so-called “love.” This person I have voluntarily chosen as my significant other also only drinks coffee when it’s room temperature and has stolen all of my pajama pants, which he wears constantly.

So in honor of Valentine’s Day, I went to all of my friends in long-term relationships and asked for all of the deal-breakers they ignore in their partners.

My roommate’s boyfriend sings every song in a Bob Dylan voice, except for Bob Dylan songs, which he sings in a Bernie Sanders voice. He also uses one full jelly packet for every triangle of toast, which isn’t as wild as the Bob Dylan thing, but is still excessive and weird.

A friend once self-referentially said “fursona,” which prompted her girlfriend to immediately break up with her. That girlfriend went through breakup number two when she said, “From the bedroom to the boardroom,” to her new partner. Crocs also came up as an issue for several couples.

My sister (Maggie Boyd, class of 2017) who now lives in Chicago with her long-time boyfriend, gave me the most boring answers in my entire survey. Evidently it’s annoying when Michael leaves dirty mugs in the sink, and extra annoying when he watches YouTube videos about history. Wow, Maggie. These are bad and uninteresting deal-breakers.

I asked my mom and dad, and neither of them could really answer. But soon after that conversation, my dad was too anxious about getting to breakfast and started driving while my mom wasn’t in her seat yet. He ran over her foot. Apparently it wasn’t the first time that’s happened, due to my dad’s constant anxiety regarding long brunch lines at the Nova Cafe. This is astounding to me. I made the decision for my mom that this would be her dealbreaker.

If I had to guess at what my boyfriend’s issues are with me, I would suspect he is still upset that I don’t like his cooking. In my defense, this was spurred by a terrible incident involving stir-fry and ketchup as “experimental seasoning.” I also hyperbolize occasionally without regard to the truth, and when I brush my teeth I always get toothpaste all over my face.

Fundamentally, though, what’s more important are our commonalities. They are why we’ve stuck together. It essentially boils down to the love I have for his cat and the fact that his karaoke song is “I Wanna Dance With Somebody” by Whitney Houston. Our relationship is less like a romance and more like a summer camp rivalry, but it’s cool. It’s kind of my style. Hug your partners, love your friends, call your mom. Happy Valentine’s Day.
PHOTO GALLERY

Mushing Montana: faces of backcountry dogsledding in the Big Sky

TOP LEFT: Musher Rick Larson, 52, from Belt, MT, is competing in the 100-mile race. Larson has been mushing for 20 years and has competed in ten Race to the Skys and four Iditarods.

TOP CENTER: Musher Miriam Osredkar, from Great Falls, MT, is competing in the 300-mile race. She has been mushing in Alaska for the last five years and is traveling north to the Iditarod after she completes Race to the Sky.

TOP RIGHT: Musher Clayton Perry, 57, from Power, MT, is competing in the 100-mile race for his third time. Perry has been mushing for six years and races Alaskan Huskies. “[Dogsledding] is just an excuse to go to the mountains,” Perry said.

BOTTOM LEFT: Junior musher Charmayne Morrison, 17, from Polson, MT, is competing in the 100-mile race. The junior class includes mushers 17 and under.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Musher Roy Etnire, 62, from Seeley Lake, MT, is competing in the 100-mile race. Etnire has been mushing for eight years and races Alaskan Huskies.

PHOTOS REED KLAAS REPORTING LACEY YOUNG

Race to the Sky is a series of three dogsled races starting in Lincoln, MT. The longest race is a 300 mile trek to Seeley Lake and back. The 33rd annual race took place February 9-13, 2018.
APASP EFFECTS

Should the Art and Media Arts schools be combined?

MELISSA LOVERIDGE
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An APASP recommendation to combine the School of Art and the School of Media Arts has drawn mixed and impassioned reaction from students and faculty.

School of Art director and associate professor Kevin Bell said he’s excited for the combination of the schools, but neither he nor the University administration are certain about specifics. There are still a lot of decisions to be made and no fixed date for when the schools will combine.

But while Bell may have high hopes for the merger, the same cannot be said of Mark Shogren, Director of Media Arts.

Shogren declined an interview with the Kaimin, but said in an email that he did not have “anything positive to say about a scheme that depends on an imaginary budget.” He included that he was “opposed to the destruction of Media Arts” and said the media arts program was the only area of growth in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Bell, however, said he believes the combination of the schools will help with recruitment and “raise visibility” of the art program at the University. He said after the merging, UM’s art and media school would be the largest in a six-state region. Bell hopes this combination of schools will attract potential students to the program and to UM, boosting enrollment. It will also have two fully online degree options that several personnel have begun working on an outreach campaign for.

“It’s going to be a lot of work, but we’re really excited about the possibilities, especially for the students,” Bell said.

Gabrielle Tusberg, a media arts major, said she’s excited for the two departments to collaborate, especially because she thinks it will help media arts majors continue to be more creative.

“I’ve been wanting it for a long time,” Tusberg wrote. “There is room for growth and I’m very excited to see the relationship between the two departments more united.”

Art major Hannah Harvey said she feels there was a divide between the two schools, even though many students are interested in both art and media arts.

“It just makes sense that the two go together.”

POLICE BLOTTER

UM students partake in the devil’s lettuce

RYAN OCONNELL
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JAN. 27: BONG BANDIT

Marijuana fumes were detected by keen-nosed hallway walkers in Craig Hall. The suspected inhaler disappeared into the night before officers could arrive.

JAN. 29: THAT’S JUST MY COLOGNE, OFFICER

A giggle-weed devotee was fumigating Elrod Hall with kind bud vapors. The individual was passed along to Student Conduct. The case may be closed, but minds are open, man.

FEB. 1: THE VOICE AUDITION

Someone was asked to remove themself from the UC after their screaming about hearing voices was considered to be disruptive to the learning environment. The UC is known as “the living room of campus,” said UM Police Chief Marty Ludemann. Ludemann said as long as individuals are respectful, they’re welcome and that behavior has to be extreme to elicit removal. “Everyone has a bad day,” he said.

FEB. 1: SNEAKY SHOWERING

Schreiber Gym hosted non-approved bath time for someone trying to get clean. Police asked the individual to leave the facility because they were not permitted to use the shower. The sly showerer was allowed to gather their belongings and leave dirty, but with dignity.

FEB. 2: THIS CANNABIS THING IS KINDA POPULAR

Officers were called to Craig Hall for a report of a wafting, sticky-icky scent. The individual was reffered to Student Conduct.

FEB. 3: WE’LL GIVE YOU ONE GUESS WHAT’S NEXT

The devil’s lettuce. Turner Hall marijuana enthusiasts had officers baffled by their inability to just go outside and smoke. Seriously y’all, what the hell? Don’t you know someone with a car to bake?

FEB. 4: BUT IT’S MY NEW SOUNDCLound

Police responded to a report of a truck blaring music outside of Coloma Court. The truck’s sound system was turned up to 11 until police arrived and asked them to turn the music off. Asked of the music’s genre, Ludemann said, “I don’t know, just loud.”

FEB. 6: JUICE BOX KEGGER

Coloma Court was host to a riotous slumber party when downstairs neighbors called police to report an upstairs apartment hosting bouncing children. Upon arrival, police asked the mother to corral the kids.

Check out the UM Police crime log online for more information about crimes on campus.
In a country experiencing a wave of women's marches and #metoo movements, women of the Associated Students of the University Montana say the senate is a place for them to be strong and empowered. It's been several years since the student body elected a woman to the ASUM presidency, but the senate body has achieved gender parity, a rarity among American elected bodies.

"I think there's a lot of respect for women on senate," said Sen. Alexandria Schafer.

Last year, Schafer said the top nine candidates after election results came in were all women. She saw that as an indication that the campus is supporting women in leadership roles. Multiple senators cited ASUM Vice President Brenna Love as one of the reasons the senate floor is such a level playing field.

"Brenna has done a really good job cultivating a woman's voice within senate," said Sen. Mariah Welch.

Love said gender isn't a factor in the work she does.

"My two closest coworkers are men and I've never had any question about my power because of my gender," Love said.

Schafer said the men on the senate regularly acknowledge their privilege.

"They're very conscious of it, but in a society in which it is ingrained it can be really hard," said Schafer.

While ASUM currently has strong female leadership, students haven't elected a woman to the ASUM presidency for 10 years, according to Sen. Sylvia Borstad.

Sen. Morgan Corkish recognized the issue as one the student body has to make a priority — the senate cannot do it alone. It is the student body that votes in the elections.

Schafer said she remembers people saying they had reservations about electing Elle Fettig and Mariah Welch as the executive team simply because they were two women. Fettig and Welch ultimately lost to the current executives, Braden Fitzgerald and Brenna Love.

Many female senators said women have to support each other, encourage them to run for positions of power and support them when they get that position. Schafer said the key to getting a woman in power is supporting, making room for, and not fighting each other.

"Women gotta build other women up," Welch said.

Love said the biggest issue facing women is "keeping our eyes open and not being afraid to speak up."

Love also said women need to speak up even when the issue seems small, such as women being underrepresented or UM having only one woman serving as dean on campus, or larger, like sexual harassment.

"Women's issues need to be intentional," Love said.

Many female senators were disappointed with how the allegations against former women's soccer coach Mark Plakorus were handled.

Players expressed concerns about how the coach acted with female players. The Title IX office was asked to help dig deeper into the allegations, but there wasn't an official investigation. The athletic department did not renew Plakorus's contract and initially did not release the details of why he was let go.

Love said she was "really disappointed to hear that there had been reports that were never followed through with," referring to concerns voiced by members of the team to University officials.

"It's very frustrating because it sets a lack of precedent for sexual harassment and sexual misconduct as being grounds to fire someone," said Schafer.

Welch said the Title IX office needs to be more connected with the students and players, less so with coaches and administration. Athletes need to feel that their conversation will be kept confidential.

"We cannot afford a student to ask for help and not receive that help," said Corkish.

Welch sits on the University Committee on Sexual Assault and said President Bodnar plans to prioritize the committee, despite the fact that it has faded into the background over the years.

Welch said it will be looking at the athletic department's policies and implementation. She hopes the committee will ensure the athletics department knows that they will be held accountable by a committee of students, faculty and staff.

The women of ASUM aren't just fighting for the right to stand up to sexual assault and harassment, but for a host of issues.

Borstad is a young mother and has proposed resolutions regarding diaper changing stations and quiet places to bring young children on campus.

Schafer is writing a resolution that would allow people to change their name of preference on Cyberbear. This would decrease the likelihood of someone who has changed his or her name being referred to by birth name during attendance. This is something most often done to someone who is transgender.

A resolution was passed last year supporting the creation of more gender neutral restrooms and ASUM has publicly come out against hate speech through a variety of resolutions.

Corkish said she wants to increase the dialogue between the student body and ASUM.

She said she has not been approached regarding women's issues as a senator, but said she's "hard-pressed to believe every woman is happy."

Schafer said it is important students know ASUM is there for them and is a place to voice their issues.

"If we're not available and accessible, how can we possibly address all the issues and address the things that are really upsetting students?" Schafer said.
Ah, Valentine’s Day: the holiday that forces couples to go out on dinner dates they can’t afford and induces sexual frustration in everyone else. Almost nobody likes it, but whether you’re complaining about its rampant commercialization or just trying to make sure date night doesn’t end in a world-class argument, we’re all regretful participants.

In this issue, we’re attempting to make this February 14, (and the weekend after, because who can get time off work and school to do something on a Wednesday these days?) a little bit more palatable. We’ve provided a guide to the best and worst date locations in Missoula. We asked an expert about practicing good consent, and other experts about why students might choose to remain abstinent. And we’ve gathered the most bizarre, reader-submitted Tinder stories for your reading pleasure.

Valentine’s Day doesn’t have to suck. Let the Kaimin help you through the most lovey-dovey week of the year.

The role of empathy, desire and consent in sex

ERIN GOUDREAU
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As valuable as it is to talk about the joys of romance, dating and sex, the responsibilities that come with these pleasures can’t be overlooked. Empathy, awareness and a genuine respect for the desires of one’s partner are foundational to consensual intimacy and healthy relationships.

Any college-age student, particularly at a University which has struggled with a history of sexual assault on campus and at a time when the country is attempting to have a national conversation about sexual abuse, has heard and could likely define the term “consent.” More difficult is teasing out the assumptions and inequalities at the root of so much non-consensual sex in an attempt to establish a norm of more healthy intimacy.

“Men, in our culture, are not raised to listen to women and to care about how we feel,” Natasha Sullivan, a senior in the Economics department, said. “They’re just not. And that impacts our sexual relationships.”

Sullivan argued the process of determining and establishing consent is far more complicated than a simple “no means no” or “yes means yes.” Instead, it requires a sincere commitment to reading and responding to the needs and desires of a partner.

“I don’t think there are certain, explicit words that are necessary,” Sullivan said. “Of course it’s important to listen to and respect a ‘No,’ but it’s also about being intuitive, taking seriously your partner’s body language and nonverbal cues.”

Shaunagh McGoldrick, an advocate coordinator and counselor for the Student Advocacy Resource Center, reiterated the importance of recognizing nonverbal cues. “No means no,” McGoldrick said. “But shrugging also means no. Silence means no.” Furthermore, McGoldrick argued, consent must be clear, coherent and ongoing — it can be retracted at any time.

Sullivan argued that communicating affirmative consent is just as nuanced as articulating a lack of desire. “The word ‘yes’ is not the only way to say yes,” Sullivan said. “I have expressed, and I’ve had partners express, enthusiastic consent through body language and verbal cues in many other ways.”

McGoldrick and Sullivan both noted the importance of taking consent and desire just as seriously in relationships as one would in more casual intimate experiences. The belief that particularly women’s consent can be assumed within relationships is the reason that spousal rape was not considered a crime until 1979.

“Saying no can be hard in a relationship because of course you care about your partner and don’t want to disappoint them,” Sullivan said. “But the fact is, when you’re in a relationship, you still need to be establishing consent every time. You still need to be communicating with each other and building and earning trust.”

McGoldrick took it a step further, stating that although relationships can have established norms, consent still needs to be communicated and received during all physical aspects of the relationship, including but not limited to sex.

SARC, located in the Curry Health Center, is both a resource for people who have experienced any form of sexual assault or abuse, as well as source of preventative education. It will also be tabling in the UC on Feb. 12 and 14 for Love Fest and serving “Consent Cakes” (vegan cupcakes), to help support its work.
Worst Tinder dates

WE ASKED FOR YOUR WORST TINDER STORIES, AND BOY DID Y’ALL DELIVER.

HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVORITES. ALL NAMES WERE REMOVED OR CHANGED, AND SUBMISSIONS WERE EDITED FOR LENGTH.

“He said he couldn’t believe I actually looked like I did in my pictures. He did not.”

“I planned to meet up with a guy from Tinder at the Homecoming football game. Silly me thought it would be a great idea to go to a party before and drink six jalapeno margaritas. I projectile vomited all six margaritas on Higgins and Beckwith at 2:30 pm. Ten minutes after that, we arrived at the game, tequila dripping from my clothes. The 4-foot-5 Tinder guy comes up to me (a 5-foot-9 male) tryna initiate some form of intimacy. He proceeded to make out with my puke-stained face. I never told him I puked and ran away after 20 minutes to puke some more.”

“This kid had just moved to my town from the East Coast, so I said that I would show him around. I went to go pick him up and when he got in my car I realized he only had one hand! We went around town and got ice cream. I just kept thinking, like, do I help him hold things or does he got it? In the end he was a super nice guy and he is now married with a kid. I still follow him on Instagram.”

“I’m getting a little frustrated because my date is focused on her phone instead of watching the movie. Right when I’m about to joke that she won’t have to look at her phone during the movie because I’m quite attractive in low light, I hear a deep voice inquire, ‘Maggie?’ Our heads swivel and I identify the voice came from an average looking dude with a lumberjack beard. Before I can track what’s happening, my date starts yelling at him. From what I gathered, Paul (allegedly) cheated on Maggie, they recently broke up, and she’s been tracking his every move like the NSA with a vendetta. (Paul didn’t disable his Find My Friends function.)

He’s growing angry and denies everything. He starts pointing at me and says that Maggie didn’t care for him anyway, a claim supported by the fact she’s at a steamy thriller with a ‘bitch-ass date’ (me).

I’m like, ‘Whoa, hold up, whoa!’ and the next thing I know I’m picking myself up off the ground after being punched in the goddamn ear. It happened really fast and my sister is legit the only person who’s hit me before. I decided to put my head down and get the hell outta Dodge.”

“Went on a first date with a Tinder guy, and at the end he gave me this necklace he made out of bullets before the date. He said, ‘20 bullets for 20 years old.’ I was like, ‘Oh wow, I’m not sure if I will ever wear this.’ Then at the end of the date he asked if we were dating.”
Abstinence isn’t really a hot topic among college students. And why should it be? One could roll out the list of benefits to having sex like a red carpet: stress release, intimacy, burning calories, improving sleep. Oh, and it feels pretty good, too. With the monopoly sex seems to hold over college culture, it can be easy to forget that not having sex is actually an option.

Jacob, a married University of Montana student, remained sexually abstinent through his entire college career. In fact, he was a virgin until his wedding night this January. He and his wife actively pursued abstinence together for the three years they dated because it was a fundamental part of their Christian faith.

While they were dating, abstaining from sex forced them to rely on their relationship as friends, Jacob said, and it helped them with communication and practicing self-control. Getting to experience sex for the first time in both of their lives on their wedding night was very rewarding, he said.

But religion is hardly the only reason a college student might be abstinent. Dr. Lindsey Doe is a Missoula-based clinical sexologist and sex educator. She runs the popular YouTube channel, Sexplanations, home to hundreds of four-minute explainers on sex-related topics from circumcision to menstruation.

Doe speaks at universities as part of her job, and YouTube’s analytical tools tell her that the majority of her online audience consists of college-age people. But despite the topic she covers, Doe does have sexually abstinent people watching her videos and attending her lectures.

Over the years, she’s found the primary reason some of her viewers are abstinent is because they’re asexual — a term that means someone is not attracted to sex.

Doe also named a variety of practical, intentional reasons one might abstain from sex. There’s the obvious: avoidance of STIs and unwanted pregnancy, as well as being highly selective in who one shares intimacy with. Some might also take that time to improve their own masturbation skills, sober up from a sex addiction or seek to gain a sense of belonging in a certain social group that values abstinence.

Hugues, who asked to be referred to only by his first name, is a UM student triple-majoring in genetics, neuroscience and anthropology. He doesn’t abstain from sex, but approaches it differently than many.

“He has sex when the situation is right, but doesn’t ever pursue it, and certainly doesn’t view it as a means of experiencing pleasure.

“I never have this idea, ‘I want to have sex,’” Hugues said. “It’s not the primary goal. It’s more of a reward than a quest.”

Sex, he said, just like alcohol or other indulgences, gets in the way of his pursuit of intellectual and physical greatness. After losing his virginity early in college and opening himself up to natural sexual opportunities, Hugues noticed an increase in the quality of his social relationships, the primary reason why he continues to have sex today.

Nevertheless, sex is a tough thing to avoid, particularly in the residence halls. Cheyenne is a UM student and resident assistant. She said there’s a climate of sex over abstinence in the on-campus housing community, particularly in the freshmen class. But she noted that not all follow suit.

“There’s a lot of freshmen who are virgins and still are deciding, ‘You know what? No. My friends are having sex and I don’t want to be like that,’” Cheyenne said. “They’re here for school and it’s kind of cool to see them be more about school.”

For students who are having sex, resident assistants are encouraged by Residence Life to stock up on and hand out condoms to their residents, which Cheyenne does.

When university organizations are slinging condoms, it may seem like they’re encouraging sex. But the reality is, there’s nothing to hand out to encourage abstinence. Students who want to have sex are going to have it whether or not they get free condoms from their RAs.

Cathy Jo Finch is the former director of Care Net Pregnancy Support Center of Missoula, a non-profit, Christian-affiliated organization that provides support for women having babies they didn’t plan on. The organization offers free ultrasounds and STI testing, and encourages mothers-to-be not to abort.

But even having dealt with unwanted pregnancies on a daily basis, Finch didn’t advocate for abstinence.

“Learning how to take care of yourself in relationships is really important. It’s so much more than ‘is sex before marriage good or bad?” Finch said.

Finch worked for Care Net for seven years, and mostly taught high school students “healthy relationship education,” not specifically abstinence education.

“Learning how to have a relationship and a healthy one — if we start there, in the end people are going to make smarter choices,” Finch said. “I never like to come at this Christian-or-not-Christian, what-do-you-believe-morally. That’s a whole other discussion.”
Missoula’s best (and worst) date locations

IF YOU’RE MEETING UP WITH A TINDER DATE AND HE OR SHE CAN’T COME UP WITH AN ACTIVITY BEYOND “WATCH MASTERCHEF IN MY DORM,” YOU KNOW SOMETHING IS AMISS. MISSOULA IS CHOCK-FULL OF PLACES TO TEND THE FLAMES OF ROMANCE. BUT RATHER THAN OFFER YOU A GUIDE CONSISTING OF ONLY EXCELLENT, SMOOCH-INSPIRING DATE IDEAS, WE, THE KAIMIN ARTS STAFF, THOUGHT WE’D CLUE YOU INTO SOME OF THE BAD ONES TOO.

THE GOOD:

WESTSIDE LANES: Shadow’s Keep might have nice food, and Plonk has those fancy cocktails. Westside Lanes, however, has nachos, beer and bowling, and that’s way cooler than a martini you probably can’t afford. Hate small talk? Just laugh about how weird bowling shoes look! Want to remember the night forever? Pay five bucks for a trip to the photo booth. Getting a weird vibe from your date? Go play arcade games by yourself, or sneak out via a conveniently located side entrance of your choosing. Westside Lanes has it all, from a full bar to a $10.49 fish and chip basket. What more could you ask for?

ENLYTEN LAB: Going to the movies used to be the best date — neither of you had to actually interact with each other, but you still got full credit for trying. Here’s something even better: Enlyten Lab’s sensory deprivation tanks. Floating, as it’s often called, takes place in a sealed tank of water with enough dissolved epsom salt to keep you buoyant. The air and water is regulated to match your skin temperature, and the whole experience occurs in total darkness. What better way to spend time with someone than to lock yourselves in separate tanks, alone with your thoughts. You’ll be so refreshed when you’re finished, you might forget you went on a date to begin with. Depending on who accompanied you, that’s a potential win-win!

UPTOWN DINER: You won’t want Valentine’s Day to end without paying a visit to this downtown gem before it closes its doors Feb. 18. The locally renowned American diner has served smiles sunny-side up since 1991 and will transport you and your date back to the ‘50s with its vintage decor and classic feel. There is nothing sweeter than sitting in a booth with your boo, sipping a milkshake in a “two straws-one glass” fashion. Make some lasting memories and celebrate this adorable diner’s last living days with a quintessential Missoula date.

THE BAD:

NOTORIOUS P.I.G.: A first date at downtown’s Notorious P.I.G. might not be the best idea given the sizeable vegan and vegetarian population here in the Zoo. The last thing your hippy honey wants to see is your face covered in sauce, scarfing down some ribs. Then again, red flag if your vegetarian date, panicked and ordering an unhealthy amount of beans, doesn’t say anything before that point. Bottom line: BBQ isn’t especially romantic. And, of course, the old adage: “Beans, beans, the musical fruit.” Need we say more?

HIKING THE M: At first glance, hiking might seem like a wonderful idea. The M trail, located just behind campus, is iconic. It’s close, free and an easy way to kill an hour while you get to know your date. But is this really the way you want your date to see you sweat for the first time? It’s going to take work, no matter how leisurely your pace. If it’s nice outside, it’s guaranteed to be busy, as every college student relishes the opportunity to take in the weak February sun. If the weather’s bad, well ... that’s a no-brainer. A good rule of thumb for a first date: avoid exercise at all costs.

STOCKMAN’S BAR: You’ll get drinks served in plastic cups, and you’re almost guaranteed to have an 18-year-old spill beer on you. Don’t subject yourself to dude-bro sweat and lackluster whiskey sours. If you or your date have a thing for dive bars, check out places like the Silver Dollar or Charlie B’s instead. At Stocks, you’ll end up the wrong kind of sticky too early in the evening.
**UNIVERSITY DIVERSITY**

The Montana Repertory Theatre searches for a new director and a new direction

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Amid talk of the University of Montana's need for rebranding, the Montana Repertory Theatre has begun making strides toward a new image of its own.

Greg Johnson, artistic director for the Montana Rep, is stepping down from his 28-year career with the company at the end of this semester. His replacement has yet to be announced, but theater students are hopeful for what a new director will bring to the company and the University.

From its inception, the Rep was intended to bring theater students a taste of the professional world. Every year, there is an opportunity for select students to participate in a statewide tour in the fall and a national tour in the spring. In the summer, an outreach program called Colony is offered to the Missoula community.

The theater has the ability to reach a wide audience and students are hoping that the new director will find new ways to do this.

Under Johnson's directorship, the Rep has garnered a reputation for producing the "American canon." Both Miller and Hash said.

"I think it's important for the Rep to cast really wide arms and say, 'We want everyone's stories,'" student Whitney Miller said.

Whitney Miller and Hunter Hash perform in Montana Repertory Theatre's performance of Barefoot in the Park in spring 2017. PHOTO COURTESY WHITNEY MILLER

"Under Johnson's directorship, the Rep has garnered a reputation for producing the “American canon.” Both Miller and fellow student, Hunter Hash, agree.

"They're plays by old, dead white guys," Hash said.

To produce diverse plays, the school would also have to strive for diversity in its student body. Both Miller and Hash hope that through outreach programs, the Rep can assist in recruiting students from places like the reservations around the state.

Additionally, diversity could be brought in by an expansion of the program's canon.

"Each play only shows a tiny fraction of the human experience," Miller said. "The wider you cast that net, the more likely your chances are to show someone that they want to do theater."

According to Miller, an artistic director's duty is to maintain a channel of communication between the theater and the community. The Rep has a tradition of engaging parts of the community in its plays, and students hope to see that community expand.

In a time where departments are striving to prove their worth to the administration, a new direction could make or break a program. The candidate chosen will have a difficult road ahead, but students have high hopes.

**LOCAL FESTIVAL**

True to life tales on the silver screen

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Missoula hosts annual film festivals filling nearly every niche, whether it’s hunting, fly fishing, trail running or backcountry enthusiasm. If there’s a passion, someone has dreamed up the festival to capture it.

All of these, however, pale in comparison to the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, taking place Feb. 16-25. This festival presents roughly 150 films over 10 days, showing at the Wilma, the Roxy Theater, the MCT Center for the Performing Arts and the Hellgate Elks Lodge.

“This is the main program of the Big Sky Film Institute, and we definitely work for 12 months to put it on,” festival director Rachel Gregg said. “We’re heading into our 15th year, and it’s this really exciting milestone. We’ve been experiencing so much growth the last couple years in the number of submissions, breadth of events and screening opportunities. It’s exciting.”

The festival is the largest of its kind in the West, typically drawing around 20,000 attendees. This year the festival received close to 2,000 submissions.

One highlight this year is the Native American Filmmaker Initiative, which aims to bring more indigenous stories to the festival and supports the American Indian community. The initiative supports fellowships for Native filmmakers and helps with education programs. Roughly 10 films have made the cut.

“We’ve had this tradition of indigenous films at Big Sky for a long time, but we’re changing the stakes a little bit and being more intentional,” Gregg said.

Gregg also said she expected a good portion of films to be politically charged, and filmmakers delivered. Many of this year’s films have political themes or elements of activism and social justice.

“It’s not just telling the story of how we got here, but of how we’re finding ourselves in a moment that’s becoming a movement,” she said. “I guess I shouldn’t have been too surprised after the years we’ve had … but now we’re seeing that in the stories people are telling.”

The film selected to open the festivities, “Dark Money,” hits close to home. Debuting at Sundance, it gives a detailed look at Montana’s legal challenges with campaign finance and how elections can be swayed.

The remaining films run the gamut of topics covering music, environment, sports, art and more. Gregg pointed to a few of her favorites: “A Shot in the Dark,” about a blind high school wrestler, a feature on a transgender powerlifter titled “Transformer” and “Edith+Eddie,” an Oscar nominee for Best Short Doc.

But with over 150 films, how do you pick which to see?

“ ‘My first piece of advice is if you have a day or only a couple of days, go to a shorts block. It’s more bang for your buck,’ Gregg said. “But also pick out some good features. We’re so used to short snippets of news on our newsfeeds … Documentaries do a really good job about deepening the context of an issue.”

Students can view individual films for $7. A variety of festival passes range in price from $30-$325. Visit www.bigskyfilmfest.org to see the full lineup of films.
In a world where technology is shaping the way artists conduct business and interact with audiences, unfettered digital access is not only helpful, but necessary. Experimental rock musician Riley Roberts’ success heavily relies on a free and high-functioning internet.

“All aspects of being an independent artist are based on using the internet right now,” he said.

Roberts is a multi-instrumentalist, playing guitar and providing vocals for Tiny Plastic Stars, and singing backup and playing bass for Charcoal Squids. The up-and-coming Missoula bands are signed to local label Ghost Carrot Records.

But with the latest Federal Communications Commission rollbacks on net neutrality regulations, local musicians like Roberts are considering their adaptability to the potential obstacles of a post-net neutral landscape.

Net neutrality is a government policy dating back to the beginning of the internet and ensures equal treatment of all lawful content. After the existing rules were deemed unenforceable by the DC Circuit Court, a stronger regulatory framework was implemented in 2015.

But in December of 2017, under FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, the Obama-era rules were repealed, causing public uncertainty about the freedom of the internet.

Lee Banville, an associate professor of journalism at the University of Montana who teaches Media History and Literacy, Media Law, and Social Media and Digital Reporting, said the skepticism is valid.

“One concern is that the internet will become a tiered system where the public will pay more to get better access to stuff,” Banville said. “The other concern is that if you start to select certain kinds of content to move through the internet faster, then how are those decisions being made?”

For Montanans, who have a limited selection of internet providers anyway, equal access to the internet is especially pertinent.

Gov. Steve Bullock reiterated this point when he stated he wants net neutrality for Montana. On Jan. 22, he signed an order that urged telecommunications companies with state contracts to abide by previous net neutrality rules.

Gov. Bullock’s passion for protecting neutrality is heartening to musicians like Roberts who use digital technology in ways that go beyond listening to tunes for inspiration.

Both of his bands’ music is available on Spotify, Bandcamp, YouTube, iTunes and Amazon. Access to such a wide range of platforms remains key to their success, but digital sales are only a portion of the opportunities the internet provides. Social media platforms like Facebook are used to promote records and upcoming shows. Spotify in particular gives bands crucial data about their audiences.

“If you’re going about booking a tour, you can see where people are streaming your music,” Roberts said.

But not all share Roberts’ fears. According to Roger Koopman, a member of the Montana Public Service Commission, concerns like Roberts’ are overrated.

“Unfortunately, too many college students and millennials seem to be driven by an irrational fear of freedom and the free market, and they make the biggest possible mistake,” he said, “turning to government to create uniform ‘rules’ in an already competitive and dynamic marketplace. … There is nothing ‘neutral’ about net neutrality.”

Though Banville said revoking net neutrality won’t necessarily show immediate effects, he believes there is still cause for concern.

“If the internet becomes a product of these companies, then there is concern that it could change the way things have worked for the past 20 years,” he said. “There is this assumption that the internet is above governance, and it’s not. The government’s policies can have a huge impact on what the internet looks like.”

The internet is a young medium after all, and the government is still figuring out how to regulate it. No matter the outcome, musicians like Roberts will continue to navigate the web in order to create identifiable brands for themselves.

“There is always going to be a way around it,” Roberts said. “Being an independent artist, you persevere.”
BASKETBALL FANS

Dahlberg Arena atmosphere helps Montana stay perfect

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Montana has rampaged through the Big Sky Conference during its 2017-18 campaign. The team is 13-0 in league play with its sights set on winning the Big Sky tournament for the first time in five years.

The Grizzlies are also undefeated at home in 11 games in Missoula. With the team’s ongoing success, the environment and attendance at Dahlberg Arena continues to spike.

In the 2016-17 season, Dahlberg averaged 3,808 fans in attendance, a slight decline from the previous year. In the last six games, Montana averaged over 4,200 fans, with two of those games taking place before school was back in session following winter break.

When it played Northern Arizona in January, the team had a season high 5,108 people packed into the stands.

“That’s what makes Montana special. On an average night you’re going to get 4,000 people here,” said head coach Travis DeCuire. “That helps recruiting and that’s why a lot of these kids are here. They want to be somewhere where it matters.”

Against Portland State last Thursday, Montana came out of the gates not achieving its usual success on the offensive end. The team went into the half shooting 31 percent from the field, but was still ahead by five due to its defensive performance.

In the second half, the Griz opened on a 12-0 run that put them ahead for the remainder of the contest. Junior Michael Oguine finished with a double-double and contributed the success of the scoring surge to the atmosphere of Dahlberg Arena.

“When we’re here at Dahlberg with our fans behind us they really gave us that push to get the second half surge going,” Oguine said.

Griz fanatic John Velk is one of the numerous fans that attends every home basketball game. He started going in 1983 as an undergraduate at the University of Montana and can be spotted on the sideline near midcourt at every home game.

Velk heckles opposing players constantly to get in their heads. He will occasionally get opposing players to reply to him or give him a glare as he yells through his rolled up program.

Velk hasn’t seen this type of excitement since he witnessed Larry Krystkowiak lead the Grizzlies to the Big Sky Championship, which they lost against Weber State, in 1986.

“When the downtime for football, you can see the crowd continue to grow at Dahlberg,” Velk said. “This is the best basketball team, top to bottom, I have seen since I started going to games.”

Montana’s biggest tests in the remainder of its schedule include a match up against second-place Weber State and rival Montana State in front of the Missoula crowd.

Montana faces a difficult road trip to Eastern Washington and Idaho this week, but return home to Dahlberg Arena to play the last three games of the season. A perfect home season would be the best result since a 16-1 mark at home in the 2012-13 season and would give Montana momentum heading into the Big Sky tournament in Reno on March 6.

KAIMIN COLUMN

Views from the 406: Montana got its motivation

When a team enters the final stretch of a season undefeated, there is a common school of thought in the sports world. The team needs a loss. Entering the postseason perfect puts far too much pressure on the players. It would be much better to get a loss out of the way, learn from it and then move on.

On Saturday night, it looked like Montana might finally drop a game in the Big Sky Conference. The team struggled on the offensive end and had trouble containing Sacramento State’s Justin Strings defensively.

Strings and the Hornets beat the Griz in Missoula by two points a season ago, a game in which the Hornet forward scored 29 points to help lead a second-half comeback. On Saturday night, it looked like the same would happen again.

A strong second-half team so far this season, the Griz were blitzed out of the halftime break by the size and strength of Sacramento State, a team that entered the contest just 6-18 on the season. The Hornets controlled the tempo, limited Jamar Akoh and Ahmaad Rorie on the offensive end and held the lead for most of the first half.

But Montana didn’t give in. The team dominated opponents all season long, outscoring conference opponents by 15 points a game. As the team gets ready to head on its most difficult road trip of the season, taking on Eastern Washington and Idaho, the Griz needed to be tested.

Instead of learning a lesson from a loss, though, the Griz managed an improbable comeback. They pulled off nearly impossible plays, like Michael Oguine’s tip-slam or Fabijan Krslovic’s steal at the end of regulation, to help eke out a win.

Montana improved to 20-5 on the season with the win, and remained perfect in the conference at 13-0. The Griz also stay unbeaten inside Dahlberg Arena with three more home games on the schedule.

The Griz are up to 13 straight wins now, the fourth longest winning streak in the nation. This is the third time in his first four seasons that coach Travis DeCuire has reached 20 wins, and the Griz have a chance to get many more down the stretch.

This was the test the Griz needed to finish the season strong. Shots weren’t falling like they normally do and Sacramento State hit shot after shot with defenders in their face. But it didn’t matter, because in the end this team proved it had the “it” factor to get the job done anyway.

Montana received the motivation it needed for the final stretch of the season and it didn’t even have to damage its perfect season to do so.

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Montana trailed Sacramento State by one point with less than 30 seconds remaining. The Hornets had the ball, a couple free throws away from icing the game. But then something happened. Fabijan Krslovic tipped the inbounds pass, sending it toward the baseline. He lunged forward, saving the ball from going out of bounds and tossing it over his head in one fluid motion.

Ahmaad Rorie caught the pass and called a timeout, giving Montana a shot to tie the game. The ball wound up in Krslovic’s hands again. The forward was fouled and tied the game up with a free throw.

One of Montana’s most important players helped keep the unbeaten season alive with a play that has become characteristic of his style. His hustle, determination and the constant effort on every play are a big reason Montana is now 13-0 in Big Sky play.

“We value those kind of plays a lot in our team and we always talk about how willing guys are to sacrifice their body for the team by putting your body on the floor or taking a charge. Those kinds of plays get everyone juiced more than anything,” Krslovic said.

The Australian was never the go-to guy on any team growing up. He isn’t that guy on this year’s Montana team, which looks for Jamar Akoh and Ahmaad Rorie to get the offense going. Nor was he in his freshman season at UM, when Jordan Gregory and Martin Breunig received most of the shots.

He had even better players around him as a teenager representing Australia in the 2012 FIBA U17 World Championship. In that tournament, he shared the court with future NBA stars Ben Simmons and Dante Exum.

Krslovic, the only senior on the men’s team, has always been the ultimate role player. He has become a master of positioning and hustle, always showing up in the right spots to make energy plays for the Griz. If you try to pin it on luck, he has four consecutive years of results to dispute that.

He has 107 starts in his four years at Montana, 61 consecutive dating back to the end of his sophomore year. He has shot over 50 percent, had more than 20 steals and averaged at least 20 minutes per game all four years.

“I’ve always been that kind of guy, a glue guy,” Krslovic said. “It’s taken me a lot of places, it has taken me to world championships and it’s something that I pride myself on big time. It has given me a lot, having that style of play has been rewarding to me.”

He has worked every offseason to limit his weaknesses. He shot 48 percent from the free throw line as a sophomore and had a career average of 56 percent coming into his senior year. He is at 75 percent this season. He is also shooting the best field goal percentage of his career and attempted the only six three-pointers of his career this season, although he has missed them all.

Krslovic has always been a vocal leader on the court. Junior Bobby Moorehead said Krslovic, who teammates and coaches call Fab, was the most vocal guy on the court. He achieves success by working harder and outsmarting his opponents.

“Mentally he is better than a lot of guys that we go against that are more athletic and are better shooters, but he can beat them because he attacks the game mentally and knows what to do to win,” Moorehead said.

Montana coach Travis DeCuire has coached Krslovic all four years and says his consistency as a person has led to his sustained success on the basketball court. He started Krslovic in his second game as a freshman because he trusted that the Australian knew what the coaches wanted from him.

Now in his senior season, Krslovic and DeCuire are having their best year together. Montana is 20-5 and a perfect 13-0 in conference play. The team has one of the longest winning streaks in the country. As the team gets better, Krslovic remains at the center of it all.

“As this team gets bigger and becomes more athletic, Fab is right there, just as important as anyone in our program, if not more,” DeCuire said.
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