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Montana Kaimin, 1898-present

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4-7-2004

Montana Kaimin, April 7, 2004

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

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Rape suspect pleads not guilty in court

Jessica Wambach
Montana Kaimin

The man charged with kidnapping and raping a

Judge denies attorney's request for lower bail

University of Montana student on March 6 pleaded not guilty in District Court to all five counts brought against him Tuesday

Brock S. Norling, 24, was charged last month with felony counts of kidnapping, rape and assault with a weapon. He was also charged with possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia, which police say they found at his Missoula apartment.

Before Judge John Henson on Tuesday, Norling's attorney, Bruce Gobeo, requested that the \$500,000 bail set in Justice Court last month be reduced because he feels Norling has many ties to the community and his family cannot afford such a high amount.

County Attorney Fred Van Valkenburg objected to the motion.

"I'm very strongly opposed to Mr. Norling's release under any circumstances," Van Valkenburg said.

He said he believes Norling poses a threat to the community and might try to flee the area in light of the severity of the sentence he faces and police reports that he admitted

to the kidnapping and rape in interviews with detectives.

Henson denied the motion to reduce bail. He said if convicted, Norling could face a maximum sentence of 220 years in prison without parole and 12 months in the Missoula County Jail, a \$151,000 fine or life in prison.

A 21-year-old female UM student told Missoula County police she was parking her truck in the lot south of Pantzer Hall at about 10 a.m. on March 6 when she was approached by a man who asked her for a ride to where he said his broken-down vehicle was located. The woman said she let him into her vehicle and as she was driving the man pulled out a handgun and directed her to drive up to Deer Creek Road, southeast of Missoula. After arriving there, the woman told police, that the man raped her before she was able to escape from the vehicle and find help.

Police later discovered the vehicle had been returned to the same campus parking lot. The weapon was left inside.

Police said the woman recovered well physically and the search for a suspect began Monday, March 8.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms traced the weapon to a California man who owns a house in Hamilton. The man said the weapon had been stolen from his home, probably during a



Annie P. Warren/Montana Kaimin
Brock Norling, who is charged with kidnapping and raping a University of Montana student last month, was arraigned in District Court on Tuesday and pleaded not guilty to all counts brought against him.

renovation project he had contracted to Stat! Disaster Restoration, a Missoula company.

Police said the woman iden-

tified Norling, a former Stat! employee, from a photo lineup.

Norling's omnibus hearing is set for Tuesday, June 8 at 1:30 p.m.

Spring gets students sprung

Myers Reece
Montana Kaimin

Spring is here. Clothes are coming off, white skin has finally found daylight and couples have come out of hibernation to show their affection for each other on campus.

University of Montana Human Sexuality instructor Gary Kerr knows quite a bit about human mating habits, but he can't pinpoint exactly what's behind "spring fever."

"There's definitely something to spring fever, whether it's cultural, physiological. Or it could be all hype," Kerr said. "But there's definitely something to it."

"It's not a bad thing, either."

Kerr said that from a scientific point of view, the male sex drive should be at its weakest point in spring because testosterone levels are lower than at any other time of the year. Many males don't feel this, though.

Jack Kirkland, a freshman majoring in math at UM, is one of them.

"I'm at a constant peak all year round," he said. "Seasons don't affect me."

Women's estrogen levels aren't as easy to measure on a seasonal scale because they rely more on monthly schedules.

Nevertheless, Kirkland's ex-girlfriend of one-and-a-half years, Christine Mantei, said her sex drive is definitely higher now than it was in winter and fall.

"I think it's because it's warmer, and I'm in a better mood," Mantei said. "And I can wear my cute clothes."

Kerr said that despite the scientific evidence that male testosterone is lower in

See **LOVE**, Page 8

Students to pay 4.5% more for UM insurance

Jessica Wambach
Montana Kaimin

When students log on to CyberBear in a few weeks to sign up for fall semester classes, they'll have to elect whether to use the Montana University System's group insurance plan before they can register.

And if they select it, beginning Sept. 1 they'll be paying about 4.5 percent more than it costs this semester, they will not be able to extend the coverage to their dependents, and they'll see a 50-percent increase in the maximum coverage amount, said Rick Curtis, administrator at Curry Health Center.

At a meeting on March 31, administrators from the university system and Blue Cross Blue Shield agreed to these changes, including a premium increase from \$498 to probably \$521 each semester, Curtis said.

"I'm relatively pleased with the 4.5-percent increase," Curtis said, adding that originally he had expected a 9 to 10-percent rise.

He said the increase is primarily due to an unusually high number of insurance claims filed over the past year. The current \$498-per-semester premium is the highest the university system has ever seen. The last increase came after the 2001-2002 school year, when the premium increased to \$498 from \$443.

Health insurance rates are constantly increasing because improved technologies drive up the prices of health care, Curtis said.

But he cited an abnormal increase of claims by students' spouses and children

covered under the plan as the major reason for the higher-than-expected rise. In other words, more dependents are getting sick and claiming more expensive injuries.

In the past two years, Curtis said, the university system's insurance plan has seen dependents — spouses and children — claiming about triple the money Blue Cross Blue Shield has earned from the dependents' premiums. This means that on those policies, the company is spending about \$3 for every \$1 it is paid in premiums. Curtis said insurance companies normally like to pay 80 cents in claims for every \$1 they receive in premiums.

"In order to continue the program, we'd be looking at about a 300-percent increase for premiums for spouses and dependents," Curtis said.

As a result, Curtis said he and other administrators in the university system's health centers voted to drop the plan's dependent-coverage option.

Statewide, there are only about 250 dependents on the plan, but roughly 150 of them are dependents of students at UM, Curtis said.

Still, Curtis and other administrators thought that all 8,000 students on the university system's plan should be paying for only 250 dependents, he said.

"The primary purpose of the plan is to provide insurance to students," Curtis said. "It isn't an easy decision."

In an attempt to ease the pain of the premium increase, Curtis and the other administrators negotiated a rise in the maximum coverage amount from \$100,000 to

\$150,000. So beginning Sept. 1, injured students who are covered by the insurance plan will be able to claim \$150,000 in medical expenses before exhausting the plan's limits and having to pay money out of their own pockets.

"We needed to give something back to the students," Curtis said.

The Board of Regents requires that all students taking seven or more credits at any of the six Montana University System schools have major medical insurance.

Students can use insurance plans outside the University or use coverage from a parent or spouse's plan — as long as the policy meets the requirements outlined on the Board of Regents' Web site.

Students taking at least four credits can use the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan. Curtis estimated that 28 percent of UM students use the plan, covering about 8,000 students statewide.

"Most students are still covered by Mom and Dad," said Deena Howey, student health insurance representative at Curry Health Center.

Previously, students who had dependents and were covered by the plan could choose to extend the benefits to their dependents by paying additional fees that currently range from \$850 to \$1,793 each semester.

Howey said university administrators are working with Blue Cross Blue Shield to prepare a notice to be sent to all participants informing them of the changes. She said they are planning to provide suggestions for alternative coverage sources for students who have used the dependent option in the past. She hopes the notices

will be sent out by early May.

Curtis said the information will also be posted on Curry's Web site at www.umt.edu/CHC/general/aboutchc.htm.

With priority registration beginning April 12, CyberBear's new insurance screen will pop up once per semester when students select to register for a term.

The screen displays the Board of Regents' insurance regulations and requires students to choose the plan or indicate that they are already covered under a separate policy before they can register for classes.

"We're trying to do it in a way that better indicates what the requirement is," Curtis said.

Students who select the plan will be charged on their semester registration bills.

Previously, students with more than six credits had been automatically charged the premium. If they had other insurance, they had to remember to waive the fee on CyberBear.

Curtis said he hopes the new method will appease students who have been charged the fee in the past because they forgot to waive it. He said sometimes students who dropped classes after registration would complain when they fell below seven credits, which dropped their insurance coverage.

"This is something that's going to substantially affect a lot of students," Curtis said. "We're trying not to surprise students."

After selecting an option on CyberBear, students will have 15 class days to change their minds.

Teenage pro-soccer star sets a fine example

Screaming fans. World-wide coverage. Commercials with some of the greatest players in the world.

To a sports star, it's all been done before and simply comes with the territory. But how about to a 14-year-old kid?

On April 3, in the 61st minute of the game between Major League Soccer's D.C. United and the San Jose Earthquake, African-born Freddy Adu became the youngest American to play in a professional sport since 1887. In that year, Fred Chapman made his debut for Philadelphia in Major League Baseball's American Association at the same age.

Prior to taking a kick in a professional game, Adu received a league-high \$500,000-a-year contract for six years to play with D.C. United and a \$1 million Nike contract. He also recently shot a Pepsi commercial with Pele, who is easily recognized as the greatest soccer player of all time.

Already, America and the world have taken a fascination with him. He has been featured on David Letterman's "Late Show" and has had a number of Web sites dedicated to him. His debut game was the only one scheduled to be broadcast by ABC this season.

And of course, there is concern. Immediately, articles featured in newspapers and sports magazines have questioned whether the early stardom will affect his playing and his personality.

Psychological debates can be raised as to whether the attention is healthy for the adolescent, and whether he is simply growing up too fast. What everyone is forgetting is that Adu has already shown more responsibility than many adults.

Many signs point to a positive outlook. He has spent time with a sports psychologist, he has a humble nature during interviews and he is willing to live with his mother, Emelia, and 12-year-old brother in Maryland.

In the end, it doesn't matter. No one can predict whether he will mature well over time. Some people react well to the pressure, and others react badly.

If anything, Adu is living the American dream, and breaking its standards at the same time. For that reason alone, he should be encouraged to play.

Adu was born in Ghana in 1989 and played barefoot on rocky streets against opponents three times his age and size. In 1997, his family won a green-card lottery and immigrated to the United States.

His talents were discovered and he began playing for local teams before joining the Under-14 U.S. National team. During a tournament in Italy, he led the team to victory with four goals in five games, and was named MVP. Afterward, scouts called on him, even offering \$750,000 to join a development team. He was 10 years old.

His mother refused, and Adu fell in line.

Before going pro, he amazed spectators as the best and youngest player on the under 19 team.

As for schooling, he has already completed high school and will graduate this May. His mother wouldn't have it any other way.

While some high school students fail out and have to repeat grades, Adu is completing school before many begin. He purchased a house for his family — which was abandoned by his father years ago — and has kept his mother from having to work two jobs to provide for them.

While some students four years older than him will party too much and find they weren't ready for college, Adu will be traveling across the country being paid to do something he loves.

All too often horror stories are told of the talented athletes, singers and actors that make it big at a young age and fall hard over time. They ignore the gifted student that could have been in college at a younger age, or competing in sports across the world.

Americans should be more concerned with young men growing up too slow, than growing up too fast.

Jeff Windmueller, sports editor

The MONTANA KAIMIN encourages readers to submit letters to the editor for publication on its opinion page.

Letters should be 300 words or less. Guest columns should be around 700 words.

Please send letters and columns to letters@kaimin.org or drop them off in Journalism 107.

Buffalo editorial off the mark

Katie Klingsporn's March 23rd Kaimin editorial, "Buffalo testing threatens species without evidence," was interesting.

Klingsporn said that many theorize on the motives behind the slaughter of Yellowstone bison.

It's not a theory, it's brucellosis. And it's not slaughter, it's humane control.

Brucellosis causes cows to abort and causes undulant fever in humans.

Between 1934 and 1999, \$3.5 billion dollars has been spent on brucellosis eradication.

Before Montana was "brucellosis-free," each cow transported through Montana had blood drawn.

Each test tube was run through a centrifuge and tested for brucellosis antibodies.

Those actions protected the U.S. consumer, not ranchers.

Klingsporn also said, "There has never been a documented case of buffalo-to-cattle transmission of brucellosis in the wild." Factually, that is true.

However, Wyoming is about to losing its "brucellosis-free" status because three herds of cattle in Wyoming are infected. Either wild bison or elk infected them.

Klingsporn said that Yellowstone has the only "truly wild, genetically pure buffalo."

What's that? Only 23 bison remained in the park in 1901. To ensure viability of the herd, wildlife managers added two herds of captive bison in 1902.

The herd reached 2,444 in 1999 and is now at 4,200.

The Yellowstone Bison Management Plan sets a target goal of about 3,000 bison. This winter, 267 bison have been killed. That is only 6 percent of a herd that is 40 percent above its target goal.

If you wish to see the train wreck of 4,200 bison who are not controlled for three years, call, e-mail or write your congressional representatives and ask for passage of the Yellowstone Buffalo Preservation Act.

This law will not address the problem of wild animals being trapped where they never wintered prior to the white man's park boundaries.

*Dennis A. Carroll
freshman, pre-journalism*

Beware of textbook traps

The Chronicle of Higher Education had an article last June titled "Selling out: A Textbook Example." I found it by Googling "textbooks" and "kickbacks."

A friend told me awhile back of a professor who said that his academic department had received an offer from a textbook company. The company would donate money to the department if it adopted the company's textbook. The department reportedly did the right thing and said no. But the Chronicle piece identifies a nationwide problem that UM should address.

Some textbook publishers are offering fees, royalties or incentives — that is, kickbacks or bribes — to get professors and academic departments to require their titles. Professors may be paid for unneeded reviews of texts. Or they may do a little work to justify "custom printing" of a text that may have no resale value. And there are always new editions of classic texts.

Popular introductory classes are naturally the most attractive targets. (The big money doesn't lurk in philosophy seminars or advanced Latin composition courses.) Instructors may be paid hundreds or even thousands of dollars under the table. Departments sometime get even more for their slush funds.

Professors and departments owe a duty of loyalty to their students. At a public university, there are questions of conflict of interest, official misconduct, and bribery when money talks itself onto the syl-

labus.

No wonder textbook prices are the envy of NASA.

Gerry Fetz, newly selected dean of the College of Arts of Sciences, tells me that this should not be happening here and that he will raise the matter with the CAS department chairs. Students in all programs may want to check whether they are unknowingly majoring in payola.

UM should have a campuswide policy prohibiting cooking the textbooks.

*Ross Best
graduate student*

Bush fails in war

The biggest failure of the war on terror is the failure of George Bush to deal with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Supporters of the Iraq war can talk forever about what possible future harms it may have averted, and all of that will count for ABSOLUTELY NOTHING if the festering sore of the Israeli-

Palestinian conflict is not addressed with total commitment by a real U.S. leader, who acts with compassion, insight and lack of fear of domestic political backlash in dealing with this extremely difficult challenge.

George Bush is a man who is completely lacking in all three of these requirements. He is a total failure in fighting the war on terror.

*William Knight
graduate student, biochemistry*

ASUM officials mishandled fee question

I applaud President Dennison and the administration for their decision to drop the athletic fee proposal. However, I have concerns about the unfortunate circumstances that may still force students to pay for athletics. Regretfully, some of your elected officials are doing their best to appease the wishes of the administration.

In a meeting with the administration and student senators last month, Sen. Vinnie Pavlish, who hopes to be your future vice president of ASUM, wondered if an additional \$5 fee for each football ticket instead of the \$30 increase would be more desirable. While I agree that a surcharge for students who attend football games would be better than a fee increase for all students, I didn't see any incentive for bringing it up at that time.

Why would your representative give a "counter-offer" or at least mention the idea before the regents of the Montana University System questioned the administration at their upcoming meeting? Why would your representative bow to the administration so early in the game? Instead Pavlish has left the administration with the idea that students are willing to lie down and give in. For your information, University of Montana Vice President for Administration and Finance Bob Durringer thought that "was an interesting idea" and he "would look into it."

Speaking of walking the administration line, Gale Price, supposedly "your" vice president of ASUM, said she and administrators have discussed Pavlish's "solution."

She told the Kaimin that the Board of Regents may be sympathetic if we compromise.

"We want to make sure that we're working on this, and we're not going to just put our foot down and say, 'No, nothing,'" Price said.

The Regents were ready to kill the fee-increase proposal. Thanks to Pavlish and Price and their pre-emptive "negotiations," the students at UM may still be paying more in athletics fees.

It begs the question, whose team are they on?

*Will L. Holmes
sophomore, pre-journalism
ASUM senator*



MONTANA KAIMIN Our 106th Year

The Montana Kaimin, in its 106th year, is published by the students of The University of Montana, Missoula. The UM School of Journalism uses the Montana Kaimin for practice courses but assumes no control over policy or content.

Send letters to the editor to letters@kaimin.org or drop them off in Journalism 106

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Iraq fighting claims 12 Marines

Hamaza Hendawi
Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — Insurgents and rebellious Shiites mounted a string of attacks across Iraq's Shiite south and U.S. Marines launched a major assault on the turbulent Sunni city of Fallujah on Tuesday. Up to a dozen Marines, two more coalition soldiers and at least 66 Iraqis were reported killed.

Troops were battling in a half-dozen cities on two fronts in some of the most extensive fighting since President Bush declared major combat over on May 1. U.S. forces fought insurgents in Sunni triangle cities of Fallujah and Ramadi west of Baghdad, and coalition troops battled Shiite militiamen of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in the south.

"America has shown its evil intentions, and the proud Iraqi people cannot accept it," al-Sadr said in a statement. "They must defend their rights by any means they see fit."

With fighting intensifying

ahead of the June 30 handover of power to an Iraqi government, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld said American commanders in Iraq would get additional troops if needed. None has asked so far, he said.

"They will decide what they need, and they will get what they need," Rumsfeld said.

Reports from Ramadi, near

Fallujah, said dozens of Iraqis attacked a Marine position near the governor's palace, a senior defense official said from Washington. "A significant number" of Marines were killed, and initial reports indicate it may be up to a dozen, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.



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7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

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Assistant MT Attorney General Brian Morris; and
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Free reception for candidates and the public preceding the debate at 6 p.m. in the Castles Center
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The University of Montana - Missoula



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Baucus wary of Canadian beef

HELENA (AP) - The United States should not reopen its border to live Canadian cattle imports until the investigative arm of Congress conducts its own investigation into Canada's handling of mad cow cases there, Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., said Tuesday.

Baucus' call for an independent investigation by the General Accounting Office comes one day before the U.S. Department of Agriculture closes its comment period on a proposal to reopen the border to cattle older than 30

months of age.

Baucus said he has asked the GAO to examine the actions the Canadian government and cattle industry have undertaken to guard against another case of mad cow there.

"The decision to reopen the border with Canada needs to be based on sound science," Baucus said in a written statement. "At this point I don't think the public has the information to be able to determine if the sound science is there."

The U.S. border was closed to

Canadian beef last in May after a case of mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, was found on an Alberta farm. Some beef exports resumed last fall, and Canadian officials hoped the rest of the restrictions would be lifted early this year.

Instead, cross-border cattle shipments have remained banned following the discovery in late December that a cow in Washington state that tested positive for BSE originated in Alberta.

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New gardeners: Noon - 2pm

\$25 plus a \$15 deposit (returned in Oct.) rents a 15 ft. x 15 ft. plot of Mother Earth. Grow veggies and flowers! Meet fellow gardeners! Beautify the community! Work on your tan! Questions? Call ASUM garden organizer Mike Wachtel at 549-8075

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➔ You will only be charged for the student insurance if you "ELECT" coverage.

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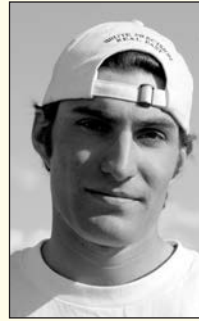
The Sports Files

By Peter Coyle
Photo by Annie P. Warren

Seth Romocki



Woodsmen Team



Name: Seth Romocki
Year: Senior
Hometown: Rochester, Minn.
Major: Forestry

Favorite tool: Cross-cut saw

Favorite movie involving a chain saw:
"Sometimes a Great Notion"

Quote: Get 'er done

Injuries?: The scars on his arm from catching it on his saw's teeth.

Woodsports involve a variety of events including timed cutting with a chain saw, cutting with a hand saw and axe throws. Romocki became involved with the University team three years ago when he was encouraged by some of the team members.

Romocki said he hopes to continue to compete in woodsports after college.

Every week the Kaimin will profile a different student from one of the many sports played at UM.

Hauck upbeat despite backup quarterback's resignation

Jeff Windmueller
Montana Kaimin

University of Montana head football coach Bobby Hauck said he isn't worried about the future, despite the recent announcement that backup quarterback sophomore Justin Hartman, recently resigned from the team.

"We'll always have good players here," Hauck said. "We're good at recruiting and this is an attractive place (for players)."

With Hartman's resignation Hauck will have two quarterbacks still on scholarship, Craig Ochs and Jeff Disney, both entering their senior season this fall. Backups include freshmen walk-ons Rory Cordial and Drew Hedrick. Meanwhile, Cole Bergquist of San

Clemente, Calif., signed with UM in February and will join the Griz in August.

"Let's hope lightning doesn't strike twice," Hauck said. "I don't want to have to pull a receiver up from redshirt to run the option for us."

At the beginning of the 2003 season Ochs and Disney both suffered injuries that brought Hartman to the starting position and true freshman Kyle Samson out to run the surprise option attack.

Samson, a wide receiver, was brought in to run an option attack that helped propel the Griz to 344 rushing yards and a 41-28 win against the Idaho Vandals on Sept. 27, 2003.

Hauck has been practicing the option during spring practice and

said that it will always be a strategy that can be relied on in the future.

Hartman's announcement that he would resign came in a letter that was sent to Grizzly coaches and local media outlets on April 1. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the way the team was headed offensively and said he was promised practice time during the spring to prove his abilities as a quarterback. Since then, he said he has not seen time with the No. 1 and No. 2 lines, and during the first scrimmage nearly two weeks ago took reps only with the No. 3 offense, throwing just two passes, completing none for one interception.

Hartman said he had not yet found the time to ask Hauck for his official release.

Until then, Hauck has declined to

comment on whether he will release Hartman, allowing him another year of eligibility in college football.

"That's kind of got to be between us," Hauck said.

He also would not speak on the

accusations that Hartman made in his letter.

"I tell the whole team ... playing time's an earned privilege here. It's not a right," he said. "Hartman tried hard while he was here, and we wish him well."

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A new free report has recently been released that reveals information every car accident victim should have before they speak to anyone. Research shows that even a "fender bender" can cause pain, headaches, loss of energy, fatigue, irritability and even arthritis. Many car accident victims worry more about their car than they do their rights. If you have been involved in an auto accident, listen to the toll-free recorded message by calling:

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STAREM PRODUCTIONS

Missoula band releases instrumental debut CD

Ira Sather-Olson
Montana Kaimin

If you're looking for instrumental music to listen to while basking in the sun, or music to listen to while you're making out with that special someone, look no further than the debut release from This Is A Process Of A Still Life.

Formed a little over a year ago in Missoula, Still Life is comprised of Gary Jimmerson (drums, melodica, percussion), Scott Kennedy (guitar, percussion), Grier Phillips (rhodes, percussion), Ben Rouner (guitar, samples, rhodes) and Jason Ward (bass).

Their brand of melodic and sometimes somber instrumental rock is sure to appeal to fans of bands like Tarentel, Tortoise, Godspeed! You Black Emperor, Subarachnoid Space and Explosions in the Sky.

While their self-titled release is only about 36 minutes long with seven songs, at no moment will the album lose your interest. Because their music is instrumental, their songs have the potential to tell stories through the various moods the music evokes. Songs like "No Memory of the Airshow" and "Things/Cells/Beings" build and progress, almost like movements in an orchestral piece. Some of their songs have a similar feeling to the 15-minute-plus epic compositions done by our Canadian neighbors Godspeed! You Black Emperor.

The band went to Portland in November to recording and mixing of the album, Rouner said. It took two days to mix all of the separate instruments tracks. They then remixed the album in January of this year, he said.

"We were able to get a cheap price for a good studio," Rouner said.

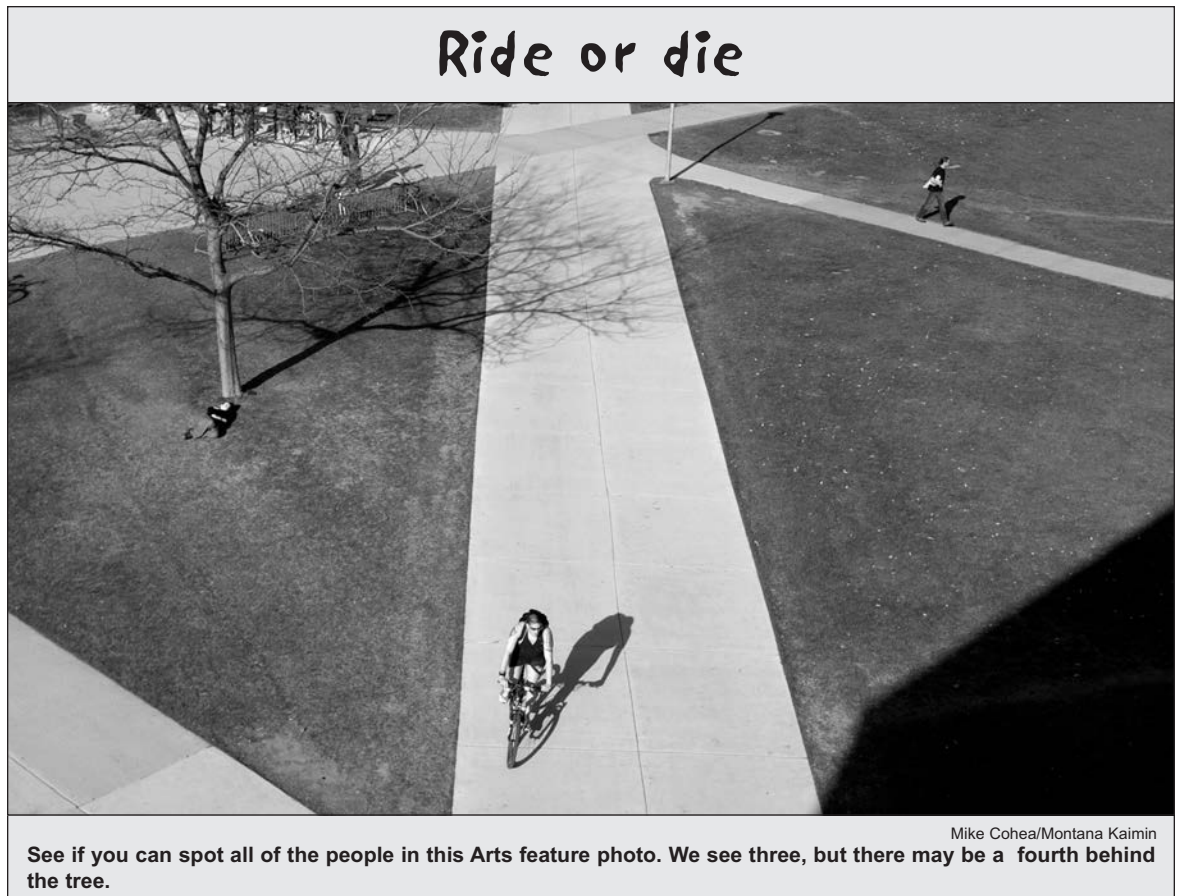
He also said that recording an album in a non-local studio can benefit the recording by giving it a different feel.

It's up to the listener to decide what kind of emotions are summoned when listening to this group, because Still Life doesn't intentionally try to create a certain feeling for a song, Ward said.

The band got its start when Ward moved out here with Phillips. Ward said he had previously played music with Rouner when they lived in Virginia and convinced Rouner to make the big move to Montana. From that point the band recruited Jimmerson and Kennedy and recently added a new member, local musician Burke Jam.

"I feel that it's the best thing we've done at the moment," Rouner said about what he's most proud of regarding their new release.

Ward feels like the band pushed its limits with this album and didn't compromise anything at all, he said. He also said he thinks the album is a good document of first



See if you can spot all of the people in this Arts feature photo. We see three, but there may be a fourth behind the tree.

Mike Cohea/Montana Kaimin

release.

The band members are constantly creating new material and have enough new songs to make another album if they want, Ward said. The newer songs have a more spacious feeling between the notes, but there isn't really any decision on how new songs will sound before they are created, he said.

Different methods are used to create songs within the group, Rouner said. One such way is for one person to bring an idea to the table.

"Generally the strongest ideas win out," he said about the song-

writing process.

Some songs are born out of just playing and improvising, Rouner said. Once the beginnings of a song are started, the band uses a democratic and collective process to fully create a song, he said.

"I really like the music we make," Phillips said. "(It's) the first band I've been in. It's been a major learning process for me. (I like the) constant progression of music; we keep pleasing ourselves more and more."

Jimmerson seems to share similar feelings.

"I enjoy the democracy we have

(in writing) ... we can always find a common ground," he said. "I really like the music we play ... it's innovative, creative and a challenge."

This Is A Process Of A Still Life will be having a CD release party performance this Saturday, April 10 at the Roxy Theatre. Coinciding with the band's performance will be a video projection by local film maker Ryer Banta.

Oddability and Montana Carl will open the show with music beginning at 8 p.m.

Admission is \$5.

Epic tale of Uncle's journey in Wal-Mart strikes at heart of human condition



Uncle Luke Presents

By Luke Johnson

(Uncle's Note: The following is a bare-bones account of the first and last few hours of my 24-hour stay in Wal-Mart. If you would like to get the whole story with a more-complete beginning and ending, log on to www.kaimin.org and do an archive search on "Luke Johnson." The internet version features passion, intrigue, mystery and plenty of mayhem. You know you want the full story.)

The Wal-Mart Supercenter. What better place is there to go toe-to-toe with Americana on its home turf? For that matter, what better place is there to spend part of spring break, say 24 hours straight?

The open-24-hours Supercenter truly embodies capitalism at its finest. It's a hub for price-dumped goods and tight-fisted, but hard-working Americans, white-trash vultures constantly on the lookout for falling prices.

As a poor college kid, I enjoy a trip out to the SupaCent just as much as the next guy. I'm so poor, in fact, that while you spent your spring break in Cancun or Las Vegas or Lake Whatever, I passed the week here in Montana. All four years I've been in school, I've had the pleasure of spending spring break in either sweltering Missoula or tropical Great Falls. But I'm not bitter. If life gives me lemons, you know I'm going to make lemonade. If life rains down on me, you know I'm going to wait it out until I see that rainbow. If life takes a massive shit all over me, you know I'm going to dive right in and eat up the little pieces of corn or nuts.

So while you were off having fun someplace warm, your Uncle L. was busy living out a demented fantasy in Missoula: I spent an entire day — 24

fun-filled hours — inside the Wal-Mart Supercenter. Here is my story.

Hours One Through Five: THE QUEST BEGINS

I wake up early Tuesday morning to get down to Wal-Mart at 9:43 a.m. So I guess I'm actually going through with this idiotic scheme? I have a feeling that this is going to be one of the dumbest things I've ever forced myself to do. But I promised myself that as long as I'm here, I'm going to try my damndest to have a good time. To get into mischief. To have an adventure. This is to be a glorious, vision-quest type of happening. A rite of passage. I can't wait.

Off the bat, I pass some time with the Wal-Mart greeter. She tells me she's never spent 24 hours straight in the store. She jokingly asks me if I plan on doing so, not knowing that that's exactly what I plan to do.

I figure the best thing to do is to get acclimated to my new surroundings. So I decide to walk through every single aisle and look at absolutely every single product for sale. This takes four hours and 16 minutes, leaving me exhausted, hungry and pissed. But a true pioneer must bear witness to all and document everything.

I make sure to at least glance at every single product. I, of course, come across products I never even knew existed, like Zim's Crack Creme, which can be found in two different places at the SupaCent and, sadly, does not contain traces of crack-cocaine. I find out that there are about 5,000 different kinds of Preparation H, but for this kind of relief I discovered I would probably go with Anulsol, because it's comparable and cheaper. And as far as enemas go, I think the Fleet Home Enema kit would barely edge out Dulcolax's Bowel Cleansing Kit. The packaging just looks more professional.

The folks at the SupaCent kind of try to hide the condoms/pregnancy kits/feminine-hygiene products in a

corner, but they can't keep the Uncle from finding them. Just so you know, Astroglide has a new look, and they keep coming out with new types of KY Jelly including "KY Warming Liquid," which sounds intriguing. Class-Act condoms offer "Great protection at a great price" and "rarely ever break." Also, one particular brand of adult diapers features painfully accurate drawings of old people's once-sexual organs on the back. If you are either a straight male or a gay female, I would hope that you would agree with me that the woman model on the cover of the Sally Hansen Body Hair Removal kit is both nude and gorgeous. I would let her remove my body hair in a split-second, if you know what I mean. (I'm not sure I know what I mean.)

They stock stuff way too high at the Cent. Some old lady sees my notebook, decides I must work here and asks me to get down a box of Clairol Ultrase Hair Dye. So I throw my notebook down, climb up to the top shelf and get it down for her, knocking over plenty of dyes on my way up. She tells me to be careful but thanks me after I get down. I am such a good guy.

I am now convinced that damn near any material possession you could ever want is inside Wal-Mart. I start wishing I had left my wallet back home. All of a sudden I want one of nearly everything — stuff that I neither need, nor would use, but now have to have. Like a colored garden hose, a self-propelled lawn mower, or a solar-powered turtle lawn light, even though I have no yard.

They sell a \$300, 19-foot waterslide, man. Buy it for me. They've got a fuckin' Power Wheels Jeep Wrangler for \$200 that's nicer than my car and probably worth more. Incidentally, my birthday's coming up soon.

Everywhere I turn there's a little kid with his or her mom or dad crying, whining or spitting up — but never

behaving. If I had bothered to document how many of these incidents I had witnessed, I'm sure it would be at least 5 million times.

I keep moving. I'll bet somewhere Vincent Van Gogh is proud that his brilliant paintings have been distorted and turned into car windshield shades. But I must move on, passing product after product. Everything from trampolines to shotguns, to real and fake plants, to fabrics, to ... well it's hard to name something they don't have.

My trek is taking forever and I haven't even gotten to the full grocery that the SuperCent keeps. When I finally do I am starving, which is not good when passing by food, because I had a big breakfast and want to fast the entire day. I end up having to walk fast through the grocery aisles, so as not to concentrate on the tempting foods.

I make my way to the alcohol section. I spend an awful lot of time here. Oh, man I hate it when they do this: they're selling 12-packs of Heineken for \$14.84 and 6-Packs for \$6.37. So if you buy two 6-packs instead of the 12-pack you save \$2.10. I cannot rightfully let this stand. I tear out a piece of paper and write a note explaining the situation and leave it on the 12-pack. I am a hero.

My vision quest is beginning. I think it would be great to crack a beer and watch the sun come up from the Wal-Mart parking lot. I decide to buy a 6-pack of Coronas and a lime. I take them out to the car.

***If you want to see what happened in between the first few hours and the last few moments, with a more complete beginning and ending, log on to Kaimin.org and check out the full story. ***

THE FINAL MOMENTS

All I hear is elevator music. And unseen managers cutting in through my eardrums to speak over the intercom, echoing inside my head. Telling me about special deals. I no longer

know who I am. I have changed. The change is irreversible, I'm afraid. I have merged with the Supercenter. I am now the deafening, frighteningly beautiful center of capitalism. We are one. I am a Sponge Bob Air Freshener. I am an 18-foot trampoline. My price is being continuously rolled back. Again and again. But it's always low, my friend. IT'S ALWAYS LOW. ALWAYS.

Throw me into your cart and purchase me and take me home with you and your family. You will not be disappointed with me. I will penetrate through the fibers of your clothing to get out those hard-to-find stains — the first time. My quest is winding down. It turned out to be a painfully introspective journey, but I have come out of my cocoon. I am now a 21st-century man.

I have this big bag of chips picked out and a huge bottle of water. I'm ready to consume them on the way home, but now I will not buy them. I have been holding them close to my body, territorially protecting them for the last hour and a half. Cuddling them. But now I no longer crave them. I am no longer tempted by the silly needs of mortals, such as hunger or thirst. I discard the once-cherished bag and bottle. Instead I walk like a stupefied mummy through my store, instinctually to the aisle I really need to be at. I pick up a bottle of Neutrogena fake tanning shit. After all, this is my spring break. I buy it and walk out 24 hours and two minutes after I walked into the Wal-Mart compound. There is no ticker-tape parade for me. There are no fireworks. But I walk out with my head held high. I know in my heart that I am a hero and that's all that matters. True heroes like me don't need accolades.

I decide that I will either A) Go bite the head off of a chicken and do some ritualistic dances and try to earn some time at Warm Springs or B) Drive home as fast as possible and sleep forever. I choose the latter.

Love

Continued from Page 1

spring, he still sees the presence of spring fever on campus. He said one reason for spring fever might be the overall increase in social interaction from winter to spring. People are on campus playing Frisbee and music, painting in groups, flirting and just having fun together. "You see more groups of people out in the Oval," he said. "They're outside in the sun; they feel summer is about to come. There's just more social interaction." Lisa Donovan, a junior in psychology, agrees with Kerr. "People are outside more," Donovan said. "They're like, 'Oh, we can play Frisbee more.' And people are just in a better mood." A couple lounging on the grass on the Oval said they feel spring fever. "There's a different energy in the spring," said the girlfriend, who wished not to be named. "Everything's new and fresh." Kerr said he enjoys seeing the social interaction. "It's a wonderful distraction to go out there and see life again," he said. Another contributing factor to

spring fever could be the shedding of clothes, Kerr said. He said bare midriffs on women and rippling muscles on shirt-less men are expected now because of popular American culture. Sex appeal is a major component of entertainment and advertisements in the United States. "We're more hyper sex now (than ever before)," he said. "Our culture is pushing sex, sex, sex." More than most other cultures, the United States has de-emphasized monogamy and created certain images of beauty that young people are supposed to fit, Kerr said. "I don't think you're going to go through China and see midriffs anywhere," he said. Donovan said she just likes to get rid of that bulky winter gear. She recently went out and bought a new swimming suit. "I hate wearing clothes," said Donovan said. She said, like Mantei, she notices an increase in her sex drive during spring due to the freedom of shedding clothes and just being happier in general. Kerr said there are some problems with pushing sex on youth and, more specifically, with spring fever. Unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, loss of personal identity and sexual tension are among

them. The risk of these problems even increases when students go on spring break. "Some people will come back with a sunburn, an STD and a hangover," Kerr said. "Hopefully, the STD is curable and the sunburn and hangover go away before too long." Other people, however, will return with something permanent but not necessarily bad, Kerr said. "Some will come back having met the partner of their life," he said. Because of the importance placed on sex appeal today, Kerr said it's hard for anybody not to notice spring fever. "Spring fever is more prevalent than ever before," he said.

Derailed Amtrak train kills 1, injures 65

YAZOO CITY, Miss. (AP) - An Amtrak passenger train derailed and toppled on its side in rural central Mississippi late Tuesday, killing at least one person and injuring at least 65 others. The 10-car train, traveling from New Orleans to Chicago, derailed about 25 miles north of Jackson, authorities said, leaving in its wake twisted and heavily damaged track. "We have one confirmed dead," said Amy Carruth, a spokeswoman for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency in Jackson. "We understand some of the injured are possibly critical." All passengers and crew had been accounted late Tuesday, Carruth said. Lee Stokes, also of MEMA, said that while the derailment was believed to be an accident, the FBI had sent agents to the scene. Gov. Haley Barbour declared a state of emergency. The train appeared to leave the track on a trestle five or six feet over a swampy area and landed on its side several feet below the track surface. The train had an engine and nine cars, and most of the cars derailed. Stokes said it appeared about 65 people suffered "minor to critical injuries." She said the injured were initially treated at emergency stations, then moved to hospitals. Dan Stessel, a spokesman for Amtrak, said 68 passengers and 12 crew members were on the train. He said he had no information on what caused the accident. Two passengers, Shelia Doyle and her husband Charles Lotz, told The Clarion-Ledger that they saw a cloud of dust and the train started tipping on its side. "Oh, my God, we are derailing," Lotz said. Authorities said many rescuers were forced to use off-road vehicles to reach the scene because of woods and soggy ground. Searchers used

flash lights and portable lighting during the night as they moved from car to car checking for more injured. Paula Turnage, of Byram, said she put her 72-year-old mother, Mary Turnage of Kalamazoo, Mich., on the train in Jackson and was surprised to receive a cell phone call from her a short time later. "She was OK. She didn't have any shoes on," Paula Turnage said.

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