



The Hellgate Lance

Hellgate Implements Three New Policies in 2024-25

Will Hansen
Editor

Emilia Johnson
Reporter

Violet Pehan
Reporter

Attendance

In the past several years, Hellgate students have been attending class less on average. This year, Hellgate's administration introduced a new policy to try to bring attendance back to pre-Covid levels. The policy brings a number of changes, centering around making sure students are prioritizing success in their classes.

Britt Hanford, one of Hellgate's assistant principals, said that the policy comes with three major changes. The first is how an absence is excused. "We spent a lot of time in past years categorizing absences. Absences excused by parents, a (sports) team, absences for illness or bereavement," said Hanford. "At the end of the day, the impact of an absence is the same regardless of the reason."

In an email to the Hellgate community, principal Judson Miller said that administration was "trying to move away from the language (Tardy, Excused, Unexcused) and focus more on the solution (work completion) and bell-to-bell in-person attendance." According to the new policy, it doesn't matter why a student is absent, they just have to find a way to make up for the work that they missed.

The second major change, which Hanford said has resulted in some initial backlash, is the new idea of taking students who are missing a lot of a particular class out of the physical classroom.

"I think there was a lot of misinformation about us just yanking kids out of classes once they miss (a number of days)," said Hanford. "That's not the case whatsoever." Hanford said that if it's clear a student isn't succeeding in their in person setting, administration will give them another way of learning their coursework through an online, in-the-building format. "We want to have another tool in our

toolbox to offer kids who are struggling or missing a lot of class," said Hanford.

The final policy change is an emphasis on in-person work. In recent years, the majority of a student's work was able to be completed online. This allowed for students to get lots, if not all, of their classwork done while not in class. Hanford said this is a problem.

"We are a school; we are in the business of doing school in person," said Hanford. Because of this, less classwork will be accessible or able to be completed on Google Classroom.

Phones

With the start of the new school year approaching, news of a prohibitive phone policy spread nationwide, and Missoula was no exception. Phone policies are very diverse across the U.S., ranging from no policy to locking phones for the entirety of the academic day. Hellgate chose to find a middle ground; according to the 2023-2024 Hellgate High School student handbook, "Students may not use cell phones or other electronic signaling devices during classes unless such use is under the direction of certified staff for educational purposes."

This is achieved using variations of a phone caddy.

Social studies teacher Jeff Waniata said, "It was going to be up to the individual teacher, then up to the individual department," which led to variation from teacher to teacher, and department to department. A prime example of this came up during the lockdown in the first week of school. There was nothing written in the policy about whether or not students were allowed access to their phones during lockdowns, so some students had access, others didn't.

The school shares that they began the implementation of the policy to help students stay focused and present at school. While many students agree with the idea, Waniata said, "I think it's that the majority of students feel like they are trustworthy with it, so it feels (like) we're starting off not trusting them... I absolutely understand that."

When asked about the future of the policy, most say it's all up in the air. School administration is treating the policy as a sort of "experiment". Hellgate is supplying the district with data for a potential district wide policy next year.

PE Dress Code

In past years Hellgate students have been able to wear what they wish to participate in gym, as long as it followed the dress code. This year though, a new policy has been put into place. Students taking a gym class this year have to wear a gray tee shirt with a white Knight's logo on it and athletic pants and shoes.

This new uniform costs ten dollars, unless the student qualifies for free or reduced lunch. Then the student is not charged. If a student doesn't wear the shirt for the day, they get a zero in that class. If they happen to forget their shirt at home, in their car, or somewhere else, the school has loaner shirts.

When teacher Heather Cheney was asked about the benefits of having students wear the new uniforms, she said it would help "promote safety in movement with appropriate attire (and) break down economic 'status' with unified attire," along with promoting equality and inclusion.

Some of Hellgate students' opinions seem to be less positive though, leaning more toward the thought process that the shirts are unnecessary and actually hinder the way they learn and participate.

"If they expected us to wear the shirts every day to class, they should have given us multiple shirts because hypothetically wearing the same shirt every day is unhygienic. Second, I get really hot when I'm working out, and I feel like to be able to work out effectively, I need to have a choice of clothing," sophomore McKenna Richter said.

Along with this, Richter thinks "the budget should have gone to improvements to the equipment, materials, and other funding that's put into PE classes and other important things the school should have used the budget for"

The point of the budget is a good one, considering that the school has had to substantially cut back on funding. Spending money on shirts that the students feel do not benefit them while the rest of the school, especially the arts and trades departments, are scraping for basic supplies could be viewed as unnecessary and frivolous.

Ultimately only time will tell whether this investment pays itself back in terms of effectiveness and cost, or if it will decrease enjoyment of P.E. classes, and hinder students ability to learn effectively.

Sheep Cloning



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Sheep Cloning in Montana: A Genetic Gamble

Carsten Bowen
Reporter

According to Associated Press News, 81-year-old Montana rancher, Arthur “Jack” Schurbath, was recently sentenced to six months in federal prison for his involvement in cloning giant sheep hybrids.

Schurbath, the owner of Sun River Enterprises LLC, has embarked on a decade-long project with his team to create a giant hybrid sheep. He aims to cater to captive hunting operations, where hunters pay to shoot trophy animals.

To obtain this goal, Schurbath illegally imported genetic material from Marco Polo argali sheep, a protected species under international and domestic law, located in central Asia. Schurbath and his team used said genetic material to create embryos that he implanted in one of his ewes to give birth to a pure genetic male Marco Polo Argali sheep. Which he then used to artificially inseminate his ewes on his ranch, creating a hybrid species.

The operation came to light when federal employees discovered the illegal importation and breeding activities. According to CBS News, Schurbath was charged with violating the Lacey Act, which prohibits the trafficking of illegal wildlife, and conspiring to violate the act. In addition to his six month prison sentence, he was fined \$20,000 and ordered to pay \$4,000 to the U.S. Fish Wildlife and Parks.

The concept of cloning began in the 1960s when J.B.S. Haldane, a British scientist, began to discuss the potential of human cloning within the scientific community.

The ethicality of cloning has always been a significant debate in scientific innovations and legislative actions. Nobel laureate Joshua Lederberg advocated for cloning and genetic engineering, while others, like bioethicist Leon Kass, raised concerns about the dehumanizing effects of human cloning.

Fast forward to the 1990s, scientists at the Roslin Institute in Scotland successfully cloned a sheep named Dolly, marking a pivotal event in cloning history. This breakthrough

demonstrated the endless possibilities of cloning, intensifying the cloning debate.

In response to this breakthrough, countries responded by drafting bills to ban or regulate human cloning. The U.S. saw its first congressional efforts to prohibit human cloning in the late 1990s.

However, the scope of cloning extends beyond our past and into the current day. This brings us to a recent and controversial case in Montana, where the boundaries of these technologies were pushed in a similar direction.

Schurbath’s case has raised significant ethical questions about the impact of genetic manipulation on wildlife. Critics argue that these practices can lead to unknown ecological consequences including the potential spread of disease and disruption of ecosystems. The hybrids created by Schurbath could pose a threat to native species in surrounding ecosystems.

The sentencing of Arthur Schurbath serves as a stark example of the complexities and risks of genetic manipulation and wildlife trafficking. While the pursuit of commercializing these genetics seems appealing, it is important to consider the ethical and environmental implications.



These Montana sheep were raised ethically by teens, unlike Schurbath’s giant sheep hybrid. Photo courtesy of Tenny Smith.

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Students and Teachers Adjust To Generative A.I.

Eleanor Billingsley
Reporter

The growth of technology has changed the way things are taught and absorbed in the classroom.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been around since 1956 when John McCarthy and Marvin Minsky introduced it. Lots of progress and growth has been made in between 1956 and now. AI has been relevant for a while, but now with CatGPT and the like, it's become very relevant in schools.

This year Hellgate is really cracking down to try to reduce cheating in the classroom. The punishments have increased and the leash on phone use and AI are a lot tighter on students. There are so many different elements of AI, it makes things hard to understand.

While there are positives and negatives to AI, the lack of experience with AI causes struggles in schools. Hellgate has taken new measures this year, putting in a new line in the student handbook about AI. The line about AI is added under "Academic Honesty Policy" and states the 3 levels of offense and what the punishments will be for each.

- Artificial Intelligence(AI): Computer generated writing, calculations, images, and art submitted as a student's original work.

Hellgate High School administration will apply penalties consistently and fairly when infractions occur, in accordance with the established scope and sequence of the Hellgate High School progressive discipline process.

1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense
*Student receives a "0" on the assignment. *Hellgate Discipline Referral. *Teacher phone call/email home.	*Student receives a "0" on the assignment. *Hellgate Discipline Referral. *Teacher phone call home. * Conference with admin. * Admin phone call home. *Progressive discipline applied.	*Student receives a "0" on the assignment. *Hellgate Discipline Referral. *Admin conference with parent. *Possible loss of credit for the course.

The student handbook clearly states the 3 levels of offense and the punishments that go along with breaking this portion of the Academic Honesty Policy.

Teachers are concerned that students have been using apps like ChatGPT to fabricate their assignments and cheat in their classes. The school is trying to prevent this by having harsher punishments for AI use and by putting phones in caddies when students enter the classroom.

Some teachers like French teacher Katie Wyskiver and English teacher Michael Larsen, are implementing more handwritten assignments that are done in the classroom and without screens. "We write everything by hand for our assessments, and AI and translation tools are not allowed in the room when we are showing what we can do on our exams," said Wyskiver.

But what drives students to use AI like ChatGPT to cheat in their classes? Sophomore Cecelia Spencer said, "A lot of the people who are cheating are not

super confident and haven't gotten a lot of chances to feel like they have these accomplishments."

If this worry is what causes students to feel pressure and cheat, then how can teachers make that better? Sophomore Samuel Heiner said, "a lighter or more malleable workload and more understanding because many teachers believe that their class is most important and apply a heavy amount when there's many more classes with heavy load as well".

Having a less homework load from each class can help to take some of the pressure and stress off. Larsen said that his way of helping students feel less pressured "is helping kids prepare through the whole process and know where they're going". Helping prepare students so they don't feel lost or behind on material is critically important so there isn't that panic of just needing it done and over.

Another big question that's been circulating is what AI will look like in schools in the future. "It will be a crazy ride for sure," said Wyskiver. "I mean that's a fascinating question, I mean it's just going to change the way we teach a bit," said Larsen.

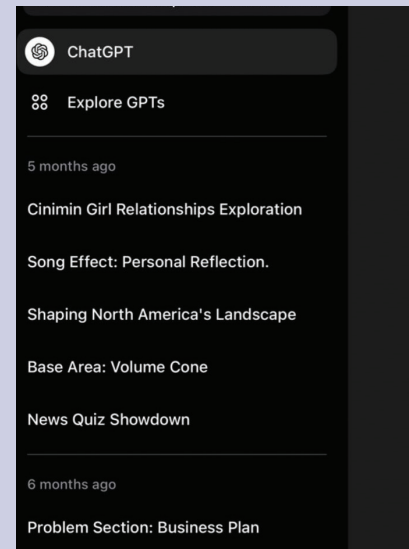
It's a tough thing to figure out what the next steps are around AI. "We still need to have our own cognitive thinking and go through that process. We're using AI already, Google is an AI right? So we're already using it and we just need to figure out how to use this new form in a productive way," said Larsen. The hope for both teachers and students is a healthy mix of using AI when beneficial while still keeping your own ability to produce good and thoughtful work.

AI isn't all bad, there are some really beneficial changes. AI and new technological advances have helped teachers and students free up more personal time and cut back on grunt work. "I do think that google classroom makes things just a lot more organized and there a bunch of really good online resources we can use for school work, I do prefer it over writing everything," said sophomore Canyon Sky.

AI hasn't only affected students. Orchestra teacher Ryan Davis said he thinks a positive about AI is, "AI will free up time for teachers' creativity and focus on tasks that require human ingenuity."

It is also nice to have an updated source of information. Some teachers, like Wyskiver, have old or outdated textbooks, but AI helps create an up-to-date curriculum.

AI use is a tricky path to maneuver, and it's ever-changing and advancing. Both students and teachers are doing their best, and overall have similar hopes for how schools will proceed with AI currently and in the future.



ChatGPT is a common AI generating app that students use. Graphic by Eleanor Billingsley.

Hurricanes Prompt Discussion of Climate Change

Quinn Stromberg
Reporter

On Sept. 26th, Hurricane Helene made landfall on Florida's Gulf coast. The day prior, the storm had been categorized as a category one hurricane, swiftly updated to a category four by the time it made landfall. The storm was on a path of destruction along the Gulf coast, moving from Georgia to the Carolinas with rapid speed and leaving devastation in its wake. The overall death count is unclear, but as many as 230 have likely died from hurricane related circumstances.

In the wake of this horrific loss, one thing has become clear. Far from the coast, no one was prepared for this scale of a disaster, especially not in Asheville, North Carolina, where no one expected Helene to reach such heights. The question is: Why did it?

Studies show that Helene's warpath was intensified by the Gulf of Mexico's heating waters, which are believed to worsen as the planet warms, leading to an increase in this scale of natural disasters. Scientists at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory have estimated that climate change may have caused 50% more rainfall during the hurricane, likely due to a warmer atmosphere holding more water. In other words, climate change played a role in the destruction Helene caused, proving that it should not be treated as a backburner issue.

Hurricane Helene has been followed by Hurricane Milton, a once category five hurricane that carved a destructive path in Florida. This hurricane was especially dangerous due to the debris left behind from Helene, and Floridians raced to get out of the state before it hit. Jane Castor, mayor of Tampa, bluntly stated, "You're going to die," to residents choosing to stay in the evacuation zones, back when Milton was a category five. We can infer that as our world continues to warm, the rates of hurricanes will increase as well, causing severe risk to lives and communities.

According to Pew Research, climate change falls near-last on the top issue for registered voters in the 2024 election. 11% percent of Trump supporters and 62% of Harris supporters say climate change is important to their vote, a low number compared to the severity of the situation.

Helene and Milton have brought the climate change debate back to the forefront of national discussion, which we witnessed during the Vice Presidential Debate. Ohio Senator and Vice Presidential Candidate JD Vance was questioned about the steps the Trump Administration would take to reduce the effects of climate change in the wake of

Helene's destruction. Vance spoke of the hurricane and of climate change as two unrelated subjects. He has said "...we're the cleanest economy in the entire world..." which is untrue; the United States is the second largest contributor to carbon emissions after China.

Minnesota Gov. Walz's admitted that the US is "producing more natural gas and more oil at any time than we ever have. We're also producing more clean energy." Walz acknowledged that climate change is a problem, and that "reducing our impact is absolutely critical," while Vance continued to brush over the topic and sidestepped answering the posed question of Trump's previous claim that climate change is a hoax.

With death tolls rising and homes ravaged due to Helene and Milton, it is clear that climate change is an issue that needs to be solved. For hurricanes of this magnitude, there are no concrete steps in place to keep people and property safe, simply the idea of "get out or die" which is difficult when there is a shortage of gas, raised prices of plane tickets, and jammed roads. Voters and politicians seem more concerned about other issues such as the economy and healthcare, two topics that, as it turns out, are inextricably linked to climate change, which is proven by the destruction demonstrated by recent hurricanes. Standing by and watching the devastation play out should not be an option; we have to take action now, because this will not be the last time hurricanes of this magnitude will make landfall on our coasts.



Photograph of the destructive Hurricane Milton taken from astronauts aboard the international space station. Photo courtesy of NASA, JSC, ISS

Why It's Important to Vote in Montana State Elections

Emma Puiggari
Assistant Editor

Election day is swiftly approaching on Nov. 2024. Voting is a civic duty and a privilege of living in a democratic country, so for students 18 years of age and older it is important to register to vote.

Voting in local elections gives people a way to make a change in their community. Regardless of how you vote, voting can be a way to express your beliefs. Every vote counts, it's up to the people to decide who represents them. By not voting it allows other people to decide your future and representatives for you.

Montana's candidates for U.S Senate are Republican, Tim Sheehy and Democrat, Jon Tester. The U.S Senate is in charge of drafting and voting on bills, amendments, motions and more. Voting for the candidate best aligns with your ideologies directly impacts the laws that will be implemented in the state of Montana as well as the rest of the country. Some of Sheehy's policies include, anti-radical gun

control, pro-life, conserve national security, and increase border security.

Tester wants to work on affordable housing, protecting public lands, standing up for reproductive rights, and protecting LGBTQ+ rights.

For U.S House District 1, The candidates are Republican Ryan Zinke and Democrat Monica Tranel. The U.S. House of Representatives has power to initiate bills, impeach officials, and in an electoral college tie, elect the President of the United States.

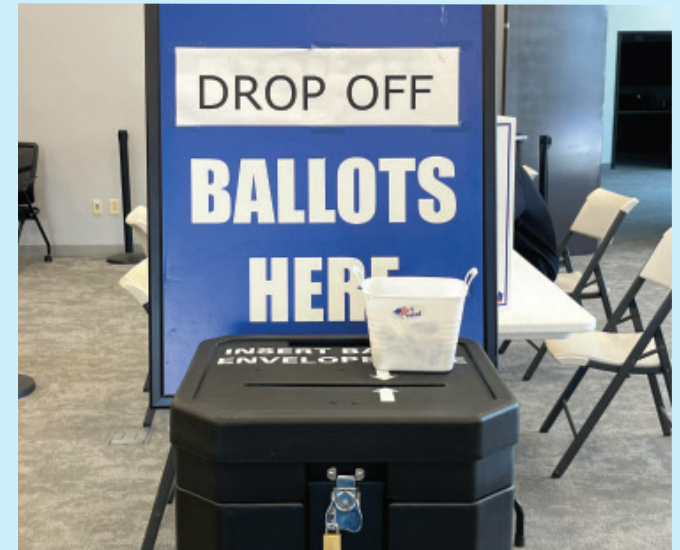
Zinke says he wants to build a strong economy, increase border security and stop illegal immigration, and allow public access in public lands. Tranel believes in restoring freedoms such as reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ rights, combatting addiction, and creating affordable housing.

Running for Governor are Republican Greg Gianforte and Democrat Ryan Busse. Governors implement state laws as well as oversee the state executive branch.

Gianforte believes in taking action to secure the border, increasing access to public lands, restricting abortion rights, and protecting gun rights. Busse believes in protecting reproductive rights, protecting access to public lands, and combating the climate crisis.

Regardless of the stance you take on the issues, in order to have a voice in the future of Montana as well as the United States, voting is an outlet to support candidates that align with your political and social beliefs.

Young voters bring a new and diverse stance on issues affecting not only their generation but the country as a whole. Every vote matters and can make a differ-



Voters can drop off ballots in this drop off box inside of the Missoula County Election Office.

Photo by Emma Puiggari

ence in the future. Due to this diversity, young voters have the voice necessary to speak up about the issues they see in their community and inspire politicians to take action. According to John Carroll University people 18 to 29 make up 21 percent of the eligible voters in the United States.

Voting is also a way to control where your tax money is going. Whether it be additional funding for schools, healthcare, or road work. Your vote is your way to choose how your money will be spent. Voting is your way to make an impact on your community and future. By getting together to vote Americans exercise their rights to have a direct say in their democracy. This ability is specifically important for young voters. State and local elections are just as important as the Presidential election and often have a bigger impact on your life as well as those around you.

To register to vote you can mail in a completed voter registration form to the local elections office, or you can register in person.

It is time to fill out your voter registration forms and make your way to the polls.



Voting Nov. 5 will take place in these privacy booths inside of the Missoula County Election Office. Photo by Emma Puiggari.

The Increased Mixing of Church and State Rapidly Becomes More Concerning

Violet Pehan
Reporter

“Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should ‘make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ thus building a wall of separation between Church and State.”

These were the words of none other than one of our founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson. Though that passage is heavy, let’s focus on the last sentence: “thus building a wall of separation between Church and State.”

The separation of church and state is an important one, so important in fact that it is the very first Amendment of the Constitution, in which it states that: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”.

This should seem like common sense, no?

Our First Amendment right is being directly violated as many states such as Texas, Idaho, and Missouri have put laws into place stating that abortions are illegal, partly due to the fact that the Bible states that life starts in the womb.

This mixing of church and state is not a mild violation, it is directly hostile. By tearing down that wall that Thomas Jefferson and our other founding fathers so vehemently believed should be between church and state, we are also violating citizens 14th Amendment right, and endangering their lives in the process.

Our Fourteenth Amendment right gives us the right to bodily autonomy, regardless of the rules the government puts into place.

In Montana, one of our two main candidates for senate, Tim Sheehy, believes that, “the most precious gift from God is life and that we have

a responsibility to protect and defend the most vulnerable in our society,” referring to Sheehy’s stance on abortion rights and bodily autonomy.

Sheehy is using his personal religion to justify violating not only our First Amendment right, but also our Fourteenth.

Sheehy also wants to put Christianity into schools, stating, “...above all, we need leaders in Washington to stop things like drag queen story time from replacing the Lord’s Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance in our classrooms.”

These quotes were not pulled from speeches, tweets, or past comments. They were pulled from his campaign website.

Sheehy believes it’s OK to discriminate against other religions and identities, implying that they are indoctrinating our children, but it is apparently ok to force Christianity on the entire population of Montana’s youth.

According to the World Atlas, only 65 percent of Montana adults are Christians, meaning that this potential law would not only go against the very foundation of our nation, but discriminate against 35 percent of Montana citizens.

When you’re running for a political office position, you are not claiming to represent a portion of your citizens, you are representing all of them.

Therefore, actively trying to push your personal religious beliefs in public schools is unconstitutional and discriminatory.

Mixing state and church is an essential aspect of Sheehy’s campaign, regardless of the constitution, and he is only a local example.

Many conservative candidates around the country are tiptoeing along the line of claiming religious freedoms and violating amendment rights.

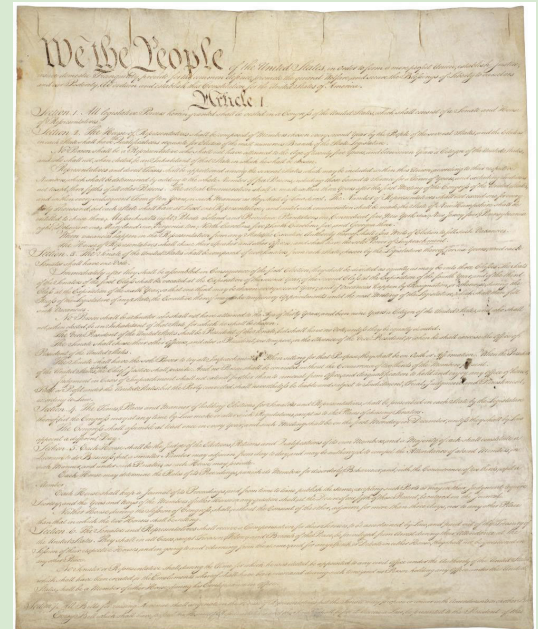
You are free to practice Christianity, along with any other religion under the sun, in public spaces and your home as long as you don’t harm anyone.

What you are not free to do is force your religion upon anyone else.

That doesn’t only apply to the general public,

but also to our political leaders.

Overall I find it scary to think that our government is picking and choosing which of our rights to honor, such as our right to bear arms, and which of our rights to violate, like our right to bodily autonomy and religious freedoms.



The Constitution ensures a separation of Church and State.



Sheehy wants to take away bodily autonomy for all Montana women, even his daughters and wife. Photo courtesy of TimForMontana.

Social Media is Ruining How We Listen to Music

Amity Rogalski
Reporter

The music a person listens to is often a personal definer for many, a course of self-expression that is unique to an individual. Even with changing technology and the ability to stream music, this has stayed true. It could even be argued that it has made music an even more effective form of self-expression. The ability to stream music has given an incredible amount of content to listeners. As a consumer, it is easy to explore and build up a large collection of music based on individual musical interest and enjoyment. This, for the most part, is a good thing. Giving a large number of people nearly unlimited access to all kinds of music and art is a complete game changer for musical artists and listeners alike.

This gives way to endless possibilities of music exploration. When we add modern social media to the mix, however, this exploration becomes much more limited in a way. As social media often does, it begins categorizing music.

Categories and cliques centered around music have always existed in a modern society. However, with the addition of social media, micro groups are continuously added as new

music is made. The music a person likes is beginning to define them completely. However, instead of it being based on individual preferences, it is based on the preferences of whatever sub-sub-subculture a person claims they fit into.

This social media and streaming platform mix creates an echo chamber, where both



Social media provides a continuous yet curated stream of music for listeners.
Photo by Amity Rogalski.

platforms learn what is popular on each other. This defeats the purpose of individual exploration of music to an extreme extent. One will never run out of music that is hand picked for them, not daring to explore any media that is outside of their hyper-personalized bubble.

I have heard friends, good friends whom I have immense respect for, have competitive

arguments about the music that they like. These arguments, over differences in opinion, are to be expected no matter what is being discussed. However, these music-based arguments are completely different. They are ruthless competition for number-one fandom. The phrase “You only know about this because of TikTok” being the finishing move. With music being more readily available because of social media, people become extremely protective of their interests. Rather than trying to accept the joy of music as an art form that is meant to be shared, swaths of people make tireless attempts to keep it from the grips of the mainstream.

I have heard myself say so many times, “I hope this song doesn’t blow up on social media.” When I take a step back and dissect it, this thought seems so silly as it is the very thing that the artists I listen to would want to have happen.

Music has historically been a force that has the intention of bringing people together as a shared appreciation for art and self expression. We think

of concerts as unifying events, where many different, though simultaneously like-minded people come to experience a shared interest. Social media and its relationship with music streaming platforms has regrettably impacted this ability, for us to accept music as a unifying force instead of a pointless competition.

Hellgate Homecoming 2024

Monday



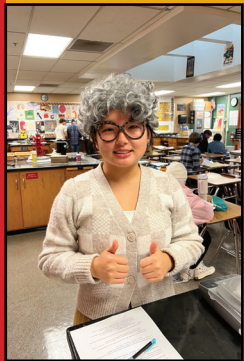
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Brendan Work's Life from Palestine to Missoula

Violet Pehan
Reporter

Brendan Work was born July 11, 1988, in Washington, DC. Even though he was born there, he was only there for two years.

For the rest of his childhood he grew up right here in Missoula, and attended Hellgate High School, even playing the harp in our orchestra.

He graduated from Hellgate in 2006, and left home to attend Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, where he majored in comparative literature. It was there he started learning Arabic, which kickstarted the rest of his life.

In 2010 Work moved to Palestine, where he was working as a reporter, photographer, and English-language editor for the Palestine News Network in Bethlehem.

Work said the biggest culture shock for him was that, “the hospitality culture is real and people actually want to have you over for dinner. A lot of hospitality here is faked, and in general Americans like to be left alone. People in the Arab world are just as busy as us, sure, but the honor of having a guest and providing for them is also a great cultural experience.”

He has many fond memories from his time in Palestine, including, “learning how to make musakhan, a Palestinian chicken dish, with my friend Ayman. I make that dish a lot now and think of him.”

Work didn't just stay in Palestine while he lived in the Arab world though. He has traveled to many other countries, including Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Qatar, and Oman.

Work loved the Arab culture, language, and world. It was, and still is a huge part of his identity and life.

In 2012 Work was forced to come back to the US because Israel removed him from Palestine due to his work as a journalist.

When asked his opinion on the ongoing war in Palestine, he said, “Palestinians are enduring just the most extreme phase of a genocide that has been ongoing since 1948, when the state of Israel was created through ethnic cleansing. It is shameful that our government supports Israel, but not surprising given our own history of genocide against Native Americans. We as people have much greater power than our government, however, when we stand unified.”

He believes that, “Students can do this just as well as non-students, and often they do it better. One thing we absolutely need to do is stop sending weapons to Israel.”

Work has opinions on things less heavy than the war as well too.

His favorite part of teaching, “is getting mature young adults to sing along with kids' songs and make silly noises.

His least favorite part is the pay.

He enjoys music such as dream pop like Beach House, classic rock like Led Zeppelin, and “Ice Cube before he became a cop.”

Work's favorite food is chicken shawarma sandwiches, because the meat is cooked perfectly and well-spiced, and reminds him of his time abroad.

Work's life may have been novel and exciting overseas, but his life now is just as fulfilling and desirable.

He has two sons with his wife, Evyn, who just graduated Hellgate last year, and six-year-old Everett.

Evyn attends Swarthmore college just like his dad, and Everett goes to Hawthorn Elementary.

As a family they have a dog named Alfie.

Work thinks the coolest thing he ever did was pet a cheetah in Botswana. He wants to do so much more though, including wanting to “see all 194 member countries of the United Nations, and a couple of the microstates as well. As St. Augustine said, the world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.”

Despite wanting to travel, in ten years Work still hopes to be, “right here at Hellgate, teaching more amazing kids and being in awe of life.”



Brendan Work teaches Arabic at Hellgate.
Photo by Violet Pehan.

Missoula Churches' Free Lunch Events Give to Hellgate Community

Rita Anastasia
Reporter

Two churches across the street from Hellgate, Waypoint Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church have been recognized among students as welcoming spaces to go to receive free food during lunch throughout the school year. With Waypoint Church being commonly known for giving out pizzas every Wednesday and St Paul's serving hot meals monthly, they have created a longstanding impact on our Hellgate High School community in recent years.

Waypoint's journey toward Jesus Lunch started in 2001, when church members saw a group of high schoolers who couldn't afford to get themselves a lunch. Jesus Lunch has been continuing its efforts through a partnership with Waypoint Church and Youth For Christ, an organization out of the City Life building.

Houston Brock is the Student Ministries Director at Waypoint Church and has been running the Jesus Lunches and for about a year and a half. Having first come up to Missoula in 2017 in high school from Louisiana to serve, he is now a big part of the church community and organization for Jesus Lunch.

Jesus Lunch has been going on for 24 years now. Church member Hazel Hinman has been involved since 2001 in the very first parts of its development. She said that the preachers wife at the time noticed a group of high schoolers who didn't have any lunch, "so she gathered up a bunch of ladies and gentlemen and they started bringing sandwiches over." Most kids were receptive and would come back every week and it's grown ever since. "It's just been amazing. They're wonderful kids," said Hinman.

Two churches across the street from Hellgate, Waypoint Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church have been recognized among students as welcoming spaces to go to receive free food during

All of the volunteers who contribute are members of the church, many being Brock's family and people who have been involved in Jesus Lunch since the beginning. "We have a handful of volunteers that are coming and helping us," said Brock.

As for the current menu, they are mostly known for giving out pizza, but they do rotate between other food options throughout the month as well. "It's my mom, Jenny Martinez, who is a teacher at Valley School... a group of middle schoolers and her that prepare the sloppy joes and the jambalaya that we had today." They have also had other items in the past such as walking tacos and pancake buffets.

At the start of each year the church sets a budget for the program, and they also are helped a lot by donations and volunteers. They have church members that donate the water and a cookie rotation for church members to sign up and bake cookies for the event for the whole school year.

There isn't much that they need to do to promote it, as it is such a commonly frequented and talked about event that students essentially promote it themselves. It is a greatly valued part of Hellgate students' Wednesday lunch routines. Brock observed that when freshmen were being given tours during orientation, seniors brought them over and told them about Jesus lunch. It is very clear how much of an impact it has made on the community at Hellgate that it is being shown on a tour of the school.

At the start of this school year, they have attracted a lot of attention from students, and as of the past three weeks they have had around 200 kids coming through. "It has grown immensely in the past 4 or 5 weeks," said Brock.

Hellgate sophomore Max Finn, who is a frequent visitor of the free lunches at Waypoint and St. Paul Church, said that the free food is helpful, because not everyone has money for lunch every day. "It's also another chance to have lunch with my friends all in the same place," said Finn.

"We really want this to be an opportunity for kids to make relationships with friends, to build a community and to feel loved, honestly," said Brock. "You know, the world can be tough sometimes and we just want to be able to give back and be able to be a safe place in a life for students that are struggling."

As of February of 2024, St. Paul's Lutheran Church also started doing a similar free lunch event for Hellgate students, starting monthly free lunches on Thursdays at their church. They offer their freshly made food that are served to the students that encourage them to stay and finish their meal, as well as leaving positive words and discussion questions on the table to motivate students to connect with the people sitting at their table and leave them with a more uplifted mindset.

St. Paul's mission for the event is to be welcoming and show their care for the community as followers of Jesus. "We want them to know that they are valued, and we are proud of them for showing up for school and for their life each day," said Colter Murphy, the Children, Youth and Family Director at St. Paul's. He is the organizer of the free lunches at St. Paul's Lutheran Church as well as working with Immanuel Lutheran Church to serve monthly free lunches to Sentinel students. "We know Jesus welcomed everyone to the table, no exceptions," said Murphy.

Though their current format of monthly lunches have only started being recognized by students, Murphy said that St. Paul has had a longer history that goes back at least a couple decades with serving free lunches. "Some staff at Hellgate may remember our start-of-the-year hot dog lunches we offered many years ago to all staff and students," said Murphy.

When coordinating what the meal will be for the month, Murphy leads a team of several retired church members in the kitchen to make the food. Built of a team of enthusiastic volunteers, they all enjoy making and serving the lunch.

The church puts out a sandwich board sign on Higgins across the street from Hellgate and a large vinyl sign on Brooks the week of the lunch event to let students know when it will be happening. Last spring they were having between 60 and 70 students show up each month. They always appreciate students bringing their friends.



Hellgate students eat pizza at Waypoint Church during Jesus Lunch on Oct. 16. Photo by Rita Anastasia.

Clyde Coffee: A Hellgate Favorite

Kingston Kimpell & Emi Johnson
Reporters

Out of all of Missoula's coffee shops and stops, Clyde Coffee is by far our favorite, both for environment and drinks. With a wide variety of 35 drink items on the menu, we have carefully compiled our reviews on every drink to show our appreciation for Clyde Coffee and to also give you information on taste and the makeup of the different drinks. We hope that you will decide to branch out from your typical order and try something new from this review!

The original cup'a joe, the child of a coffee-tea duo, the Americano. Half Espresso, half hot water, it's an upfront, earthy, calm taste that we adore and would order again. This babe goes for a lovable and forgiving \$3.00.

A classic safe go-to, the latte. Clyde's latte is a classic, with 1-2 shots of espresso finished off with steamed milk and froth. The only down side of the latte is that it can become boring for some... but Clyde has come to the rescue with 14 options of syrup. Kingston's personal favorite flavors for her lattes are rose and hazelnut. The price comes to \$4.50 with an additional \$0.75 if you're thinking of adding a syrup.

The breve, commonly confused for a latte, is indeed quite similar. Instead of steamed whole milk the Breve uses steamed half-and-half, providing a richer and creamy base. Clyde's Breve has an almost savory flavor, and it would go great with a late savory brunch, providing a calm wash. The Breve is an absolutely wonderful choice for a thick foam lover and it comes at a price of \$5.00. We both would definitely order this again and really enjoyed the richness that came from the half-and-half.

A plain shot of espresso is daunting to some, but not all. Clyde's espresso had an electric taste that was very surprising and strong. The sensation the espresso gave us was very acidic and almost felt like when you lick the end of a battery. A plain shot of espresso is an acquired taste, but don't knock it until



Clyde Coffee: A Hellgate Favorite cont.

you try it. We would consider ordering this again but we weren't huge fans of it.

The mocha wasn't a strong love for either of us. It is not a very dense drink but the foam was quite dense. It's kind of a "coffee for a kid" because it just lacks the bitter aftertaste. It comes out to \$5.00. Neither of us would really want to order this again but we definitely can understand why someone might enjoy this.

The cortado is just equal parts steamed milk and espresso, and neither of us were big fans. It was a mellowed down version of the plain shot of espresso. The taste was still very acidic much like the plain shot of espresso but it had a nice cream addition.

The cafe au lait is pretty milky and good if you like your coffee creamy. Cafe au lait literally translates to coffee with milk (cold, not steamed!) This drink would be a really great option for someone getting into coffee or someone who doesn't want something super intense. We had separate opinions; Kingston likes the mellowness of it but Emi thought it was too boring.

The green goddess, our beloved matcha. We have strong opinions on Clyde's matcha lattes and we are so stoked to finally tell the world. We are both fans of the hot matcha from Clyde. It is so comforting and earthy. However the iced matcha is a hit or miss. We have had heavenly iced matcha from Clyde and have had matcha that tastes like pure milk from Clyde. You can always tell if it's going to be too milky based on the color, the darker green it is, the luckier you are. This beauty comes out to \$5.50. Kingston's personal favorite iced matcha order is with almond milk, honey and a pump of vanilla.

The London fog, made up of Earl Grey tea, steamed milk and lavender syrup is great on a rainy day. The flavor is mellow but the Earl Grey still punches through. The lavender syrup complements the mellow flavor and creates a sweeter and floral overall taste. She comes out to a price of \$5.50.

Emi's personal favorite, the cappuccino, is equal parts espresso, milk, and foam. It's typically a dark roast, with the perfect balance between sweet and savory. With not too much milk, but also not a super bitter flavor, the cappuccino is perfect. At Clyde, you can enjoy it for \$4.

One of our dearest drinks is the green tea colada.

Simple, floral, calm, this soothing tea only requires a small fee of \$4 to enjoy its wonderful flavor. The calm taste of pina colada peeks through behind a deep green tea. The taste of pineapple and coconut surprisingly pair very well with green tea. We have always enjoyed this one and highly recommend it if you prefer your tea without milk.

The bee sting is a tiny but mighty iced drink, consisting of espresso, milk, honey, and cinnamon. We enjoy this one quite a bit but we think it's best if you have a cookie to dip into it! The flavor is stronger than you think it would be but the cinnamon and honey add a subtle sweetness making it good for all audiences. The price of the bee sting is \$3.00 and it only comes in 8 ounces.

Last but certainly not least, the wet dog. Though the name makes it sound funky (and some could say it is) it's an iced latte with vanilla and... sparkling water. It may sound unpleasant but it is the most refreshing unique sensation that is found no wear else. She is a loving \$5.00.

Through teas and coffee, we are able to say that Clyde is our favorite Missoula coffee shop. The diversity of the drinks at Clyde pair well with the vast menu. Early mornings, lunch, and late afternoons, you should most definitely give it a try.



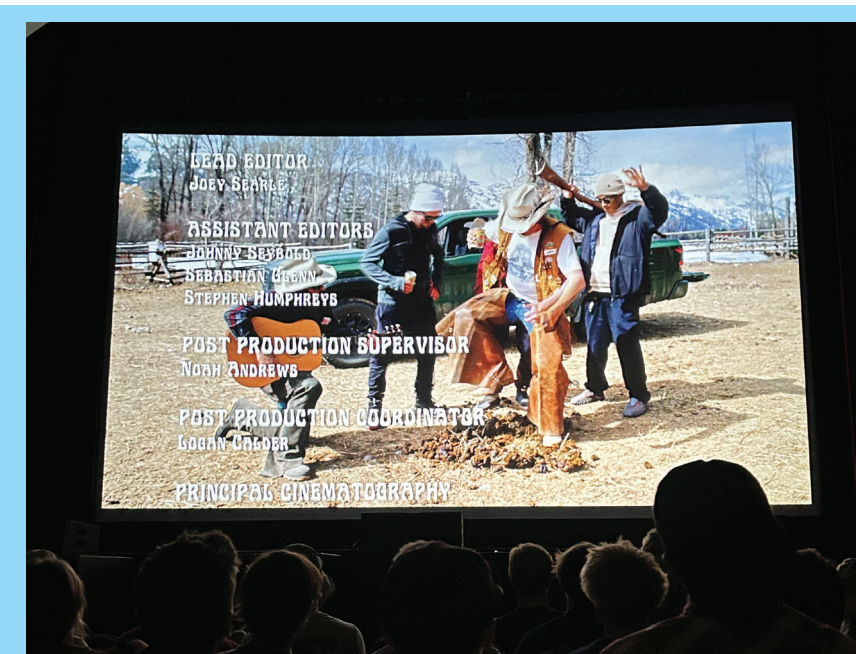
'Beyond the Fantasy': Teton Gravity Research's Latest and Greatest Ski Movie Comes to Missoula

Will Hansen
Editor

Each Fall, Missoulians experience an annual set of events that serve as heralds of the coming Winter, signs of colder weather approaching, and gentle reminders that times full of exponentially more skiing are steadily advancing. Skiers look forward to these checkpoints with quivering excitement. First the leaves start falling, then the temperatures drop, and finally, Teton Gravity Research and their annual masterpiece of a ski film comes to Missoula.

This year's movie, *Beyond the Fantasy*, proved once again why TGR remains at the forefront of the ski movie industry. With its world class cast, giddy and hilarious tone, steep lines, huge sends, and underlying message that dreams can be turned into reality, *Beyond the Fantasy* most definitely got Missoulians excited for ski season.

Just like the past several years, the Wilma hosted the event. Over the course of an hour, the venue slowly filled with the skiers and snowboarders of Missoula, and the noise level of anticipatory excitement increased accordingly. Whitefish, Montana's own Maggie Voisin, who has one of the highest amounts of screen time of any skier in the film, signed posters and talked with fans, and the Missoula Ski Education Foundation sold merch to raise money. Once every-



The credits of 'Beyond the Fantasy' play over the heads of Missoulians and under the arches of the Wilma. Photo by Will Hansen.

one took their seats a well known Gull Ski employee hosted a raffle in which an excited grown man walked away with a pair of small womens snow pants. And then the lights dimmed, and the main event of night began.

The film opened with a hilarious skit featuring two old-time cowboys running around Jackson Hole, Wyoming on a quest to capture snowboarders. Both snowboarders and cowboys ran through iconic scenes in the famous ski town, such as the Mountain Village and the Jackson town square. Throughout the rest of the film, almost every segment began with a skit like this; they had everything from ski legend Brad Holmes teaching

the audience how to make a ski movie to Krampus chasing Colter Hinchliffe through the streets of an Austrian village. This gave the movie a more playful and silly feel that we haven't experienced from TGR's past movies.

Beyond the Fantasy took us all over the Northern hemisphere, from TGR's backyard (Jackson Hole) to Alaska, then to Norway and Austria and then back to British Columbia. In a season with less than optimal snow, the cast certainly was able to find it. Before the film, Voisin shared with the Missoula audience that many of the segments were filmed in only one to two days in a powder-chasing format. "We wanted to get it

done when we had really good snow," said Voisin.

One of the highlights of the film had to be the Alaska "spine cell" segment, featuring TGR poster child (who's barely a child anymore) Kai Jones. Jones somehow walks the line between ushering in a new generation of young skiers and being a legend to the sport, and coming off an almost career ending injury last season, it was inspiring to see him back on snow slashing some of the steepest spine lines Alaska has to offer. He addressed that the cast had been dreaming about the spine cell lines for a while, and it was amazing to see it come to fruition. Jones was also featured throughout the film in other segments, like the Jackson Hole backcountry edit featuring the unofficial TGR core-team of Jones, Parkin Costain, Maggie Voisin, and Tim Durtschi.

Other skiers (and a few snowboarders) had stand-out segments. Voisin, along with Janelle Yip, had a powerful segment in Haines, Alaska where they addressed the inspiration that comes with skiing with other female skiers. The electric Sammy Carlson edit ended the film, giving us a fast paced and action packed dose of Carlson's style to cap off the movie.

Beyond the Fantasy gave us just the kick of skiing hype we needed to make it to when the snow starts falling. Ski movies are an integral part of ringing in ski season, and TGR's are always the very best.

Hellgate Football Suffers Wet & Heartbreaking Homecoming Loss

Elliotte Banziger
Will Hansen
Editors

The Hellgate Knights football team played in their homecoming game on Friday, Oct. 4 against the Big Sky Eagles at the MCPS Stadium at Big Sky High School. The Hellgate student section was a sea of red and gold cheering on their varsity football team with incredible enthusiasm despite the inclement weather.

The Knights scored a safety in the first quarter and then held on to their two point lead until the fourth quarter with 5 minutes remaining. Seamus Campbell, the Knights' starting center, said that it was really exciting to be in the lead for so long. "It was the most competitive game we've had since week one," he said. Sadly, the Eagles scored a touchdown close to the end of the fourth quarter and foiled the Knights' first chance at breaking their now 16 game losing streak. The final score was 2 to 7.

Campbell said the weather was a big factor in play: "It was pretty cold and windy, and the rain didn't help," he said. The inclement weather played a role in the game's low final score. Regardless of the storm, the Hellgate student section really showed up and showed out for

their homecoming game. After an absolutely gorgeous clear day, the skies opened up just as the football game was starting. True to form, Montana weather was incredibly unpredictable. The student section wasn't deterred, though; almost everyone stayed for the entire game and cheered their hearts out for the Knights.

Sophomore Camille Cellier said the rain just made the game more memorable. "Everyone was cold and wet, but also having lots of fun," said Cellier. She implied that Hellgate isn't used to being up in score for very much of a game, at least for football, so that brought even more energy to the student section. "The vibe was actually surprisingly fun," she said. Cellier is also a band member. She said that because of the heavy rain, Hellgate's annual homecoming marching band performance was canceled. "That was a good choice on Mr. Dochnal's part because playing in that weather would've made for a really bad performance," said Cellier.

However, this decision had some setbacks. "I know that some of the seniors were bummed not to have a last homecoming game to play at," said Cellier. The homecoming game is one of the Hellgate bands' biggest and most notable performances throughout the year, and many seniors have

looked forward to it since last year's homecoming game.

Despite the disappointing result, Hellgate's homecoming game served its purpose: to bring

together both the student body and the football team specifically. Hopefully Hellgate can look forward to better performances for the rest of the season, both on the field and in the student section.



The Hellgate Student Section gets rowdy.
Photo by Elliotte Banziger.



The Hellgate Knights football team huddles up in the heavy rain to discuss their next play. Photo by Elliotte Banziger.

Spooky Season Activities

Rowan Hull
Reporter

The fall season is here. Let's find out what some of Hellgate students are looking forward to.



"I'm going to catch eagles at Rogers Pass with Raptor View Research."
Hilde Hamilton



"Pre-season back country skiing."
Rye Foggerty



"Dressing up together."
Mattias Remes
and Brooks
Wachtel



"Winning state soccer because that's what we're going to do!"
Emmett Platt



"Watching football and preparing for ski season."
Ollie Fetz-Edmands



"I'm excited for my birthday because it's the day before Halloween."
Reed Warren

"Eating seasonal foods like candy corn and pumpkin spice lattes, also the weather around fall."
Margot Cline



"The seasons changing and the orange leaves everywhere."
Ollie Gilberston-Day