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2-23-2023

### Montana Kaimin, February 23, 2023

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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MONTANA KAIMIN

UNDOING 50 YEARS

*The state Legislature could shift Montanans' privacy rights. Abortion access hangs in the balance.*

*Story by Mariah Thomas and Chloe Olsgaard*

**6 Black Solidarity Summit**

**12 ACDA dancers**

**15 Hockey forfeits playoffs**

Cover design by Barrett Clement

February 23, 2023 | Volume 125 | Issue No. 20





The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. The Kaimin office and the University of Montana are located on land originally inhabited by the Salish People. Kaimin is a derivative of a Salish language word, "Qe'ymin," that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means "book," "message" or "paper that brings news."

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**\$635/ 1 bedroom / 100% furnished and private room**

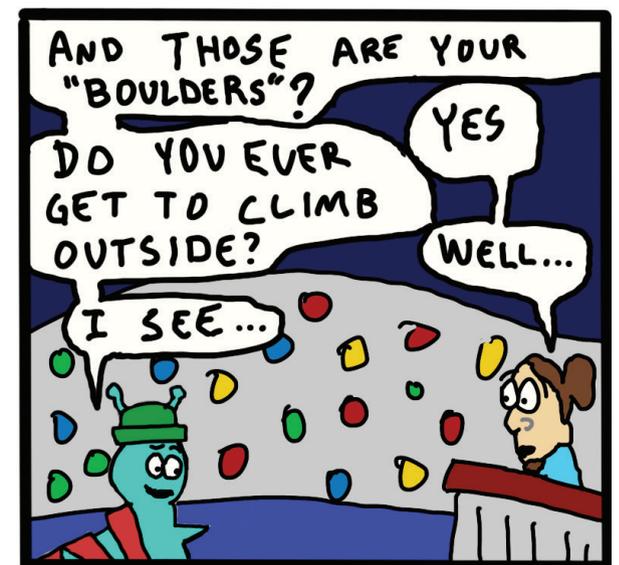
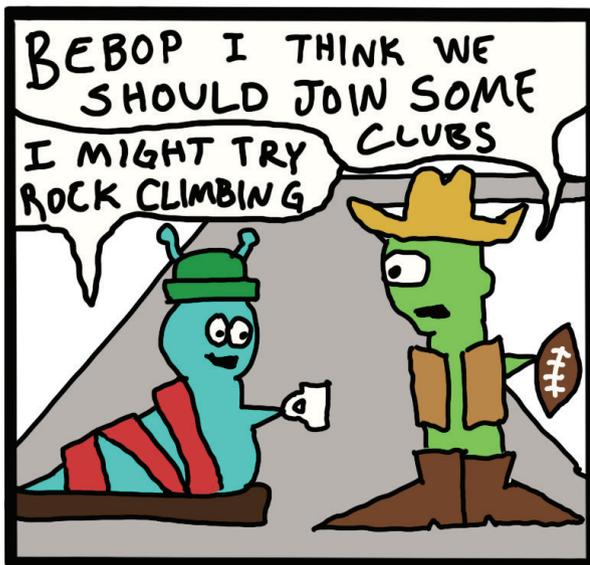
In the Upper Rattlesnake and perfect for a female student, a smaller furnished bedroom with a large private bath and private lounge. Includes access to Wi-Fi, laundry and a well-equipped kitchen. You'll be in a large house with a single woman and her dog.

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## ZORG & BEBOP: SE 1 EP 4



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN

# Banning abortion in Montana will kill

Last summer, millions of Americans watched the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization Supreme Court decision overturn nearly 50 years of precedent to abortion access. Thirteen states enacted trigger laws across the country to almost completely ban abortions. Several more have passed laws to limit abortions since.

Montana could be next.

This week, the Kaimin covered a bill that threatens abortion access in Montana. If enacted, Senate Bill 154 will redefine Montana’s right to privacy to exclude abortions. That right to privacy has historically protected abortion access in Montana.

It wouldn’t be the bill that outright bans abortions in Montana, but it would lay abortion rights at the feet of a Republican-dominated state legislature. Many members have loudly advocated against abortion care. Multiple bills aim to limit abortions in Montana besides SB 154.

For a party that claims to represent less government control, it is strikingly hypocritical to imply the people of Montana are incapable of making ethical decisions about their bodies.

As much as lawmakers pretend this is about privacy, it’s obvious what this bill aims to do – and that is take away abortion access in the state. An abortion ban in Montana can and will kill.

When safe abortions were not available, abortions still happened, sometimes through dangerous means. The Guttmacher Institute estimates the number of illegal abortions in the 1950s and 1960s ranged from 200,000 to 1.2 million per year.

People used coat hangers, knitting needles, bleach, acid, sticks, ball-point pens, chicken bones – even sometimes jumping from roofs or the tops of stairs to induce physical trauma, according to a report by the National Women’s Law Center.

Underground abortion networks were created to keep people from resorting to self-managed abortions. Some hospitals, most infamously the Cook County Hospital in Chicago, had septic abortion wards dedicated to saving the lives of people with botched abortions, infections and hemorrhages.

After Roe v. Wade made abortions legal across the states, the septic abortion ward shut down. Since most patients were receiving qualified healthcare, it wasn’t needed anymore.

Montana trusts its citizens to defend themselves with lethal weapons. The state used to allow Montanans to determine their own speed limit. To criminalize the self-preserving action of abortion while toting messages of radical freedom and self-determination is out of line with the ideas of a limited government.

A January State of the State address by Gov. Greg Gianforte listed an optimistic plan for the upcoming year. Within it, he asked for less red tape and “preserving the American dream in Montana.”

“To our legislative partners, thank you for helping more Montanans prosper by removing unnecessary, burdensome regulations,” Gianforte said in his speech. “Montanans have spoken loud and clear: they want a government that works for them.”

Yes, we do. And that includes a government that works to preserve our reproductive rights, works to make hospitals a safe place and works to give people with uteruses the tools to prosper.

We reject burdensome regulations, like the regulation of our bodies. That was evidenced when Montanans voted down Legislative Referendum 131, which would have punished doctors for not providing care to newborns – no matter their condition. That would have included children with fatal prognoses and would have prevented parents from holding their newborns in their final moments.

We have spoken loud and clear. Those in position of power in the state have simply chosen to ignore us.

Lawmakers need to accept that abortions are a reality. A ban will not magically end them. It will just ensure that people with uteruses have to resort to unsafe means to access them.

If Montana really wants to cut back on abortion, it will need to address the key issues related to unwanted pregnancies, like sex education, adoption and foster care programs, Montana’s medical desert and poverty.

A blanket restriction or partial ban on abortions will only harm women and people with uteruses. Unless lawmakers want that blood on their hands, the Kaimin asks they oppose SB 154.

**Like it? Hate it? Let us know.**  
Email us your opinions at [griffen.smith@umontana.edu](mailto:griffen.smith@umontana.edu)

## SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

### 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.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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# Hellgate wins the Goat

A crowd of Missoula’s Big Sky High School students scream and cheer as they hold Monte the bear in the Adams Center on Feb. 17. The boys’ and girls’ varsity basketball teams played against cross-town competitor Hellgate High School. The Big Sky girls claimed victory with a last second shot by junior Audrey Hale to win 46-43 and the Hellgate boys won 55-51. Hellgate also won the fourth annual Golden Goat trophy, which is an award given to the high school with the most spirit by a panel of judges.

MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN

## Briefs & Blotter

# Bill could incentivize long-term rentals; Montana has third highest job quitting rate in U.S.; snow on Missoula ground for 100 straight days

### STATE BILL WOULD LET CITIES INCENTIVIZE AIRBNB LANDLORDS FOR MORE LONG-TERM RENTALS

A bill moving through the state House would let cities, counties and resort areas add a tax on short-term rentals if they use the revenue to incentivize landlords to open their properties up for long-term rentals for local workers.

Montana already has an 8% rental lodging tax statewide. House Bill 430, sponsored by Republican Rep. Jane Gillette from Bozeman, would let local governments add a quarter-percentage-point for owners of short-term rentals on top of the existing tax.

The additional 25 cents per hundred dollars of revenue would go to “rent local programs” so more landlords would rent their units to local businesses’ employees on a long-term basis.

The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported one rent local program in Big Sky converted 21 houses to accommodate 58 workers in its first three months. That program offers a \$12,000 incentive for landlords to enroll a one-bedroom unit in the program for two years.

Gillette said her bill was motivated in part by Montana’s housing crisis and she hopes to open up opportunities for workers and tourists in the state.

Proponents argued because of how lucrative short-term rentals can be, important workers often have to settle for long commutes to their jobs and hiring can become more challenging. No one testified in opposition. (Emily Tschetter)

### MONTANA HAS THIRD HIGHEST QUITTING RATE IN THE NATION

Montana has the third highest rate of people leaving their jobs in the United States, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics between July and October 2022.

Montana had a 3.6% quit rate, which amounted to a monthly average of 18,000 people quitting. The study by finance experts at Creditos En USA found Alaska had the highest quit rate with an average of 4.33% of its workforce quitting each month, while New York had the lowest rate of only 1.7% each month.

About 4 million Americans quit their jobs every month in 2022, which is the equivalent of the entire population of Oklahoma. However, resignations are down from 2022 by about 100,000 fewer people.

Statisticians at Creditos En USA did not find a specific correlation between the states with the highest quit rates, as all the top states are very different from each other in both their geographic locations and population demographics. (ET)

### SNOW ON MISSOULA GROUND FOR 100 DAYS STRAIGHT

The National Weather Service reported snow has stuck in the Missoula valley for 100 days straight as of Feb. 17. While the winter has not been record-breaking in terms of snowfall or temperature, the snow on the ground refuses to go away, reaching top five in history.

Missoula’s all-time ground record is 122 days, set in 1996-1997. Tracking snow on the ground first started in the late 1800s, but the most consistent data started in 1948, according to Luke Robinson at the National Weather Service.

Robinson, a meteorologist, said snowy conditions started early this year, and cold snaps have kept snow accumulating on the ground.

“We started building snow on the valley floor and then it just stayed cold,” Robinson said.

For the 2022-2023 winter, the streak started on Nov. 8, and it would be the earliest year to reach the record. 1996-1997 and 1978-1979 both reached 100 straight days on Feb. 25.

The streak is still going strong, as a cold

front on Tuesday brought snow across Western Montana. Robinson said the cold streak will stay through the end of the week, when more chances for snow could propel this season for the record. (Griffen Smith)

### DATA TOOL PREDICTS MISSOULA TO ADD 16,000 RESIDENTS BY 2035

A state agency and Carroll College data predicts Missoula County will gain 16,500 residents by the year 2035.

The additional residents would bring the county’s total population up to 138,000. The model, made by the Department of Commerce and Carroll College math students, also predicts that Gallatin County will add 42,000 people and Yellowstone County will add 10,000 people in the same time period.

Overall, the state’s population is expected to increase by over 100,000 people in the next 20 years. The data model also included a map of home vacancies in each county in 2020. Flathead County ranked number one with 7,400 vacant units. Gallatin County followed at about 5,000 vacancies, with Yellowstone County in third with 4,200 open units.

Missoula came in sixth for vacancies with just under 4,000 vacant units. Montana had one of the highest housing vacancy rates despite lower percentages in the state’s larger cities, according to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2020. (ET)

# POLICE BLOTTER

CHLOE OLSGAARD

chloe.olsgaard@umontana.edu

“Hot ‘N’ Cold,” by Katy Perry described both the weather and the crime this week. From Feb. 10 to Feb. 17, the University of Montana Police Department reported just two crimes as campus warmed up. From sneaking into tunnels to losing a car, UMPD saw it all.

### SATURDAY 2/11: A WINTER WAKEUP

At 8 a.m., officers responded to a call about two men who were running, screaming and laying in the street on Arthur Avenue by Miller Hall. Although UMPD said it was “highly probable” that they were intoxicated, officers couldn’t know for sure because the men were gone when they arrived. 8 a.m. is a little early, or way too late, to be drinking, but hopefully laying in the snow sobered them up.

### SUNDAY 2/12: TRESPASSED TUNNELS

At about one in the afternoon, officers responded to a call about several people who entered campus steam tunnels through an access point near Elrod Hall. The caller didn’t provide their names, and UMPD found no suspects upon arrival. Who knows, maybe someone’s starting up a Dungeons and Dragons campaign in the tunnels, which according to UMPD, apparently used to be a thing. Unfortunately, no DND or other uses of the tunnel by students are allowed, so you’ll have to go goblin somewhere else.

### MONDAY 2/13- STORAGE WARS OR STORAGE THEFT?

At 1:35 p.m., UMPD responded to a call about a reported stolen item from the Gallagher Business Building. The item in question, a touch panel TV screen, had been in storage for months. When the staff went to look for it, it was missing. The TV might have been accumulating dust and cobwebs, but at least the thief is racking up some cash or having a nice movie-viewing experience. No suspect was found and the case was closed.

### TUESDAY 2/14- PANICKY PARKING

Around 5 p.m., UMPD was summoned to parking Lot M after a female student reported her car was stolen. After parking her car around 9 a.m. and leaving for class for the day, she later returned to find it missing. UMPD drove around for over an hour in search of the car, and they soon found it... in the exact spot she had left it. Should’ve beeped a key fob, not a 911 call.

### TUESDAY 2/14- FRIGHTENED FRAT

UMPD responded to a call from a fraternity house after several people posted on the anonymous social media site Yik Yak talking about its members. According to UMPD, the members found the online posts to be “threatening and annoying” and wanted something done about it. No further action was taken, and the frat members were left to calm each other’s Yik Yak-driven nerves.

Can’t get enough? Start listening.

This week on **THE KAIMIN CAST**, Alyssa talks with the founders of Missoula’s Orienteering Club.

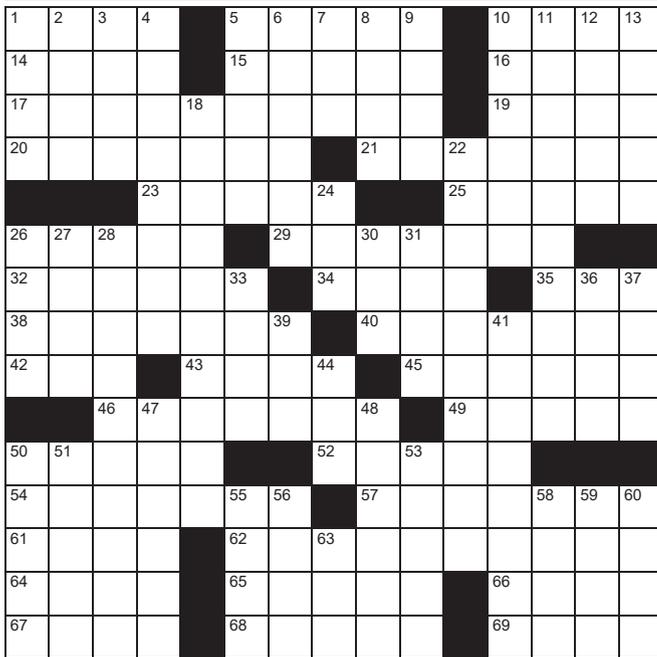
Next week, tune in as Clayton dissects DoorDash and its use on campus.

**THE KAIMIN CAST**



New episodes out Monday. Scan for the latest.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

- 1 Blows away
- 5 Kind of therapy
- 10 Stomach woe
- 14 Barn topper
- 15 Long-necked wader
- 16 Urgent request
- 17 Priceless
- 19 Pilot products
- 20 Doer of do's
- 21 Exit, as a 747
- 23 Old anesthetic
- 25 Kidney-related
- 26 Kitchen fixture
- 29 Warren denizens
- 32 Indiana hoopsters
- 34 Hammer part
- 35 Car nut
- 38 Public praise
- 40 Pass away
- 42 "\_\_\_rang?"
- 43 Pre-weekend shout
- 45 Addams Family uncle
- 46 Pirate treasure
- 49 Kind of whale
- 50 Word with way or well
- 52 Tightly packed
- 54 Colorful marble
- 57 Work boot features
- 61 Life preserver?
- 62 Easy to reach
- 64 Ice \_\_\_
- 65 2% alternative
- 66 Natural soother
- 67 \_\_\_ for oneself
- 68 Humble
- 69 Off-color

DOWN

- 1 Hertz rival
- 2 Long for
- 3 Coveter's emotion
- 4 Death Valley is below it
- 5 "Pipe down!"
- 6 Warming device
- 7 Planet, poetically
- 8 Hard-hearted
- 9 On bended \_\_\_
- 10 Small Java program
- 11 Fresh start
- 12 Reddish dye
- 13 Studio stand
- 18 English major's field
- 22 Disney's Ariel and Aurora
- 24 Jay-Z's genre
- 26 Fix, at the vet's
- 27 Tex-Mex snack
- 28 Line of work
- 30 Four-poster, e.g.
- 31 Carne, in some chili
- 33 Aries or Libra
- 36 Sure anagram
- 37 Start of an idea
- 39 Start for way or wife
- 41 Out of the ordinary
- 44 Spoon-\_\_\_
- 47 On the market, as a house
- 48 Pass on, say
- 50 Knock, with "at"
- 51 China setting
- 53 Like a busybody
- 55 Ketch's cousin
- 56 Reverberate
- 58 Up to the task
- 59 Farm machine
- 60 Bird feeder filler
- 63 Pasture grazer

Answers to Previous Crossword:

T	E	S	T		P	A	S	S		B	E	C	K				
O	P	T	I	C		A	G	U	E		A	L	A	N			
G	I	R	T	H		G	A	G	E		L	V	I	I			
A	C	U	T	E		A	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T			
					C	L	E	A	N	E	R		R	O	S	E	S
A	S	T	E	R	N					B	I	E	R				
G	N	U			S	C	R	E	E	N	S	A	V	E	R		
E	A	R	S		H	E	R	E	S		L	I	V	E			
S	P	E	E	D	O	M	E	T	E	R		G	A	P			
					R	A	R	E			C	A	S	I	N	O	
S	A	F	E	R		M	A	R	T	I	A	L					
T	U	R	N	T	A	B	L	E		S	T	A	L	L			
I	D	E	A		N	E	L	S		E	R	N	I	E			
L	I	E	D		T	R	E	E		S	A	C	K	S			
L	O	D	E		I	S	N	T		P	E	E	T				

# Wii Sports-o-scope

MAX DUPRAS  
max.dupras@umontana.edu

Here at the Kaimin, we believe in doing the least amount of physical activity possible. Why? Well, who wants to work out when you've got a video game to make up for your lack of actual athletic ability? That's right folks, we're talking about motherfucking Wii Sports. We can't all be on the football or basketball teams, but we can chuck a Wiimote at inhuman speeds toward a TV screen while trying to get a strike in Wii bowling. The question remains, which sport do you play and why? Only the stars have the answers.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18):** No feelings, just biking. You're cycling because you don't understand the raw emotion of hitting the game-winning shot or losing to a walk-off home run. All you know is technique and the cold air smacking your Mii in the face.

**PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):** Listen up you damn cosplayer. You like swordplay and not because you have repressed anger waiting to be unleashed. You just want to feel like the valiant knight slashing away at hordes of enemies. Either way, you and your Mii both should seek out some therapy. You need it.

**ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):** You are a sore loser. That's why you choose archery. You think you can just hit a bullseye every time you shoot an arrow because you're "just that good." Well listen up Katniss Everdeen, have fun missing your first shot and getting so mad you just try to shoot everyone else on the range.

**TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):** You need some consistency in your life and bowling is the answer. It's got the same 10 pins and the bowling alley with all of your favorite floating Mii's cheering you on. Just remember to forgive yourself when you gutter ball three straight times. Your Miis can't console you after all — but you can always toss a bowling ball at their big-ass Mii heads.

**GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):** You're pretty fly, Gemini. That's why you like air sports.

Wuhu Island is as fun and likable as you are, so why not enjoy the terrain with a nice flight around the map? You don't need much to be happy, just you and your silly little plane.

**CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):** Tennis is your sport but you only play doubles. You can only play with a partner because you can't lose alone. Also, you only play close to the net because you can't

handle the pressure of serving, you big baby. **LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):** Shocker. You like boxing. You'll never be Muhammad Ali or George Foreman, but you will do your absolute best to beat the living shit out of everyone's least favorite boss: Matt. Now put on your virtual boxing gloves and try not to punch the TV!

**VIRGO (AUG. 21-SEP. 22):** Canoeing is easily the most boring Wii Sports Resort option, that's why you love it. You're always aware of your surroundings, always have a way to navigate around those pesky logs and, hey, you're finally more interesting than something.

**LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):** In golf, it isn't about hitting long bombs across the fairway. It's just about looking good when you do it. Your fear of loneliness doesn't stop you from playing one of the loneliest sports because you just can't get away from those cute golf outfits. Your Mii may be a lonely little loser, but at least they're a CUTE lonely little loser.

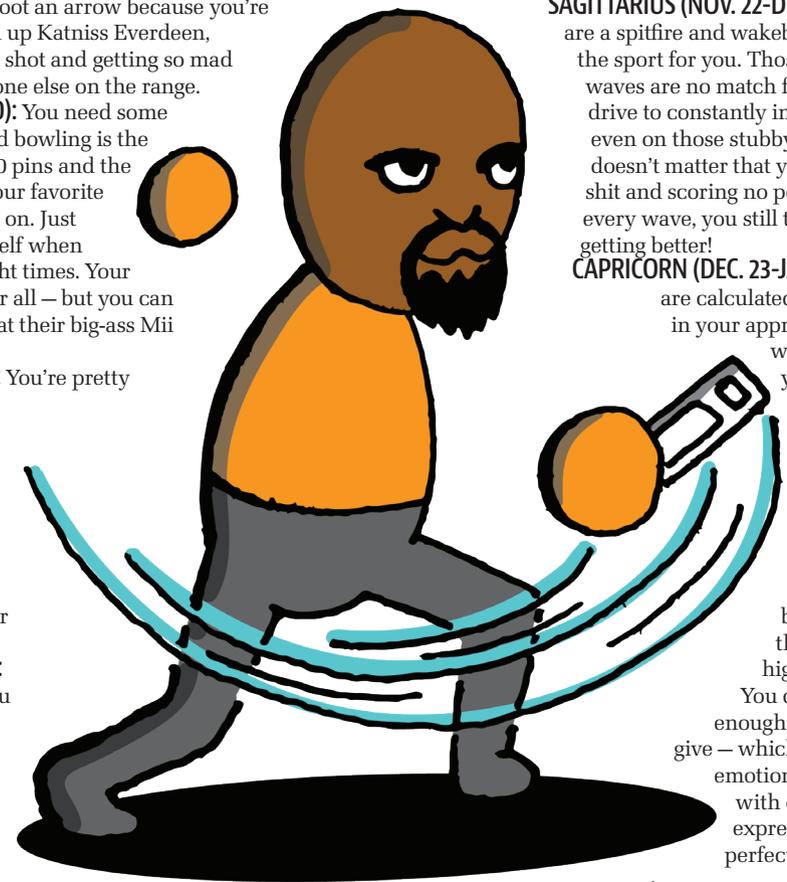
**SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):** You think you're Michael Jordan, that's why you love Wii basketball. You usually stick with the three-point contest to feel like Steph Curry, but to let out your inner NBA star, you find yourself holding the ball for all 20 seconds like a selfish prick and refusing to pass to your Mii teammates.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22):** You are a spitfire and wakeboarding is the sport for you. Those massive waves are no match for your drive to constantly improve, even on those stubby Mii legs. It doesn't matter that you're eating shit and scoring no points on every wave, you still think you're getting better!

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19):** You are calculated and slow in your approach to life,

which is why you're a total simp for Wii baseball. You can't hit a home run for shit, but you've never really been in it for the emotional high anyways.

You don't have enough emotion to give — which is why the emotionless Miis with one facial expression are the perfect opponents.



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

# UM hosts sixth annual Black Solidarity Summit

The Black Student Union hosted its sixth annual Black Solidarity Summit over the weekend. This year BSU President Nonso Maxwell Obieyisi wanted the summit to be a more intimate experience.

“We invited mostly friends and family, and we focused on having basically as many Black people there as possible and just celebrating us,” Obieyisi said. “We wanted this one to feel nice and a bit closer to home.”

Although not advertised, Obieyisi said the overarching theme of this year’s summit was “Home is Where the Heart Lies.” In celebrating Black history and achievements, multiple presentations on Friday and Saturday shared the idea that no matter where someone is physically, they can still be at home so long as they’re surrounded by a community that understands them.

Along with many speakers, the summit featured a dinner, a party and multiple opportunities for recognition of BSU leaders and members’ work. From a discussion of mental health to celebrating Black LGBTQ+ icons, here is the Kaimin’s coverage of some of the events from the summit. (Emily Tschetter)

## PAINTING AND CULINARY ARTIST SPEAKS ON HERITAGE AND CULTURE

Jasmine Caldwell-Smith presented her artwork focused on both her ancestry and her modern day culture to explain how she finds her inner self at the Black Solidarity Summit on Friday.

“Art is able to express one’s inner thoughts and what we perceive individually as beautiful,” Caldwell-Smith said.

She presented two paintings to the audience while explaining how art is her way of sharing herself, her worldview and her feelings.

Caldwell-Smith is a 20-year-old junior from Dallas, Texas, studying culinary arts at UM.

Her first piece was titled “Roots,” based on her African American heritage and the southern cooking that came from it.

Caldwell-Smith spoke on the history of slavery and the cooks that would feed entire plantations. She described the struggles slaves would face in rationing food and preserving it to eat later.

“Soul food,” as Caldwell-Smith described it, combines traditional Southern ingredients like yams, molasses and cornflower that could be easily preserved through candying, pickling, salting and eaten later.

“Although Southern food is based on staple foods, these meals reflect so much more,”



Jasmine Caldwell-Smith speaks onstage about her two art pieces at the Black Solidarity Summit on Feb. 17. Her two pieces, “Roots” and “Raw Beauty,” focus on Caldwell-Smith’s personal experiences and ancestry. LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN

Caldwell-Smith said, “Each type of recipe is passed down and shared. It gives respect and acknowledgement to our ancestors and reflects the pride and beauty in our heritage.”

She encouraged the audience to question where the food they eat comes from and all the work that goes in to achieve the final product.

She spoke heavily on how her cooking today is a way of sharing the ideals of joy, knowledge, and understanding of her African American heritage.

Her second piece was titled “Raw Beauty” and focused on the beauty standards that are imposed on children, especially African

American children, to adapt to white culture.

“When painting this piece, I was consumed by the inspiration of the natural human body,” Caldwell-Smith said.

Ages two through seven are when most children shape their worldviews like biases, beauty standards and social cues, she said.

Cosmetic surgeons do over 15 million procedures a year in the United States and 450,000 of those are on minors, according to Caldwell-Smith.

She said while making this piece she was taking time to acknowledge what makes the human body something to be proud of, and how the natural Black body deserves its

place within today’s society.

She said she wanted this piece to signify the rawness and beauty of the human body that hasn’t been tampered with.

“There is no shame, nothing to hide behind, and from the hair, to the color of the skin, there’s nothing that needs to be changed,” Caldwell-Smith said. (Claire Bernard)

## UM LAMBDA SPEAKS ON THE IMPACT OF BLACK LGBTQ+ ICONS

LAMBDA Secretary Beckett Redinger stopped by the Black Solidarity Summit



Murray Pierce, left, is presented with the Black Excellence Award on Feb. 17. for the Black Solidarity Summit. Pierce is a UM alumni and representative for the BSU. **LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

to expand the weekend's conversations on Black history and achievements to include LGBTQ+ Black icons.

Redinger, a senior at the University of Montana, serves as UM's Allies coordinator and teaches all people on campus about the LGBTQ+ community and how to support its members. He wanted audience members to examine what it means to have identities that are oppressed or marginalized, even if they were different from his own.

"Obviously, as a white person, I'm not here to tell you about that, because there's so much I don't have a lived experience of," Redinger said.

Despite this, Redinger found it important to present what Black LGBTQ+ icons have contributed to the world. He asserted that it is crucial that everyone that has marginalized identities should lean into the joy, community and family in their lives and carry that into the future to thrive.

During his presentation, Redinger showed a video of William Dorsey Swann, who was a former slave. According to Redinger, Swann became the first American activist to lead a queer resistance group, and the first person to dub himself as "Queen of Drag."

"This theme we're going to see for the whole rest of the presentation and the whole rest of our lives, about how Black resistance and queer resistance are the same thing, and how fundamentally they funnel into Black joy and queer joy," Redinger said.

Redinger also brought up Marsha P. Johnson and Stormé DeLarverie, who were both widely credited with inciting the Stonewall Riots that began in 1969 after a police raid became violent at the Stonewall Inn in New York City. A year after the uprising, major

cities across the U.S. held their first pride parades.

"Maybe they threw the first shot glass, the first brick, the first punch, whatever you want to say it was. But we'll never have true confirmation of who actually did that," Redinger said. "Despite that, we know that both of them were harassed and arrested multiple times for dressing in a way that didn't correspond with their assigned sex at birth."

As Redinger finished his presentation, he praised Audre Lorde, a Black lesbian feminist and poet. He showed a featured Google Doodle of Lorde created by Monica Ahanonu, who said Lorde's work fought against racism, sexism and classism while shedding light on the experience of oppressed people.

Redinger asserted in the end that despite continued challenges marginalized groups face, nothing can be done without mutual support.

"When we find biases within ourselves, it's not our own face that it's wearing. It's not us who's biased," Redinger said. "It's someone who's told us we should be biased against people of color, against queer people, against queerness." **(Aislin Tweedy)**

#### **EXPERT SAYS MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR BLACK PEOPLE IS WEAK, PEOPLE FIND RESILIENCE THROUGH JOY**

As those who've weathered enormous suffering for centuries, it is only natural that Black people feel powerful mental health struggles, a social worker and researcher at the Black Solidarity Summit said. However, hope and something the expert called the "positive affect" have helped elevate Black

mental health.

Dr. Laurellé C. Warner, Ph.D., led the discussion of mental health at the Black Solidarity Summit. As a licensed clinical social worker and the masters in social work program director for the social work school at Walla Walla University in Missoula, she is an expert in Black resilience and has focused studying the differences in coping skills between Black men and women.

In her segment, Warner explained that Black people tend to need mental health support more often than their white peers. However, Black people may not seek out psychological healthcare for several, often interconnected reasons, all centering around the idea that their pain will not be taken seriously.

As an example, Warner referenced the overrepresentation of schizophrenia diagnoses in Black Americans compared to white Americans. Black Americans are around three times more likely to be diagnosed with schizophrenia than their white counterparts.

But it's not that Black people actually experience schizophrenia more often than their white peers; history, such as the Tuskegee experiment that went from 1932-1973 that left Black men with syphilis untreated, has taught many Black people to not trust healthcare authorities.

Warner said because this anxiety comes from a place of racial trauma that they cannot understand, white medical professionals tend to misunderstand it as paranoia, and bypass signs of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress in their diagnoses.

Support for Black mental health is so weak that Warner, who says she's a proud mental health advocate, has found herself choosing not to return to some therapists or similar professionals.

Perhaps because mental health support for Black people is so limited, it's even more important that Black people develop robust resilience, Warner said.

In the eyes of a social worker, resilience means the ability to bounce back – both physically and mentally – from difficult experiences.

The key to this skill in recovery from trauma is hope and a strong hand, Warner said. It's more than self-affirmation, she said.

"Sometimes, you need to say to yourself, 'Girl, I know it's hard, but you will get up and shower,'" Warner said. Compliments to oneself may be what people think of as self-love, but making sure one takes action is equally important, she said.

This, along with a willingness to believe a brighter day is coming, creates meaningful hope that people can act on. While it may not be ideal to cope without professional support, Warner said she believes it is still something to be treasured and celebrated – especially after being the key to Black survival and joy for centuries.

"Our foremothers and forefathers have proven it," Warner said. **(Christine Compton)**

#### **FORMER UM STUDENT AND BSU REPRESENTATIVE WINS BLACK EXCELLENCE AWARD**

The Black Student Union awarded Murray Pierce with the Black Excellence Award for his continued dedication and work, including and representing black students on and off campus.

"Forty-eight years ago a tall, lanky freshman joined an organization on this campus that would continue to impact his life in ways for years to come," Pierce said in his acceptance speech on Friday.

Pierce, who graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in political science in the 1970s, now works as an administrative representative with the Black Student Union and tackles issues of inclusivity, diversity, and representation for marginalized groups on campus.

He thanked his students, friends, family and administrators who have supported him throughout his time at UM.

"It's more about the community we seek to grow here," Pierce said. "The collective that most typically brings a number of good things to fruition."

After his undergraduate experience, Pierce continued his higher education in philosophy. When Pierce returned to mentor students at the BSU in 2008, he had a plan composed of things he wanted African American students to know at UM.

These things included accepting the challenges that come with race and taking pride in your race, especially at predominantly white universities.

"Don't question your right to be here," Pierce said. "A path has been paved for you and you are obligated to pass that love and information on."

He encouraged the audience to acknowledge race, and the racism that comes with it, to educate others on what skin color means to the American experience.

"Generally people who don't see color are those folks whose livelihoods, cultures and identities are not impacted by racial inequities," Pierce said.

He asked the audience to critically examine texts and writings and the predetermined assumptions these academic articles might have. He also asked the audience to continue sharing their stories during college and beyond, and to always maintain pride and connection to one's own culture.

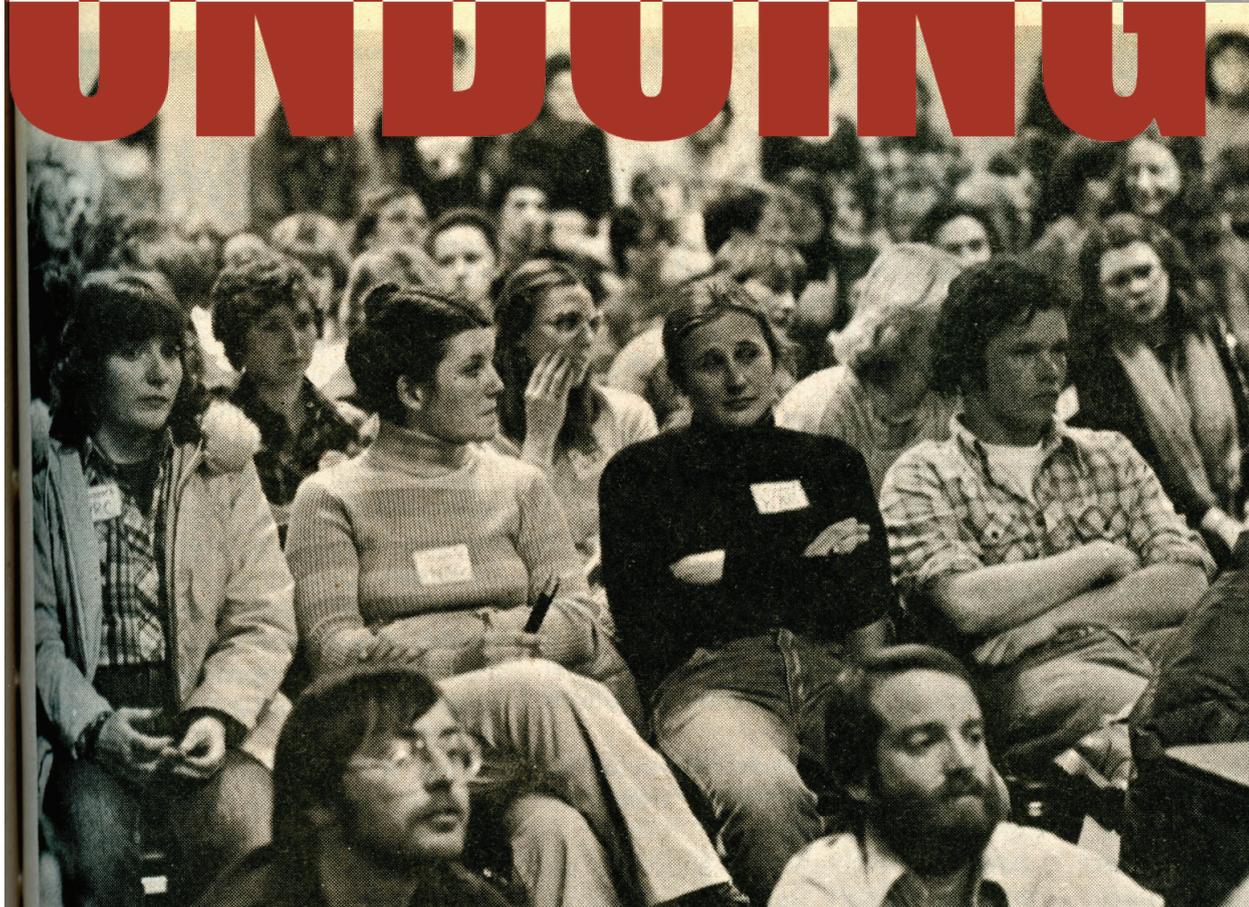
"You've gone through a metamorphosis," Pierce said. "In the words of Maya Angelou, 'We delight in the beauty of the butterfly but rarely admit the challenges and changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.'" **(CB)**

A group of demonstrators march through downtown Missoula holding signs and chanting their support for abortion access during the "Bigger Than Roe" rally on Jan. 22.  
MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN

*A bill from the state Legislature would shift Montanans' privacy rights. Abortion access hangs in the balance.*

# UNDOING 50 YEARS

*Story by Mariah Thomas  
and Chloe Olsgaard*



Women's Resource Center supporters wait while the Central Board (now called the ASUM Senate) contemplates a resolution to grant the Center space in the University Center. The resolution failed 15-5. The Women's Resource Center, now the Gender Equity Resource Center, started in 1970, before abortion was legal in Montana. (Staff photo by Barbara Miller, 1980.)

MONTANA KAIMIN ARCHIVES | SCANNED BY NATE SANCHEZ



# WACS

When Diane Sands was a student at the University of Montana in 1970, abortion was on the front line of both political attacks and protections.

Sands, a former Democratic state senator from Missoula, recalls meeting with women in the University Center to discuss financial, travel and personal arrangements for abortions at a time when even suggesting it in Montana was illegal.

“It was all part of that time where women were forced to live in the dorms longer than men because women needed the ‘cabinet supervision,’” Sands said. “It was expected that their behavior would be of a certain moral standard as it was enforced by the dean and other people.”

Sands founded the first iteration of the Gender Equity Resource Center at UM, then known as the Women’s Action Center, which provided abortion care information when no one else would, including the University.

But that changed in 1973. The Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalized abortion after the first trimester of pregnancy nationwide,

and women like Sands rejoiced.

But in June 2022, nearly 50 years after women in America received abortion access, the Supreme Court made another decision: Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization.

It overturned Roe v. Wade, throwing abortion access into limbo around the country. At the beginning of 2023, 13 states had near-total bans on abortion, and five others had bans on abortions that were after a certain developmental point, like 15 weeks.

Of the states bordering Montana, Idaho and South Dakota have near-total abortion bans. Lawmakers in North Dakota and Wyoming attempted to ban abortion but were blocked in their respective state courts. In the coming year, Montana could become the only state in the region where people can get an abortion.

In Montana, abortion is currently protected by a 1999 state Supreme Court ruling, Armstrong v. State of Montana. The court interpreted the right to privacy, explicitly written into Montana’s constitution, as protecting a woman’s ability to receive an abortion.

But a recent bill proposed in the state Legislature aims to change that.

State Sen. Keith Regier, a Republican from Kalispell, is sponsoring Senate Bill 154, which takes abortion out of the state constitution’s provision that Montanans have an “individual right to privacy.”

“I don’t know whether the courts really have ruled on that word ‘individual’ and how it fits into abortion,” Regier said in an interview with the Kaimin. “So I think that makes the bill really important. We need to revisit that from a constitutional standpoint.”

Whatever the decision, it will likely impact college students heavily. Women aged 20-24 are the group most likely to receive an abortion, accounting for 34% of abortions between 2008-2014, according to a Guttmacher Institute study.

That’s the age of many UM students who may see a challenge to legal abortion access if Regier’s bill passes — similar to Sands all those decades ago.

## Politicized Paths

The Women’s Action Center, the first iteration of UM’s Gender Equity Resource Center, was founded in 1971 by Sands and several other UM students who formed groups “to raise awareness of women’s issues.”

This was before Title IX and other federal rules protected against discrimination on the basis of protected classes like sex.

The WAC groups allowed women at UM to sign up for discussions regarding sexuality, birth control, reproduction, inequity and domestic violence. During the spring, the WAC offered a “free women’s school” that taught classes about women’s health, auto mechanics, self-defense and sexual education, according to Sands.

Sands and other members of the WAC’s sexuality group created a pregnancy referral

service for UM students. Half a dozen women ran a hotline that provided information for local and out-of-state adoption agencies and doctors.

“We needed to make a place where women who needed birth control, or choices like abortion, could talk to someone who knew what the hell they were talking about and someone who could get them some help,” Sands said.

Before the Roe v. Wade decision, the service referred women who wanted to receive abortion care to out-of-state clinics and helped organize their transportation. Sands said the WAC referred many women and even drove some to clinics in Washington where abortion was legal.

“We did all that even though, under the Montana law at the time, it was actually a crime to even tell women where they could get a safe, legal abortion, which is very similar to some states right now,” Sands said. “So we were always aware that it was illegal. It’s not something we worried about too much, but it was in fact something we paid attention to.”

During her time at UM from 1970-1974, Sands said the student health center — and the University itself — limited birth control access and information. The health center on campus wouldn’t provide birth control to students unless they were married or engaged, according to Sands.

“So you know, people would fake it, put on an engagement ring and do all this stuff,” Sands said. “Or they would actually be yelled at in the waiting room for having sex when they weren’t supposed to.”

Sands said the University confiscated several birth control pamphlets written by the Women’s Health Collective, a branch of the WAC, after they were distributed around campus.

The collective also distributed birth control pamphlets that were seized by UM because they “depicted nude images, talked about homosexuality, and mentioned anti-war movements,” according to Sands.

The pamphlets, also called handbooks, were printed in 1968 by students at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Although it was illegal to distribute that information, McGill sent them to universities across the country seeking reproductive freedom.

“The first piece that we produced, we had slipped under doors in the women’s dorm, and the house mothers, as they were called, came right along behind us and picked all of those up and hauled them off,” Sands said.

## Modern similarities

After Sands’ time, the WAC remained active at UM. This year, it underwent a branding change, becoming the Gender Equity Resource Center. Still, it’s working on many of the same issues as in Sands’ day, including abortion. These issues continue to impact students.

Alysa Curry, a 19-year-old intern at the GERC this semester, said she doesn’t think

people know that abortions aren’t “glamorous and easy,” and added that receiving abortion care isn’t an easy choice, but a hard one.

“It’s just really disheartening that people ... like to use the term elective abortions, and it kind of makes it seem like people just have the choice to get an abortion willy nilly with no consequences,” Curry said. “When in reality, it is such a huge choice that people put a lot of thought into.”

Dr. Caitlin Blau, an abortion provider at Blue Mountain Clinic, said she sees patients in the clinic with a “really wide” variety of experiences.

“Some patients are very confident in their decision and not too distressed by it and are even happy to be making this decision for themselves and exercising their body autonomy,” Blau said. “We also see patients for whom the decision has been really hard ... the range of emotions that happens in the clinic is pretty broad, and we’re just always happy to provide the best care possible to everybody.”

Curry recalled a time when a friend of hers went through the process of receiving an abortion. She said she could tell it’s something that “weighs on you mentally and physically.” This friend declined to speak with the Kaimin, stating it was too personal.

“Seeing my friend have to make such a large decision at a relatively young age — it really is just something that you will carry with you your entire life,” Curry said.

She said even though it wasn’t her own personal experience, she could still see the toll it takes on someone’s well-being.

“Regardless of whether or not anyone’s personal stance is on abortion, getting an abortion is something that stays with you,” Curry said. “But in the end, I’m happy that my friend had the choice to make.”

## Bill battles

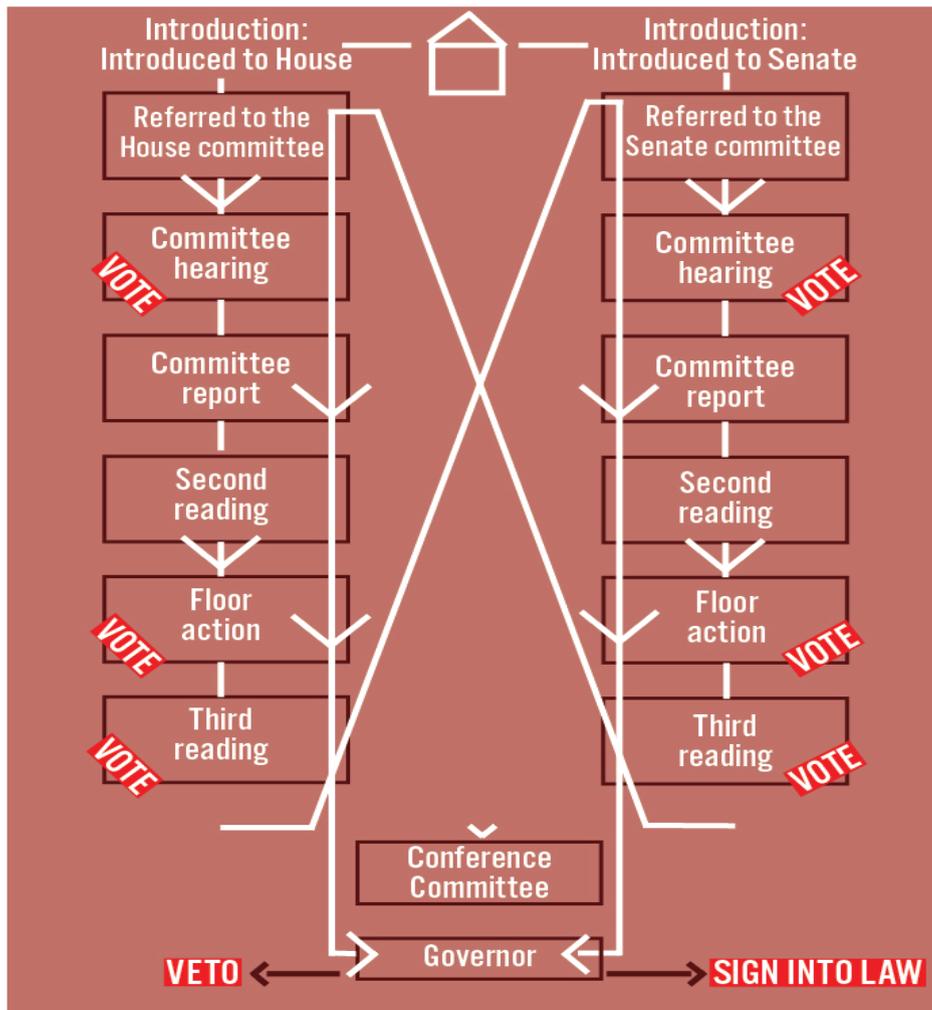
This year, UM’s Gender Equity Resource Center joined with a coalition of groups to advocate against Regier’s SB 154, which takes abortion out of Montana’s right to privacy.

The coalition, the Montana Sexual and Reproductive Health Collective, was formed in the middle of December 2022 and consists of around 16 different organizations in Montana, including Blue Mountain Clinic, the Susan Wicklund Fund, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana, ACLU of Montana and more.

During an at-times contentious Jan. 17 hearing for SB 154, proponents spoke about how, in their views, the right to privacy was never meant to encompass abortion, and the state Supreme Court needed to reassess its position on the bill.

Proponent groups included representatives from the Montana Family Foundation and Students for Life Action, along with a number of people laying out their personal stances.

Opponents included representatives from Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana,



A flowchart shows the steps a bill must take in order to become a law, including both the path of the House and the Senate. Senate Bill 154 has passed the Senate and is waiting to be seen in its first House committee. **MACKENNA GLEAVE | MONTANA KAIMIN**

the Susan Wicklund Fund, Blue Mountain Clinic, Montana Women Vote, the Montana Human Rights Network, the Montana chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and several individuals.

Committee Vice Chair Barry Usher, a Republican senator from Billings, audibly interrupted many opponents' testimonies when they brought up abortion, asking that they re-focus on privacy. Usher only interrupted proponents' testimony once. Some senators sparred with Usher over the interruptions.

The bill passed the state Senate with a 28-21 vote on Jan. 26. It's not slated for a hearing in the House of Representatives as of Feb. 20.

"I was disappointed it didn't have more support," Regier said in an interview with the Kaimin. "But I was thankful it had majority support, so we'll see what happens on the house side."

Jeremy Johnson, head of Carroll College's political science department and an expert on the state constitution, said in an interview with the Kaimin that he thinks even if SB 154 passes, it's likely to be challenged in court. That'd put abortion access in Montana in the

court system's hands.

SB 154 is not the only bill touching on abortion that the state Legislature has seen recently.

Last session, three abortion bills passed, but are currently in court already. The Montana Born-Alive Infant Protection Act also passed, and was on Montanans' ballots as Legislative Referendum 131 in November. LR-131 would have punished physicians for not providing life-sustaining care to newborns, no matter their condition, but Montanans rejected it in the 2022 election with 53% of voters saying no.

This year, Republican House Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway is sponsoring House Bill 575, which would prohibit abortion of "unborn viable children." That bill sees the House Judiciary Committee on Feb. 23.

Fellow Republican House Rep. Jane Gillette is sponsoring House Bill 544, which aims to offer Medicaid coverage to those who receive an abortion when it's medically necessary, or if the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. Gillette's bill had its first hearing in the House Judiciary Committee on Feb. 22.

Other Republican bill drafts aim to require



From left: Sen. Theresa Manzella R-Hamilton, Sen. Barry Usher R-Billings, Sen. Keith Regier R-Kalispell, legislative services staff member Julianne Burkhardt and Sen. Jen Gross D-Billings hear testimony in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Jan. 6. **ELINOR SMITH | UM LEGISLATIVE NEWS SERVICE**

providing information before abortions and to prohibit the use of public funds for abortions.

Democrats, on the other hand, are carrying bills like Rep. Ed Stafman's House Bill 471, which would provide religious exemptions for abortion prohibitions. Stafman's bill was tabled in the House Judiciary committee on party lines Feb. 20, along with fellow Democrat Laurie Bishop's HB 432, which would have codified abortion rights. Republicans voted to table them, while Democrats opposed that action.

Rep. Marilyn Marler is sponsoring House Bill 570, which would create civil penalties for interfering with abortion access. It had its first hearing alongside Gillette's bill on Feb. 22.

Democrats have also entered bill drafts that would provide for "fundamental reproductive rights."

## Two views

Hillary-Anne Crosby, an organizer of the Montana Sexual and Reproductive Health Collective, said she feels that the stigma around abortion has become politicized over time.

Crosby said she believes the collective provides different perspectives and a "better lens" to fight the bills as a whole, instead of fighting alone. Crosby added the "lens" of the collective has improved through meetings in different committees each week to discuss anti-abortion bills entering the session.

"I genuinely do not understand it, you know, just what other aspects of our health care are politicized to such an extent as abortion and gender-affirming care," Crosby said. "If I needed to go in for some eczema during the winter, no one is going to say like, 'Oh, man, have you consulted your legislators about this?'"

She further stressed that the stigma has reflected abortion as a political issue, but added that in reality, it's a health issue.

"There are no situations where having the state involved in those medical decisions makes those better medical decisions," said Blau, the abortion provider at Blue Mountain Clinic. "This is true of a lot of medical issues. It's true of abortion. It's true of gender-affirm-

ing care. It's true of physician aid in dying or death with dignity."

The Associated Students of the University of Montana's lobbyist, Ethan Hanley, said the student government will also be working with groups in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Collective and testifying in opposition of SB 154 when it's seen in the House.

Hanley's work at the Legislature is informed by a survey ASUM sent to all students in the spring semester. More than 1,200 students responded to the survey this year, which Hanley said ASUM used to set its priorities.

Among those priorities is one that states ASUM will, "Retain the right of individual privacy pursuant to Article II, Section 10 and reinforced by Montana Supreme Court precedent." It is this priority driving Hanley's position on SB 154.

"Even though it's not an amendment to the constitution, it very clearly tries to interpret privacy, or strip away privacy rights through passing a new section on the state statute," Hanley said. "So from that angle, it obviously goes against our priorities."

But other student groups have competing ideas about the bill.

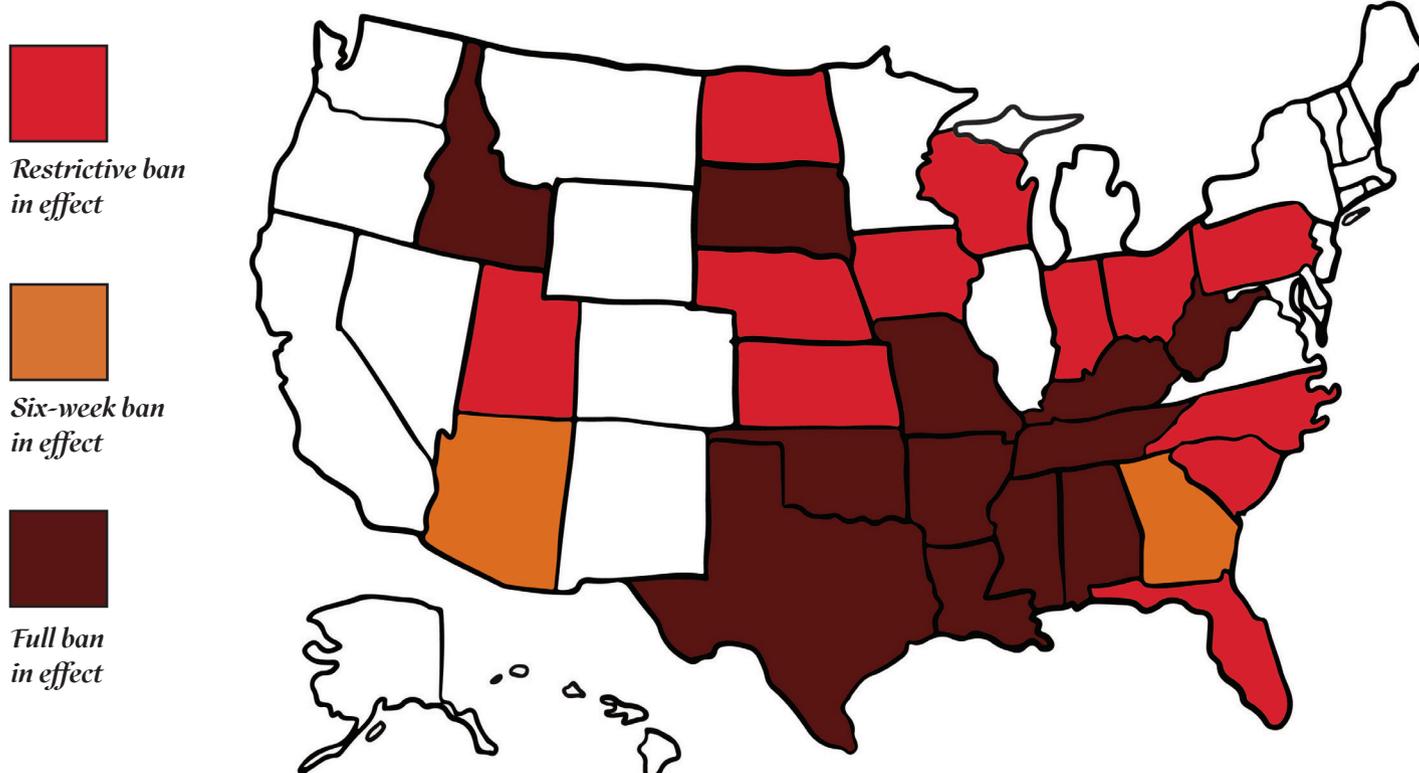
Twenty-year-old music major Catherine Treis runs UM's chapter of Students for Life, a national anti-abortion organization. The group has been around for about a year.

Treis said the group's seen a lot of controversy since it formed. She described people reacting poorly to the group tabling at the University of Montana. She said people yelled at her and fellow group members. It's been a challenge, and she said if the group is tabling, she won't leave a student there alone because she knows they'll face backlash.

But, she has also been excited that students are willing to engage with the group. Some people have even engaged with their display, which Treis said shows the developmental process of a fetus, positively.

"This girl was just absorbed in it, and I asked what her name was, and she said, 'Oh, actually, I'm four months pregnant and I'm so excited!'" Treis said. "She gave me this ultrasound picture on her phone."

# ABORTION BANS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES



A map of the United States shows the levels of restriction in accordance to that states abortion bans. The states without color currently have no present form of an abortion ban. Data was collected from The New York Times and Guttmacher Institute. **MACKENNA GLEAVE | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Since it's so new, Treis said UM's chapter of Students for Life isn't engaging in lobbying this year. But she said it's something the group has an interest in taking on in the future. Treis said her group is in favor of Regier's SB 154.

"We're hoping to help push for legislation that will protect life from the moment of conception," Treis said. "This bill is a step towards that, which is why we as a student group support it."

She added that Regier's bill addresses the idea that the right to privacy doesn't extend to actions that involve another person. In her view, that right to privacy starts from the moment of conception.

Treis also said she knows her group's position on the bill isn't in line with ASUM's. It doesn't surprise her. She said when the group formed at first, she was worried ASUM wouldn't let them exist.

But ASUM's rules don't allow ASUM to disapprove of student groups' creation and actions based on the senators' beliefs.

Treis said she's glad students have a right to share their opinions on UM's campus, even when they're not in line with the majority.

"We have just as much of a right to say what we believe as they do," she said.

And Hanley agreed. His goal in testifying on this bill is to show that students care about this issue, demonstrating to legislators that many students are passionate about privacy and abortion access. But like Treis, Hanley knows that UM students have differing views

on abortion, and said ASUM's survey results reflected that.

It's why Hanley encouraged all UM students to speak up at the legislature.

"On whatever side of the issue students are on, we encourage them to get involved, whether it's in our lobbying priorities or not," Hanley said.

## Looking ahead

SB 154 has a legal note on it, a practice the state Legislature uses when a bill may not be in line with the state or federal constitution.

For SB 154, that legal note states that the Montana Supreme Court has interpreted the right to privacy to include abortion. Because the bill aims to change that, it could spark larger debates about the Montana constitution. Regier, however, said that while the state's Supreme Court has decided on the right to privacy, he thinks the court didn't necessarily consider the word "individual" in that decision. That word is key because, from Regier's perspective, it's not just one person involved.

"I find it interesting that the framers of the [Montana] constitution put that word there," Regier said. "As far as individual when it comes to an abortion, abortion is not an individual act. There's another set of DNA, another set of fingerprints that's involved there. And along with that, courts have made mistakes in the past, from Dred Scott to eugenics, and they've had to correct some of those mistakes

they've made."

Johnson, the Carroll College political scientist, said with the 1999 Armstrong case, this has been decided in Montana's court system already. He thinks that, should the bill pass and be brought to court, the argument Regier is making won't stand.

"Ultimately, the Supreme Court will make interpretations in light of the Montana constitution," Johnson said.

But before it's potentially brought to court, the bill must be heard in the state House.

Lobbyists from groups on both sides of the issue, along with people sharing their personal stories, will try to convince the legislature to see things their way when the bill sees its next hearing, which will be in one of the committees of the state House.

Sands, the first ever openly gay member of the Montana Legislature, said that it's time for people to start talking about their abortion experiences being "needs" not "wants," and added that the attacks on abortion have been, and will be, unconstitutional.

"It's time for them to open their mouths and say they had it, 'It was what I needed. I made that decision. And I have no regrets about that,'" Sands said. "So if women do that, and open their mouths and talk about their experience with this, we will be fine," Sands said.

Sands said that by targeting protected rights under MT's constitution, Republican legislative leaders are working toward placing new constitutional measures on the ballot within



University of Montana alum Diane Sands stands on campus on Feb. 10. Sands served as a Democratic House member from 2006-2012 and a Senate member from 2014-2022 in Missoula. **ANDY MEPHAM | MONTANA KAIMIN**

the next session or two.

"They understand that they can pass certain restrictive, repressive legislation," Sands said. "They can get it through the Legislature, and when they have a Republican governor like they do now, it will be signed into law. But they also know it is going to go to the Supreme Court and the court has routinely said, 'Nope, these things are violations on the face of them.'"

Sands stressed that Republican legislators are aware the Court is acting as a barrier to passing "restrictive" legislation and added that's why they're attempting to change how it's composed, elected and supervised.

"The most important thing going on in the legislature is the issues around the preservation of the Montana constitution," Sands said. "And that's the long game. That's the big game. All these other bills are just pieces of that battle."

The Kaimin reached out to the Republicans' legislative spokesperson to respond to Sands' claims, but did not receive a response by presstime.

Sands added that while abortion isn't the only topic of bills in the Legislature, it is still a vital one.

"It is impossible to imagine a culture in which abortion is not a necessity. It will always exist in every culture. Now, the question is, how safe is it going to be for the women who need it," Sands said. "I have no doubt that abortion will continue to exist, and that women will continue to grow."

*For students interested in offering testimony on bills at the state Legislature, you can visit [leg.mt.gov/public-testimony/](http://leg.mt.gov/public-testimony/)*

# Students shine in 20th annual ACDA benefit concert

KAYLA INGRAHAM

kayla.ingraham@umontana.edu

When Zoe Dehline's choreographed dance "20 (or more) questions" debuted at Dance Underground last semester, they thought it would be the last time they would ever perform the piece. The performance, which forgoes background dance music for a voice track of self-reflective poems spoken by the dancers themselves, returned this semester alongside a line-up of several other student-choreographed pieces for the American College Dance Association's 20th annual benefit concert.

Dehline, a junior dance major from Seattle, said they are excited but nervous about the concert, especially considering their piece was one of three chosen to represent the school at the ACDA regional conference in Salt Lake City.

"The biggest challenge for my piece this year was that I decided we weren't going to use music," Dehline said. "So we wrote an original spoken word poem and then we sliced all of the dancer's voices and made this huge sound design."

Hosted by The University of Montana School of Theatre and Dance, the ACDA Benefit Concert, performed on Feb. 17 and 18, featured a lineup of unique, student-choreographed pieces. Dancers took to drums bordering the stage during the first performance on Friday night, an exciting introduction to a night that took viewers on a journey of emotions.

For UM dance students like Dehline, the ACDA regional conference was a chance to not only showcase their best work, but to take unique classes from other universities' professors, connect with dancers from across the region and experience the work and ideas of other programs.

From ballet pieces to classic and contemporary work, each performance had layers that told a different story. Two other pieces performed by UM, choreographed by Noel Price and Hannah Dusek, were also chosen to represent the school at the ACDA regional conference.

"I just love being able to put my movement onto someone else's body and see how it transforms into something. As beautiful as I think I do it, and then the way they do it is, just even better," said Dusek, 22, a wildlife biology and dance double major from Chicago with a focus on choreography and performance.

Dusek started choreographing her piece "Shifting Once Again," at the end of September for her senior project. After presenting the routine at Dance Underground, she received



Dancers perform at a rehearsal for the ACDA Benefit Concert on Feb. 16. This year's performance was the 20th running and showed of many different styles of dance. **LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

a call from her professors over winter break letting her know they selected her piece to be performed in the adjudicated concert at ACDA.

"Shifting Once Again" is the final performance of the concert and brings 13 dancers together to communicate a message about fearing change and finding comfort in knowing everyone is going through a change of their own.

"Everyone goes through changes in life, and changes can be really exciting and really scary," Dusek said. "The shirt that they toss around through the middle of the piece is the change, and every time someone has that shirt they're interacting with others differently and they're finding a change that's different than everyone else. [At the end of the show] they

are in their own individual t-shirts dancing, and it's showing that we are all going through change. It might not be the same, but we are all going through it, and it can be comforting to know you have somebody around you."

Choreography comes naturally to Dusek, who draws inspiration for her dances from music, and imagines choreography while listening to a song. Most of the dances in the showcase revolve around music or a beat, with the exception of Dehline, who is excited to see what other dancers think of their self-reflective and society-reflective work.

"All of the spoken word is question-based because I wanted to kind of reflect what it's like to be in this era of your life," Dehline said. "How you're supposed to know things, but you don't actually know things. So I wanted it

to be self-reflective questions about love, life, and how things work, and I worked with the dancers to compile a list of questions they had and questions that I had."

Dusek and Dehline have both attended ACDA before and are ready to go to Salt Lake City, Utah, next month to live out the experience again. The conference is a chance for students to meet other dancers in their region, who they will likely be dancing with in the future.

"The performance aspect of it was fun because we got to see what other schools are making right now," Dusek said. "It's so easy to get caught up in a hole and be like, 'Okay, this is what we are really interested in right now,' but it was really interesting to see what other people, like in California, are interested in."

# 'Ant-Man:' Just can't, man

CHRIS SHIELDS

christopher.shields@umontana.edu

The Marvel Cinematic Universe is so directionless at this point that it once again has to create an entirely new universe filled with random, one-off characters to justify a theater spot for "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania."

Marvel Studios is in the business of making money, not good movies.

That's where "Quantumania" comes in. If your expectations for the MCU weren't ground level already, get ready to eat floor. You're about to see the same story you've seen 30 times before, but worse and less interesting.

It's also one of the most Marvel-y movies to date, epitomizing every trope you'd associate with the brand. It's an unnecessary sequel full of irrelevant characters including the new "most powerful villain of all" that forces humor, shitty CGI and shitty green screens.

At the end of 2018's "Ant-Man and the Wasp," Hank Pym (Michael Douglas) rescues

his wife Janet (Michelle Pfeiffer) from the Quantum Realm after 30 years. While she was there, she met a seemingly innocent traveler named Kang (Jonathan Majors) who turns out to be an evil conqueror with unimaginable power.

In present day, Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) has returned to a somewhat normal life, but his now grown-up daughter Cassie (Kathryn Newton) is getting into trouble. Cassie got into studying the Quantum Realm (because every Marvel teenager is a tech genius), so she built a device that can contact it. As soon as she makes contact, a portal opens that sucks everyone inside.

As they search for a way out, the group quickly gets into trouble and pisses off Kang. For a movie called "Ant-Man and the Wasp," Wasp doesn't get enough screen time in this movie.

The fact we got this stupid sequel instead of a Wasp solo movie that she deserves is ridiculous. Wasp is so much cooler and more

qualified than Ant-Man. She has the same powers and a cooler costume, but she can shoot lasers and fly.

Things just kind of happen in this movie without justification. It's similar to "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" in many ways, but mostly because it only exists to show off a neat-looking alternate realm. Both movies rely on a single cool scene of the main character falling through colorful dimensions to be memorable at all.

"Quantumania" relies solely on visuals to exist, which would be fine if the visuals were anything special. They're the same thing we see with every Marvel movie, except worse in some ways.

Corey Stoll from "Ant-Man" returns in this movie as the character M.O.D.O.K. (short for Mental/Mobilized/Mechanized Organism Designed Only for Killing), who might be the worst thing to ever happen to the brand. It's unclear who Marvel did dirtier: M.O.D.O.K. or his actor Corey Stoll. Digitally warping

Stoll's face to be an already silly-looking comic character makes him look worse than Mr. Electric from "The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl."

Of all the "Quantumania" downfalls, it suffers a severe lack of Bill Murray. He's what people went to see in this movie. He, and the epic remix of Elton John's "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" shown in the trailer, wasn't even used in the movie.

As far as MCU threequels go, "Quantumania" is at the very bottom of the ranks. It isn't as heart-breaking as "Avengers: Infinity War" or "Spider-Man: No Way Home." It isn't as epic as "Iron Man 3" or "Captain America: Civil War." It isn't as enjoyable as "Thor: Ragnarok." Marvel and Disney are struggling. Good thing we still have at least nine mediocre MCU movies to sit through in the next three years. No wonder Disney is banking on James Cameron.

# 'Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey:' Where innocence dies

CHRIS SHIELDS

christopher.shields@umontana.edu

Of the six feature films and nine direct-to-video films, "Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" has to be the weirdest and worst Winnie the Pooh movie to date. It isn't as scary as 2005's "Pooh's Heffalump Movie," nor is it as good as 2011's "Winnie the Pooh," but it is a peculiar start of a fucked up attempt to ruin everyone's childhood.

This is an extremely long 84 minutes of senseless plot development, awful writing and cringe-worthy acting. Director Rhys Frake-Waterfield's logic behind making this movie is just as bad as his crappy characters' decisions to run toward rubbery, homicidal animals.

Frake-Waterfield, who wrote, directed, edited and produced "Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" obviously didn't do his homework on the concept of Winnie the Pooh. All the signature characters were stuffed animals brought to life in A.A. Milne's original stories, but in this exploitation B-movie, the animals are human/animal mutant hybrids of some sort.

This is essentially an anti-education movie, not just because it feels like a cocky film

student's middle finger to their professors, but also because it's a warning of what your childhood friends will do if you go to college. In this live-action Winnie the Pooh adaptation, Christopher Robin (Nikolai Leon) made the mistake of pursuing higher education, leaving his childhood animal friends behind and breaking his vow to stick around forever.

Those weird monster creatures grow into murderous giants with a personal vendetta against all humankind, especially Christopher Robin. It's explained that they ate their friend Eeyore, but other familiar Winnie the Pooh characters like Tigger, Kanga, Roo, Owl and Rabbit are nonexistent.

Christopher Robin takes his fiancée Mary (Paula Coiz) to his old stomping grounds of the Hundred Acre Wood to give her a glimpse into his past, but Piglet (Chris Cordell) and Pooh (Craig David Dowsett) have other plans. A short while later, a group of friends takes a vacation in that very forest and shit goes sideways. Jess (Natasha Rose Mills), Maria (Maria Taylor), Zoe (Danielle Ronald), Alice (Amber Doig-Thorne) and Lara (Natasha Tosini) are hunted by the killers in this sad attempt at uniqueness. Yes, this movie is serious.

"Blood and Honey" is heavily inspired by "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" in its setting

and how it portrays the antagonists. There are also moments included for the sole purpose of making the viewer uncomfortable, regardless if they add to the plot. A scene where a random old man is creeping on a girl as she sleeps gives the same effect as 2022's "Men" in that it's uncomfortable at the moment, but may not matter much long-term.

The result? A really terrible movie. The handheld shaky-cam chase sequences are so jarring that it hurts to watch. The random sexualizing of characters, as is the common trope with slasher movies, does nothing for the plot. For a slasher movie, it shows very few of the fun kills everyone came to see.

The only thing worse than the acting is the CGI gore. Not only are there numerous cop-outs to avoid the body horror viewers are craving, but the majority of the gore that is shown isn't practical.

With all the shit crammed into this movie, the cinematography is beautiful. The nature drone shots, the lighting work to dramatize every scene, and the angles and composition somehow make this movie more tolerable.

Frake-Waterfield cranked out two movies last year called "The Area 51 Incident" and "The Killing Tree" and he shows no signs of slowing down. "Winnie the Pooh 2" has al-

ready been teased and "Peter Pan's Neverland Nightmare" is in talks. Frake-Waterfield also has a movie called "Firenado" set to release this year.

It's only a matter of time before we see "The Very Homicidal Caterpillar" or "The Velveteen Rabbit's Rampage," so hold onto your fond childhood memories while you can.



# Josh Vazquez proving to be leader in face of past struggles

MAX DUPRAS

max.dupras@umconnect.umt.edu

University of Montana senior guard Josh Vazquez has been with the basketball program since he was a freshman. But this year, instead of starting, he has become a leader for younger players by coming off the bench.

“Let ‘em (underclassmen) know that nothing’s gonna be easy,” Vazquez said. “It’s like life’s ups and downs, the same thing with basketball, you never know what’s gonna happen. Just be grateful and take all the opportunities that you can get.”

Vazquez and the Grizzlies have won five of their last six games. After ending the non-conference schedule 6-6, the team has slowly turned around a season that saw heartbreaking losses and a 3-6 start to the conference season.

Montana ranks fourth in the Big Sky Conference standings with three games left in the season. Now, the leading scorers on the team are upperclassmen Aanen Moody, Josh Bannan and Dischon Thomas.

Vazquez isn’t one to put up big scoring numbers or try to make the biggest play of the game. He ranks sixth on the team in scoring, fifth in assists and eighth on the team in rebounds. Since he arrived at Montana in 2019, he said he has changed his game to fit the people around him and make the team better.

“A lot of freshmen come in and don’t play right away,” Vazquez said. “It’s something I, for sure, didn’t wanna take for granted. Just being new as a freshman trying to learn as much as I could, especially from the older guys – I’m kind of taking that role on now.”

The 22-year-old communications major from Torrance, California, was thrown into the lineup the moment his freshman season started. The Grizzlies came off of some of its most successful years in recent memory, earning back-to-back NCAA tournament bids.

While Vazquez’s freshman season was cut short due to the pandemic, he still played in every single game for Montana, starting in 14 of those 31 games. He fit right into a team that had lost standouts to graduation like Ahmaad Rorie and Michael Oguine.

“Young men like him are important to every program and not every program has guys like that anymore that are around for year four,” UM head coach Travis DeCuire said. “They understand what it is you’re trying to accomplish and how you go about it.”

Vazquez started his career doing everything. He led the team in steals and ranked fourth in minutes and points. In 2020, Montana earned the third seed in the Big Sky Conference tournament before the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the college basketball season.

Now, Vazquez is one of only two members from that 2019-2020 season still on the roster, the other being senior forward Mack Anderson. Of the six freshmen from the team his freshman season, Vazquez was the only one to stay at Montana with other standout players like Derrick Carter-Hollinger and Kyle Owens transferred out at the end of last season.

“I think he’s one of those guys that we’re fortunate to be able to hold on to over the years,” DeCuire said. “I don’t know if we’d be as successful as we’ve been lately without him.”

Vazquez has seen major changes in Montana’s roster throughout the years. Some of that has been thanks to new rules with the transfer portal, like being able to play immediately after transferring, which makes it easy for athletes to change teams.

Last year, Montana lost eight of its fifteen players. Seven of those losses came from players transferring.

Even with these losses, Vazquez said that being a leader is important no matter who comes into the program. And for transfers like Moody and Thomas, Vazquez knows he needs to be the best role model he can to provide Montana with the winning culture it once had.

Vazquez also understands where he has come up short. He said last year was not his best, averaging a career-low in points, assists, steals and rebounds. But this year, he wants to prove he can still provide a spark.

“I just wanted to move forward from that and just use that as fuel to become the best player I can this year,” Vazquez said.

Vazquez has not only been a leader for underclassmen at Montana, but he has also been helping support some premier starters like juniors Brandon Whitney and Josh Bannan. Whitney and Bannan are also fan favorites who played Griz since they were freshmen. Vazquez doesn’t provide the crazy numbers that many of his younger teammates do but he is what DeCuire describes as a “program guy.”

Vazquez is that. When the team needs a quick bucket, put him in. When a defensive stop needs to be made late in the game, put in Vazquez.

This year, Vazquez has improved his



Josh Vazquez, a senior from Torrance, California, stands in the Adams Center before practice. Vazquez plays guard for the Griz. **CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

defensive impact, leading the team with 15 blocks this season despite being listed at 6’3”, the second shortest player listed on UM’s roster. This change is because of his role on defense changing, being a guy who is quick to switch off his assignment and get to the paint to double team. He sees more opportunities down low because of his versatility and his athleticism that allows him to block taller forwards.

Even when he struggled in his junior season, Vazquez said his senior season is meant to not only prove his worth but to show the winning culture Montana is

trying to return to.

“I lead with everybody else,” Vazquez said. “As I’m leading them, they’re right beside me, following beside me. It’s not like I’m above them or anything else. I’m on the same level. We’re all trying to accomplish the same goal.”

Montana will play its last two home games on Feb. 23 against Portland State and Feb. 25 against Sacramento State. Montana’s final game is against Idaho State University in Moscow before the Big Sky Tournament in Boise, taking place from March 4 through March 8.

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# Ineligible players led to Griz hockey forfeiting games, missing playoffs

HOLLY MALKOWSKI

holly.malkowski@umontana.edu

The Montana Griz hockey team ended the season 20-9, according to its website, but didn't make it to the postseason thanks to forfeiting a number of games. The forfeits happened because there was a misunderstanding of eligibility rules and paperwork errors as a result, according to co-head coach Mike Anderson.

On Dec. 11, the Griz hockey team was ranked sixth in the west division of the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division II. By January, it was ranked 48th with 10.75 penalty points. The next closest teams in penalty points in the West division were Utah Valley University and Eastern Washington University, who each racked up 4.75.

The ACHA is a group of non-NCAA teams made up of college students who want to play hockey. Throughout all divisions of men's and women's hockey, the ACHA has about 450 teams nationwide.

The University of Montana resurrected its team in 2021, making it unable to qualify for playoffs last year because it was its inaugural year. This season, thanks to the issues Anderson mentioned, the team again failed to qualify for playoffs.

The ACHA eligibility rules state that all players must be taking at least nine semester hours of credits for undergraduates, maintain a cumulative grade-point-average of 2.0 and successfully complete those credits to stay eligible to play.

Anderson said the players were all in school, but with the team being "young" the coaching staff misunderstood some of the changing eligibility rules. The team's composition has changed throughout the season because of guys deciding school wasn't for them, transferring out of UM or getting injured. Coach Anderson believes the team still has a strong core group that it will take into next season.

The players didn't know any of the forfeits were happening until after the first semester.

"In my opinion it's not really our place to be the ones in charge of that, that's obviously on the coaches and the staff who run all that," Zach Malkowski, a forward said.

He is a 21-year-old junior from Westland, Michigan, who is majoring in integrative physiology with a focus in athletic training. He said the team was upset about the forfeits, but understood that things get overlooked and it was a mistake.

Griz hockey has become a popular event

in Missoula in the last two seasons. On any given Friday or Saturday night, college students crowd around the glass to yell and cheer on their team. The last game at Glacier Ice Rink was a sold out Montana versus Montana State University matchup.

Anderson said the high point of the season for the team was being invited to the Beehive Tournament in Utah. The team was invited in only its second year of being ACHA and went 4-0 at the tournament. UM beat Weber State once and Utah State twice at the tourney.

The team had a chance to still make regionals with an automatic bid from the Mountain West College Hockey tournament in Bozeman in early February, but the Griz lost to MSU there. According to the ACHA, the Griz finished 4-10 in the west region of D2.

"We've tightened things up, it's not going to happen again, but it sucks for sure," Anderson said.

The ACHA ranks teams based on record, penalty points and strength of schedule. The Griz ranked second in the conference for strength of schedule, meaning the team played a harder schedule than most of the teams in the conference. Plus this was outweighed by the penalty points it racked up over the season. The rules PDF on the ACHA website is currently inaccessible.

"I think we surprised a lot of people, and I think we surprised ourselves with how well we did as a team together," Malkowski said.

Though UM is done for this season, Malkowski is ready to have a fresh slate next season and try its hand at playoffs again. During the offseason, the team holds camps and recruits to keep strengthening its roster. The Grizzlies will be back at Glacier Ice Rink in late September to start the season.



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# Lovesick Ball rocks The Badlander

NATE SANCHEZ

nate.sanchez@umontana.edu

KBGA hosted its second annual Lovesick Ball on Feb. 16 at The Badlander.

As guests filed in, band members got ready backstage. The Badlander greenroom is small, with only enough room to fit three small couches and a mirror for members to apply makeup. Musicians in both bands, Calamity Cowboy and New Old Future, made small talk and practiced their instruments in preparation. The bands got ready as some donned double X's on their fists, which are given to people who won't be drinking.

At 9 p.m., Calamity Cowboy started its set. Guests made their way to the dance floor after they had some time to visit the two bars and merchandise fundraiser table. Guests were encouraged to make donations. Gift baskets were raffled off over the course of the night, with one of the prizes being a bong.

"We always love having big community events like this. When people come out and are willing to give a little, it gives us the power to keep doing it," said Josh Moyer, general manager of KBGA.

New Old Future went up on stage after Calamity Cowboy. By this time, guests had some time to drink and mingle. A date with the infamous KBGA lobster mascot was raffled off on stage. KBGA then announced that guests could submit a tattoo idea that KBGA staff would have to get tattooed. As the night wound down, house music was DJed for the clean-up crew. The energy stayed high throughout the night and the organizers thought the night went well.

"We made enough (money) to have one again next year, so stay tuned," Moyer said.



**ABOVE:** Kyle Campbell, the bass player for New Old Future, uses his pedalboard while performing.

**RIGHT:** Three-fourths of the band Calamity Cowboy sit and mingle before the band's set at the KBGA Lovesick Ball.



**TOP:** The band Calamity Cowboy performs on stage for the second Lovesick Ball presented by KBGA.

**ABOVE:** The lobster mascot for KBGA takes a break from dancing and sits on a couch backstage. A date with the mascot was raffled off for \$35.