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Montana Kaimin, November 9, 2012

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

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MK
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Swords, Shields and Badassery





THE HUME'N EXPERIENCE

The gospel of Nate Silver

By Alice Martin

SCIENCE COLUMN

It wasn't Barack Obama who won the election. It was Nate Silver, the statistics wizard behind the New York Times' FiveThirtyEight blog. If you played the drinking game based on his predictions (one shot per race or state correctly called), you probably would have been dead by the end of the night. The very best political meme of the entire election season (in my humble opinion) emerged at the eleventh hour: Drunk Nate Silver. It was the subject of hundreds of tweets: Drunk Nate Silver wanders the aisles of a supermarket with a sharpie changing expiration dates. Drunk Nate Silver is riding a subway telling strangers the day they will die.

Is Nate Silver a modern day oracle or a guy good at statistics who knows how to sell himself? It's worth noting other people had similar statistical polling models that predicted the same outcome as Nate Silver. (Political scientists Sam Wang, Josh Putnam and Drew Linzer all had it nearly 100 percent right.) Almost none of the pundits — or talking heads, as they're less affectionately known — got it right. Especially not the pundits at Fox News, who sent reporter Megyn Kelly to the bowels of the organization to interview the nerds responsible for calling Ohio for Obama too early (in Karl Rove's opinion). Stunningly enough, the nerds stood strong. And they were right, Ohio went to Obama.

In the journalism arena, this election was not about Republicans or Democrats. It was about the fate of the type of horse-race coverage dominating political discourse in the media. I guarantee every major news outlet will feature a proprietary statistics polling model similar to Nate Silver's in the next election cycle. As a scientist, I'm overjoyed. Finally, political science is starting to resemble real science, with results accountable to actual mathematical analysis. The truth that political races are not toss-ups is finally being recognized.

Maybe this is just blind hope, but perhaps that means news outlets will start discussing what the issues mean to individuals, not the candidates. Instead of wasting hours discussing how Hurricane Sandy impacted Gov. Romney's chances at gaining the presidency, pundits can talk about how funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency has changed post-Katrina. And instead of jumping on every gaffe a candidate makes and blowing it out of proportion, pundits can analyze the potential impact of a candidate's plan on the future economy or national security.

Every person I've talked to about the election walked into a polling booth Tuesday exhausted from a never-ending stream of political ads, trash-talking and campaign stumping. It's time for the pundits to stop talking about candidates as if they're greyhounds chasing a rabbit around a track. These candidates are vying for the opportunity to represent their constituents. If Nate Silver and his ilk can tell us the future, it's up to the rest of journalists to tell us what it looks like.

alice.martin@umontana.edu

EDITORIAL CARTOON



BIG UPS | BACKHANDS

Big ups to Winter Storm Brutus for reminding us Jack Frost needs a gentle beating for nipping at our noses.

Backhands to the alleged hackers of Twitter — although it was nice to think we were actually being gossiped about, just a little bit.

Big ups to the onset of dark beers — Powder Hound and Dappleback, especially. If you like drinking for dinner and passing out right after, you'll love winter.

Backhands to real news. It's so much easier to laugh at people who threaten Big Bird, claim job growth and legalize marijuana. Wait, that last part rules.

Big ups to our veterans. They gave the ultimate sacrifice so we could sleep in on Monday.

Backhands to the iPad Mini. iCan't believe Steve Jobs hasn't iResurrected to avenge the iDecline of Apple. #iKnowright

Big ups to Vitamin D. Good thing you stocked up on supplements for winter because you're not going to find another natural source of it until graduation day.

Backhands to the peaceful transfer of power, aka democracy. Why do apocalyptic movies and books sell better than boring political memoirs? Because Hunger Games > ballot booths.

Cover photo by Tom Bridge

GOT NEWS? We've got news for you. Please send any news tips, ideas and press releases to EDITOR@MONTANAKAIMIN.COM.

montana**kaimin**

Newsroom Phone 406-243-4310

Business Phone 406-243-6541

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MISSOULA

Missoulians look for glass recycling solutions

Christopher Allen
Montana Kaimin

Missoula's relationship with glass recycling is unpredictable at best. While local government and private companies tried to sustain permanent glass recycling programs in the past, Missoulians learned to associate local glass recycling with a global corporation.

Despite efforts from the city, private contractors like Allied Waste and small bootstrap operations, Target — the global retail chain — is often the first name to come mind when it comes to recycling glass in Missoula.

When Target started a company-wide recycling program for customers in April 2010, it initially went unnoticed by most citizens.

However, by year's end, local press reported Missoula Target's willingness to transport glass, among other recyclable materials, to distribution centers in Oregon with trucks that would otherwise remain mostly empty.

By making a stop in larger towns such as Albany, Ore., which owns and operates its own glass recycler, Target can unload roughly 500 pounds of glass a week,

something many Missoulians take advantage of.

Because glass recyclers are extremely expensive and shipping crushed glass is cost-prohibitive for most local companies, would-be recyclers don't have many incentives.

But while Target received positive feedback from the community the last two years, some criticize the program for being a false solution.

Gary Linton is the founder of GreenCrete Products, a company that pulverizes glass to make concrete instead of gravel and sand.

GreenCrete creates ready mix for construction projects and concrete pavers that are sold to other local businesses such as Home Resource. The entire process intends to be local from start to finish.

Linton has long declared Target's need to use gasoline for trucks and shipping glass out of state as ultimately unsustainable. Linton feels city government should do more to find ways to reuse glass at the local level.

"I'll tell you right now: There hasn't been any real interest from the city at all," Linton said. "That's the problem with this issue. Everybody talks about it, but no one wants to support it financially."

Linton has approached local agencies like Missoula Public Works, as well as state agencies like the Department of Environmental Quality, with hopes of obtaining grants or other financial support, but he hasn't received any help so far.


"We're looking for funding right now, but it's very frustrating," Linton said. "I really thought we'd get more support."

Linton hopes to raise enough money to purchase a concrete truck, which would enable his business to complete much larger construction jobs around Missoula.

Although Linton and GreenCrete Products express frustration at the lack of financial support from the city, Missoula previously sponsored reuse of glass.

"We tried using glass in our roads for awhile, but the issue was collection," said Ginny Merriam, communications director for the mayor's office. "We asked citizens to drop off their glass, washed and without garbage, but it became unmanageable. We couldn't afford the labor to clean it ourselves, and it became a safety issue."

See GLASS, page 10



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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

1 Post-op regimen

6 Ligurian capital

11 Pepper, e.g.: Abbr.

14 End of _____

15 "Paper Moon" co-star

16 Fight sound

17 FL?

19 A single might get you one

20 Tops

21 Herr's home

22 Like always

25 One with an inflamed "I"?

27 Legal matter

28 CO?

31 Increasing in vol.

34 Swiss peak

35 AK?

40 Twist of a sort

41 Dooickey

43 OR?

47 Dixie product

48 Not at all light

49 Gets going after a crash

52 _____ rock

53 Harum-_____

55 Blubber

56 ND?

61 Navig., for one

62 Gourmet mushroom

63 Sheets and such

64 Rocky hails

65 Kind of secret represented by each two-letter puzzle clue?

66 Saw

DOWN

1 Battle of Britain gp.

2 Like mil. volunteers

3 "What's the big idea?!"

4 Recital pieces

5 Language family common in southern Cameroon

6 Split with the band

7 Fangorn Forest denizens

8 How cognac is usually served

9 It fits in a lock

10 Key used in shortcuts

11 Wrench

12 Tank

13 Little wrench

18 Ally Financial Inc., formerly

21 Exuberant cry

22 Pop-up path

23 Balkan native

24 Tech support caller

25 I can follow them

26 Do a Sunday morning church job

29 "The Threepenny Opera" star

30 Really be into

32 Grabbed

33 Pool shot

36 Band with the multi-platinum album "Follow the Leader"

37 Liszt's "Piano Sonata _____ Minor"

38 Psychotic penguin in "Madagascar"

39 Letter-shaped fastener

42 Rte. finder

43 Elaborate style

44 Outs

45 Nurturing place

46 Saw cut

48 Impertinent

50 Weightlifter's pride

51 All, to Caesar

53 Poet Teasdale

54 Site where techs get news

56 Execs who make trades

57 Balderdash

58 Hill worker

59 Wrangler competitor

60 Apt puzzle answer, in this case

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16		
17					18					19		
			20							21		
22	23	24					25	26				
27					28	29	30					
31			32	33			34					
	35				36	37				38	39	
				40					41			42
	43	44					45	46			47	
48							49		50	51		
52					53	54						
55					56	57				58	59	60
61				62						63		
64				65						66		

By Marti DuGuay-Carpenter 11/9/12

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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

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SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

Level:

1 2
3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE


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

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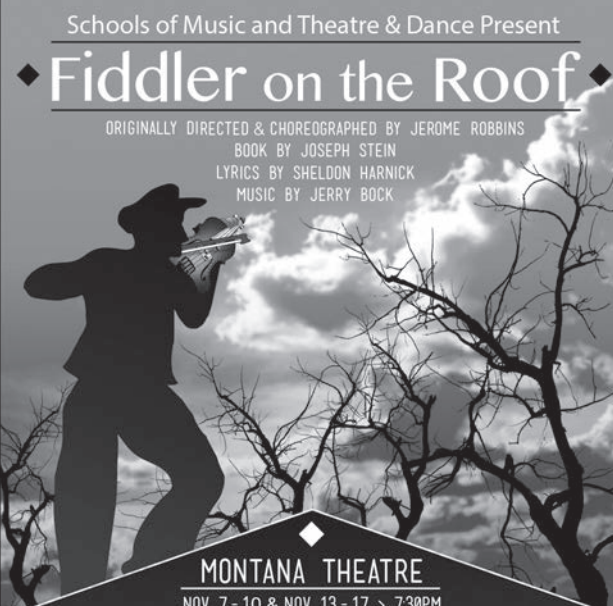
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HIDDEN TREASURE

Man finds class ring with metal detector, hunts for owner of 25-year-old item

Jessica Roden
Montana Kaimin

In the ground lay a keepsake that was lost for 25 years. For the University of Montana student who found it one afternoon in May, it was just an ordinary day.

Arthur Kaske, 62, stumbled upon an engraved class ring from 1986 when he was metal detecting for old coins. The ring was buried five inches in the ground in front of Main Hall. He said he knew he had to find the owner.

"It's the first time I've ever found anything that had any value to somebody," he said.

Last week, Kaske received an email saying his seven months of searching paid off.

Jorie Hanson, a UM graduate from the class of 1990, lost the ring during her freshman year after setting it down to play Frisbee. She received the ring when she graduated from high school in Pennsylvania.

During her time at UM, Hanson often returned to the spot to see if she could find the keepsake. She had given up finding it when she graduated and left Missoula to join the army.

"I was just so surprised," she said. "You kind of forget about it when it's been so many years ... It's pretty neat that he took the time to find it and track me down. I was pretty touched."

After finding the ring, Kaske discovered Hanson was a UM alumna, though her contact details were out of date. Then he found the high school inscribed on the ring and contacted it.

"I was becoming a little concerned," Kaske said. "A significant amount of time had gone by, and I was like, 'Is she going to get the message or not?'"

A teacher who remembered Hanson gave Hanson the message.

Kaske is a senior at UM

pursuing a Bachelor of Arts. He has passions for painting, pottery and photography. He works as a gold prospector and came to campus with his metal detector to find old coins, though all he found was \$65 worth of beer money, he said.

He has been prospecting for five years and said he has started to make a living doing it.

"It's something for me to do," Kaske said. "I'm a very active person, but I didn't want to just do the recreational things that most ordinary people do."

Hanson, who recently retired and now lives in Colorado, said it was neat to learn Kaske was also a veteran and a nontraditional college student.

Kaske will mail the ring to Hanson Friday.

"I can't tell you how many times I walked over that grassy area and thought, 'Man, I can't believe I lost it,'" Hanson said. "It's just wild that it's been found."

jessica.roden@umontana.edu



Meghan Nolt/Montana Kaimin

Arthur Kaske holds a 1986 class ring he found buried five inches in the ground in front of Main Hall at the University of Montana campus. Kaske was metal detecting for old coins in May when he found UM graduate Jorie Hanson's ring, which she lost more than 20 years ago.

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Welcome to

Styggia

Dustin Askim
 Montana Kaimin

Dickey is late. Forty-five minutes late.

The door springs open, and he surveys the room. Uh, was that door a time machine?

Practice started at 2 p.m., but Dickey strolls into the University Center west ballroom a quarter to 3 — and he doesn't have his gear on. He plops down and hastily tosses his backpack on the floor, prying open his grease-stained McDonald's bag. There are no laps or push-ups for being late. This isn't football or soccer or a "sport" sport. The thwacking, thudding and slapping sounds cease as Dickey chomps on a quarter-pound burger.

"Hey, Dickey, where's ours?" says a renaissance hippie from across the hardwood floor.

"Ya, dick!" another medieval-looking man says. The two men — swords and shields in hand — jog across the room and hug Dickey. A few others pause gameplay. Time for battle's best fuel: Mellow Yellow and Rockstar.

The University of Montana Medieval Combat Society clicks off pause as captains pick who they want on their team for the next game.

"What's your name? You're now King," David Snow says to a student attending his first practice. Snow, a plump, balding 20-something goes by Z, but his battle name is Hakon, old Arabic for "one born of the fire." Hakon's shield has a shark on it. A badass shark.

Dickey, aka Lucas Dickson, watches the action, licking the salt off his fingers. This is the sport of Belegarth — yes, the sport. And Missoula is the only city in Montana that has an organized realm.

"We had a few fighters go to Butte and try to start a group there, but it was a no-go," Nic Brouillard says. The Belegrim (those who play Belegarth) usually engage in combat on the outskirts of the Gallagher Business Building's lawn, but it's cold and wet outside, so



Tim Goessman/Montana Kaimin

Alex Wickham, aka Turkey Feathers, an undeclared major at the College of Technology, battles on the Oval Aug. 31.

SEE NEXT PAGE



Tim Goessman/Montana Kaimin

James Maxwell, aka Oroku, watches Alice Ryan, aka Aurorafy, smooth a four-square pattern fabric cover over a heater shield Thursday night in the UC. Maxwell made the shield and cover, a skill necessary to advance in his journey towards knighthood.

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

war is waged indoors today.

"The rain ruins our weapons, and it's just not good," Nic, 25, says solemnly.

Belegarth, originally inspired by J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-Earth, is not the same as Live Action Role-Playing. This is not the movie "Role Models." There are no magic, no spells, no dwarves and no elves. If LARPer and Belegrim were in the same room, the latter would be the jocks and the LARPer would be the nerds. Belegarth is all about combat and swordsmanship. It's

full speed and full strength; Weapons have to be an exact length and have specific parts for the middle-age maulings to be safe. Belegrim consider the craft a rare brand of martial art. Just listen in on a battle: There are no weak taps or soft hits. These guys are literally beating the bejeezus out of each other and sweating all over the place.

Like any team in any sport, this group is a part of something bigger than themselves — a piece of a puzzle that takes multiple pieces to assemble. Nerds, geeks, rejects, outcasts — whatever you might call them, they can't hear it

through these doors. Here — in this realm of Stygia, behind these shields of oak and fabric, wearing these medieval costumes — they belong.

Tessa Weyrauch, 20, sprawls on her couch at her 34th Street home. She sits up, slams some orange juice and lays down. It's that stressful time of the semester again, especially for a medical anthropology major, and she's crashed — too sick to make it to practice.

Tessa used to study biochemistry, but now thrives on learning about different cul-

tures and how they perceive illnesses. Within the world of Belegarth, Tessa goes by Naga, Sanskrit for snake. She's a member of the DreadGate Mercenary Alliance, one of the two separate units within the realm of Stygia, which most people know as Missoula. To join a unit, you have to be invited, pledge loyalty and pass a certain amount of tests. Sitting in class, she sports a brown faux-hawk and just goes by Tessa, but in Stygia, her hair is nicknamed the "troll-hawk," and she's a fearless, ravaging mercenary out to kill.

A few blocks away, back on the battlefield, Hakon and Kaj Akumu closely protect the King — their fiberglass core, high-density foam swords coiled and ready to strike. There were 10 members on each team minutes ago, but only a handful remain alive. A few more Belegrim walk in late, tying tunics, adjusting leather shin guards and dusting off tabards. The tardy battlers watch the action and notice the King, wearing Wranglers, Nike's and an Iron Maiden T-shirt, is a rookie who looks out of place. A Marilyn-

Manson-sitting-in-a-cathedral type of outta place. Oh, well. All hail the King.

The other team advances quickly, and their jabs bash the King's men in the arms, legs and torso.

"No one gets in my house!" the King's lone defender yells. Two enemies close in His Highness. One is shirtless, and the other dons a black cloak bearing the symbol of Uruk-hai. Yes, like the "Lord of the Rings" Uruk-hai. The Orc-human extends his sword and slashes the defender's open arm, then his leg, freeing up the King to be killed. "You got in my house, and for that, I commend you," the defender tells his enemy. They embrace and laugh, radiating with the happiness only loved ones can incite. The two walk toward the middle of the ballroom floor. It's time for a different game: an all-versus-all brawl. And 10 minutes later, a two-team battle, similar to a dodgeball game's rules, begins.

Nic, the general of the DreadGate Mercenary Alliance, stands near the edge of the earth (the four caution cones on the east side



Nic Brouillard, aka Malark, lunges at Andrew Peacock, aka Todo, at Belegarth

of the room). He's known as Malark for now, and he's been doing this for nine years. At 16, he agreed to attend a Belgarath battle with a friend, and thought, "This can't be for real. These people are crazy." But here he is, almost a decade later after a two-year stint in the United States Army. He can't stay away. He thrives on the competition, the combat, the strategy. And as the general, he's in charge of his soldier's placement and their battle plans, skills he says he honed in the Army.

The religious studies major says many new Belegrim are attracted to the sport because no one in the group judges anyone, calls them weird or laughs at their expense. But as a veteran, he says, it's more than that for him.

"People like me are out there for blood every single day, out there to win every single day," he said.

This sound of winning and blood sounds like a barrage of Nerf bullets hitting someone in the face. The circular lights bounce off the floor, like they do in a ballet studio (Where's the barre?). The walls soak up

the Nerf noises. There are dozens of black scuff marks on the floor. The kind of skids those kids left in fifth grade — you know, the ones who didn't buy the no-scuff shoes from Payless, like the school supply list clearly stated? There are backpacks, swords, arrows, shields and spare garb laying along the north wall. One Nike lacrosse bag is full of only foam axes. Such strange things have never before been placed in a lacrosse bag.

The UM club team meets every Tuesday and Thursday on the Oval to practice its craft, while Sunday afternoons serve as more of a scrimmage. The club formed in 2010, and members of the pre-existing realm of Stygia join UM students for practices so there are more members. It's laid-back. There's no outside funding, and anyone is welcome to join. They teach newbies the rules and offer encouragement along the way, but don't expect them to go easy on you. These people are the experts at this. It's like challenging Michael Jordan to a game of one-on-one: You are going



Meghan Nolt/Montana Kaimin

Tessa Weyrauch displays a recent art project to classmates during her drawing class Thursday afternoon.

to get your ass kicked. As Nic explains, many members may have been considered nerds or dorks in high school, and they didn't find their skills, but as a Belegrim, they've found their niche. This is their varsity football team, their senior prom, their sweet-sixteen bash. These are their glory days.

The various outfits are fantasy-themed, usually representing the Renaissance, Dark Ages or whatever era the player wants to portray. The rules are as simple as you want them to be. If your leg gets hit, you lose it. If two limbs get hit, you're dead. Any shot to the torso, you're dead. And please, no head-shot, unless you have a class four weapon. Junk shots are legal, though, so watch out for your baby-maker. If you get a few years into it, you can upgrade to different classes of weapons, including javelins, arrows and rocks. The official "Book of War" rulebook is 10 pages long, and it comes in pocket size. Regardless of rank, you have to hold your weapon a certain way, place your feet at a certain angle and remember, your power comes from the hips — like baseball. But success lies in the strategy, like in chess, but nerdier. It's possible.

Every summer, the regulars join thousands in Idaho for a national contest to battle, feast, laugh and drink. "Fight all day, drink all night: It's a great time," Daniel Johnson exclaims as he takes a breather from the action, his infectious smile widening as

he surveys the floor.

Daniel, 23, is not a UM student, but is one of the veterans. He dons an oriental-patterned tunic, blue MC-Hammer-ish pants and is sporting greasy hair tousled to the side. His slender face gleams with sweat as his fingers clench his belt flag, which features hand-painted robin eggs. Ding-ding: He's back in the ring now, engaged in combat with one of the few girls on the battlefield. He brings his sword up from his right hip and lands a back shot. He kills another and another, but loses out before the round finishes.

The group of nearly 30 breaks into a training session. Hakon shows several people a powerful stance to actively block an opponent's sword. Practice is nearly finished and Kaj Akumu, aka Nolan Skime, sweats profusely. The 22-year-old tosses his sword to the ground and plops down. Nolan, who is taking the semester off, played football and soccer in high school, but he says his new sport poses the biggest physical challenge of any he's played. He walked into a practice for the first time a few years ago, and thought, "These guys are bad ass."

Daniel begins to pack up, as does Nolan. The session draws to a close and garments, weapons and battle names are placed back in hiding.

Hakon, who became David Snow after exiting the door, says to a friend, "The most I ever spent on attire at one time was \$250."

It's nearly dark out, and the group walks gingerly down the stairs outside the UC. David gets into a battered, blue Volkswagen Beetle, throwing his precious shield and sword in the trunk. It's back to the real world, for now.

A few Belegrim head to Tessa's house. Her boyfriend, Thumbs (Zac Johnson), and two other roommates, who all play the sport, creak open the door as a few other DGMA members stroll inside, bearing a gift. Her friends hand her a few forms of chocolate, the ultimate get-well-soon gift. She grins, thinking about how sweet the gesture is, about how she has found her hobby, her escape, her family. These are the people she shares Thanksgiving dinners and Easter mornings with.

"We have an understanding that each of us is so unique," she says. "And we're sort of cliquey in a couple ways, but we understand each other more than most groups of people understand each other."

There may be a rivalry between Nic's unit, Uruk-hai, and Tessa's unit, the DGMA, but that's because they're the only two different teams, he says. In the real world, they hang out, so there's no bad blood. And if there are minor frustrations within the group, they're easily solved.

"All those little piddly things that normally screw up a social unit, we don't have to deal with," Nic says. "Because we get to fight it out."

dustin.askim@umontana.edu



Caitlyn Walsh/Montana Kaimin

practice in Dec. 2010. This shot would count as a body hit and therefore a kill.

MISSOULA

For the young and young at heart

Brooks Johnson

Montana Kaimin

Aaron Traylor, aka The Tallest DJ in the World, absently minds his set as the stereo busts out house jams telling everyone to “turn up the music.” The sound of bills exchanged for tokens intersperses the click of the soda fountain and children’s voices. More than 100 people pop in and out of the laser tag arena, climb into go-karts and whittle time away plugging into shoot-em-up arcade games.

Welcome to The Hub Family Entertainment Center. It’s 3 p.m. on a mild November Saturday in Missoula, and those cars packing the lot outside didn’t just stumble upon this random house of fun. It’s the grand opening, and after three months of solely word-of-mouth business, it’s about time. You have to drive 500 miles to Seattle to get the same dose of go-kart, laser tag and arcade the Hub injects, and in this business, it’s all about instant gratification.

A group of tween girls near the go-kart window wins the grand opening raffle en masse: Two orders of cheese fries and a new cooler join their party.

“You were, like, freaking out.”

“I was, like, freaking out!”

They discuss what they’d do if the cooler were somehow a go-kart and pledge, “We’re going to remember this day forever.”

In here, anything is possible. It reeks of the American Dream. And in this case, the American Dream smells like sugar and burnt rubber, but it feels so innocent it’s hard to be a cynic.

“It’s no less of a viable business than a casino or a carpet store or an auto dealership,” owner Norman Parmiter said.

The Hub’s roughly a mile off the first or last interstate exit into Missoula, depending on which direction you come from. Pass the hotel, casino and auto dealerships and take that giant roundabout east. Hub’s the utilitarian warehouse painted blue and yellow.

A big sign points toward big doors, and all attempts at maturity should be left in the car, please. A circular info booth staffed by kids and computers marks the center of the wide-open space.



Brooks Johnson/Montana Kaimin

Onlookers wait their turn and cheer for their riders at the Hub Family Entertainment Center on the western edge of Missoula. Norman Parmiter’s new go-kart, laser tag and arcade emporium is built for families by his family.

With such an expansive space, it’s hard to tell what busy looks like. But with people filling every line of sight, this is probably it. Then there’s the obvious start to any journey: the Pit Stop, home to burgers and soda and limitless bar food — without the bar.

On each flank of the Pit Stop are the arcades. On the left, plastic guns, stationary cars and “Dance Dance Revolution” precede four pool tables and an air hockey machine. To the right, ski-ball and ticket-earning games for the young’uns sit silent in a light to cure all hangovers. Facing the Pit Stop and across the circle of blue polo shirts are windows into the track, a dramatically planned half-mile of concrete trampled by Italian-made electric go-karts.

“Heat 73, make your way to the track.”

Shiny red go-karts careen around tight corners, occasionally spinning out. The action is suspended, the kart righted and again they’re off! Speed, brake, speed, speed, brake, brake. If there’s a science to it, no one here is aware. Onlookers gawk from the narrow waiting area between the windows and track, their heads whipping back and forth like tennis spectators hanging their arms over the tall railing.

Groups as big as 20 and as small as six enter and exit the doors to the laser tag arena, a two-story setting right out of “Escape From New York” with a healthy dose of DayGlo paint. The packs are heavy and make you feel like Master Chief in “Halo,” with the action centering on ramps upstairs and dark

“This seemed like the time to do it. I think the kids and people need a place to be.”

Norman Parmiter, owner

corners downstairs. Not recommended for smokers.

“Order 59. Order 59.”

The Hub Family Entertainment Center is also a family business center. The Parmiters manage it with their three sons, and they all seem to dig it.

“For years I’ve been taking the boys different places like this around the country, and I’ve always thought it’d be fun to have one of these places,” Parmiter said. “I’ve been a builder my whole life. That market seemed like it was going downhill, and this seemed

like the time to do it. I think the kids and people need a place to be.”

With a son about to turn 21, what parent wouldn’t build a dry campus from scratch? Using the skills from his previous life, Parmiter built the 52,000-square-foot facility, and he’s placed his bet that the market for fun will never go downhill.

The parking lot is nearly full at 4:30 p.m. At 8 p.m., it’s bursting at the still-powdery, concrete seams. Gone are the small children. In come the small adults by the hundreds.

The typical Hub-goer now can be described as “the sports fan”: loose clothes, baseball hats and swagger dominate.

Then there’s the old folks, a testament to the everlasting inner child surviving a jaded era. Balding, bald and brash, these older sports fans ride go-karts like they already lost their driver’s licenses and high-five like they might on the way home.

Then there are the stereotype-breakers, Seth and Erinda Martin. They seem out of place hanging on the railing in well-fitting clothes and less-than-cocky demeanor. But the couple got here the same as everyone else: They heard it was a good time, and they’re here to do the same.

Seth, approaching 30 with

long blond hair under a fedora, has squatted in his share of go-karts, but this is Erinda’s first time. She’s excited in a way that only comes across as a broad smile. She only hopes they don’t stop her or slow her down, as sketchy turns will won’t.

The race ends faster than it should, as always, and the Martins come out beaming, helmet hair under control. They anxiously track down their printed race report, and Erinda gloats, “I didn’t take last place!”

Seth gets fourth, but he’s OK with it. He chalks it up to that nasty back corner and all the spinouts. They’ll be back, they say, and maybe give a little more oomph around those turns.

Nothing slows down in here, and even when the lights go out and the karts get their all-night charge, there’s the dreaming. Just like your parents told you not to, you had too much sugar and fell asleep with wacky dreams of laughter, tight corners and screeches into infinity. This is America. You can wake up and head to the Hub and make that dream a reality all over again.

brooks.johnson@umontana.edu

HOW TO [Pretend to pay attention in class]

By Eben Keller



Illustration by Callan Berry

Last night was rough for you. Maybe you were up late studying, downtown at the bars or just couldn't sleep because of your stress hemorrhoids.

Now you're facing the light of

day, unprepared for your painfully boring morning class. It's cold and dreary, and quite honestly you are in no mood to participate in a class discussion over your teacher's poorly designed PowerPoint.

We sympathize and have assembled the best advice to fake it till you make it. But if any professors are reading this: We totally don't do this in class. We're good students. Why are you laughing?

eben.wragge-keller@umontana.edu

ONE Always have supplies.

This is critical. You can't pretend to give a crap without a notebook and a pen in your hand. If you're actually paying attention, you don't need this equipment half as much. But since you're definitely not, you might as well be in costume. If you're dedicated, doodle excessively. Make it a game, and give yourself a point for every snake you can draw between the blue lines of your notebook. Remember to always draw left to right.

TWO Proper eye contact

This one takes practice. If you make eye contact at the wrong moment, you're getting called on no matter what. Cue heart jumping into your throat and stammering in front of class. But you can't gaze at the wall with a bit of drool coming out of your mouth, either. Be sure to have your eyes pointed at anything within a five-foot radius of the teacher. If you can chew on a pencil and furrow your brow, that's perfect, but don't forget to blink. An occasional nod doesn't hurt, either.

THREE Fauxticipating.

Unless you're in a giant lecture hall, there is no way to make it the full period without making your presence known. This is a common mistake for newbie slackers. But since you have no idea what anyone is talking about in class, you can't exactly jump into the conversation. The trick is to raise your hand to answer a question just as the prof calls on someone else. Put it down halfway through their answer. If the prof calls on you after, just say that generic student already said what you were thinking.

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GLASS
From page 3

Merriam, who handles all questions regarding the city's public work projects, said Missoula's biggest disadvantage regarding waste management is not a lack of interest.

"If citizens want the city to support glass recycling in Missoula, then they need to come to the city council and say, 'We want you to fund this. Will you tax us?'"

Merriam maintained the mayor is fully committed to keeping Missoula as green as possible, but that glass recycling issues will have to be solved elsewhere.

Erik Dickson, transportation engineer for Missoula County, addressed the problem glass poses for potential use in road projects.

"You need something that binds. If it's not stable, the asphalt just breaks apart," Dickson said.

Road engineers, who use recycled asphalt and concrete in county road projects, remain skeptical about the future of glass.

However, Dickson pointed out innovation doesn't always come from within.

"Change sometimes comes from the private sector or private contractors," he said.

When Allied Waste purchased Missoula Valley Recycling in August 2012, it began offering a no-sort recycling service to customers. However, the private waste management company is still not accepting glass because it claims glass contaminates the load, which would require it to be sent to the landfill.

David Seeberger of Allied Waste said all the recycled material it collects is sent to Seattle for processing. Industrial sorters with laser sensors and air-pressure devices can sift through paper and plastic with a minimal amount of

human supervision. But glass isn't a recycling option at this time.

"Seattle doesn't want to see glass in those shipments," Seeberger said.

If a few random bottles make their way into a load, it's not enough to disrupt the process.

"But if there's too much glass, they have to reject it. If they have to pick through a bunch of broken glass, it poses a safety hazard to their workers and the separators," Seeberger said.

These kinds of problems affect the amount of money Seeberger and Allied Waste can charge for loads, which in turn affect the cost effectiveness of the entire process.

"I have to pay for collection, transportation and employee wages before I can even look at making a profit," Seeberger said.

Several smaller recycling companies faced the challenge of keeping glass out of the landfill over the years.

Formed in 1992, Missoula Valley Recycling attempted to recycle glass by shipping crushed glass to Colorado with the help of Allied Waste (then known as BFI) by selling it to companies like Ozzies Oil Co. or by participating in the city's attempt to use it in road fill in 2002.

All of these programs eventually failed because of a glut of supply and lack of cost effectiveness.

Martin NoRunner started Intergenerational Equity Recycling in October 2010 and immediately distinguished his company by offering to pick up glass as part of his services.

This wouldn't have been possible without his early partnership with Gary Linton. I.E. Recycling provides crushed glass to his GreenCrete company for free. But NoRunner is looking to expand.

"Currently we are pulverizing 2,000 to 3,000 pounds per week," NoRunner said. "But as we continue to grow and accumulate a larger clientele base, we will need to find

or make a consistent source where we can unload our product."

Another local company, Garden City Recycling, recently offered glass pick up for its customers. In turn, the company unloads the glass with GreenCrete for a fee.

At this time, Linton is unconcerned about an overabundance of supply from the community.

"It would take a lot more glass to do what we want to do at GreenCrete," he said.

One local company bypasses the need for glass recycling services altogether.

Missoula's Bayern Brewing recently purchased a 14-ton bottle washing machine, which cost owner Jurgen Knoller a reported \$250,000.

This is just the latest step in an ongoing effort by Bayern to dodge the recycling issue altogether by reusing glass beer bottles already manufactured.

Bayern accepts standard brown beer bottles and gives a 5-cent refund for each clean bottle returned.

Other locals find creative uses for their spare glass. A few lower-Rattlesnake residents have constructed walls on their property that use glass bottles as their primary construction material.

For over a decade, the Good Food Store has accepted glass jars and lids — provided they're clean and undamaged — reused by customers to purchase certain bulk items.

The Zootown Arts Community Center uses a small amount of glass for art projects that fuse different colored glass pieces together.

But wall construction and art projects aside, it's clear Missoula still has a way to go before its glass recycling needs are handled efficiently and locally.

NoRunner offered to donate his company's glass material to the city to be used in the construction of pathway systems throughout Missoula but acknowledges funding is



Thom Bridge/Montana Kaimin

Partly pulverized glass gathers en masse at Gary Linton's house waiting to be recycled. Linton owns GreenCrete, a local glass processor that turns glass into concrete supplies.

an issue.

"I feel that getting local companies and local city government involved would help this process really get going," NoRunner said. "I've spoken to some local officials, and the ball is basically in their court."

NoRunner is hopeful his glass after-product can be sold to local private businesses, but if recent history is an indicator, Missoula hasn't provided a large market.

"In a place like Missoula, there isn't a lot of heavy industry. You've got to go to a place that has

enough volume to support it," Allied Waste's David Seeberger said. "Since there's not enough local demand, right now that place is the West coast."

As for Linton and his GreenCrete, glass recycling prospects have an uncertain future.

"Me and my partners, we're all working to feed our families, but we're doing this on the side," Linton said. "We're not giving up. I believe in this 100 percent. It just leaves me wondering, 'What's the next step?'"

christopher.allen@umontana.edu



UPCYCLED — 517 SOUTH HIGGINS AVENUE

Nature has all the best cures

How to conserve the environment, spend less cash and have more free time

Riley Pavelich
Montana Kaimin

The folks putting on the Inland Northwest Permaculture Conference think they know how to save the world. Environmentalists predict a bleak future without a fundamental shift in agricultural, societal and economic practices. As the status quo changes in American society, a search begins for ecologically responsible means of living right here in Missoula.

A gathering of ideas and ideologists convene in the University Center Nov. 9-11 for the second annual Permaculture Conference to address such challenges.

Participants from across the Northwest will advance their method of adaptation for the future: permaculture.

Permaculture is a design concept that creates systems based on nature's cycles capable of supporting human need. It is a concept that can be applied to every aspect of life.

Permaculture boasts no waste, no irrigation and high-yielding land use with less work. Permaculture farms produce as much as modern counterparts, but the methodology allows nature to take its course instead of using heavy machinery.

Many locals embrace a sustainable lifestyle, but it's hardly the norm.

Much of the mainstream American food supply system is outsourced to the Southern Hemisphere. Derek Kanwischer, a 2010 University of Montana graduate with a master's in environmental sciences and founder of the UM Forum for Living with Appropriate Technology, said the average food item on our tables traveled about 1,500 miles to get there. He said large corporations essentially control the growth, production and

distribution of food.

Also, fossil fuels power the large majority of our homes and economies. These resources exist in finite amounts and will someday be exhausted. Michael Pilarski, who began teaching permaculture design courses 30 years ago, said people will turn to sustainable strategies as the systems in place continue to disintegrate.

"We're facing some really difficult challenges ahead of us, and if we don't adapt and prepare ourselves for the post-petroleum era, our society simply cannot sustain itself," Kanwischer said.

Kanwischer said techniques of permaculture could work any piece of land into a food forest using ancient techniques to reap the most benefit from any ecological system. The movement favors simple solutions instead of technological advancements. It's as easy as burying downed logs to retain moisture in the soil and encourage fungal growth.

Permaculture has social and economic components as well.

Rick Sherman is one of the founding members of the Sundog Ecovillage, a commune 30 miles east of Missoula designed by the principals of permaculture.

"(Permaculture) can be applied not just to growing food but to every aspect of our culture and infrastructure," Sherman said.

Permaculture affects society because it calls for increased co-dependence within a community.

"The idea is that we can be less resource-intensive if we share things," Kanwischer said. "Our best resource is our neighbors."

Economically, permaculture looks to create localized markets not based on profit or consumer ideology. Instead, people would trade and barter resources to meet their needs from within the community.



Meghan Nolt/Montana Kaimin

Mara Menahan, a student resident at the UM FLAT feeds the chickens Thursday morning. Chickens provide eggs for the residents at the house where students demonstrate the practicality of sustainable living.

The Permaculture Conference hopes to strengthen ties between permaculture enthusiasts in the area and to educate and attract newcomers. There's a full schedule of 50 presenters, 70 workshops, several fieldtrips and a Saturday-night contra dance. Work-trade scholarships are available, and UM students can receive academic credit.

The Missoula community will be well-represented at the conference. Locals like Mark Vander Meer of Bad Goat Forest Productions, Elaine Sheff of Meadow-sweet Herbs, Paul Wheaton, who operates the largest permaculture forum on the internet, and Josh

Slotnick of Garden City Harvest will all speak.

"This event is extremely important to pull in people from around the region to network and meet each other," Sherman, who will also present at the conference, said. "From this, we can start making it much more of a possibility for people to get a handle on permaculture."

It's no coincidence the conference will be held in Missoula. Local organizations such as Free Cycles, Garden City Harvest, Home ReSource and the UM FLAT exemplify the city's abundance of engagement in the grassroots permaculture movement.

"Missoula is positioning itself as a stunning beacon of information and people actually doing the work," Sherman said.

Kanwischer said some people think permaculture is too good to be true. They see the movement as the utopian dream of tree-huggers. Kanwischer said being informed about permaculture reveals how pragmatic the concept really is.

"There is always more and more pressing need to make this movement happen," Kanwischer said. "That's why the permaculture convergence seems so important."

riley.pavelich@umontana.edu

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BIG SKY FOOTBALL

B.S. Predictions: Top dogs jockey for position.

Andrew Bixler
Montana Kaimin

The Grizzlies have a bye this week while preparing for the biggest game of the season: the 112th Brawl of the Wild. But that doesn't mean there isn't plenty of scintillating Big Sky action to behold this weekend.

Portland State (3-6, 2-4 BSC) at Montana State (8-1, 5-1 BSC)

Montana State and Portland State boast the top offenses in the conference, although the Cats also own the league's best defense. Both use the run to open up the pass, and the Cats look to ride the legs of junior running back Cody Kirk, who has 11 touchdowns this season.

BOTTOM LINE:

Montana State's bruising one-two punch of Kirk and Orenzo Davis is a handful and will prove to be too much for Portland State's defense to handle.

PREDICTION:

The Cats stay in the hunt for the Big Sky Conference Championship, 37-17.

Northern Colorado (3-6, 2-4

BSC) at Weber State (1-8, 1-5 BSC)

Northern Colorado is coming off a clutch four-point victory at Portland State, overcoming an 18-point deficit in the third quarter to beat the Vikings 32-28. Senior wide-out Dominic Gunn is the Bears' only real threat, but he should be enough to put down the listless Wildcats.

BOTTOM LINE:

In the only unappealing matchup of the weekend, the air attack will win it for the Bears.

PREDICTION:

28-10, Northern Colorado wins.

UC Davis (3-6, 2-4 BSC) at Eastern Washington (7-2, 5-1 BSC)

Eastern Washington squeaks back into the FCS Top 5 after dropping to seventh following a disappointing loss to (then) 2-4 Southern Utah two weeks ago. The Aggies, on the other hand, are playing for pride and trying to send out retiring head coach Bob Biggs on a happy note. In their way is the Eagles formidable passing

game, which is run by redshirt freshman quarterback Vernon Adams, who last week accounted for 356 of the Eagles 542 total yards of offense against Cal Poly.

BOTTOM LINE:

Eastern's soaring offense and eyesore of a field prove to be too much for the Aggies.

PREDICTION:

Eastern Washington wins easily, 45-14.

Southern Utah (3-4, 4-6 BSC) at Northern Arizona (8-1, 6-0 BSC)

Southern Utah played the role of David this season, beating the then No. 1 Eastern Washington Eagles at home 30-27. It has all the tools to beat another Goliath this week in Northern Arizona, the only undefeated team left in conference play. However, its last upset was at home, and Northern Arizona is one tough place to travel to because of the high elevation (Flagstaff City Hall sits at almost 7,000 feet above sea level.) If Southern Utah wants a chance, its senior quarterback Brad Sorensen will have to come through big.

BOTTOM LINE:

Southern Utah needs to play a perfect game, and Northern Arizona might overlook them. A perfect storm will allow the Thunderbirds to steal one on the road and throw the Big Sky Conference standings into disarray.

PREDICTION:

Sorensen throws for 300-plus yards and completes nearly 75 percent of his passes while picking apart NAU's secondary. 42-38, T-Birds.

Idaho State (1-8, 0-6 BSC) at Cal Poly (7-2, 5-1 BSC)

Cal Poly's leading rusher, senior Deonte Williams, is second in the conference in rushing, having rumbled for 798 yards and eight touchdowns this season. Idaho State is last in rush defense. Its only weapon is all-conference senior quarterback Kevin Yost, but the Mustangs' "D" should compensate.

BOTTOM LINE:

Cal Poly breezes by the Bengals in a nice confidence-booster before the season finale at Northern Arizona.

PREDICTION:

37-10, in favor of the 'Stangs.
andrew.bixler@umontana.edu

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