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Montana Kaimin, October 21, 2010

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7 SPORTS
Jacked up

ONLINE
ASUM looks at
Univeristy Center fee
and responsible finances
during Wednesday meeting



3 NEWS
Debating race
in "Twilight"

montana **kaimin**

Volume CXIII Issue 30 www.montanakaimin.com Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010

CAMPUS



Sally Finneran/ Montana Kaimin

Students stop walking and freeze Wednesday afternoon as a way to draw attention to Wear Purple Day. Students wore purple to raise awareness about suicide caused by bullying.

Students come to a halt:

Participants advance LGBT bullying awareness

Alyssa Small
Montana Kaimin

The Oval was filled with the usual crowd of people talking and moving from one class to another Wednesday afternoon. But at the sound of a whistle, about 150 people wearing purple froze in the middle of whatever they were doing — whether they were walking, riding a bike or hugging a friend — and stayed still for three minutes.

"There was an obvious chatter when people were gathering, and then it went silent," theater Professor Ezra LeBank said. "It was really neat to have that very apparent sense of stillness in a place that is usually very active."

The idea originated in LeBank's theater and civic dialogue class, which focuses on

the theater's ability to comment on world events and attitudes.

LeBank said the eight-person class has spent the semester talking about the conversation between the theater and the world, and now they are entering that conversation. The issue they discussed Wednesday was lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender bullying.

"It's a very simple but very potent way of catching people's attention," LeBank said. "We figured if we did a freeze wearing purple, it wouldn't be throwing things at people. Instead, we'd just be stopping to get people's attention."

Oct. 20 is National Wear Purple Day which brings attention to the large number of LGBT suicides that have resulted from bullying.

According to a survey of 7,261 middle and high school students conducted last year by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, nine out of 10 LGBT students were harassed at school, and six out of 10 LGBT students felt unsafe in school.

LeBank said the class had been brainstorming what "missions" they might do throughout the semester when a student brought up the famous freeze done by the theater group Improv Everywhere in Grand Central Station in New York City. When the class expressed an interest in Wear Purple Day, the event began to take shape.

Zach Theissen, a student in LeBank's class, said he hoped the freeze

See LGBT, page 8

What would water want

Erin Cole
Montana Kaimin

During his Wednesday night presentation titled "Basins of Relations: Thinking like a Watershed," Brock Dolman showed his audience a picture of our planet.

"If you believe this entity is known as Planet Earth, then you should think again," he said. "It's known as Planet Water."

Planet Water, according to Dolman, is in trouble due to human dependence on fossil fuels and its "monkeying" with the watershed.

Dolman, a wildlife biologist and co-founder and co-owner of Occidental Arts and Ecology Center and the Sowing Circle Intentional Community based in Northern California, spoke as part of The University of Montana's Sustainability Lecture Series.

He said a recent poll asked Americans to name a part of the water cycle. Over half of those polled were silent.

"They couldn't say 'ocean' or 'cloud,'" Dolman said. "It's job security for me, because look at the amount of water-illiterate people out there."

Dolman said it's imperative that humans understand the water cycle and our dependence on it as consequences are fast approaching.

"At every scale, form follows function and water is the lubricant of life, the supporter of function," he said.

According to Dolman, 97 percent of Earth's water is found in the oceans, two percent is locked in ice caps and a mere one percent is ground water.

That one percent, half of which Dolman says has been

See WATER, page 5



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EDITORIAL

Quit crying wolf

by Joe Pavlish, News Editor

Jacob, a Native American character in the "Twilight" series, has recently been the center of quite a hubbub about racial undertones, but nobody seems to notice the creep in the other room.

The Office of Diversity Programming in the UC held a discussion called "Keeping Jacob on the Reservation" after Wednesday night's viewing of "Twilight: New Moon."

Josh Peters-McBride, the diversity program adviser for The University of Montana, said racism still exists in our culture, but it's hidden. He said "Twilight" adds to this overt racism by portraying the white character as civilized and self-controlled and the Native American character as animalistic and impulsive.

"[The portrayal] adds to the way people depict Caucasian individuals and Native individuals," he said. "People don't make that connection, but it's there."

I saw the movies. I didn't notice anything racist, which Peters-McBride would probably attribute to my cultural naivety to the racism that is everywhere. But even now that I'm thinking about the "racist undertones," I still don't really see anything racist. It's a fictional story where groups of people play roles — nothing more.

I can't help but worry that because I am a white kid from Montana, I am inherently, and perhaps naively, racist. I'd say that's probably the work of decades of race activists raising awareness of a harmful way of thinking.

However, people who actually are racist are probably unaffected by talking about "Twilight's" "overt racism," while those who see racism everywhere are probably unaffected by it because they already agree. That means the target of racism awareness should be people in the middle. Like me, I doubt those people see these undertones, and calling everything racism only desensitizes people to a serious problem: real racism.

Maybe it's just me, but it seems like we're focusing on the wrong thing here.

Edward, the vampire heartthrob, was born in June of 1901, while Edward's love interest, Bella, was born in September of 1987 in a fictional story set in 2003. First of all, it disgusts me that I could find that online, but more importantly, that means Edward is 102 years old and Bella is 17. Apparently, 17-year-old girls are into guys who sparkle in the sun, read poetry and watch them while they sleep, but to me, that's textbook ephebophilia, or pedophilia for teenagers.

Peters-McBride said Edward is portrayed as self-controlled and beyond human weakness. Granted, I'm not a 17-year-old girl, which seems to be the target audience, but I think Edward is portrayed as a creep.

"Making society choose [between Team Edward and Team Jacob] just adds to the racism in our culture," Peters-McBride said.

I guess I look at it more like choosing between a socially adept, buff guy and a lanky, awkward old man pretending to be a teenager. I'm Team Jacob, because when I create a fictional self, I go with wolf over ephebophile every time.



joseph.pavlish@umontana.edu

COLUMN

Disturbing the Peace Two cents and a soapbox

by Jed Nussbaum



I missed the "What is a hippy" panel held in the UC a couple weeks ago. Despite my dreadlocks, affinity for jam bands and general love for 1960s counterculture, the term 'hippie' (which, according to my spell check and general knowledge of the term, is the correct spelling) is one I avoid. Nothing turns me off like some burned-out trustafarian kid earnestly using terms like 'irie' and asking me where the 'heady nugs' are, and unfortunately that's what the term has degenerated to.

Apparently, if I'd have gone to the panel I would have found agreement on this sad fact from panelists Trent Atkins and Scott Holstein. Where we would have differed is our perception of modern day activism and its representation on campus, or lack thereof.

Unlike Atkins and Holstein, in my years here at The University of Montana I've felt bombarded by self-tailored activists waving clipboards at me as I try to enter the UC, shattering my sunny days on the oval with "Down with Bush" chants, and scrawling out grim statistics about one issue or another in sidewalk chalk.

Recently, one of my professors espoused the "good ol' days" at UM when 5000 students would show up on the Oval to protest the Vietnam War. Is it the sheer lack of numbers involved with recent protests that disappoints these folks? Maybe the poor turnout is indicative of a disenchantment following the '60s due to the fact that, for all of the flower power generation's chants and songs, they didn't accomplish much. They may have been responsible for changing public sentiment about Vietnam, but with all said and done the same complaints about crooked politicians, greed, police, etc. persist 40 years later. Many hippies became the power structure they fought against.

Despite the cynical tone I adopt when speaking about UM activism, I'm a far cry from being anti-activist. My disinterest in participation stems from this question: Where are the solutions? Chanting obscenities and waving signs is easy, but unless a smart alternative to the problem is presented, a hundred tents in front of the clock tower doesn't mean much.

I'm also wary of the igno-

rance bred by a mob mentality. Too often the greater good of the purpose falls by the wayside. Last April I observed a rally in Portland, Ore., protesting unjust police violence. A noble cause, no doubt, but as the riot police pushed the crowd out of the street I heard a bandana-clad protester call out, "Oh look folks, they're supposed to be protecting our freedom!" to which another enthusiastic anarchist responded, "Yeah, fuck freedom!" Aaand another good cause negated by the infectious excitement of overzealous righteous brotherhood.

We are a generation desperately searching for a cause to fight for to feel some sort of righteous self-affirmation, some connection to the romanticized freedom fighters of our parents' generation. If there's one thing I advocate in this column (my own platform of activism; ironic isn't it?), it's to better inform oneself. So wave your signs, do-gooders, but learn to question what you're fighting for and what the solutions are, or you're just one more mouth with a megaphone with nothing substantial to say.

jedidiah.nussbaum@umconnect.umt.edu

The way we were



In this 1914 view the Montana Grizzlies varsity football team takes on Bozeman during a game in Missoula. Morton J. Elrod was on hand that day and captured the action on the UM campus. It's a far cry from the Washington Grizzly Stadium of today. Photo Courtesy of Mansfield Library, Archives and Special Collections A.I.b-027

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CAMPUS

Panel discusses racist, sexist themes in "Twilight"

Kate Whittle
Montana Kaimin

Is "Twilight" racist? Speakers at a Wednesday night panel discussion in the University Center Theater agreed the film has problematic elements. Last night the University Student Involvement program hosted "Keeping Jacob on the Reservation: Is Twilight Racist?" About 30 people attended the screening of "Twilight: New Moon" and the following discussion.

In "Twilight", the character Bella Swan is romantically involved with Edward Cullen, a white vampire, and Jacob Black, a Native American teenager who is a werewolf. In "New Moon", Jacob spends many of the scenes in the film running around a forest with his fellow tribal members, who are also werewolves, clad in nothing but shorts and tennis shoes.

University of Montana Assistant Journalism Professor and Director of Native American Journalism Projects Jason

Begay was on the panel as well as UM History Professor Tobin Shearer, who said that while it can be hard to take the movie seriously, people might be absorbing the underlying themes. "I'm concerned about the message being told," he said.

Begay said the women in his family have all seen "Twilight", but don't have any issues with it. "They just like to see somebody portraying a Native American," he said, and noted that Taylor Lautner, who plays Jacob, does not actually have any Native American heritage.

Begay said he saw an obvious domestic violence analogy in one scene, where a Native American woman has a scarred face because her werewolf husband, as the movie explains, 'got angry once' and injured her. "Even without the [werewolf] metaphor, that scene is a striking commentary on domestic violence," Begay said.

UM student and Blackfeet tribal member Keith Rock



Steel Brooks/Montana Kaimin

UM student Keith Rock comments on the racial implications of the "Twilight" series and the movie New Moon. Rock, a member of the Blackfeet tribe, says that people often project stereotypes on him, and movies like this don't help.

said Twilight plays into racist stereotypes. "As a Native American male, I am just assumed to have hurt a woman," he said. "I saw that in the film, and it was just a slap in the face."

Shearer said "Twilight" echoes the "noble savage" trope that's been overused in Hollywood. "You see the Jacob figure losing his civilized attire to take on a modern-

day version of a loincloth and moccasins," Shearer said, "in comparison with Edward, who's always dressed to the nines."

Jacob's highly muscled physique is a big draw for many people watching Twilight. "He's ripped like white bodybuilders are ripped," Shearer said. "He's following white norms there, as well."

Begay said while he doesn't

know how important "Twilight" is, it's worth having a conversation about. Begay said he's taken his nieces to see "Twilight", and while they love the movies, he hopes they don't take the themes too seriously. "I'd hate to think of my nieces growing up and meeting a Jacob Black and having to deal with that anger," he said.

katherine.whittle@umt.edu

FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 21, 2010

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

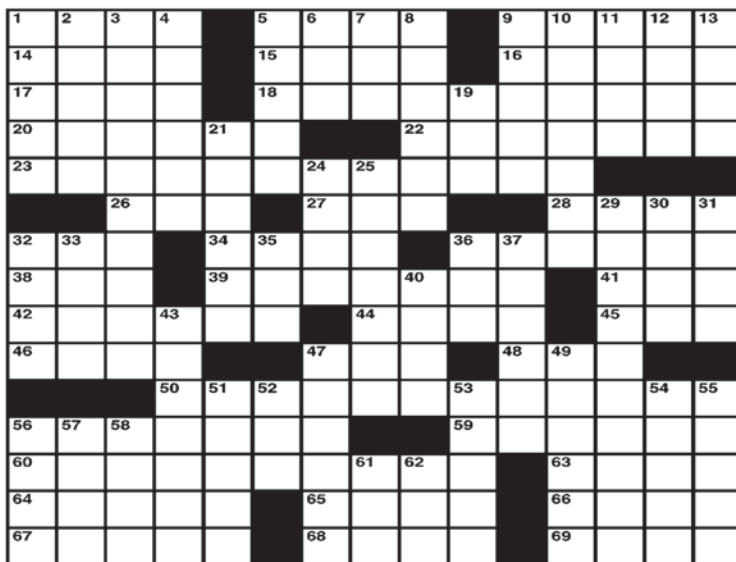
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 A party to
- 5 Quite the fashion plate
- 9 Spring bloomer
- 14 His epitaph reads "And the beat goes on"
- 15 Faulkner femme fatale Varner
- 16 BP merger partner
- 17 TV role for Bamboo Harvester
- 18 Pie flop?
- 20 Italian deli sandwich
- 22 Travelers' burdens
- 23 Pie taste-test site?
- 26 X, at times
- 27 www bookmark
- 28 Film director's headaches
- 32 Luther's lang.
- 34 First Amendment lobbying gp.
- 36 Numbers game
- 38 Buckeyes' home: Abbr.
- 39 Pie to-do?
- 41 Post- opposite
- 42 One in distress?
- 44 Slug or song ending
- 45 Loft material
- 46 Apartment manager, familiarly
- 47 Quaff for Andy Capp
- 48 Curling setting
- 50 Pie charts?
- 56 Like the auditory and optic nerves, e.g.
- 59 Aspen topper
- 60 Pie patter?
- 63 Prohibited thing
- 64 Days of Hanukkah, e.g.
- 65 Flag
- 66 First name in Olympics gymnastics
- 67 Like beer halls, usually
- 68 Eyewear, in ads
- 69 Raid target

DOWN

- 1 High-tech debut of 1981



By Ed Sessa

10/21/10

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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10/21/10

- 2 Grammy winner Jones
- 3 Bridge opening
- 4 "Fuggedaboutit!"
- 5 1980s-'90s slugger Fielder
- 6 "Whazzat?"
- 7 Seine sight
- 8 Longtime ice cream cake brand
- 9 Clapton title woman
- 10 Wet one's whistle
- 11 Johns, to Elton
- 12 Top
- 13 Male swans
- 19 "Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-": Irish lullaby
- 21 Hardly distinguished
- 24 Nostalgic song title word
- 25 Godiva product
- 29 Tunnel entrance of sorts
- 30 Gumbo ingredient
- 31 Chop
- 32 Mars and Venus
- 33 Name meaning "hairy" in Hebrew
- 35 -de-sac

- 36 Airline to Oslo
- 37 Slight market improvement
- 40 Disconcerting glance
- 43 Hand-holding events
- 47 Parcels out
- 49 Requiring change, briefly
- 51 Reverence
- 52 A pad helps protect it

- 53 Elizabeth I's beloved
- 54 Mild expletives
- 55 Brown ermine
- 56 "Get real!"
- 57 Guy who "wore a diamond," in the song "Copacabana"
- 58 ABM component?
- 61 Scary current
- 62 Grammy-winning Dr.

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TRICK OR READ

CAMPUS

Adjuncts bring the outside in

Jayne Fraser
Montana Kaimin

Dick Lane has taught thousands of students the quadratic formula and properties of linear functions since he came to The University of Montana as a graduate student in 1974.

But he's not a mathematics professor.

Lane is an adjunct. Nearly 24 percent of all courses at the University of Montana — and half of those at the College of Technology — are taught by a "non-tenured" faculty member. Most students don't notice the difference.

"They will look just like regular faculty members," Interim Provost Perry Brown said.

The reasons for hiring instructors on short-term, one-to-three year contracts are varied, as are the stories of those teachers and researchers who sign them.

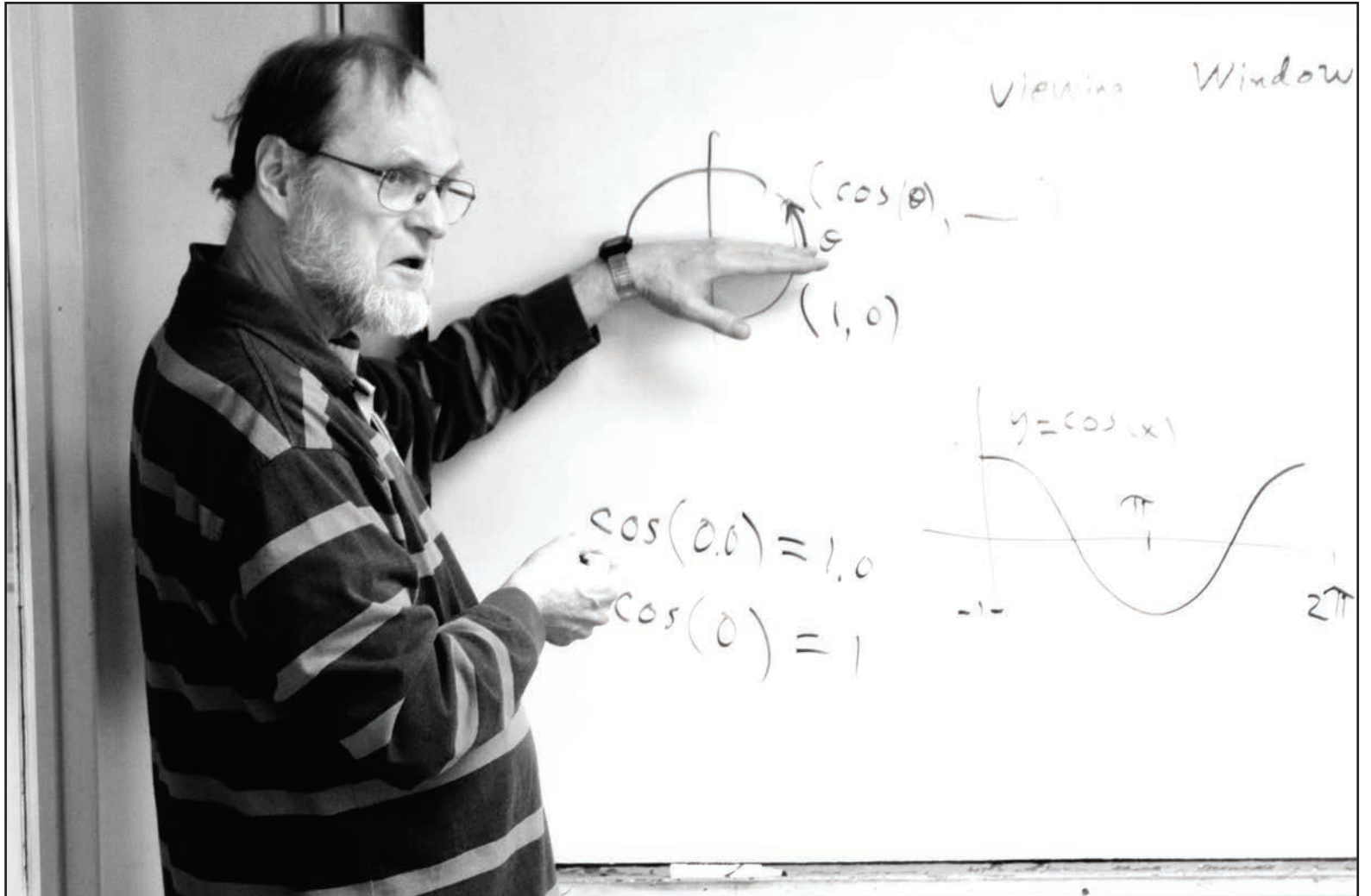
Flexibility

For carpentry instructor David Neu, the timing was just right.

He worked with wood for more than three decades when a part-time position opened in Missoula.

"I was getting where I was productive as a carpenter but getting to the age where I was giving more jobs to younger workers," Neu said.

Neu earned a Masters of Fine Arts degree in creative writing and an undergraduate degree in elementary education. These studies help him teach students both the physical act of wood-



Steel Brooks/Montana Kaimin

Mathematics adjunct Dick Lane explains quadratic equations to his Math 151 class Wednesday afternoon. Lane has taught over 150 sections in his time at the University, but is still only an adjunct rather than a full professor.

working and the intellectual process tied to it.

"I didn't know it would make me a professor of carpentry, but they say education is never lost," he said.

Brown said many adjuncts teach part-time because they simply love the university atmosphere or only seek part-time employment.

And the short-term contracts give schools flexibility in scheduling and helps them guarantee enough sections of critical courses for students.

Tenured professorship posi-

tions require costly and time-consuming national searches that simply aren't feasible when enrollment grows or interest in a particular major jumps unexpectedly.

Though the qualifications for adjunct faculty are still rigorous, the process is shorter and quicker, Brown said.

Additionally, adjuncts generally cost less to hire than a professor with a long-term commitment because of nuances in salary, insurance and other university benefits, said Rob Gannon, UM's Director of the Academic Budget.

This has been helpful in balancing budgets as enrollment rises, particularly at the COT whose reliance on adjuncts has doubled since Fall 2005. Nearly 70 percent of instructors in the Applied Arts and Sciences program are non-tenured.

"It's not where we want to be, but in the short term it's more effective," Gannon said.

Opportunity

Short-term faculty contracts were originally signed to bring professional experts to universities for special courses or research.

"They are on the leading edge and they bring in lots of great examples that really make it live for the students," Brown said, noting a breadth of experience from part-time instructors like retired congressman Pat Williams and Missoula Parks Department Director Donna Gaukler.

Non-tenured positions provide opportunities for professionals to dabble in alternative interests.

Pediatric cardiologist Bruce Hardy loves teaching an honors literature course.

See **ADJUNCTS**, page 5

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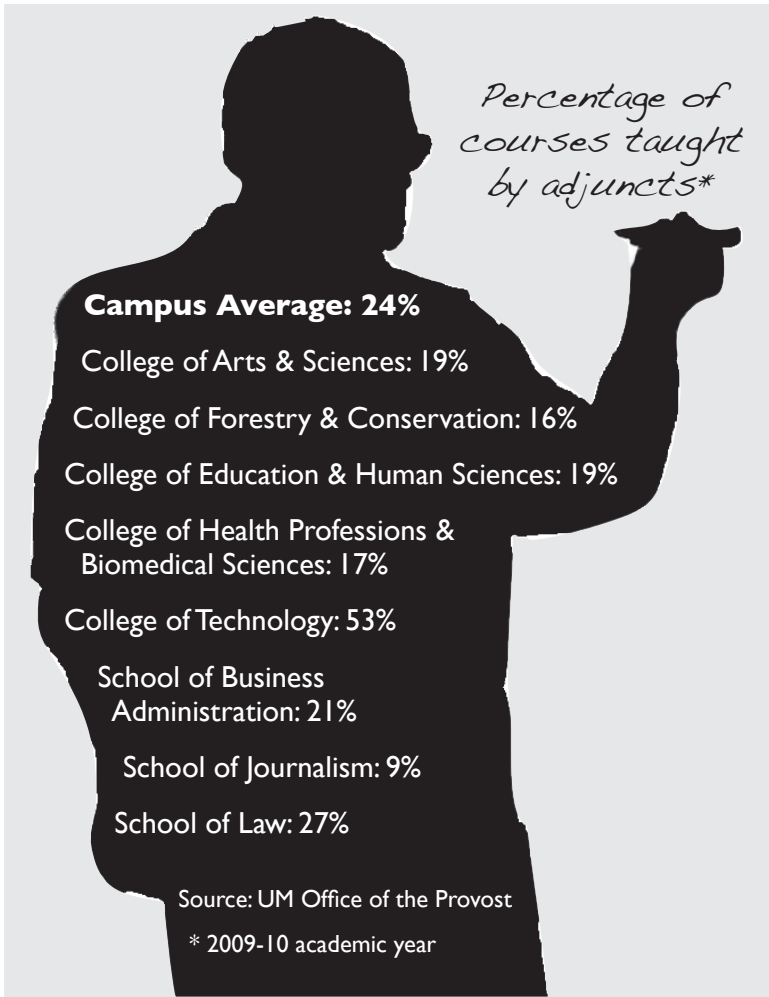
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ADJUNCTS From page 4

Psychotherapist Nancy Seldin, EdD, works as a counselor and trainer at Missoula's Center for Integrative Care, but adjunct status lets her teach without the full commitment of professorship.

"I was not interested in doing research," she said.

She has taught various courses for the Counseling Education program since 1992 and now helps with a one-year Peace Corps program that provides cross-cultural work skills.

Brown said the connections with professionals who have fresh, real-world experience is empowering for students.

"Sometimes students will make that connection and intern with them later," he said.

Jeopardy

But the diverse situations and reasons for hiring short-term faculty also can make life as an adjunct tenuous.

"All adjuncts are concerned that financing for their positions is year to year unlike a tenured professor where the state has to guarantee their salary or a substantial portion of it," said Doug Coffin from the Faculty Union.

Adjuncts who work half-time or more earn the benefits and shield of the union in case of a legal dispute with UM or a student.

Recently, the union negotiated for the campus to provide three-year contracts to some adjuncts to provide additional job security and to work as a "mini-tenure mechanism."

"The only way it can be terminated is if there's not enough money," Coffin said.

Financial security is particularly important to non-tenured faculty members who rely on the income, which annually can be thousands of dollars lower than that of tenured coworkers.

Faculty Senate Chair Neil Moisey said more adjunct faculty are concerned about their

vulnerable position as the state and school faces budget cuts.

"If you've got to cut \$2 million out of the budget, it's easier, contractually, to remove adjunct positions," Moisey said.

He noted, however, that the national trend is to increase the ratio of adjunct faculty, which can be detrimental to programmatic growth and quality in the long run.

Both Moisey and Gannon said that UM's policy goal is to keep the use of adjuncts below 25 percent campus-wide unless special circumstances exist — like the COT's exponential growth and the law school's academic goals.

Neu said the benefits of sharing his passion with others outweighs all the uncertainties.

And he isn't worrying about job security anyway.

"We certainly need everyone we've got right now," Neu said with a chuckle.

jayme.fraser@umontana.edu

WATER From page 1

polluted, is needed to support Earth's growing population.

"We have to have water security to have food security," he said. "No water equals no food."

In addition to growing crops, water is needed for livestock, manufacturing, human consumption and sanitation purposes. For some communities, their overuse of local water

sources has left them struggling to find fresh supplies.

"In some communities, the groundwater is going away because they've got too many straws in the crick," Dolman said, adding the irony that in most of those communities one can find a certain French water brand that, spelled backward, reads "naïve."

While humans have over-exploited available groundwater sources, Dolman said that global

warming has wreaked havoc on the ice caps.

"Every scrap of solid water on this planet is destined to disappear because of this," he said, flashing through several slides that depicted shrinking glaciers. "The data's all in."

Without human interference, Dolman said that land and water engage in "a unique calligraphy" and support many ecosystems. The stress of an increasing human population has strained

this function.

"What kills an alcoholic is not that they run out of alcohol but their liver gives out," he said, noting that rising carbon dioxide levels are changing the chemistry of the oceans, turning them into "carbonic acid baths" and damaging maritime life.

While he admits the picture he's painted is grim, Dolman said that humans can curb the destruction.

"Planning is best done in ad-

vance," he said. "The planet's got no other choice to manage this."

Solutions include installing water-efficient home appliances, above-ground wells and harvesting roof water as well as educating oneself on the watershed and making smart water consumption choices.

"Learn your watershed and figure it out," he said. "You can't protect what you don't understand."

erin.cole@umontana.edu

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FOOTBALL

Northern Arizona safety leads defense and special teams

A.J. Mazzolini
Montana Kaimin

Matt Estrada sits back, surveying the full field. From his position, he can see every one of the other 21 players on the turf, all lined up in front of him like pieces on a chess board. They're coiled like springs, ready for the snap of the ball. And so is he.

It's a common occurrence for Estrada during football games with the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks this year, his senior season. Adding to his normal position of safety, the last line of defense that keeps an eye on the whole play, Estrada now also handles the kick return duties. Being the return man comes with the same feel-

ing of isolation on an island, watching the play develop in front of you, he said. But the similarities end there.

"There's not really a correlation between them at all," Estrada said, chuckling as if he's never quite made the connection before. "I mean it's a whole different position than safety."

Estrada's first love on the football field has always been defense, even dating back to the first time he picked up a ball at age seven. The physicality of it had him hooked from the beginning. Dishing out hits seemed so much more appealing than receiving them. Still, he did what he could on offense when called upon throughout high school, including occasional punt and kick returns.

After playing a year at Fullerton Junior College, he transferred to Northern Arizona. As a sophomore and junior, he was strictly defensive. Though, back in his comfort zone, the safety said he actually started to miss getting the ball.

"We had a great returner, and I didn't get the opportunity to [do returns] the last couple of years," Estrada explained. "But it's awesome being back there and getting to do it again."

Through five games in 2010, Estrada's taken his dual roles in stride. After first struggling on the return game, the 5-foot-10, 185-pounder returned his first collegiate punt for a score to lead a comeback effort against Southern Utah earlier this month. The 66-yard scamper pulled him in a Big Sky Conference special teams player of the week award.

The honor was his second of the season, matching a defensive award coming the week before. Estrada's strength and versatility come from his passion for the game, said Jerome Souers, Northern Arizona's 12th year coach.

"There's no aspect of the game he doesn't like," Souers said. "He'll play quarterback if you let him; he's that talented and instinctive of a football player."

Playing both positions, and more importantly, playing them well, requires two

distinct sets of instincts. A defender must always focus on trying to get his offense the ball back, the safety said. That could mean shutting down the opposition's offensive drive or taking it upon one's self to physically take the ball away.

"Getting the offense back the ball is a huge part of my plan every game," Estrada said, who has forced three fumbles so far this season. "You're just being physical, trying to create momentum."

Lining up as return specialist is less about brute force. Finesse is the name of the game, Estrada said. A returner must find holes and exploit weaknesses in the coverage, but more importantly, he has to catch the ball first. That can be more difficult than it sounds, he added.

"I played baseball a lot when I was younger," Estrada said,

See FOOTBALL, page 8



Courtesy of Northern Arizona University
Matt Estrada, safety

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								1
5	8	6	9					
3		7				4	9	
9	8			6				3
			5	1	9		6	
6								
1	7		4	3				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 WEDNESDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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TENNIS

Two are better than one:

Doubles matches lead way for women's tennis

A.J. Mazzolini
Montana Kaimin

Success in singles tennis requires a lot. A player needs speed, power, accuracy and confidence. To rack up victories in doubles matches, all of that is still important. But with only those attributes, a duo will still be lacking. What's missing, and what may be most important of all, is trust.

"The chemistry of a doubles partnership, you have to be very comfortable with each other," said Amanda Bran, a senior on the Montana Grizzlies women's tennis team. "Because I'm so secure, I can play better."

She and her partner, sophomore Constance Alexander, have rolled to a 7-1 record through most of the fall season, and the main ingredient

in that is confidence in one another. Bran said she doesn't feel like she's the leader in the partnership and they play like equals on the court.

While both players' performances have been strong this season, Alexander said she has to disagree. Bran, who is from Melbourne, Australia, brings much more doubles experience to the team, she said.

"I definitely look up to her because I'm not much of a doubles player myself," said Alexander, a native of Bonita, Calif. "After a point, she tells me what I can do better for the next point. Even playing in practice against the Bran sisters (Amanda's twin Rebecca is also on the squad) is a great opportunity for me."

Alexander said the key to their hot start is understand-



Greg Lindstrom/Montana Kaimin

Constance Alexander returns a backhand at tennis practice Wednesday afternoon.

ing each other's strengths. Bran agreed. She said they both compete with high energy in an aggressive style focused on power at its core. Bran's thundering serve — "It's really fast,"

Alexander mused — and forehand smashes put defenders on their heels, which allows Alexander to play close at the net to finish-off points. Net play was a weakness for Alexander,

but backed by Bran's powerful shots, she's made noticeable improvements.

"We're both getting better at setting each other up to put it

See TENNIS, page 8

SPORTS COLUMN



Griz as underdogs? Count me in.

by Tyson Alger, Sports Editor

The Montana Grizzlies are mediocre this year.

I couldn't be happier.

Before burning me at the stake, hear me out. Growing up in the Northwest, mediocre sports teams were the way of life. The Mariners have made the playoffs four times in the team's 33-year history. The Seahawks have never won a Super Bowl. The Sonics, who won the city's only major championship over 30 years ago, played so dismally average over the last decade that they were moved to Oklahoma City. It may be depressing at times to like these teams, but it's that much more exciting when they actually play in meaningful games — though I don't quite re-

member what that feels like.

The Grizzlies have the same problem. But theirs is caused by unprecedented success. In my first three years in Missoula, the Griz lost one regular season game. One. The vast majority of those other games were lopsided Griz blow-outs. Going to a home game would be fun for the first quarter. You could take in a dandy of a pre game show, get rowdy in the student section and celebrate Montana's first few scores. But the ensuing quarters became boring because the game was over before it really began.

This isn't a column wishing for the Griz to do poorly. And contrary to how it may sound, I pull for the Griz each game. But now games are just

more exciting for me. I have no idea what to expect. Which team will show up this week against NAU? The dominant Griz with a stingy D and a smoothly running spread? Or the Griz that held on for dear life last week against Portland State?

It's a breath of fresh air — as a reporter — to not know the outcome of the game before setting foot in the stadium. Saturday's game against the Lumberjacks is the most excited I've been for a home Griz game in my college career. The only other game I've really gotten excited to cover was last year's match against Weber State, which turned into another Montana blow out. The lead into the Montana vs. Montana State game later this year, will be one of the most hyped games in Montana history — because of how even the two teams are. Even if Montana blew the Cats out, I would love every second of it. Mainly, in essence, because it's not supposed to happen.

I would love nothing more than for the Griz to go deep into the playoffs this year in chase of a national championship. Playoff games have always been full of drama and excitement, primarily because of evenly matched competition. And if Montana does indeed make a title run this year, it would be that much more special in a season that has featured anything but the expected.

It may not look the best on the stat sheet and it may cause a few more gray hairs to grow on Robin Pflugrad's head, but the tension and jubilation of winning a game on a field goal, like last week in Portland, beats the hell out of winning by 50.

tyson.alger@umontana.edu

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LGBT

From page 1

attracted enough attention to Wear Purple Day.

"We aren't supposed to talk during the freeze, so if someone comes up to you in the middle of it and asks you a question, you can't respond," Theissen said before the event took place. "But if people stick around afterward, hopefully people will ask us some questions."

Raynee Daguerre heard about the freeze through her friends and the private Facebook group that was created to explain the details to the 200 or so confirmed participants. She said she and her girlfriend froze in the northwest quadrant of the Oval.

"It went a lot better than I expected," Daguerre said. "There were a couple of kids by me who were genuinely cu-

rious. A lot of people stopped and stared at us."

But she said no one asked her any questions after the three-minute freeze was over. Despite that, Daguerre said she thinks people will be talking about it.

"I know that a lot of people know what's going on [with LGBT bullying]," she said. "I think colleges are places of a lot less hate than high schools, and I think UM has gotten even better in the past few years."

In addition to knowing about the issues with bullying that have led to suicide, people need to put a stop to the violence, Theissen said.

"Bullying is wrong," Theissen said. "No matter what you think about homosexuality, bullying is wrong."

alyssa.small@umontana.edu

TENNIS

From page 7

away," she said. "When that's perfected, that will be one of our biggest strengths."

The duo complements each other very well, said Griz coach Steve Ascher. When he pairs his players for doubles competition, he said he takes a long look at their playing styles. Those in the pair need to play off of each other well and fix specific needs. It can be a hit-or-miss process, he said.

"Sometimes it works out, sometimes it doesn't," Ascher said. "But right now things are firing on all cylinders."

And he's right.

Doubles accomplishments haven't been limited to Bran and Alexander. Rebecca Bran paired with Whitney Paluch, a senior transfer from Cal State Northridge, have put up

a 7-4 record on the season. Included in those victories was an upset of a Wyoming duo that ranked 32nd nationally.

The team, as a whole, has posted a 19-11 record in doubles matches. Singles matches have resulted in 27 wins to 35 losses, or a roughly .200 lower winning percentage.

But the singles victories are starting to come, Ascher assured. In the squad's ITA Mountain Regional tournament last week in Las Vegas, Nev., the singles matches produced twice as many wins as the doubles. And that wasn't because doubles players were dropping matches, either.

"The doubles wins have just created a spark," Ascher said. "It's momentum that's carried over into singles."

anthony.mazzolini@umontana.edu

FOOTBALL

From page 6

"and it helped me judge the ball when it comes off the punter's foot."

Estrada's spark as a captain of the Big Sky's No. 1 ranked defense has helped elevate the Lumberjacks (2-1 in conference, 4-2) to the upper echelon of the conference midway through the season. The team is better at stopping the run and the pass now that Estrada has evolved into an all-around defender, his coach said.


When Estrada first arrived in Flagstaff, Ariz., play-action passes could throw him off and gut the defense for big plays, Souers said, but not anymore.

"He's gotten much better at reading run and pass," Souers said. He's a better balanced player and he can perform well against both consistently."

anthony.mazzolini@umontana.edu

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