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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MOUNTAIN LION IS FIRST MONTANA DEFENDER CASUALTY

The Montana Defender Project experienced its first casualty early Tuesday morning when a 150 pound mountain lion came out on the dead end of an argument with a compact car driven by Brad Parrish.

Parrish, a University of Montana law senior, was returning to Missoula from a Defender assignment in Billings when he bagged the kitty.

The argument occurred approximately 1:30 a.m. at the 55 mile per hour limit. The cat, which was traveling considerably slower than the speed limit, collided with the right front fender of Parrish's car. The incident occurred at the Jens interchange on Interstate 10 east of Drummond.

Parrish, a native of Lewistown, says he has never hunted a lion, and if he did he wouldn't think of doing it in lawyer duds during the middle of the night. However, he says he has a nice trophy at only the cost of the \$50 deductible on his car insurance.

The Defender Project may underwrite the deductible. Montana law seniors get no reimbursement for their between terms Defender efforts, but they do receive expenses.

Parrish has accepted the assistant county attorney spot for Fergus County when he graduates from UM law school this summer.