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#### Montana Kaimin, November 6, 2008

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

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## sypnotist dazzles UM audience with mind games

Amy Faxon Montana Kaimin

Ariel sat up after being sprawled on the stage asleep and started pulling Band-Aids off her face.

The other six college students and one child, who were also hypnotized, woke up on the count of five and pulled dozens of maroon cocktail napkins from their shirts, hats, pockets and shoes.

"Hypnotist extraordinaire" Kevin Hurley attempted to hypnotize 18 volunteers Wednesday night in the University Center Ballroom while people watched with curiosity.

"It'll feel like a daydream, it'll feel amazing, like you had 10 hours of sleep," Hurley said.

The show started off slow with the volunteers forcing the actions that Hurley told them to make.

"Lock your hands together in front of your chest and press them together," Hurley said. "When I touch your hands they will fall into your lap."

The first volunteer's hands that Hurley touched stayed in the air and then slowly dropped to their lap, a delayed forced action.

At one point, the volunteers in the spotlight were flying a plane above an ocean. Hurley told them to think of the sexiest person they knew because that person was waiting for them on the island below their plane.

Immediately after this instruction a 10-year-old boy, one of the last volunteers to be eliminated, returned to the audience. Laughter filled the room.

After Hurley eliminated 10 people, the show started rolling.



Hugh Carey/Montana Kaimin

Entertainer and magician Kevin Hurley hypnotizes his participants during a show in the University Center Ballroom Wednesday evening. Hurley, a professional hypnotist, tours across the country entertaining audiences with his talents of magic, illusion, mental demonstrations and hypnosis.

Hurley's soothing voice put each volunteer to sleep. They put their heads in each other's laps and on their neighbor's shoulders awaiting instructions from Hurley.

"Every time I touch a place on your skin, you will wake up and ask me for a Band-Aid and place it where I touched you," Hurley instructed Ariel while she sat hypnotized.

Hurley brushed his finger along Ariel's forehead. Her eyes immediately opened, she stood up and told Hurley, "I need a Band-Aid."

He grabbed one, gave it to her and watched as she opened the Band-Aid and placed it on her forehead. Then Hurley put her back to sleep, See HYPNOTIST, page 8

## eterans' education has a price

Carly Flandro Montana Kaimin

Standing in a phone booth in Kuwait, Drew Polifko got the news that could have re-shaped his life he had been accepted to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., just like his great uncle.

But, unlike his great uncle who used veteran's benefits to attend Georgetown after fighting in France during World War II Polifko couldn't afford the prestigious school.

"I looked at the numbers and realized I couldn't do it," he said. "I couldn't go to Georgetown."

More than one million veterans are returning from the Iraq War with plans to attend colleges and universities, and many are facing the harsh reality that their education will not be free, he said.

Recent updates to the GI Bill and the Higher Education Act aim to provide more financial aid to veterans, but for many, funds will still fall short.

"I had the perception that school would be paid for for four years," said Polifko, 23, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a student at the University of Montana. "When I realized that was false, it was a bit of a shock. It was another obstacle I had to deal with."

After turning the Georgetown offer down, Polifko came to UM. He planned to use the money from his veteran's benefits – \$1,100 each month he was in school – to pay for tuition, food and rent.

Still, his stipend wasn't enough to pay for living costs and out-ofstate tuition, so Polifko worked as a custodian 25 hours a week.

Even finding that job was a struggle, especially since his time at war left him 60 percent disabled.

Polifko's ears ring with a sound that comes and goes, a sound that nobody else hears. It's a symptom of ear tinnitus, a disability left over from his days in Iraq.

Polifko's BlackBerry has become a crutch he relies on every day to remember the short-term things that he can't. He lives his life by lists, and has whiteboards in

three different rooms in his house. Sometimes he's angry and he doesn't know why, and sometimes he's overly sensitive to light and noise.

These are symptoms of a traumatic brain injury, the most common injury among Iraq veterans. It's usually caused by the shock waves from explosions that ricochet inside the head.

Polifko remembers the commercials and advertisements he used to see for the military.

They claimed he would gain real-world experience and earn money for college.

"The way they make it out to be, you think life will be Easy Street," Polifko said. "And you feel like you deserve it after four years of See VETERAN, page 8

## Control of Montana House still undecided

Allison Maier Montana Kaimin

Although Republicans expect a majority in Montana's Senate, the party domination in the House of Representatives had yet to be determined Wednesday night.

The result of the race will likely remain undecided until next Monday, when hundreds of provisional ballots are scheduled to be counted. Provisional ballots are those turned in by voters with questionable eligibility. This could mean, for example, that the voters didn't provide legitimate identification when they voted.

The results of the provisional ballots could decide a close race in Missoula County House District 100, where Republican Bill Nooney is ahead of Democratic challenger Willis Curdy by 33 votes – with 2,195 votes to Curdy's 2,162.

In 2006, Nooney won the district with about 54 percent of the vote in a race against Democrat Marge Zaveta.

Speaker of the House Scott Sales, a Republican, said he thinks the House will end up divided between 50 Republicans and 50 Democrats, although he acknowledged that it could lean in the Republicans' favor.

"There's a significant probability that it could still go our way,"

Sales, who was re-elected for a fourth term in House District 68, said that while a divided House benefits both parties because neither is in the minority, it also makes it harder for parties to accomplish their political agendas.

"It makes for a more gridlocklike session," he said.

He said the role of Speaker of the House would largely be See LEGISLATURE, page 8

#### TODAY ON CAMPUS =

 'Xiayan Wang in concert' Classical pianist Music Recital Hall, \$13 public, \$8 students, 7:30 p.m.

#### = Inside the Kaimin =

**PANEL PREVIEW** page 3 "Race, Sex and Politics" panel discussion

SOCCER page 5 Griz to face Weber in conference game

-FORECAST=



# Opinion

# Editorial Electoral college deprives Montana voters

Despite Obama coming out the clear winner nationally in the presidential election, it's a bittersweet victory for the man's Montana fanatics, like the many University of Montana students who sacrificed hours knocking on doors and waving clipboards to garner one meager vote at a time.

Neither their votes nor one person they coaxed to fill in the Obama circle even counted. Not one.

McCain got 50 percent of Montana's 471,541 votes, and Obama was close behind with 47 percent. But Montana's three electoral votes went to McCain, meaning all the time Obama backers spent trying to make the man president was in vain. (And even if the state did lean Obama, no one cared. Montana's results didn't even come in until hours after Obama's acceptance speech.)

In Montana's winner-take-all system, all 229,725 people who voted Obama might as well have stayed home or voted McCain. The outcome would have been the same. That isn't right.

Someone always says the same thing every four years: "The electoral system doesn't make any sense." Obama pulled out 349 electoral votes, more than doubling McCain's 162. But America didn't elect Obama 2 to 1. He won 52 percent of America's votes to McCain's 46. That's more like 1.13 to 1.

At least Obama still won the majority of votes. In 2000 George W. Bush narrowly won the Electoral College despite having about 540,000 fewer votes than Al Gore. And we all know how that turned out.

When you cast your vote in the presidential election, you're not voting for president, but for electors. Electors are technically free to vote for anyone eligible to be president (even the guy the state shut down).

The more you know about the Electoral College, the more ridiculous it sounds. But that's what we use, and commonly that's what America does: make the straightforward all-around confusing.

Here's another example: our country refuses to adopt the metric system even though all other countries in the world use it, besides Liberia and Burma, according to a survey by the U.S. Metric Association done many years ago. It's clumsy and encourages mistakes. With the metric system used by the rest of the world, you just move the decimal left or right to convert from grams to kilograms, for example. No equations.

Our street signs better be in miles, because miles are American. Our Founding Fathers said use the Electoral College. We can't abandon our heritage. We're American, but that gets us in trouble.

Our country is a stubborn beast, refusing to accept that the voting system created 232 years ago doesn't work today.

The Electoral College was originally created for several reasons; one being that the founders didn't trust the common uneducated man to vote. They handed the power over to electors.

When will we throw away tradition and fess up to reality? We count the popular vote already anyway. Should every person's vote count for exactly the same amount — one? That's a lot of responsibility.

It would take a constitutional amendment ratified by three-fourths of the states to change the system to a simple popular vote. Some people argue that small states, like Montana, would be resistant because in these states each voter gets more of a say.

In this election, 471,541 people voted in Montana for three electoral votes, meaning that when you divide it each elector represented 157,180 people. That's better than in larger states like California where voters have less of a say. This year, 9,996,437 people voted for 55 electoral votes.

It would be easier to eliminate the winner-take-all part of it that screwed 229,725 Obama supporters in Montana and thousands of others across the country. How the states vote for the Electoral College is not set out in the Constitution but is decided by the states. Only two states, Maine and Nebraska, do not use the winner-take-all system. All the states could ditch it if they wanted to.

Then maybe this country would be a little closer to holding a real election

Trevon Milliard, news editor trevon.milliard@umontana.edu

#### American flag a symbol of untiy

This letter is in response to your front page article Wednesday. I was shocked that on a night that Americans celebrate democracy and freedom Mr. Mike Shaedel had the nerve to say that he was "ashamed of the American flag" for most of his adult life.

What Mr. Shaedel was most likely trying to say was that, in his opinion, he's been disappointed with the Bush administration. Instead he kicked mud in the face of America.

What Mr. Shaedel is clearly missing is that the flag does not represent a president or his ac-



tions. The American flag is a reminder of the unity among fellow countrymen during hard times. It's a reminder of our rights and our freedoms. It flies to protect his right to free speech and to allow him to still reside behind America's power and security.

I would like to remind him that disparaging our flag is a spit in the

faces of those who have fought, died, believed in, or persevered to uphold what the American flag represents. It has flown for over 232 years and has remained unchanged for 48 of those. It is unlikely that one administration has changed the ideology that this flag has represented for hundreds of years.

The American flag is not one person or even one president, it represents a nation, and if he could not find pride in something we are all a part of, he may need to reevaluate his priorities.

Danielle Alexander, senior education and psychology

## U-Wire

## Pre-election war between parties must end

Well, we did it. Barack Obama is our certified President-elect. For the Brown students who worked tirelessly on Obama's behalf – driving to New Hampshire to canvass, calling swing-state voters, getting hung up on by swing-state voters and generally losing our minds over this whole thing – Tuesday's victory couldn't have tasted sweeter. Congratulations, guys.

Now, it's time for everyone to chill.

Last week, in a fit of pre-election hysteria, I called Brian, my token conservative friend. Brian, a bright, wonky law student, did his undergraduate studies at Liberty University, the late Rev. Jerry Falwell's "Bible Boot Camp" for young evangelicals (where he was an officer in the College Republicans) and spent much of this fall volunteering for the McCain campaign.

"I want you to tell me how a reasonable person with a functioning cranial cortex can support this guy," I told him. "Give me stats, give me talking points, give me anything. Just tell me how it's possible."

Brian laughed, but I was serious. I hadn't called him because I wanted to belittle his candidate: I called because, in the weeks leading up to the election, I honestly forgot for long stretches of time that you could be a decent, politicallysavvy American with a full set of teeth and no overt racial biases and still support John McCain. Moreover, I don't think I was the only one. At various points during this election cycle, I heard a few of my Obama-supporting friends frame the presidential race in roughly the same terms: Rational Humans for Obama, Racist Hicks for McCain.

Why is that? How can a political campaign compel cool, even-tempered people to behave like British soccer fans? Why can't we support a presidential candidate without thinking of the other candidate's supporters as a bunch of morally stunted troglodytes?

A few weeks ago, Slate published an article titled "How Running a Campaign Is Like Building a Megachurch," in which author Bill Bishop likened voter mobilization efforts to the classic techniques used by megachurch pastors to grow their congregations to massive sizes, including neighbor-to-neighbor contact and political "witnessing." It's a convincing argument, and I think it may help to explain why this election cycle has caused such extreme political polarization among base voters on both the left and the right.

Fairly recently, I spent a bunch of time attending a Baptist megachurch (long story), and what I found during this election cycle, in short, is that the things I liked and disliked about that megachurch are the same things I've liked and disliked about this year's presidential race. At the megachurch, I admired the way ordinary people were inspired to devote themselves to a cause greater than their own self-interest (to borrow a McCain catchphrase). I liked the way the megachurch brought new converts into the fold and immediately gave them a role, just as I've admired the way the Obama campaign has given huge numbers of first-time voters an entree to the political process. I liked the feelings of communal purpose, the long hours spent sharpening my views and the free chastity bracelets in the lobby. Okay, maybe that one was just the

megachurch. You get my point.

But the megachurch experience wasn't all fun. I remember hearing one sermon in which a pastor told the congregation that "the world is divided into two kinds of people – Christians and everyone else." Who among us can say truthfully that this election hasn't made us feel – at least temporarily – like we're engaged in a battle between our candidate's voter base and "everyone else"? What Obama supporter hasn't seen one too many McCain yard signs and felt a barely-controllable urge to egg some houses?

Megachurches and heated political campaigns both have a vested interest in creating stark "Us" vs. "Them" distinctions and mobilizing the "Us" to take on the "Them." That's fine, but now, after the election, our job is to undo the dangerous binary-think many of us have developed unconsciously over the last few months. No matter whom we voted for, we all need to remind ourselves that there's more to life than polls and plumbers, Wall Street and Wolf Blitzer.

So start healing the wounds. Call your Republican friends, e-mail your Nader-voting Uncle Harry, sit with the Spectator kids at the Ratty. Do whatever you have to do, but let's start treating each other like humans again. I know I'll be spending some quality time with my friend Brian over the next few weeks. And when I do, I'm going to tell him that although we don't agree on gay marriage or supply-side economics, I still think he's a good guy

That is, after I finish rubbing the election results in his face.

Kevin Roose Brown Daily Herald Brown U.

## Montana Kaimin

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Thursday, November 6, 2008

## Professors to tackle race and gender in politics during panel discussion

Carmen George Montana Kaimin

Barack Obama has become "more black" to people since he was announced our next president, said Tobin Shearer, a UM assistant professor of African American Studies.

"He had to be careful about how he drew attention to his race while he was running for president," Shearer said, adding that his racial identity has become more prevalent since he became President-elect of the United States.

Shearer and other professors will talk about race and gender in politics during a panel discussion at 7 p.m. on Thursday. The discussion will be held in the North Ballroom of the University Center and is free.

"I will be reflecting tomorrow night on the racial dynamics of Barack Obama," Shearer said, and that, "the idea of whiteness is dependent on having a blackness next to it to compare it to. That was very much present in this election."

Along with Shearer, professors in political science, women and gender studies, communication studies, and anthropology will be a part of the panel.

"Race, Sex and Politics" will be put on by the university's UC

Multicultural Alliance, an organization that aims to unite students by working to stop prejudice and oppression.

Laura Newman, a 22-year-old UM senior, said she thinks it's interesting that gender is still an issue in today's politics.

"I'm not against a woman running for president," Newman said, "but people are still stuck in particular gender roles and running a country just isn't a role women are supposed to play and it's kind of sad. I hate to admit it but I kind of feel that same way."

Zac Gershberg, a visiting assistant professor of rhetoric at UM who will be part of Thursday's panel, will talk about women's role in politics from the early 1800s - when many people feared sexuality would be used as persuasion all the way up to Sarah Palin.

Palin was often instructed not to talk to the press and was urged to follow the "old playbook" instead of trying something new, he said.

He said these were missed opportunities for her and Sen. Mc-

This election was a "turning of the page" in how Republicans and Democrats will talk about these issues in the future, Gershberg said.

"We've finally moved past the baby boomers," he said, adding that Generation X is now finally able to

move to political discourse.

Ken Hancock, a UM senior who was 18 years old when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, said he believes people still have work to do in breaking down prejudice.

"I do think we have come a long way, but there is still institutional racism," Hancock said. He added that he was surprised that race was still an issue for many of his friends.

According to Graham Mooney, a 24-year-old UM student, racism is a lazy approach to politics.

"There are still a lot of people who make decisions based on these superficial things they can latch onto because it's easier than getting to know somebody or an issue," Mooney said. "It's really hard to hate things that you are familiar with, but it's also really hard to understand people that aren't your friends.

"It's more work, so people have these shortcuts. I think judging people on anything other than their individual merit is kind of ridiculous."

Shearer hopes that the panel discussion will help facilitate positive discourse on all of these issues.

"I hope it better equips people to talking with intelligence on the issue of race and gender than they already are," he said.

carmen.george@umontana.edu

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- Defy authority 6 Reach over
- 10 Faucets 14 Honshu city
- 15 European capital
- 16 Dispatched
- Biblical-style
- 17 Kitchen tool
- 18 First felon
- 19 Taj Mahal site 20 Continental
- abbr. 21 Obscure
- 23 Gibraltar
- passage 25 Noah's landfall
- 27 Art stands 28 On a single
- occasion 30 Collects bit by
- 34 Makes clearer,
- hopefully

- 45 Wooden shoe
- 49 Swear, casually
- 50 Musical
- compositions
- 56 Cedar \_\_\_, IA
- instrument

- 69 Otologist's focus
- 70 Ova
  - DOWN
- Lasso
- 2 Biblical twin
- 3 Predator fish
- out
- (supplement)
- Insect stage 6 Part of SSA

- 32 Is willing to
- 39 Makes beloved 43 Driver's restraint
- 46 Least decorated
- 54 Hardy's pal
- 57 Pear-shaped
- 58 Santa \_\_, CA 61 Guitar adjuncts,
- briefly 62 College credit
- 64 Thespian
  66 On\_\_ (without guarantee)
  67 Lion's pride
- 68 Storage place
- 36 Arranged in 71 Camouflages columns 37 lds'
  - companions 38 Solidifies 40 Take back, as
    - 41 Letters on cameras 44 Revealing

47 Pan-fries

control

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7 Prayer book

8 The Greatest 9 Rubbish

10 Rulers before

11 Pond growth

13 Swings at flies 22 Unit of work

Lenin

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Solutions

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D E F E T A

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## Obama chooses ally for chief of staff position

Associated Press

President-elect Barack Obama pivoted quickly to begin filling out his new administration on Wednesday, selecting hard-charging Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel as White House chief of staff while aides stepped up the pace of transition work that had been cloaked in preelection secrecy.

Several Democrats confirmed that Emanuel had been offered the job. While it was not clear he had accepted, a rejection would amount to an unlikely public snub of the new president-elect within hours of an electoral college landslide.

With hundreds of jobs to fill and

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only 10 weeks until Inauguration Day, Obama and his transition team confronted a formidable task complicated by his anti-lobbyist campaign rhetoric.

The official campaign Web Site said no political appointees would be permitted to work on "regulations or contracts directly and substantially related to their prior employer for two years. And no political appointee will be able to lobby the executive branch after leaving government service during the remainder of the administration."

As president-elect, Obama begins receiving highly classified briefings from top intelligence officials Thursday.



## Changing the nation one step at a time



Bess Brownlee/Montana Kaimin

University of Montana students Genevieve Schroeder and Holly Brimhall inch down Higgins Avenue on Tuesday afternoon as part of the Slow Walk voting demonstration. Nearly 20 people participated in the walk to raise awareness about the importance of voting and taking time to recognize the impact of individual actions.

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# Montana gets defensive in win over Argos

Roman Stubbs

Montana Kaimin

With an emphatic grunt that sailed up to the Dahlberg Arena rafters, Montana's Jack McGillis' palm launched Levi Lopez's lay up attempt 20 feet away from the basket - and into the front row of the eastside side bleachers in the first half of Monday night's exhibition game against Great Falls.

For McGillis, it was the block of his career.

For head coach Wayne Tinkle, the intensity was just a microcosm of Wednesday night's dust up.

"I told them in the locker room, in the eight years that I have been here, in the exhibition season, that's as focused and as far as the length of the game, as I can remember," he said. "It's a tribute to our guys and their sense of purpose tonight."

McGillis scored a game-high 19 points and Anthony Johnson added 12 off the bench to fuel Montana 101-57 over Great Falls in their final exhibition game of the preseason.

The opportunistic Grizzlies converted 20 UGF turnovers into 27 points - snatching 15 steals, 11 of which came in the second half when Montana went on a 42-13 run the first 12 minutes to put the finishing touches on their preseason slate. Montana will now make final preparations for their season opener next Friday night in Colorado Springs, Colo. where Colorado State awaits.

"I loved our activity and our intensity," Tinkle said. "We looked, I think we were 313 in Division I last year in steals. Now that's not terrible because we didn't have the athleticism to get out and pressure... We want to improve on that. We think we can create some more stuff our defense with the team we have."

McGillis set the tone the first two minutes - six points, two rebounds and two steals - and ignited an 8-0 Montana run that grew to 45-21 before recess. UGF shot just 18 percent from the field in the first half and was completely stifled by an array of defensive looks from Montana.

"We're doing some different things. We wanted to get that on film," added Tinkle of employing man-to-man and zone trap schemes Wednesday night. "What I think we can do with those is create some offense. We did that tonight and we need to make sure we get better so we can do it against the Colorado States of the world."

UGF clearly wasn't part of that world in their visit to Missoula, but Montana didn't grow complacent to their NAIA counterparts in the second half. Tinkle's squad opened the half with a defensive punch. McGillis nailed a tray after a Ryan Staudacher steal to make it 50-21 a minute and a half into the second half, and blocks by Brian Qvale and Jordan Hasquet on back-to-back possessions yielded scores. McGillis spotted up for another trifecta at the 16:37 mark and 10 seconds later, picked off a pass in the Great Falls back court and converted a two-handed lay up, extending Montana's lead to

That was the last play for Mc-Gillis and most of the starters, a fitting end to a night in which defensive effort was central to hitting the century mark in points.

"We're definitely a defensive minded team," said McGillis, who will make his first collegiate start in just under two years next week at Colorado State. "We feel that once we get it going on defense, that opens a lot of stuff for us on the offensive end. We kind of See BASKETBALL, page 6



Nyandigisi Moikobu, a freshman forward for the Griz, goes up for two points against Marko Lakic of the Great Falls Argos on Wednesday evening in the Adams Center. The Griz went on to crush the Argos, 101-57. The Griz face off next with Colorado State on Nov. 14.

## Soccer nabs tournament spot after Sac State tie



Bess Brownlee/Montana Kaimir

Sarah Stevens, junior midfielder for the Montana Grizzlies, heads the ball away from Idaho State Bengals midfielder Kilee Quigley earlier this season.

Colter Nuanez Montana Kaimin

The fate of the University of Montana soccer team's season lies in the soles of its feet entering last the Griz held the tiebreaker over Friday's regular season finale. A the Hornets and would live to play win meant punching a ticket to the another day. team's first Big Sky Conference tournament since 2006.

But the Grizzlies ran into an Eastern Washington squad that relished the role of spoiler. In a hardfought battle, the Eagles were able to take down Montana in overtime, 3-2.

The loss left the Griz with a 3-3-1 record (6-10-2 overall) in Big Sky Conference play, but more importantly left their postseason hopes up to Sacramento State. With a win, the Hornets would secure the fourth spot in the conference tournament.

"Losing that game was terrible," said junior goalkeeper Grace Harris. "It was one of the worst feelings I have had on that bus ride home."

But the dismay of Harris and company quickly turned to jubilation when the Grizzlies received

news that Sac State had played to a 0-0 tie with second-place Portland State. Because of Montana's 1-0 win in Sacramento in October.

"It was such a roller coaster of emotions, losing the game and then finding out Sac tied and we were in," Harris said. "We just want to take full advantage of our second chance now."

Living to play another day means traveling to Ogden, Utah, to face off against the top-seeded Weber State Wildcats in the first game of the BSC final four. Weber secured the outright conference title with a 2-0 win against last-place Idaho State in its season finale last week. The Wildcats finished the season 5-2 in conference and 8-9-2 overall.

Coach Tim Crompton is in his fifth year leading his alma mater and he has brought success unseen to the program since his arrival. In each of his first two seasons, Crompton led Weber to the second and third conference titles in school history and

was named the BSC Coach of the Year after each season.

Under Crompton, the Wildcats have posted a 31-22-7 overall record and have won just under 70 percent of their Big Sky Conference games (15-6-3), counting postseason play.

On the field, the Wildcats are led by one of the top offensive threats in the league in recent memory in senior midfielder Hayley McCoy. McCoy was named the co-offensive regular season MVP along with Northern Arizona's Cee Cee Odorfer. She was also named first team all-league for the fourth consecutive year.

McCoy tied for third in the Big Sky with 16 points on five goals and six assists. Forward Whitney Smith joined McCoy on the first team offense for Weber, that had five players earn first team allleague recognition.

Defensively, Weber State is equally as stout as it also boasts the conference MVP on defense in junior goalkeeper Rebecca Ritchie. Ritchie led the league with seven

See SOCCER, page 6

**Sports** Thursday, November 6, 2008

## MLB needs new marketing strategy

A few weeks ago, one of my colleagues wrote a column about her disdain and disinterest in the national pastime. She said she had no interest in either of the teams playing in the 2008 World Series or the players. Many of you were far from happy with her opinion and let it be known in a bundle of letters to the editor. While I am a baseball enthusiast and consider it my favorite sport, I think Sports Whit's column on Oct. 22 dug into a deeper issue with the game that used to dominate the attention of our nation.

I am a die-hard baseball fan. If I were given a choice of one sport I was relegated to following graduation, I would most definitely want to cover the Cleveland Indians over the Seattle Seahawks or the Portland Trailblazers.

That being said, I somewhat saw Whitney's point in her column, although I think she construed it in the wrong way. She simply tried to define her distaste for the game by equating baseball to boredom.

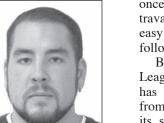
But the point is that baseball is

not boring. Americans in general have lost a passion for the game because there are not the player story lines fans love to love and love to hate like in the NBA or

But why has baseball lost its allure? The answer is simple and is a

fundamental problem that MLB commissioner Bud Selig needs to figure out soon before the attitudes of sports fans turn to attitudes like Sports Whit's.

Baseball does not market its superstars the way other sports do. Commissioner David Stern has made sure the NBA has a long list of household names like Kobe, LeBron, TMac, Yao, AI and the list goes on. The NFL need not market its stars as heavily since guys like Terrell Owens, Randy Moss and Peyton Manning market themselves. And the NFL is a



Colter Nuanez Montana Kaimin

once-a-week extravaganza that is easy for people to follow.

But Major League Baseball has gone away from marketing its stars for fear that if they do, it will backfire in their faces.

Just a decade ago, the nation

was captivated by Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire's pursuit of Roger Maris's 61-year-old singleseason homerun record. But after Sosa, McGwire and Barry Bonds broke the record six times in the past 10 years, the record lost some of its allure. Once it was revealed that McGwire, Sosa, Bonds and an entire generation of Paul Bunyansized sluggers' statistics were the product of performance enhancing drugs, all legitimacy regarding any baseball record ceased and skepticism has ruled ever since.

Baseball needs to have confi-

dence in their drug testing policies, even if for no other reason than to save the sport. The MLB can't be

are steroid craving cheaters. Young sluggers who are complete players and hit for average to go along with their lofty homerun totals like St. Louis's Albert Pujols and Minnesota's Justin Morneau should be a dream come true to baseball lovers

around the country.

and hate.

scared that today's rising superstars

If speculation of steroid use can be eliminated, then skepticism surrounding the sport should cease. If Selig can find a way to make a few dozen of his budding superstars household names as Stern has done in the NBA, then night-in-andnight-out baseball fans can watch games without worrying about the implications of the outcome. They can simply care about who to love

And as any true sports fan knows, regardless of the sport, to love and to hate means to argue, and in the end isn't that what being a true fan is all about?

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#### **SOCCER**

Continued from page 5

shutouts and a .839 save percentage. Joining her as first team allleague defenders were Ashtyn Webster and Lindsay Ellis.

Montana placed two players each on the first and second teams. Senior defender Sara Aspinwall was named to the first team defense and senior midfielder Sara Campbell joined her on the first team. Both were second team All-Big Sky last season.

Montana's third senior, midfielder Meghan Chambers, made the second team and was joined by sophomore forward Kaitlyn Heinsohn.

The Grizzlies have traveled to Utah once before this season, losing 1-0 to the Wildcats. Harris said Montana, which has been in the Beehive State since Tuesday, is excited about the opportunity to play in the picturesque environment of Ogden.

'We are really excited to be the underdogs," Harris said. "It's so beautiful down here, and we have just been getting ready to play our best and hopefully knock off number one."

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#### **BASKETBALL**

Continued from page 5

preach defense over offense.

"Our zone is going to be a good tool for us to use."

Rayshaun Ames led the Argos with 15 points and Travoy Edwards chipped in 11.

The mid-range game from

Johnson was again a highlight and Qvale (10).

Freshman Derek Selvig also had a productive night off the bench with a line of six points, four assists, five rebounds and

from the offensive end for the Grizzlies, who also got double digit efforts from senior post Kyle Sharp (11), Staudacher (11)

three blocks.

The cultivation of depth for Montana will be a crucial ingredient for the team's success in conference play, Tinkle professed Wednesday night.

"When the games start to count for real, that's when you start to see what you have," he

'We know we got the potential. But we can't lose sight of the fact that we have a lot of new guys, a lot of inexperienced guys. And we just need to take it one step at a time."

The first step comes next Friday with a Colorado State who will be looking to avenge an embarrassing 75-39 loss in last season's opener in Missoula.

"They're a good team. We've got a lot of respect for them," McGillis said. "We need to come ready to play, that's just all there is to it."

## Romo returns to Dallas

ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING, Texas — Tony Romo was back under center at practice Wednesday, once again zipping passes to Terrell Owens.

Expect him to be doing so the next time the Dallas Cowboys play, too.

Romo's return from a broken pinkie on his throwing hand is coming along as expected. The clunky cast he wore the last three weeks has been replaced by a small splint covering only the pinkie. It's as much for support as protection, and he wasn't even wearing it between a walkthrough and a practice Wednesday afternoon.

"It's still not all the way healed, but it's getting there," Romo said. "I can definitely grip the ball much

Romo was hurt during a loss to Arizona on Oct. 12. He practiced a little that week and tried to play

in the following game, but realized during warmups that his bulky bandage prevented him from properly controlling the ball and sat out ever since.

Dallas went 1-2 without Romo, scoring no more than 14 points with Brad Johnson and Brooks Bollinger running the offense. The Cowboys scored at least 24 all six games that Romo played.

Romo also has the NFL's thirdbest passer rating and averages the third-most yards passing per game. His 14 touchdown passes are sixth best, even after missing three games.

However, the Cowboys were only 1-2 in his last three starts. So the notion his return will cure all that ails them might not be accu-

"I don't think it's a matter of him coming in and trying to be Superman and really saving this team," Owens said. "We have more than enough capable guys in the locker room to make plays for him"

Still, Romo's return is a source of optimism for a team that's gone from preseason Super Bowl favorites to last place in the NFC East.

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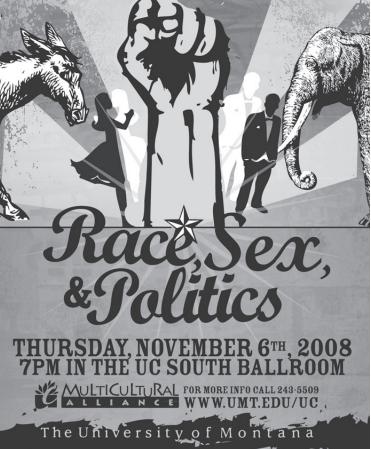
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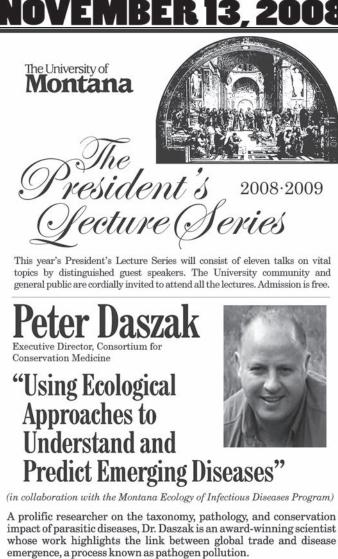
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## Blinded by the light



Eric Oravsky/Montana Kaimin

A cyclist walks his bike past the Fitness and Recreation Center yesterday evening after being warned for not having a front light. Many cyclists in Missoula are still out at night without a front and rear light despite the recent crackdown by the Missoula Police Department.

## Gay activists jarred by California marriage defeat

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - In a heartbreaking defeat for the gay-rights movement, California voters put a stop to gay marriage, creating uncertainty about the legal status of 18,000 same-sex couples who tied the knot during a four-month window of opportunity opened by the state's highest court.

Passage of a constitutional amendment against gay marriage - in a state so often at the forefront of liberal social change elated religious conservatives who had little else to cheer about in Tuesday's elections. Gay activists were disappointed and began looking for battlegrounds elsewhere in the back-and-forth fight to allow gays to wed.

"There's something deeply wrong with putting the rights of a minority up to a majority vote," said Evan Wolfson, a gay-rights lawyer who heads a group called Freedom to Marry. "If this were being done to almost any other minority, people would see how un-American this is."

Legal skirmishing began immediately, with gay-rights groups challenging the newly passed ban in court Wednesday and vowing to resist any effort to invalidate the same-sex marriages that took place following the state Supreme Court decision in May.

The amendment, which passed with 52 percent of the vote, overrides that court ruling by defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Thirty states now have adopted such measures, but the California vote marks the first time a state took away gay marriage after it had been legalized.

Gay-marriage bans also passed on Tuesday in Arizona and Florida, with 57 percent and 62 percent support, respectively, while Arkansas voters approved a measure aimed at gays that bars unmarried couples from serving as adoptive or foster parents.

Massachusetts and Connecticut are now the only states to allow same-sex marriage.

Even as the last votes were



being counted in California, the American Civil Liberties Union and other opponents of the ban filed a challenge with the state Supreme Court.

They contended that California's ballot cannot be used to undermine one group's access to rights enjoyed by other citizens.



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#### VETERANS

Continued from page 1

really hard shit."

Veterans can't receive grants because their benefits put them too far above the need level.

But a revised Higher Education Act, which passed on Aug. 14, allows veterans to be eligible for financial aid programs such as the PELL grant or subsidized loans starting in the next school year.

"This is an appropriate action on part of Congress to help these veterans who've given so dearly of their time, and sometimes limbs," said Mick Hanson, UM's director of financial aid.

Justin Raap, UM's veteran affairs coordinator, agrees, and said that this could be one of the best things the government has done for veterans.

However, the improvement might be cancelled out by changes made to the GI Bill on Aug. 1.

Veterans usually receive direct checks each month to cover living costs and tuition, but starting next year, these funds will go directly to the university.

"This could be viewed as tuition assistance rather than as veteran benefits," Raap said.

In that case, veterans would be ineligible for financial aid programs again.

Raap doubts that the changes made in the revised Higher Education Act will come to fruition, but he's keeping his fingers crossed.

"It's a guarded hope," he said.
"I really hope for the best, I really do. But I know the potential for things not to occur."

\*\*\*

Bombs the size of Nerf footballs pounded into the ground like explosive drops of rain. Insurgents were firing rounds into the U.S. military base, mortaring it and the surrounding area.

Polifko ran through the bombs, dodging each blast. Two Marines were killed that day, and four were injured, he said.

It was his first day in Iskandariyah, Iraq – a place also known as the Triangle of Death.

He was stationed there for eight months. At least five times every day his station was attacked by direct fire, grenades, roadside bombs or suicide bombers.

"I've lost a lot of friends and seen a lot of stuff people shouldn't have to see," Polifko said. "But nothing in life is free."

It's a lesson Polifko has learned to apply to everything – even his education.

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#### **LEGISLATURE**

Continued from page 1

ceremonial in a split House. If both parties have the same number of representatives in the House, the position of speaker is given to the governor's party, he said.

This would mean the House would have a Democratic speaker since Gov. Brian Schweitzer was re-elected.

Montana's House was split equally between the two parties in 2005. In 2007, Republicans took control with 50 representatives

- the remainder of the body was 49 Democrats and one Constitution party member.

Although Democrats have controlled the state Senate for the past two sessions, power is likely to shift to the Republicans for the upcoming session with a 27-23 majority.

Democrat Ron Erickson, who was elected to Senate District 47, said the shift is not due to one particular reason.

Some Democratic senators could not run again because of term limits, including Jim Elliot and Sam Kitzenberg. Others simply decided not to run again, such

as Dan Weinberg, who chose not to run for personal reasons.

Erickson said that in some cases, the Republicans put up better candidates

He served in the Montana House for four terms. Republicans held the majority for three of those terms.

Erickson said three more divisive issues between the two parties include global warming, allocation of the budget and tax policy.

"I'm hoping that the Senate is more fair than the House tax committee," he said.

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#### **HYPNOTIST**

Continued from page I

with her head resting on her neighbor's back.

"Honestly, what is your name?"
Hurley asked one of the girls.
"Bill," she said.

"No, honestly, what is your name?" he asked again.

"Rachel," she said.

"OK, Rachel," Hurley said.
"On the count of five you will think this gym floor is the dirtiest floor you have ever seen and you will clean it. One, two, three, four, five."

Rachel jumped out of her chair, knelt on all fours and began rubbing the floor in a circular motion with both her hands. She worked her way around the floor and then, with a duster from Hurley, she dusted people sitting in the front row of the audience.

Meanwhile, Hurley touched Ariel on the cheek. She stood up, asked for a Band-Aid and stuck it on her check after dropping her garbage on the floor. Rachel promptly picked up the Band-Aid remains, shoved them in her jean pockets and continued to pick at the scum on the floor.

Hurley snapped his fingers and put Rachel into a deep sleep on the floor.

"I'm going to give each of you \$100 bills for participating," he said. "Make sure to put them in a safe place."

Hurley walked down the row of volunteers, giving each of them a maroon cocktail napkin. The volunteers shoved the "bills" into their pant's pockets, under their hats and some even down their shirts. Then Hurley grabbed huge piles of the napkins and threw them up in the air. The students scrambled and grabbed wildly for the "\$100 bills." Rachel and Ariel took armloads of napkins and shoved them down their shirts.

Rachel went back to cleaning the floor, now one-handed because she had to hold her shirt together to keep from losing her "money." Hurley touched Ariel's chin. "I need a Band-Aid," she told him. Her face was now covered with

To end the show, Hurley hosted a dance-off for the eight hypnotized volunteers.

"You're all expert dancers and the winner of the dance contest gets \$100,000," Hurley said.

The music started rocking and the volunteers started flailing their arms and moving their hips to the rhythm of the music. They all had no shame. Rachel grabbed a scarf from one of the chairs, used it as a prop and started grinding up against Hurley. Ariel grabbed hold of the microphone stand and entertained the audience with a pole dance. The audience let out cheers and woops as the dancers moved across the floor.

The music stopped and Hurley put each volunteer to sleep, snapped his fingers and brought them out of their hypnotized state.

They each sat up on the floor and pulled napkins out of odd place with bewildered looks on their faces.

"It kind of felt like I didn't know if it was working," Rachel said. "It didn't really feel like anything"

After the show Ariel said she remembered something about a plane and Ewan McGregor in a

"I was just ... I didn't really remember how (the Band-Aids) got there," Ariel said. "And it hurt when I was pulling them off. Why did I put Band-Aids on my face?"

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