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Montana Kaimin, August 7, 1981

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Young mothers

More Missoula teen-age pregnancies occur each year

Tami was 17, a top student in her high school class, well liked and never in trouble. When she found out she was pregnant, troubles began that separated her from her classmates.

"I thought I was the only pregnant girl in town," Tami said recently. "I was pregnant, troubles began that never in trouble.

A growing number of teen-agers are facing medical and financial difficulties that isolate them from their peers, said Anderson, coordinator of the Adolescent Pregnancy Program, said that pregnant teen-agers face social, medical and earthy woman with an angry, "Anderson said.

"I was on the pill and I couldn't be pregnant," Kim said. "I was on the pill and I couldn't be pregnant. And I was throwing up and I was tired and I couldn't be pregnant."

Many teenagers do use some form of birth control, but they become inexperienced, misinformed or careless. Anderson, who visits many pregnant adolescents at their homes, says she is always tempted to introduce herself with "Hello, I'm Roxie Anderson. What are you using (for birth control)?"

Anderson's clients credit her with teaching them how to avoid getting pregnant again, and while she insists that "abstinence is the best contraceptive," Anderson doesn't condemn them for it.

Before I found out for sure I was pregnant I kept telling myself I wasn't," Kim said. "I was on the pill and I couldn't be pregnant. And I was throwing up and I was tired and I couldn't be pregnant."

Socially says sex is all right, but society says married pregnancy is not all right. Society can be a cruel thing to these girls.

A harsh evaluation of high school attitudes toward sex comes from Kim, a high school graduate who was eight months pregnant at the time of the interview. "The kids just say, ha ha it happened to you and now you just stuck. It's tough, it's really tough. One day you find out you're pregnant and he (the father) doesn't have a job and it's really hard.

"Before I found out for sure I was pregnant I kept telling myself I wasn't," Kim said. "I was on the pill and I couldn't be pregnant. And I was throwing up and I was tired and I couldn't be pregnant."

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A network of 30 groups help young mothers

Missoula's Network for Adolescent Pregnancy Services (NAPS) comprises more than 30 organizations -- some with widely varying views of teenage pregnancy.

Between Birthright, a group dedicated to the philosophy that "It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth," and the Blue Mountain Women's Clinic, which provides complete gynecological services, counseling and abortions, lies a spectrum of groups helping adolescents in a variety of ways.

While many of these organizations only make referrals or help other organizations, some provide direct services to pregnant teens.

• the Adolescent Pregnancy Program of the Missoula City-County Health Department. Established about two years ago when NAPS organizers began pressing for a government-funded agency, the program is headed by Roxie Anderson (See main article). Anderson, a cheerful and earthy woman with an everlasting smile and lots of good ideas, is the hub of the whole NAPS network and its busiest member. She is one of about 60 "primary advocates" who visit pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers at home, helping them work through the red tape of welfare and other programs.

The program also provides health information and coordinates all Health Department aid to pregnant adolescents, and its services are free.

• Birthright of Missoula. Birthright is an international organization. In Missoula, it has a hotline which operates two hours every week day, and helps pregnant women of all ages with pregnancy testing, housing, clothing, and the moral support and referrals. Anderson said Birthright "really does tremendous work." The organization doesn't do any abortion counseling or referrals. Its services are free.

• Blue Mountain Women's Clinic. This provides complete gynecological services, information and counseling for women on birth control and health care. The clinic also performs first trimester abortions, but would not divulge the number of teen-agers receiving them. An abortion, including counseling before and after the procedure, costs $190.

• Young Family Program. Established about a year ago, this is specialized service for pregnant girls and mothers. It is run by the Missoula County High Schools and is staffed by two half-time teachers. Women can either graduate from the program, study for a high school equivalency exam, or go back into the regular schools when they are ready to go. About 80 women have been in the program so far. No fee is charged if the woman is a Missoula student.

• Clearwater: A Feminist Collective for Well-Being. Clearwater helps pregnant women explore the options open to them, and offers classes on nutrition, pregnancy, childbirth, family dynamics and other subjects. Its services are offered on a sliding scale fee basis, dependent on the individual's ability to pay.

• Five Valley Health Care, Inc. This group offers pre-natal medical care, nutritional counseling, birthing and child-rearing classes, and well-child clinics. It also runs the Health Information Clearinghouse and telephone referral service. All its services are free.

• Planned Parenthood of Montana. This organization offers counseling, especially on domestic violence, pregnancy and child-rearing, and health care. Most of its services are free.

The APP is in jeopardy, Anderson said, since the federal government (which ultimately funds most health department activities) is cutting back on social services.

"We've neither sure we're going to be funded next year," Anderson said. "We'll have to fund local funding or we'll have to die, and with an active case load of 92 that would be sad.

Anderson said that NAPS lacks two programs she thinks would make it a much better network: an adolescent father program (see related story page 6) and adequate sex education in the schools. But Donna Edgeway of Lutheran Social Services said sex education is "too gutsy an issue for a social services organization to tackle" because there is too much opposition to it, and several of Anderson's clients insist that even if it were offered, "kids wouldn't listen."

"Everybody thinks they know it already," one pregnant teen-ager said.

—Michael Crater

Photo by Nicolyn Rosen

Being sexually active.

"When I first started this program I was worried the girls would get scared when I talked about contraception, but I haven't had a single person get angry," Anderson said.

Anderson is one of about 70 Missoulians who serve as "primary advocates" in the Network for Adolescent Pregnancy.

Cont. on page 7.
Democrats don’t deserve America’s trust

Remember when people used the word “progressive” to describe the Democratic Party? Nobody uses that word anymore. They have other ways to describe Democrats nowadays like “cowardly,” “sniveling,” and “worthless.”

It’s no wonder. For who is it that sits back while the GOP pushes through its series of ridiculous social programs? The Democrats. Who doesn’t bat an eye as Alexander Haig charts new and bizarre social programs? The GOP pushes through its series of ridiculous social programs? The Democrats. It’s bad enough that the Democratic Party has abandoned the country. Now most citizens wouldn’t think up new ways to destroy the American economy? You guessed it. The Democrats.

Ronald Reagan and his advisors under Haig charts new and bizarre roads to the future. It used to be that Americans would ask that Ronald Reagan fire Secretary of the Interior James Watt. But, of course, the Democrats petition isn’t worth the paper it was printed on. Reagan probably won’t even bother to read it. The President, in his simple way, still thinks Watt’s a fine fellow, even though the whole country is screaming for his head. But where were the Democrats during Watt’s confirmation hearings? They were hiding, licking their wounds and planning for the next election. Sure, a few challenged Watt. But not many. They were afraid.

When the next election rolls around, Americans should remember Watt. Maybe they’ll decide to throw out the Republicans who got him his job. But they should also remember the Democrats, those folks too scared to do anything about people like Watt, and Haig and all the rest.

—G. Gadberry

Opinions

Visiting grizzly bear country is essential to gain the correct perspective of life that man is not supreme and that there is an animal that can take man’s life just as quickly as man can squash an ant. There are still a few places in the continental United States where grizzly bears reign supreme over a kingdom of flora and fauna, and in a castle of glacier-fed lakes and streams, escarpments, and peaks which fire to the sun. Man is just a visitor there, merely staying in the grizz’s guest room.

Visiting grizzly bear country also makes me do some strange things. I just returned from Turquoise Lake, just a few miles from MacDonald Peak where seven grizzlies have recently congregated to feast on moths. Just knowing that the bears were so close, and that I was in prime and protected griz habitat, kept them always on my mind. I wasn’t neurotic, of course, but I took many precautions. Some worked, others failed.

For example, I whistled a variety of my favorite songs while walking through the woods by myself. My eyes were on the ground. My ears were on the ground. I wasn’t neurotic, but I took many precautions. Some worked, others failed.

A night in bear country

Jim Bruggers

worthless. For instance, I slept with my head at the back of the tent because I’d rather sacrifice my feet; later I realized that a grizzly probably doesn’t know the difference between the front and the back of my tent. He won’t come to the front and unzip the insect netting to get in. And then I somehow felt protected because a friend was sleeping in front of my tent. But he’d do little to stop a determined bear.

Another friend built a very large fire, which burned holes in sleeping bags from flying sparks. But he felt safer and I suppose I did too.

Finally there were the precautions that were important to take, but that we screwed up. For example, we carefully gathered all the food, suspended from a tree in a pack, burned the garbage thoroughly, and cleaned the camp of litter. The next morning I noticed a can of Cokes five feet from my tent. At least our good intentions let us sleep well.

When the trip was over—after we had climbed Glacier Peak, after we had bushwhacked through dense vegetation riddled with bear scat, after we had caught dozens of cutthroat trout, I felt better knowing that I had shared the land with the griz, that I was a subject in the grizzly’s kingdom.
Orientation draws 120

The Van Buren Street Bridge has loose planks and rotten timbers, but is covered safely for normal foot and bicycle traffic until Missoula County repairs the bridge, Fred Crisp, county project engineer for bridges, said.

Fred Crisp, county project engineer for bridges, said that the structure is dangerous only when there is heavy foot traffic such as after a ballpark or concert at the University of Montana.

"The only problem is when you get a flood of people," Crisp said. "We have a lot of trouble with the deckway, but it is adequate for regular use.

Crisp acknowledged that the problem with the loose planks could be serious. "I'll get those nailed back down," he said. "We have a Mickey Mouse sign up now." Crisp said the county has $80,000 set aside for materials to repair the bridge, and that labor on the project will cost about $45,000. He said the work will start sometime after Spring Quarter, 1982, and that the improved bridge will be 18 feet wide with one lane for bicycles and one lane for pedestrians.

Julie Schaller lounges after climbing Stuart Peak in the Rattlesnake Wilderness north of Missoula. Photo by John Carson.

UM 1981-82 Bulletin almost ready

After hundreds of revisions and more than six months of work, the 1981-82 University of Montana Catalog is in its final stages.

According to Laura Hudson, assistant registrar and editor of the catalog, the catalog's pages are being passed up now, and the first run of about 10,000 should be done by the end of August.

Hudson said the final circulation will depend on how fast the first 10,000 are used up. Last year, 12,000 were printed at a cost of $37,700. This year's budget is $37,800, according to Dick Hulme, UM budget director.

The process of revising the 1981-82 catalog began last January, Hudson said, when the Faculty Senate's Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee began to revise and recommend changes. As the Senate approved those changes, Hudson said she would rewrite the catalog.

In another matter, Hudson said at of Aug. 5, 2,091 students had enrolled in UM for Summer Quarter. At the same time last summer, 2,029 had enrolled. Students register continuously throughout the summer, with the final enrollment figures available only at the end of the quarter. About 2,100 students had enrolled at the end of Summer Quarter, 1980.

Regents approve Mitchell

The Montana Board of Regents approved the appointment of George Mitchell to the position of University of Montana auxiliary services director at its meeting July 31.

Mitchell, former UM legal counsel, assumed the $35,811 post. As director, Mitchell oversees the UM Food Service, Residence Halls and Family Housing, Athletic and Leisure services, the Printing Department of the University press, and the Student Employment Office.

The Regents also approved special salary increases for 111 UM faculty members. The raises averaged between $1,000 and $2,000, and came out of the $85,000 budgeted by the 1981 Montana Legislature for "critical compensation at UM."

The faculty members receiving the raises are part of the School of Business Administration, School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences, School of Law, and the departments of chemistry, economics, geology, computer science and mathematics.

In other business, the Regents:

• appointed Irving Dayton the temporary commissioner of higher education, effective Sept. 1.

John Richardson, present commissioner, will leave next month to be director of the Montana Legislature. Dayton, the present deputy commissioner for academic affairs, will serve until a new commissioner is named, probably sometime next year.

• approved an environmental studies minor at UM.

The Van Buren Street Bridge to be repaired in spring

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Julie Schaller lounges after climbing Stuart Peak in the Rattlesnake Wilderness north of Missoula. Photo by John Carson.
**ASUM spending sleepy summer**

A whole network of agencies serve the needs of Missoula's adolescent mothers, but what about adolescent fathers? No agency focuses on their needs. Little is known about them. Unlike adolescent mothers, they are not visited by "primary advocates" dedicated to counseling them, helping them, or even just talking with them. Unless they actively seek help—and they seldom do—they are pretty much left alone.

That's not to say nobody is concerned about them. In fact, some of the many people involved in the Network for Adolescent Pregnancy Services (see related story) are concerned about adolescent fathers, too. AFPS is working to develop a program just for them.

But organizers are acting in the dark, they say. No one knows how many adolescent fathers are even interested in being involved with their children. They seem hesitant to come forward; a group of nursing students has been trying to contact adolescent fathers for a survey, and despite their advertisements in the Missoulian and the high school newspaper, not a single young father has come forward.

Some teen-age women don't even tell their lovers when they become pregnant. Tami, a 17-year-old who gave birth recently, said she never told her boyfriend that she was pregnant. She said she didn't expect the audit costs to run over that amount. But, a letter was received recently by ASUM from Jack Noble, deputy commissioner for financial affairs for the Montana university system, which stated that ASUM should reserve $2,500 for audit costs. Noble said Aug. 6 in a telephone interview that the major cost of the audit will be covered by the legislative appropriation, but in the event that there are cost overruns, each segment of the university will be asked to help cover the cost. Noble said he has not decided whether ASUM is even going to be audited. Gillett said that there are "some legal problems" to be worked out before a decision is made. He said that the legislative auditor's office, in cooperation with the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Board of Regents, must decide if the student fees used by ASUM are under the scope of a state audit.

ASUM Accountant Andrew Crenny said he does not expect to be audited because the ASUM funds are student money, on campus but no real work has been done yet on these two projects.

Johnson also said he is looking into the possibility of students who are active in ASUM government receiving academic credit for their work. He declined to elaborate, saying that any comment at this time could jeopardize the audit.

Business manager Carl Burgdorfer and ASUM Accountant Andy "doing a lot of little things that are important together but, single, they don't sound like much."

President Eric Johnson said recently that he has been working to close out the financial books from fiscal year 1980-81. The last audit was done in 1979, however, that he is "100 percent sure" that ASUM will end up in the back.

**Adolescent fathers have no agency**

A lot of preliminary groundwork is being laid at ASUM for future projects, but little actual work has been done on any of them.

The ASUM offices are being staffed this summer by the three ASUM officers and the ASUM secretary. Office hours are posted as being a few hours in the afternoon but have been somewhat erratic throughout the summer quarter.

However, the officers are being paid the same salary that they receive during the regular school year. Eric is paid $325 per month, the vice president $300, and the business manager $305.

President Steve Spaulding considers his "coup" of the summer to be the acquisition of $12,000 from the building fees fund for the construction of the ASUM student gardens. He said he is also starting work on a state-wide building fees policy with the other Montana University system student body presidents and acting Commissioner of Higher Education Irving Dayton.

Spaulding also said he is plan­ning a conference for student government. No date, no place and no plans have yet been announced, however.

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The Back Page

Mothers . . .

Cont. from page 1. cy Services (NAPS) program. (See related story on page 1). The advocates help pregnant adolescents find medical care, financial help, education and counseling and provide "somebody to talk to." Anderson said about 95 percent of the adolescents who have babies each year are included in NAPS. Since August, 1980 NAPS has had 120 clients, and it has 32 right now.

NAPS helps its clients through some of the problems they face, such as finishing high school. Anderson urges the girls she sees to attend the Young Family program, offered by the Missoula County High Schools. She says that only in this program can most girls find adequate day care and understanding staff and classmates to permit them to graduate.

But during a group interview with four pregnant teenagers and one teen-ager with a six-month-old son, Anderson was outdone by Kim, then eight months pregnant, who repeated- edly told the other girls to enroll in the YFP.

"You can do anything once you’ve got your diploma," Kim said. "I’m planning to go right on to college, and we'll see how well I afford it, but I want to get an education. If you’ve got an education you can do anything.

Wanda, who was also eight months pregnant, seemed impassioned by Kim’s urging. "I didn’t want to be in school any way," she said.

Anderson had said privately that teen-agers sometimes use pregnancy as an excuse to drop out of school.

Another major problem is finances. All of the girls were concerned with financial problems. Wanda, whose husband was working out of town, said: "We hook our car every time it comes time to pay rent. You have to scrape and save, you don’t eat steak.

"You can’t make any money in order to get help (from welfare), but the money they give you isn’t enough," 18-year-old Lorrie said. Lorrie is seven months pregnant and named Justin, added that she "had to break the piggy bank for a quarter to take the bus down here today.

Family programs are important to the parents, but often are insufficient to meet their needs. The Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program pays no more than $183 a month, and even with food stamps that can put a woman on a tight budget. Moreover, a woman can lose some welfare benefits if the father of the child lives with her or marries her.

Financial burdens are often eased by the mothers’ parents. Four of the women in the interview session said their parents had helped them, although it often "takes them a while to get used to" the pregnancy, Kim said. Some of the NAPS organizations also help with finances.

NAPS has also made a point of helping teen-agers prepare for childbirth and child rearing. Free Lamaze birth preparation classes have been arranged, and Anderson says many of the fathers attend three with the mothers. The Lamaze Method emphasizes breathing, muscular relaxation and a "team approach" in which the father takes part in the birth by helping the mother relax and breath properly.

Studies have shown that adolescent mothers often have unreasonable expectations of their children and don’t know how to care for them, so the Health Department and the YFP both focus on teaching how to raise children.

Nationally, about 96 percent of all adolescent mothers now keep their babies, which Ridgeway says is a growing percentage and some cause for alarm. "Younger and less mature girls" are keeping their babies, she says, partially because welfare programs have made it easier and partially because "I don’t think most women are able to see beyond their contraceptions to see the choices ahead.

Ridgeway supported this contention by saying that many adolescents now keep their babies for a few years, but then get tired of them and want to do other things, so they put 3- and 4-year-olds up for adoption.

None of the women in the group session thought they would do this. "I’ll just go over to Seattle, get on welfare and get a job," Tami said. "I keep by: I’ve been carrying this baby nine months and more, I’ve felt it kicking and fed it and loved it, I’m not gonna give it away.

The others nodded their agreement. But all the women admitted some uncertainties about the future: Lorrie is living near Missoula with her baby trying to puzzle out what to do next; Kim is planning to go to college but isn’t sure she can afford to; Tami doesn’t know what kind of work she’ll be able to find; Janet is hoping her boyfriend “doesn’t freak out when the baby comes” — which is just what Lorrie said her husband did.

Wanda, who seemed least concerned about the future, still wondered if her husband would be able to find steady work. His present job is temporary.

“One thing we have going for us,” Wanda added, “is we’re young now and it’s taken a chunk out of our lives and when we’re grown up we’ll still be young.”

—Michael Crater

Classifieds

lost or found


115-1

disabled

PERSONS

THANK GOD — The last issue. No more transportation problems. Wanda is working out of town, said:


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