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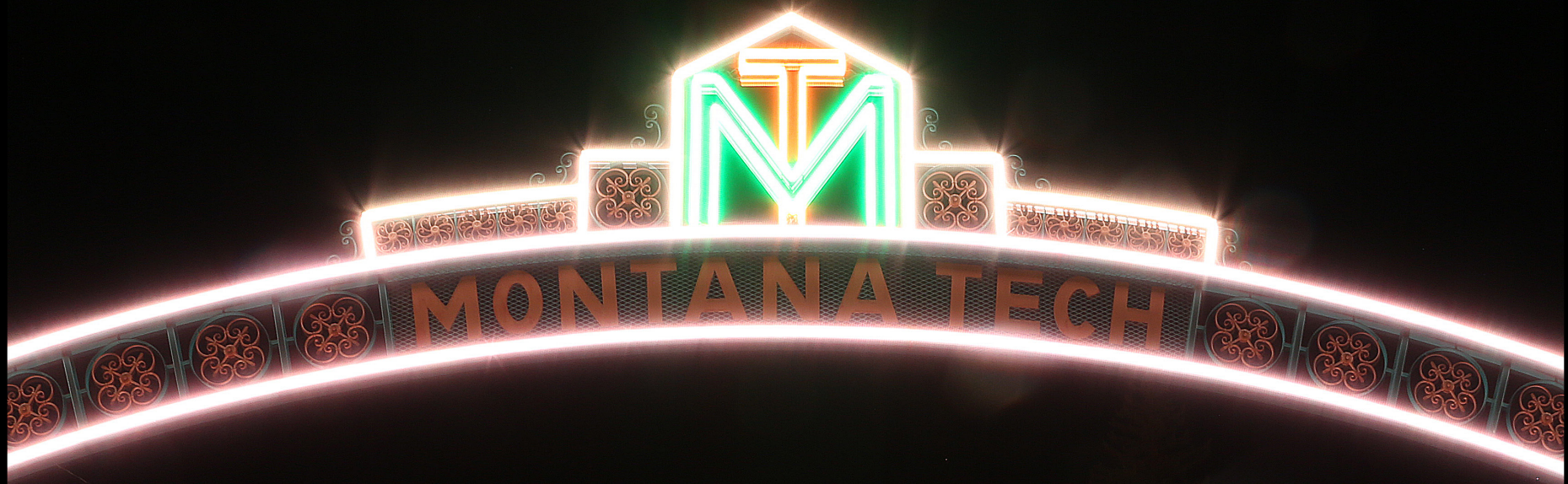
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The Technocrat

MONTANA TECH'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Cover by Emmy Keenan

It's the Little Things that Matter

By Adam M. Hawks, Editor-in-chief

WITH WINTER BREAK MERELY days away and the holiday season upon us, Montana Tech students will be returning home to see their loved ones. I will be returning to Chicago to visit my family whom I haven't seen since graduation earlier this year. Ali, my videographer, returned to the Middle East to conduct an internship in Dubai and many other members of my staff will be leaving to enjoy their well-earned break. While it is important to show appreciation for those that you care about, it is how you express this affection that is important.

It is simple to forget that as students striving to create a better life for our loved ones, that the better life doesn't necessarily mean having a new pickup truck or a big-screen television that was purchased on Black Friday. Even though we are bombarded with advertisements from Anthony Anderson and Melissa Joan Hart about what items to get from Wal-Mart, the truth is that none of these items ever lead to true happiness.

The holidays aren't about the new toys our loved ones give us. It is appreciating the love and comfort given to us during these stressful periods in our lives. As Tech students, we are so wound up from the stresses of finals that we need to just get away to recharge. Some of us need to go skiing, catch up on other reading besides textbooks, or visit loved ones halfway across the world.

However, the holidays also remind us of a precious resource that is slowly disappearing everyday in our lives, time. We never know when our loved ones will pass away or leave us to be alone in this world. The true meaning of life isn't to build for the afterlife or building wealth for our family, it is about the sum of experiences we collectively have on this planet.

Perhaps the best way to explain this is the annual family holiday classic, The Grinch who Stole Christmas. In the film, the Grinch is angry that the citizens of Whoville are having a great time during this festive holiday. He devises a plan to ruin the holiday and steals all their gifts, but yet the Whoville citizens didn't care that their gifts were stolen. They had each other, and it was then when the Grinch understood the true meaning of Christmas and the holiday season, family and friends.

So along with that big-screen television you purchase, pen a heartfelt note in a card that will let people know that you appreciate them and their time they invest into you. Let them know that you cherish them and the remaining time you will share together. And in the end, it is the little things that matter, not the television set or the brand new truck.



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Taking on Hell with a Squirt Gun

Pat Hansen on playing for Montana Tech and life after football

By Brandon Ailport

NOVEMBER 8, 2014, was a day that changed Montana Tech football's history books. 43 long years ago, Don Heater set the Montana Tech rushing record at 4,386 yards in 1971 and it hasn't been touched until now. Pat Hansen broke the outstanding record during his final game against Southern Oregon University and gave Tech fans a day to remember.

Not only did growing up in Ekalaka, MT and playing football for a Class C Program give Pat Hansen the work ethic and leadership skills that was needed to succeed, but his own personal will, attitude, and drive to never give up and follow his dreams helped him reach his goals.

Coach Chuck Morrell of the Oredigger football team had nothing but praise for the senior when I asked him what it was like to coach Hansen the past four years.

"Pat is a first class individual," said Morrell. "All the accolades and all the great things he's done on the field has been equaled by what he does off the field. He's been a tremendous leader and team captain for multiple years. He really embodies what it means to be an Oredigger. In the midst of everything else, it'd be hard to find a guy who'd work harder and put in more time and care."

Four years of running the football must have been a challenge for the 5'9", 182 lb. running back. I asked Hansen what it was like to prepare, for game day on Saturdays. "It's a high demand from a time perspective and from a physical perspective. You take a beating playing the running back position and so you definitely have to live in the weight room to make sure you bulk up and can take the hits and not get injured throughout the year."

Hansen was recruited by Coach Bob Green during his last year as head coach but had the opportunity to learn and grow from Coach Chuck Morell and Green during his four years on the Oredigger football team.

When Hansen was asked about his coaches, he didn't hesitate to reply. "I got along really well with both coaches," said Hansen. "It was good to experience Coach Green cause of his iconic personality and Coach Morell is also a great coach and I really enjoyed playing for him the last 4 years."

When Coach Green was asked about Hansen, his words summed up the running back in a few perfect yards. "Patrick Hansen is everything which you could ask for in a football player and a student," said Green. "He combines talent, exceptional work habits, knowledge of the game, a highly competitive temperament, and aptitude to a degree which few equal. Patrick's incredible achievements



Hansen (#24) leads the team out of the for the game against MSU-Northern on August 30

on the gridiron, and in the classroom are a testament to his capabilities. Plus, the guy has an outstanding positive attitude and is tough! He would take on hell with a squirt gun."

Winning the conference in 2012 after beating Carroll College was one of Hansen's favorite memories. "Was a big accomplishment for my teammates and myself," Hansen remarked, smiling as his eyes drifted towards the moments of his four year career as an Oredigger running back.

"He's been a tremendous leader and team captain for multiple years. He really embodies what it means to be an Oredigger."

-Coach Chuck Morrell

After four years, 934 carries, 4,486 rushing yards and 48 touchdowns, Hansen seems to be ready to move on and start his career for football hasn't been his only accomplishment at Tech. Looking forward to graduation, utilizing his min-

ing engineering degree, and getting married in the spring, Pat Hansen will leave Montana Tech but not without having made an impression.

Coach Morell wasn't just impressed with Hansen's ability on the field, but he was also impressed with what lies ahead for the Tech star. "Pat's going to go out in his career and be a leader in the industry just because people gravitate towards other people that display leadership and also have a great work ethic. Pat certainly has both of those things."



Photos By Adam M. Hawks

From left to right: Korey Krumm, Samantha Hutcheson, and Annie Smoot

Try Everything: A Word of Advice from three Successful Tech Seniors

Korey Krumm, Samantha Hutcheson and Annie Smoot open up about volleyball, school, and life

By Lindsay Carlson

MONTANA TECH SENIOR volleyball players Korey Krumm, Samantha Hutcheson, and Annie Smoot couldn't be more different off the court. However, that doesn't hinder their ability to come together as a force to be reckoned with when there is a volleyball involved.

Hutcheson, an Environmental Engineering major from Brandon, Manitoba, is a right-side hitter for the Diggers. She came to Tech after playing at MSU-Northern, but realizing her academic goals were better pursued in Butte. Smoot, a Geological Engineering major from Holaday, Utah, is an outside hitter, and like Hutcheson, a transfer to Montana Tech. She came to Tech to complete her geological engineering degree after studying at

Snow College. Krumm, an Anaconda native and middle blocker is working on finishing her Registered Nursing bachelor's after already completing the associate's degree. The three ladies come from very different backgrounds: Hutcheson another country, Smoot, a quiet and conservative state, and Krumm, a historical mining city. However, the three front row players have found common ground in their sport.

"No matter what is happening on the court, amongst the team, or with the coaching staff, we always have each other's backs."

Korey Krumm

Smoot says their experiences as seniors have strengthened their friendship. "No matter what is happening on the court, amongst the team, or with the coaching staff, we always have each other's backs," says Krumm. Hutcheson says how being

older and wiser has its advantages and disadvantages. As the oldest players on the team “we are a support system, and then we can all be sore together.” The girls laughed, dropping some of their melting ice bags to the floor. Their senior status has not only brought them together, but taught them valuable lessons. “Lead by example,” Krumm said. “You have to make sure that you’re doing the right things.” Hutcheson echoed the importance of this simple, but often forgotten leadership caveat, “You have to show, not tell.”

At the end of an exciting season, the girls reflected on the highs and lows. Smoot felt that the most rewarding part was making connections through volleyball. “Professors, students, and people from the community will come up to you and ask you about last week’s game, or tell you they’re coming tomorrow to cheer you on. Because of volleyball, you get to talk to people you ordinarily may not get to talk to,” said Smoot. Krumm says she loves, “that feeling of playing in front of a crowd. And then when you work so hard for something, to share the glory of winning.”

The girls credit much of their success to the people who inspire them. Hutcheson draws



Krumm awaiting a serve from University of Great Falls on November 14

“You just can’t give 110% to everything. Some part of your life is going to suffer for another good thing.”

support from her sisters: one who never fails to give her levelheaded advice about school and the other who she enjoys sharing the experience of volleyball with. Krumm also relies on family during tough times. She talks to her mom about the stressful parts of school and work, but seeks her Dad’s advice for sport related matters. “He does my stats and scouting for me,” she disclosed with a smile. Smoot seeks support from a different source. “Coming from Snow to Tech has been... a cultural experience, Smoot admits. She frequently calls and Skypes her former team mates from the small Utah college. Not only do they keep up their friendship in this way, but Smoot can talk to girls who really understand where she comes from and how hard the transition can be.

Strong support systems are important for a student athlete; the excitements and victories come with difficulties and defeat. For Krumm, it was difficult realizing that you can’t do it all. “You just can’t give 110% to everything. Some part of your life is going to suffer for another good thing.” Both of the other girls agreed that some sacrifices have to be made. “You’re balancing volleyball, school, sleep, and your social life,” Hutcheson explained. “You can pick two.” It certainly isn’t an easy schedule to keep, but these three successful seniors have learned how to do so along the way.

Smoot says her key to success is to “take things one day at a time.” Krumm

interjected, “But at the same time, organization is so important. You have to plan ahead and look at what is going on in the future.” Smoot nodded and Hutcheson continued, “You have to know yourself. You have to know you’re not going to do homework on the bus when there are loud movies playing.” The girls agreed that planning ahead and organization were crucial to effectively managing their time and getting through school successfully. The successful seniors had a few words of advice they thought would help younger students.

Hutcheson said simply but shrewdly, “Try everything.” Smoot concurred, saying is so glad she made the move to go out of state and out of her comfort zone. Her advice, “Be active, you’ll be happier if you are. Meet people, participate in everything you can.” Krumm emphasized the importance of enjoying the moment, because it is fleeting. “College doesn’t last forever. Try to enjoy it even when it is frustrating and hard.”

These seniors are correct. The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE Studies) correlated student success directly to student involvement. “NSSE measures student involvement in academic and co-curricular programs and activities, and the effect they have on stu-

dents. According to NSSE, the more involved students are in an institution, the more invested they will be. The higher the student involvement level the higher their grades are and the more likely they are to re-enroll for the next semester. Highly-engaged students are more likely to re-enroll than less-engaged students.” According to an article published by U.S. News, here are some reasons why you should get involved:

1. It helps you become better connected to your school and the resources they have available.
2. It facilitates community building, especially in a new environment, far from the comforts of home, family, and friends.
3. It leads you to discover your true passions, strengths, and even dislikes.
4. It looks good on a resume: you can never have too good a resume.
5. It encourages you to learn time management skills: being busier (but not too busy) often helps students succeed in all areas, including outside of school.

Krumm, Hutcheson, and Smoot are the perfect examples of how being highly involved, although it may not always be easy, is always worth it. Because of their involvement, the three have built amazing friendships with others who come from completely opposite backgrounds, been inspired and encouraged by those they love, learned invaluable leadership and time management skills, and gained the satisfaction of being a part of something bigger than themselves. So whether it is a new sport, hobby, club, volunteer activity, or even a game night, take Samantha’s advice and try everything.

The Money Pit: Throwing away money

Examining the sunk-cost fallacy at Montana Tech

By Blake Nellis

IMAGINE AN ELDERLY couple wants to spend their retirement fund on building the house of their dreams, so they buy a plot of land and hire a general contractor. Halfway through construction they learn that the site they've chosen is sitting on a sinkhole, and they're going to have to begin the project anew somewhere else. However, the couple insists that before they choose a new site they want the contractor to finish building the first house, because they don't want the money that they've already put into it to have been wasted. I'm sure you immediately realize what a silly sentiment that is, but you may be surprised to learn that almost everyone has made the very same error in judgment. It's called the sunk cost fallacy, and it usually isn't so obvious.

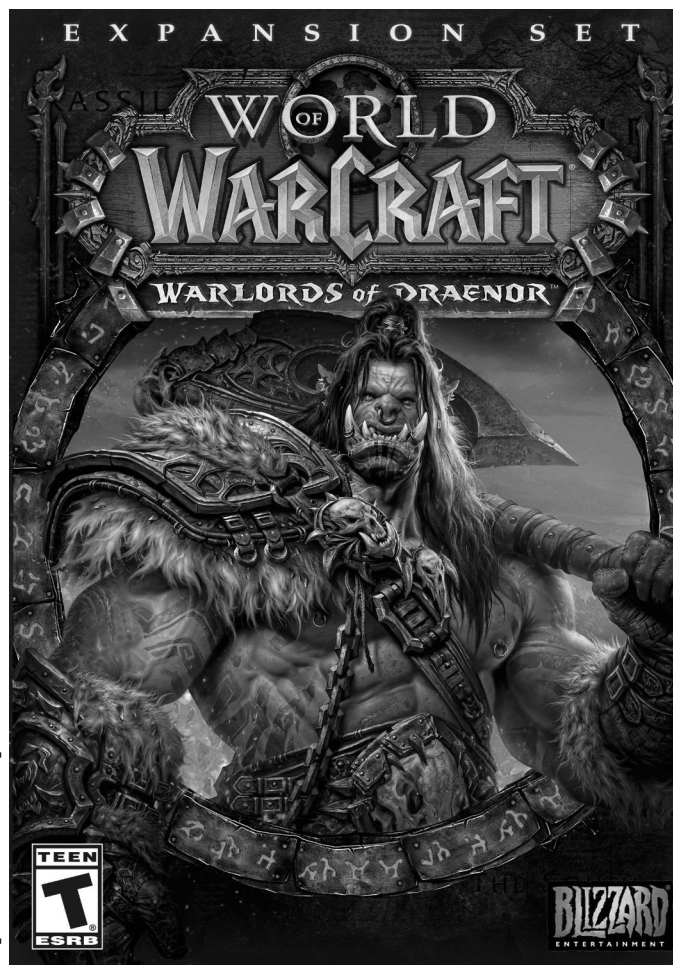
One place you often see the sunk cost fallacy is in restaurants, and I've definitely been guilty of this one. If I go to a restaurant and eat until what's left of my meal isn't worth saving, I feel like I should finish it even if I'm not hungry anymore, because I don't want to waste it. The

It's probably the reason that you can't stop watching that show that you think has gone downhill

money that was spent on food is the "sunk cost" in this example. It's an expenditure that can't be recovered, so no matter what I do with the food the money is as gone as it's ever going to be, and I only make myself uncomfortable by stuffing myself.

This issue also often appears in regards to entertainment, and it's probably the reason that you can't stop watching that show that you think has gone downhill. Once you've invested your time in a project or piece of media, you're much more likely to devote time to it in the future. Montana Tech freshman Bobby Osterman shared her experiences.

"Sometimes I'll end up reading a book that I don't even like very much," Bobby lamented. "I get a hundred-ish pages into it and think, well I can't stop now, I have to finish it."



Are massive multiplayer online roleplaying games such as Blizzard's World of Warcraft a sunk cost example? Some say yes, others disagree

In some cases the sunk cost fallacy can end up having an entirely benign effect, to the point where you may not need to correct it even if you notice it. Emmy Keenan, assistant editor for The Technocrat, recalled such an example.

"One thing that my parents got me for graduation was a printer," reported Emmy. "I later found it to be unnecessary due to the fact that we as students have a significant amount of money to spend specifically on prints. I figured I might as well keep the printer so I wouldn't consider it to be a waste."

"Sometimes I'll end up reading a book that I don't even like very much. I get a hundred-ish pages into it and think, well I can't stop now, I have to finish it!"
Tech Student Bobby Osterman

Minor issues like these aside, the sunk cost fallacy can actually be a significant problem. People with unhealthy gambling habits will often throw good money after bad thanks to this vulnerability in our psyche, reluctant to stop going to the casino when they're behind because they hate the thought of wasting all that money that they have, in fact, already lost.

We've all committed this same sin of reason at some point in our lives because the human brain has evolved to be very loss-averse. We humans hate losses way more than we enjoy gains, hence

the maxim "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." It's also the reason that a new phone will make you happy for a week, while a broken phone is going to sting for much longer.

Sunk costs hurt, but it's better to let them go and focus on the future, whether it's something as small as ten bucks you spent at a restaurant or something as significant as years spent for a career that you realize isn't right for you. All of this isn't to say that you shouldn't strive to avoid wastefulness, just make sure that you're focusing that desire for efficiency when, and where it really counts.

Janie Payne is the Meaning of Happiness

A Tech student's goodbye to a longtime mentor
By Hussain Almeshal

I DON'T KNOW WHERE to begin or how to express my thoughts. It's difficult for a person to write and express his emotions towards a person who has done a lot of things for him. I was hesitant to write this, not because I'm not able to write but because I'm afraid that my words would not be befitting to the person who has done a lot for me. The person I am talking about is short in height, has golden hair, great empathy, and quite charismatic. This person also has the purity of a child and is wise and experienced in life, resulting in self-confidence. The woman I am talking about is Janie Payne whom I admire very deeply.

Perhaps readers are wondering why I wrote this article. Let me tell you about Janie Payne. I was sitting with Janie in her office, and she told me "Hussain, I will be retiring next semester so I will be gone; and you will not be able to chase me anymore." When she finished, I felt a great pain inside, and I didn't know how to describe my feelings at that moment. My feelings were mix of happiness and sadness. Why happiness? It made me happy that Janie will take a rest after a long time of teaching and having helped many of her students become successful.

Why am I sad? Because I will not see her often anymore at school and bother her with a lot of questions about my classes or discuss religions and politics with her. There are several other reasons why I lament, but there is not enough room here to discuss them all.

Whenever I struggle or get upset in any of my classes, I feel compelled to Janie's office suddenly. I don't know why. Maybe because she is really good in responding to anger and is capable of motivating me; or maybe she knows my weaknesses and strengths. I do not know of anyone who deals with Janie and who doesn't love her. Her students know that she is tough in the class only, but outside class she is really congenial, and humble. I admit that she was tough with me, too. She told me one day, "I am tough with you because you did not listen to my advice" and also told me, "if you want to achieve your goal you have to work hard to earn what you want to become successful in your life."

I do not remember Janie ever having ignored me whenever I asked for help. She always there for me whenever I need her help. When Janie retires next semester, our university will lose one of the most effective teachers.

Here is what I want to say to Janie: I can't thank you enough. Thank you for being a key partner for success in my life. Thank you for what you did for all your students and sacrificed for us. You have been the mentor of my life. Whenever I may go in my life, I will always remember that I had an excellent guide in you as teacher. Without you I would have been lost. Your students will always be thankful to you for all the hard work and effort you have put in for educating us. Life is a journey, and your words have been a guiding light throughout. "Saying goodbye can be one of the hardest things we have to do, especially when it is the final goodbye."

Hussein Almeshal is a senior at Montana Tech studying Petroleum Engineering.

The Perks of Café Slurps

The benefits of coffee ahead of finals at Tech
By Molly O'Neill

AS SNOW CONTINUES to pile up at our doorsteps, student's course-work simultaneously accrues atop the desks. To-do lists exponentially grow alongside lab notes and mangled paper as finals week approaches for students at Montana Tech.

For many, finals week is the snowstorm that is looming; however, one has to remember that a new dawn is awaits following finals. For some, final exams signal the end of a college career, a trip home to the family, or days on the ski hill. But, with pending awards, comes the anticipation and angst while preparing for the blizzard: reviewing the semester's notes, utilizing a professor's office hours, and making sense of confusing content. For some it brings late nights and stressful afternoons, and is usually accompanied by a java filled mug.

"I like hot coffee drinks because they are comforting and help me get in the mood to study," said Kaylee Hafer, a sophomore studying psychology.

Coffee is the loyal friend you can always rely on. It never has other plans, ditches you, or makes you feel awful. It sits quietly and patiently at the side of your laptop and brings you warmth and alertness in each sip while looking out for your health.

"There's no way I'm studying without coffee, it's a must," said Keaton Corbitt, a sophomore studying mechanical engineering.

If you want to get the most caffeine out of your cup of joe, aim for a 12oz blonde roast. There is a shorter roast time that results with more mellow flavors than a darker roast, but its result is more caffeine. The opposite goes for a dark roast—less caffeine, but a more smooth and rich flavor. "[A] Blonde roast is roasted for a less amount of time, so it contains more caffeine while the darker coffee is roasted longer so the caffeine seeps out," said Mika, a Starbucks barista. A 12oz brewed cup also has more caffeine than a 12oz double shot Americano—take note.

There are a plethora of health benefits of coffee. According to WebMD, those who drink coffee are less to likely have type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease, and dementia. Dr. Frank Hu, a nutrition and epidemiology professor at Harvard states, that the data on coffee and type 2 diabetes is "pretty solid." Studies have also shown that coffee improves moods and can boost athletic performance.

Coffee beans contain "disease-ravaging" antioxidants, called quinines. According to the American Chemical Society news releases, coffee is the leading source of antioxidants in American diets. "This type of antioxidant, along with the magnesium found naturally in coffee, affect blood sugar levels and are thought to be responsible for the link to a lower risk of type 2 diabetes," stated the American Chemical Society.

Thus, while nourishing your mind with coffee while also cramming it with equations and complex concepts, remember each sip reaps healthful benefits. Coffee just might be your new best friend.

New World Security: The Electric Bat

Tech professor on reducing vandalism and thefts with technology

By Boston Ranney

THERE WERE 8,975,438 robberies, larcenies, and thefts committed in the year of 2012. In the United States repeat offenders commit the majority of these crimes and these thieves have developed and honed their skills over a lifetime. Stopping one thief can prevent numerous crimes from happening in the future. A variety of security systems and devices are in place in order to protect against crimes and catch criminals in the act, but as cities grow and advance, so too must the technology that protects them.

Bryce Hill is an electrical engineering professor at Montana Tech who is working on his own security devices. Professor Hill describes one of his devices in current use. "It's basically a mounted camera that responds to sound waves and swivels its camera eye in the direction of the noise," said Hill. These cameras are used in warehouses to detect intruders and prevent theft and vandalism.

Professor Hill wants to further innovate the security cameras into battery-powered drones, and equip them with the ability to echolocate each other.

But compared to what Professor Hill has in mind, these cameras are no more than glorified security cameras. They can't drown out background noise. Professor Hill is currently developing an algorithm to fix that. The new algorithm would record the sounds that are normally present in a given environment: wind, water, machinery, and the echoes of whatever traffic becomes repetitive. The camera then negates the effects of the interfering noise by drowning out their electronic memory. If a sound enters its range of hearing, and that sound is quieter than the background noise (as a skilled thief might be), the new drone will still be able to track it as long as the character of its sound wave is different.

Professor Hill wants to further innovate the security cameras into battery-powered drones, and equip them with the ability to echolocate each other. They will be capable of creating a far more accurate picture of sound sources that they track than individual cameras by coordinating with each other and cross-referencing sounds from differing angles. The new drones will be used nearly anywhere, as they will not require a separate power source. Together, these improvements form Professor Hill's goal for the drones. "Eventually, one would be able to take a handful of the drones, scatter them in a field, and track whatever moves in that field," said Hill.

The electronic bats, unlike their winged counterparts, have a number of pos-



Photo by Getty Images

Are drones the future of private surveillance? Professor Bryce Hill thinks they may.

sible applications. They could record the thieves' criminal activities, speech, and physical appearances. The thieves' unique voice pattern could identify them if

later heard. The bats could be deployed out in a forest, jungle, or field and without being distracted by background noise could accurately track the wildlife that move through their threshold.

Some applications could be quite disturbing. As Professor Hill notes, "They could be used to record the conversations of ordinary citizens." Which can be a concern for residents of well-populated cities. When told about that possible use Patrick Nelson, a resident of Butte, responded, "You'd essentially have a bunch of mobile bugs. Even Nixon might think twice about that."

"You'd essentially have a bunch of mobile bugs. Even Nixon might think twice about that."

-Patrick Nelson

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