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SUMMER POWWOW SEASON BEGINS WITH UM KYI-YO CONFERENCE

MISSOULA--

An estimated 4,000 Native Americans from throughout the Northwest attended the 14th annual Kyi-Yo Conference held at the University of Montana April 29-May 1.

The powwow marked the kick-off of the summer powwow season for tribes west of the Mississippi with over \$3,000 in prize money awarded in competition for fancy and traditional tribal dancing.

The theme of the conference was "Mother Earth: Times are Forcing a Decision." Indian and non-Indian speakers discussed the spiritual, legal and ecological issues concerning resource development of tribal lands during panel discussions.

Other events highlighting the three-day conference included an original play written by a UM journalism student, a traditional Indian feed, an intertribal softball tournament, and five-mile run in honor of the late John Wooden Legs, a Northern Cheyenne medicine man from Lame Deer to whom the conference was dedicated.

Tribes participating included the Blackfeet, Crow, Salish, Kootenai, Northern Cheyenne, Assiniboine, Gros Ventre, Sioux, Blood, Stony, Sarcee, Navajo, Pinte, Piegan, Northern Piegan, Cree, Shoshone/Bannack, Yakima, Colville, Nez Perce, Arapahoe, Mandan, Hidatsa, Spokane, and Chippewa.

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