Montana Kaimin, April 3, 1985

Associated Students of the University of Montana
Former mental patient challenges UM over 'discriminatory' admission policy

By Dave Fenner
Kaimin Staff Reporter

A former University of Montana student, recently released from Warm Springs State Hospital, said Tuesday he will publicly challenge UM's "discriminatory" admission policy for persons who have been hospitalized in mental facilities.

Jim Maher, 36, has been denied readmission to UM for Spring Quarter because he refuses to comply with UM's policy, which requires a Special Admissions Committee to review all applications for admission from persons who have been hospitalized for mental illness. Before the review, the policy says, the Special Admissions Committee must receive:

• A letter of support and recommendation from the applicant's physician, psychologist, counselor, caseworker, or parole officer.

• A statement from the author of the letter of support that specifically says the applicant will be able to make the transition to a college environment emotionally, intellectually and academically.

The statement must also include an indication as to whether the applicant is viewed as a violent or non-violent person.

• A phone call from a pre-release supervisor of the applicant.

Maher said he dropped out of school last Winter Quarter and voluntarily admitted himself into the state hospital because he had become depressed to the point he was "unable to function day to day." The depression lifted after four weeks of treatment.

Maher called the UM admission policy "discriminatory, degrading and slightly intimidating" and said "I'll have no recourse but legal if the university refuses to change its policy."

American Civil Liberties Union Attorney Mark Connell said he has agreed to look into the case for Maher. "If (the policy) seems to be clearly illegal," he said, "We are contemplating legal action."

"Hopefully, the University of Montana will change its policy without the necessity of litigation."

Connell referred to the "freedom from discrimination" section in Title 49 of the Montana Codes which reads: "The right to be free from discrimination because of race, creed, religion, color, sex, physical or mental handicap, age, or national origin is recognized and declared to be a civil right. This right shall include but not be limited to: the right to obtain and hold employment without discrimination, and the right to the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations facilities or privileges of any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or amusement."

The UM Schedule of Classes for Spring Quarter 1985 reads: "The University of Montana is committed to taking affirmative action to provide all persons an equal opportunity for education, employment and participation in university activities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age or handicap."

When asked how UM justifies its policy, Director of Admissions Michael Akin said:

See 'Maher,' page 8.

University budget stalled in House along with state budget bill; vote to reconsider today

By Carlos A. Pedraza
Kaimin Staff Reporter

The state's general appropriation bill, stalled in the House of Representatives because of partisan disagreement over spending, is scheduled for a floor vote for reconsideration today.

The bill, which includes amendments that cut $1.5 million from the university system budget, failed to pass before the Monday midnight deadline for the bill to be transmitted to the Senate.

To be reconsidered, the bill, which was defeated 31-69, will require a two-thirds majority vote of the House members.

Because the bill failed to pass before the transmittal deadline, it requires a similar vote in the Senate, which so far has been unable to muster the two-thirds majority needed to suspend Senate rules.

Meanwhile, House Democratic and Republican leaders agreed yesterday to begin molding compromises intended to produce a constitutionally-required balanced budget.

However, House Speaker John Vincent, D-Bozeman, said the budget bill would not be sent to the Senate until negotiations on revenue measures are completed, which he hopes will be in two days.

A budget amendment passed by the House Friday would cut more than 40 faculty positions at the University of Montana, Montana State University and Montana Tech.

Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education Jack Noble said Monday that the staff cuts would come on top of 25 positions already placed on the chopping block by declining student enrollments at MSU and Tech.

UM would lose $9.4 million from a full-time faculty cut down, MSU would lose 26, or 16 more than originally planned, and Tech would lose 29% positions, about three more than originally projected, Noble said.

However, because the House must reconsider the entire spending bill, the university system's budget will probably come under scrutiny again.

Mercer: Novice CB members must learn about key issues

By Kevin Twidwell
Kaimin Staff Reporter

ASUM President Bill Mercer said yesterday that although he is concerned that many of the newly-elected Central Board members aren't familiar with key ASUM committees, "I am confident that members will do a good job, if they aggressively question all parties involved in important issues."

He said that board members should make an effort to become informed about important issues facing committees such as the University Planning Council and the Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee because the work they do is important to students.

Mercer said that because there are only four returning CB members this quarter there is "a lot of inexperience on the board." He said he and ASUM Vice President Amy Johnson will attend as many committee meetings as possible to answer questions at the meetings and "clear up any problems" that may arise.

Mercer emphasized that the new board members are "capable and bright people" but said they need to be informed about the important issues facing them if they are to make intelligent decisions.
Opinion

White line fever

The month of April usually provides Missoulians with their first real glimpse of spring. Although slow in arriving this year, the increasingly warm temperatures are one of the first signs that April is here.

Another sure sign of April in Montana is the annual Easter Day protest at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls. Every year, protesters from across the state, including several from Missoula and the University of Montana, gather at Malmstrom on Easter Sunday to protest nuclear weapons.

The protest includes a worship service, a two-mile march, a demonstration at the base and the highlight of the day, an act of civil disobedience. Actually, civil disobedience is kind of deceiving in this case as the act simply consists of several people crossing a white line that separates public property from federal property at Malmstrom.

Last year, about 200 people participated in the demonstration. Twenty-one people crossed the white line. For crossing that white line, those 21 people were arrested and charged with criminal trespass on federal property, which carries a maximum penalty of a $500 fine and/or six months in jail.

This Sunday, according to organizers from UM Students for Nonviolence and Missoula's Easter Peace Affinity Group, 150 to 200 protesters will again gather at Malmstrom.

Although the cause these protesters are fighting for is a good one, their methods are futile. To spend time in jail or to fork over hard-earned money in payment of fines is hardly going to bring about the abolishment of nuclear weapons. Not when a man heliborne breaking records for most nuclear devices gained in a single term in office is ruling from the White House.

This year's protest, as usual, has been carefully orchestrated with many people scheduled to cross the white line and be arrested. It is unfortunate that these people, with noble aspirations, will spend time in jail for crossing that white line. Anyone who has spent anytime at all behind bars can attest to what an unpleasant experience it can be.

The ten trespassers will get their names in the Montana newspapers, and maybe even a picture of them being led away in handcuffs. And they may be considered martyrs by their fellow protesters. But, it is highly unlikely that any person with any authority to do something about nuclear weapons will even hear of their arrests.

Unfortunately, when the immediate uproar dies down, in about a week, they will have nothing to show for their efforts except a criminal record and a sore bottom from sitting in jail.

No, this is not the answer to a very grave problem. Perhaps, these protesters would be better off channeling their energy and money into educating those people who overwhelmingly re-elected Ronald Reagan. A president who made it very clear that he would continue his obsessive drive toward a nuclear holocaust if he was re-elected. A man who is so intent on stockpiling nuclear arms, that he is willing to plunge the country into a financial deficit that it may never recover from.

Maybe, if enough people can be educated by 1988, there will be changes made in the White House. Then there will be no need for people to have themselves arrested for crossing a white line.

But, until then, it's a pity that people will continue to masochistically cross that white line and subject themselves to unnecessary punishment.

Something new

Today's issue of the Montana Kaimin brings readers a new feature for the first time. The question of the week, found on the Forum page, will be a regular part of the Kaimin every Wednesday.

If you have an idea for a question that you would like to see asked, call the Kaimin office at 243-4301 and let us know what it is.

Gary Jahrig

Carrying On

By Bill Thomas

The Flush of secession

"The trouble," said the sage with the whiskey ditch at the end of the bar out at Poor Henry's, "is how to keep your neighbors from doing to you, what you're trying to do to them." Which is, of course, to screw'em any which way you can.

Thus, a group of rural Missoula County residents have recently inflicted themselves on us to defend their constitutional right to flush their toilets into their neighbors' wells. You may recall some of this fun bunch from the battle over woodstove regulations, when they defended their constitutional right to have the neighbor kid's lungs filter toxins from the air. Or you may remember them as the "freeloaders," as they were affectionately dubbed, from the city-county consolidation effort, when they defended their constitutional right to have city residents underwrite their lower taxes.

Well, in the past, the topic is planning and subdivisions. The chosen people again want everyone else to pick up their tab -- this time for roads, sewage and fire protection for land that they subdivided for profit.

But regardless of the topic, the issue remains the same: good old fashioned avareness. The real trouble these folks seem to have with rules and regulations is that they impose the hardship of fair play. What are the poor swindlers to do?

First, they have to get the "know nothings" on their side. They do this by presenting their vice as a virtue. To get the flavor of it, try to imagine Mao Tse-tung in clerical garb writing the Ten Commandments with a quill pen while seated on a grey horse tap dancing to Dixie and humming the Star Spangled Banner. Now imagine the planning department as evil incarnate, a Death Star full of cruel bureaucrats, cackling with macabre glee at their dark intrigue, their thick books full of hideous symbols.

Wyn, anyone'd sign the petition. Excelsior!

So just last week Robin Hood and his merry band of thieves, pitchforks and torches in hand, stormed the County Courthouse and nailed their demands to the door. Of course, many of their demands had nothing whatsoever to do with the County Commissioners. Why let facts get in the way? The Commissioners were given twenty-four hours to let down the drawbridge and hand over the evil bureaucrats.

If not, then like the Old South, we'll secede! (The plantation owners back then wouldn't stand for meddling with their economic rights either.) Forty-Four Fifty or Fight er. Flight!

Well, I'm glad they started believing their own press. Legislation has been introduced to allow residents in Clinton and Lolo to secede from Missoula County. Clinton would join Granite County and Lolo would join Ravalli County. They're welcome to'em.

But, the betting locally is that no county will take them if it comes down to a vote, including Missoula. So I'm all for sweetening the pot with Frenchtown, and at least part of Grant Creek.

I was just a little disappointed that these noble patriots, so burdened with fair play, could only muster up enough nerve to secede from the county. The state places restrictions on subdivisions, too. Why not secede from the state? Or, since Congress is all socialists anyway, why not secede from the country? And why stop there? Since they seem to live in their own little world anyhow, why don't they just secede from the planet?

They could hold a contest in the grade school to name the new county, state and planet. They could name the county after another honored local monument to laissez faire planning; "Malfunction County." For the others I think "A World of Hurt" and "The State of Confusion" would do nicely. I'm sure you can think of your own favorites.

It's too bad that all the same folks in Clinton and Lolo have to go with them, but they'll do okay if they can latch on to a bottled water distributorship. But for the freeloaders, I wish them heartfelt success with their secession. We'll think of you each time we flush.
Question of the week:

"WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS' DECISION TO CHANGE THE MontPIRG FEE-COLLECTING SYSTEM?"

Dan Dilts, Senior, Math
"I think the negative check-off system is better. The university has a lot of students who don't know what they want to do (about the fee). I think the positive system would scare people away from paying the fee."

Carol Seery, Senior, Finance
"I think it's a great idea. A lot of people don't know what MontPIRG is, but when you have to go sign a paper, you find out what MontPIRG is."

Keith Weasel Head, Freshman, Math
"I've been paying MontPIRG fees all along and I don't think it will affect it greatly. People like myself will probably go for it (pay the fee) anyway."

Lee Ann LePard, Senior, Pharmacy
"It doesn't matter either way to me. If they (MontPIRG supporters) want the program they'll check it off."

Dean Adams, Freshman General Studies
"(I'm) happy with it (the fee system) the way it is. I figure it is just as easy to have the negative check-off system as a positive system. I prefer the negative system."

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Solution for Tuesday's crossword puzzle

**BLOOM COUNTY**

by Berke Breathed

"HE WAS AWAY A LONG TIME BEFORE HE REMEMBERED THAT HIS HEART WAS BROKEN."
"HONESTLY SAY IT. I MEAN THIS IS NO ROMANTIC ROMANCE TO BE A HEARTED HERO."
"NEVERTHELESS, IT IS TIME FOR ME AND YOU TO KNIFE THE CASHESS FOR A FEW, FRIENDLY FELLAWELS."
"HURR, OH BUT IT MIGHT IMPROVE YOUR MEANINGFUL POSITION. HERE'S TEN BUCKS."

**Doonesbury**

OUT WOF, ARE WE GOING HOME? HONESTLY, I THINK IT'S TIME THAT YOU DON'T BUILD A REALLING PROFESSION. I'M NOT WORKING ANYMORE."
"OH MAN, THEY SAY THAT WASN'T GOOD TO YOU, DAVID. WELL, COUSINS, EVERYTHING HAS BEEN HANDLING THE RANGER."

**Montana Kaimin • Wednesday, April 3, 1985—3**
New seats set for Dahlberg

By Joe Cregg
Kaimin Sports Reporter

Construction is set to begin in June on new seating for Dahlberg Arena that will improve sight lines from behind the student section, and will reduce the arena's capacity by 200.

The cost of the project will be $475,000, most of which will be covered by a refinancing of bonds for Harry Adams Field House, according to UM Athletic Director Harley Lewis.

Lewis said the changes are needed to improve the sight line from seats to the floor, in addition to the fact that the present roll-away bleachers are falling apart.

Many UM students who sit in the student section on the east side of the floor often stand during basketball games, blocking the view of those fans behind them.

Lewis said the new seating will help alleviate the viewing problems.

Dahlberg Arena now has a seating capacity of 9,400, but after the project the arena will hold only 9,200 people, Lewis said.

The new bleachers will allow two inches more leg-room and each chair will be about two inches higher, Lewis explained, adding that the old seats, which were installed in the early 1970's, were not designed for long-term use.

The more spacious arrangement means that there will be fewer rows of bleachers, accounting for the overall reduction in capacity, Lewis said.

Gary Hughes, Field House Manager, said the renovation will include replacing the Century Club's padded seats with plastic modular chairs.

The arena will be closed, except for limited use between June and Nov. 1, the expected completion date, Lewis said.

Ruggers defeated

The Portland Zephyrs topped Eugene 14-0 in the championship match of the Pacific Northwest Women's Rugby Union regional tournament last weekend in Missoula. Both teams will advance to the territorial round later this month in Portland.

The host UM squad, Missoula's Better Side, edged Moscow, Idaho, in its first game, but was crushed by the Zephyrs 40-0 in the second round. In consolation action, the Better Side was beaten 20-0 by the Corvallis, Ore., team, which won the Best Sportsmen award.

Muralt hailed with All-District laurels

University of Montana center Sharla Muralt has been named to the 1985 Kodak All-District VII women's basketball team, which is selected by members of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

Muralt, a 6-foot-1 junior from Missoula, was UM's leading scorer and rebounder, averaging 13.8 points and 8.6 rebounds a game this season.

Muralt is only the second UM player ever selected for the squad, following Doris Deden Hasquet who was tabbed last year.
By Karen Graasland
Kaimin Contributing Reporter

The Russian embassy hesitated to send someone to lecture in Missoula because they must have thought getting to Missoula was like getting to Novosibirsk, Siberia, said the University of Montana professor who organized the Spring Quarter Environmental Studies lecture series.

E.W. "Bert" Pfeiffer, UM environmental studies professor, has worked to bring Russian and Japanese attaches, and Israeli, Canadian, British, and French scientists to UM to lecture on "Environmental Problems and Their Management in Countries with Differing Social Systems."

However, Pfeiffer said, "I get the feeling that to these embassies, Montana is a wild place, filled with Native Americans and wolves."

Mansfield candidate to lecture tonight

The second candidate for director of the Mansfield Center will visit the UM campus today and deliver a public lecture at 7 p.m. in room 307 of the Botany Building.

Louis W. Hodges, director of Society and the Professions, a program of applied ethics at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., will speak about "Ethics: Normative and Non-normative."

Hodges, who has a doctorate in Christian ethics from Duke University, currently directs research in applied ethics for professional settings.

ASUM is currently accepting applications to fill the student position on the Missoula City Council.

Application may be picked up in University Center Rm 105.

Applications are due Friday, April 5
4:00 p.m.

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RAISING SELF-ESTEEM GROUP: Learn to feel better about yourself and find your own inner strength. Meets Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. for six sessions at the Liberal Arts Building, beginning April 10. Phone 243-4711 (Center for Student Development) to sign up.


IS DOROTHY coming to Missoula? No, but look for Toto!

CONTINUING WEIGHT REDUCTION: A group primarily for previous Fat Liberation groups. Meets Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Liberal Arts Building, beginning April 9. Phone 243-4711 (Center for Student Development) to sign up.

SINGLE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP: Designed to vent feelings and give you support. Meets Tuesday, 5:45 to 7:00 p.m. at the Liberal Arts Building, beginning April 9. Phone 243-4711 (Center for Student Development) to sign up.

PARENT EFFECTIVENESS TRAINING (P.E.T.): Learn better ways to communicate and resolve conflicts with your kids. Starts Tuesday, April 9 from 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Student Development Center, Lodge. Phone 243-4711 to sign-up.

LEARNING STATIONS: The SCD, Lodge is open Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m. Self-help tapes are available on all kinds of personal topics for private listening.

LOOKING FOR a new Friday night activity? International Folk Dancing kicks off the spring quarter Wednesday, April 3, 1985.

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Scott Cossu

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ASUM Programming Presents

Windam Hill Records Recording Artist
New CB meets for first time tonight

ASUM President Bill Mercer will outline his administration's goals and expectations of Central Board tonight at the first CB meeting of the quarter.

Mercer said he will also discuss important university system legislation before the Legislature and ask the board to confirm four appointments to the Budget and Finance Committee.

The meeting will be held in the University Center Gold Oak Room at 7 p.m. tonight.
Continued from page 1.

Maher refused to comment on the Board of Regents' policy. He said UM's policy is an offshoot of the regents' policy enacted in the Spring of 1984 after a "releasee from some penal or mental institution was in the summer of 1978 or 1979 when a parolee stabbed a girl on campus. However, he said, neither of the persons involved was an MSU student.

When asked if an incident in 1979 could prompt regents' action in 1984, Weinberg said that it was possible. "The system's wheels grind slowly sometimes," he said.

Weinberg said the person to call for more information is MSU campus attorney Roger Flair, but Flair was unavailable for comment Tuesday.

Likewise, UM Legal Counsel Mary Elizabeth Kurz refused to comment on Maher's challenge of the policy. She said UM's policy is an offshoot of the regents' policy enacted in the Spring of 1984.

Larry Weinberg, Assistant Chief Legal Counsel for the Montana University System, said UM's policy is an offshoot of the regents' policy enacted in the Spring of 1984 after a "releasee from some institution, penal or mental, attacked a co-ed on campus" at Montana State University.

MSU Manager of Safety and Security Don Wortman said the last case he can remember involving a person released from a penal or mental institution was in the summer of 1978 or 1979 when a parolee stabbed a girl on campus. However, he said, neither of the persons involved was an MSU student.

Wortman said courts across the nation have been placing liability on institutions for assaults on students. He said the regents' policy is a mechanism to avoid such liability.

Maher said that in the university system's attempt to avoid negligence, it has instead created negligence. "There is a kind of atmosphere here in which civil rights and rights of handi­ capped are being ignored or rescinded," he said.

"Not only on behalf of myself, but on behalf of anyone concerned, I brought this up," he said. "Most people with mental illness don't want anybody to know. I'm doing it for people who haven't spoken." We refin said he believes Maher is the first person to challenge the regents' 1984 admission requirements policy.

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We invite you to look into the volunteer opportunities beginning in the next 3-12 months in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific. Our representatives will be pleased to provide you with details.

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