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Montana Kaimin, October 24, 2018

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Making voices heard

Reading Kailyn Mercer’s piece on not being believed when coming forward about abuse, I was struck with how much I related to her experience.

It’s been five years since I left my abuser’s home, and I am still unable to write about what happened to me. I can barely even talk about it because the fear of not being believed is paralyzing. The thought that someone will say that I deserved it is enough to keep me quiet nearly all of the time.

But when I got to the end of Kailyn’s piece, I really wanted to call out to her. I ached to say, “You can’t give an uplifting ending, but it’s okay. Because I’m here.”

Hopefully someday I will be able to tell my own story. Right now, though, it’s groundbreaking to see someone else speaking out. Sometimes what you need is a platform, and sometimes what you need is someone else to say what you can’t.

Hero LeMaster, student

Why should you VOTE YES on the 6 Mill Levy?

Missoula! Nov. 6 is right around the corner, and 6 Mill is up for a vote.

There are a few misconceptions about 6 Mill I would love to dismantle:

First: the 6 Mill Levy is NOT a new tax. This tax has been a part of Montana for 70 years. It is an important part of our history.

Second: it is not strictly a liberal issue. 6 Mill is supported by all parties because it is good for the economy and good for young Montanans.

The main point of 6 Mill is to keep tuition down. That’s it. It could not be more simple. Remember, Montana believes in us, that is why it put 6 Mill in place in 1948. All we have to do is renew this incredibly valuable plan to keep our tuition down.

A YES to 6 Mill is a YES to Montana and a YES to affordable, higher education.

Elizabeth Quackenbush, student

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?

Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

FEATURE PHOTO

Joshua Bacha, of local psychedelic rock band Charcoal Squids, performs in costume for the second-annual Ghost Carrot Records Festival, Oct. 20, 2018. Bacha and his band mates put on a three-day music and art festival at the Union Ballroom, which brought in a dozen touring groups from the Northwest.

PHOTO DONAL LAKATUA

THE ONE PLACE WHERE WE TRY TO BE FUNNY

BIG UPS & BACKHANDS

Big Ups to Trump for noticing the sky in “Big Sky Country” is big and pretty. You really have the best words.

Backhands to UM Athletics for... we forgot...oh wait! The concussion thing.

Big Ups to the trees for being the only thing on campus lookin finer than Seth Bodnar.

KAIMIN COMIC

Kailyn Mercer's piece on not being believed when coming forward about abuse...
OPINION

VETERANS' VOICES

Speaking to a forgotten campus community

Given that Veterans' Voices is a new and likely recurring column, I wanted to start off by explaining why I'm doing this and for whom.

My name is Paul Tiede and I was in the United States Marine Corps as an infantryman for nine years. I speak military language fluently and know the culture intimately. I was also in the Navy for four years. I have jumped out of every imaginable Air Force transport airframe, and have attended three U.S. Army Schools (Airborne, Ranger and the Infantry Officer Advanced Course). I have even worked with the Coast Guard, so no one is left out of this forum. As such, I feel at home with all veterans in all conditions.

I am hoping to speak primarily to those members of the student body, faculty and staff who have served in the armed forces of the United States.

Why do we want to do this? Well, for starters, we want to create a discussion forum for this unique population of individuals who may have specialized needs depending on their service backgrounds.

The reality is military personnel make up a sizable portion of our student body, with roughly 500 active full- and part-time students out of a total student body of roughly 12,000 individuals (or about 4 percent). They do not, however, represent a large portion of our graduating classes. It is one of my missions to increase this graduation rate in addition to making a more meaningful university experience for those returning veterans of all ages and all services.

The military is a subset of society with its own language, culture and rich history of traditions. While veterans certainly do not want to be treated in a special manner, they do want to be engaged with and heard on their level. I want any communication with the military community here on campus to be an open dialogue, not a one-way street, so please reach out to me with those issues and concerns that are on your mind. I'm sincerely committed to creating solutions for the daily realities you are facing and the “boots on the ground” concerns that are often overlooked by the higher echelons of university leadership.

I would love to hear directly from you. Please feel free to contact me through email or stop by my office in the Kaimin newsroom on the 2nd floor of Don Anderson Hall. I look forward to being your representative in the same manner as the “Stars and Stripes” writers of old. What can the Kaimin do to be your advocate? I remain, Semper Fi.

CALL ME BERNIE SANDERS

A bad time to be young

If you’re a student at UM who works a full- or part-time job to keep a roof over your head and food (and a little beer) in your belly, do you feel like your wages are among the fastest growing in the nation?

That’s a completely rhetorical question, as the answer is painfully obvious to most of us.

In a recent report issued by the U.S. Census Bureau, Missoula’s household median wage growth ranked fifth nationally. Furthermore, Montana as a whole has the country’s highest growth in median household income in 2018, with California in third. The state of California, on its own, has the world’s fifth largest economy.

In dollars and cents, Missoula’s median household income stands at about $54,300. That’s a 4.7 percent increase from last year.

While this all sounds peachy for Missoula, it doesn’t necessarily mean everyone in this city is actually benefiting.

The median income for college students lies between $19,000 and $21,000 per year. For many, that dollar amount is substantially lower.

It’s no shock that college kids are typically poor, and that’s generally accepted as reasonable. Being a student is a temporary financial state that is, in principle, supposed to springboard individuals into the next stage of fiscal life.

The reason I’m focusing on a dry census report is because there are larger forces, and more meaningful factors, at work to consider.

National median earnings for 20- to 24-year-olds declined from $22,300 in 1980 to $17,500 in 2012, and haven’t recovered in any meaningful way since.

In 1991, all 50 states combined appropriated about $85 billion for higher education. In 2015, those states appropriated about $82 billion dollars. Adjusting for inflation, that $85 billion in 1991 would have a rough net worth of about $147 billion in today’s dollars.

In other words, overall government spending on higher education has fallen by a staggering 74 percent.

Compare that large cut in spending with a huge increase in post-secondary enrollment, 28 percent from 2000 to 2016. Finally, college tuition in Montana has increased by more than 60 percent in the last 20 years, inflation adjusted.

All these factors taken together start to show a narrative. As students, we are on a historical downside that shows society’s apathy toward higher education. Tuition has increased, government spending for higher education has decreased, our meager income is stagnant at best, and overall student debt is growing at astonishing rates.

In a concentrated examination of this census report, all seems sunny and happy in Missoula. However, for a large and important subset of people here, this report tells another story: older generations prospering at the expense of young people.

Call me Bernie Sanders, but $15 an hour and socialized college tuition is sounding less and less crazy by the day.

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WE DON’T NEED NO EDUCATION

Budget cuts risk turning Gen Eds into a turf war

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In light of budget and staffing cuts, general education requirements risk becoming lifelines for enrollment, rather than foundations for an education.

Gen Ed is a set of requirements all students must fulfill to graduate. The Gen Ed Committee ft. Faculty Senate has been working on a pilot program for a new Gen Ed model for next fall. Its work coincided with UM’s announcement of instructional budget targets, which will require cuts in many departments.

On Oct. 11, Faculty Senate rejected a change to the current Gen Ed model. The change would have redefined the natural science category to include certain computer science courses.

ASUM Student Sen. Eli Brown, 20, said every department has an interest in minimizing the competition for courses in the Gen Ed category it covers.

“It would make sense that each department is interested in making sure that computer science doesn’t fall under its general education credit,” Brown said. “That would affect the number of students taking general education courses taught by their professors, which would decrease their credit hours and put them at risk for budget cuts.”

The pilot for a new Gen Ed model started with a request from Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jon Harbor, according to Faculty Senate Chair-elect Mark Pershouse.

Professor Doug Coffin said in a meeting that doing nothing is not an option.

“The reason the provost brought this to the faculty is because the University gets constant complaints from students and parents alike that Gen Ed courses are costing them an extra semester or an extra year in their curriculum,” Coffin said.

Gen Ed Committee Chair James Randall said some faculty and students think Gen Ed requirements are too complicated.

Brown, the student senator, sent out a survey to alumni and current students on Oct. 9. The survey is ongoing, but Brown said a majority so far do not find Gen Ed difficult to understand.

Computer science professor Travis Wheeler said the proposal originated with ASUM senators.

Former ASUM Sen. Colin Milton, 20, said in an email he was involved in the push to get computer science classes into Gen Ed. He said he felt it made sense given the presence of computers and technology in the modern world.

Liz Ametsbichler, chair of the department of modern and classical languages and literatures, said she’s uncertain how Gen Ed changes will affect the department, which is slated for a 33 percent budget cut.

“I really don’t know what’s going to happen,” Ametsbichler said. “Having a language requirement might still help in the survival game.”

Randall said the Gen Ed Committee is still discussing the pilot program, which will be introduced as an option for students in fall 2019.

“Students should always be concerned that their education is the top priority of the administration,” Brown said, “especially regarding General Education.”

TECHNOLOGY WOES HURT RECRUITMENT

Glitchy software hinders UM’s recruitment efforts

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Prospective students of the University of Montana did not consistently receive recruitment information they wanted due to a software glitch while enrollment dropped, according to Cathy Cole, UM’s enrollment and communications head.

Prospective students signed up to receive emails and mailers from UM because they were interested in coming. The system was marking materials as sent when they had not been. It has since been fixed, but had been malfunctioning since at least May, if not longer, Cole said.

The glitch played a part in a video analyzing marketing materials from MSU and UM by the Kaimin. The Kaimin signed up to receive materials from both schools on Oct. 29, 2017, but the majority of both paper and digital materials came from MSU.

Because the Kaimin received next to nothing from UM between October and April, and the problem was still present when Cole arrived on campus, it was likely malfunctioning for at least eight months. For eight months, prospective students were receiving next to no marketing materials from UM despite showing interest.

“We thought everything was great, and it wasn’t,” Cole said.

Some of the recruiting emails were sent, but it was not consistent. Cole said she signed up to see what kind of materials were being used at the time while applying for the job. She used her dog’s name to sign up, but never got any emails. She said she also heard from people in Missoula that local students were not receiving recruitment information.

This fall, UM saw a 9.3 percent decrease in the freshman class compared to last year. The year before, freshmen had increased about 2 percent. The University’s struggle with declining enrollment has led to a budget crisis that appears to be culminating in faculty layoffs.

Although this year’s freshmen are down, Cole announced at an Oct. 11 Faculty Senate meeting that applications to UM increased by 123 percent and acceptances rose 333 percent in the past three months compared to last year.

Cole said there will be dummy email accounts consistently monitored to ensure the error doesn’t happen again.

President Seth Bodnar restored $1 million to the admissions and enrollment budget, which had been allocated elsewhere a few years ago. Last year, the Kaimin reported that MSU spent nearly twice as much as UM on recruiting and admissions, so the restoration may begin to even the playing field.

Cole, who was hired in June, is working on a number of other projects to improve recruitment and retention, including a call center that should be fully staffed by Thanksgiving. Current students will receive calls alerting them of various deadlines and staff will be available to answer questions over Facebook messenger.

She also said her office is working to improve customer service and communications in financial aid, which is backlogged and short-staffed.

“We want students to feel valued when they walk into financial aid,” Cole said.
Missoula College students may have to cross a river to get the services they need.

Missoula College, located across the Clark Fork from UM’s main campus, is the University’s two-year technical college. Its staff was cut as UM centralized student services on the main campus to deal with ongoing budget challenges. Some Missoula College faculty are concerned this will affect student retention.

“We end up losing students because of frustration,” Hospitality Management Director Aimee Elliott said. “It would be nice to see some more student services, especially on campus, because it’s a hassle for people trying to get over to the Mountain Campus.”

Elliott said UM centralized staff offices around the time Missoula College moved to its current location in 2017. She said UM had been combining offices even before then.

Since 2016, Missoula College’s permanent staff dropped from 13 to 10, according to UM Human Resources. These numbers don’t break down full-time versus part-time positions. Some staff split their time between Missoula College and the main campus.

Radiologic technology professor Anne Delaney said Missoula College lost several student services, including offices for the registrar, admissions and financial aid.

“I think we’re not giving them all the opportunities to succeed at Missoula College without having more visible student services,” Delaney said. “If we can help our students succeed at Missoula College, they can become transfers to the Mountain Campus, which is really something we want to see happen.”

Delaney said financial aid was a big problem this semester. Financial Aid Director Kent McGowan said there were some substantial delays this semester for UM students, not just for Missoula College students.

 McGowan said UM moved all financial aid processing to the main campus in 2010. He said financial aid in Missoula College continued to operate until 2013, but was reduced to staffing the office on a semi-regular basis until 2016. He said they did not get the traffic they needed to continue doing that.

Missoula College supplemented student services with a student advocates program that started this fall. Learning Center Director Betsy Cincoksi said students staff the front desk and provide a face for Missoula College.

Student Advocate SJ Peters said she helps direct students and parents where they need to go, and she thinks the program is a good idea.

“Before, you would wander around with no one to help you,” Peters said. “Now, there’s not so many lost people.”

The phrase “budget changes” usually conveys an image of a grim reaper swinging a scythe at UM’s beloved programs. While that’s often the case, not all programs are getting cuts.

Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies, African American Studies and the College of Forestry and Conservation were all given budget increases in UM’s Academic Instructional Budget Targets 2021. But it’s not as shiny as it may seem.

These changes aren’t necessarily increases in the operational or academic budgets of these programs. Most will shift where faculty paychecks come from.

African-American Studies director Tobin Miller Shearer said his time has always been split between the history and AAS departments. But it has always been paid fully through the history department, he added. The 3 percent budget increase will help put those funds toward designated purposes instead of paying faculty salaries.

DeLuca said while this is a step in a good direction, it does put pressure on his college. According to DeLuca, faculty members receive about 60 percent of their salaries from the general fund. About 75 percent of salaries should be paid from the general fund, he said.

“All of a sudden, we have to cover these salaries,” DeLuca said.

The college recently did an “enormous” amount of staff reductions, as many departments did. But DeLuca said retention in the college is high and holding steady, with close to 740 undergrad students and a wildlife biology program that is ranked No. 1 in the nation.

Elizabeth Hubble, the director of the WGSS program, said the department isn’t sure what it’s going to do with the 58 percent increase, but that it’s not as much as it might seem on paper.
OCT. 9: PUT THE COOKIE DOWN!
A UC student employee was charged with misdemeanor theft after being caught stealing snacks from the UC Game Room. The presumably hungry student was caught after being suspected in a cash theft from another UC business. The cash grab is part of an ongoing investigation. This was just a snack break.

OCT. 9: GONE IN 60 SECONDS
UMPD was called to Craig Hall to sniff out a suspect marijuana scent. Although it only took a minute for police to respond, the noxious odor had already dissipated. “It was probably pretty faint to begin with,” said UMPD Captain Ben Gladwin.

OCT. 10: MORE CAMERAS MISSING
Video recording equipment belonging to the University softball program was taken from the Dornblaser Sports Complex. Two Sony mini-camcorders, an iPod and a JBL speaker, were removed from the storage area. The cameras are used to shoot training videos. Gladwin said he was comfortable calling the case a burglary and that there was no sign of forced entry.

OCT. 11: WE CAN STILL BE FRIENDS... RIGHT?
A former UM employee was banned by UMPD, which bans him from returning to campus. The man was visiting the music building often enough to become a disruption to the learning environment. His visits, romantic in nature, began amicably, but crossed a line. A woman may be obtaining a restraining order against him.

OCT. 11: HOPPIN’ JALOPY
A group of males were observed in the wild, jumping up and down on top of a car. An officer arrived to find the men, as well as the car, gone. “It’s not a crime to break your own stuff,” Gladwin said.

OCT. 12: BIKE SEAT BLUES
Someone removed the seat of a bicycle on the north side of Knowles Hall. Gladwin said there was potential for surveillance footage.

OCT. 13: KNOCK-KNOCK
UMPD was called to Aber Hall to investigate a potent pot potpourri. Police located the gateway to hell, but no one answered the door. The case was referred to Student Conduct.

OCT. 15: CORPORATE BOOKSTORES SUCK
UMPD responded to a shoplifting in progress at the UC Bookstore. Even though it only took a minute for police to respond, the suspect had escaped. The investigation is open and security footage is being reviewed.

OCT. 16: THE THIEF OF BILLINGS
UMPD arrested a man on three outstanding $15,000 warrants for burglary, felony possession of a dangerous drug and felony theft at Dornblaser Field. The man was arrested during UMPD’s investigation of the missing softball camera equipment, but it was determined he was not involved. “It turned out he was related to a burglary, just not ours,” Gladwin said.

OCT. 17: TWO POTS, PLEASE
The University Villages played host to a notorious nostril nuke, while an offensive skunky odor emitted from somewhere deep in Aber Hall. UMPD were unable to triangulate the scents’ sources.

OCT. 18: IF YOU GO BIG ON LUXURY, DON’T GO CHEAP ON SECURITY
A 2012 red-and-black Crux Elite bicycle, valued at $1,600 was stolen from the bike rack near the Clapp Building. There is no security footage. Do not use a cable lock.

OCT. 18: HOMO CLEPTUM LIBRI
A person carrying a stack of books was stopped from exiting the UC Bookstore by an employee. The person put the books down and left the store. The bookworm had passed the point of purchase, and was on his or her way to the exit. Gladwin said the department is looking at security footage.
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DIFFERENT GAMES, DIFFERENT ATHLETES, SAME COMMITMENT

STORY BY ZACHARY FLICKINGER
PHOTOS BY SARA DIGGINS
Seven men lined up at the goal line, staring down another seven players 70 yards away. As the disc was flung through the air, the two teams dashed onto the field, watching the Frisbee, ready to get their chance to “floss” or “sky” one another.

This is Smokejump, UM’s premier ultimate Frisbee team.

“Floss” and “sky” are both terms used to describe a player making a great play or jumping higher than their opponents to catch the disc.

Ultimate Frisbee is played on a 70-yard field with 10-yard end zones on each side. A team wins by reaching the set point limit, usually 15, and winning by two points, creating tense back-and-forth action.

Ultimate uses two primary throws: a forehand and a backhand. It also incorporates field-length hammer throws, when the disc is thrown with the arm motion of throwing a baseball.

The defensive schemes are almost identical to football, playing man and zone coverages. The offensive has three different strategies: vertical, stack and split.

Around 50 potential team members tried out for the team at the beginning of the semester, one of whom was freshman Noah Fields.

Fields hadn’t played ultimate before and didn’t think it would be as challenging as high school soccer had been. He was expecting something more like intramural sports, but when he arrived to see a series of agility drills set out by the captains, he realized it was the real deal.

Five weeks in, Fields has become a Frisbee junkie. He praised the apolitical atmosphere and the captains’ ability to teach the rookies.

“Instead of starting with people that are at my skill level and working up with them, we are thrown right into the mix that are throwing sick passes and making crazy layouts,” Fields said.

Senior captain Ty Lynch described ultimate as a composite of college sports.

“Ultimate is if you take the movements of soccer, with the endzones of football, and had to score by catching the disc but not running it in,” Lynch said.

Lynch’s favorite aspect of ultimate is the self-officiating on the field.

“Spirit of the game is our No. 1 rule in ultimate,” said Lynch. “Everyone needs to know all the rules. Don’t take advantage of one another and play with honor.”

A college ultimate team progresses through sectionals, regionals and then nationals. Each tournament is pool play with three to five games played on Saturday and a bracket created on Sunday.

Up until you reach nationals, each game is officiated by both teams with no assigned officials.

As their practice scrimmage drew to a close, Lynch tossed the disc downfield into a group of three players. Senior Chaz Harris sprinted into the endzone to catch the Frisbee over the defender.

“Get skied!” several teammates yelled.
HURLING

The Montana Grizzly hurling team held a five-point lead over Purdue at the University of Colorado Boulder field on May 20, 2018. A Purdue player stole the ball just past midfield and flung it to a teammate with one minute left to play.

The Purdue forward delivered a shot into the Grizzlies' net for three points. The scoreboard had eclipsed the 50-minute mark with approximately 20 seconds left for the Griz to hold onto the lead in regulation.

Donncha Ó Murchú, 23, lived in Ireland before attending the University of Montana and joining the club team. He loves the intensity of the game.

“I grew up playing the game as soon as I could walk. It was passed on from generation to generation in my family,” said Ó Murchú. “I was born to play it for the rest of my life.”

Hurling is the national game of Ireland, originating as a way of training warriors for battle. The earliest known game was recorded in 1272 BCE.

The sport uses a hurley (the stick) and a sliotar (the ball) to score points either in or above the H-shaped net. To score, a player can throw the sliotar into the net for three points, or between the posts above for one point.

The hurling goal is a combination of a soccer goal and rugby posts.

A player must either receive a teammate’s pass or scoop the ball off the ground with his or her stick. Running with the ball in hand is only permitted for a couple steps before having to either balance the ball on the end of the hurley, pass or strike the ball.

Traditional teams consist of 15 players, but because of restricted field size in the U.S., most play with 11 or 13 players. A regulation hurling field is about three times larger than a soccer field.

“The sport is full-contact baseball and everybody gets a bat,” 40-year-old Taylor Walker said.

Walker started playing on the team after some of his friends insisted that he join. Once he began attending the University, he embraced being one of the older players on the team.

He wanted to be a part of an organization that could become a community around campus while striving for excellence. Walker believes the team has exceeded that expectation on and off the field.

“We are the premier hurling team in the United States and we are proud of it,” Walker said.

After going undefeated the previous year to win the tournament, Montana’s goalie hurled the ball downfield past the Purdue defenders to win the 2017-18 National Championship 16-14. The Grizzlies rushed the field while a player from Purdue smashed his hurley over his knee in frustration.

The Grizzlies have won four national championships in their five years of becoming a program.
**ROLLER DERBY**

Every Monday and Wednesday, the Hellgate Roller Derby team practices at the Sovereign Hope Church. HRD was founded in 2009, originally as the Hellgate Rollergirls, and has built a community in Missoula since its arrival, holding its bouts at the Missoula County Fairgrounds.

The derby season stretches from February to early October. For Rebecca Ballard, a non-traditional graduate student, time commitment was the hardest thing to adapt to once she joined the team.

Ballard started rollerskating five years ago. It wasn’t until she attended a skating bootcamp hosted by HRD that she began playing.

She originally joined because of the community and connections, but stayed for the love of the sport, particularly the open atmosphere.

“It’s so open and welcoming,” said Ballard. “You don’t have to be tiny and fast or big and strong, it doesn’t matter.”

Roller derby is watching the most violent foot race, but on a smaller track and much faster.

Derby consists of three positions and five players — one jammer, three blockers and a pivot. A jammer wears a star cap on her helmet and scores points by lapping the opposing team’s players.

The pack is made of six blockers, three from each team, who line up along the straightaway of the track while the jammer is positioned behind.

The blockers form the pack and play offense and defense simultaneously, hindering the opposing team’s jammer and helping their own team’s. A pivot wears a striped helmet cover, indicating she can accept a “star pass,” which is when the current jammer passes the star to the pivot, allowing her to become the new jammer.

This sport gets physical and encourages full contact within legal means, including hitting members of the opposing team with shoulders and hips.

Roller derby is played in two periods of 30 minutes, with each team fielding five members for multiple “jams.” Each jam is a two-minute race between both teams to see which jammer can score the most points.

Each jammer must pass through the pack before she can start earning points. The first jammer to move past the pack becomes the lead jammer and earns the ability to call off the jam early by repeatedly placing her hands on her hips.

This is strategic, allowing the jammer to score points and call off the jam before the opponent has a chance to score. If the lead jammer racks up points while the other can’t maneuver through the pack or falls down, there is no reason to call off the jam before the two-minute period is over.

Freshman Fallyne Hoerner recently joined HRD after skating with the junior league team, the Hellgate Hellions. Joining HRD, she explained, typically takes three to six months in order to learn the team’s scenarios and schemes.

Hoerner’s footwork has been the most challenging part of learning roller derby, despite her small demeanor. She said the open atmosphere, in combination with players not having to play to their own body type, is the best part of the sport.

Because of this diversity, the team has become a family.

“It’s a new family. I talk to these girls every week, almost every day,” said Hoerner. “And you don’t have to be a certain athletic type.”
Halloweekend is overwhelming in a town filled with nocturnal festivities. With only so many costumes and so many hours, here’s a guide to maximizing your time.

**SPOOKY SHOWS**

The Missoula Ministry of Magic calls on witches, wizards and wixen alike for a drag show costume competition in honor of the 526th death day of Sir Nicholas De Mimsy-Porington, a.k.a. Nick. The University Center will be transformed into a masquerade ball for the Meramorphmagi Drag Show on Friday, Oct. 26, at 9 p.m.

The Rocky Horror Show Live is abducting the Wilma for its seventh year of gender bending spookiness. The musical cult classic, executed by a rockstar local cast, is a Missoula tradition. Sing, dance and throw your toilet paper and toast. Don’t forget your props and scandalous attire: fishnets, corsets and all, “Time Warp” will make your skin crawl.

For you Rocky virgins out there, the dress code is white. The show runs Friday, Oct. 26, and Saturday, Oct. 27, with 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. shows.

**TRICK OR TREAT TUNES**

If you are a Missoula music fan you’re going to have to make some tough decisions Saturday night, Oct. 27.

The Disco Bloodbath bar crawl has infiltrated downtown Missoula’s Halloweekend for the past eight years. It’s a wild, drunken whirlwind of a time with committed costumed attendees. It will span three 21+ venues and three 18+ venues with a bus bar, the Ghetto Gypsy, shuttling discoers to and from. Music will consist of 30 different DJs, four local bands along with eight others doing cover sets. The Brown Stripes will be the White Stripes for the night and the Queen of Noize will be the Runaways.

ROCKtober is at 7 p.m. at the ZACC featuring a night of fun cover sets by local favorites. Rooster Sauce, Total Combined Weight, Shahs, Fantasy Suite, Holy Lands, Ex-Cocaine, The Lights, Protest Kids, Rock and Roll Girlfriend, Boy Feud and Glass Spiders will all be in attendance. And don’t forget to arrive decked out for a costume contest.

If you’re feeling hardcore, KBGA College Radio is turning Free Cycles into Fear Cycles: Undead Air at 6:30 p.m. with a deadly party featuring local dark wave, black metal, and crust punk. Tomb Toad, Zebulon Kostead, Jolly Jane and Low Feet will play and the UM Circus Club will perform. You can count on a couple of kgs and chainsaws and swords provided by Zombie Tools for some pumpkin slashing as well.

**CREepy Costume Crawls**

The best way to find a cheap creative costume is a browse through your local thrift store. We recommend Goodwill for major zombie prom potential. Secret Seconds is another jackpot, or should we say jack-o-lantern? The one on Broadway is best for Halloween decor and the one on Kensington is ideal for your customary costume needs. Plus, when you shop at a Secret Seconds, you are supporting the YWCA, which aids women and families facing poverty, violence and discrimination.

For your dream vintage costume needs, visit the Hip Strip. Betty’s Divine’s gown, or try out one of many top hats or wigs. Not to mention, most of the items you can rent and return after your Cinderella night on the town.

**Freaky Films**

The Roxy Theater is also steeped in Halloween, showing spooky classics. “Beetlejuice” is a goofy gothic classic, with its own special history. The film plays at 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27.

“Young Frankenstein,” the 1974 Mel Brooks comedic take on the Mary Shelley horror, will play on 35mm. In the film, Dr. Victor von Frankenstein’s castle is left to his mad scientist grandson who thinks his mad scientist grandfather’s work is obscure before discovering his experimentation book. He decides to pick up the practice himself, giving life to a monstrous creation. Along the way he meets a strange hunchback named Igor, an attractive lab assistant named Inga and housekeeper Frau Blucher-iiiiiiiiii!!! The movie will play at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28.
Free Solo: Nothing but hands, feet and a chalk bag

There is no shortage of art in the West about conquering the outdoors and exploring relationships between human and nature, so you could be forgiven for missing the premier of climbing documentary “Free Solo” at the Roxy last Friday. But it would be worth putting this film in a different category of documentary, as it portrays what many consider to be the greatest athletic feat in the history of rock climbing.

“The film runs for 96 minutes. Opening with a straight-up-and-down shot sequence of Honnold climbing, several people in the theater muttered “Jesus” in utter shock.

Despite the anxiety-inducing nature of the activity featured, the experience of watching “Free Solo” was calming, largely due to Alex Honnold’s extremely laid-back personality.

The only signs of stress from those who contributed to the documentary were from the cameramen. They can be seen looking away as Alex uses a move called the “karate kick” to climb Pitch 23 (also known as “boulder problem”). When Alex gets past the pitch, he simply smiles at the camera.

Alex’s girlfriend, Sanni McCandless, stresses she cannot understand why free soloing El Capitan is so important to Honnold. But she knows he will regret it if he doesn’t.

Honnold’s mom, Dierdre Wolownick-Honnold, says she thinks Alex feels most alive when he is “Free Solo”ing and couldn’t imagine ever taking that away from someone.

The fact that the experience appears emotionally draining for everyone except Honnold is a fascinating dynamic throughout the film.

If you’re looking for a documentary with dynamic characters and some absolutely unreal climbing shots, “Free Solo” will be playing at The Roxy through Oct. 25.

Folksy pop-punk: Kevin Knight

Virginia indie rock songwriter Kevin Knight is bringing his experimental sound to Missoula. His music is eclectic, with influences of folk and pop-punk, finding inspiration from bands like Mount Eerie, Neutral Milk Hotel, Sonic Youth and Nirvana. He’s been releasing home-recorded demos since 2010 on his bandcamp, “Nevin Kight.”

It wasn’t until this year that he released his first full-length album, “With Hat,” dedicated to Hubbell, his dog and companion. The record is introspective, with dreamy guitar, cascading drums and raw vocals that range from soft and quiet to wailing and raspy. In 12 songs, Knight wanders from gritty to winsome to mel- low in a versatile journey through honest and meditative states. He has a clever and quirky playfulness; filled with an upbeat pitter-patter and fuzzy guitar, “Worm Smell (Petrichor)” is a song about the smell after it rains. Thoughtful instrumentation makes for mystical interludes in “Quiet Dog,” where pearly guitar chords unfold like soft petals.

Filled with serene woodland flutes and a bowed upright bass, Knight’s calming folk sensibility finds dignity in vulnerability. “Darkness” becomes complacent with sor-row with the echoing twang of pedal steel guitar that rattles off a somber waltz. In the folk rock tune, “Learning,” Knight sings, “I’m learning how to take things slowly so I don’t break... learning to take things light-ly so I can be light.” Simple guitar chords in “Lonesome Howl” back cathartic lyrics: “You save me from my own hell, to this day I don’t know how... I was trapped up in my head, singing through them broken bones, it’s plain to see I was all alone, safe some-how.”

Kevin Knight plays at the Hockey House in Missoula Saturday, Oct. 27, at 7:30 p.m.
UM paragliders find new heights as sport grows

The neon-colored paraglider wings with humans dangling from them are a well-known addition to mornings and evenings in Missoula, with fliers descending from mist as the sun sets behind Mt. Jumbo and Mt. Sentinel.

This past week, as the light turned golden and a half moon peeked over the Clark Fork Valley, more than 20 paragliders crisscrossed the sky as they descended from Mt. Jumbo.

Harnessed under 20-foot wings, UM paragliding club students and members flew off the top of the mountain, landing near the L on Mt. Jumbo. Paragliding has been part of Missoula since the late ’70s, and if new student sign-ups for the UM Paragliding Club and new paragliding schools starting in the city mean anything, the sport is experiencing a burst in popularity.

Carson Cantrell, the 22-year-old president of the UM Paragliding Club, said once people start paragliding, they eat, sleep, and breathe the sport. Flying is addictive. There is a running joke about pilots being sent to paragliding rehab — they do get high after all.

Cantrell said the club has 20 official members and the interest in the sport by students has skyrocketed this year.

The paragliders use radios to communicate while taking off, flying and landing. The UM club, the only collegiate paragliding club in the country, is part of a larger paragliding community in Missoula.

The pilots go through training to get flight-certified through the United States Paragliding Association, and the UM club puts interested students in touch with local paragliding instructors if they want to learn how to fly. The students start by tandem flying with instructors, followed by solo flying with radio coaching.

Cantrell said paragliding is the cheapest form of flight, but a basic setup costs around $2,000. “It is a small price for a lot of fun,” Cantrell said. The pilots use body weight and brake lines to control their flight and search for air thermals, which are rising warm air currents used to climb altitude.

Flights can be anywhere from 10 minutes to an hour depending on the weather conditions and the number of thermals a pilot can catch. The pilots fly bundled up in coats, hats and ski goggles. The air above Missoula is frigid compared to the sunny ground.

Taylor Schiltz, a 26-year-old UM first-year elementary graduate student, began flying this year.

“The feeling of flight is unlike anything else you’ll feel,” she said. Schiltz gets confidence from being alone in the sky that she didn’t have before learning to paraglide. It’s a confidence that carries into her daily life. It is tough and scary to be alone and harnessed into a paragliding wing, and when Schiltz lands safe on the ground, she feels an overwhelming sense of bliss.

The emotions connected to flying bind the paragliding community tightly throughout the entire U.S., the pilots said.

Hang-gliding in the ’70s led to a Missoula paragliding community as the sport evolved. Paragliders said the proximity to the take-off spots for flying makes Missoula a nationally unique spot. Nowhere else are you able to walk out the door and hike to two different take-off sites within a half hour. Mt. Sentinel is the oldest registered and longest-running inland hang-gliding site in America, according to Missoula’s hang-gliding and paragliding organization.

The all-season sport depends on good weather conditions, particularly wind speed, to allow paragliders to fly. The depth of weather knowledge necessary to fly made Julien Prevot, a 20-year-old UM junior, dive into learning about meteorology. Prevot has flown all over the world since high school.

“It’s such a magical sport,” Prevot said. “You are flying in something you can’t see.”

The serious consequences of paragliding have resulted in Prevot intimately knowing himself and his limits. He is afraid of heights — standing at the top of a tall staircase makes him anxious — but the harness he straps into for flights makes the heights he reaches above Missoula safe to him.

“Everyone dreams of flying as kids,” Cantrell said. “As a paraglider, you have the ability to step off a mountain and fly.”

The golden fall light faded into evening as the whoops and hollers of the landing paragliders echoed up and down Mt. Jumbo, both from the relief of landing and the exhilaration of flight. One thing was for sure, the pilots were having the most fun of anyone on a Wednesday evening in Missoula.

THE NORTHERN BITTERROOT MOUNTAINS PROVIDE A BACKDROP FOR A PARAGLIDER AS HE MANEUVERS HIS CHUTE TOWARD THE LANDING ZONE. PARAGLIDERS FLEW OFF ONE OF MT. JUMBO’S SUMMITS, AND LANDED ON THE PLATEAU BELOW.
POPPIN’ PLAYER

Cherry paves way to NBA for future Griz players

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Former Montana guard Will Cherry returned from playing in European leagues for the first time in four years after signing an Exhibit 10 contract with the Golden State Warriors on Oct. 8. The University of Montana men’s basketball program has only had four former players play in the NBA since the 1946 season.

An Exhibit 10 contract gives a player a bonus of up to $50,000 if the player signs with his developmental team after being waived. The “G League” is used to provide training and experience to young players before going to a major league team. Likely, Cherry will end up playing with the young players before going to a major league team. Likely, Cherry will end up playing with the young players before going to a major league team.

Cherry played in 116 games for Montana in his collegiate career, being named first team All-Big Sky Conference three times and Big Sky Defensive Player of the year twice. Montana won three Big Sky Conference championships with Cherry on the roster.

Cherry went undrafted in the 2013 NBA draft and bounced around multiple G league teams before being cut. He played eight games in the 2014-15 NBA season with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Cherry has played for four different European teams in the past four years. He said he hopes to pave the way for future Griz guards and show that there are multiple routes to be successful after college.

“Montana has two guys right now in Ahmaad Rorie and Michael Oguine that have the talent to get a shot in the NBA,” Cherry said. “It also gives others that come from smaller schools or mid-majors a chance.”

Both Oguine and Rorie averaged more than 15 points per game in their junior campaigns. The NBA seems like a possible future for the Montana guards.

The backcourt duo helped lead the Grizzlies to win the Big Sky Conference championship last season along with an undefeated record at home. Montana fell to Michigan in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Head coach Travis DeCuire made the comparison to Montana’s backcourt from the 2012-13 season with Cherry and Kareem Jamar – ultimately winning the BSC championship against Weber State.

DeCuire said he believes this senior class could be among the best in Montana’s history. If the Grizzlies can take the same approach as last year and learn from their success, he said they will have the opportunity to prove it.

“One of the things that helped us through last year was we really never talked about what was there for us at the end, it was one day at a time,” said DeCuire. “We have to learn from success and it’s hard to do that. You typically learn from downfalls.”

Montana’s annual Maroon-Silver scrimmage is on Oct. 23 before officially starting the regular season against Georgia State at Dahlberg Arena on Nov. 9.

SPORTS OPINION

Bobby Hauck says the Grizzlies are average. Is he right?

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“We’re a real average football team,” head coach Bobby Hauck said after the Grizzlies’ latest loss, a 41-14 pounding by North Dakota at Alerus Center. “If we can’t take care of the ball, we can’t win.”

He’s right, at least in part. Turnovers have doomed the Grizzlies in their last two games. In those games, they’ve fumbled three times and thrown one interception in the first quarters alone. They trailed by double-digits in both games, before the second quarter even started.

But this football team isn’t average, in fact it’s far from from it. Sure, Montana’s 2-2 conference record is as average as it comes. But stepping through the gates of Washington-Grizzly Stadium and not knowing whether you’re about to see one of the conference’s elite teams or the FCS’s most confusing dumpster fire isn’t normal. The question is whether Montana’s wounds are self-inflicted or if the rest of the Big Sky has figured out how to swindle the Griz.

The cracks in the team began to show in week one, when Grizzly running backs couldn’t combine for 20 rushing yards. But talented wide receivers and a strong defense seemed to combat Montana’s weaknesses. It seemed that UM could score wins by scoring few points.

In week three, Montana visited Western Illinois. The cracks deepened. The Grizzlies held a 10-point lead with the ball in-hand and six minutes on the clock. But without a productive running game, Montana was unable to burn clock. The Bulldogs pulled out a heartbreaking 31-27 win.

In week six, the Grizzlies handed Portland State its first win against a Division I team since 2016. At homecoming, there were off-target throws, dropped passes, off-target blocks, missed tackles and way too many turnovers. Even Portland State head coach Bruce Barnum was stunned by what he’d witnessed.

“(Against FBS) Oregon State last year, I felt better than I did about this game,” Barnum said after the game. “This was a dogfight and everybody over there (on the Griz sideline) — I know just about their entire staff — they’re smarter than me.”

Through five games, Hauck and his staff were smart enough to piece together wins without a running game. Quarterback Dutton Sneed kept linebackers honest with his running game. Screen passes to Jerry Louie-McGee produced small, but consistent, gains needed to keep an offense on schedule.

But Sneed’s season-low passing games were against Portland State (122) and North Dakota (200). Sneed gave a fumble to PSU and an interception to North Dakota in the first minute of each game. And now, the Grizzlies’ tricks are on tape.

How can a team that appeared, just three weeks ago, to have the best defensive player and the best quarterback in the Big Sky Conference lose embarrassingly in back-to-back weeks? Is it poor game-planning from the coaching staff? Is it a lack of buy-in from the players? Are they just not as good as we thought after a week one win over No. 13 Northern Iowa?

There’s no way to know until the Grizzlies stop shooting themselves in the foot.
At least two Griz football players have retired from football due to concussions in the last two seasons. But the exact number of concussions UM football players suffer each season is unknown, even by those who run the program.

Most recently, star Griz linebacker Gage Smith stopped playing football due to anxiety and depression caused by repeated concussions, and wide receiver Caleb Lyons medically retired in 2017 after his fifth concussion.

The UM athletic department doesn’t keep yearly records on how many concussions student athletes suffer, officials said. Researchers and other experts say keeping such records helps improve the treatment and understanding of head injuries for sports programs by developing research to further understand the risk of debilitating head injuries among student athletes.

But so far, the University of Montana football team doesn’t seem to be one of them.

In September, the Montana Kaimin filed an information request asking for compiled concussion and injury information. The university denied the request because, it says, that information isn’t kept.

Universities are not required to track, compile or publicly report the number of concussions student athletes sustain. But a 2017 Atlanta Journal-Constitution analysis of more than 60 Division I, II and III universities at seven athletic conferences found that only about one in six athletic programs do not count student-athlete concussions by sport.

University lawyers denied a September public records request for all or parts of records or data detailing Griz football injuries since 2012. Legal counsel said the information was irretrievable. Lucy France, UM chief legal counsel, did not respond to an email request for an interview.

Eric Taber, a UM Athletics spokesperson for football, said that the only records the athletic department maintains of student athlete injuries are in the student’s personal medical files, which are protected by privacy laws.

Mike Meloy, an open records lawyer in Montana, said compiled statistics of personal records are only protected if they have personal identifying information.

The UM athletic department did not respond to multiple requests for in-person interviews about injury and concussion records, data and treatment protocol.

“The health and safety of University of Montana student-athletes is of the utmost importance, as is their medical privacy,” Taber wrote in an email response to calls for comment.

The University regularly releases information about individual athletes and injuries, including concussions on its sports website gogriz.com. Taber said that the athletic department does not discuss injuries in stories without the prior consent of the student-athletes.

“The University of Montana does not produce injury reports on a regular basis,” Taber wrote in an email.

Sarjubhai Patel, a UM assistant research professor who received a grant from the NFL to study traumatic brain injuries in 2015, said that it is important for UM to compile anonymous data on concussions in student athletes.

“We need to get a handle on how often these injuries are actually happening,” Patel said. Anonymous collection concerning student-athlete head injuries would allow researchers to study long term effects of head injuries, Patel said. It would also allow for better reporting to the public.

“After a concussion, most people feel like they’re recovered and okay, but what we’re starting to know is that while the subject may feel OK outwardly, things could be continuing to change in the brain,” Patel said.

Long term symptoms of concussions can range from headaches and confusion to mood disturbances and the degenerative brain disease Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, or CTE.

“It’s a public health problem,” Patel said. “Sometimes (long-term symptoms) are quite severe, like mood disturbances. But they can also manifest into confusion, aggression.”

University of Montana concussion and injury management protocols are under the direction of staff physicians and are available for review in the student-athlete handbook, according to the UM athletic department. A department spokesperson said the protocols are strictly followed, including concussion identification, treatment and return to play procedures.

Patel said that UM is doing well with the tools available and widely used in college athletics to assess concussions and provide treatment. But the computerized and handwritten tests used to assess athletes after suspected brain injuries are limited in their scope.

“A lot of the testing we have is very subjective,” Patel said.

One former Montana State University and New York Giants football player, Corey Widmer, recently declined his induction into the Montana Football Hall of Fame earlier this year due to his concerns about the dangers of concussions in football.

The NCAA began conducting research in partnership with the Department of Defense on concussions in 2014. More than 30 universities collect and share data to develop insights into sports concussion neurophysiology and to improve safety protocols.

Taber said he did not know if the UM athletic department participated in any voluntary reporting of concussions and injuries to the NCAA.
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TRUMP RALLY
Waiting for the President

Last Thursday, about 8,000 people went to see the President of the United States for his first visit to Missoula. They waited in clogged roundabouts, they stood in the heat for hours working their way up a half-mile long line, they rode crowded yellow school-buses to the hangar and they waited in another line to go through security before they got into Minuteman Aviation Hangar. Once in the hangar, they waited for the president for hours, sitting on the floor, leaning on the walls, talking, watching. We arrived about two hours before the speakers started. Here are the people we saw waiting.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A woman, riding the school bus shuttle to the hangar at about 3 p.m., looks out the window as the bus drives past the line of traffic waiting to turn off the highway and into the parking lot. Once people parked, they waited in line for several hours to board a shuttle to the other side of Missoula International Airport, where the hangar is located.

CENTER: Ron Clark, 64, leans against a guardrail inside the hangar, watching the press set up cameras and lights in the press pool at about 5:20 p.m.

TOP RIGHT: Susan Campbell Reneau, dressed in America-themed clothing with political pins on it, spins around, sings pro-Trump slogans and greets rally-goers at 4:05 p.m.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Two rally-goers stop in the chaos of a growing crowd at 4:48 p.m. to point at a member of the press.

BOTTOM LEFT: A Trump supporter sports an Uncle Sam hat toward the end of the rally at 7:09 p.m.

CENTER LEFT: Randy Lamphere, left, sits with a friend, who prefers to go unnamed, in a sunbeam slanting into the hangar at about 4:30 p.m.

PHOTOS BY SARA DIGGINS AND ELI IMADALI