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9-17-2008

Montana Kaimin, September 17, 2008

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

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Montana Kaimin, 1898-present. 5136.

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Editorial

Police 'blitz' not a long-term solution

For more than 50 Missoula minors, getting "blitzed" last weekend probably wasn't as much fun as usual.

The Missoula Police Department set into action its "Comprehensive Strategic Response Plan," also known as "the blitz" - a six-week crackdown on underage drinking, drunken drivers, and raging parties around the downtown and University areas. Lt. Shawn Paul said the program is aimed at "changing the climate of drinking in Missoula."

It may do that, but likely only for the six weeks the program is in full force. Odds are it will only "change the climate" in that those minors who want to drink, drunken dolts who opt to drive and others will temporarily change their habits until they know the patrol has been reduced.

Drinking crimes plague America, and are a problem despite the lack of confidence in the blitz. The police department deserves credit for trying to combat these crimes. However, unleashing a temporary fury will not solve the problem.

Paul said after the six weeks are up, the results will be assessed and the police department will determine which aspects of the plan can be implemented permanently.

Unfortunately, the City of Missoula doesn't have the resources to permanently amp up its response to noise complaints and drunken drivers.

Paul said the timing of the kickoff of the blitz was not strategically planned to coincide with the Montana football team's home opener, but it's still suspect.

That police had the luxury of citing elated and inebriated Griz fans throughout the weekend seems rather like shooting fish in a keg.

The coincidence surely aided the case that Missoula has a drinking problem. And though it truly may, targeting the biggest party weekends of the year is not the way to prove it.

The most shocking news to come out of the blitz's first weekend was the bust of a Friday party, resulting in an astonishing 54 MIPs. After the partygoers refused to allow police into the house on Eaton Street - totally their right - the police found a judge to sign a search warrant and broke down the door with a "battering ram," conjuring images of Gaston leading the angry mob of villagers to the castle in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast."

Paul said Tuesday that it's unlikely police would have been able to issue 54 MIP citations if the blitz had not been on, because an earlier response would have been "factored on manpower." The bust on Eaton Street seemed designed to make an example of the kids more than anything else.

During the coming weeks, plainclothes cops will stake out bars, preying on bartenders who overserve, customers who overindulge, and minors trying to pass themselves off as "Mary Suebeth McJosephson from Kentucky," or any other ridiculous names found on fake IDs.

Jim Lemcke, director of public safety at UM, said he hoped the program would serve as warning to people who break the law when consuming alcohol.

"Hopefully the compliance will be better, and they won't need to do the targeted patrol," he said.

The thing is, it won't make that big of a difference.

Six weeks of shock and awe may send a strong message, but unless the city can find a way to permanently implement a plan to systematically reduce alcohol-related crimes, nothing will change.

- Bill Oram, editor, william.oram@umontana.edu

U-Wire

Palin 'scandals' getting in the way of issues

If I read one more article involving another Sarah Palin scandal, I will scream.

Lately, most newspapers have been reading like the latest issues of Us Weekly. However, instead of a broken-down Britney Spears on the cover, it's the defiant and rebellious governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin, who is gracing the headlines.

First, there was the scandal involving her pregnant 17-year-old daughter. Then there was the issue of her newborn son who was diagnosed with Down syndrome, making Republicans and Democrats alike wonder if she could really focus on the responsibilities of holding office. The media critiqued her at first for hiding her pregnancy and her son's condition. The next week, they accused her of exploiting him to gain voters' support. Now the critics are faulting Palin for hiring and firing politicians who work for her based on personal relationships.

And what I want to know is, "Who cares?"

The media are known for playing dirty and exposing skeletons when it comes to elections, so of course they're going to nitpick every agonizing detail about each candidate and their running mates. But couldn't they at the very least

focus on the issues that matter?

For example, where does McCain stand on border patrol? And how does Obama plan to free us from this economic recession? Instead, I'm only seeing articles that either reprimand or praise Palin for her parenting skills and quote her ordering "'moose tracks' ice cream at a Wisconsin diner."

I'm not writing this as a Palin hater or supporter. I'm not telling you to vote for or against her. I'm just saying not to get caught up in the hype.

If you love Palin, that's great. But don't vote for her just because you feel bad that her son has Down syndrome - do it because you agree with her stance on the pro-life movement. And if you hate Palin, that's fine too. But don't vote against her because her daughter is pregnant out of wedlock - do it because you disagree with her 'abstinence-only' message in schools.

And don't be shocked by Palin's habit of mixing her personal relationships with political affairs. Every politician has done that since the beginning of time. At least one member of the cabinet will be a personal friend of whoever wins this election because politicians like to surround themselves with people

they trust - and that includes friends. This is not a scandal. It's just politics. Whether you agree with Palin's decisions or not can be expressed in your vote.

Basically, all I want is for the media to quit focusing on the gossip and give me the facts. Does Palin's dirty laundry really affect us as citizens? No, not quite. And it shouldn't affect your votes, either.

- Mandi Sordelet
The Daily Gamecock

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Correction

In Tuesday's issue, the Kaimin incorrectly quoted Gov. Brian Schweitzer as saying at Monday night's gubernatorial debate, "I want to thank everybody that came before me - Roosevelt for building the interstate highway." The governor thanked President Eisenhower.

Montana Sen. Roy Brown referenced the speech Schweitzer delivered last week in which he joked about rigging the 2006 Montana senatorial election in favor of Sen. Jon Tester. The speech was made over the summer, and Tester's first name was misspelled.

ACCURACY WATCH

The Montana Kaimin is committed to accuracy in its reports. If you think the Kaimin has committed an error of fact, please call us at 243-2394 or e-mail editor@kaimin.umt.edu and let us know. If we find a factual error, we will correct it.

The Kaimin invites
letters to the editor
and guest columns.

Letters should be 300 words or fewer, and columns should be about 700 words. Please e-mail both to kaiminletters@umontana.edu. Make sure to include a phone number.

MONTANA KAIMIN

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BUSINESS OFFICE PHONE 406-243-6541

The Montana Kaimin, in its 111th 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 kaiminletters@umontana.edu or drop them off in Anderson Hall 208.

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Attorneys differ on media dorm access

Trevon Milliard
MONTANA KAIMIN

Any journalist walking into a University of Montana dormitory to interview students living there can now be restricted for soliciting, according to Director of Residence Life Ron Brunell.

But during open-door hours — when the media usually wants access — “guests” can walk in the dorms no questions asked.

“We don’t stop any guests,” Brunell said Monday. “It’s only when someone is obviously not a guest.”

On Monday, when Kaimin photographer Alisia Muhlestein went to Aber Hall for a story on a malfunctioning fire sprinkler in a dorm room, the resident assistant spotted her camera and wouldn’t let her in until she got permission from Brunell. She did and went back to the RA who then called Brunell to validate the journalist’s claim of permission.

This policy of asking first is new to the Kaimin.

Brunell said, “It’s certainly not an effort to single out the Kaimin.”

In an editorial Friday, Kaimin editor Bill Oram wrote, “To characterize the pursuit of news as ‘solicitation’ is ludicrous, and in the scope of civil liberties, it’s dangerous.”

Local attorney Dave Lighthall at Carey Law Firm said Residence Life’s basis for controlling media

access to UM dorms holds little weight “because they’re singling out the media. The fact that you’re press has to be taken into consideration. You’re acting in the students’ interest.”

This standstill came in the wake of the Kaimin’s coverage of Residence Life, which booked 148 students for already-booked dorm rooms. These students have been forced to live in study lounges and basements until rooms open up. As of last week that number had been reduced to about 80.

Under University policy, freshmen are required to live in dorms unless they have family in Missoula. This policy, combined with UM’s history of overbooking rooms creates problems at the beginning of fall semesters.

Kaimin reporter Kayla Matzke and Muhlestein were covering the overbooking last Thursday when a Craig Hall RA denied them entrance to the building. Brunell supported the RA, but in an interview Monday denied that Kaimin staff was kept from entering Craig Hall.

Lighthall said reporters legally cannot be kept from residence halls since they are public places open to all students.

RAs “can oversee you (Montana Kaimin). But they can’t bar you from accessing certain people,” he said.

Brunell said reporters will be allowed in dorms when he gives

them permission. But all other guests can still walk in and out at will during normal hours, he said.

The Kaimin is treated differently because it’s soliciting, said Brunell.

UM Legal Counsel David Aronofsky backs Brunell on the issue and said, “reporters are solicitors,” and are no different from candidates knocking door-to-door to get your vote.

“Solicitation means reporters don’t get to go banging on doors,” Aronofsky said.

Brunell added, “If Barack Obama is up there, he isn’t going to be allowed to go door-to-door either.”

But Lighthall said, “Reporting is not soliciting. Soliciting is trying to sell someone something. They (Brunell and Aronofsky) can argue what they want to anyone.”

Aronofsky and Brunell assume reporters go door-to-door looking for stories, they said.

But that wasn’t the case here, according to Matzke.

She said she knew which room she was going to and who she was going to interview Monday in Aber Hall. When she wasn’t allowed in Craig Hall on Thursday, it was the same. She said she planned to go to the basement to talk to a student who lived there because Residence Life didn’t have a room for him.

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Video exposes pig abuse

WASHINGTON — An undercover video shot at an Iowa pig farm shows workers hitting sows with metal rods, slamming piglets on a concrete floor and bragging about jamming rods up into sows’ hindquarters.

On the video, obtained by The Associated Press, a supervisor tells an undercover investigator for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals that when he gets angry or a sow won’t move, “I grab one of these rods and jam it in her (anus).”

The farm, located outside of Bayard, Iowa, about 60 miles west of Des Moines, is a supplier to Hormel Foods of Austin, Minn. PETA wants to use the results of the investigation to pressure Hormel, the maker of Spam and other food products, to demand that its suppliers ensure humane treatment of pigs.

Hormel spokeswoman Julie Henderson Craven on Tuesday called the abuses “completely unacceptable.”

The animal rights group also planned to send the video to the sheriff in Greene County, Iowa, seeking prosecution of 18 people on animal cruelty violations. According to PETA Vice President Bruce Friedrich, the video shows eight people directly abusing animals.

“Abuse on factory farms is the absolute norm, not the exception, and anyone eating factory-farmed meat is paying to support it,” Friedrich said.

After getting a whistleblower complaint from someone inside the farm, PETA sent two undercover investigators to get hired at the farm and document its practices — one from June 10 to Sept. 8, and the other from July 23 to Sept. 11.

At one point on the video, an employee shouts to an investigator, “Hurt ‘em! There’s nobody works for PETA out here. You know who PETA is?”

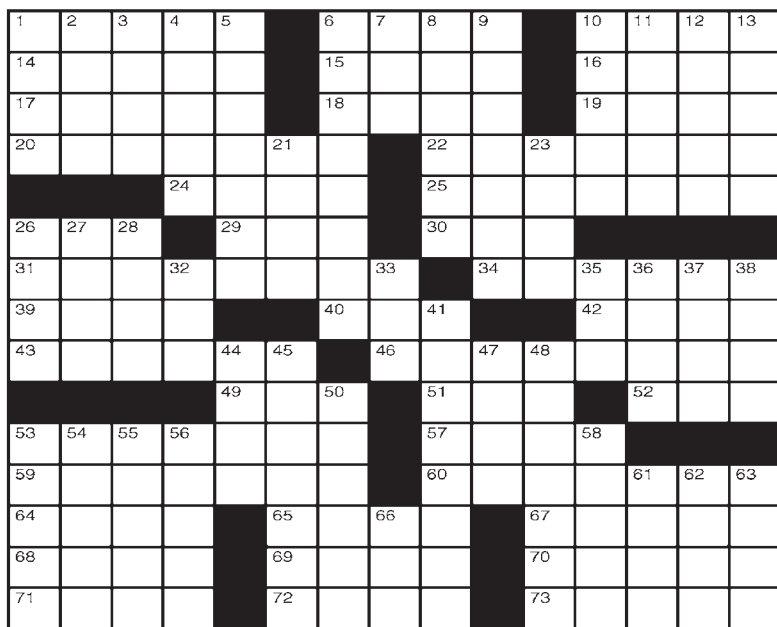
The undercover PETA investigator replies that he’s heard of the group.

“I hate them. These (expletives) deserve to be hurt. Hurt, I say!” the employee yells as he hits a sow with a metal rod. “Hurt! Hurt! Hurt! Hurt! ... Take out your frustrations on ‘em.” He encourages the investigator to pretend that one of the pigs scared off a voluptuous and willing 17- or 18-year-old girl, and then beat the pig for it.

Records at the Greene County Assessor’s Office show the property was owned by Natural Pork Production II LLP of Iowa until Aug. 18, and then was transferred to MowMar LLP of Fairmont, Minn.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Intersect
 - 6 Relatives of raspberries
 - 10 Lead player
 - 14 Major artery
 - 15 Frolic
 - 16 Valuable find
 - 17 “The ___ Witch Project”
 - 18 Sicilian volcano
 - 19 Raw minerals
 - 20 Picks
 - 22 Try
 - 24 Comments
 - 25 Silver services
 - 26 German article
 - 29 Schuss
 - 30 Make a blunder
 - 31 Impassioned
 - 34 Stable units
 - 39 Fasten, as buttons
 - 40 Freon or neon
 - 42 Schon of Journey
 - 43 J.C. and Sammy of golf
 - 46 Space between
 - 49 Unit of resistance
 - 51 Morgue letters
 - 52 Stitch
 - 53 Conductor’s title
 - 57 Jug handles
 - 59 Russia’s first president
 - 60 Ninepins’ pin
 - 64 50/50 test choice
 - 65 College clique, briefly
 - 67 Physically fragile
 - 68 Sweep under the rug
 - 69 Shredded
 - 70 Forgeries
 - 71 Crystal gazer
 - 72 Ooze
 - 73 Edberg or Borg, e.g.



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9/17/08

- DOWN**
- 1 Taxis
 - 2 Actor’s part
 - 3 Type of exam
 - 4 Porkers’ quarters
 - 5 Bitter irony
 - 6 Good wishes
 - 7 Stallion’s tidbit
 - 8 Overly decorated
 - 9 Boitano and Button
 - 10 Gin fruit
 - 11 Crooner Mel
 - 12 Expert
 - 13 Musical pauses
 - 21 Kiddie
 - 23 Lemony
 - 26 Alternatives to VCRs
 - 27 Very long time
 - 28 “Leaving Las Vegas” actress
 - 32 Clean air grp.
 - 33 Wee bit
 - 35 Gasteyer of “SNL”
 - 36 Camera’s eye
 - 37 Boot binding
 - 38 Murdered
 - 41 Evade
 - 44 Periods
 - 45 Confessions to a priest
 - 47 Water too well
 - 48 Customs duties
 - 50 Fifth U.S. president
 - 53 Widely held fictions
 - 54 Condor’s digs
 - 55 Duck past
 - 56 Control the wheel
 - 58 Kind of poll or hat
 - 61 Make off with
 - 62 Made stuff up
 - 63 Different
 - 66 Exist

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Authorities vow to force holdouts off Texas coast

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GALVESTON, Texas – About 250 people who withstood Hurricane Ike on a coastal sliver of land will be forced off it so crews can begin the recovery effort, authorities said Tuesday, vowing to invoke emergency powers to make it happen.

County Judge Jim Yarbrough, the top elected official in Galveston County, said those who defied warnings that they would be killed if they rode out the storm on the Bolivar Peninsula are a “hardy bunch” and there are some “old timers who aren’t going to want to leave.”

The Texas attorney general’s office is trying to figure out how legally to force the holdouts to leave, Yarbrough said. Local authorities are prepared to do whatever it takes to get residents to a safer place.

The peninsula is too damaged for residents to stay, and with no gas, no power and no running water, there is also concern about spread of disease, officials said.

“I don’t want to do it,” Yarbrough said. “I’m doing it because it’s in their best interests.”

Authorities may never know if people who tried to weather the storm were washed out to sea.

So far, there are no confirmed fatalities, but Yarbrough and other officials said he didn’t think that would hold.

“I’m not Pollyana. I think we will find some,” he said.

Ike’s death toll officially stood at 47 Tuesday, with most of the deaths coming outside of Texas.

Authorities confirmed a total of nine deaths in the Houston metropolitan area, all from post-storm debris-clearing work, house fires

or carbon monoxide poisoning by generator use. Dozens of others had been treated for carbon monoxide poisoning, health officials said.

The majority of Houston was still without power late Tuesday, with CenterPoint Energy projecting most would be without electricity for another week.

Residents again waited in line for hours on end at the 22 supply distribution centers set up in Houston to hand out food, water and ice.

The mayor of the nation’s fourth-largest city complained the Federal Emergency Management Agency wasn’t bringing in the supplies fast enough. Mayor Bill White also asked that a federal supervisor at a distribution center be fired for telling the drivers of two trucks — one filled with ice and other with food — to turn around. The supervisor thought the site was stocked, but it wasn’t.

“That is not going to happen again,” White said, adding that other distribution centers were also not getting supplies quickly enough and most were running out of ice.

FEMA spokesman Marty Bahamonde said he was not aware of the situation White described, but said Judge Ed Emmett — the top elected official in Harris County — was now personally coordinating the efforts to hand out relief supplies.

“As the requests come in, we’re really starting to refine the system,” Bahamonde said. “We’ve set up a distribution system to deliver millions of meals and water in literally a 24-hour period. There were glitches along the way. But by the end of the day, we had refined some of those glitches and we’ll see that progress more.”

Fall studies



Alisia Muhlestein/Montana Kaimin

Graduate student Mike Roesch reads for one of his environmental studies courses under a tree on the Oval Tuesday afternoon. Roesch said that he was enjoying the nice weather, but wouldn’t be sad if the temperatures start to cool off. “If it decides to get cold,” Roesch said, “hopefully it gets cold enough to snow so I can start skiing.”

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Wed, Sept 17 th , 3:10-4:00pm	Wed, Sept 24 th , 5:10-6:00pm
Thur, Sept 18 th , 5:10-6:00pm	Thur, Sept 25 th , 1:10-2:00pm
Mon, Sept 22 nd , 4:10-5:00pm	

Homecoming Hoopla

Two University of Montana sports teams are helping with homecoming festivities this week.

Yell Night

Join the Grizzly football team and coaches for a pep rally on Wednesday night along with the marching band, cheer squad, dance team and Monte on the Oval. The night includes "Singing on the Steps" with UM's Jubileers, the lighting of the "M", a Forestry Club bonfire and fireworks.

The Oval opens at 7:30 p.m. with free popcorn and soda provided. Events are free and open to the public.

The Griz will face UC Davis on Saturday, Sept. 20 in their homecoming matchup.

Homecoming Hustle

UM's track and field team is hosting the first-ever Homecoming Hustle, a 5-K race on Saturday, Sept. 20. The race starts at 9:55 a.m., just five minutes prior to the Homecoming Parade. The race will follow the same route as the parade, with runners starting at the corner of Higgins and Broadway, going north on Higgins across the Higgins Street Bridge to University Avenue and crossing Arthur Avenue onto campus.

The route continues around the Oval, making its way behind Washington-Grizzly Stadium. Runners will enter the stadium and take a lap around the field before exiting across Campus Drive to the Kim Williams Trail.

Registration for the run is \$30 and includes a t-shirt. To qualify, runners must be able to finish the 5-K race in less than 45 minutes. Visit www.montanagrizzlies.com for more information and to register.

Club baseball holds tryouts

Whitney Bermes
MONTANA KAIMIN

Just as Major League Baseball is getting into the heat of their playoff race, the University of Montana's club baseball team is taking advantage of the last warm days of the season to fill up their roster.

The baseball team is holding their second round of tryouts this weekend at the Missoula Maverick Legion Field in hopes of filling over a dozen spots on their squad.

The first round of tryouts was held last weekend. Senior pitcher Buddy Holcombe said about 20 new hopefuls showed up to play.

The team features over 10 returning players and is looking to carry as many as 20 on their roster, he said.

Friday was strictly defensive drills, including a timed 50-yard dash, outfield and infield drills and situations. On Sunday, players had batting practice, both in the batting cages and live on the field.

Senior pitcher Derek Hubbard said there were a lot of good players.

One of the goals of these tryouts is to strengthen pitching, Hubbard said.

"We've struggled in the last two years with pitching," he said. "You can't ever have too many pitchers."

Hubbard said a lot of good outfielders came out for the first tryouts.

"There are a lot of tough decisions to make out there," said Hubbard, who has played the last two years.

No games will be played until next semester. However, the team will hold practices and use the time to get organized and hold fundraisers.

UM only covers the initial National Club Baseball Association cost, Holcombe said. Players are responsible for all other expenses, including travel.

The team doesn't have a coach because they aren't able to pay one. Hubbard, along with senior



Eric Oravsky/Montana Kaimin

Junior Sean Gratwohl pitches to new Maverick hopefuls at the Legion Field on Spurgin Street off of Reserve. Forty players showed up at the practice Sunday for the Missoula Mavericks tryouts. Senior team captains Mick Ormiston and Derek Hubbard hope to see more at this coming weekend's tryouts.

catcher Mick Ormiston, is taking the reins of the team this fall.

The team will open play in the spring by traveling to a tournament in Las Vegas at the end of February, taking advantage of the warmer weather as well as playing more experienced teams, Holcombe said.

"It's a good opportunity for us to get out of here and play better teams," he added.

Weather depending, Hubbard said they hope to get in 20 league games during the spring. Last spring, they were snowed out four times.

UM competes in the Northern Pacific Conference - East. Other teams in their conference include Weber State, Utah State, Boise State, Idaho, Idaho State and Montana State.

Tryouts will be held on Friday

at 5 p.m., as well as on Sunday at 10 a.m. at the Missoula Maverick Legion Fields on Spurgin Road.

Holcombe said they are hoping tryouts will bring in more interested players and let people know UM has a baseball team.

"We'd love to see them come out and put their skills to the test for a chance to play baseball for us in the spring," Holcombe said.

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SPORTS

Whit

By Whitney Bermes



As the beloved Monte rolled out of his den, smoke pouring from the entrance, Harley motor roaring, an unfamiliar face followed him out onto the field.

A nine-foot, inflatable, clumsy Monte look-alike made his debut at Saturday's home football game. Rocky is his name, and entertaining is his game.

Rocky, Monte's cousin, was purchased last June from Signs and Shapes International, Inc. The company, based out of Omaha, Neb., creates air-inflated mascots for professional basketball, baseball and football teams, as well as for colleges and high schools across the country.

It cost \$5,000 to custom-make Monte's kin, who was brought in for comic relief, said Kenny Dow, UM associate marketing director and mascot coordinator. Rocky provides a new kind of entertainment for fans and creates new skits for Monte, Dow said.

But not all fans in Washington-Grizzly Stadium were welcoming of the new bear. Posters to the online Griz forum, egriz.com, vented about Rocky, comparing him to a sex doll and saying he's "irritating," "he's lame" and he can't hold a candle to their beloved Monte.

However, I say give the bear a chance. Rocky has distinct advantages over his bruin counterpart.

First of all, fans won't be smacked in the face with the stale smell of sweat that lingers on Monte's fuzzy costume. And God knows what kinds of germs are stuck in that thing, no matter how many times it's cleaned.

Rocky, on the other hand, is made of urethane-coated nylon and features an air blower that circulates a constant stream of fresh air through the costume to keep it inflated. This eliminates the stench that makes me avoid Monte at all costs.

Secondly, while Rocky might not be able to perform the same caliber of acrobatics as Monte, his awkward movements make for

entertaining dance routines. Seeing a nine-foot-tall grizzly shaking his booty as he moonwalks across the turf makes me feel much better about my own boorish dance moves.

I know as I watch Monte flip forwards and backwards and all around that there is no way I could do that, even if my life depended on it.

But fall face first on the ground and clumsily throw my body around attempting to do the worm? I can do that!

And lastly, I have always dreamed of assaulting a mascot. They are creepy, they are stinky, and they do not entertain me.

But I will give it to Monte. If I tried to sneak in a swift punch to the face, he could run me down quicker than Usain Bolt runs 100-meter dash.

But with Rocky, you could get in a good couple punches, maybe even a kick or two, before that top-heavy bear could even roll over. And with the squishy nature of his suit, it wouldn't feel like you were even hurting him, making for fun, guilt-free violence.

So, Rocky, I welcome your graceless demeanor, amusing inflatable nature and oversized body to Montana and look forward to more of your on-the-field antics.

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Keeping it lax



Alisia Muhlestein / Montana Kaimin

Freshman John Perros practices with the men's lacrosse team Tuesday afternoon at Dornblazer field. The team recently hired a new coach, UM graduate Ryan Hanavan, for the 2008-2009 season.

Seahawks reacquire Robinson, trade for wideout Colbert

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — The Seattle Seahawks took two steps to bolster their injured-depleted wide receivers by trading for Keary Colbert and reacquiring Koren Robinson on Tuesday.

Seattle agreed to a one-year contract with Robinson, its former No. 1 draft choice. Agent Alvin Keels confirmed the agreement and its length in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Robinson worked out for the Seahawks on Tuesday and convinced team president Tim Ruskell he has changed since Ruskell released him in the 2005 season because of repeated problems with alcohol.

The Seahawks have lost six wide receivers to injury this season. Robinson already is listed as No. 1 on Seattle's depth chart at wide receiver for Sunday's game against St. Louis, a matchup of winless teams.

"Just because of the terms and circumstances I left Seattle on, I never thought I'd be back," Robinson said on a conference call. "I'm grateful for this chance. I

think it can be a good story — for me and the team."

The 28-year-old Robinson said he has been sober for 25 months thanks to a new marriage, two young sons, a baby girl due next month and religion.

"I'm definitely proud of that," he said.

Robinson said the final incident that caused him to abandon his partying ways came in August 2006. Police said Robinson, then with the Minnesota Vikings, led them on a car chase at speeds more than 100 mph, and that his blood-alcohol content was found to be 0.11 percent, above the legal limit of 0.08.

Robinson was sentenced to 90 days in jail after pleading down to a charge of fleeing police. He also was sentenced to three months in jail for violating probation on a separate drunken-driving case in Kirkland, Wash., in 2006.

The NFL suspended him for one year then reinstated him last October.

He caught 21 passes and returned kickoffs in nine games last season for Green Bay. If Robinson violates the league's substance-abuse policy again, he faces a lifetime ban.

Last week when the Seahawks had four receivers injured, coach Mike Holmgren mentioned Robinson to Ruskell as a possible replacement.

And quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, Robinson's quarterback from 2001-04 in Seattle, told Ruskell that Robinson had turned his life around. Hasselbeck saw Robinson during a weeklong Christian retreat in Dallas last winter and was impressed.

"I don't know about the football side of it at all. I haven't seen him play in a long time," Hasselbeck said Monday. "But, I guess what I care about more is that he grew up and really matured and got his life turned around in the right direction. ... I'm proud of him."

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Hangin' tough through the Big Sky

Jeff Osteen

MONTANA KAIMIN

What better way to enjoy the outdoors in Montana than to see them from that big sky?

The prime season for University of Montana's Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club is nearing to a close, but there's still time for some long flights over Missoula before the sun starts setting too early.

"Mount Sentinel is a unique mountain for this activity," said Robert Shook, faculty adviser to the club.

He said the predominant air-flow comes from the far reaches of the western U.S. and hits the face of Mount Sentinel on the east end of the Missoula valley, creating a naturally occurring updraft perfect for hang gliding.

Going airborne from the peak of the mountain is an exclusive privilege to club members, who gain access through Crazy Canyon in Pattee Canyon Recreation Area.

"It's a controlled access," Shook said.

He said approved members of the club are issued keys to unlock a gate coming from the canyon.

"You don't have to be a pilot to join the club," said Ian Freemole, the club's president.

But, he said, you must take lessons and become ranked in order to become a pilot. There are five ranked skill levels in the world of recognized hang gliding.

Freemole said he received eight lessons for about an hour or two apiece over the course of two years until he became ranked as a Hang 1 pilot, the beginning level.

This means he can pick up a hang glider without being blown over by the wind.

A ranking of Hang 2 requires a pilot to complete one mountain flight with a minimum 1,400-foot elevation change as well as three other



Photo courtesy of Derek Goldman

Chris Gibisch takes off from Mount Sentinel by hang glider last year.

shorter flights.

After 90 flights and a minimum of 100 hours in the air, a pilot can make Hang 3, the minimum level required to soar solo from Mount Sentinel's approximate 1,958-foot elevation change between the launch point and the landing.

The Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club, however, requires pilot members to be of a Hang 4 skill level, the level assigned to advanced flyers, to jump from Mount Sentinel.

Freemole said the club usually meets twice during the season to discuss protocols and safety procedures, but other-

wise is loosely organized.

Depending on the weather, he said, they plan their trips about a day in advance.

Jim Lemcke, director of UM public safety, said the hang gliding and paragliding clubs do have permission from both UM and the U.S. Forest Service, but permission can be pulled by either organization if the club member's actions become unsafe.

A little over one year ago, a lack of communication between hang gliders and airplane pilots almost resulted in a crash, but the controversy that threatened to halt hang gliding

was resolved.

Freemole said when club members go flying, they notify both Missoula International Airport and UM's Office of Public Safety as part of the mandatory club policy.

"It's mainly a courtesy," he said. "They do add to the flight log of pilots that we are flying."

Another controversy threatens the fate of the major landing spot for Mount Sentinel hang gliders: UM's golf course will potentially become the South Campus for the University.

"That is the last open space

suitable for landing hang gliders," Shook said.

He said there has been plenty of community support in keeping the course open, but there is still some concern.

Shook said the hang gliding tradition in Missoula and at UM is unique because of the perfect combination of wind and geographic conditions that Mount Sentinel creates.

"It sets us apart from any other community," he said.

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Sans wheels, rifle hunting in the Bob can be a hassle

Will Freihofer

MONTANA KAIMIN

Rifle hunters willing to brave rugged sections of the Bob Marshall wilderness northeast of Seeley Lake can hunt deer and elk there as of Sept. 15, provided they pack out the carcass through miles of wilderness with no vehicle access.

That means shooting a 180-pound trophy equals one tough afternoon.

"The problem is transportation, you basically need a horse," said UM student Mike Lilrose. "There's no wheels allowed back there (in wilderness areas), so it's that or a really good

pair of boots."

Although Lirose said he regularly hikes in the Bob Marshall, he doesn't rifle hunt there because of the hassle of the terrain.

Few hunters choose to do so, estimated Vivaca Crowser, an Education Program Manager at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. She said FWP has no way of knowing exactly how many hunters use the area annually because early season rifle hunters use the regular rifle season tag.

"Those backcountry areas have less concentrated use," Crowser said, "so there's an opportunity to run both (rifle and bow seasons) at the same time."

Anywhere less remote would

probably draw too many rifle and bowhunters to the same areas at the same time, she said, necessitating a split season for more accessible country.

Bowhunting season has been in full swing for elk, antelope and deer since Sept. 6. Bowhunters will continue to have the majority of huntable acreage to themselves until their season ends on Oct. 11.

Although bowhunting is difficult in its own right, many hunters, like Lirose, either opt to do that in lieu of backcountry rifle hunting or wait until the general deer and elk season opens Oct. 26.

To legally hunt, people born

after the first of January in 1985 need to have completed a hunter education.

Out-of-state courses comply with that regulation, said Crowser, and an abbreviated course will be available for adults this spring.

No more courses will be offered this fall, she said.

Specially permitted moose, sheep and goat hunting seasons also opened Monday along with fall black bear season.

Hunters are encouraged to check fwp.mt.gov for the latest state news and regulations pertaining to hunting, fishing and parks in Montana.

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Have a story idea or personal account for Kaimin Outdoors?

Send it to melissa.weaver@umontana.edu