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Montana Kaimin, April 11, 2018

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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MONTANA KAIMIN

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ASUM Candidate Profiles

NEWS Deans debate cuts

SPORTS Montana baseball still winless

ARTS Diplo tears up The Wilma
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THE WEEKLY CROSSWORD

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS
1 Stadium souvenirs. 
2 Test, as ore.
3 Crow.
4 Grander than.
5 Metal-bending tool.
6 Running behind.
7 100-meter, e.g.
8 "Hollow Man" star.
9 Oscar contender.
10 Aquarium denizen.
11 No one or reason.
12 Campaign poster word.
13 Flightless bird.
14 Take as one's own.
15 Farthest within.
16 Ricers resident.
17 Mainstay.
18 Petunia, to Harry Potter
19 Safe place.
20 Brightly colored.
21 Eventually.
22 Expert.
23 One who has turned right?
24 Greedy type.
25 Fly catcher.
26 Noncommittal response.
27 Stockholm native.
28 Bit of sunshine.
29 Leaf in a book.
30 Airplane maneuvers.
31 Atop.
32 Square feet, eg.

DOWN
1 Chest material.
2 Quickly.
3 Downhill ski run.
4 Big name in kids' books.
5 "Shoot!"
6 Flowering vine.
7 Goalie's feat.
8 Quick on one's feet.
9 Kyoto cash.
10 Lackluster.
11 R-rated, maybe.
12 Smallest particle.
13 Simmons of Kiss.
14 Main impact.
15 Decorate anew.
16 Hold a meeting.
17 It may be costly.
18 Believe in.
19 Lodging for lords.
20 Window sign.
21 Wild plum.
22 Take care of.
23 Liniment target.
24 Mystical letter.
25 Wild about.
26 2020 is the next one.
27 Yard machine.
28 Feudal worker.
29 Julia Roberts' "Runaway ___."
30 Pack leader.
31 Devout.
32 Babe" singer.
33 Failing-out.
34 Had on.
35 Large pitcher.
36 Campus V.I.P.
37 State.
38 Not too bright.
39 Stallone.
40 nickname.

SUDOKU

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:

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

BARB HUHL A TASTE ALOE UNOE INCUR LOGS MENTAL NOTE SNEE REALTOR AGREED RAIL TERM MALIGN CACAO BAD LINE POTATO ABIDING DESERTS DESIST MELE DEYE GAMUTPOSE MIDNITE SEVERAL EPOCH WESTINDIAN OGRE AGAIN ONTO T IETF DOLE NEEF FEET
OPINION

Why my effort to work with UM administration has been a waste of time

Early this March, my fellow Reinvest Montana coordinator and I walked out of the University of Montana president’s office feeling belittled. Although this meeting was a new low in my interactions with UM administrators, Reinvest Montana, the University of Montana’s student-run fossil fuel divestment group, had hoped that a fresh, young President would bring a new, understanding communication to the Office. To our disappointment, his antagonism toward discussing fossil fuel divestment and problems with transparency and representation at the University of Montana follows how administration has treated me and my fellow students for years.

The University of Montana Foundation handles UM’s endowment, which consists of donations to the school. The UM President is an ex officio member of the Foundation and sets the University’s investment priorities. The Foundation invests the endowment in assets like stocks, bonds, mutual funds, hedge funds and real assets, looking to provide UM students and employees funds to work and study. The Foundation members do crucial work, but their methods damage the credibility of UM administration. The Foundation has become an almost completely non-transparent, non-responsive body, antagonistic to anyone without power who questions its methods and operation; i.e. students. Protected by its 501(c)(3) non-profit status, the Foundation refuses to release its investments and meeting minutes or allow students to meet with its members it recently re-negotiated its operating agreement with UM to grant the Foundation more power to refuse to release documentation.

In our efforts to discuss divestment, every University avenue we pursued has resulted in dead ends and delays, despite our commitment to compromise and understanding. The Associated Students of the University of Montana, where the Foundation has doggedly referred all my communication requests, fails us. Aware of referendums passed by the student body in 2015 and 2017, in which the student body called for fossil fuel divestment with 80 and 79 percent of the vote, the ASUM President, and many members of the Senate, reasserted their commitment to divestment. However, instead of following through on rhetoric to put students first and pursue transparent administration, the ASUM leadership seems more interested in maintaining beneficial personal relationships with the very people who they pledged to hold accountable.

Meetings with interim President Sheila Stearns resulted in vague comments and delays, and meeting with the current President has shown little promise as well. Our professionalism and hopes for dialogue and compromise have not been returned with an open, listening ear.

If the University of Montana administration continues to antagonize students who seek constructive dialogue, its enrollment and morale will continue to suffer. Commitment to “leadership” means supporting students who question the powers around them, including in the University itself. UM administration: Step up. As often as possible, democratize power by forming committees that include student voices from outside ASUM, form an investment committee, give students a seat at the Foundation’s table; put some action and definitions behind those abstract concepts that pepper every speech and press release (“diversity,” “inclusion,” “transparency”) and finally, listen to the voices that criticize this institution. Recognize that we also seek the best for the University and its constituents, and invite us in for some serious, action-focused dialogue. We’re not going anywhere.

TESS GALLAGHER CLANCY
Co-Coordinator, Reinvest Montana
University of Montana

PHOTO GALLERY: INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

LEFT: Hila Tzipora Chase, a member of the UM’s circus club, teaches a young girl how to use poi on April 8. Poi is a performance that involves using tethered weights, or poi, to create patterns in the air. The art originated from in Pacific Island cultures.
RIGHT: UM’s Interim Director of Global Engagement Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry leads the flag ceremony parade through the UC on April 8. The Global Engagement Office hosted the event, which served as an opportunity for international students to showcase the cultures of their home countries.
PHOTOS SARA DIGGINS
Growing pains

On April 1, I began my third month of taking testosterone, meaning I’ve been stabbing myself in the thigh with a very scary needle every two weeks since February. It also means that I get to be a teenager all over again, puberty acne and all. Who wouldn’t want to switch places with me?

There’s a lot about this process that scares me. For one thing, I’ve had to make a huge commitment to extra-strength deodorant because I sweat all the time. Taking testosterone is not like a buffet; unfortunately, I can’t choose which changes I want and which I can do without. That can be frustrating. I’m not super down with the idea of potentially growing chest hair, but I’ll live with that risk. It might not ever happen, which is another scary thing about this process. Changes are highly individual and hard to predict. Will my facial hair be as underwhelming as my brothers’ — sorry, guys — or will I smoke their asses in mustache grooming? I guess we’ll wait and see.

Some aspects of this transition, like facial hair growth and vocal changes, are permanent. I think that would be worrisome to anyone. Despite the fact that I feel very comfortable and solid in my identity, changes, are permanent. I think that would be worrisome to anyone. Changes are highly individual and hard to predict. Will my facial hair be as underwhelming as my brothers’ — sorry, guys — or will I smoke their asses in mustache grooming? I guess we’ll wait and see.

Some aspects of this transition, like facial hair growth and vocal changes, are permanent. I think that would be worrisome to anyone. Despite the fact that I feel very comfortable and solid in my identity, there’s a tiny voice in the back of my head constantly saying, “You’ll probably look dumb with a mustache.” That voice disappeared the first time my partner excitedly told me he could (just barely) see my pube-stache. The first time my voice cracked, I felt a mixture of excitement because I could finally feel the testosterone working, and fear because I might hate the way my new voice sounds.

Ultimately, these fears are insignificant compared to the anxiety and discomfort I felt every day as a transgender person prior to my taking hormones. Sure, I might hate my new voice. But I might not. It’s not like I’m particularly attached to my pre-T voice, anyway. I kind of hated it and avoided speaking because it felt too wispy coming out of my mouth. With the help of testosterone, I definitely won’t get read as a woman every time I open my mouth to speak, and that’s the more important part of this. All my hesitations about starting hormones were outweighed by the bigger picture of what transitioning means for me.

I’m excited about being able to fit into men’s clothes properly and learn the low parts of every single Johnny Cash and June Carter duet. I’m practicing my “Blue Steel” looks in preparation for the day my jawline gets its shit together. I’m just beginning to feel confident and happy in my body. Who knew a little testosterone could do that?

That being said, every trans person’s transition journey is different. Some people find the medical side of transitioning vital to reducing their dysphoria, while others just aren’t interested. Going through a second puberty feels a lot like the first one, and not everyone is up for that. It sucked the first time and it sucks a little bit now, but this time it’s my choice. Every time I reapply deodorant or wonder why the hell I just slept for 13 hours straight, I get to remind myself that this is a step in helping me become more me. I got to choose this path for myself! How many people can say that about puberty? I personally feel like I could stop testosterone if I had to, but it has been so helpful for me these past few months that I don’t want to. It gives me a sense of peace and control over my life and over my identity.

The only party worth having includes me and costumes

As of writing this, I am a youth, a youngster, a fresh-faced 21-year-old with the world ahead of her. As of this being published, I will have crossed into the void of meaningless birthdays, namely my 22nd.

Last year was a big one, like all of the birthdays before that. I tasted my first drop of alcohol in a flaming Lamborghini, presented stoically to me by the bartender at Feruqi’s, and ended my night crying in a bathroom stall at the Union, as is required on 21st birthdays in Missoula.

So what the hell do I do this year? What does anybody do on their 22nd birthday? All I can do is sing that terrible Taylor Swift song and think about the empty void of existence lying ahead of me. Is it even possible to go get free shots at Feruqi’s? I assume the only free shot you can get on your 22nd birthday is the one at the Missoula Club where they put grease from the grill in your drink and tell you to slug it down. Seems very appropriate as a farewell to fun birthdays.

So even if you are a wee babe, freshly 19 and looking forward to hittin’ the big 2-0, it’s time to start thinking about the 60-plus costume themes you will need to come up with over the span of your life.

Some recommendations: “Mad Max Fury Road,” Hello Kitty, 19th-century Russian revolutionaries — battle it out to see who gets to be Nechayev, who is objectively the cutest. Human representations of John Mayer songs. Just make the theme “Sagittarius” to see what people do with that. Young Irish schoolboys during The Troubles. People dancing in the background of DJ Decoir’s Boiler Room set video, or goth or goth anime.

Things to avoid: Anything with Harry Potter or superheroes. We’re all legally adults now, so that shit needs to end. Also, anything that seems like it would be held at a frat house, like CEOs and Office Hoes, ABC parties, parties where the girls have to dress like Beanie Babies. That’s all asinine. A notable exception is toga parties, for which I inexplicably have a soft spot.

So there you have it. Simply writing this column has made me exponentially happier about aging. More fun parties! More opportunities to get glitter all over my bathroom sink! Bada-bing bada-boom. Enjoy the rest of your lives, dear readers. Every year is just another opportunity to spend 30 bucks in the makeup section of Target and transform into someone who is not old and boring you.
DEAN’S RETREAT

Public sees public information, UM administrators get nervous

MATT NEUMAN
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University of Montana President Seth Bodnar convened the deans Saturday for a day-long meeting to discuss options for cuts, changes and reorganization of UM's academic offerings. However, the group did not work on shrinking a list of at-risk degree programs and instead were sent into a minor panic by a seemingly unexpected media presence.

Bodnar has said UM is working to cut $5 million from its annual budget by 2022. A six-year decline in students has left UM struggling to pay all of its faculty and provide quality services to students.

Throughout the spring semester, the University Planning Committee, under the direction of Bodnar, has worked to find the best ways to cut back on programs and faculty while preparing what is left for growth and innovation.

In the weeks leading up to the April 7 meeting, a UPC subgroup built a scatterplot graph measuring degree programs on a variety of data points including cost, efficiency and demand. The programs were nameless on the graph until a list of ailing programs, identified by the UPC subgroup, was assembled and sent to the deans.

The initial list contained nearly half of all degree programs, but the intent, based on discussions at meetings in the week leading up to the retreat, was to present more than necessary so the list could be shortened strategically by the deans who understand the nuances of each program in their respective colleges.

On Saturday, the graph of previously anonymous programs was presented with program names publicly for the first time. Not all program names were visible due to the design of the graph. At the time the graph was initially presented, reporters from the Kaimin and the Missoulian were present. A few minutes into discussion of how the graph was created, a Missoulian photographer arrived and began photographing the scene, including the chart.

Around 10:30 a.m., Bodnar called a break in the meeting. During the break, a quiet chaos began. Deans mingling could be heard talking about the list of programs being photographed.

“Fuck, fuck, fuck. What do we do?” Paul Kirgis, dean of the law school and acting provost, was heard whispering to Bodnar.

The graph was taken down from the various screens in the room, and it never returned during the five-hour meeting. Instead of discussing which programs should be retracted from the list, deans broke out into small groups to discuss ideas for organizing structures to make their colleges and the University to be more efficient and student-friendly.

Bodnar later encouraged reporters from the Missoulian and the Kaimin to be careful about announcing names of programs on the at-risk list without proper context, so as not to cause undue stress to incoming students and faculty. Students currently enrolled or enrolling in a program before it is cut are guaranteed to be able to graduate, but programs could potentially be cut to a minimum around them.

Because not all program names were visible, the Kaimin is choosing not to publish any currently, but has requested a complete list.

Bodnar is set to receive information from the UPC, as well as recommendations from the deans before formulating more specific actions to be reviewed by Faculty Senate on April 17. The Kaimin is seeking all information submitted to Bodnar so it can be compared to the action plan presented to Faculty Senate.
STUDENTS SHREDDING

Journalism student places in Enduro World Series

MAGGIE DRESSER
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Alicia Leggett didn’t party in Moab over spring break like many UM students. After training all winter, she headed to South America to race mountain bikes in the Enduro World Series. She raced two rounds in Chile and Colombia as her first enduro of the season.

Leggett, a student in the University of Montana’s School of Journalism, has barely been on her mountain bike since last fall, but she managed to secure 18th place in the first part of the series in Chile on March 24 and 25. She had to adapt to being back on her bike, and also to different terrain and elevations of more than 10,000 feet.

“Some of the course is super steep, and the dirt just moves downhill with you so it’s hard to get traction anywhere,” she said. “Plus, all the rocks are really sharp, which is scary.”

An enduro race typically lasts one to two days, and racers get a combined time from two races. A race day lasts six to eight hours but only one of those hours is timed. Riders mostly race downhill but also complete transfer stages, mostly uphill, to get to the next timed race stage.

Leggett said the first day of the Chile race was nerve wracking and exhausting. Despite her training over the winter, she’s still coming out of the off-season and it’s hard to get into mountain bike shape when it’s snowing in Missoula. “I was exhausted at the end of the second stage and crashed pretty hard and lost a lot of time with dumb mistakes,” she said.

Leggett headed to Colombia after Chile and trained all week for the next round over Easter weekend. She woke up on race day with a heart rate of 120, likely because of nerves, dehydration and adjustment to the new climate. She placed 20th overall. The conditions were drastically different farther north in Colombia. Instead of the dry and dusty trails in Chile, she encountered trails resembling a mudslide.

“The entire women’s field was falling all over each other trying to pass when other people’s bikes got clogged up,” she said.

The South American Series is the start of Leggett’s fourth year competing in enduro races. She competed in cross country races before, which time both uphill and downhill riding. But she was tired of the type of training it entailed and wasn’t having fun anymore. Enduro is focused on technical riding which suits her strengths better. Now Leggett is a ranked mountain biker in the Enduro World Series, and receives sponsorships from Knolly Bikes, Loam Coffee, The Gravity Cartel and Box Components.

Leggett doesn’t have a coach and doesn’t train with a team. She developed a training program, with help from other athletes in Missoula, and does everything on her own. Traveling around the world has opened a new perspective on racing, she said. It reveals a different climate and challenging terrain leading to physical exhaustion, but it also reinforces the mental side of racing.

“This trip really tested my ability to stay positive, which is something I’m working on. I think positivity is pretty important in being resilient,” she said.

Leggett plans to continue racing enduros in North America and Europe this summer, and she hopes to race full time after she graduates this spring.

FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS

Senators debate free speech, again

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A resolution about “free and orderly speech on campus” sparked over an hour of heated debate before the Associated Students of the University of Montana rejected it at its March 21 meeting.

Sen. Garret Morrill brought the resolution to the floor because he said the last resolution regarding free speech was too specific and didn’t go far enough. That resolution asked the admissions office to put out a statement that said any disciplinary action taken relating to the March for Our Lives walkout would not count against applicants in an admissions decision. The admissions office did put out a statement, though it was broad, saying UM “[stands] with students impelled to use their voices in meaningful and peaceful ways.”

Morrill’s resolution would condone civil and lawful expressions as protected in the First Amendment and condemn “unlawful suppression of any law-abiding individual’s right to free and civil expression” at the University of Montana.

Sen. Kat Cowley made a successful motion to remove the phrase “and civil” from the above line.

“As long as people come to this campus and use hate speech in their lectures I cannot call their speech civil,” Cowley said. “I am vehemently opposed to the use of civil in this resolution.”

The resolution also said ASUM would strongly discourage “the University from imposing unusual or extraordinary security fees on individuals and groups who would express themselves on campus.”

On the senate floor, Morrill argued that UM School of Journalism donor Maria Cole was faced with unusual security fees when she hosted Mike Adams as the Jeff Cole distinguished lecturer.

“This practice of using security fees and other extraordinary fees is a way for administration to censor based on content without ever having to admit that,” Morrill said.

Speakers should be held responsible for their speech, thus paying for the extra security they require, Sen. Abigail Belcher said.

Belcher said the resolution as a whole was unprofessional, solved a problem that didn’t exist and was a vehicle for a specific ideology.

“I am not willing to vote for this resolution that uses the First Amendment to cater toward an ideology,” Belcher said.

Morrill’s citation list for the resolution included Breitbart, a far-right news website, Belcher said.

Sen. Mollie Lemm, a former Montana Kaimin employee, was in favor of the resolution and said free speech is important because it protects all forms of speech.

The resolution ultimately failed, 10 in favor, 14 against.
SHOW REVIEW

Diplo blows doors off with explosive Wilma show

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Rave-ready Missoulians in astronaut helmets, banana suits, fuzzy rainbow boots, glitter and white guy cornrows filled the Wilma with the artificially sweet smell of E-juice Saturday night. The sold-out show packed in a tight crowd that danced all night, entranced by the party atmosphere, courtesy of EDM DJ Diplo.

Opener Chris Baumann of the local Dead Hipster DJs even had his photographer dancing on stage with him as she worked to his hustling hip hop mixes. He was followed by groovy bass producer Kapture, who dropped a fantastical “Stranger Things” remix and got the crowd pumped with his explosive beats.

Loud applause filled the venue when Diplo finally hopped on stage. With trippy projections flashing his alias alongside dinosaurs and dancing girls, he thumped out a rich journey of electronic music, including Major Lazer, Skrillex and Jack Ü tunes.

He played all the party favorites with his own zesty twist. This included the fierce groove of Beyoncé and Rihanna remixes, the whomping madness of Lil’ Pump’s “Gucci Gang” and the ecstatic enchantment of his song with Sleepy Tom, “Be Right There.”

Even if you don't consider yourself an EDM fan, Diplo is easy to get down to. He embellishes and highlights unique parts of songs more than many electronic artists, adding a funky, fresh perspective.

Dancing and gliding behind the turntable, he worked diligently like a mad scientist, each song juicy with audacity and seamlessly transitioned.

Diplo became the ultimate life of the party, constantly engaging the audience as they jumped up and down.

“If you think 2018 is going to be the best year ever, put your hands up!”

Judging by the sea of arms bumping all the way to the back of the balcony, the prospects are looking good.

TOP LEFT: Diplo tells the crowd to put their hands in the air April 7. Though it was his first time in Montana, Diplo kept the audience engaged, remarking that he will have to make a return trip to the state sometime in the future.

TOP RIGHT: Diplo mixes onstage during a sold-out, hour and a half-long set that included light displays and bursts of smoke.

BOTTOM: Diplo fans dance during the show. His alias, which stands for Diplodocus, or a herbivorous dinosaur from the Jurassic period, stems from his childhood interest in dinosaurs.

PHOTOS DAN FRANZ
Posters and banners with catchy slogans and photographed smiles are the new wallpaper in the UC. Seemingly out of nowhere, overdressed students are behaving extra nice to you. Don’t panic, you don’t actually have new friends; it’s just the Associated Students of the University of Montana elections.

In this issue, we focus on the faces, decrypt the slogans and introduce you to the people who might be your next student leaders.

ASUM consists of three executive offices, the president, vice president and business manager, and a 26-member senate. University of Montana students elect them each spring to serve one year terms and, in return, ASUM represents student interests to UM’s administration, participates in University committees and allocates funding for student organizations. Senators sit on dozens of University committees, including the presidential and provost search committees as the voice of the student body. ASUM also has 20 committees overseeing agencies such as childcare, legal services, transportation and sustainability. These committees are made up of senators and students-at-large.

The primary election for president and vice president takes place April 18. The general election is April 25 and 26. Votes can be submitted through the UMontana mobile app by clicking on the “elections” tile.

Hugues de Pingon skips right over “dressed to the nines,” cranking it up to eleven. His flashy suits make him stand out around campus. If Jet Bibler wagered on an over-under of five people recognizing de Pingon on a walk through the Oval, he’d bet over. Way over.

De Pingon and Bibler decided to run for ASUM’s executive offices after realizing they shared the same concerns about parking issues, the lack of diversity among sitting senators’ academic majors and the loss of the Galloping Griz food truck.

The pair wants to “shake up” ASUM and think the organization would benefit from an outsider’s perspective, likening themselves to Donald Trump.

“If students don’t care about ASUM, it’s probably because it doesn’t do anything for them,” de Pingon said. “Otherwise, they would care about it.”

De Pingon has experience running an ASUM-recognized club. He was head of the Forthright Forum and is a member of Grizzly Billiards. Bibler was a Boy Scout in high school.

“All the problems that ASUM has derive, at least partly, from the insiders,” de Pingon said. “Nothing changes, and you always have the same problems.”

De Pingon and Bibler want to break up the establishment they see within ASUM and engage with students from wide varieties of academic programs, especially underrepresented groups such as forestry and biology students.

“We believe in the voice of the student body and everyone’s voices, rather than one group of political science majors,” Bibler said.

De Pingon said many senators are political science majors and ASUM has done nothing to fix the underrepresentation of students from other academic pro-
Alex Butler and Mariah Welch’s blue campaign pins are accidental throwbacks to an English rock band — BUTLER written above WELCH, the T connected to the W with an arrow pointing upward.

“We didn’t mean to do that,” Welch said.

“But the girl that designed it — we both looked back and were like ‘that’s The Who,’” Butler finished.

The current ASUM senators wrote in a Kaimin questionnaire they are running for executive offices because the University of Montana is a “special place.” They acknowledge the University is facing challenges. “The tough times provide an opportunity for students to create positive change on our campus,” the campaign wrote.

Butler is currently enlisted in the Montana National Guard after serving in the US Army, where he says he not only trained for his current position, but also the leadership role he’s seeking. He is also president of UM’s men’s rugby club and sits on the provost search committee.

Welch was student body president at Billings Senior High School and currently sits on UM’s Vice President of Administration and Finance search committee. She said she prepared for the position by polling business students on what they wanted in someone who oversees a budget.

Their platform focuses on environmental sustainability, diversity, student awareness of ASUM job opportunities and budget procedures, and Main Hall transparency. The candidates want to improve UM’s environmental sustainability. One idea is investing in better light bulbs.

“Yes, it’s going to be a bigger overhead cost,” Welch said. “But something small like that can make a huge impact on our University.”

Other ideas include offering student groups financial reimbursement to encourage recycling and creating a recycling internship at the University through ASUM.

“There needs to be better outreach to groups that are not represented in ASUM,” Butler said, and more perspectives from parents, grad students, athletes, veterans, Native Americans and other underrepresented groups on campus.

“We all want diversity,” Welch said. “And we can say, ‘We want diversity on our campus,’ but how do we actually implement diverse platforms?”

She said they want to work with the Diversity Advisory Council, a University committee dedicated to encouraging and celebrating diversity on campus, to create a new position in UM’s administration: a diversity outreach coordinator.

ASUM information sessions at the beginning of the semester would benefit student groups, as well as the student body, Butler said, by explaining the budgeting and fund appropriation process and how to take advantage of existing agencies and job opportunities within ASUM.

“It’s a way for us to sort of teach them how to be a really good student group leader, how to get funding from us, how to utilize our outreach efforts and how to plan events on campus, but then also use that as a way for student groups to get to know each other,” Butler said.

Welch said President Bodnar has increased transparency between UM and the student body through his emails, but there can be improvement. Besides sending emails, Welch wants Bodnar to attend student groups’ meetings. She said Bodnar “needs to be reaching out to students where they are, instead of asking them to provide their input.”

Butler and Welch summarized their platform writing, “Our guiding principle is to strengthen our campus community, which we can not do alone.”
Toppen noted that chaos surrounding UM’s budget troubles and program cuts may have created an air of pessimism on campus. He wants to help make UM “a place of optimism again” for students who once held UM in high regard.

The candidates call for ASUM to amplify student voices, not filter them. The pair are focusing on raising awareness of ASUM through making senate proceedings more accessible to the student body, increasing transparency in programs at UM and promoting diversity.

Toppen wants to educate students on the various committees that exist within both the University and ASUM. A large part of that means ensuring committees’ meeting minutes and agendas are publicly posted, as well as making clear to students how to get involved with a committee. Toppen wants to ensure the University is being transparent and accessible by asking University committees to post their meeting agendas and minutes as well.

Milton said he wants to place a whiteboard outside the ASUM office with committee meeting times and locations.

Milton also suggested engaging with students early. The University manages an incoming freshman Facebook group, and Milton wants ASUM to have a presence on it so they can educate students on ASUM and what it does for students.

The candidates want to build a relationship with Residence Life, an office they see as an untapped resource, and connect with resident assistants to learn more about issues faced by students living on campus.

“Rather than keeping Residence Life and ASUM and all these other programs that involve students siloed from each other, you want them to be connected,” Milton said.

They also recognize that ASUM represents not only the main campus, but the Bitterroot College and Missoula College’s west and river campuses. Toppen said ASUM needs to have a presence there as well, and hopes to have senators tabling at the Missoula College regularly to engage with students and hear their concerns.

“If elected, that’s a mandate from the students to speak about the issues. By not speaking up, it is a betrayal to the students,” Toppen said.

Andria Schafer started her first business at age 10, raising pigs to market on her family’s ranch. She said it cost about $150 to raise a pig — rent for the land and non-GMO feed — and it would sell for about $300.

“I started with one and by the time I was a senior I was raising between 12 and 16 a year,” she said.

Schafer, currently an ASUM senator, sees the business manager position as a middle ground between balancing the books and contributing to meetings.

“The business manager really does play a role in the senate’s functions at large,” she said.

Schafer wants to see bylaws revised so only student spokespeople and student group financial officers are allowed to draw money from their accounts. She said currently faculty members are allowed to withdraw funds.

“I would really like to see student groups take more initiative and really take control of their funds,” she said.

Schafer wants informational sessions at the beginning of the year to educate groups on the different types of accounts, travel allocations, the benefits of keeping receipts — more resources allocated — and deadlines involved with being an ASUM recognized organization. The number of sessions would depend on the number of student groups, and individual sessions with groups would be possible, Schafer said.

“I really want to regain that one-on-one relation with student groups. ... [T]hey feel their resources are inaccessible and that there aren’t very many [opportunities] when there are many opportunities that ASUM has,” she said.

Schafer’s experience with budgets — she said she's seen 400 in the last two years — includes being high school treasurer of 4-H and Future Farmers of America, working as an ASUM receptionist and going through ASUM’s final budgeting process twice.

This year’s budget recommendations on student groups worked to distribute funds evenly, said Schafer, but current budget forms need to be updated for clarity.

“We should tell student groups to budget ... exactly for what they want and what they need to fulfill their mission. I want them to get what they need and what they want,” she said.

Sonny Capece, a political science major from Tallahassee, Florida, spent a year in Australia where he managed a 98,000-acre ranch. He held a multi-million dollar corporation’s checkbook and learned how to manage money.

While working at the ranch, Capece said he learned a lot about interpersonal communication and having compassion.
SONNY CAPECE, BUSINESS MANAGER
Pronouns: he, him, his
Junior, political science
Tallahassee, Florida

He said his experience will translate well to working with the student body.

Capece wants to ensure that all students are getting the maximum value out of their ASUM student fee. All undergraduate students taking seven credits or more are required to pay the $73 ASUM fee.

As business manager, Capece says he would work to ensure students see the benefits of their fee within that same year. He wants to inform student groups about the avenues of potential funding available and equip them with the knowledge to use them.

“The business manager, above anything else, is there for student groups; to make sure they get the help monetarily and bureaucratically as far as filing their papers and filling out proper paperwork for funding,” Capece said.

Capece wants to hold quarterly informational sessions that would educate student groups, specifically new ones, on their funding options. Capece said a group’s entire funding should not come from final budgeting held once a year in the spring. Other funding options include travel allocation, special allocation and STIP, the state term investment pool.

“I think it would alleviate a lot of the problems. Then, I think we would get a lot of influx in STIP's at that time allowing [ASUM] to process a lot more at once and get things done,” Capece said.

He also said this could relieve senators’ workloads because they are often faced with a lot of redundant questions in their role as student group liaisons.

Capece said as business manager he would have an open-door policy. He wants people to feel free to come in and ask him anything.

Capece wants to help student groups accomplish their goals. Sometimes that means looking at alternate ways of funding in order achieve that goal, such as requesting funds from the STIP account rather than in final budget. Capece said his knowledge of ASUM policy will allow him to help student groups shift through the bureaucracy.

“People have passions they want to chase. I hope that I can help those dreams become reality, within the realm of reality,” Capece said.

SENATE CANDIDATES

Cierra Anderson
She, her, hers
Senior, Economics
Missoula, MT

Abigail Belcher
She, her, hers
Sophomore, Marketing
Whitefish, MT

Sylvia Borstad
She, her, hers
Senior, Political science
Kalispell, MT

Eli Brown
He, him, his
Sophomore, Philosophy, history and political Science
Kalispell, MT

Madi Carley
Sophomore, Management information systems
Cedar Park, TX

Brenna Davis
She, her, hers
Sophomore, Women’s, gender and sexuality studies
Missoula, MT

Bailey Carpenter
She, her, hers
Freshman, Political science
Bellingham, WA

Jake Cohen
He, him, his
Sophomore, Microbiology
Hingham, MA

Morgan Corkish
She, her, hers
Sophomore, Political science and sociology
Kalispell, MT

Henry Curtis
He, him, his
Junior, History
Corvallis, MT

Taylor Gregory
He, him, his
Freshman, Political science
Lolo, MT

Cara Grewell
She, her, hers
Sophomore, Political science and sociology
Silesia, MT
On Kacey Musgraves, the people who hate country music but can’t stop writing about it

ERIN GOUDREAU
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I would like to make something clear right off the bat. My one-way relationship with Kacey Musgraves could only be described as a love that is earnest, deep and committed.

The first time I heard her song “Merry Go ‘Round,” I was driving across the rolling wheat fields of northern Idaho during the peak of Indian summer. The calendar said September, but it felt like July, my Swedish Fish melting together as my legs melted into the leather seat. After exhausting the Alison Krauss and Shania Twain CDs my grandparents kept in their car, I turned on the radio as a DJ announced a new single by a young singer-songwriter from Texas. I was moved by the song immediately, overwhelmed by its musicality, lyricism and Musgraves’ voice, understated but confident with a subtle twang. I became an instant fan.

When her latest album, “Golden Hour,” was released last weekend, I had it on repeat all day and found myself immediately engulfed in a discussion with other Musgraves fans in my life. We all agreed: It’s a beautiful, thoughtful record, written by someone who is clearly experiencing the highs of a new romantic relationship as well as an expanded sense of the instruments and production techniques available to her. It’s got about five songs that I’ve listened to nonstop for the last week.

I really like this album, guys.

With that out of the way, we need to have a conversation about the reality that “Golden Hour” is not a country record, that it is not only “country purists” who think this and that the last week of music journalism about this album has made it abundantly clear that people who are clearly ignorant about and despise country music will continue to get paid to write about the genre.

I am happy to concede that one of the most tiresome aspects of music discourse is generally the incessant hand-wringing over how we define genres. This is certainly true of country music. As the gulf between the country music that will never get played on the radio and the sound, quality and gender makeup of the music played on country radio has widened, the fixation on definitively constituting the boundaries of “real country” has felt more pressing while simultaneously becoming more tedious. It pains me, truly, to contribute to this discourse, but here we are.

In the week since the release of “Golden Hour,” it has been described as a universal classic, anti-establishment, everything that’s good about country music and the year’s best country album for people who hate country music.

These universally positive reviews all follow the same formula: First, insist in your headline that “Golden Hour” is a country record. Next, address the obvious critique that it is, in fact, not by defining country so uselessly broadly as to include “a woman scorned,” “a woman doing things exactly the way she wants” and “music about everyday life.” Proceed to show that you’ve never actually thoughtfully engaged with this genre by comparing Musgraves positively to the appalling music produced by Nashville’s Music Row, as if there isn’t an entire world of fantastic, interesting country music being made outside mainstream industry and radio channels. Finally, compare every song on the record to Sufjan Stevens, Cat Power and Elton John, reminding us that even you don’t think this record is country.

Then these inaccuracies and oversimplifications matter because they are part of an industry of music journalism that has provided a consistently distorted view of the world of country music to its readers.

The first distortion is the idea that country music is whatever is played on country radio and nothing else. That is to say, country music is a largely male genre filled with songs indistinguishable from 80s arena rock, a single fiddle buried under five electric guitars, overlaid with trite, often misogynistic, lyrics.

In this analysis, someone like Kacey Musgraves can be compared to this hell genre favorably. She can be considered an outsider, a simultaneous establishment breaker and a return to “traditional country,” despite the fact no country traditionalist would describe her as such. This is where we get the constant refrain: Kacey Musgraves is country music for people who hate country music.

The second distortion is the idea that the people bringing “real country” back into the mainstream are musicians such as Sturgill Simpson, Jason Isbell and Chris Stapleton. In this instance, to defend the country bonafides of Musgraves’ latest record is to resist male-dominated conceptions of “real country.”

As someone who is deeply emotionally invested in the art and success of female country artists, I find this argument most insulting. It is so frustrating to see the same prevalence toward the erasure of women that happens in mainstream country play out among those who consider themselves enlightened country music fans.

The insistence on discursively pushing back against bro-country with reminders of the existence of Sturgill, Isbell and Stapleton leaves out all the amazing country women who never get the time of day. Please, for the love of God, listen to Musgraves but also to Ashley Monroe, Nikki Lane, Rhiannon Giddens, Hurray for the Riff Raff, Sunny Sweeney and Dori Freeman, Vivian Leva’s fabulous album just came out, as did Lindi Ortega’s and Sarah Shook’s. These women deserve your time, too.

The final assertion made about Musgraves by too many music reviewers is that she represents a break from the political conservatism of most country music. I could say a lot more about this, but please know: This claim reveals an astonishingly limited knowledge of the political breadth of country music. If Kacey Musgraves is the first country ally to the LGBTQ community, I’m curious as to how we should define people like Brandy Clark and Sarah Shook, fantastic, and gay, country artists who’ve never been bestowed such titles. If Musgraves invented politically progressive country, how are we to understand Steve Earle and Darrell Scott’s critique of the coal industry, Lydia Loveless and Margo Price’s articulation of the devastating impact of corporate farming, or Hurray for the Riff Raff’s observations on gentrification and violence against women in New Orleans?

Guys, I love Kacey Musgraves. I’ve listened to “Space Cowboy” as many times as the next girl whose closet is overflowing with cowboy boots. But these distortions do a disservice to the genre, insult the intelligence of both Musgraves and her fans and continue the erasure of so many talented female country artists.
COFFEE REVIEW

Bean Me: A semi-definitive ranking of campus coffee

MICAH DREW
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When I started college, I pledged to stave off a coffee addiction as long as possible. I made it about three years. I still deny true addiction, but I do enjoy my daily cup of Joe. If you don’t have time to brew your own, or need a quick pick-me-up between classes, here are some spots to pick up your own bean boost.

**LIQUID PLANET GRILLE:** While not technically on campus, I figure any place you can hit with a rock from a dorm window counts. This building has been home to a diner of some sort for longer than I can remember. The Grille is the third iteration since I started school, but it seems like it’s here to stay. The coffee is organic and delicious, and the afternoon happy hour is dollar drips. Since it’s off campus, you feel like you aren’t at school anymore, which is excellent. Full disclosure, I may be a little biased, because I’m sitting in Liquid Planet writing this and drinking coffee right now. Upside: Sammy Rodriguez, the manager, is the two-time winning Best Barista in the annual Best of Missoula contest. His latte art is exquisite. Downside: Refills are no longer free.

**SIDE BAR, LAW SCHOOL:** From what I hear from my friends who are law students, there’s a lot of studying that goes on in this school. Coffee is necessary for studying, ergo, they get their own coffee shop. Upside: You can visit the law school and feel like a powerful, productive student. Downside: You probably aren’t either of those. Or a law student for that matter.

**RECESS, EDUCATION BUILDING:** Perfectly located to serve the northern half of campus, the education building’s coffee shop is a must visit. For one, the education school is quite lovely. Lots of windows, comfy seats to sit in and a giant globe in the lobby that I don’t understand the function of but is mesmerizing to look at. A rather popular spot, there is occasionally a line. Upside: I had an ex-girlfriend who used to work here so I got free drinks and leftover bagels every few days. Downside: She no longer works here.

**THINK TANK:** This little pop-up above Urey Lecture Hall is exactly the kind of coffee kiosk that should exist every 200 feet around campus. Pop in, fill up, head to class. Like all University of Montana dining-operated coffee bars on campus, the Think Tank serves Black Coffee Roasting Co. coffee, so the drink is top notch. Upside: Location, especially when you have a chemistry test you forgot about and need a scantron with your coffee. Downside: When it’s raining or snowing, you really don’t want to be third in line.

**MY HOUSE:** Similar to Liquid Planet, included because it’s 20 feet from campus. Upside: Cheap. Don’t need to wear clothes. My giant T-Rex shaped coffee cup. Downside: I’m poor, so it’s Folgers.

**FOOD ZOO:** The cheapest option on campus. For freshmen, it’s a three dollar swipe for a meal and unlimited coffee. If you’re an upperclassman who is good at convincing freshmen to swipe you in for a meal, it’s free. Upside: You can fill up growlers full of coffee to get through the day with no extra cost. Downside: You might not get out alive with your growler.

**LE PEAK:** Tries to act like an actual coffee shop. Offers a nice seating area, but as it’s attached to the Corner Store, it loses some of that coffeehouse charm. Not really sure why you’d go here when Liquid Planet is across the street. Upside: It’s on campus. Downside: It’s on campus.

**BIZ BUZZ, GALLAGHER BUSINESS BUILDING:** Similar premise to the law school having its own coffee bar. The business college could probably afford to put a full food court in its building — maybe that’s what the next multi-million dollar useless building project will be. Upside: Occasionally live music plays on the staircase. Downside: Walking into the building as a non-business student reminds you that you probably won’t make any money in your life.

**UC MARKET:** Finally open this semester after a renovation that took far too long, the Market is a classic and centrally-located stop for the caffeine deprived. While it’s a little pricier than other options, that doesn’t matter when you’re on that after-dinner study grind in the University Center commons. Upside: Dollar drip coffee with your own mug, as at all UM dining outlets, and open until 10 p.m. Downside: You need to spend three bucks on a “dollar drip sticker” to get that dollar drip. Also, the aesthetic could use some work — it looks like a gas station.
Montana baseball still winless midway through season

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The Montana club baseball team has lost its first seven games to start the season after successfully filling a roster for the first time in over a year. Montana is in last place in the Northern Pacific - North division of the National Club Baseball Association (NCBA) after the slow start.

Team president and player Reilly Jacobsen said the weather has played a role in the early season struggles for the Griz. They haven’t been able to practice outdoors much because of the cold and wet spring in Missoula.

“We are just obviously struggling for not having any outdoor practices. Inclement weather, we can’t control that,” Jacobsen said.

Montana was scheduled to play a three-game series against Idaho on the weekend of April 6, but the rain forced the team to reschedule the games for the first week of May. The weather has forced the team to practice in an indoor batting cage at Access Fitness or at Schreiber Gym on campus.

Jacobsen also said the Griz have consistently had bad innings put them into deep holes, including in their closest game of the season against Western Washington last weekend.

Sophomore lefty Justyn Martinko walked his first seven batters to put Montana behind early. Martinko eventually regained his control and retired the next 12 batters, but Montana wouldn’t get enough run support and fell by a final score of 4-1.

Montana has also struggled with leaving runners on base. Twice this season the Grizzlies have loaded the bases with no outs and have failed to score a run.

First-year player Chase Edminster believes learning how to finish a game and communicate better is the key to overcoming the team’s early slump. It has been difficult to work on communication since the team has not had many situational practices on an actual baseball diamond.

“When we are in a tight situation we kind of just collapse,” Edminster said. “We play a solid seven innings but somewhere in the game we fall apart.”

Despite the team’s early struggles, Montana still has 12 regular season games left to turn the season around. The Griz will also get the needed addition of sophomore pitcher Johnny Sapa, who is expected to return after having from mononucleosis earlier in the season.

While the team keeps striving to rebuild the program, the NCBA is planning to make a whole new conference for Division II Club Baseball — which Montana might join for the 2018-19 season.

The downgrade from Division I to Division II would help the team rebuild while getting quality games and more recruiting, in the eyes of Jacobsen. In the 2016-17 season, Payden Anderson, Hunter Heffley, Reilly Jacobsen, and Ryan Kangas were the only four players to return for the following season.

Montana will try to bounce back next weekend in a three-game series against Eastern Washington at Ogren Park April 13 and 14 before hosting Washington State the following weekend.
Views from the 406: Rorie was right to declare for NBA Draft

Montana guard Ahmaad Rorie made a great decision by declaring for the NBA Draft last Thursday. Rorie, a junior, averaged more than 17 points per game in his two seasons at Montana. His assists, steals and rebounds all went up in his second season for the Griz. Rorie announced that he would not be hiring an agent, which means he could come back to Montana as long as he withdraws from the draft by May 30.

Rorie’s name will not be announced in the 2018 NBA Draft. The 6-foot-1 guard is not NBA ready yet. His name isn’t appearing on any mock drafts and his profile on popular NBA Draft scouting websites is barren. Still, this decision will be a great move not only for Rorie himself, but also for the Montana Grizzlies.

The next month gives Rorie the opportunity not only to find out where he stands in the eyes of NBA scouts, GMs and coaches, but also gives him an opportunity to improve in a time when most players are trying to take it easy.

He completed a 34-game season less than a month ago, which ended in Montana’s NCAA tournament loss to eventual runner-up Michigan. You would understand if Rorie, or any other player from this year’s team, wanted to ease off the training for a couple of months and enjoy the spring (if it ever comes) here in Montana.

Instead, Rorie will be playing with and against some of the best players in the country, training every day and learning more about where his game stands. I didn’t think that Rorie was an NBA-type player, even if he came back and had a good season next year. Now, I’m starting to re-think that.

This summer gives him a chance to hear from the people who know what it takes to make it in the NBA. They will point out his strengths — the stepback jumpers, the ball-handling, the patient yet relentless scoring ability. But they will also highlight the areas he needs to improve.

Rorie can learn about the weaknesses in his game this offseason and work to refine his game. The odds of hearing his name called in the 2019 NBA Draft, or at least getting a trial run in the NBA Summer League or G-League, would be greatly improved if he can come to the scouts and coaches next year and show them his ability to take criticism and improve.

It will also help the Grizzlies in the future. I could see Michael Oguine deciding to do the same thing in the coming weeks. Some of the young players, like Karl Nicholas or Timmy Falls, might be in a similar position a few years down the road if they progress well. And high school recruits looking for a place to spend their college years now see Montana as a school that could potentially get you to The League.

The move is also bound to make Montana an even scarier basketball team next year. The defending Big Sky champion Griz already return nearly their entire line-up. They also get back 6-foot-7 Washington transfer Donaven Dorsey, and now they will have an inspired Rorie leading the charge.

Ahmaad Rorie may have declared for the NBA Draft, but the real statement is that Montana is ready to defend the crown in the Big Sky for years to come.

PHOTO GALLERY: BIG SKY BONSPIEL

Thirty-six teams made their way to Missoula this weekend for the Big Sky Bonspiel – an annual curling competition hosted by Missoula Curling Club – at Glacier Ice Rink, April 6-8. Teams competed from 8 a.m. until past midnight on Saturday, with the champion of the open bracket, those who’ve been curling for five or more years, declared at noon on Sunday. PHOTOS LACEY YOUNG
Griz salvage one in home series with Weber State

If firsts are still a cliché for the Griz softball team, then here’s another one: It’s the first year the Griz were favored to win almost every conference game.

“We know we have a target on our backs, so every game becomes a big game,” head coach Melanie Meuchel said.

The preseason Big Sky Conference favorites haven’t played to expectations so far. The Griz were swept last week by the new conference leaders, North Dakota (7-2 Big Sky, 21-19 overall), in Grand Forks, tallying just one run in three games.

Griz ace sophomore Michaela Hood came back down to earth this season after an 18-7 record her freshman year. Coming into the weekend three-game series against Weber State, she lost seven decisions despite an ERA under 3.00.

“We have high expectations in this program. I think the players have the feeling that we’re letting people down if we don’t win, when all we really have to do is relax and play the game and enjoy the game,” Meuchel said.

Friday, with 300-some fans looking on from the brand new stadium seats towering behind the red and green turf of Grizzly Softball Field, and with Griz rival Weber State (5-4 BSC, 17-17) waiting in the opposite dugout, pressure mounted once more.

Friday’s doubleheader showed many of the same offensive struggles. Despite a quality start from Michaela Hood, who allowed five baserunners all game, the Griz were blanked in game one for the third time in two weeks, 3-0.

The drought continued for the first two innings of the late game. Weber put up six runs in the top half of the third. Montana responded with four in the bottom half. The Wildcats steadily poured on five more runs, negate their four defensive errors.

Montana (4-5 BSC, 16-22) dropped both games of Friday’s doubleheader, extending its losing streak to five. In that stretch, the Griz were outscored 24-6.

The drought continued for the first two innings of the late game. Weber put up six runs in the top half of the third. Montana responded with four in the bottom half. The Wildcats steadily poured on five more runs, negating their four defensive errors.

Montana senior Delene Colburn singled home the tying run before Ashlyn Lyons drove a ball over the right-center field fence, putting Montana up 5-3.

“That was huge. It pumped us up because we did it under pressure,” Hood said.

Steady rainfall forced the game to end in the middle of Weber’s half of the sixth, and the Griz won 5-3. It was Montana’s first win since March 25, when the team swept Idaho State in Missoula.

Montana stays one game behind Weber State in the conference standings after dropping the first two of the series.

The Griz travel to Cedar City, Utah, Friday to take on Southern Utah (3-6, 6-27). A non-conference doubleheader against Carroll College Wednesday in Missoula will prelude Montana’s three-game set against Portland State (3-6, 10-27), which is tied for last place in the conference with Idaho State (3-6, 7-26), and Southern Utah.