Let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/studentnewspaper

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/studentnewspaper/6966

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Montana Kaimin at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Montana Kaimin by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
MONTANA KAIMIN

ADMINISTRATION

THE STATE OF DIVERSITY IN UM LEADERSHIP

NUMBER OF FEMALE UM PRESIDENTS

NEWS UM under federal investigation

ARTS ‘American Idiot’ confronts tough issues

SPORTS Spring game previews football season
Cheap Charley’s Mini Storage, Griz Discount: Option 1) Full month free with 3 months up front. Option 2) 5% Griz Discount off regular price with Free signup fee! U-Haul rental also available. (406) 721-7277

**For Rent**

I Buy Imports < Subaru < Toyota-Japanese/German Cars & Trucks. Nice, ugly, running or not 327-0300

---

**Help Wanted**

**Library Media Technical Specialist – Missoula County Public Schools** Apply now for this full time, 200 days/9 holidays position! $15.44 to 16.94 per hour depending on placement on the wage scale. Health and Dental Insurance eligible. Public Employees Retirement. Go to www.mcpsmt.org and click on “Employment” for a job description and detailed instructions for applying. Call Human Resources at (406) 728-2400 ext. #1039 with questions. 

“Equal Opportunity Employer”

---

**Services**

I Buy Imports < Subaru < Toyota-Japanese/German Cars & Trucks. Nice, ugly, running or not 327-0300

---

**Sudoku**

Edited by Margie E. Burke

**HOW TO SOLVE:** Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:

64 3 1 9 5 8 7 2 4
8 9 7 4 2 3 5 1 6
2 1 5 8 7 6 3 9 4
4 3 6 9 5 1 2 8 7
9 7 8 6 3 2 1 4 5
1 6 2 7 8 4 9 6 3
7 2 1 3 8 9 4 5 8
5 8 4 2 1 7 6 3 9
3 6 9 8 5 4 8 7 2 1

---

**Interested in joining our team?**

The Montana Kaimin is now hiring for all positions!

Please send your resume, cover letter, and application to applications@montanakaimin.com to apply!

Editor applications due 4/20, all other positions due 4/26.

Applications can be found on our website, montanakaimin.com
KAIMIN EDITORIAL

THE UM FOUNDATION SHOULD PUBLISH ITS INVESTMENTS

ITS 501(C)3 STATUS ALLOWS FOR THAT INFORMATION TO REMAIN PRIVATE

IT ALSO RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF STATE FUNDS—TAXPAYER DOLLARS SPENT MEANS IT'S NOT PRIVILEGED INFO

REVEALING ASSETS WITHOUT THE PROPER CONTEXT COULD MEAN CHAOS AND AN ILL-INFORMED PUBLIC

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO HIDE YOU SHOULD RESPECT TAXPAYERS ENOUGH TO LET THEM DO WITH THAT INFORMATION WHAT THEY WILL

KAIMIN COMIC

I'M SORRY YOU MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT I SAID

I'M SORRY THAT YOU FEEL SORRY.

IT'S FINE. I'M FINE.

I'M ALSO FINE.

RENE SANCHEZ
rene.sanchez@umontana.edu/@ReneSanchez440
KAIMIN COLUMN

Gay, no chasers

My time in the dating world as an out trans person has, thankfully, been brief. I’ve barely had to consider all the tough questions that come up, like when, if ever, to come out to a potential partner. Do I do it right away and hope they’re interested enough in me to look past it? Do I wait until we know each other a bit better and hope they’re not angry when they find out? Do I never tell them and just become okay with being misgendered indefinitely?

These aren’t great options, but dating as a trans person has another risk: chasers. Trans chasers are people who specifically seek out transgender people to have sex with, and I’m not here for it. They’re usually easy to spot, particularly on dating apps. They’re blunt and, more often than not, incredibly invasive and rude. Like, ruder than your average Tinder user. Shocking, I know. I’ve gotten messages saying things like, “So, what kind of trans are you?” and “What’s your pussy like?” and, “I love trans girls.”

Listen, we all love trans girls, but I’m not one, and that’s a huge part of the problem with chasers. They don’t have a deep understanding of what it means to be trans beyond some exotic fantasy. They seek out trans people to fulfill a sexual fetish, not because they care about us as people. I don’t really care what people fantasize about in their personal free time — although I’d prefer they leave real people out of it — but it’s never acceptable to force trans people to engage with it in real life.

It’s hard to gauge how to react to chasers. My instinct is to tell them their behavior is inappropriate and try to explain why what they’re doing is harmful, but that involves calmly engaging with someone who started a conversation by asking about the details of my genitals. It makes me uncomfortable, and I don’t really think it’s my job to tell people not to be assholes. On the other hand, ignoring them means the next trans person they interact with will get the exact same treatment I did, and will be faced with the same dilemma. It would really just be easier if people didn’t feel entitled to invasive information about my body in the first place.

Chasers also rely on the false idea that trans people are so fundamentally unlovable that they are desperate for any kind of sexual attention. When you turn them down or call them out on their behavior, they often react aggressively. How dare you turn down the opportunity to have sex with a “normal” person? I’m gonna make this really clear for all of you: trans people don’t need chasers to get laid. Leave us alone.

The biggest issue with chasers is they treat trans people as objects rather than actual people. Instead of engaging in meaningful conversations and getting to know us as individuals, they focus on the novelty of having sex with a trans person. This is dehumanizing on its own, but chasers often use derogatory language and slurs when they talk about the objects of their attraction. I don’t want to hear about your “tranny fetish,” especially if you’re a cisgender person. Using slurs will never, ever make me more attracted to you.

Transgender people do not exist for your entertainment or sexual gratification. We want the same things from relationships as cisgender people. We want to be respected and valued as human beings, and we don’t want to hear about your chaser fantasies.

---

Delete your account, let’s go back to the crops

Another week in 2018, another lizard overlord sitting on a booster seat in front of Congress, sipping water with his barely concealed forked tongue and trying to evade the hard-hitting questions about data breaches from a bunch of internet-inept 72-year-old millionaires.

It is times like these, dear readers, that I long for the olden days, when I could comfortably bear seven illegitimate children for my feudal lord and die at the ripe age of 27 from plague-related symptoms. It may sound intentionally obtuse to yearn for such suffering, but at least in 1536 I could die without Mark Zuckerberg knowing what I do.

I may have drifted off track here a little bit, but my point still stands. While this may have seemed unattractive before, hopefully the data breach will provide a helpful reference point to remember exactly why this is important. With every step you take in the forest of your forefathers, knowing that your phone is in a cornfield or irreversibly melted, you can take comfort in the fact that the ghost of Steve Jobs no longer has access to your fingerprint. And if he does, he can’t come to haunt you because you’re in the woods. Everyone knows ghosts can’t enter forests because of the spiritual sovereignty of trees.

I may have drifted off track here a little bit, but my point still stands. If you absolutely must have a method of communication, go to Walmart and get a burner phone. Beyond that, my friends, it is time to return to the crops.
UM under federal investigation for sexual discrimination

RYAN OCONNELL
ryan.oconnell@umontana.edu /@ThisIsRyanOC

The University is under a federal investigation initiated Feb. 5, 2018, which is described as a sexual harassment complaint, according to the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights. Details on this case were not readily available.

Two investigations, one still open and one closed, have put the University of Montana under federal scrutiny for sexual harassment and discrimination complaints. The Department of Education recently investigated UM for reportedly failing to appropriately respond to incidents of sexual violence and retaliation, prompting a complaint of sexual discrimination by a student.

The Office of Civil Rights sent a letter to former Interim President Sheila Stearns on Nov. 27, 2017, informing her of the complaint.

According to the Nov. 27 letter, the Office of Civil Rights investigated whether the University “discriminated against the student on the basis of sex when it failed to respond appropriately to incidents of sexual violence reported by the student during the [redacted] academic year.”

President Seth Bodnar signed a voluntary resolution agreement with the OCR April 9. The resolution resolves the Nov. 27 investigation, and outlines the steps UM will take to assess and improve its ability to handle incidents of sexual assault.

In an email, UM spokesperson Paula Short said the agreement states UM will do four things:

• Look into its own process to make sure it is effective and comparable for all parties.
• Look at whether there are actions still available to the parties to address any concerns such as talking to them to let them know of changes made to procedures to improve the process.
• See if anything needs to be done to implement any changes identified that would improve the process. This could include changing guidelines, policies or procedures.
• Provide training to staff involved in the Title IX process.

The date of the initial incident was redacted from the OCR letter, which was posted on the Chronicle of Higher Education’s database of nationwide campus sexual violence.

The letter states the allegations raised by the complaint may violate Title IX.

Title IX states, “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

A spokesperson for the Department of Education wrote in an email to the Kaimin, “As a policy, the OCR does not discuss the details of its current investigations.”
Resident assistants and UM Police may have their nostrils full when a cloud of Jeff Sessions’ kryptonite floats high over the M this Friday. But which dorm takes the win on the most weed busts? According to UMPD’s crime logs, the devil’s lettuce prompted 136 calls to the campus cops this school year, from Aug. 21 through April 11. (Kudos to Dunway Hall for kicking off the semester with a call on Aug. 21, a full week before fall classes started.)

But the award for the residence hall with the most weed busts, with 33 calls to UMPD, goes to Miller Hall.

We told a few Miller Hall residents about their new status. Very few of them were surprised.

Aber Hall has had a strong second semester, 22 busts. Jesse Hall had 18.

Post this to /r/highideas: What if the people in Miller Hall don’t smoke the most, they just get busted the most?

RAs at Miller Hall told the Kaimin they take their jobs seriously. Not only is it against University policy and state law to smoke weed (dub), other students who aren’t partaking can also be affected. Heating units in the rooms are connected, so smoke and fumes can creep into neighbors’ rooms. Students complaining of headaches and allergies have had to move, one RA said.

Miller Hall nug hunts are done twice a night except on weekends, when RAs do three rounds. Students also will tip the RAs off, one said.

The biggest giveaway, said an RA, is “dank-Febreze” scenting up a hallway. Students think they’re covering their tracks, but spraying down your living space can attract attention instead of deflecting it.

Sometimes, opening the door to that ominous knock results in a warning from police and a trip to student conduct from an RA. But some students have been charged with misdemeanors in the dorms, according to the crime log.

In 2016, 20 percent of students reported using the spicy herb and only 3 percent admitted to smoking daily, according to the University’s 2016 biennial review. These figures are down from 2002, when 41 percent of students admitted to using marijuana and 8 percent took a daily dank dose.

In a February interview with the Kaimin, UMPD Captain Ben Gladwin said, “smoking in a residence hall will get you caught eventually.” When asked if students are better off burning one down outdoors or in residence halls and hiding, he said they’d “be better off not smoking at all.”

The only rational way to evade detection is to puff outdoors with your back to the wind, go to the Rec Center and take a shower, change into a second pair of clothes and get facial reconstruction surgery.

And still, good luck.
According to the diversity page on University of Montana’s website, UM recognizes the importance of a commitment to diversity and sees it as the ability to “respect, welcome, encourage, and celebrate the differences among us.”

“Diversity is not just something that you speak to,” University President Seth Bodnar told the Montana Kaimin in January. “You have to be intentional and systematic about it.”

A group of University staff and students are conducting interviews and compiling data on diversity on UM’s campus in the hope that the administration will see the data and be just that — intentional. This group defines diversity as including sexuality, religion, gender identity and ability as well as diversity of race.

Eliot Graham, a founder of the study and a postdoctoral fellow in education, said many faculty members were trying to address diversity awareness in their programs, but there was only so much that could be done, given the decentralized way diversity is addressed.

Graham said he believed having a chief diversity officer would help bring a “holistic and comprehensive approach” to diversity issues at UM.

“At our campus, there is no one person who is responsible for applying attention to all the many ways these issues play out in student life,” Graham said.

“A lot of students of color are really unhappy with their experiences here,” said Jazzie Johnson, a participant in the group and journalism student at UM. “I think that goes back to seeing … what the administration isn’t doing that makes them feel not valued and not included or supported.

“They end up leaving, or wanting to leave,” Johnson said. “I think it’d be in the University’s best interest to do whatever they can to keep those students.”

Johnson said she’s heard about some common problems in the interviews she’s conducted.

“I’ve seen some themes of financial aid not being helpful for students and making them feel like they’re not welcome here,” she said. “Mainly classroom experiences from professors making students feel put on the spot, or tokenized.”

Group members said they started the interviews by reaching out to people they knew and interviewing them about diversity at UM.

Group participant Erin Flores is studying sociology at UM with a concentration in equality and social justice. She said the research method is called the “snowball method.”

“I’ve seen some themes of financial aid not being helpful for students and making them feel like they’re not welcome here,” she said. “Mainly classroom experiences from professors making students feel put on the spot, or tokenized.”

Group members said they started the interviews by reaching out to people they knew and interviewing them about diversity at UM.

Group participant Erin Flores is studying sociology at UM with a concentration in equality and social justice. She said the research method is called the “snowball method.”

“Once you get access to one person’s perspective, they recommend other people,” Flores said. “I think too, an objective of the data that we’re collecting is not just to understand what students are experiencing, but how institutional structures, policies and practices shape those [experiences].”

The questions asked in the study vary slightly from subject to subject, and every interviewee’s identity is kept anonymous. At the end of the interview, subjects are given the opportunity to fill out a demographic survey, which Graham said helps the group identify what groups of people they’ve been missing in interviews and need to try to reach.

The discoveries the group has made so far in these interviews are spread across all aspects of campus life.

“One thing that could easily come out of this project is diversity training,” Flores said. “It could be something as easy as ally training … [on] how to be sensitive toward people from diverse backgrounds.”

Another group member, Turquoise Devereaux, has worked on similar studies before. She attended UM for her undergraduate education and is now a staff member working on her degree in social work.

“I’m here with these awesome people who have all this knowledge and have been in this profession helping native students, and I’ll go to meetings with them and they’re like, ‘We were having this same talk 20 years ago,’” Devereaux said.

She hopes the research can have an impact on the campus as an entity.

“They can sit there and talk until they’re red in the face about how they support [diversity], but until they can actually show that … then maybe we’ll move in the right direction,” she said.

The composition of the group changes slightly semester to semester. In addition to Graham, Devereaux, Johnson and Flores, the current group consists of Salena Hill, Emily Gillispie, Stephen Thompson, Jarrod Tippens, and Danielle Vazquez. None of the students involved is getting class credit for the project, but some are using pieces of their research in projects for class.

If you’re a student, staff or faculty member and wish to share your experience with this study or request to be interviewed for this study, contact Graham at eliot.graham@umontana.edu.
It doesn’t take much effort to notice there aren’t many women in high-profile leadership positions at the University of Montana. Since former interim President Sheila Stearns and former interim Provost Beverly Edmond were replaced with permanent administrators — both men — students, faculty and staff have been questioning whether diversity in leadership is a priority or not.

As it stands, four of 10 high-ranking non-interim administrators are women. There are no visible people of color in these positions.

The highest-ranking female leaders in the administration include Kelly Webster, the chief of staff; Paula Short, communications director; Jessica Weltman, Title IX coordinator; and Lucy France, legal counsel. Each of these women report to a man.

Interim Vice President of Administration and Finance Rosi Keller will likely be replaced this summer. If replaced by a man, there would be no women in the administration with the word “president” in their job title.

Jessica Weltman, UM’s Title IX coordinator, said in an email that search committees meet with Human Resource Services to discuss possible biases and try to eliminate them from the search process.

Constructing role descriptions can be critical for ensuring minority applicants aren’t deterred, Weltman said. Women tend to only apply when they feel like they meet all job criteria, while men are likely to apply when they meet only a few, she added.

All recruiting advertisements are supposed to include phrasing that encourages applicants from diverse backgrounds to apply, with preference for veteran applicants. In the description for the recently filled executive vice president and provost position, which is over 1,200 words long, diversity is mentioned twice, one of which is written as a note at the bottom of the page.

Recruitment is targeted toward underrepresented populations through advertising, Weltman said. Once individuals apply, search committees must provide written justifications to Human Resources Services explaining why a candidate is unqualified every time the search is narrowed.

The number of female deans is at its lowest in the last 10 years. Shali Zhang, dean of libraries, and Adrea Lawrence, interim dean of education, make the portion of female deans 13 percent. In 2008, 40 percent of deans were women.

The number of people of color and women of color who have served as academic officers for the past 10 years is even lower. Each year since 2008, people of color have constituted less than 10 percent.

Beverly Edmond, former interim provost, said she had a very positive experience at UM. She attributes this to working alongside former interim President Sheila Stearns, who she said is likely to have been the best president she has ever worked with.

Though she only worked with President Bodnar for a couple months, (Edmond abruptly resigned on March 19 and vacated her position 11 days later) Edmond said she thinks he brings a positive perspective to the University.

As provost, Edmond was often responsible for making tough, controversial decisions. While she said her decisions were often well-received, there were times when Edmond got very negative feedback.

“When you don’t experience things in day-to-day life, the issue becomes more abstract,” Edmond said. “There were times when I couldn’t help but wonder whether being a woman and a woman of color created some of the pushbacks I received.”

Edmond says she understands that it’s hard to develop diversity at a primarily white institution. However, the UM has yet to make a firm commitment to diversity.

“There’s a balance of making fair decisions and making decisions that are sensitive of actionable support for diversifying an institution,” Edmond said. “UM needs to come to grips with much more specific plans to create diversity.”

Edmond has worked at a multitude of institutions with a “robust” diversity structure, she said. UM is not one of them, she added.

One way UM fails is in recruitment of students, faculty and staff, Edmond said. While there is no guarantee an institution will bring in groups of people from diverse backgrounds, the University isn’t sending an encouraging signal to bring them here.

Edmond said she wants to be surrounded by people who are confident and capable of doing their jobs. Having coworkers from different backgrounds and experiences helps a group see things from multiple angles, something critical to solving problems, she said.

“We, as women, bring a certain set of experiences to a leadership position,” Edmond said. “There are women and people of color who would be excellent candidates.”

Not including interims, 14 academic officer positions have been held by only men since 2008. Only one position has been held by women only since then.
Female academic officers were replaced by men more than twice as often as male academic officers were replaced by women over the last 10 years, not including interims.

Bailey Durnell works for the Student Involvement Network at UM, where she leads diversity initiatives such as the Feminist Fight Club. She said as a student, she’s extremely disappointed with the lack of diversity in leadership at UM.

When Sheila Stearns and Beverly Edmond were appointed as interim president and provost, Durnell said she was thrilled to know the University was pushing for underrepresented leaders. But when finalists were named for those positions, Durnell said she felt like it was apparent those kind of leaders were never supposed to serve beyond an interim capacity.

For both the president and provost search, a very low percentage of women even applied for the position. Only 19 out of 99 applicants for university president were women, and six out of 49 applicants for provost were women, according to the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, the search firm UM used for those positions.
According to UM’s Diversity in Recruitment website, the University has specified language and requirements for recruitment advertisements and search committees. Additionally, more than one minority candidate is supposed to be brought for “the campus visit.”

For both the president and provost searches, only one finalist who visited UM fit the criteria. Both Mirta Martin, a presidential candidate, and Lynn Okagaki, a provost candidate, were non-white and female.

When only one finalist for a position comes from a minority background, the odds of that candidate being hired are extremely small, according to a Harvard University study. The ratio of male to female finalists for the president and provost searches were 3:1 and 2:1, respectively. Non-minority, male candidates were ultimately chosen for both positions.

Durnell’s first concerns came when she began researching president finalist Mirta Martin. While her resume held everything Durnell would want from a University president, all it took was a simple Google search to find multiple red flags about Martin’s history. Durnell said she doesn’t know a single student who thought “Mirta was the one.”

Durnell said she was optimistic Beverly Edmond, a strong, confident woman of color, would be replaced by someone with a similar background. But when Lynn Okagaki was again the only non-white woman in the finalist pool, the process felt incredibly similar.

Okagaki was quieter and had a softer demeanor than the other candidates. When she was evaluated by students, faculty and staff, most noted her feminine characteristics before her merit, Durnell said.

Okagaki’s criticisms were rooted in sexism that wouldn’t translate into confidence that she could do the job, Durnell said. Despite the fact she is excited to see incoming provost Jon Harbor serve UM, Durnell said she can’t help but be upset that the search committees didn’t do a better job of bringing in or hiring more diverse candidates.

“All of it feels fishy,” Durnell said. “There’s always a sexist tinge to how men make decisions.”

Seeing women in leadership matters, she said. When women are considering applying to leadership positions at UM, seeing a cluster of white men will matter to them too, she said.

Having women in leadership is a “catalyst for change,” Durnell said. Without them, change will happen much more slowly, and that’s a problem, she said.

“I don’t think female candidates have been treated fairly,” Durnell said. “Saying we want the best candidate regardless of sex is implying a woman
Tobin Miller Shearer, director of the African-American Studies program, is also disappointed by representation in leadership at UM.

The University has to work against sexism and racism every time it recruits people to a position, Shearer said. But in order to improve this, UM needs to invest time and resources toward solving the problem.

Shearer said he was happy to see Kelly Webster appointed as chief of staff, but is concerned that not having women in high-profile positions will have a negative effect on the University.

“We have to be more vigilant to ensure administrators are representing diversity,” Shearer said. “We need to be very deliberate about filling remaining positions with people who don’t all look like each other.”

Until there are more tangible actions to improve diversity, there will continue to be a huge gap between the University’s actions and its core values, Shearer said.

The Diversity Advisory Council (DAC), under the office of the president, is supposed to enhance diversity in all parts of campus. Developing recruitment strategies to attract a broader range of students and employees is one of the council’s priorities.

According to the council’s minutes, President Bodnar said it is “not just right, but critical” to focus on diversity in leadership, faculty, staff and the student body.

Wilena Old Person, co-chair of the DAC, said she was the only person of color on the council when she first joined. Since then, she has helped the council diversify to include people who are from a much broader range of backgrounds.

Old Person said the council now has an active role in all searches, usually at least one seat on the search committee. It promotes both diversity in sight and diversity in thought for leaders on campus, she said.

The council strives to ensure that diversity is part of everything on campus, not just in the diversity strategic plan, Old Person said. Holding leaders accountable to UM’s value of diversity will be a challenge as more administrative positions are filled, she said.

In the next year, the council hopes to hire a chief diversity officer to promote diversity at UM.

Mariah Welch, a student on the DAC, said while the development of this position is in motion, there has been a lack of enthusiasm from leadership.

President Bodnar continues to ask the DAC for more information about what the council want from a chief diversity officer, but hasn’t shown a lot of genuine interest in a new addition to the administration, Welch said. The council is becoming discouraged and continues to wonder why Bodnar isn’t more excited, she said.

“Bodnar needs to be uplifting women’s and minority voices,” Welch said. “We need to be more mindful about the fact that we should be supporting underrepresented groups.”

Welch is also on the search committee for UM’s new vice president of administration and finance. The committee is trying to attract more female candidates by listing only the top requirements so more women feel qualified, Welch said.

“Having a diverse campus starts at administration,” Welch said. “It trickles down to the staff and faculty to bring in more diverse students from different backgrounds.”
Calling out today’s American Idiots in new UM stage show

The first scene of the University of Montana production of “American Idiot” is set on Groundhog Day. This date is intentional and provokes an eerie feeling of early 2000s déjà vu, a nightmare of running in circles doomed to repeat the past. It is 2018 and our nation is still full of the same kind of angst, dealing with the same kind of issues.

University of Montana Theatre and Dance knew the edgy “American Idiot” musical would be relevant, with a strong message about neglected youth and need for change.

Green Day’s seventh studio album, the punk rock opera “American Idiot,” was released two months before George W. Bush’s reelection and became a staple of political protest. Reconstructed as a musical in 2009, it follows Johnny, Tunny and Will, disgruntled young adults attempting to escape suburbia. Their lives don’t amount to what they’d hoped, as they face the devastation of war, drug addiction and loss of love.

Aline Dufflocq Williams, who plays Whatsername, said it’s important to produce work that speaks to people who are frustrated with the government, because audiences are open and receptive now.

She said the show is about youth culture’s loss of direction when ignored by the government and the “cyclical pattern we are all in as human beings.”

The show’s director, Pamyla Stiehl, regards it as “a rally cry to get your asses off the couch and go do something.” Drawing connections from the Bush era to our current political climate, she said the only thing that has changed is the activism of youth.

With cutting edge scenes of sex, drugs and rock and roll, the cast doesn’t hold back. Diego Solan Kjelland plays the lead role of Johnny, whose drug addled alter-ego St. Jimmy, played by Danielle Sather, makes ongoing appearances.

Kjelland said he’s seen addiction firsthand through friends and family members. He highlighted the importance of showing the “grimy, dirtiness of what heroin can do to you and how it can take control of your life.”

During a performance of “21 Guns,” the cast takes the front of the stage in a stripped-down moment, their eyes pleading for change.

In the background, a montage of images from the Columbine school shooting vigils plays in tribute to the many young lives that have been lost to gun violence since 1999.

This scene is a turning point in the musical. From a focus on personal conflict, the show evolves outward into a larger political message addressing the problems we can no longer push aside.

Stiehl, reflecting on her time in the Seattle punk scene, regards rock as her passion outside of musical theater. In order to capture an authentic punk vibe, she has allowed her actors freedom on stage by “taking them out of cliché choices into realness.”

“She made [realness] a point from day one … For us to look like this is an actual response to how angry we are feeling,” said actor Curen Feliciani, who plays Will.

Stiehl appreciates the outrageous political statements of Green Day but also noted, “The sound is only as good as the mindset, spirit and energy that is underneath it.”

She recruited her son’s guitar teacher, Josh Farmer, and his band to supply raw power chords and catchy melodies, rocking out onstage with the characters and fueling the performance.

Farmer enjoys the rebellious nature of Green Day’s “American Idiot” and how “it kind of said ‘fuck you’ to the whole George Bush Iraq invasion.”

Farmer is not the only Green Day fan in the cast. Feliciani has a “21st Century Breakdown” poster and used to listen to “Dookie” in the car with his dad. “American Idiot” was the first album he bought on his iPod Nano.

Kjelland, who bought a $5 guitar at a garage sale over the summer to prepare for his role, has enjoyed the time and effort he put into learning the songs. He now calls himself a solo guitar player and even writes his own music.

Kjelland has injected a lot of his own personality into his role. “I think it is a cool way for me to leave a mark on my teen stages … We are both young men going into a world trying to make our mark.”

Antonio Armagno, who plays Tunny, said while they have captured the punk aesthetic, there are some topics, like transphobia, homophobia and feminism, that were not fully addressed in the construction of the original musical.

“Now we have the cultural context to educate people, and I feel like we do that, but we could take it further,” he said.

Stiehl said while it’s a progressive step in showing socially conscious work, future department seasons will depend on box office sales and satisfying the Missoula community as a whole.

Love it or hate it, the cast is hopeful for a strong reaction.

“This is about the real political times we are in,” Farmer said.

“This is about our lives, about our youth and our future. I hope it makes people think and possibly be a little upset. That would be fucking awesome. It is punk, and that was the whole idea behind the punk movement.”

The play runs April 18-29 in the Montana Theatre of the UM PARTV building.
EARTH WEEK EXHIBIT

Oval exhibit shines light on Earth’s past, present and future

KAILYN MERCER
kailyn.mercer@umontana.edu/@kailyn_mercer

This year’s Earth Week celebrations will see the University of Montana’s Oval surrounded by captivating images depicting the last billion or so years of Earth’s history. Physicist Sidney Liebes created the “Walk Through Time” exhibit in 1997, an installment that provides education, entertainment and a warning. It was gifted to UM thanks to the efforts of former professor of conservation Vicki Watson, who hopes visitors will leave the Oval exhibit with a greater understanding of how human existence came to be and how remarkable the planet is.

“While science describes the formation of our solar system and the start of life on earth, [our existence] is still a miracle,” Watson said. “Visitors will walk through time and see what it took to get [humankind] here.”

This is the second year the “Walk Through Time” will be displayed on campus. There are only three such exhibits in existence, including one in Europe and another on the East Coast. The exhibit will run until Earth Day, April 22.

The exhibit made an appearance at the Hamilton County Fair last May and is planned to be displayed at UM’s own organic PEAS farm.

Watson hopes the exhibit offers people a new way to reflect on the world as it was, is, and might become. In the hope that a face-to-face educational environment will surface, Watson has asked members of Missoula’s science community to attend the exhibit on April 18 between 12 and 3 p.m.

The exhibit consists of museum-like signs that depict synopses of eras throughout time, from the beginning of the universe to present day. While the project educates visitors on where humankind came from, it also tries to provide a warning to current generations. Though Elon Musk has set our eyes on Mars, we only have one home planet.

“Humans have become powerful enough to really damage this world,” Watson said. “And we have done some damage. We have to learn to live on this planet and learn how to not damage it.”

FILM FESTIVAL

One fish, two fish, red fish, albatross? Wildlife film festival touches on all corners of the globe

MICAH DREW
micah.drew@umontana.edu/@micahddrew

In 1977, a grizzled Montana bear biologist had an idea. Films about wildlife were a genre that deserved their own celebration — a festival held in Missoula. Within a decade, wildlife film festivals had sprung up around the world, but they owe it all to the success of the original.

Billed as the longest running event of its kind, the International Wildlife Film Festival turns 41 this year and once again calls the Roxy Theater home. This year’s festival kicked off on April 14, showcasing dozens of wildlife films, interviews with directors, podcast discussions and even an eco-friendly fashion show.

The event started with a costumed “Wildwalk” parade through downtown on Saturday and a kickoff party at Caras Park.

From there, it’s nonstop films and activities for a week. While most of the activities and screenings take place at the Roxy, there was a free event at the Dennison Theatre on April 16. A National Geographic Society’s Beyond Yellowstone program leader, Chris Johnson, and filmmaker Joe Riis discussed wolves in Yellowstone National Park. A screening of the film “The Trouble With Wolves” followed.

The rest of the films cover every corner of the globe — you can watch the story of the last male northern white rhino, fly across the ocean on the nine-foot wingspan of an albatross, witness the adventures of the American pika and see the human efforts to protect ecosystems worldwide. It’s like eight days of the BBC documentary “Planet Earth” with less British commentary.

The IWFF runs from April 14 through April 22. All-access passes for the festival are available for students for $100. Visit wildlifefilms.org for more information.
The annual spring football game drew just over 6,000 fans on Saturday in Bobby Hauck’s first public game since his return to the University of Montana.

Still without next year’s incoming freshmen, Montana didn’t have enough offensive lineman or defensive backs to split everyone into two separate teams. The offense scrimmaged the defense in Washington Grizzly Stadium in a game that featured a well-balanced performance from both sides.

“I really like our team. The buy-in and investment have been total and complete,” head coach Bobby Hauck said. “I think they trust the coaching staff and our know-how, and they want to win a championship.”

Perhaps the most important moment of the day came at halftime, when the Griz announced Jesse Sims will wear the legacy No. 37 this season. The number is passed down from player to player. The only stipulation is the player has to be from Montana, but it traditionally goes to someone who has proven excellence on and off the field.

Former Griz Tucker Schye, who previously wore the number, handed it down to Sims, a redshirt-junior from Stevensville.

“I was very surprised… It means a lot to me, there have been a lot of great guys who wore this number before me;” Sims said. “I’m very honored to be a part of it.”

While Sims didn’t record any individual stats in the spring game, the defense showed its potential, recording 78 tackles and four sacks, while also intercepting the quarterback three times.

The play of the game came from Michael McGinnis, who picked off Gresch Jensen and sped up the field for 32 yards. Another highlight came when third-string quarterback Tanner Wilson threw the ball right to defensive back Kobey Eaton, who is new to the position after playing wide receiver his first two years. He took that 15 yards to the house for the only defensive score of the day.

Shayne Cochran and Marcus Welnel led the defense with seven tackles each. Jace Lewis recorded five tackles.

“Defense needs to come up with it once in a while,” Hauck said. “Defensively we have to continue to get after them and that’s a good sign.”

The offense racked up 439 total yards. Dalton Sneed, who started at quarterback, completed 13 of 16 passes, throwing for a touchdown and one interception. Sneed’s longest pass came when he connected with Jerry Louie-McGee for 34 yards.

Jensen bounced back from a tough start to have a solid outing at quarterback, but it was hard to gauge considering he only threw nine passes. He completed five of those passes, including a 50-yard bomb to wide receiver Samori Toure.

After getting limited playing time in the first scrimmage, the redshirt freshman Wilson played the entire second half. He completed 6-of-10 for 123 yards and one touchdown. His longest pass came when he hit Malik Flowers for 49 yards.

The deep receiving corps looked like the best unit for Montana. Thirteen different players caught a pass and five players had over 40 yards in receiving. Toure had four receptions for 94 yards and a score. Samuel Akem and Keenan Curran had a combined six receptions for 91 yards, while Curran also had two touchdowns.

“This is the best receiving corps I’ve been with hands down,” said Sneed, who played at UNLV and Fort Scott Community College before transferring to UM. “You can trust anybody on the field at any time.”

Alijah Lee and Rey Green carried the ball a total of 14 times for 57 yards. Lee only carried the ball four times, but managed to average eight yards per carry. Green punched in two touchdowns.

Hauck said the team will start to get into conditioning and strength training and then take a week off before summer camp, which starts at the end of May and runs until the end of July.
Views from the 406: Sneed ahead in QB battle

When Dalton Sneed transferred to Montana after the announcement that Bobby Hauck would return to coach football, the move seemed like one made out of desperation. Montana would be Sneed’s third team in as many years after leaving UNLV for Fort Scott Community College in Kansas.

The Griz had a junior college transfer the year before, Caleb Hill, who is now serving as a tight end after struggling in his backup role a year ago. Adding Sneed provided at least some competition for the returning starter Gresch Jensen. Sneed joined redshirt-freshman Tanner Wilson as the only other quarterbacks on the roster for the spring. Freshman Garrett Graves will come in the fall, but will likely redshirt in his first year at UM.

Still, the move seemed like it would all but guarantee Sneed spent the rest of his career on the bench, barring injuries.

After all, Jensen played in 10 games during his redshirt-freshman season in 2017, completing over 60 percent of his passes. He threw for over 2,500 yards and 20 touchdowns in former coach Bob Stitt’s up-tempo, air-it-out offense.

The coaching change mixed things up though. Sneed began his career at UNLV, where he was recruited by then-head coach Bobby Hauck. Hauck gets back a player he once thought to be the future of his program, while Jensen has to prove himself all over again.

So far in the spring, it has been Sneed who looks like the better of the two quarterbacks. His passes are crisp all around the field and he looks more comfortable with the new offense than Jensen.

The two quarterbacks both struggled, statistically, in the first public scrimmage of the spring. It was a completely opposite story in the spring game on Saturday, where in front of 6,000-plus fans, Sneed put on a show.

He started the game and led the Griz to a couple of long, smooth touchdown drives. He finished the day 13-of-16 for 136 yards and a score. His only mistake came late in the half when he was intercepted looking for a big play down the left sideline.

Jensen, meanwhile, struggled in his opening drives. Montana had two straight three-and-outs with Jensen under center. He was sacked twice and the offense looked lost. After going back-and-forth the first couple drives, the coaching staff left Jensen on the field.

Three plays in, he threw an interception. Sneed took over on the next series and scored for the third time in as many drives.

Jensen would eventually settle in and throw for 123 yards and a 50-yard touchdown pass to a wide open Samori Toure.

The competition is a great thing for the two players and the team as a whole. Montana is loaded at the wide receiver position and new offensive coordinator Timm Rosenbach has proven so far he will throw the ball a lot. Quarterback for the 2018 Grizzlies will be a fun position, and after watching the spring game on Saturday, Sneed seems to be the frontrunner.

JACKSON WAGNER
jackson.wagner@umontana.edu
@jackson_wagner
Sign or renew your lease and you could win a semester of FREE RENT!

The earlier you sign, the more chances you have to win!

- **APRIL**: Free pizza for a year!
- **MAY**: Free groceries for a year!
- **JUNE**: Free gas for a year!
- **JULY**: Free rent for a semester!

http://liveatroam.com/