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Prospectus 2011

The Prospectus

9-28-2011

Prospectus, September 28, 2011

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Top Stories

Pygmalion Music
Festival 2011



Photo highlights,
festival review,
interviews with
Braid, Xiu Xiu,
Easter, and more.
Exclusive content
on Facebook.

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Former Cobra,
Brent Jordan heads
Rugby Club.

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Pygmalion 2011 Highlights



Photo by Sean Hermann/Prospectus News

Braid performing at the Polyvinyl Records 15 year anniversary show Saturday as a part of the seventh annual Pygmalion Music Festival.

PN Josh Grube
Staff Writer

After an exhaustingly excit-
ing five-day stretch, the 2011
Pygmalion Music Festival has
come to an end. Each year,
Pygmalion brings in popular
indie acts while also showcas-
ing talents from the local area.
This was the seventh year for
the festival, which has contin-
ued to grow stronger in both
attendance and lineup with
each year.

The festival began with
a psychedelic touch last
Wednesday night at the Can-
opy Club. Opening the show

were two psychedelic rock
duos: local favorites Common
Loon and Portland based Viva
Voce. Headlining the night
were Explosions in the Sky, a
legendary instrumental post-
rock group from Texas. They
hypnotized the packed venue
for ninety minutes, emotion-
ally submerging themselves
deep into the music as well.

The next night at the Can-
opy Club began in the void
room with Easter, the project
of local musician Kyle Lang,
equipped with a full band. The
high-energy show was per-
formed to a criminally small
audience, appropriately end-

ing with the trombonist crowd
surfing. Opening up the main
stage were Ava Luna, a seven-
piece pop group from New
York, whose catchy set encour-
aged the audience to dance
along. They were followed by
Bachelorette, the electronic
pop project of New Zealand
songwriter Annabel Alpers.

Afterward was Unknown
Mortal Orchestra, who would
perfectly fit in a playlist with
the classic psychedelic rock
bands of the 60s and 70s. Back
in the void room were the
enchanting indie rock band
Youth Lagoon, who should
have been performing on the

main stage, as their audience
expanded outside of the venue
doors. Finishing up the night
was Toro y Moi, whose upbeat
pop vibes turned the front of
the venue into a dance floor.

Friday continued the theme
of easily danceable pop music
with Midnight Magic, Washed
Out, and Cut Copy. The disco
sounds of Midnight Magic pre-
pared the early comers for a
crazy night, as Ernest Greene's
extremely addictive Washed
Out kept them dancing after-
ward. Later, Cut Copy took the
stage with their synth-heavy
arrangements and falsetto
melodies. The dancing inten-

sified even further throughout
the night with the late show
headlined by the Hood Inter-
net, who truly brought out the
"club" in Canopy Club.

Meanwhile, indie rockers
the Luyas and folk rock group
the Dodos had the Channing-
Murray Foundation packed to
the brim, leaving a line of anx-
ious people outside, extending
to the street. Luckily, every-
one waiting could be admitted
in time to see the Dodos.

The Polyvinyl 15 Year Ann-
iversary Show was at the High-
dive Saturday, and featured a

See FEST on P. 7

Safe Haven Laws to affect Parkland

PN Alisha Kirkley
Staff Writer

Today's economy is difficult,
and both families and single
parents struggle to make ends
meet. But with every obsta-
cle comes a solution. There
are many services that pro-
vide help, especially for single
parents. Basic needs, housing,
and childcare are just a few of
the various services offered
by the government. But occa-
sionally, raising a child is too
much for a parent. If that were
the case, there are numerous
places, including Parkland
College Public Safety, which
can accept babies.

For the parent who can't
bear to part with their child,
there are numerous places
and programs that are help-
ful. The Supplemental Nutri-
tion Assistance Program is a
program designed to assist in
purchasing grocery items for
people of low income. Tem-
porary Assistance for Needy
Families provides temporary
financial assistance for preg-
nant women and families, pro-
viding help to pay for food,
shelter, utilities, and expenses
other than medical and is lim-
ited to 60 months. Low-income
housing is also available in
several places and one would
discover that many places are
willing to work with single
parents or low-income fami-
lies. Another option would be
to have a friend live with you,
which could aid in splitting
expenses.

An additional option is
the Crisis Nursery located



Photos by Chanelle Stokes/Prospectus News and MCT

Basic needs, housing, and childcare are just a few of the various services offered by the government. But occasionally, raising a child is too much for a parent. If that were the case, there are numerous places, including Parkland College Public Safety, which can accept babies.

in Urbana, Illinois. "Crisis
Nursery creates an 'Island of
Safety' dedicated to the pre-
vention of child abuse and
neglect by providing 24-hour
emergency care for children
and support to strengthen fam-
ilies in crisis," according to
their website. "Crisis Nursery
is the only emergency-based
childcare facility open 24
hours, 365 days a year for the
entire community to access
with no fees, income eligibil-
ity or waiting list. Besides safe
shelter for children, ranging
in age from birth through five

years, we also provide family
support and parenting educa-
tion to strengthen parent skills
and confidence. Resources
and services are available for
families dealing with prena-
tal depression, kinship care,
homelessness and teen par-
enting to name a few. Services
include: crisis counseling,
home visits, parent child in-
teraction groups, support groups,
and referrals for resources
and follow-ups." The facili-
ty's website, crisisnursery.net,
has this information as well as
information for families and

ways to donate or volunteer.

Even though a single parent
may feel like they are out of
options, they aren't. There are
several alternatives to give a
baby a chance for a good life
if a single parent finds their
self not capable of caring for
a newborn, such as adoption or
giving the baby up. There are
multiple adoption methods,
about which detailed informa-
tion can be found by contact-
ing an adoption agency or adop-
tion attorney to get informa-
tion about the process. As for
surrendering an infant, Park-

land's Public Safety office is
obligated to accept infants and
someone is always in atten-
dance. A baby must be under
thirty days old, and given to
a person, not dropped off. If
the parent and baby appear
healthy and no obvious neglect
or abuse is present, then there
are no questions asked. Later,
DCFS will become involved to
help place the baby in a loving
home.

An infant could also be relin-
quished to a generally specific
employee. "Illinois offers a
safe option for a desperate
parent in crisis," affirms save-
abandonedbabies.org. "By
handing your unharmed baby,
thirty days old or younger,
to personnel at any hospital,
emergency medical facility,
staffed fire station, or police
station you can walk away with
no questions asked. The baby
will be cared for and placed
in a loving home for adoption.
No attempt whatsoever will be
made to contact you. No crime
will have been committed.
This is a TRULY safe process."
For more information about
Safe Haven laws or adoption,
visit the website listed above.

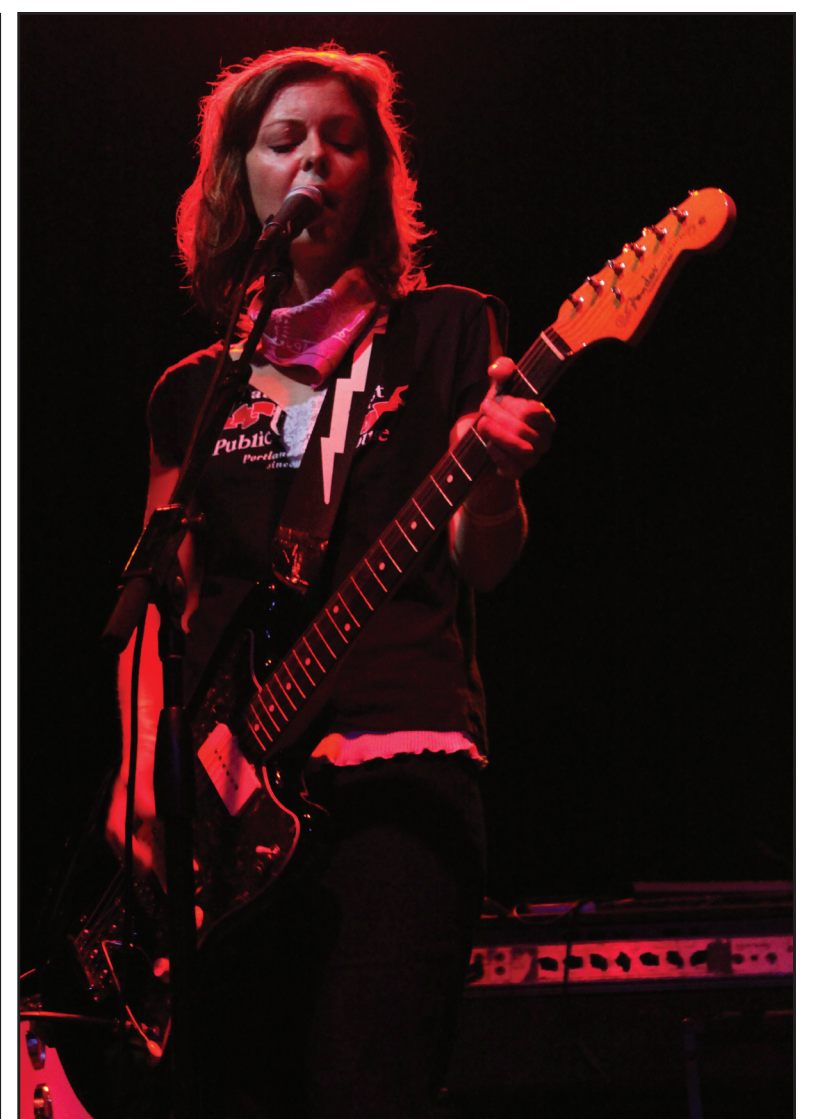
So whether a parent decides
to raise his or her own fami-
ly or give the baby to another
family, there are options for
either path. Be sure to inves-
tigate all available resources
thoroughly, there are plenty
that are offered. Remember;
never be ashamed to ask for
help, even if all hope seems
lost.

Pygmalion



Photos by Blaine Wright and Sean Hermann

Various artists performing at theseventhannualPygmalion Music Festival in Champaign-Urbana September 21-25. (Top) Gardens and Villa at Channing-Murray Foundation. (Middle left) Japandroids at the Highdive Outdoor Annex. (Middle right) Explosions in the Sky at The Canopy Club. (Middle bottom left) Toro y Moi at The Canopy Club. (Bottom left) Cut Copy at The Canopy Club. (Bottom right) Viva Voce at The Canopy Club.



News

Catching up with Braid



Photo by Josh Grube/Prospectus News

Braid performing at the Polyvinyl Records 15 year anniversary show Saturday as a part of the seventh annual Pygmalion Music Festival.

Josh Grube
WPCD Correspondent

Headlining the Polyvinyl 15 Year Anniversary show last Saturday at the Pygmalion Music Festival were local indie giants Braid, who recently reunited and released a new EP titled *Closer to Closed*. Before their big performance, WPCD talked to vocalist and guitarist Bob Nanna to catch up with the band.

WPCD: What is it like being back together after all of these years?

BN: It feels really great. It's tough because we're not actually totally back together, we're getting together to write new songs and create some new music. It just feels really good to be able to play music with those other three guys. I'm such fans of them as musicians, and I think we write really well together. The time we spent together writing songs and touring was really special, and to relive that in any small way just feels really good.

WPCD: What sparked the decision to reunite?

BN: I had recently started spending more time with Chris (Broach). He moved back into the city of Chicago and we started doing DJ nights together. Once it was around Record Store Day of last year, I came to one DJ night and was like: "You know what would be awesome? If Braid recorded two new songs for a 7 inch for next year's Record Store Day." Because I wondered what it would sound like if the four of us got in a room and tried to write some songs. That's kind of where it started, everyone was up for it. Our schedules don't really line up so much anymore, but we were able to get together, write the songs, and then record them.

WPCD: What have you been up to since Braid disbanded?

BN: A lot. Musically, I played in Hey Mercedes for almost five years. And then I did a whole lot of touring solo under the name The City On Film. That's pretty much it, I've been touring a lot. I also work now at threadless.com which is amazing.

WPCD: Is there any hope to see something new come out of either Hey Mercedes or The City On Film in the future?

BN: I can't ever say never, I don't want to say never for anything, but there's nothing planned for Hey Mercedes. But I'm constantly putting out new solo stuff online or whatever. I'm starting to play in a new band too and doing a project called Jack And Ace. I just want to keep writing because it makes me feel good.

WPCD: How did you choose the songs from your catalog to relearn and perform live?

BN: We went through and thought about the songs that we liked playing the most. Some importance was given to the ones that we thought we would be able to learn and play well in time. There are one or two songs that we hadn't played in a long, long, long time that we thought would be fun to try and relearn. We're playing some of the new songs, too so those are actually songs we need to learn how to play live as well. We got together a list of songs we thought we really needed to play, songs that we wanted to play, and then some weird, kind of wildcard songs that we thought would be cool if we played but not a big deal if we don't.

WPCD: Tell me about the new EP *Closer To Closed*.

BN: Our plan was only to write two songs, and then we were going to do the cover of the Jeff Hanson song "You Are The Reason." But when we got together, it just went so well we wanted to keep going. I brought in one of the songs "Do Over" and Chris brought in another song "The Right Time." Just sort of vague sketches of the song, and then we worked them out. And then the song "Universe Or Worse" we worked out together.

Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

Compelling Explanations
Dalia Dippolito, 30, of Boynton Beach, Fla., was convicted in May of hiring a hit man to kill her husband, but not before offering an ultra-modern defense: Her lawyer told the jury that it was all a fake scheme to pitch a reality-TV show about one spouse's ordering a hit on the other (and that her husband, Michael, had originally come up with the idea). As Dippolito's plan unfolded, her boyfriend alerted police, who set up a sting and witnessed Dippolito dictating exactly what she wanted done. (In fact, the sting itself was captured on video for the "Cops" TV show.) Michael denied any involvement, and the jury appeared not to give her story any credence. [ABC News, 4-27-2011; CBS News, 5-16-2011]

"Wrong" Impressions:
The Sergeants Benevolent Association, fighting back in April against corruption charges (that its NYPD officers often "fix" traffic tickets for celebrities, high officials and selected "friends") claimed in a recorded message reported in The New York Times that such fixes are merely "courtesy," not corruption. [New York Times, 4-19-2011]

Quite a Disease, That Lyme:
Marilyn Michose, 46, was referred for medical evaluation in May after she was spotted roaming the lobby of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City wearing neon pink panties on top of her street clothes, with a .25-caliber Beretta visible in her jacket pocket, and speaking gibberish. According to Michose's mother, Marilyn had overmedicated for her Lyme disease. [New York Times, 5-7-2011]

A restraining order, to keep away from Sarah Palin and her family, was extended in May against Shawn Christy, 19, of McAdoo, Pa., by a magistrate in Anchorage, Alaska. Christy has admitted to traveling to Alaska to meet Palin, to making numerous telephone calls to her, and to once threatening to sexually assault her. According to a 2009 psychiatric evaluation ordered by the Secret Service, Christy appeared to suffer from "latent onset" Lyme disease. [Reuters, 5-9-2011]

Ironies
Erie County (N.Y.) jail officials suspended guards Lawrence Mule, a 26-year veteran, and James Conlin, a 29-year veteran, after they scuffled at the County Correctional Facility on April 21, reportedly over a bag of chips. An inmate had to break up the fight. [WVVB-TV (Buffalo)-AP, 4-29-2011]

An anti-terrorism drill scheduled for Pottawattamie County, Iowa, in March, which was to practice community coordination after an attack by a hypothetical white supremacist group angry about illegal immigration, had to be canceled. The sheriff said callers claiming to be white supremacists were angry at being picked on as "terrorists" and had threatened a school in Treynor, Iowa, with an attack that closely resembled the kind of imagined attack that would have preceded the simulated drill. [Des Moines Register, 3-26-2011]

In April, officials in the northern Swedish city of Angermanland temporarily shut down the operator of a colonic cleansing service, and issued fines because it was not up to code. It had insufficient restroom facilities, thus requiring some of its clients to cleanse their colons in front of other clients. [The Local (Stockholm), 4-5-2011]

I Demand My Rights!
The lawyer for Charles Wilhite expressed shock in a formal motion before the court after his client's murder trial in Springfield, Mass., in April (in which Wilhite was convicted). How could it be, he asked the judge, that despite having to evaluate 19 witnesses and examine 55 pieces of evidence,

the jury could so quickly have decided (three hours total) that Wilhite and his partner Angel Hernandez were guilty? (The lawyer insinuated that the jury had thus been inattentive or biased, but did not mention the possibility that Wilhite and Hernandez were so obviously guilty that no more time was necessary.) [The Republican (Springfield), 4-27-2011]

Signs of the Times
"Dog Stylist" Dara Foster ("I show people how to live together with their dogs in a stylish way") told a TV audience recently that some dog owners are dressing their pooches in "'80s-inspired punk," "giving way to a grunge movement in dog fashion - I swear to God." The ubiquitous TV guest and apparel designer estimates that since Americans already spend \$47 billion a year on pets, they need more than ever to know what's hot -- fluorescent styling gel, for example, and precooked meals for dogs, and owners getting matching tattoos with their dogs, and a recently spotted synthetic mullet wig for dogs. [New York Times, 3-29-2011]

Least Competent Criminals
People Who Didn't Think It Through:

Joseph Price, 61, left the PNC Bank in Okeechobee, Fla., empty-handed on May 6 despite having passed the teller a note demanding a "sack full of cash." However, he hadn't brought a sack with him, and the teller said she didn't have one, either. He was arrested seven minutes after leaving the bank. [United Press International, 5-10-2011]

Joseph Brice, 21, of Clarkston, Wash., was indicted in May on one count of having manufactured a bomb in 2010. Brice inadvertently called attention to himself by ordering his bomb components under the name of (Oklahoma City bomber) "Timothy McVeigh." [Tacoma News-Tribune, 5-13-2011]

The Jesus and Mary World Tour (all-new!)

In December, the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay, Wis., announced it had received approval to designate a site in Champion, Wis., as the 11th official, Vatican-authorized location of a Virgin Mary apparition (witnessed by a nun in 1859). Meanwhile, these recent bootleg public appearances were reported: Yucca Valley, Calif., in April (Jesus on the petal of a poppy plant). Brisbane, Australia, in March (Jesus on a pie from the Posh Pizza restaurant). Los Angeles in February (Jesus on a rocking chair). Pequabuck, Conn., in February (Mary in an ice formation on a neighbor's roof). Comal County, Texas, just north of San Antonio, in December (Mary, "floating" on the wall of an apartment building). Elwood, Ind., in December (Jesus on a woman's chest X-ray). [Champion: WISC-TV (Madison), 12-8-2010] [Yucca Valley: WJBF-TV (Augusta, Ga.)-ABC News, 4-13-2011] [Brisbane: News.com.au (Sydney), 3-30-2011] [Los Angeles: KNND-TV (San Diego), 2-17-2011] [Pequabuck: Bristol (Conn.) Press, 2-16-2011] [Comal: KENS-TV (San Antonio), 12-14-2010] [Elwood: Daily Mail (London), 12-29-2010]

A News of the Weird Classic (March 1990)

On Halloween day (1989), Tallahassee, Fla., K-Mart employee Jeff Sablom was taking a break in the back of the store to try on the Batman costume he had planned to wear to a party that night when a security guard asked for his help to apprehend a shoplifter. Said the guard later, "You should have seen that man's eyes when he looked back and saw Batman chasing him." Sablom recovered four cartons of cigarettes and two videocassettes. [Gainesville Sun, 11-2-1989]

Read more

News of the Weird
at www.prospectusnews.com



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88.7 PARKLAND COLLEGE

Opinions

Prospectus News

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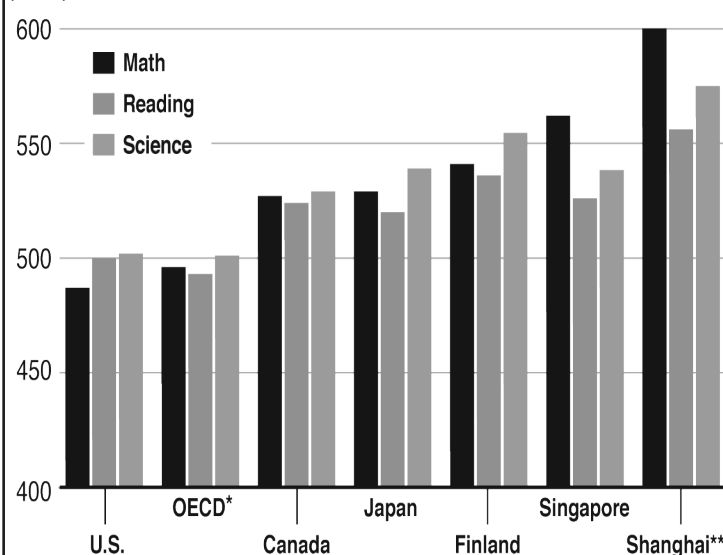
Did you know?

All unused issues of Prospectus News are donated to the Parkland College Veterinary Technology program or the Champaign County Humane Society.

Building an education nation

U.S. students lagging

The U.S. ranks behind most developed countries in student performance in math, reading and science, according to a survey of 15-year-olds in the principal industrialized countries of the world.



*This is an average; the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development consists of 34 developed countries around the world
**Results in Shanghai were measured separately from the rest of China
Source: National Center on Education and the Economy
Graphic: San Jose Mercury News © 2011 MCT

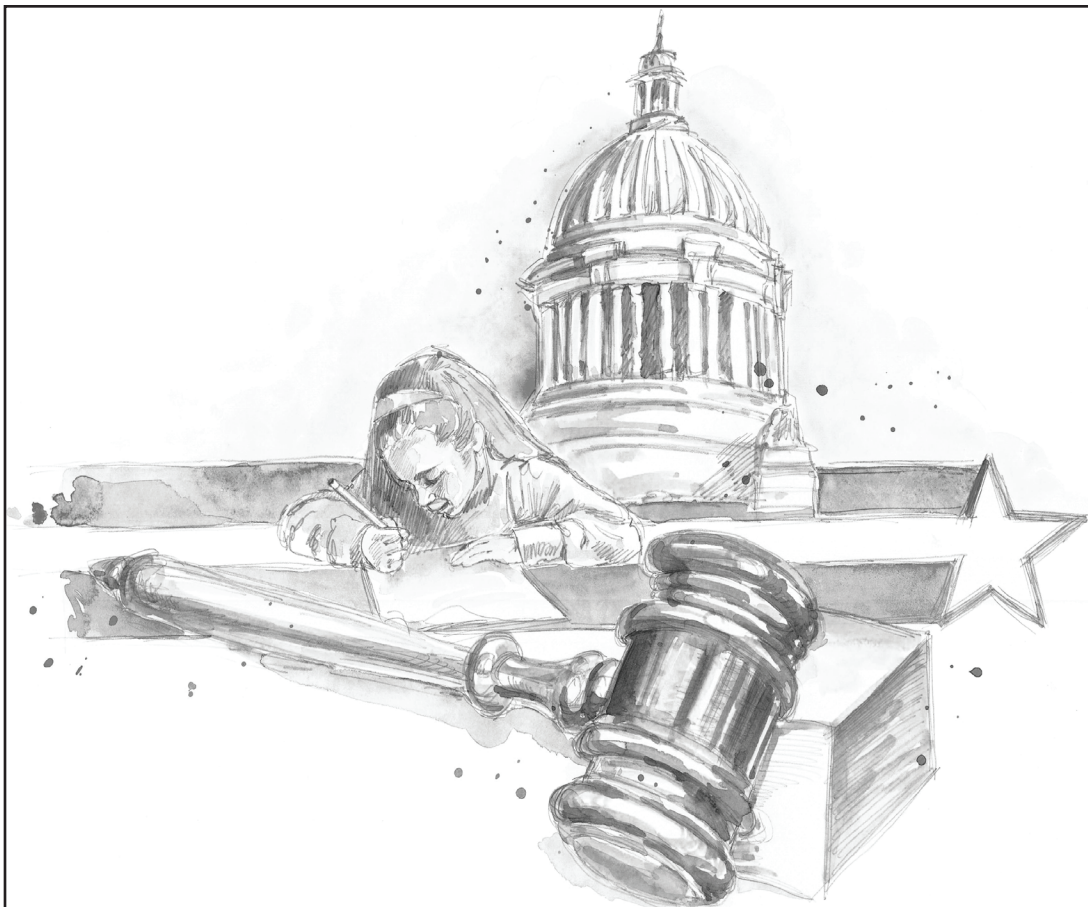


Illustration by MCT

Standards and expectations are being raised and tested; new teaching techniques are being systematically measured and implemented; new kinds of schools are being constructed and politicians from the White House to the village green are being held accountable for their commitment to education.

Tom Brokaw
MCT

Think of American education as a house of many rooms, each with a distinct function but taken as a whole, this house is shelter against the winds of change buffeting the world and threatening our future.

Any objective analysis of that shelter comes to the same conclusion: we have work to do to be sure we're secure and able to hold our own against whatever this new global climate sends our way.

That's the unsettling news. The good news? Work is under way, from the most remote school districts in rural America, to the inner city of our largest urban areas.

Standards and expectations are being raised and tested; new teaching techniques are being systematically measured and implemented; new kinds of schools are being constructed and politicians from the White House to the village green are being held accountable for their commitment to education.

For too long in our country, education was a one-size-fits-all model and the place of education in the public arena was more symbolic than real. Candidates regularly proclaimed, "I am running on a platform of pro-education. I'll be the best friend the schools ever had." Campaign intentions quickly gave way to the same old, same old.

Then, two dramatic developments set off alarms everywhere. Colleges and companies began to complain that too many high school graduates, not drop outs but grad-

uates, were arriving on their doorstep functionally illiterate and unable to do the simplest form of math.

The other development? Our Asian competitors were racing to the top not only of the economic ladder but also the education ladder. They were making massive investments in education, unencumbered by outmoded structures, political food fights and "I give up" mentality.

Two examples: China requires all junior high students to take courses in biology, chemistry and physics, rightly figuring that science will be the coin of the 21st century. In America, only 18 percent of senior high school students take those courses.

As long ago as 1996 I was working in Seoul, South Korea, anchoring "Nightly News" before dawn because of the time difference. I was on a roof-top overlooking a junior high courtyard. At first light every morning the yard was filled with students reading by flashlight, waiting for the doors to open in another hour.

I could not imagine a similar scene in my country.

Recently President Obama asked the president of South Korea what the issues were with education that he had to confront and the South Korean leader replied, "Parents demanding more classroom time for their children." That is not to say there isn't impressive work underway in the public schools of America.

Innovative administrators and teachers have designed imaginative curricula and motivational techniques to keep students in the class-

rooms, and engaged in learning, often with little help from the outside.

Yes, there have been problems with the structure and constraints of teachers' unions but those are now on the table and being negotiated. The battle is not over, but at least it has been joined.

Wendy Kopp's innovative idea, Teach For America, is attracting a new generation of energetic and bright young men and women to the profession.

Entrepreneurs and captains of industry such as Bill Gates and Warren Buffet, home building tycoon Eli Broad, hedge fund billionaires in New York's Robin Hood Foundation, have put education reform and excellence at the top of their personal and financial agenda.

NBC News has established an ongoing project called Education Nation to keep the issue before the American public. Other journalistic organizations have devoted special coverage to the subject on a regular basis.

This is a crusade in which we can all take part. Members of my generation, who owe so much to this country, should be a ready army of volunteer tutors and teacher aides in their communities.

Education used to be about Reading, Riting and Rithmetic. No more. Now it is about Recognition of the problem, Reform of the institution and Resolve to do what it takes to place American students of every socio-economic class in the top tier of their peers everywhere.

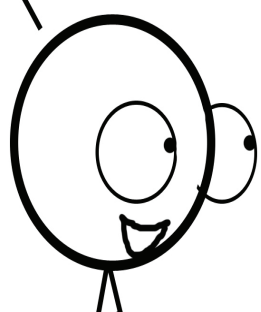
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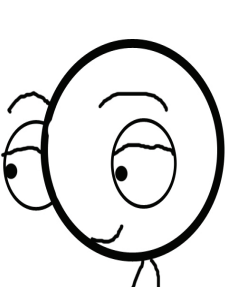
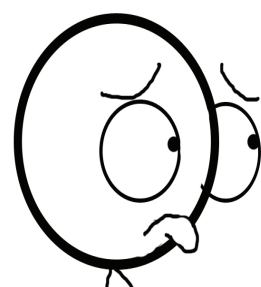
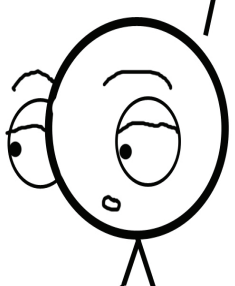
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How to ruin an optimistic person's mood

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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

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The true colors of Sid Germaine

PN Chanelle Stokes
Staff Writer

How do you explain how men and women are supposed to look, act and feel in society? Many young adults come to a realization early in their lives where they don't feel accepted in the world, and don't know how to "fit in." Sid Germaine, a 19 year old student at Parkland and a member of Queer and Alley, explains the procedures that he went through, being a closed gay girl in high school, to an openly gay man today. Germaine expresses the things he had to overcome through his years of secrets to be able to be the person he has made himself to be today, from conflicts with the family to medical procedures, Germaine shares his journey.

Germaine's earliest memory of feeling different "was when I was three years old," Germaine says. When his brother was born he realized the differences between girls and boys. Knowing these differences made thoughts run around in his mind of what was right and wrong with boys and girls in a society.

Later on in his life, around the age

and it would go away with time," they said. Germaine did not believe this and kept his life quiet and to himself. Once Germaine turned 17, he turned the subject on again and knew college would be the safest place to begin.

This time around, Germaine's parents seemed to be more accepting towards the subject. This brought on the steps of the procedures of becoming someone Germaine could finally be comfortable with, inside and out. At age 18, he started seeing an Endocrinologist, a doctor who is specially trained who specializes to diagnose and treat hormone imbalances and problems by helping to restore the normal balance of hormones in one's system. This is when Germaine also started seeing a therapist for extra help and coping skills.

Germaine was then faced with the difficulty where he had to be diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder before any procedure could be finalized. To do so, he had to go through an evaluation, learn how to manage, and finally receive treatment. Germaine said the first thing to change was his voice, "at first it was weird but I got used it," he said. "I even have an



Photo by Spencer Lin/Prospectus News

Sid Germaine, a 19 year old student at Parkland and member of Queer and Alley, explains the procedures that he went through, being a closed gay girl in high school, to an openly gay man today.

“The time is coming for a change.”

- Sid Germaine, who wishes to promote and raise not tolerance but acceptance of LGTB.

of 13, not only was Germaine dealing with his own discomforts of himself, but his parents were going through a separation that would put him further back into coming out. He realized he wasn't as normal as the rest of kids around him, and at this age Germaine heard about the procedures for changing his appearances from female to male. The thoughts of taking the leap were now in his head.

At age 15 he thought it was time to talk to an adult about this "problem" that was conflicting living a normal life in and out of school. Once Germaine brought the topic up to his parents, they weren't as supportive as he thought they would be. "It was a phase

Adams apple now." He also explained the ability of growing facial and body hair.

The more Germaine spoke about the process, the more of his personality came out. He is a human being just like everyone else, with very passionate beliefs and a great view on the world. Germaine wishes to promote and raise not tolerance but acceptance of LGTB (Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual). "The time is coming for a change," he said.

For more information or questions about Queer and Ally, contact club president, Kelsey Kellner at kelseyk29@gmail.com.

Five students to avoid in class

PN Morgan Bernier
Assistant Editor

It is at this point in the semester when classes and classmates begin to show their true colors. The class that seemed like it would be minimal effort ends up taking almost all of your free time. The boring class that you dreaded ends up to be interesting and entertaining. And, perhaps most assuredly, your classmates stop being on their best behavior, and start showing their character flaws. Most of these less than enjoyable classmates will fall into one (or more) of five categories.

1. The Talker - They sway into the classroom, having a conversation on their cell phone while carrying on a second conversation with their friend beside them. You will never have to wonder how they are doing in the class because they will tell you (and everyone else). This is the student who talks on their phone in restaurants, on busses, and most annoyingly, in class. Either they are oblivious to societal standards, as well as the people around them, or they have no regard for these things. Either way, the best way to handle this peer is by politely pointing out to them that you can't hear the lecture. If this doesn't work, try moving away and saying something to your professor, who might not have noticed. If you want to mess with them, you could always write a status about them updating their status during class.

2. The Social Butterfly - After they stumble into their seat, distracted by the news feed on their phone, they pull out their MacBook Pro. It might be instinctual to think that they will use their computer to take notes, but instincts would be wrong. This is the guy or girl who spends more time on Twitter than they do on their homework. The identifying trait is their desire to add all of their classmates on Facebook, which they update every few hours. As annoying as this classmate might seem, they are mostly hurting themselves. If you find it distracting to watch their social networking, try sitting in front of them or asking if they could trade you seats. If there are assigned seats then say something to the classmate as it's possi-

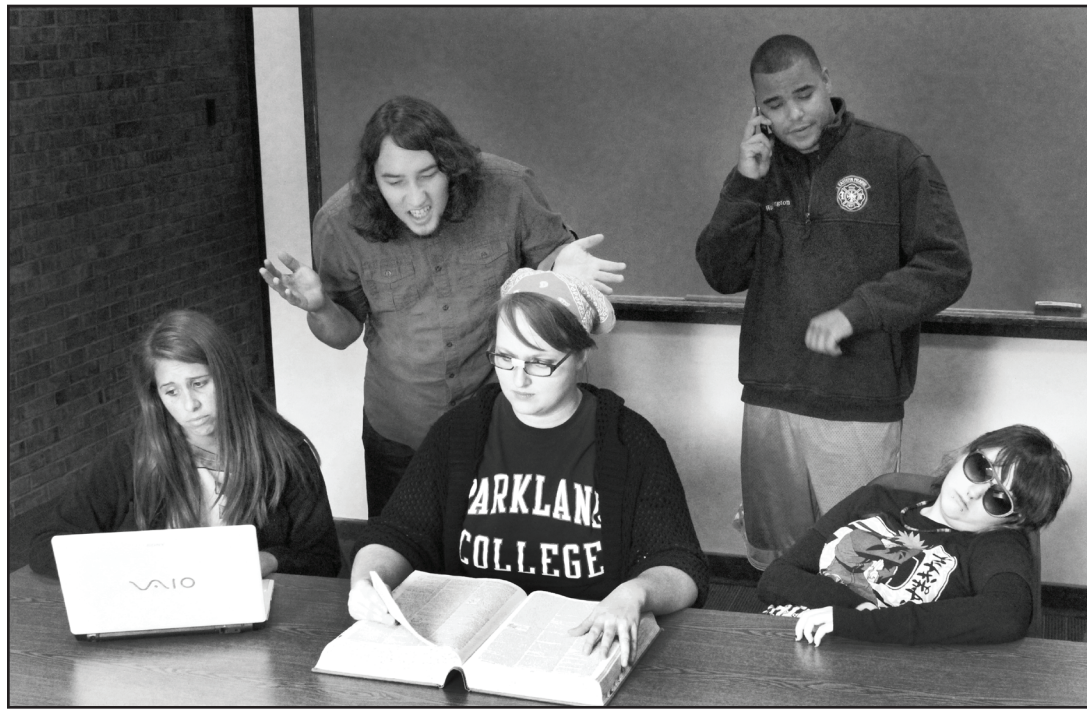


Photo by Spencer Lin/Prospectus News

At this point in the semester classmates start to show their true colors and character flaws. Most of these less than enjoyable classmates will fall into one (or more) of five categories that you will want to avoid.

ble they don't realize it bothers you. For extra amusement, you could even block them on the very social networking sites they spend wasting away on.

3. The Slacker - Very few stereotypes have been around as long as the slacker. Their homework is never done, they always forget about tests, and they are the worst person to work on group projects with. When they decide to show up they usually spend the class in the back of the room, lightly snoring. This easy going classmate is usually harmless, until they realize that they are not passing the class. At this point, they might turn around and start studying and paying attention, or they might decide that it is just easier to borrow your homework. The slacker is chameleon-like in their ability to join your study group unnoticed. Be aware for anyone

who joins late in the semester and contributes nothing, but always wants to see your work. But, as long as you are aware of Parkland's policy regarding academic honesty and what constitutes a violation, they should be easy to avoid. If you really want to mess with them, just give them all the wrong answers on the next homework assignment.

4. The Clinger - The first few weeks of class present an interesting courtship process in which classmates search for possible friends. Like all courtships, this involves labeling classmates as either compatible or incompatible. Of course, these labels are sometimes wrong, but there will always be someone whose company you don't enjoy. Sometimes, one of these people will decide that they want to be your friend. There isn't necessarily anything wrong with

them, you just don't want to be as intimate as they do. However, they don't get it. This person will often decide to talk to you about their weekend during lecture. They will make sure you don't hear the lab instructions by whispering gossip in your ear. They follow you after class, and keep you in a conversation until you are late to your next class. There might not be anything wrong with this person, except for their relentless desire to interfere with your learning. Next time it happens, just tell them that you want to focus on class, and that you can talk to them over coffee sometime (if you want to find yourself in public with them). If that doesn't work, just tell them that you are going to focus on class and do your best not to respond to them. Or, simply run away as fast as you can.

5. The Melvin - Perhaps the most dreaded of all classmates, the Melvin has a habit of making every class miserable. Everyone knows that there is no such thing as a stupid question, but there is such a thing as a stupid, and irrelevant, anecdote. Equally unnecessary are the questions that Melvins tend to ask about completely unimportant parts of lessons. It is great to show an interest in classes, but remember that not all of your classmates care that you had a dog that looked just like the one your professor referenced during a story explaining a marginally important part of the chapter. If this classmate is getting to be too much for you, perhaps you could raise your hand during their next rambling story and say, "Melvin, this is a really interesting story, but can you finish it after class? I want to hear the lecture." As harsh as this might sound, it could be a way to get them to stop wasting class time. If all else fails, just try and one-up his stories until he gets frustrated.

With such a varied student body, there are going to be irritating class mates. Just try to remember that someone might think of you as the annoying class mate, and that they might not be aware of their bad habits. Also remember that no one is perfect, and that you might be a little too sensitive to some situations. However, if everything is irritating to you, beware of falling into the category of Librarian, recognized by the catch phrase of "SHHHH!"

Lifestyle

UC2B to bring fiber optics network to C-U, Parkland



Photo by Briana Stodden/Prospectus News

Michael K. Smeltzer, Director of Networking and Acting Director of Physical Infrastructure University of Illinois demonstrates some of the many possibilities brought by the UC2B high speed internet coming to Champaign - Urbana.



Buster Bytes
Tech Columnist



Ultra high speed internet is coming to town thanks to Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B). UC2B consists of the City of Urbana, the City of Champaign, the University of Illinois and a group of other public and private investors.

This project will consist of two parts. First, UC2B will be installing an underground fiber-optic broadband network, comprised of 7 rings, which will span across the whole

community. These rings will connect 200 hundred "anchor" institutions, such as Parkland, with one another as well as to local residents and businesses. Computer systems on this network will be able to communicate with one another at speeds of up to 1Gbps. To put this into perspective, 1Gbps (1000Mbps) is twenty times faster than the best service speed available from Comcast and over 160 times faster than the best speed available from AT&T.

Part two of the project will consist of a Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) network in 11 census block groups. These groups are neighborhoods in Champaign Urbana which qualified for federal Broadband Technology Opportunities (BTOP) grant funding during a door to door survey conducted in 2009. To qualify as a census block group, less than 41% of the households in these areas

were subscribed to broadband internet during the survey.

The fiber itself is not only much faster than other internet connection media, but safer as well. Fiber optic cable transmits only light, does not conduct electricity, and emits no electromagnetic radiation. So, fiber-optic cable is cheaper, safer, faster and more energy efficient. It's literally the speed of light. Inside the home, the fiber-optic cable will connect to an Optic Network Terminal (ONT) which acts in much the same way as a cable or DSL modem, converting the signal for Ethernet or wireless use.

UC2B's primary service will be an intranet/internet data service that can be used to browse the internet, stream movies, for video chat and conferencing, for telephone service, eventually even for cable tv, and other services which haven't even been thought of yet. As John Kersh, UC2B

Project Manager put it, "Fiber optics has the ability to offer high speed data communications, but that's just the tip of the iceberg." For example, Parkland students will be not only be able to do research at school much faster, but will also have access to these speeds from home, church, or even work.

UC2B broke ground on this project September 6. Later this year community ambassadors will begin their rounds, canvassing the first census block groups to offer the Fiber to the Premises installation. These first areas are expected to have service beginning in February or March of this coming year. In spring of 2012, a second round of canvassers will reach the remaining groups, whose service will begin next fall.

Parkland students and other residents of these areas will be offered a free connec-

tion to the fiber-optic network and monthly service for only \$19.99. This service will consist of unlimited access to the intranet of anchor institutions at 1Gbps, and internet access at a rate of 5Mbps. What this means is that people on the network will be able to connect to anyone else on the network at the highest possible rate. Connections to the World Wide Web, basically web sites outside of Champaign, will be at speeds comparable to Comcast and AT&T.

Residents will be offered this connection by UC2B's community ambassadors during the coming weeks on a door to door basis. Home owners in these areas can sign up immediately, but renters will need permission from their landlord. Installation will involve placing a small (12x17) hand hole at the edge of their property inside the public right of way, and residents will have

the option of where they would like the cable to enter their home.

Students outside of the census block groups needn't despair, though. Once the network is completed, they will be able to get service as well. UC2B plans to make available several tiers of service, which probably will be delivered to locals through their existing internet providers.

What exactly this new network will mean to students at Parkland and to members of the community remains to be seen, but it's bound to be exciting. "It will be up to the creative people in their various positions, to become part of this revolution and to find out how they can best use this technology," said Kersh.

If you have questions about the UC2B project, visit their web site at www.UC2B.net, send an email to info@UC2B.net, or call (217) 366-8222.

Taste of Home gets a taste of Parkland



Kelley Heaney
Community Columnist

Hundreds of local food lovers recently gathered together at the high school gymnasium in Rantoul to pay homage to the Taste of Home Cooking School.

Taste of Home is a cooking extravaganza that travels the country demonstrating recipes published in their cookbooks and magazines. They are sponsored by various cooking and food organizations, resulting in many great informative tips and door prize donations. Taste of Home is, according to their website, "America's leading cooking school program," performing to more than 300,000 people annually in more than 300 different events. Locally, it was hosted by the News-Gazette.

Producing a show of this magnitude entailed considerable local help and some of that help was given by the Parkland College Hospitality Club. Group members assisted with kitchen prep work, set up, and clean up.

Prep work is often the mundane but necessary chores that have to be done to prepare the ingredients, making the actual cooking for the show look easy. Tasks such as roasting peppers, chopping ingredients and sautéing onions, as well as making raspberry jam and baking cakes, are all done

ahead of time.

For this event, prep work also included the actual cooking of the recipes needed for the demonstrations. Ten people prepared the recipes backstage and prior to the show. Among the talent was the University of Illinois Extension Office's Lea Reden and the News Gazette's Ted Wolf. Their results were used later in the program and having them finished helped keep the pace entertaining.

Entertainment was not lacking from the Taste of Home's Culinary Specialist, Dana Elliott. She showed the crowd presentation methods and shared information about ingredients in addition to new techniques. "We eat with our eyes," Elliott said as she garnished the dish she had just prepared in front of the local cooking enthusiasts. She went on to explain that if food doesn't look good, people won't eat it, thinking it doesn't taste good.

Taste is very important when preparing a recipe and sometimes minor alterations can affect it in big ways. Elliott explained why some ingredients are better than others and how measuring can be a factor in altering the product's outcome. During her presentation, which included Pumpkin Whoopie Pies, Groundnut Stew, and Quick Countertop Oven Wisconsin BBQ Chicken

Pizza, Elliott also divulged cooking tips. The secret of getting pizza dough round is to stretch the dough on the bottom of an upside down mixing bowl prior to placing it on the baking sheet.

Some tips for the assistants may have included double checking the ingredient list. First semester Parkland Restaurant Management student Rebecca Morenz said that Elliott was great to work with. "She was helpful and relaxed," Morenz said. "We had a lot of fun. This event shows a small portion of what working in a kitchen would be like." She also said that it helped with developing essential skills. "Students would need good planning skills for all the prep work; it moves fast and you need to go with the flow," she continued. She also indicated that she would like to assist in the future if the show returns to the area.

Similarly helping with the prep work was another first semester Parkland Restaurant Management student, Bill Wagner. "I'd do it again," he said. "It's a way to learn what goes on behind the scenes at these (cooking shows). It is also a way to use your project management skills as well as your culinary skills."

Local businesses were featured at the local business expo prior to the cooking show. The event included local busi-

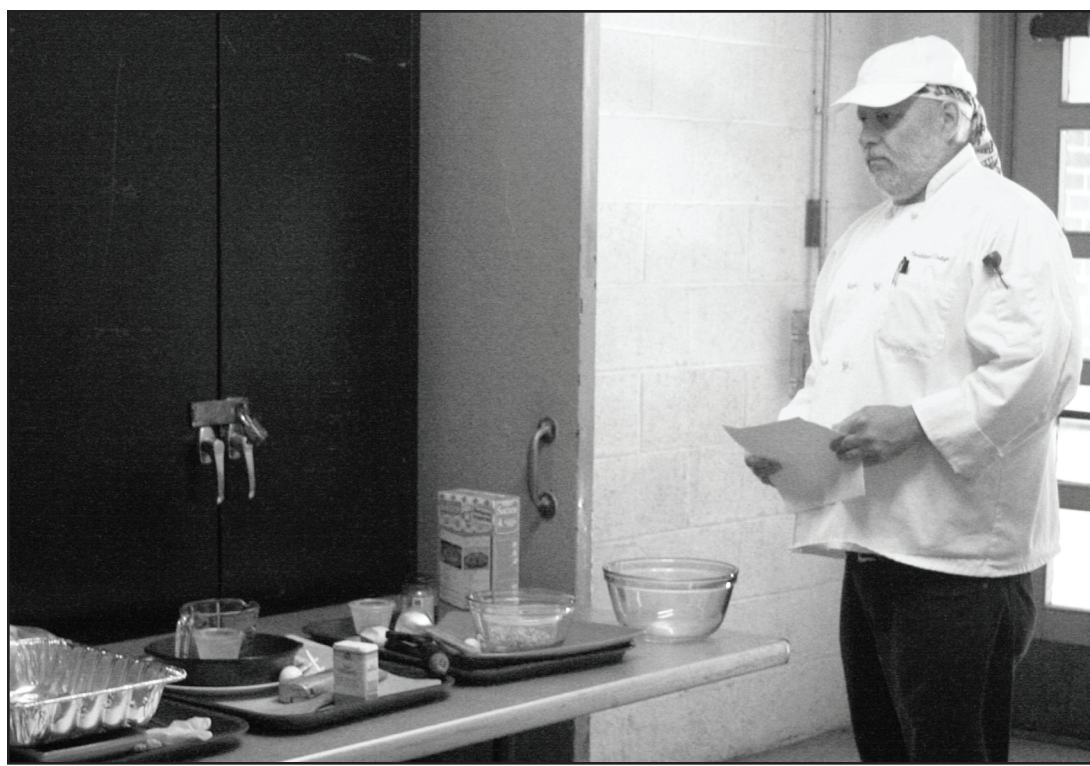


Photo by Kelley Heaney/Prospectus News

Bill Wagner, a Parkland Hospitality and Restaurant Management student looks over the prep table before the Taste of Home cooking show in Rantoul, hosted at the high school gymnasium.

nesses giving samples, holding raffles and handing out literature to potential customers. Some businesses also helped with the show in some manner, including Paul's Appliances in Rantoul. The store supplied the stoves and ovens that were used onstage.

The expo provided a showcase for cooking based businesses in the area. A few that were represented include:

Country Thyme Tea and Catering, Tastefully Simple and Pampered Chef. Others, such as Maxwell Counters and Matzner Clinic were represented because of their importance to the community.

Also pleasing the crowd were door prizes. Sponsors donated a West Bend Pizza toaster oven, a portable induction burner, Pampered Chef baking dishes, and Taste of

Home cookbooks.

Parkland students had a chance to gain real life experience in their field of study, the crowd had a chance to learn about cooking tips and win prizes, and Taste of Home had a chance to teach the public. The outcome was desirable for everyone involved, and area residents are already anticipating next year's event.

Parkland College Relations Officer Matthew Kopmann

Music in the College:

This article is to remind you that music must be listened through ear phones while in the college. Playing music from your cell phone, MP3 player, laptop, or other device without headphones is a violation of the Parkland College Student Conduct Code.



Due to the limited amount of space for students to congregate and study, this code allows a person to listen to their music without disturbing others. Always remember to be courteous and respectful while others are studying. The Parkland Police Department will address violations of this policy and bring the issues to the Dean of Students. Violations of student code can result in academic probation, loss of privileges, administrative withdraw, or other sanctions.

FEST

continued from page 1

lineup full of big-name acts on the label. Signaling the beginning of the long show was the jangly, frantic guitar riffs of math-rock group Joan Of Arc. Next up was the highly energetic Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin, who got the crowd moving with their fun, upbeat style of pop-infused alternative rock. Asobi Seksu kept the pop vibes flowing with their unique dreamy, almost shoegaze style.

Up next was Owen, whose one-man performance settled the crowd down to near silence. Fans slightly swayed to the raw, emotionally crushing songs of Mike Kinsella. Strongly contrasting this performance was electronica group STRFKR, who reanimated the crowd back into a dancing frenzy. Bringing the crowd back down were the dark, avant-garde sounds of Xiu Xiu, mesmerizing the audience with an array of different instruments and effects.

Japandroids came on afterward, pumping up the crowd with their rapturous

garage rock. The eccentric Deerhoof followed, performing a happy style of art rock fuelled by pop-influenced female vocal melodies and drumming that can only be described as a mix between violent and jazzy, all done on a three-piece kit. Headlining the event were local indie legends Braid, who have recently reunited after breaking up in 1999. They demonstrated that they are just as wild, fun, and fierce as they were back in the 90s.

Shortly after Braid's performance, two local alternative rock bands were coincidentally having CD release shows in downtown Champaign. That's No Moon were at the Cowboy Monkey while The Dirty Feathers were at Mike N Molly's.

The final day of Pygmalion took place at the Highdive, featuring indie pop act The Pains of Being Pure at Heart, or as vocalist and guitarist Kip Berman announced themselves, The "Champains" of Being Pure at Heart. Opening for them were their tour mates Big Troubles, who were reminiscent of early 90s alternative shoegaze, as well as local favorites Elsinore.

The Pygmalion Music Festival is an incredible display of Champaign-Urbana's thriving music scene. It will be surprising to see how the festival continues to grow in the future.



Photo by Sean Hermann/
Prospectus News

Interview with local band, Easter



Photo by Josh Grube/Prospectus News

Josh Grube
WPCD Correspondent

Local one man indie rock band Easter is quickly gaining attention in Champaign-Urbana. Recently winning "Best New Band" in a poll conducted by online CU magazine, Smile Politely, this musical project of Kyle Lang is rapidly gaining attention. Easter just performed at the Canopy Club with band such as Youth Lagoon and Toro y Moi as part of the 2011 Pygmalion Music Festival last Thursday. WPCD spoke with Lang about the origins of Easter, songwriting, his EP *Demonstration*, and what the future has in store for the fans.

WPCD: First off, how did Easter begin?

KL: I just recorded a couple of songs that I had been working on for a while and decided to put it out as sort of an EP demo earlier this year. That's basically all it was.

WPCD: So when writing a song, do the lyrics or the music come first?

KL: It really depends on the song. Sometimes

I have a melody in my head or the way I want a song to flow or I come up with some lyrics and I turn them into a melody. Although usually when I make lyrics first there is a melody along with them and then I sort of flesh that out to a bigger part of the song and then attach it on other parts of the song.

WPCD: What made you want to make music yourself, rather than with a band?

KL: It just gives me a greater feel of accomplishment to do things myself. And I take a really long time to get things how I want them to be. I feel like the only way to work that way comfortably is to just do it myself and take my time with it.

WPCD: Since you're the only member of Easter, multi-tracking yourself into full band in your recordings, how do go about enlisting other musicians for live performances?

KL: So far it's basically just been close friends of mine or just really good musicians that I know from friends of friends. I don't hire anyone or hold auditions or anything. It's just kids that I know, so it's really cool. I've played only two shows with the same lineup. I keep trying to change the lineup every time just to keep it more exciting, and it always works out. It's never like crazy making everyone learn the songs. It keeps things new and fresh for me and I think everyone.

WPCD: How much do you practice beforehand with the musicians who will be playing live?

KL: Really, not that much. It's more like them learning the songs on their own. We'll come together once or twice before a show and then put everything together. Usually everyone's able to learn their parts pretty well.

WPCD: I noticed that your EP *Demonstration* is available online for free. Why did you decide to give away your music, rather than sell it?

KL: Because... I really hate paying for things, and I would hate to make someone pay for something. It's something that I worked hard on, which I know is an argument for why people believe that you should pay for music. It's sort of a hard question... But I'm happy to give it out for free. I feel like the easier it is to get the music, the more people are going to hear it and the happier I will become through more and more people hearing. I just want it to be as accessible as possible. And it feels nice to give things away for free. I made a few hundred CDs of the release and those were all given away for free as well.

WPCD: When did you first become interested in music?

KL: I guess when I was 8 or 9 so I started messing around with keyboards and stuff like that I had at my house just trying to figure out songs that I knew, and maybe occasionally making my own little melodies or jingles or whatever you want to call them. Right before I got to high school I started learning guitar, and by the time I got into high school I was starting bands and things and making my own songs and recording.

WPCD: Was there music in your household growing up?

KL: Not really, I don't think more than any other household. My mom would listen to a lot of music, but she mostly listens to radio, R&B, like TLC and Destiny's Child and stuff like that. I think they would actually be influential on me, I still love a lot of those late 90's radio songs. I like those a lot. Even though I'm sure it doesn't come through in the music that I make, that was influential in me.

WPCD: Who would you list as a few of your primary influences?

KL: Probably... The one that I always think of is The Microphones. That has been my favorite band in the time that I've been making these newer batch of songs, I suppose, for this band Easter. Also, everything on K Records, which also The Microphones are on, but all those bands in the entire catalogue have been a giant influence on me. Early of Montreal, early Dirty Projectors... The Beach Boys. Their earlier stuff to about *Pet Sounds*.

WPCD: When not making music, what do you enjoy to do?

KL: Mostly... I mostly just sit around [laughs]. I don't really do that much. I like hanging out with my friends, riding my bike, I like to take walks with my friends. Listening to music.

WPCD: Any plans for a future release?

KL: Yeah, definitely. Hopefully by the end of this year I'm going to do a cassette tape release, because I'm going to be recording to cassette tapes from now on. It's probably going to be maybe a six-song release. Maybe more even, depending on how inspired I feel in these next few weeks with all of this school work I've had to do. It's definitely going to be much more low key than the *Demonstration* EP I did. It's some things that I've been working on for a while. They're just sort of slower. I'm not really sure how to describe it, but it's definitely more downkey than *Demonstration*, but I'm excited to put it out.

Easter is quickly developing into a huge name in the Champaign-Urbana music scene. Check out the *Demonstration EP* at easter.bandcamp.com or request their music on WPCD Champaign, 88.7 by calling 217-373-3790.

What do you plan to do with your financial aid refunds?

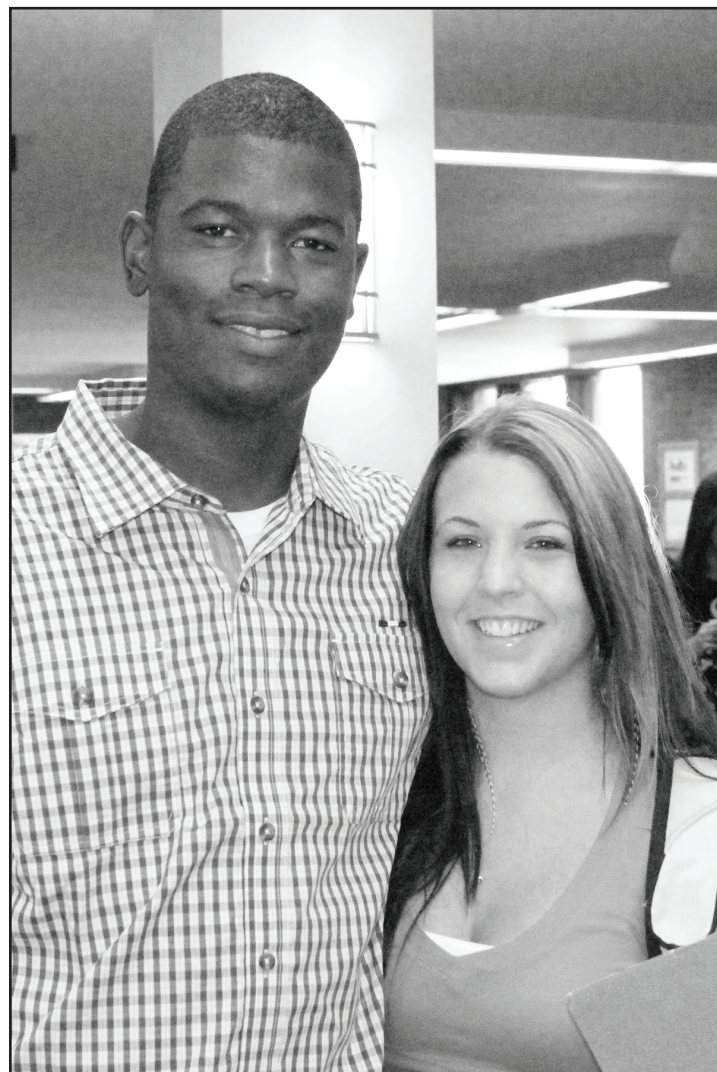
Photos by Briana Stodden/Prospectus News



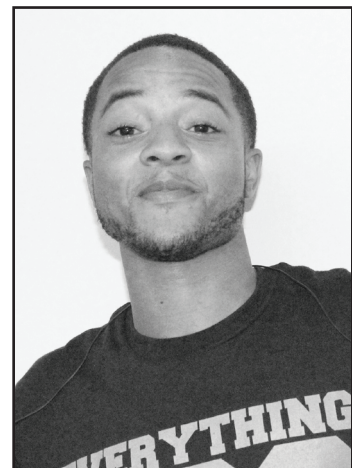
"I'm going to invest in books and a car."
- Cindy McFadden



"I'm going to send it to my unsubsidized loan because it's building interest."
- Vernettia Flemons



"I'm going to take her out to dinner, get some new shoes, and put it in the bank to take her out again!"
- Kendall Arrington & Candice Dornfeld



"I'm going to spend it on my daughter that's about it."
- Bryant McDonald



"I'm going to pay for my rent with my student housing."
- Shakela Williams

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Puzzles & Comics

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"A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom."
- Bob Dylan

Sudoku (easy)

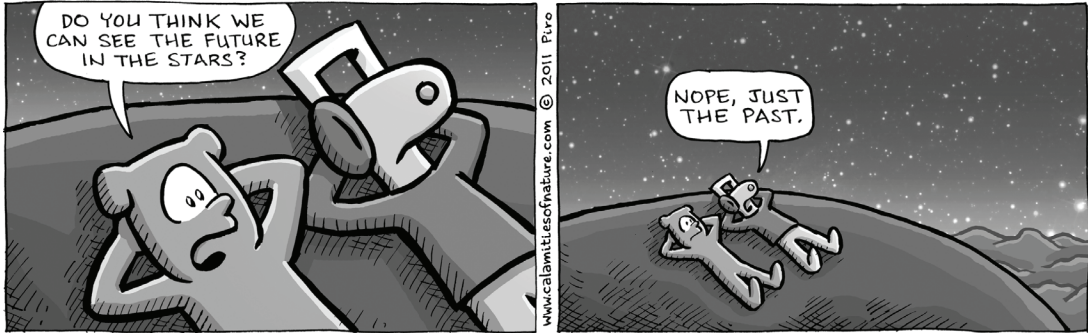
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BREWSTER ROCKIT

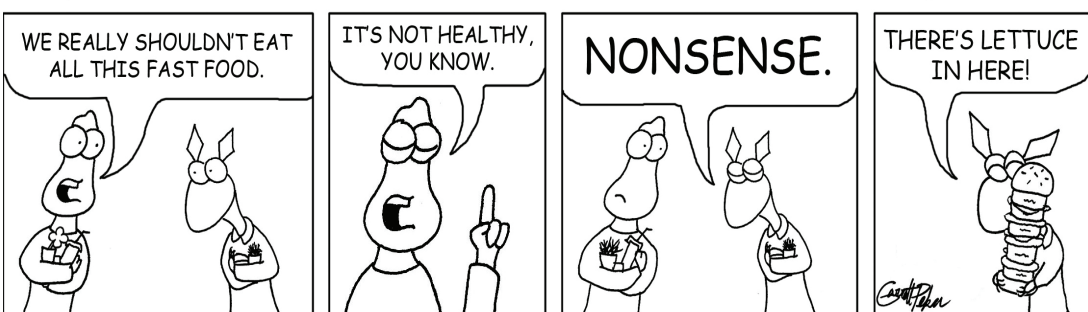


Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro



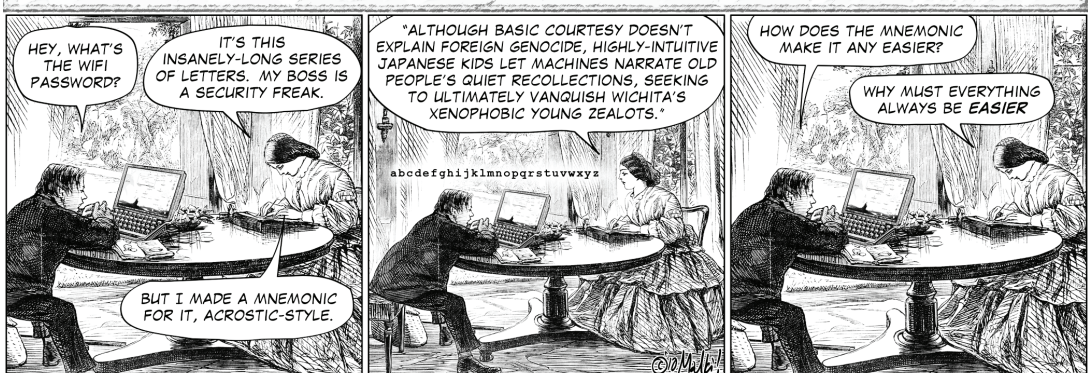
Shrimp

By Garrett Pekar

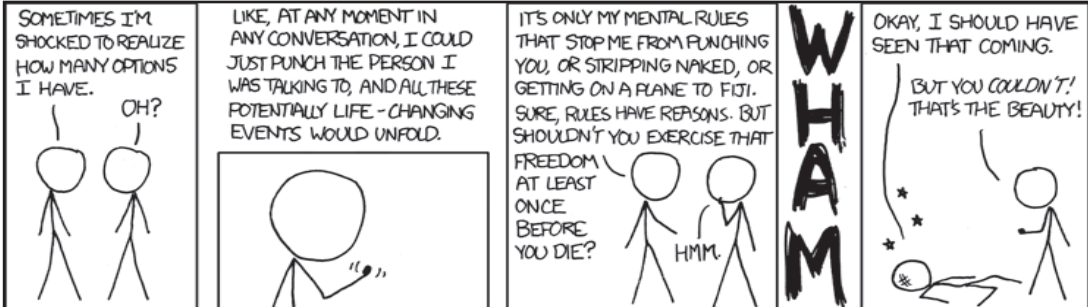


WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

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Champaign County Humane Society Featured Pet of the Week



Chief is a 1 yr old green iguana. Right now he is about a foot long, but someday he could get to be 4 feet or more! Green iguanas can make great pets if you are prepared for their needs—complex vegetarian diet and large enclosure!

The TV Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

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5/22/11

ACROSS

- Title for Joe Friday of "Dragnet": abbr.
- "_ Dad"
- "_": Miami
- "Hollywood Squares" win
- "Home _"; Macaulay Culkin film
- Feel sick
- Prefix with like or taste
- All _ up; in a row
- 180° from SSW
- Lt. _ Van Buren; S. Epatha Merkerson's "Law & Order" role
- "...and the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting _..."
- Eric Szmanda's "CSI" role
- "Book 'em, _"; McGarrett's line on the old "Hawaii Five-O"
- John _ of "Touched by an Angel"
- Toronto's province: abbr.
- "Law & Order: _"
- Cowboy's lasso
- "_ It"; reality game show
- Role on "M*A*S*H"
- Hayes or Hunt

- "Car 54, Where _ You?"
- Phi Beta _
- Have debts
- Classic Pontiac
- Candice Bergen's dad
- Pop music singer Bobby
- Ending for host or count
- Minimum
- Make a mistake

DOWN

- "_ Springs"; recently released Tom Skerritt movie
- "_ My Way"; Bing Crosby film
- "_, With Love"; Sidney Poitier movie
- Large city in Spain
- Actress _ MacGraw
- Cryer or Gosselin
- "_ Tree Hill"
- Accomplished all over again
- Pet bird
- Actor Gary _
- Robert _ of "The Sopranos"
- Knight or Koppel
- "_ and Stacey"
- Disagreeable nasal sound
- Actress _ Potts
- _ this time; later, perhaps
- Actress Jean and her family
- "America's Funniest Home _"
- Merkel or O'Connor
- "Hart _"
- Feeling of reverent wonder
- Jaleel White's "Family Matters" role
- "_ Lucy"
- More modern
- Become furious
- _ -do-well; loser
- Lemony drink
- Golf tournament sponsor, for short
- Daddies

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

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

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Sports

Former Cobra heads rugby club

 **Spencer Brown**
Sports Writer

Since Parkland's inception, the athletic program has been the beneficiary of some exciting triumphs. Atop this list are the multiple national championships that remind us of this excellence. These include men's basketball and baseball, as well as women's volleyball. Not to be forgotten are the numerous other Parkland Cobra athletic teams throughout the years that have exceeded expectations and provided a platform for athletes to advance their collegiate careers. Lost in the conversation of Parkland's athletic program is football. Unfortunately for the fans of that game, there is no football program or close substitute. This may soon change.

The man who could be responsible for this change is Brent Jordan. Jordan is a former Parkland student and current medical student at the University of Illinois. He is also a member of the Champaign County Flatlanders Rugby Football Club. His goal is simply to introduce rugby to any Parkland student interested as well as anyone interested throughout the community. The thought of rugby may not be enticing at first as it is not well known or as talked about as other major sports, at least in America. A better understanding of the game may sway a select few into actually giving it a chance.

Rugby has been around for ages. The sport is commonly referred to as the "father" of American Football. Rugby lends itself to a style of play that is not strictly regulated. There are fewer instances where play is stopped or where penalties occur; obviously a huge difference from

the game of football to which most are accustomed. American football is the direct product of rugby's evolution. Rugby and football have a lot similar principles that draw comparisons but include notable differences that separate the two.

An important part of the Rugby game is the versatility of its players. There is no offense for defense switch when the ball changes possession. Anyone in the field of play must be skilled on both sides of the ball. Your ability to score holds as much weight as your ability to tackle an opposing defender. The reason all of this is important is because unlike football, there is no stoppage of play in rugby once the ball changes possession. The field of play takes on a style similar to soccer in this regard. The game consists of two 40-minute halves and only five substitutions per team. Conditioning and endurance plays a huge role in your ability to perform.

There are other aspects that differ from football which are worth mentioning. The field, called a pitch, is longer and wider than a traditional football field. The rugby ball does not contain any laces, and it is a lot rounder than a football.

Also unlike football, which has 11 players from each team on the field, rugby games consist of 15 players on each team participating in the competition. Rugby also has quite the interesting rule in regards to passing the ball. Players can never make a forward pass to advance the ball. All passes must be lateral or backwards. Those are just a few individual components that allow rugby to stand alone from any other sport.

Jordan, well versed in the rugby world, is looking to bring the uniqueness of the game to

the Parkland community and surrounding area. No experience is needed to play and it could prove to be a great social tool or outlet. "I needed something both familiar and (a way) to meet new people," says Jordan of his decision to join the Champaign County Flatlanders. "It's a good way to get out some aggression as well."

As head of public relations, fields and equipment, fundraising, and recruiting for the Flatlanders Rugby Club, Jordan hopes to raise interest in the sport. "We want to reach out to people stationed in town," he said. "Hopefully build the Rugby brand." Proof of Jordan's statement is reflected in his roster that consists of one current Parkland student as well as six former Parkland students who inhabit the Champaign area. "We want to build roots in the community. We want to be a part of the town," he said. The Flatlanders, a charity based organization, are planning to live by those words as a youth rugby league is in the works. It is scheduled for the winter and will focus on children ages 8-12.

As knowledge and interest in the game of rugby expands throughout the Champaign community, the idea of a Parkland Cobra Rugby team may strike someone's attention. When asked if there was a chance this could materialize, Jordan responded, "If there was enough interest, we'd be happy to get a program started." The possible addition would only improve the outstanding reputation of all of Parkland's athletic clubs and their commitment to excellence. For more information on the Champaign County Flatlanders Rugby Football Club, visit www.flatlanderrugby.com.



Photos by Nick Washington/Prospectus News

Brent Jordan, former Parkland student is also a member of the Champaign County Flatlanders Rugby Football Club. His goal is simply to introduce rugby to any Parkland student interested as well as anyone interested throughout the community.



Entertainment

A chat with Jamie Stewart of Xiu Xiu



Photo by Blaine Wright/Contributing Photographer

Xiu Xiu, an experimental rock group performing at the Pygmalion Music Festival as part of Polyvinyl's 15 Year Anniversary show last Saturday at the Highdive in Champaign, Illinois.

Josh Grube
WPCD Correspondent

Performing at the Pygmalion Music Festival as part of Polyvinyl's 15 Year Anniversary show last Saturday at the Highdive was experimental rock group Xiu Xiu. Right before they took the stage, WPCD sat down with frontman Jamie Stewart to talk about the band, music, and their recent singing to Polyvinyl.

WPCD: How is the tour going so far?

JS: Not spectacularly, but some tours are great and some tours are mediocre. This one is mediocre, although I'm happy to play the show tonight as it seems like it's going to be good. And I'm not saying that to be pandering, it should be a good one.

WPCD: What is it that makes a tour spectacular?

JS: That the band is sounding real good and the audiences seem connected to it. The places you're playing are nice, the sound is good. I don't know, sometimes the sort of ephemeral aspects of live music come together and sometimes they don't.

WPCD: How did Zac Pennington of Parenthetical Girls and Sam Mickens of The Dead Science make their way to Xiu Xiu's lineup?

JS: Angela Seo, who had been touring in the band for the past year and a half, - we knew when she joined the band it would just be for that short of time - breaking my heart, is going back to school. I really enjoyed playing with her. And she is still recording, which is good. I knew that Sam's band and that Parenthetical Girls were not super busy, so I asked them if they'd be available to do it. And we'd known each other for years and years and years.

WPCD: Has this lineup change affected the process of songwriting?

JS: Yeah. A lot, as both Sam and Zac are also songwriters primarily. Angela actually started writing songs now too, she wrote a song on this next record, but primarily the people who had

been in the band before were instrumentalists. Having four people in the most conventional sort of way be songwriters is really possible to broaden how the band was sounding. Before, I would come up with a small idea and we would finish it together, now everybody's coming in with small ideas and we're finishing them together. And everybody's writing lyrics now too which has never happened before.

WPCD: Tell me a bit about the new single Daphny.

JS: The A-side Daphny is about a friend of mine who was arrested for shoplifting and was then raped by the police officer who arrested her. It's incredibly, incredibly dark.

WPCD: I'm sorry to hear about that. So she's ok with the song?

JS: She actually wrote a comic book about it and then showed it to me and that's how I found out about it. And then I asked her if it was ok if we did a song about it. She wants to make it as public as possible. It's an incredibly, incredibly brave response from her.

WPCD: Yeah, it is. On the B-side, Xiu Xiu covered Rihanna's "Only Girl (In The World)." As with all of the previous covers, it has a completely original Xiu Xiu twist to it. How do you go about transforming a song into your own creation?

JS: It's never really our motivation to make it our own. Our motivation is always to try to - there's no really non-silly way to say this - honor the song. The reason for us to do covers is because the song that we are covering has been important to us. It's never that we're trying to turn it into a Xiu Xiu song, we want it to say "thank you" to the song. As far as how we go about it, it's a matter of starting to play and then seeing how it turns out. It's been my experience generally that as one thinks too hard about what one is going to do or is doing in music that it takes away from it. Music is about emotion and the physicality of playing and not really about thinking.

WPCD: Have there been any songs you've seri-

ously considered to cover but never did?

JS: We tried to do a Yeah Yeah Yeahs song a long time ago but the version we did was bad. It was a cool song, so I didn't want to sort of sh*t on what was a really good song. I think everything else we've just gone through and done.

WPCD: You recently signed to Polyvinyl Records shortly after releasing the split with Deerhoof on the label. Did Deerhoof have anything to do with the switch?

JS: Tangentially. Deerhoof had been responsible for us getting our first record deal with Kill Rock Stars (on sister label 5 Rue Christine), which I am forever indebted to them for. It quite literally changed and saved my life. We were on tour with Deerhoof and opening for them at a show and the people from Polyvinyl came to see Deerhoof play, they had already signed them, and they saw us play at the show and we got to know them and talked for a couple of months. Fortunately for us, they wanted to do something and we're very, very happy about it. They're an excellent label with an excellent staff.

WPCD: Polyvinyl recently released a 15 year anniversary sampler which features a new, acoustic Xiu Xiu song "Hi." Is this a preview of a future release?

JS: On our next record, it's going to be one of the singles and the record version is more fleshed out. It is a song essentially about trying to find something beautiful in what a wreck one's own life is. And trying to find some sort of community in the attempt to embrace the aesthetics of personal disaster.

WPCD: What do you want the listener to get out of your music?

JS: I don't think it's any of my business to really impose that. For me the songs have a particular meaning, but that's what they mean to me. I would hope that for anybody, if they get anything out of it at all, it would be something that was individual to them.

WPCD: So something personal that speaks to each person.

JS: Yeah, for us the point of playing in a band is to try to do something for somebody else and not try to erect some sort of agenda that someone has to believe in or not believe in.

WPCD: Have you made any recent additions to your musical equipment?

JS: Yes. There was a period in the 60s and 70s where they were making a lot of - kind of the beginning of synthesis - fake string keyboards. There's this Italian company called Elka that made one called the Elka Rhapsody, which just has two sounds, but they're perfect. I got one of those I found on eBay for almost nothing and it's in really good condition. And then on this tour we played in Asheville, North Carolina, which is where the Moog synthesizer company is. They were very sweet; they gave us a tour of their facility, which, for a synth dork like myself, was incredibly exciting. They made this new pedal called the Cluster Flux, which I think is going to be released soon, and they nicely let me buy one although they're not for sale yet. It's this insanely sophisticated modulation pedal and it makes some of the most wild and bizarre sounds I have ever come across ever. I haven't really had a chance to use it yet; I just used it in the factory. I don't know it well enough to use it in our current set.

WPCD: Although it's been a few years, any plans to do another collaboration with the band Larsen?

JS: Oh, yeah! We're doing one this December, actually. Caralee (McElroy, former Xiu Xiu member) is not doing it, but Angela and I are flying to do it. It should be very fun. They've proposed an insanely stupid title for the record. They want to name it - They're all Italian, so English jokes for them are sort of funny - they want to call it DÜde, but they want to put an umlaut over the "u" (laughs).

WPCD: What about the side project Blue Water White Death?

JS: I don't know if that's going to happen again. We talked about doing something in November, but Jonathan (Meiburg of the band Shearwater) and I both have a ton of stuff going on. He's a wonderful songwriter, and incredibly great player, and a fantastic singer. We got to work with John Congleton, who is one of the best engineers. He's going to mix our next record actually. I'm really looking forward to that.

WPCD: How far along is this new record?

JS: It's done. We just have to mix it, so the recording's all finished.

Look out for the new Xiu Xiu album coming out on Polyvinyl in the near future. Check out their website at www.xiuxiu.org or request their music on WPCD Champaign, 88.7 by calling 217-373-3790.

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