

3-21-2018

Montana Kaimin, March 21, 2018

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MONTANA KAIMIN

Muslim converts of Missoula

الوسيم نم لوجت ملسم

NEWS Budget woes,
take three

ARTS Confronting
the Anthropocene

SPORTS What you
missed during March
Madness



Issue No. 21 March 21, 2018

ON THE COVER Caitlin Wind, a UM senior, poses for a portrait in the University Center atrium on Sunday, March 11. Wind feels that her hijab empowers her and has raised her self-esteem. "I didn't like how men would look at me as a piece of meat," Wind said. With a hijab, she added, she "didn't have to prove [she] was beautiful." PHOTO ELI IMADALI

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15							16						
17							18						
19						20			21				
	22			23				24		25			
26	27			28					29				
30			31					32		33	34	35	
36			37					38	39				
40						41				42			
		43		44	45				46				
47	48	49		50					51				
52			53	54				55			56	57	
58				59					60				
61									62				
63									64				

- Copyright 2018 by The Puzzle Syndicate
- ACROSS**
- 1 Quiet, in a way
 - 8 One whose reasoning is faulty
 - 15 Kind of look
 - 16 Bing Crosby, e.g.
 - 17 Perturb
 - 18 Comeback
 - 19 Revolutionary rider
 - 20 Doctor's charge
 - 21 Salad cheese
 - 22 Steamed state
 - 23 Pollster's concern
 - 25 Small fry
 - 26 Count on
 - 28 Verify, as a password
 - 30 ___ Maria
 - 31 Sunday service
 - 32 Oktoberfest music
 - 36 Taurus, for one
 - 40 Ask in earnest
 - 41 Give off, as light
 - 42 Sock hop locale
 - 43 Carrot's cousin
 - 46 Loafer, e.g.
 - 47 Venom carrier
 - 50 Persona non grata
 - 51 Teacher's fave
 - 52 Street tough
 - 54 One for the road?
 - 55 Magician's word
 - 58 In name only
 - 60 Missionary's target
 - 61 Free of guile
 - 62 Aardvark's paradise
 - 63 Break
- DOWN**
- 1 Way over yonder
 - 2 Library worker
 - 3 Special advantage
 - 4 Diner, e.g.
 - 5 In the loop
 - 6 Fill to excess
 - 7 Needle part
 - 8 Theater fixture
 - 9 Christie's Express
 - 10 Cork sound
 - 11 Walk, with "it"
 - 12 Map feature
 - 13 Brief brawl
 - 14 Milk-Bone biscuit, e.g.
 - 20 Renuzit product
 - 23 Lab work
 - 24 Amtrak stop
 - 26 Farrier's tool
 - 27 Type of twin or grin
 - 28 UK fliers
 - 29 Curtain holder
 - 31 Relating to form
 - 33 Coastal navigation aid
 - 34 Send to the canvas
 - 35 Crowning point
 - 37 40 winks
 - 38 Bahrain big shot
 - 39 Nothing at all
 - 44 Mold again
 - 45 Thinly spread
 - 46 See red
 - 47 Fragrant oil
 - 48 English county
 - 49 Golf strokes
 - 51 Talk too much
 - 53 Nervous swallow
 - 55 Confined, with "up"
 - 56 Blab
 - 57 One's partner
 - 59 Hilo garland
 - 60 Rumor ___ it...

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

S	T	R	A	P	S	E	C	T	C	A	R	P
A	R	O	M	A	P	O	L	E	O	V	E	R
S	O	L	A	R	P	A	N	E	L	L	I	M
S	T	E	L	L	A	R	R	E	C	L	A	I
			G	A	L	P	I	M	I	E	N	T
I	N	L	A	Y	R	E	C	E	D	E		
D	O	O	M	O	U	R	T	E	N	A	N	T
L	U	G	S	P	E	C	T	E	R	W	A	R
E	N	S	I	L	E	E	A	R	R	A	V	E
			M	I	N	I	N	G	P	A	Y	E
A	C	C	I	D	E	N	T	S	O	T		
P	O	R	T	E	N	T	C	O	N	T	R	O
A	R	E	A	D	I	S	I	N	C	L	I	N
C	A	S	T	E	M	I	T	H	E	N	C	E
E	L	S	E	D	E	N	Y	O	R	D	E	R

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SUDOKU Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

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MONTANA KAIMIN

THE LAST BEST COLLEGE NEWS

KAIMIN EDITORIAL

Being poor is totally normal and having a lame spring break is, too

Snow is melting, Chacos are reappearing, footballs and slacklines are making their way back to the Oval. Spring is here. This is a time of awakening, growth and rejuvenation, for both plants and students. There is perhaps no better time to express this newfound sense of energy we all possess than during the upcoming sacred week that is spring break.

If students are to glean their understanding of the traditional and correct way to spend spring break from movies, the week-long vacation is a time for the suspension of open container laws, for developing an inexplicably serious commitment to beach volleyball, for exciting but ultimately vacuous flings and for sleepless nights filled with inane conversations and binge drinking.

In Missoula, the stereotypical and presumptive spring break typically includes Arches National Park. Instead of beach volleyball with your bros followed by

binge drinking, it's climbing with your bros followed by binge drinking. "What are your plans for spring break?" followed by, "The desert, man!" is an exchange we've all heard a few too many times while walking our bikes across the Higgins Avenue bridge.

It's easy to feel left out about your inability to fund a trip when listening to fellow students describe their extravagant spring break plans, but you should know that if you do fall into this category, you're not alone. So much of the perception that everyone but you is out adventuring this time of year is driven by social media. Compulsive Instagram, Facebook and Twitter posting is used to show off evidence of the most beautiful and enviable of experiences. No one is posting Instagram stories of the third bowl of cereal they've eaten on their living room floor, but rest assured, many people have spent their spring break in this exact state.

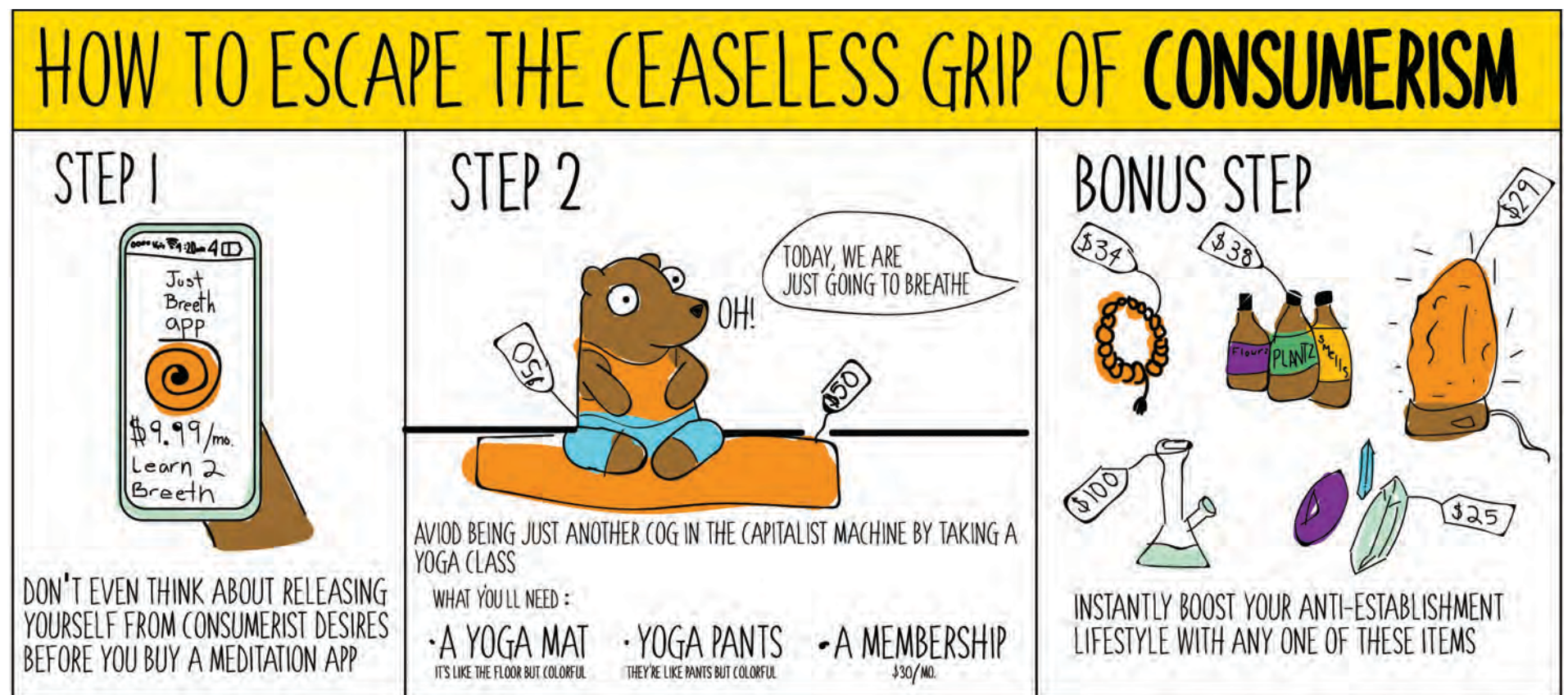
Vacations cost money you might not have, after all. The demographic with the highest level of poverty in Missoula is women and men between the ages of 18 and 24. A lot of students don't have the money to fly somewhere for spring break or to pay for gas for an 800-mile drive to southern Utah. Some students can't even take work off; for some, campus being shut down has nothing to do with whether or not they're clocking in at Jimmy John's to be able to pay rent.

So, if you're sticking around for spring break, try not to worry that you're missing out on vital experiences. The weather in Missoula is supposed to be good next week anyway.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?

Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

KAIMIN COMIC



RENE SANCHEZ

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Congrats. It's a human baby.

Just when I thought there weren't enough mildly creepy traditions celebrating genitalia, I discovered gender reveals. The concept is simple and very much open to modification, but basically it's when an unborn baby's gender is revealed to parents, friends, family or the entire internet in a fun and interesting way, like a pink explosion or a cloud of blue balloons.

If we're being technical, these people aren't revealing their child's gender so much as their assigned sex, but "the thing the doctor is going to say when this baby pops out of me reveal" is a bit of a mouthful.

I understand that pregnancy is an exciting time for those involved, and I totally get the anticipation that comes with finding out your baby's sex. The surprise that comes with gender reveals definitely looks like fun, but I wonder if there's a less weird place to channel that energy. Maybe you could crash a stranger's birthday party or buy those jelly beans where the flavors are all mixed up if you're craving that feeling of surprise. I just don't think getting your insides in a twist over whether your unborn baby has a penis or a vagina is a super constructive way to spend your energy.

There are many reasons to be excited about your baby's sex,

and that's absolutely not a bad thing. Maybe you have a family name you'd like to pass on or some kind of gendered tradition that's important to you. Those kinds of ties are significant, but I don't think gender reveals are necessary to the whole process. Is shooting a cardboard box until it explodes into a puff of colored powder the best way to honor your grandma Catherine's memory? Does your great-great grandfather give two shits about the food-dye-laden cake you're about to slice into? I'm betting no.

What is more disturbing than gender reveals themselves are the countless videos of parents revealing the gender of their older kids' future sibling. Inevitably, one of the kids is upset about the revealed gender and throws a tantrum or starts crying. What kind of system have we created where genitalia are more important to a relationship than familial ties? Stop teaching your children to hate each other before they're even born! Try showing them that people of different genders can be meaningful parts of each others' lives. That starts with stopping the gender reveals, which only emphasize the contrast between masculinity and femininity.

On that note, how are we not past pink equals girl and blue equals boy yet? It's not like babies can have favorite colors or

anything, but I'd like to think baby girls are sick of seeing so much pink all over the damn place. I bet it's why babies cry all the time.

Gender reveals aren't really much worse than any other tradition conflating gender and assigned sex and placing way too much pressure on an unborn baby, but I'm sure tired of seeing them everywhere. I do wonder if people feel stupid for buying all those blue balloons when their kid turns out to be trans, though.

Got a query? Send any questions you have to calreynolds.queeries@gmail.com. Ask me what you've been afraid to ask or what you've always wanted to know. Your name and any other personal information will not be published.

CAL REYNOLDS

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A young woman's triumphant return from overseas

Maybe last semester you were in the business building and spotted someone waving fliers around, talking about a free trip for business kids to go to Japan. I am not a business student — thank God — but economics is a parallel department. I applied and was selected, due to my bombproof resume (barista experience).

Then on a snowy March morning, I was whisked off to Tokyo.

The trip was called the Kakehashi Project, which means "bridge" in Japanese. I knew it would involve business and culture, but I wasn't completely sure what exactly that meant. At the end of the trip, it became abundantly clear that the Japanese government had paid for us to come and fall in love with its country, which we all did. It culminated in a final presentation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where we showed officials everything we learned.

We went to lectures and toured companies and universities, but also had homestays with families in a teeny town north of Sendai. The homestay was the hardest, but most rewarding, part. My host parents (I was with one other student) didn't speak English, so we were left trying to communicate with little language books given to us by the program.

This was difficult, but helped us navigate a little bit on the first night when we went to the public baths, which are a big thing in Japan. You get naked with all the old ladies and soak in hot tubs. We happened to see two other girls with their host mom at the baths, and as we waved to each other nakedly from one pool to another, I thought to myself, "You only get the chance to bathe naked in Japan with business students you don't know once, I guess?" It was surreal.

Post-homestay, we went to a village that had been leveled by the 2011 tsunami and visited an elementary school that had been used as an evacuation site for 300 people. It was March 11, the anniversary of the earthquake. At the memorial service we attended, there was a minute of silence at a Buddhist shrine for the victims of the disaster and a huge balloon release afterward. After two nights of my host dad attempting to close the language barrier by giving us really good sake and copious amounts of sushi, I genuinely did feel connected to the people and the country and was a weepy mess for the whole day.

We returned to Tokyo, ran around Shibuya and Harajuku, and after just eight days, hopped back on a 10-hour flight to Denver.

My mom called me while I was in the Denver airport. I was exhausted and disgusting during our five-hour layover.

"Well, are you glad you did it?"

"Don't ask me that right now. Ask me in a week."

As of writing this, it's been three days since I've been back, and yeah, it was worth it. I want to work in Tokyo now! I know this column might feel hypocritical considering my recent column regarding former exchange student stories, but I promise I have a point, and it's topical for all of you. You can go on this trip for free! Contact the Mansfield Center and check out the requirements for applying. Go get naked with some randos in a sauna. Eat some ramen. Come back and embrace how annoying you will inevitably be.

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STUDENT ACTIVISM

UM community joins nationwide walkout

RYAN OCONNELL

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In remembrance of the 17 victims of the Feb. 14 Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, dozens of students, faculty and community members gathered at the Griz Statue on March 14.

The gathering, promoted on Facebook as “University of Montana Enough! School Walkout,” was an act of solidarity with hundreds of other 17-minute walkouts across the nation. About 400 people attended the demonstration at UM, Montana Public Radio news director Eric Whitney tweeted.

Freshman Maggie Bornstein said she organized the event about three weeks ago. She said other high schools and colleges were starting events but no one had at UM.

“No one else was going to do it. I guess it has to be me,” said Bornstein.

Bornstein, a double major in political science and African American studies, said people in the community are feeling a lot of emotions, and she hoped this event provided an outlet.

Tables were set up encouraging attendees to write letters to their government representatives and register to vote.

UM sophomore Maggie Gammons wrote a letter to Republican Sen. Steve Daines expressing her disappointment with his inaction and asking that he listen to voters instead of those that fund him.

According to opensecrets.org, Daines has received \$121,711 in support from the NRA since 2012. Of that, \$9,700 was directly from the NRA and \$75,732 was from independent NRA members. The total figure also includes \$36,279 expended against Daines’ political opponents.

Montana’s other senator, Jon Tester has an A- rating from the NRA but has received no money from the organization.

Democratic congressional candidate Kathleen Williams and her supporters set up a table and met students in front of the Griz Statue.

Williams, who is running this fall, is a gun owner and hunter. She said that assault rifles are not typical wildlife hunting weapons, but she is not against them being used in a controlled environment such as a shooting range.

“It’s not about taking away guns, it’s about more responsible gun ownership,” Williams said.

She wants to see more citizens involved in hunter safety programs and supports individuals with domestic violence



Jackson Lahey, a UM student, writes a letter to Sen. Steve Daines explaining why he feels gun reform is necessary during the Enough! Walkout on March 14. Lahey explained that he went to high school with Daines’ kids in Bozeman. “I’m telling him about all the times we had lockdowns and how I feared for my life,” Lahey said. “No child should have to fear for their lives while getting an education.” PHOTO SARA DIGGINS

and stalking convictions not being able to own firearms.

Nathan Stephens, a UM alum, described himself as a lifelong Missoulian. He carried a sign showing an AR-15 and the words “A\$SAULT RIFLE\$. NEVER AGAIN.”

Stephens, a father of two, protested corporate money involved in the legislative process, lobbyists and the NRA. The sign “speaks for itself,” he said.

On the opposite side of the Griz Statue, UM student Ethan Holmes set up a poster with the words “We All Have a Right to Prevent Mass Violence and Genocide.” Pictures of Hitler, Stalin and Mao, along with the number of people killed by their regimes bordered the center.

Holmes said it is a tragedy to see 17 young, innocent people die in a shooting, but everyone has the fundamental right to prevent genocide, a right that he said cannot be exercised unless people have access to firearms.

“The seizure of the right to protect oneself is the common denominator in genocides,” he said.

Holmes wanted to start a conversation at the event and said that a dialogue needs two parties.

As people walking around the Griz Statue came upon his poster, discussion heated up over the purpose of automatic weapons.

“They’re designed to kill people,” said a man who declined to give his name.

As cameras and microphones homed in on the exchange, Julie Tompkins climbed behind Holmes and strategically placed her sign “Educated People Don’t Need to Carry Guns” at the feet of the bear.

Tompkins, an administrator and academic adviser in the environmental studies department, said arming teachers and students breeds an environment of fear and violence that is not necessary on college campuses.

At 10:17 a.m., Maggie Bornstein stood with a megaphone, thanking people for coming and inviting them to stay and continue their conversations.

Bornstein sees the walkout as a wake-up call for students and hopes they become more involved in their communities.

“We have to do more than walk out,” she said.

MAIN HALL CHAOS

University loses two vice presidents in one day

MATT NEUMAN

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The University of Montana lost two top-level administrators Monday, according to a flurry of emails from Main Hall announcing extensive restructuring.

Tom Crady, UM's vice president of enrollment and student affairs, did not have his contract renewed, effectively firing him, the Missoulian first reported. Hours later, President Seth Bodnar sent out a campus-wide email explaining plans to restructure Crady's office, moving it under the purview of the provost.

Just over four hours later, interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Beverly Edmond announced in an email to campus that she would also be leaving her position as of March 30. UM's law school dean, Paul Kirgis, will serve as acting provost, according to the email.

The loss of Crady and Edmond leaves Main Hall staffed completely by interim vice presidents with the exception of Bodnar and research vice president Scott Whittenburg.

UM spokesperson Paula Short could not confirm Crady's contract non-renewal, but three people close to the situation confirmed Crady was not offered a new contract for the 2018-2019 school year. Crady did not respond to multiple phone calls requesting comment.

Faculty Senate Chair Mary-Ann Bowman said she was stunned

after receiving news of the loss of both Crady and Edmond.

"I can't help but wonder what relationship there is between the two," Bowman said. "The Missoulian had a very positive story about Tom's work and within hours he was essentially fired. Now to lose the provost — things seem too coincidental."

Edmond cited personal reasons for leaving in her email to campus. UM hired Edmond as interim provost for the 2016-2017 school year, but after the resignation of former President Royce Engstrom, she was asked to stay on until the new president could hire a permanent provost.

The provost's departure comes at a critical time for faculty, Bowman said. During the spring semester, the provost traditionally reviews nominations for faculty seeking tenure and raises. This review is preceded by recommendations from department chairs and deans.

Kirgis, the law school dean tapped for the acting provost position, said he is not positive what role he will play in that review process.

Edmond oversaw the highly criticized program prioritization process, APASP, which reviewed academic programs throughout 2017. The University Planning Committee is using parts of APASP's work to analyze and recommend cuts to some academic programs.

Crady joined UM's executive team in the summer of 2016, bringing student affairs and enrollment under one executive following a steep decline in enrollment. Despite Crady's past experience, enrollment continued to drop in his nearly two years on campus, with a slight increase in freshman enrolling this past fall.



Vice President of Enrollment and Student Affairs Tom Crady (left) and Provost Beverly Edmond (right). PHOTOS HOPE FRIER AND WILL MCKNIGHT

Student affairs and enrollment will again be separate, Bodnar announced in an email. Student affairs will move under the provost's office, while enrollment and financial aid will be moved into an office of communications, outreach and enrollment.

ASUM President Braden Fitzgerald said Bodnar will be at Wednesday night's student senate meeting to take questions about the restructuring. Fitzgerald said he hoped putting most aspects of campus life under one office will lead to a better student experience.

"The student body, from what I heard as a member of the presidential search committee, was so supportive of President Bodnar because he was going to come in and shake things up," Fitzgerald said. "Now we've got to give him an opportunity to do it, of course with the opportunity for feedback at all times."

FINALLY, SOMETHING GOOD

UM's accounting master's program ranked top 20 in nation for size

MELISSA LOVERIDGE

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How do you make a story about accounting interesting? Tell students they have nearly a 100 percent chance of getting a job if they go through UM's Master of Accountancy Program (MAcct), which was recently ranked in the top 20 accounting schools in the nation for programs of its size.

Public Accounting Report surveys accounting professors every year for their opinions on the best schools, and this is the first year UM's program has made it into the ranks.

"I don't have an explanation for how," said chair of the MAcct program and associate professor Terri Herron. "They just know us"

Public Accounting Report voided any votes for professors' alma maters or schools where they have previously taught.

MAcct ranked 19th out of schools in the West and 16th in the na-

tion for masters programs in accounting with fewer than 17 full-time faculty. The MAcct program has only six full-time faculty positions.

UM's accounting graduate program isn't ranked this high for no reason. With a nearly 100 percent placement rate and one of the highest Certified Public Accountant examination pass rates, it's an alluring school for both in-state and out-of-state students. It doesn't hurt that UM's business school is the only separately accredited business school in Montana.

"A ranking like this doesn't happen without great students," Herron said. "Wherever they want to go, I believe we give them the tools to do that"

Program director and associate professor of business Josh Herbold agrees.

"We get to know our students a lot better," Herbold said. "We have kind of an open-door policy."

Herbold and Herron agreed the ranking could have a positive effect on student recruitment, but they weren't sure of what that will

be. As for current students, there's a good chance of a positive future once they pass their CPA certification exams.

"I already have a job," said M.A. student Kolten LaMiaux, who will finish his classes this spring. "I got it in October ... you almost have to try to not [get a job]." LaMiaux said he had five interviews other than the one which landed him his job in Bozeman.

LaMiaux believes that UM's Master of Accountancy Program differs from others partly because of the certification process. Instead of taking the CPA all at once, the school breaks it up into quarters. Students will study for the first fourth of the exam, take that quarter, then move on to studying for the second, take the second quarter, until they're done with the test in July.

LaMiaux received his undergraduate in accounting from Montana Tech in Butte. He said he always knew UM's school was the way he wanted to go.

"I was dead set on coming here for my master's. MSU was my plan Z," he said.

BUDGET CUTS

Will UM's third attempt to cut the budget work?

MATT NEUMAN

matthew.neuman@umontana.edu/@Matt_Neuman_

The University of Montana law school's Pope Room is home to mahogany bookshelves, century-old books and a \$75,000 Irish glass chandelier. According to an archived interview with former law school dean Robert Sullivan, the chandelier, bought in the 1970s, came to be known as "Sullivan's Folly" among faculty, because he "should have used the money for books or something."

That chandelier now hangs over the meetings of an arm of the University Planning Committee tasked with helping President Seth Bodnar fit a shrinking budget by finding the best way to cut back on UM's academic programs.

The UPC isn't the first attempt UM has made to reduce its number of programs since enrollment began dropping seven years ago. In fact, it's roughly the third. Or at least, the third with an acronym recognizable to anyone who has been on campus since at least 2014. But beyond the stress and anxiety of an uncertain future, the previous two budget cutting exercises had relatively little effect on the degrees UM offers.

As the UPC rushes along its timeline to produce a list of programs poised for cuts by the Board of Regents meeting in May, its members are left wondering if history is repeating itself. In interviews and comments made publicly at meetings, at least nine members of the UPC have questioned the committee's ability to follow through on its own charge.

Throughout 2017, the Academic Program and Administrative Services Prioritization task force built a method of analyzing all academic programs and administrative services, ranked each one, and recommended programs for elimination, modification or growth. But by the end of the process, APASP had received so much criticism and found so many flaws in its own process, its members couldn't even stand behind the findings with confidence.

In recommendations to former interim President Sheila Stearns, APASP prefaced its findings with five pages of reasons why they should be used with caution, if at all. "It would be a serious mistake to pretend that our program prioritization results are without flaws," the recommendations read.

APASP was intended to help identify programs that could be cut while doing the least damage to the University. This is similar to the UPC, and members of the UPC are sharing APASP's reluctance to be the ones making those decisions.

Steve Schwarze, a communications professor who has served on both APASP and the UPC, said he sees the UPC walking back its confidence in its ability to produce useful results.



University Planning Committee board members take notes during a weekly meeting in a UC conference room March 9. PHOTO LACEY YOUNG

"APASP failed because it didn't have concrete recommendations [on what to cut]. Now we're stepping back, too. And I don't necessarily have a problem with that," Schwarze said at a March 14 meeting.

The committee members appear poised to only give broad recommendations, perhaps as a list of 50 at-risk programs, and then asking the administration to find what within that list should go.

Megan Stark, a library faculty member and faculty union vice president on the UPC, said the group could only do so much on a short timeline, and called on the administration to be the decision makers and take ownership of cuts.

"The president uses [our broad recommendations], and management steps up and manages. And I'm sorry, but at some point we have to say we're not going to find a better process on this timeline," Stark said at the same March 14 meeting.

One of the committee's subgroups, tasked with identifying a handful of areas UM excels in and should continue to invest in, is also retreating from its original charge. By identifying areas of excellence, it would inherently also identify which programs don't fit into those areas, and those programs could be at risk.

The group has been criticized internally and by the committee-at-large for being too broad in the areas of excellence, which encompass almost all of campus. However, the subgroup appears to have accepted this, declining to single out programs by not including them. After presenting initial draft areas of excellence, the UPC expressed concern with the lack of specificity.

"What I heard [from the rest of the committee] was, 'How does this tell us what we're going to get rid of?'" Nadia White, journalism professor and subgroup member, said to the subgroup after presenting the draft areas to the whole UPC.

Reed Humphrey, subgroup co-chair and health and medicine dean, said he didn't feel the subgroup should be creating the method of determining what gets cut.

"To be quite clear, I was trying to divorce us from that element of the charge," Humphrey said at the March 12 meeting. "I just think if the work that we do has to be framed around what we get rid of, that kills the charge, which is supposed to be finding strength and opportunity, not weakness."

If the UPC declines to make specific recommendations on how to cut back on programs, it's unclear how Bodnar will deal with the need to trim.



Muslim converts of Missoula

الوسيم نم لوح ت ملسم ا

PHOTOS AND STORY ELIMADALI

Lake Stadheim, 19, plays with her misbaha, or prayer beads, just before starting dhikr, or devotions, on Sunday, March 11. Stadheim became interested in Islam when she met her now husband, Adam Stadheim, and converted shortly after. Although she was raised Christian, her parents are supportive of her conversion. "They're just happy that I'm healthy and love God," she said.



Adam Stadheim, 22, blows out the flame burning an incense stick as he prepares to lead dhikr. Stadheim says most people who come to dhikr are not actually Muslim, but enjoy participating in this particular practice of Sufism.

Five college-age friends sat on a colorful rug in a stuffy, dark room on Spruce Street. As their shadows danced on the walls in the flickering candlelight, they chanted the Arabic phrase “La ilaha ilallah” (“There is no God but God”).

The room, lit by three candles, was too dark to photograph – not to mention, it would have been disrespectful to do so.

Some of the friends periodically rocked back and forth, beating their chests from time to time. Others played with their misbaha, or prayer beads. One woman sat still, shifting positions every once in a while. But they all chanted, alternating rhythms and tones, for almost an hour.

When they finished, they remained silent for a short time.

This form of worship is known as dhikr, an ancient combination of prayer, meditation and remembrance of Allah, or God, for Sufi Muslims.

Adam Stadheim, 22, a recent graduate of the University of Montana and assistant imam at UM’s Muslim Student Association, explains dhikr as a way to remember.

“It’s an attempt to polish this rust, these veils that have formed on us,” he said, just before beginning the meditation.

But Stadheim and his friends practicing dhikr

INDEX

Allah - **الله**: the Arabic word for God in Abrahamic religions. In English, the word usually refers to the Islamic God.

Muhammad - **مُحَمَّد**: the founder of Islam. In Islam, he is the final prophet and God’s messenger.

Quran - **القرآن**: the main religious text of Islam; analogous to the Bible in Christianity or the Torah in Judaism.

Five Pillars of Islam - **الاسلام**: the basic and mandatory acts that are the foundation of Muslim life — Shahada: faith, Salah: prayer, Zakāt: charity, Sawm: fasting, Hajj: pilgrimage to Mecca (the holy site of Muslims in Saudi Arabia).

Mosque - **مسجد**: a place of worship for Muslims

Imam - **إمام**: an Islamic leadership position, usually the worship leader of a mosque; analogous to a priest in Catholicism or a rabbi in Judaism.

Sufism - **فصوفية**: the mystical branch of Islam concerned with purification of inner self.

Hijab - **حجاب**: a veil worn by some Muslim women when in public.

Misbaha - **حسب**: a string of prayer beads used to count recitations when praying; analogous to a rosary in Catholicism.



The Stadheims laugh as they discuss religion and philosophy after almost an hour of chanting. Adam, right, says “Emptiness is form and form is emptiness.”



Hamidou Sankara, a 29-year-old UM student from Burkina Faso, in West Africa, prays in the basement of the Muslim Student Association mosque at Friday prayer on March 9. He was raised Muslim, though the MSA mosque he attends is usually made up of 30 to 40 percent converts, or reverts, as they say.

may not be who you'd expect them to be — Arab or Indonesian, North African or Central Asian. They are converts, (reverts, as they call it), as well as people interested in this particular practice. No one in attendance was born into Islam.

According to the Pew Research Center, less than 1 percent of Montana's population was Muslim in 2014. The same goes for Missoula County, according to the latest available U.S. Religion Census data from 2000. And although there is no specific data available on Muslim converts in Missoula, UM's MSA Imam Ismail Medkouri estimates that nearly 40 percent of his congregation consists of converts.

Stadheim said the fact that Missoula is almost entirely Caucasian likely plays into that high percentage, which is double the national average of Muslim converts of 20 percent, according to the Pew Research Center.

A convert himself, Stadheim said he's always been interested in religion. Throughout high school, he explored Buddhism, Christianity and Judaism, among other faiths.

These other religions, however, didn't quite appeal to him. He felt they were impractical in everyday life and sometimes contradictory. But when he found Islam, he said, it felt different.

"I was immediately drawn into it," Stadheim said.

He said he was relaxed by the humanity of the Prophet Muhammad, and felt that Islam was easy to apply to his life in the modern world. He said it felt concrete, since he knew that if he believed in the Prophet Muhammad and practiced the Five Pillars every day, he would be a Muslim and feel a tangible connection to Allah.

Other converts feel similar sentiments. Laura Riefflin, 32, says she was struggling with suicidal thoughts when a Palestinian friend suggested she read the Quran.

Riefflin was on vacation with her atheist family at the time, and remembers being in her "bikini on



TOP: Laura Riefflin, 32, looks out the window of the Muslim Student Association mosque after speaking about her experience with Islam on Thursday, March 15. After visiting Palestine in 2013, she noticed that everyone there always assumed she was Christian because she's Caucasian. Riefflin, however, grew up atheist, and believes that no one religion is for a specific people. "Islam isn't just for Arabs," she says.

BOTTOM: From left to right: Riefflin, Lake Stadheim and Caitlin Wind sit on prayer rugs, listening to Imam Ismail Medkouri give a sermon on feminism and gender roles in the Quran and the modern day during Friday prayer on March 16. He paraphrases the Prophet Muhammad, saying that "men are not better than women, nor women better than men. They are complementary." Most converts interviewed say that a lot of non-Muslims mix up culture and Islam, especially when thinking Islam is misogynistic. For example, when the Muslim Student Association had a Saudi Arabian Imam, the women and men prayed in separate rooms. However, there is nothing in the Quran that says they need to be separated — it's just a cultural practice in Saudi Arabia.



Men perform ruku, or bowing, in the middle prayer. When doing ruku, you are supposed to bend at the waist until your palms reach your knees and remain in that position until you feel calm.

the beach, reading the Quran.”

Despite this unconventional introduction, she said she immediately connected with Islam and the Prophet Muhammad. But she wasn’t completely comfortable with practicing at first. A Missoula native, Riefflin said she struggled to wear her hijab in public, since lifelong friends and acquaintances now had difficulty addressing her. One friend even stopped speaking to her altogether. Her mother wasn’t comfortable with it either.

“When she saw me praying, she flipped out,” Riefflin said.

But after a trip to Palestine to see how a Muslim society functioned, Riefflin finally felt comfortable wearing her hijab. She said she now wears it not only for religious purposes, but also in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

UM senior Caitlin Wind, 21, said when she first read the Quran, she found various feminist elements that she felt empowered by.

Wind enjoys a story about a man’s wife giving birth to a baby girl, much to his disappointment. He prays to Allah and asks why he wound up with a daughter. Allah responds by telling the man to not complain, and lists the many strengths of women. Wind said she found Allah’s answer hilarious and satisfying.

“A guy essentially got bitched-out by God,” she said.

The process of conversion for Wind was slow. She didn’t know about the MSA at first, so she learned a lot on her own for the first year or so.

“I was trying to figure out how to do things via YouTube and Samir [Bitar, a UM Arabic language lecturer],” Wind said, laughing.

When she finally found out about the MSA and mustered up the courage to go to its mosque, she was so nervous about messing up that she was on the verge of tears.

But Imam Medkouri approached her and calmed her down. Wind says Medkouri and others helped her pray properly and feel welcome in the Muslim community.

Medkouri stresses the importance of being open and welcoming to the public. He and others at the MSA consciously create an open environment where Muslims and others from all walks of life can come to pray and learn.

It’s this feeling of belonging, as well as a connection to Allah and humanity that attracts converts like Wind, Riefflin and Stadheim to Islam, they all said.

“Islam is a return to an original primordial condition,” Stadheim said. “It’s the religion of being fully human.”

The MSA meets for group prayer at 1:45 p.m. every Friday. Imam Medkouri said all are welcome.

“It is your right to come,” Medkouri said.



TOP: A Libyan man “greet[s] the mosque,” a practice known in Arabic as Tahiyat al-Masjid, on Friday, March 16. When you enter the mosque, you must perform two prayers before sitting down. “It’s like saying hello to God,” Lake Stadheim said.

BOTTOM: Ismail Medkouri, UM’s Muslim Student Association Imam, waits to give a sermon while wearing his djellaba at Friday prayer on March 16. A djellaba is a woolen robe traditionally worn by Berbers (indigenous North Africans) of the Maghreb region of North Africa, which includes Mauritania, Western Sahara, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya. Medkouri is a Berber from Rabat, Morocco.

TELEVISION

'The Sopranos' and 'Real Housewives of New Jersey': Natural companions

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Sometimes, lying awake at night, thinking about the state of the world today (violence, injustice, dating apps), I wonder if there is even a piece of news anymore that could bring me hope, that could evoke within me a sense of wonder.

Friends, that news is here: David Chase is making a prequel to "The Sopranos."

For those unfamiliar, "The Sopranos" ran from 1999 to 2007. Post-Columbine, pre-9/11, the show captured Americans' simultaneous anxiety around, and desire for, a hypermasculine, vulgar but ultimately sympathetic lead.

But "The Sopranos" was so much more than that. It was also about the relationships between mothers and fathers, husbands and wives and the insular Italian community at the heart of the show and the broader northern New Jersey they called home.

It was a show filled with female characters who were simultaneously smart and shortsighted, strong and selfish, tender and cynical. There was certainly machismo, but "The Sopranos" consistently skewered the hypermasculinity of its male leads, considering the ways in which emotional repression and the inability to



PHOTO COURTESY HBO ENTERTAINMENT

express themselves contributed to their demise.

I love "The Sopranos" and I couldn't be more thrilled that they are making a prequel. In honor of this news, I would like to suggest that the most impactful, rewarding way to watch "The Sopranos" is alongside another favorite show of mine: "Real Housewives of New Jersey."

There are the obvious similarities. Both shows feature large Italian families living in northern New Jersey, making money through various kinds of mob activity. But the degree to which they complement each other runs much deeper. Both depict families who invoke the idea of "loyalty" within their community while failing, at every turn, to find intimacy with their loved ones, siblings, and selves. They are living in an empire in decline and they're not han-

dling it very well.

"Real Housewives of New Jersey" is a reality show, which means that when watching it alongside "The Sopranos," one should buy into its version of the truth, viewing it perhaps as a real-life example of the community and pathologies depicted in "The Sopranos."

This is easy to do, as even the real people of "Real Housewives" have archetypal counterparts in "The Sopranos." Theresa, a housewife who finds her way into the crux of "Real Housewives" by season four, can be seen in fictional form in James Gandolfini's Tony Soprano. While they employ different aesthetic presentations, they both struggle to assess the authenticity of the people they've surrounded themselves with and the relationships they've become invested in. But most importantly, they are deeply uncomfortable with themselves. Caroline, the steady, reliable, no-bullshit matriarch of the house in "Real Housewives," finds a kindred spirit in "The Sopranos" Carmela, Tony's wife. I could go on — Kim D. is Uncle Junior, Dr. V is Dr. Melfi, Lauren is Meadow.

Tony Soprano once said to his therapist, Dr. Melfi, "What kind of God does this shit?" Well, if "this shit" means allowing us to live in a time that includes "The Sopranos," "Real Housewives of New Jersey," and news of a "Sopranos" prequel, then it is a benevolent God.

ALBUM REVIEW

Vivian Leva makes the old feel new with debut album

ERIN GOUDREAU

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Vivian Leva is one of those musicians who makes you question exactly what you've done by the ripe age of 22. Born and raised in Lexington, Virginia, the college student's first studio album is a stunning sonic tapestry of traditional Appalachian folk and country sounds, some bonafide honky-tonk tunes, and more interior moments of tender and intimate songwriting.

The daughter of James Leva, a celebrated banjo and guitar player, and bluegrass singer-songwriter Carol Elizabeth, Leva was raised on a tradition of Appalachian-based roots music and a deep commitment to quality musicianship. "Time Is Everything," Leva's first studio effort, is sonically sparse but never underwhelming, vacillating between the kind of tunes worth turning up and singing along with in the car and the kind worth listening to alone in one's room.

In "No Forever," Leva finds herself in a place that feels comfortable. Sparse banjo, guitar, fiddle and her signature weightless, but profoundly confident, voice work together to produce a sound that

is both traditional and contemporary. The song evokes a sense of classic Appalachian folk music while making wholly original melodic choices.

She moves into what can only be described as something that would feel at home in a honky-tonk with "Why Don't You Introduce Me as Your Darlin'" and "Bottom of the Glass." The former feels timeless. We may not use the term "darlin'" much today, but those moments of profound insecurity we feel at the realization that our partner is refusing to claim us is universal. "Bottom of the Glass" is just pure fun, bringing back a sound we are also hearing from the likes of Sarah Shook these days. These songs feel both contemporary and worth line dancing to.

But Leva really hits her stride in more intimate songwriting moments, particularly "Time Is Everything" and "Sturdy as the Land." The understated and confessional nature of the former is particularly stunning, sending the listener into a dreamy, twangy trance. The final lines of the song's heartbreaking chorus, "You've been trying to tell me no one knows what the years will bring, I've been trying to tell you time is everything," are delivered in a near-warble over the croon of the pedal steel.



PHOTO COURTESY VIVIAN LEVA

This album is a reminder that while mainstream country music has continued to stray further and further from its roots, there is a vibrant world of country and folk music that deserves our attention, much of which is being led by female singer-songwriters. Give this one a listen, folks. It's worth your time.

Q & A

UM professor: Consider human impact in ‘The Synthetic Age’

MICAH DREW

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In a fishing boat hundreds of miles off the Alaska coast, University of Montana philosophy professor Christopher Preston encountered the disruption of nature by human technology — in this case, the amount of mercury found in the fish he was catching. He points to that experience as one that radically shifted his thinking on the impact humans have on the world surrounding us.

Drawing on that inspiration and his own expertise in the field of environmental philosophy, Preston's latest book, “The Synthetic Age,” examines emerging technologies that allow humanity to hijack some of nature's most basic operations. The Kaimin spoke to Preston about some of these issues.

Montana Kaimin: Starting with working on a fishing boat, what is that like?

Christopher Preston: It's just fabulous. I started going to Alaska when I was in grad school [in Fort Collins, Colorado] because I'd heard that's what students did. It's jaw-dropping ... There are whales jumping and sea lions gnashing on salmon and bears on the beach. If you're interested in the environment, what could be more exciting than that?

MK: How did you first get interested in how humans and technology are affecting nature?

CP: You know, I like technology. I find a lot of it interesting and environmentally helpful as well. But a lot of these technologies pose a threat to elemental and natural forces, and I began to see a pattern ... that the raw, natural world was beginning to get redesigned, reworked and reprogrammed to human interests.

MK: What do you mean by that?

CP: What these technologies do — nanotechnology, genome manipulation, atmosphere fixing, etc. — is they get into the basic processes of nature. When you can build genomes, you're basically saying, “Let's forget Darwin. Let's forget 3.5 billion years of natural history and do it ourselves.” When humans can dial that in to fit their needs, it seems to me that it's a new level to be aware of.

MK: You talk about us living in a new geologic age, the Anthropocene. What is this “Human Age” like?

CP: What I find striking about that term is the Anthropocene refers to a whole load of accidents. If you think about climate change, no human has ever said, “Hey, let's change the climate of the planet.” What people did say is, “Let's create wealth by burning fossil fuels and raise our standards of living.”

You can kind of go through that with all the impacts that are hallmarks of the Anthropocene — changes in nitrogen samples by using fertilizer, changes in hydrology from building dams, species composition through extinctions.

The other thing I think is striking is that when you've made a giant accident, why would you put your name on it and celebrate it by saying this is the Human Age? Wouldn't you be embarrassed? This is the screwed-up age.

MK: In the book, you talk about managing the natural world in this age. What does that look like?

CP: There's a whole debate raging among land managers: Now that everything's impacted by humans, what does preservation really mean? There's an idea that since everything is messed up, we can't really put it behind a fence — now we have to be actively involved. But I think that bumps up against the idea that humans have had that there is something out there that is beyond them, and those feelings are rooted in the idea that nature is something other than us. So much of the world is us already, so it might be time to realize we might have to draw some boundaries.

MK: In a discussion on technology, why is looking at things through a philosopher's lens important?

CP: Anyone who's concerned with the natural world is automatically concerned in the way human technology interacts with the natural world. We don't generally encounter the natural world in a raw sense, wearing a loincloth ... Our encounter is through automobiles, it's through smartphones.

If we do this full throttle, we don't think anymore about leaving nature alone. We instead make the whole thing operate according to our design. To me, it's a critical moment for those concerned with the philosophy of nature.

MK: Why is any of this important?

CP: The way I look at it, this is one of the biggest decisions this planet has ever had — the species has ever had [as well], but the planet. The decision is whether we're going to flip from a world that is generated autonomously of its own forces or whether it's constructed and managed by humans. In the 4.5 billion years the planet has been here, this is the moment things could change. I think people ought to be aware of that and be talking about that.

Editor's note: Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

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SPORTS OTHER THAN BASKETBALL

Griz recap: Everything you missed while watching basketball

JACKSON WAGNER

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The NCAA Basketball Tournament draws a lot of attention, especially with the hometown Grizzlies playing in it, so we forgive you if you locked yourself in, set up a couple different screens and watched March Madness all weekend long. But if you did, you may have missed out on a lot of action in the world of Griz athletics. Don't worry, that's what we're here for. Here's a quick recap of everything you missed over the action packed weekend.

SOFTBALL

The softball team played in Missoula for the first time this season, debuting in front of the new permanent seating, and the fans filling those seats, that was installed during the offseason. It may have been a new look at home for the Griz, but they dominated just as they have in the past. The ladies ended the week 5-0, getting some momentum as they roll into Big Sky play.

It started on Tuesday with back-to-back wins over Providence, highlighted by a five-inning no-hitter from freshman pitcher Tristin Achenbach. Montana then took on Utah Valley in a three-game series dubbed the "Griz Classic."

In game one, the Griz had to come from behind, using a five-run third inning to help propel them to a 7-3 victory. Utah Valley took the Griz to extras in the second game, where freshman

Jessica McAlister delivered the program's first ever walk-off homerun to lead Montana to a 2-1 victory. The solo shot backed up sophomore Michaela Hood, who allowed just one run in nine innings of work inside the circle.

On the final game of the weekend, the Griz put up a five-spot in the bottom of the first to cruise to an 8-2 win, putting them at 12-17 overall entering conference play.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's tennis team took to the courts for the first time in two weeks, hosting North Dakota and Sacramento State in a couple of Big Sky Conference matches at the Peak Racquet Club.

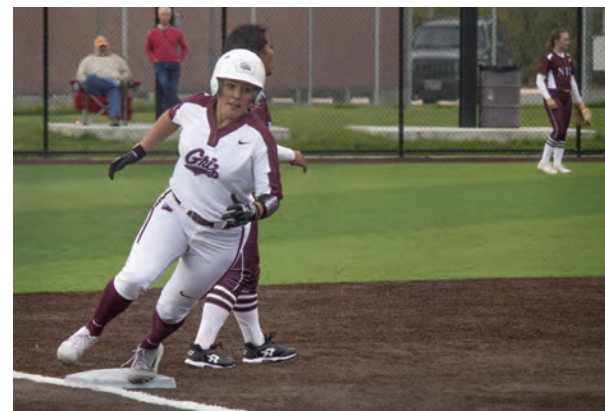
On Friday, Montana took down North Dakota 6-1. The doubles teams of Cam Kincaid/Bianca Bostrom and Julia Ronney/Nathalie Joanlanne each picked up wins, securing the first point of the day while the No. 3 doubles match went unfinished.

Kincaid was the first to finish in the singles competition, knocking off Elly Hartnett 6-2, 6-4. Ronney quickly followed that up with a 7-5, 6-3 win to make it 3-0 Montana. After North Dakota won the No. 4 singles match, Joanlanne clinched the win for the Griz with a 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 win at No. 3.

The Griz had tougher luck against Sacramento State on Saturday, losing 7-0, to fall to 2-3 in conference play and 6-8 overall this season.

SOCCER

It may not be soccer weather in Missoula yet, but the program finalized its schedule for the fall season over the weekend.



Griz softball senior Delene Colburn rounds third base before scoring during a game Sept. 30, 2017. PHOTO HOPE FREIER

It will be a difficult schedule, but the Griz will be at home for nine of their 19 matches this year, one more home game than they had a season ago.

They also have a trip to Hawaii on the slate, traveling to Honolulu to play against Hawaii and Arizona State. The team also goes to Washington State to round out the non-conference schedule and send Montana into an intimidating start to Big Sky play.

The Griz open conference play with Northern Colorado, Eastern Washington and Idaho — the last three Big Sky tournament champions and two of the last three regular season champions.

KAIMIN COLUMN

Views from the 406: Griz won't be the same without Fab

When Montana's men's basketball season finally came to an end, it shouldn't have been a huge surprise to anyone. The Griz were heavy underdogs against Michigan — a No. 14 seed facing a No. 3 seed — at the NCAA tournament. The Wolverines entered as a top-10 team in the country on an incredible hot streak.

Montana, meanwhile, was playing in its first NCAA tournament since 2013. It was the first tournament for coach Travis DeCuire, and the first for almost every player. After all, the Griz have just one senior on the team. The loss hurt for everyone at Montana, but it was the final game of a fantastic season. The Griz will surely be back contending for another Big Sky title next year.

Even with all of the hopeful thoughts for next year, it was hard shaking the fact that we won't see Fabijan Krslovic suit up in a Griz jersey again.

Krslovic has been a four-year rock for Montana, starting 115 games and playing in more games than anyone else in the program's history. On top of all the records and the wins, he will go down as one of the most genuine players in Griz history.

A hard worker known for his mouth always hanging ajar while on the floor, Krslovic earned the respect of just about everyone he played with or against. He captured the hearts of every person in Griz nation with his class and his competitiveness.

After the final buzzer sounded on his college career, he stopped on his way to the tunnel to sign autographs for Griz fans who made the journey to Wichita, Kansas, a huge grin across his face. This wasn't an act he put on for the cameras at the national tournament. It was just Fab being Fab.

He took to Twitter after the game to write a goodbye to

Missoula, saying he hoped he represented well. After 132 games and four years of watching Krslovic play, I think it's safe to say he's one of the best representatives Griz basketball has ever had.

I consider myself lucky to have been at UM in the same four years as Krslovic. I will root for the Griz from afar next season, and I think we could be looking at one of the best teams in program history. But this year, this team, this player, will always have a special place in Griz history.

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GRIZ BASKETBALL

How the Griz did everything right, but still not enough

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It happens once every couple of years. A No. 14 seed will outplay a No. 3 seed in the NCAA Tournament for one game with exuberant heart and a meditated gameplan. Last year, it didn't happen at all. That shouldn't shock any logical human being, but it was still statistically improbable.

The Griz had all the makings of a team that could pull it off: an elite defense, a conference coach of the year, efficient free-throw shooting and two guards with the capacity to catch fire at any given moment.

In the days leading up to Thursday night's matchup, fans griped about the draw, about the location and about the hypothetical outcomes if either of those two were different.

This was the best Griz team Montana had seen in a while — 26 years, in fact. They were a No. 14 seed then, the same seed they earned this year, and they lost the upset bid over a No. 3 seed in similar fashion.

Griz players had heard about the NCAA Tournament. The lights, the media, the upsets ... the madness. Some even filled out brackets themselves. But none knew what it was really going to be like.

"It's a dream come true," Jamar Akoh said.

The madness felt real within five minutes of the opening tip of Thursday's game. Michigan gained possession and lost it immediately after a scramble for the ball resulted in a travel. The Wolverines opened with three turnovers in three minutes. Montana ran up 10 straight points. Fabijan Krslovic shut down Mo Wagner and Michigan kept clanking free throws.

"We showed what Grizzly basketball is all about," Krslovic said.

That's all the Griz needed, many thought. A fast start. Montana was famous this year for scorching opponents in the second half. You would need only to look to their last game for proof, when Montana came back from 11 down on Eastern Washington in the second half of the Big Sky Tournament championship to win by 17.

As the Griz went into halftime trailing the nation's hottest team by three, it seemed the Griz were in a good position to advance.

But March has a funny way of crushing expectations.

The Griz had been cold before, just never this cold.

Ten minutes into the second half, Montana still couldn't buy a bucket. Michigan's stiff zone forced bad shot after bad shot; brick after brick. The Griz tried everything. Ball screens. Pick-and-pops. Kick-outs. The kitchen sink. Nothing would fall.

Michigan was fast, as expected. And they were sharp, as expected. The Wolverines shot better than 50 percent for most of the game, led by Charles Matthews' 7-for-13 night.

Then it all went black — the scoreboard, that is. A power outage



Michigan's Charles Matthews, left, and center John Teske look to pull down a rebound over Montana's Jamar Akoh in the second half at the Intrust Bank Arena in Wichita, Kansas, on Thursday, March 15. PHOTO COURTESY TOMMY MARTINO/MISSOULIAN

in the second half caused a lengthy delay in the middle of Montana's dry spell.

Travis DeCuire said he was probably going to call a timeout anyway.

"They were rolling. And we were in trouble a little bit. We needed to freshen up. We needed to talk. We needed to make some adjustments," he said.

Still, he wished the break had been a little shorter.

"On the flip side, I think we got tight, though," he said. "I think guys like Mike (Oguine), who tighten up pretty quick, took a minute to get going again."

Though the power came back, the Griz did not. The lid stayed on the basket, and Montana fell to Michigan 61-47.

The Griz will be in the tournament again. It doesn't seem like a matter of if, only when. Next year they should be even better.

Krslovic will be the only name missing from next year's lineup, a blow that may affect the team more than the stat box. The Aussie senior's believed-to-be school record of playing in 131 games was not an accident. Though he went viral nationally for being posterized by

Northern Colorado guard Jordan Davis in the Big Sky semifinals, Griz fans will revere him for his unparalleled basketball instincts.

Providing the Griz defend their Big Sky title — which they are favored to do in 2019 — and reappear in the Big Dance next year, they're due for a better seeding. That would mean a better draw and, in turn, better odds to advance. All but one of next year's players will have tasted the madness, which can be just as advantageous as a lucky draw.

Next year, we'll see Timmy Falls grow into a daunting sixth-man. We'll see the full capabilities of Sayeed Pridgett as a regular in the starting lineup. Ahmaad Rorie and Oguine will undoubtedly have a chip on their shoulders, even if their contagious smiles and measured attitudes won't reveal it. And, of course, Headband Bobby Moorehead will guard opposing teams' best players.

"We're in a good state right now and we're happy we got this far," Akoh said after the game. "We'd like the outcome to be a little different, but it is what it is."

Griz fans won't forget this team. Neither will DeCuire.

"They gave us everything they had," he said. "I'll be thinking about this team for a long time."

NOTHING ELSE COMPARES



	THE COMPETITION	
Individual Bathrooms with Enlarged Vanity and Shower Space	X	✓
Well-Designed Living Room and Bedroom Furnishings, Including Pillow-Top Mattresses	X	✓
Top-of-the-Line Appliances, Including In-Unit Washer/Dryer, Dishwasher, and Microwave	X	✓
47" TV Included in Each Living Room	X	✓
Extended Cable in Every Room (Includes Full Line of HBO Channels and The Root Network)	X	✓
Community-Wide Wi-Fi with Individual Ethernet Ports in Every Room	X	✓
Fully Equipped 24-Hour On-Site Fitness Center	X	✓
Complimentary Coffee in Our Café	X	✓
Complimentary Printing in Our Cyber Lounge	X	✓
Fire Pits, Grills, Lounging Space, and Enlarged Outdoor Games in Our Exclusive Courtyard	X	✓
Pet Friendly, Including Dogs	X	✓
Tech-Driven Safety Features for Your Peace of Mind	X	✓
Our Exclusive Students First® Program	X	✓
Quick Access to the University of Montana and Downtown Missoula	X	✓
The Clark Fork River and Kiwanis Park in Your Immediate Backyard for Outdoor Fun	X	✓
No Commitments to Unwanted Food Plans	X	✓