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Montana Kaimin, 1898-present

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3-14-2012

Montana Kaimin, March 14, 2012

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

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montanakaimin

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

www.montanakaimin.com

MISSOULA



Megan Jae Riggs/Montana Kaimin

Hannah Baker holds one of the five chickens at the Missoula Urban Demonstration Project lot Tuesday afternoon. MUD offers a variety of items for members such as tools for gardening, knowledge to brew beer and equipment to build a chicken coop. There is a \$30 or \$60 yearly membership fee based on income and household size.

MUD moving across town

Sustainability program expands with increased demand

Hannah J. Ryan
Montana Kaimin

Hands will get dirty when a new center for sustainable living breaks ground this month.

The Missoula Urban Demonstration (MUD) Project has grown beyond its three-lot capacity and is near bursting with tools and trucks to lend workshops and gardens.

Since 1976, this small organization on the city's north side has grown to provide 300 Missoula members with the equipment and knowledge to grow

their own food, raise their own chickens, brew their own beer and more. Today a tool library and truck-share allows members to borrow the equipment they don't own, but need for a garden or to build their chicken coop.

"The whole idea is why own your own tools that you'll only use a few times a year?" said Randall Orton, office assistant at MUD. "This is a service that people can really use."

Soil will start to fly this month in the empty lot next to the Home Resource building

on Russell Street for this larger MUD Project center. New features will include an office constructed with hay bales, solar panels and a composting toilet. With these expanded facilities, the MUD Project hopes to more than double its membership.

Approximately \$380,000 has been raised from a combination of grants from organizations like the Plum Creek Timber Co. and the Gallagher Foundation, donations, fundraising and membership dues to be used for this relocation.

MUD board vice president

Anne Little said the tangible brick and mortar project, the increasing necessity of sustainable living, and the people of Missoula made it possible to fund this expansion.

Orton said he is most excited about how accessible the new location is and its proximity to other sustainable building places like Home Resource.

The current MUD center on Missoula's north side will remain open to continue to serve residents there, Orton said.

See MUD, page 3

MISSOULA

Students duel in strange worlds



Stories about Missoula between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

from students in the School of Journalism

Caitlyn Walsh
Montana Kaimin

Magic.

When the word comes to mind, most people think of wizened wizards with long white beards, fairies, elves, dragons and maybe a Harry Potter or a Frodo thrown in for good measure.

Some people think of actually joining in on the action, which is exactly what Leanne Wright does Friday nights.

Wright, 20, a sophomore studying anthropology, battles other wizards in a game called "Magic: The Gathering." Simply called "Magic" by its players, it is one of the first collectible trading card games ever created.

Originally printed in 1993, it has recently seen a resurgence in Missoula, said Jason Benner, the general manager of the only local card shop Muse Comics and Games.

"I've been playing the game since I was 10," Benner, 28, said. "In the past few years, our tournaments have doubled in size."

College students like Wright are driving the trend.

"I only started playing last year," Wright said. "But it's super fun and addictive."

Muse, along with card shops worldwide, hosts Friday Night Magic, a weekly tournament for newcomers and aficionados alike. It begins each Friday at 5 p.m., but the tables don't fill until the second tournament starts at 8 p.m. People file through the doors of the store, passing shelves of glossy comic books, avoiding racks of miniatures and brushing by the displays of role-playing games like Warhammer and Dungeons & Dragons.

See MAGIC, page 4



EDUCATION COLUMN



THE FULL MONTE

In sickness and in health

By Missy Lacock

Sometimes the University of Montana gets it right.

I remembered that while sprawled on the ground last week, late for class with one knee caddywompus after slipping on the ice. Just thirty minutes later a nurse had swept me into a wheelchair and a doctor merrily prodded my knee with good news: nothing broken. I was in and out in fifteen minutes — and only five bucks poorer (for renting crutches).

This column gripes an awful lot about what the University does wrong, but I can testify that Curry Health Center is not one of those things.

While students regularly utilize Curry for everything from pneumonia to teeth cleanings, we usually also take it for granted. We forget that graduates don't only bid farewell to bad parking and study groups, we also lose affordable and dependable health care the minute we don that cap and gown.

Students enrolled in seven or more credits pay the \$207 health fee (different from your insurance fee) and reap benefits unrivaled by any other medical system. Not only does Curry offer medical, pharmaceutical and dental services, but the center houses Counseling and Psychological Services, Health Enhancement, the Student Assault Resource Center, and Self Over Substances.

"Curry provides a whole variety of services," Curry Director Dr. David Bell said. "You may not need one, but you'll probably need another."

Curry's high merit is maintained by a "cost-conscious" and student-friendly philosophy. In fact, Curry's fees are only "one-third or less of what you would pay in the community for the same quality of care," Bell assured me.

I would even argue that Curry's quality of service surpasses its competitors. Urgent same-day walk-in services are always available, and Curry is open 24/7. An hour in the ER can be the most expensive 60 minutes of your life, but a Curry medical visit is free any time. Even overnight stays are gratis (compared to a thousand clams a pop at the hospital), and yes, they serve soup and have cable. I've received doctor follow-up calls for the most minor of visits, and patients are rarely kept waiting for a scheduled appointment. "We understand students have busy schedules," Bell explained. Point, Curry.

This is how it's done, University. Curry is an example of a quality student program at its best: student-centered and student-conscious.

Students, don't squander this opportunity. Before you know it, we'll be wedged in a lobby waiting for hours for a \$100 teeth cleaning (verses Curry's \$30) or counseling session (verses Curry's \$10). Want to compare prices directly? Good luck. The outside medical community is nothing if not inaccessible and cranky.

So here's to Curry Health Center: Thank you for your breadth of services, your friendliness and your affordability. You remind the University how to operate with students as its mainstay.

melissa.lacock@umontana.edu

heard around the OVAL

NEAR DON ANDERSON HALL

"I got so drunk last night I severely damaged my frontal lobe."

ON THE OVAL

"If you were a girl and you were super hammered, I wouldn't be afraid to punch you."

NEAR CAMPUS REC

"Have you ever had someone fart on your bare leg?"
"Wait, you're the little spoon?"

NEAR THE ADAMS CENTER

"I know he's little and brown and talks with a lisp, but he's just a solid person."

ARTS + CULTURE COLUMN

MINDFULL MEDIA

Frozen planet

By Michael Beall, A+C editor

The 85-year-old naturalist David Attenborough was standing on the North Pole above the Arctic Sea, where the sun doesn't get high enough to warm his back. Attenborough was acting as a BBC Nature tour guide again, but this time it wasn't only his caring tone describing the scene. Attenborough was also there standing on ice slowly crumbling into the sea. He was talking about climate change as videographers captured a chunk of ice the size of a skyscraper fall from an ice sheet.

The first episode of BBC's latest documentary series "Frozen Planet" premieres Sunday on the Discovery Channel. It's the follow-up to its predecessors "Planet Earth," "Life" and "Human Planet," but this series has an agenda: to reveal a frozen world warming up.

The American premiere will be quite different from the version the International Wildlife Film Festival will screen in May because actor Alec Baldwin, rather than his British counterpart, will be narrating the journey from pole to pole on the Discovery Channel. The important part is that the seven-part

series will hold the same footage of life and environment in the Arctic and Antarctic, and it will amaze.

Every time I watch BBC Nature, I wonder how they capture the content they air. The most intimate segment was a male polar bear's mating ritual. It had to fight battle after bloody battle over the course of the summer in order to keep its spouse, and when the ice returned, it simply walked away into the sunset, never to be seen again.

Polar bears might be the most iconic image of a changing Arctic, but "Frozen Planet" takes you much deeper into this frozen world. After each episode, documentors explain how some scenes took months with multiple camera crews to produce.

In one episode, a cameraman swam in the Southern Ocean to film a pod of orca torturing an elephant seal hiding on a tiny iceberg. Another crew descends into a mile-high ice sheet crevice to enter

an underground Antarctic ice cave network carved by volcanoes. Yet another crew flew into the crater of a steaming volcano just to take a look.

The best part about the BBC is the money, talent and beauty that goes to education. "Frozen Planet" is a cinematographic feat, but this series also teaches as it reveals changes in our ice caps. In fact, the series is quite controversial in the United States, especially the final episode, "On Thin Ice," because of the politically sensitive topic of climate change.

Despite the controversy, the Discovery Channel will air all seven episodes from "Ends of the Earth" to "Final Frontier." Four episodes are dedicated to changes that occur over each season, and the finale describes climate change and how a few too many icebergs can cause ocean currents to shift and weather to turn.

michael.beall@umontana.edu

CORRECTION:

In an article published on March 8, the Kaimin incorrectly reported that ASUM Senator Clay Springmeyer notified the ASUM president and business manager of a prior engagement before the budgeting meeting. In fact, he did not speak with them until the meeting took place.

See page 3 for another correction.

montanakaimin

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MUD
From page 1

Groups like 1,000 New Gardens use shovels, wheelbarrows, rakes and a sod-cutter from the MUD Project to help people kick-start their own backyard garden.

"The potential they provide to offset household expenses with things like composting and growing your own food is one of my primary reasons for using MUD," said Morgen Hartford, coordinator for 1,000 New Gardens.

Hartford said the MUD Project provides home, economic and food security by giving people the tools to live independently. Individual membership ranges from \$30-60 a month and is income-based. A membership includes access to the tool library, truck-share and discounts for MUD workshops and local businesses.

To learn more about MUD's relocation and expansion, visit www.mudproject.org.
hannah.ryan@umontana.edu



Megan Jae Riggs/Montana Kaimin
 Tabitha Espinoza waters lettuce at the MUD Project lot on the north side of Missoula.

CORRECTION

Last Tuesday the Kaimin reported that 75 percent of the revenue generated from 5 percent tuition hikes next year will go toward faculty pay raises. That number came from Associate Commissioner of Higher Education Kevin McRae, who clarified the specifics of that figure Tuesday after the University Faculty Association challenged his calculations. McRae said that of the revenue generated from tuition hikes, 75 percent will go toward pay raises for all University of Montana employees. This in-

cludes staff and administrators, not just faculty members as was reported.

Just more than 40 percent of the revenue generated from tuition hikes will go toward faculty pay raises. Faculty pay raises represent 60 percent of the total cost to UM for all employee pay raises.

This year UM is budgeted for 671 full-time-equivalent faculty positions, 618 FTE support staff positions, 101 FTE non-faculty professional positions and 53 administrator positions, McRae said.

PISSED?
PLEASED?
PETRIFIED?
 Write a letter.

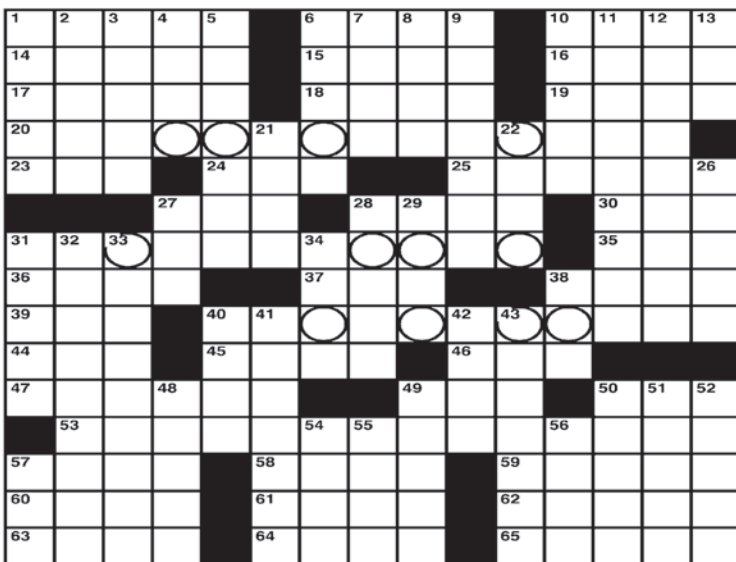
Please email letters of 300 words or fewer to opinion@montanakaimin.com or drop them off in Don Anderson Hall 208. Please include a phone number. Letters are printed on Thursdays.

FOR RELEASE MARCH 14, 2012

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- Diamond-studded tooth caps, e.g.
 - "High Voltage" band
 - Valence lead-in
 - Smash over the infield, say
 - "The Big Sleep" genre
 - Normandy city
 - Arctic digs
 - Refuse to grant, as access
 - Big hike
 - Standard of comparison
 - Be a buttinsky
 - Corner opening?
 - Saved to watch later
 - Oldies refrain syllable
 - Do one's homework, so to speak
 - Casserole morsel
 - Like some kitchen cabinets
 - Go (for)
 - ___ close to schedule
 - 'Enry's 'ouse
 - Escape
 - Bad check letters
 - Govt. workers concerned with returns
 - Asian festival
 - Hi-fi spinners: Abbr.
 - Convenient connections
 - Fighting words
 - WWII USN carrier
 - Common college degs.
 - It includes a vest ... and what can be found in each set of circles in the long answers
 - Nile queen, familiarly
 - PTA part: Abbr.
 - Like a five-star hotel
 - Hide from a trapper
 - Spanish surrealist
 - Big chip maker
 - Not busy
 - WWII British gun
 - "With Reagan" memoirist



By Steve Blais

3/14/12

- DOWN**
- Goodyear flier
 - Crossbred big cat
 - Parquetry design
 - Modernists, informally
 - "I have had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it" speaker
 - Actress MacDowell
 - Either "True Grit" (2010) director
 - "Correct answer!" sound
 - Formal glassware
 - When Juliet drinks the potion
 - 13th-century globetrotter
 - One whose workplace is all abuzz
 - Printer's purchase
 - Printer's purchase
 - Add a little color to
 - Calendar entries
 - Cello sect.
 - PowerCat soccer cleats, e.g.
 - In ___ of: replacing

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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3/14/12

- "Reuben, Reuben" actor Tom
- Yet to be paid
- Crab variety
- Fear choice
- Mil. installations
- Wrath, in a classic hymn
- Checks carefully, as a contract
- Backup medium
- Provisional
- Put pen to paper
- Early Soviet leader
- Former Montana copper-mining city
- Clothing rack array
- Vogue
- Hurdle for a jr.
- Cruise stopover
- Trig ratio
- Cost-of-living stat

Greek Life News

Sigma Chi fraternity celebrated their Sweetheart function in Kellogg, Id., at Silver Mountain Resort on the weekend of Mar. 2. Miss Erika Blough of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority was named their sweetheart. Similarly, Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity held their Queen of Hearts formal event locally at the Elks Club. Lana Triece of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority was crowned Queen of Hearts for her devotion and enthusiasm for SigEp. Both women will keep their titles until the next event in 2013. Alpha Phi sorority held their initiation that same weekend and initiated one member. They will hold another initiation around the end of April.



ST. PATTYS DAY

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Caitlyn Walsh/Montana Kaimin

Philosophy major **Graeme Hart** arranges cards during a Friday Night Magic tournament at Muse Comics and Games. Magic is a collectible card game where players duel each other as powerful "planeswalkers."

MAGIC From page 1

The walls of the store are Hulk-green and decorated with Superman, Spiderman and other

famous superheroes. Without taking notice of their stares, the players move straight to the six folding tables set up in the back.

Each table hosts three to four players, or "planeswalkers" as

they're referred to in the game because of the players' ability to "walk" between universes with unique worlds. They duel as powerful wizards employing magical spells, items and fantastic creatures or machines to defeat their opponents. The details of each are listed on a card with specific instructions for when to play it and the effects it has on an opponent.



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Players lose when they run out of life-points.

Tournaments are conducted in one of two formats: draft and standard play. In standard play, participants bring their own decks and therefore their own strategy. They are allowed 60 cards in a deck and spend a lot of time making them unique. In draft play, players open several booster packs, each containing 15 random cards, to build a deck on-the-spot. Players open one pack at a time, passing it left to right as they each choose one card for their impromptu deck until the booster is gone. This random-style play is more difficult and reliant on chance.

Friday Night Magic alternates between standard and draft play. The back of the store came alive with the crackling of cellophane wrappers at one recent draft tournament as players built their decks.

Philosophy major Graeme Hart, 18, shuffled his cards, drew seven, and arranged them in his hands as game play began.

"Man, this X-Ray Vision is killing me," he said. His opponent played a card that forced Hart to keep the top card in his deck revealed, showing his opponents what he would draw next.

Although college students dominate the crowd, the game draws a broad demographic.

"Since the game's been out for so long, there's lots of older people playing it," Benner said. "Since it's fun and addicting, a newer generation has gotten into it, too. We have people as young as 9 and as old as 50 playing in our tournaments."

As the state's only Premier

store, Muse hosts sanctioned tournaments to shove Montana players into deeper waters, such as state tournaments which can lead to regional qualifying competitions for the Magic Pro Tour. The tour includes players from 21 countries who fight for limited spots in the annual Magic World Championship.

In 2002, Magic was expanded to the Internet, and despite 300,000 registered accounts, most still play with physical cards.

"I did try it online and spent \$50 to see if I liked it," UM physics major Keogh Paulson, 19, said. "But it's not a product I could hold in my hand, and it's not as rewarding to play online. Real life is a lot more challenging."

Magic's creators, Seattle-based company Wizards of the Coast, and its publisher, Hasbro, are banking on players' love for face-to-face gaming. According to Hasbro's 2011 earnings report, Magic has more than doubled its revenue in the past three years and is the largest brand in their games and puzzles category which also includes Battleship and Candy Land. Even locally, Magic revenue has increased. Muse sells a plethora of accessories, from soft playmats to protective sleeves. The store also carries a selection of booster packs and collectible editions of cards.

"There's definitely been an increase in sales, especially since it's gotten so popular," Benner said.

With a \$15 buy-in, it's relatively cheap to join in the Friday-Night-Magic fun. The money is pooled and goes toward prizes for the winner.

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THE TO-DO LIST

1 LUNAFEST

3/14 @ 6 p.m.
The nationally-touring film festival returns to the Wilma Theatre to screen short films by, for and about women. LUNAFEST is dedicated to raising money for nonprofits across North America.

2 MUSTACHE BANDITS

3/16 @ 8 p.m.
Bozeman's rockabilly band, The Mustache Bandits, make their Missoula debut alongside locals Snaxxx Branigan, who is celebrating his CD release party, at Monk's bar. 21+

3 ST. PATTY'S DAY

3/17
Butte might be king, but if you're sticking around, Missoula won't disappoint. Be the first 50 in Draught Works and receive a shirt to accompany a day's worth of music, before downtown's St. Patty's Day Parade at noon.

4 BEST OF THE BOWL

3/18
Snowbowl's end of the year race will showcase the fastest riders down the Grizzly Chute. If speed's not for you, the terrain park is open and spring conditions are here. Enjoy the final weeks of the season.

5 CITYWIDE POETRY SLAM

3/20 @ 6:30 p.m.
Be loud, political and opinionated — those are the rules to slam poetry. UM's literary magazine The Oval and Big Sky High School's Aerie will host this year's slam at the Elks Club upstairs. \$5. All ages.

MISSOULA

Bags so hip they hurt

Dameon Matule
Montana Kaimin

Messenger bags are as hip(ster) as fixed gear bikes, ironic tees and thick framed glasses. Bike commuters in Missoula swear by them for their easy access, durable build and large carrying capacity. But some things are just too good to be true.

Doctors caution against the use of messenger bags due to the harmful effects they can have on the body.

Timbuk2 traces the history of messenger bags back to the 1970s, when Globe Canvas Product Co. designed them for telephone linemen. Bike messengers liked the design and started using them for deliveries. As bike culture started to grow, so did the love for the messenger-bag style.

"They're really popular right now, especially with people in their 20s through their mid 30s," Open Road owner John Wood said. "They are really comfortable on a bike, the weight is kind of like getting a hug rather than that pulling feeling you get from a backpack."

Open Road is the only store in town that sells Chrome bags — a heavy-duty, vinyl-lined bag with a seatbelt strap that many people consider to be the holy grail of messenger bags.

"I kind of feel like an idiot for having one, honestly," University of Montana student Jenna Koval said. She likes her Chrome bag because it's practical and really functional, but doesn't like what they're associated with.

"I'm from Chicago and there's a ton of hipsters there, and they've all got fixed gears, and they've all got Chrome bags," she said. "Then I thought about it and realized I have a hip fixie and now a hip bag. That was a bit embarrassing."

UM student Seth Cox got his messenger bag as a gift three years ago. He said he gets a lot of compliments on it, but probably wouldn't have bought one for himself.

"When I bring my laptop with me, I'm hurtin' by the end of the day," Cox said.

Some doctors think that's going to be a problem for anyone with a messenger bag sooner or later. Curry Health Center Dr. Carla Fritz says that even though they're trendy, any bag with just one strap shouldn't replace a backpack.

Chiropractor Sean Stuto agrees. He said he sees patients with bag-related pain all the time.

"It's a pretty common complaint," he said. "Anything that puts uneven pressure on your spine will cause problems like slumped shoulders and sore hips."

Cox said he avoids loading his bag too much if he can help it. He said he switches shoulders, but having only one strap still makes it difficult.

"It's a cool bag, but I wouldn't have ever bought a single strap," he said. "But it's great for biking."

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Megan Jae Riggs/Montana Kaimin

Messenger bags are becoming more popular among students and bikers, but some health care practitioners warn they could have negative effects on the spine, shoulders and hips due to uneven weight distribution.

University center PRESENTS

Student Diversity Film Series

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Approved by UM IRB on 8/13/09 (expires 8/12/12)

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music PREVIEW

The Hobo Nephews of Uncle Frank **just folk it**

Brooks Johnson
Montana Kaimin

It seems so simple: fix Missoula's transient problem by giving them guitars and heavy boots!

That's not quite the mission of the Hobo Nephews of Uncle Frank, however. They play at the Palace Thursday night.

The Minnesota-based folk group is back in Missoula ahead of a busy year of three records by fall, and show after show through their spring tour.

Brothers Teague and Ian Thomas Alexy came together in 2005 with their guitars, voices and stories in a familiar way.

Ian Thomas' voice is a dusty tenor you can only find on a really old jukebox in a small town, while Teague takes more of a Dylan-esque vocal strain.

The guitar work comes off fresh as it channels country and bluegrass cliches into

original realms of roads and rural rambunctiousness.

They sing, "Might be John Prine on the radio," on the track "Northern Train" and it sounds like it could have been written by a young John Prine himself. Come to think of it, a lot of new music sounds like Prine is still writing hits.

Folk music is broad to begin with. It's really just a story-based jam with any variety of guitar and percussion. With acts as diverse and recent as the Avett Brothers, Old Crow Medicine Show and Conor Oberst and the Mystic Valley Band, it's hard to put certain guidelines to it. Ian Thomas agrees.

"We just want to be taken at face value," he said. "We would rather people come to the show without expecting a certain thing. We would rather them just be open to what we do because it is different than any other band we have seen in our travels."

The "folk-revivalist" niche is not where the Alexy Brothers see the Hobo Nephews.

"We are not traditionalists,

“We are not traditionalists, and the music we create, although influenced by American folk and blues, is in many ways modern”

Ian Thomas Alexy
Singer, Hobo Nephews

and the music we create, although influenced by American folk and blues, is in many ways modern," Ian Thomas said.

Sometimes, though, their influences take them in different directions, so the brothers

take some space and play solo.

Teague's third album, "This Dance," comes out in April, and Ian Thomas plans a third solo effort for this summer. The styles are different. Teague is more of a balladeer, and his brother is more inclined to get people stomping.

But the idea remains the same.

"The plan for The Hobo Nephews, right from the start, is that if we keep it simple, just the two of us hopping in the car and going, we can always do it."

And they're going to keep on it, with a new record planned for the fall and wheels under their feet.

But who is Uncle Frank?

"Our Uncle Frank is just a cool guy," Ian Thomas said. "We like him. He is the guy who would show up at the family get-together in a '79 Corvette wearing cowboy boots. That's Uncle Frank."

brooks.johnson@umontana.edu

What: Hobo Nephews

of Uncle Frank

When: Thursday

Where: The Palace

How: \$5, 21+

Why: You like good music.



Q+A with Jacob Seigel-Boettner on turning a passion of biking into a documentary "With My Own Two Wheels."

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Q+A with Chicago's mascot **BENNY THE BULL** Dustin Askim Montana Kaimin

Benny the Bull is a professional mascot for the Chicago Bulls of the National Basketball Association. During Bulls games, you can find him dunking off trampolines, riding his motorcycle or making half-court shots at the United Center in Chicago. Before taking his NBA

gig, the man behind the mascot was Monte, the University of Montana mascot in the early 2000s. Benny, who preferred to keep his identity a secret — the cardinal rule of being a mascot — caught up with the Kaimin recently via email.

Q: How famous are you in Chicago?

A: Me, or Benny? No one seems to care much about me, but Benny certainly gets plenty of attention. He's such a diva. The other sports teams in Chicago that have mascots introduced the characters relatively recently, so Benny's popularity is due in large part to the character being around since the '60s. But, like I said, once I'm in street clothes I fly under the radar, and that's the way I like it.

Q: Do you interact with the players much?

A: Yeah, some more than others. Actually, our team, especially this year, has some great guys on it. Our paths cross a lot at games and events, in and

out of costume. They usually have odd questions for me like, 'Any new dance routines tonight?' or 'Do you get scared flying out of the ceiling?' You forget that most of these guys are just kids. Giant millionaire kids. And, of course, they constantly bother me to help them with their jump shots and to explain the playbook to them ... It gets old.

Q: What's different about being Benny compared to Monte?

A: The biggest difference is the pressure. In college I got away with things during games that would easily get me kicked out and fined if I did them here. There are so many rules to follow, and yet

See BULL, page 8

Stockton embodies toughness

Erik C. Anderson
Montana Kaimin

Stockton.

The surname resonates with fans regardless of the sport. For a listener, hearing the two syllables uttered paints a vivid picture of a man with thigh-exposing shorts, five-o'clock shadowed point guard for the Utah Jazz.

Most know him as John, but to Grizzlies senior guard Shawn Stockton, he's Uncle John.

Thanks to Uncle John, in what could be Shawn Stockton's final game as a senior, he'll be playing in the NCAA tournament.

"He taught me when to bounce pass instead of a chest pass or getting through a

screen at a lower angle," Stockton said. "Or how to get my shot off against bigger players."

As a senior, Stockton leads by example coming off the bench and encapsulates Montana's trademark toughness — one of the reasons head coach Wayne Tinkle recruited Stockton in the first place.

See Stockton, page 8



Megan Jae Riggs/Montana Kaimin

Senior Shawn Stockton is John Stockton's nephew, former point guard for the Utah Jazz. Shawn will play in the NCAA tournament Thursday in Albuquerque, N.M.

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STOCKTON
From page 7

In high school, Stockton's Ferris High School teams won 58 consecutive games to set a Washington state record along with winning back-to-back state 4A championships. Stockton collected numerous accolades over the course of his high school career, including earning 4A state tournament MVP and region MVP honors, lettering four years and being a two-year captain. During his campaign at Ferris, Tinkle saw the gritty attitude he desired in his basketball program.

"The No. 1 attribute he brings to this team is his competitiveness and his toughness," Tinkle said. "Those were things that we were lacking when he got here as a freshman."

Stockton had to make adjustments to the collegiate game coming to Montana. He got leaner and more athletic since his freshman year to be-

come a defensive-role player for the Griz. Even so, Stockton still wasn't as athletic as some of the premier players in the Big Sky Conference.

Last Wednesday in the Big Sky Conference tournament championship game, Stockton guarded Damian Lillard, the Big Sky's regular season MVP and potential NBA lottery pick in this year's NBA Draft. While Stockton only played six minutes, he stifled Lillard, albeit momentarily.

"He's going to make a lot of money playing basketball," Stockton said. "When he gets close to the rim, he's more athletic than people realize."

But Lillard won't be playing against the No. 4 seeded Wisconsin Badgers this weekend. Stockton will.

"It's such an honor to make the tournament," he said. "This season couldn't have a better script. As a senior, you couldn't ask for a better way."

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BULLS
From page 7

still try making it fun and creative. Also, the time that goes into the job, to do it right, is pretty intense. From the office to rehearsals to appearances and to games ... the hours add up. But at the end of the day, it's still the best job ever and had it not been for Monte, I never would be here.

Q: How sweaty does that costume get?

A: Oh, not at all. The benefit of being in the NBA is that you have a nice budget for costumes. So when one gets too sweaty, you just throw on a clean one. Whereas with Monte, you would start the game with a sweaty costume from the appearance the night before and pregame visits, so by the end of the game you were basically a wet, fuzzy sponge.

Q: What do you miss about Missoula?

A: Everything ... it's the greatest place I have ever been. When I come back every year for a football game, it's very emotional getting back on the plane to leave. A huge part of my heart is still there, in more ways than one. I wouldn't mind ending up back there someday.

Q: What's next? How long do you want to be Benny?

A: As long as they will have me. Or until my body crumbles into a pile of dust. The ownership here has supported me since day one and treats me very well, so I consider this to be the best mascot job in sports. It will be sad one day when it comes to an end, but when that time comes I think I'll look back and be satisfied with my time here. I always thought 20 years would be a nice round number to do this for. I'm eight in, so I've got some good years ahead of me. As for after, they have expressed that a job will be waiting for me in the front

office ... but it might be hard to compete with the mountains back home.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add?

A: Would someone please open up a Mackenzie River Pizza here?!?! I'm not joking.

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Tim Goessman/Montana Kaimin
Chicago Bulls mascot Benny the Bull dances after a touchdown celebration in Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Oct. 29, 2011.

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5			9	6	8		1	

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