

Parkland College

SPARK: Scholarship at Parkland

Prospectus 2011

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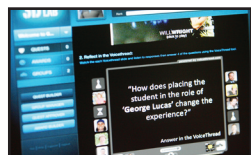
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Top Stories



University creates gaming platform to help reach students through technology.

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Parkland student Conner Buenting is set to perform with his band I Can Be Your Jack Dawson at the Taste of Champaign Urbana June 18.

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88.7 WPCD.FM reviews Company of Thieves latest effort, *Running From A Gamble*

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To be or not to be (yourself)

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Cobras ring in the awards

A look at Parkland's most decorated athletes of the year.

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Parkland serves those who serve

Kelley HEANEY
Staff Writer

Serving in the U.S. Military has many great benefits when released, including possible financial aid for education. Grants, loans and scholarships are offered to those who meet the criteria, providing funds, not just for tuition, but also books, housing and other necessities. However, the extensive paperwork can become overwhelming and confusing. Luckily, Parkland College has help available from at least two sources.

The first source is The Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services office, where options are explained and deadlines are clarified. Located in Parkland's Financial Aid Office, it offers assistance exclusively for those applying for the military's educational financial aid. Almost all of Parkland's 350 student veterans are eligible, not only for the same financial aid as other students, such as FAFSA, but also for many other grants and scholarships specifically for veterans.

Parkland's Coordinator for Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services, Kristina Taylor, said that one of the most common problems for student veterans was confusion concerning monetary resources at the beginning of the semester. "Processing the funds sometimes takes as long as three months," said Taylor. "The money just is not available at the beginning of the semester, meaning that the



Photo by Briana Stodden/Prospectus News

For military veterans needing paperwork help, The Veterans and Military Personnel Student Services office and the Student Veterans Association at Parkland (SVAP) can aid in many different ways. Current SVAP president and Navy reserve, Aubrey Lucas (pictured above), believes that Parkland has been very helpful with his process.

student pays for the classes and is reimbursed. Students need to talk to a counselor as soon as possible." This confusion often leads to unpaid classes being dropped, resulting in more problems with scheduling.

Taylor also stated that, in an effort to work with the veterans, it is sometimes possible to hold class reservations if the student is unable to pay up front and has spoken with her about the issue prior to the payment deadline.

After working out financial aid problems, Taylor recommended a second source of support, the Student Veterans Association at Parkland (SVAP). The Parkland website describes the group as "a student-led organization com-

mitted to fostering a veteran friendly climate on campus. . . open to all interested individuals, with officer positions being reserved for veterans or active duty military personnel." Taylor maintained that

See VETS on P. 7

Tornadoes! Floods! Droughts! Scientists say it's global warming

Renee Schoof
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON - The deadliest tornadoes in decades. Severe flooding on the Mississippi River. Drought in Texas, and heavy rains in Tennessee.

What's up with the weather? Scientists say there are connections between many of the severe weather events of the past month and global warming.

"Basically, as we warm the world up, the atmosphere can hold more moisture in it," said Anne Jefferson, an assistant professor in the geography and Earth science department at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

"Weather patterns that used to be limited to the South move farther north now," she said.



Max Faulkner/Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Tim Beck shows a photo that he shot with his BlackBerry phone of the tornado that hit Texas on Tuesday night.

"Both of those things together with which we see these big rainstorms, and those are

likely to increase flooding in the future."

Flooding on the Mississippi has become more frequent and more extensive since about 1950, Jefferson said. This year's huge flood was created by snowmelt and rain-on-snow in the upper Mississippi River basin, and very intense rain in its middle regions.

"Climatically we have a higher frequency of rain-on-snow events, a real recipe for flooding," she said. "Also you're getting more warm moist air from the Gulf of Mexico farther north up the Mississippi. It's both a warming and, more so, the fact that the weather patterns have changed and are projected to continue to change, so the precipitation patterns are chang-

See Flood on P. 3

Morgan Bernier
Assistant Editor

There are many obvious perks to being a student including an education, a place to meet friends, a quiet place to study, and cheap(er) housing. However, a perk that isn't often brought to everyone's attention would be the benefits of having an .edu email address.

By having a valid .edu address and being able to verify that you are an active student, there are many companies willing to provide students with heavily discounted, or even free, computer software, hardware, and other services.

One of the most far-reaching opportunities offered to students would be free membership to Amazon Prime. According to the Amazon.com website you can get, "Amazon Prime shipping benefits free for one year." This includes free two day shipping, and the ability to upgrade to one day shipping for only four dollars.

Microsoft is another company that offers extreme benefits for students, most of which are listed on their website, Microsoft.com/student. Microsoft explains the discounts students receive on this website, and they include an upgrade to Windows 7 Professional for only \$29.99, Microsoft Office Professional, which includes Word 2010, Excel 2010, Power-

An education will get you more than a diploma



Graphic by Burke Stanion/Prospectus News

point 2010, Outlook 2010, OneNote 2010, Publisher 2010, and Access 2010, for only \$79.99 (retails for \$279.99). Microsoft also offers Office Professional for Macs for only \$99.99, and the Office Language Pack

for only \$9.99.

Adobe offers up to 80% off of almost all of their products for students and teachers. Although the exact amount of the discount varies dependent upon the product and school, it seems as though the verification of enrollment is not very labor intensive and the discount can be very worthwhile. According to the Adobe website, the only stipulation is that each individual may only purchase one platform of each software program per year.

Apple offers extensive discounts for students as well. For the MacBook Pro, students save anywhere from \$100 to \$200. Students can also save \$200 on an iMac desktop. However, even on less expensive items, students average a savings of up to \$50. With such steep discounts, it is important for students who prefer Apple products to make any purchases they desire before graduation. These student discount purchases can be applied to products purchased in store or online. Also, like the Adobe limitations, students may only buy one laptop and one desktop per year.

Dell's website is currently offering an exclusive deal for students where, if they buy a selected PC, they can receive an X-Box for free. Considering that the X-Box is, on average, a \$300 investment, this is a sizeable discount.

See .EDU on P. 7

Civil Union licenses now available

Champaign County Clerk Gordy Hulten announced information about his office's preparations for the June 1 opening of a new state law allowing Civil Unions.

"I am committed to administering this new law efficiently and fairly. We are implementing some new online procedures for Civil Unions that will streamline the process for customers and my staff. We are excited about these improvements and want to share as much information about them prior to June 1 as possible."

Civil Union licenses are available beginning on June 1 in the County Clerk's office. Eligible parties must be 18 years of age, complete a license application and affidavit, bring acceptable identification to the County Clerk's office, and pay the \$4 cash-only application fee. Licenses require a one-day waiting period, and are then valid for 60 days for ceremonies performed in Champaign County only.

In addition, Hulten is launching a new online application for Civil Unions. "Applicants can visit our website at www.champaigncountyclerk.com to begin their application. Within the next 14 days, in order to complete the application, both parties must visit our office to proof their information, show identification, sign the application and affidavit, and pay the application fee. At that point we can issue them a civil union license."

The online application will improve accuracy and efficiency while allowing applicants to complete the most time-consuming part of the application process at their convenience. "We anticipate implementing a similar online application for marriage licenses shortly," Hulten added.

Civil Union licenses may be issued by the County Clerk's office beginning June 1. Additional questions may be directed to the Clerk's office at 217.384.3720 or by visiting champaigncountyclerk.com.



Photo spread and photos by Briana Stodden

Parkland Commencement 2011



Left to Right:
 Mary Ridinger - Associates General Education
 Keisha Jackson - A.A.S
 Karen Mcnutt
 Peeples - Associates Office Professional
 Debora Newsome - Microcomputing Support Specialist
 Pamela Perkins - Associate Child Development



Carlos "Charlie" Manney - Associates in Arts
 Levi Norman (Prospectus Photo Editor) - A.A.S Digital Media



Brandon Taylor - Criminal Justice

Left to Right:
 Veterinary Technicians - Jen Wawro, Stephanie Wowk, Tiffany Tholen, Cherie Slabaugh, Sandra Studahl, Emily Voss



Norma Mansker - Associates of Science



Left to Right: Ricardo Vega - General Science,
 Shamar Norwood - General Science,
 Nate Wahl - Elementary Education



Stevie Ann Wajda - Economics



Cindy Reynolds - CSIT Office Professional Diane Rhoades - Business Management

News

Quest for educational success: University creates gaming platform for students

Kristin Rodine
McClatchy Newspapers

The Doors' hypnotic rhythms provide the musical backdrop as students in Chris Haskell's educational technology class use laptops to work their way through their final quests.

As they complete a task, students may earn a reward or advance to a higher level. The highest rank is "teacher." That's what most of these undergraduate students want to become in real life, and along the way they're among the first to venture into a new teacher-training approach devised by Haskell and Boise State's Department of Educational Technology Chairwoman Lisa Dawley.

The two are using the platform to teach those future teachers, and they hope those new teachers will, in turn, use it with their students.

It's called 3D GameLab and sports the tag line, "Turn your classroom into a living game."

This August, Dawley and Haskell will host a three-week online summer camp expected to train 500 teachers from across the world, each of whom can use the quest-based gaming platform to teach up to 60 students this fall.

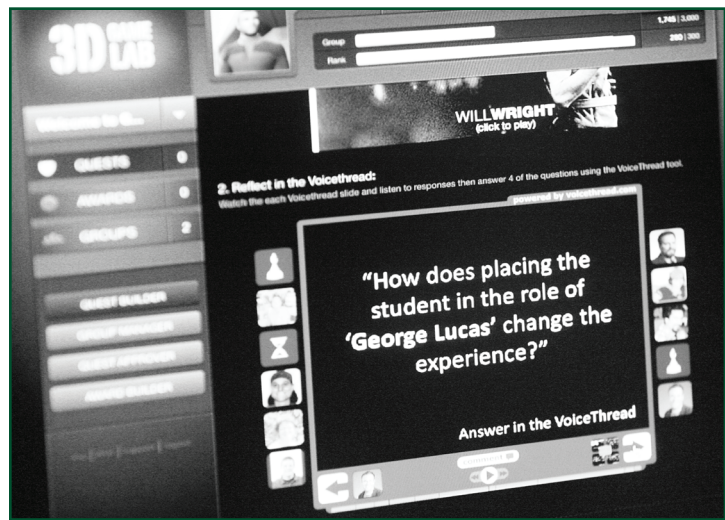
"That's 30,000 people," Dawley said. "Eventually, it will easily become millions." Owned by Boise State, the platform is in "closed beta" trial mode now but will later go public and "become commercialized in some way, shape or form," she said. That could happen as early as next spring, she said.

"We're exploring the business model behind it now," she said.

Eventually, Dawley would like to see GameLab take off as a sort of "Facebook for education," an online social network that would offer basic access to its learning programs for free, worldwide.

To some, applying the lessons of the game World of Warcraft to a teacher-training curriculum may seem odd. But it's really a natural avenue, one that taps into students' interests and aptitudes, Dawley said.

"Ninety-seven percent of kids play games," she said. "They understand it: Choose a quest, work on your quest, turn in your quest." The approach is far from frivolous, Haskell



Shawn Raecke/Idaho Statesman

Chris Haskell, a lecturer in educational technology at Boise State, co-developed a game based learning management system called 3D Game Lab. "Rather than every student completing the same process to get through a course we create a pool of activities that they can choose from and make their own way through the curriculum," said Haskell.

said. It engages students' imaginations and allows them control and choice in how to navigate the course.

So far he has developed a couple hundred quests, each keyed to state and national core standards.

Some quests take a couple of days; some can take as little as 15 minutes. Some embrace new technologies such as "voice thread" online conversations. Others are as old-school as a spreadsheet.

The key, Haskell said, is that students get to choose which quests to pursue, and in which order.

"Having a lot of different options creates excitement for students," said Summer Dalgarn, who is seeking a second degree so she can teach English with a writing emphasis. "There's positive forward momentum, and it makes you want to do something harder because you'll get farther."

"Each quest, in its essence, is something that's valuable to know as a teacher."

Many students keep embarking on quests after they've completed all the requirements, Haskell said, because it's fun.

"This is my favorite class out of all the ones I've taken," said Boise State sophomore Anna Richter, a kinesiology student. "It's interactive; it's not me sitting and listening to a teacher talk."

"I would say it's as challenging as other courses. I just feel like it's an easier learning style and less stressful." Richter's

not a gamer, and she's not sure she wants to be a teacher. But the class has helped her learn techniques and tools that have helped her not only cruise through the quests but also do better on papers and presentations for other courses.

For example, she said, a quest in PowerPoint helped her make a key presentation for another class "much more visually appealing." Students in Haskell's classes range from avid gamers like Dalgarn to technologically tentative future teachers such as Debbie Messecar.

She doesn't see the class as a game. "I see a lot of kids playing games, and that's not what this is. I consider it a technology lab." Messecar's favorite quest was a spreadsheet for gradebooks. She said the course has helped her get more comfortable with computers, which in the past she'd only used for email or downloading photographs. And that, she said, will be an asset in her future classrooms.

Boise State's Department of Educational Technology trains more online K-12 teachers than any other university in the nation, Dawley said, with about 550 graduate students this past year. Only about 28 percent of those students live in Idaho, but since the graduate program is completely online, that's not a problem.

The program is self-supporting. Tuition from those graduate students generated about \$1.8 million in the past year, she said, enough to cover the

salaries of 12 full-time faculty members, pay around 25 adjunct faculty members, fund a scholarship and grant graduate assistantship stipends to about 10 students.

The educational technology department's core mission is to explore and employ "current and emergent technologies," Dawley said. "We're the geeky ones." The GameLab platform got its start last spring when World of Warcraft fans Haskell and Dawley were talking about ways to tap into the structure and appeal of such games.

"It began the way a lot of our conversations begin," Haskell said. "Wouldn't it be really cool? ... They enlisted Rocket, a local web-development company, to help create the platform. Its first outing was a camp last summer for teenagers, who helped refine the program as they gamified their way through lessons."

In the fall, Haskell started using 3D GameLab to teach two sections of Education Technology 202, a required course for students who want to become teachers. So far, about 100 students have participated in that pilot program.

Students rate each quest, which helps teachers know what works best, Haskell said. So far, he said, his students taking the game-based version of Ed Tech 202 have been doing better than their traditional-classroom counterparts.

The BSU professors' efforts are part of a nationwide trend of using gaming and other online approaches in education, said Luci Willits, chief of staff for Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna.

"And it certainly aligns very well with the superintendent's initiatives for technology," she said. "It offers immediate feedback, and it's a reflection of the world our students live in." "It's content that drives technology - embedded lessons in a game," Willits said.

At each step, students receive near-instant feedback from Haskell. And when they earn the required 2,000 points to complete the course, they receive an email from him.

It says, simply, "you win."

(c) 2011, The Idaho Statesman (Boise, Idaho).

Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

Lead Story

Businesses typically resist government regulation, but in March Florida's interior designers begged the state House of Representatives to continue controlling them, with a theatrically ham-handed lobbying campaign challenging a deregulation bill. Designers righteously insisted that only "licensed professionals" (with a minimum six years of college and experience) could prevent the nausea Floridians would suffer from inappropriate color schemes (affecting the "autonomic nervous system" and salivary glands). Also, poorly designed prison interiors could be turned into weapons by inmates. Furthermore, deregulation would contribute to "88,000 deaths" a year from flammable materials that would suddenly inundate the market in the absence of licensing. Said one designer, addressing House committee members, "You (here in this chamber) don't even have correct seating." (If deregulation is successful, competition will increase, and lower fees are expected.) [St. Petersburg Times, 3-31-2011]

Cultural Diversity

The port town of Kumai, Borneo, consists of low-rise shops and houses serving a population of 20,000 but also many tall, windowless box buildings perforated with small holes. The structures are actually birdhouses, for the town's chief industry is harvesting the nests of the hummingbird-like swiftlet, constructed of its own saliva, which, properly processed, yields a sweet-tasting paste with alleged medicinal qualities and highly revered throughout Asia, according to a January BBC News report. [BBC News, 1-26-2011]

In January, while the Texas Legislature debated budget cuts that would almost certainly cost Allen High School (just north of Dallas) at least \$18 million and require layoffs of teachers and other school personnel, construction was continuing on the school's new \$60 million football stadium. Noted a New York Times report on the stadium (which 63 percent of voters approved in a 2009 bond referendum), "(Only) football supersedes faith and family (among Texans)." [New York Times, 1-30-2011]

Questionable Judgments
For Career Day in April at Shady Grove Elementary School in Henrico, Va., kids heard a local plastic surgeon describe his specialty, but not until afterward did parents learn that the surgeon had brought along as props saline breast implants (which he passed around for the kids to handle). Many parents were outraged, and even one calmer parent commented, "Career Day sure isn't what it once was." [WWBT-TV (Richmond), 4-5-2011]

The End Is Near, But How Near? In March in Owensboro, Ky., James Birkhead, 52, was sentenced to 5 1/2 months in jail for making survivalist bombs to protect his family after he became alarmed by the movie "2012," which portrays the chaos expected next year when the world ends (as supposedly foretold by the Mayan calendar). [Louisville Courier-Journal, 3-15-2011]

By contrast, Edwin Ramos of Vineland, N.J., is busy traveling the East Coast in his RV trying to warn people that the end will not be in 2012 but actually this month -- May 21, 2011. (The discrepancy would not exist if there had been a biblical year "0" after B.C. and before A.D.) Ramos' father apparently does not share his son's view because he accepted ownership of Ramos' successful construction business as Ramos concluded that it had no future. [The News of Cumberland County, 3-25-2011]

Least Competent Criminals
A man stole Waltham, Mass., student Mark Bao's notebook

computer in March, but Bao used his automatic online-backup service to access the hard drive while the thief was using it, to discover a performance video of a man (presumably the thief) dancing (lame, thought Bao) to a pop song. Bao uploaded the video to YouTube -- where 700,000 viewers showed it the proper disrespect -- and also tracked down the thief's e-mail address and informed him of his new Internet "stardom." Shortly afterward, the still-identified thief turned in the notebook to Bentley University police with an apology to "Mark," begging him to take down the video. [CBS News, 3-24-2011]

Recurring Themes

Apple's iPad 2 is in short supply worldwide, and so, coincidentally, are paper models of the device demanded by those of Chinese heritage at the Qingming Festival in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Confucian tradition promises good fortune to the dead if their relatives burn impressive-enough offerings at graveside during the festival (as News of the Weird mentioned in 2006). Though local vendors offer paper models of first-generation iPads to burn, and paper Samsung Galaxy Tabs, some families fear that misfortune will ensue if they fail to burn the most advanced version of the iPad. (Low-tech families burn paper copies of money or paper shirts or shoes.) [Reuters, 4-4-2011]

Names in the News

Arrested in Aurora, Colo., in January and charged with stalking his wife: Joseph Moron. Appointed to a senior executive position in January in the global communications firm Alcatel-Lucent: George Nazi. Arrested for dealing marijuana in March in Fairfax County, Va.: Kevin Lee Cokayne. Appointed as interim chief medical officer of Newhall Memorial Hospital in Santa Clarita, Calif., in March: Dr. Richard Frankensteiner. Arrested for DUI in April by a California Highway Patrolman ("CHiP"): Eric Estrada (not the actor). Post-humously rejected as the namesake for the new government office center in Fort Wayne, Ind., in March: former Fort Wayne Mayor Harry Baals (pronounced "baals" by his descendants but always "balls" by Mr. Baals, himself). [KUSA-TV (Denver), 1-20-2011] [The Register (London), 1-10-2011] [Washington Post, 3-25-2011] [Santa Clarita Valley Signal, 3-13-2011] [North County Times (Escondido, Calif.), 4-8-2011] [New York Daily News-AP, 3-14-2011]

A News of the Weird Classic (December 1994)

Among the Republicans swept into office in November (1994, a banner year for the GOP) was Steve Mansfield, elected to Texas' highest criminal-appeals court. Among Mansfield's campaign lies or exaggerations (freely admitted in a post-election interview in the publication Texas Lawyer) were his claims of vast criminal-court experience (he is an insurance and tax lawyer), that he was born in Texas (actually, Massachusetts), that he dated a woman "who died" (she is still alive), and that he had "appeared" in courts in Illinois (never) and Florida (advised a friend, but not as a lawyer). During the interview, Mansfield said that he lived in Houston as a kid, but when the reporter asked him if that was a lie, Mansfield reluctantly admitted it was. Mansfield said he planned to stop "exaggerate(ing)" now that he is one of the highest-ranking judges in Texas. (Update: He served one six-year term.) [Texas Lawyer, 11-21-94; Houston Press, 11-17-94]

Read more

News of the Weird
at www.prospectusnews.com

FLOOD

continued from page 1

ing."

All of these changes are part of the general shift in the world's climate known as global warming - primarily the result of billions of tons of heat-trapping gases released into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels, as well as deforestation.

A report by the National Academy of Sciences on managing climate risks put it this way: "Climate change is occurring, is very likely caused primarily by the emission of greenhouse gases from human activities, and poses significant risks for a range of human and natural systems."

Scientists have observed increases in heavy downpours, rising temperatures, longer growing seasons and earlier snowmelt. They predict that rainfall will become more concentrated in heavy downpours, with longer dry periods in between. Dry places are expected to get drier, while rainy places get wetter.

"Anything that's happening now is occurring superimposed on very different background conditions than we used to have. We have significantly altered our background conditions," said Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist at Texas Tech University.

The study of long-term statistical trends shows an

increase in heat waves and heavy rainfalls, Hayhoe said.

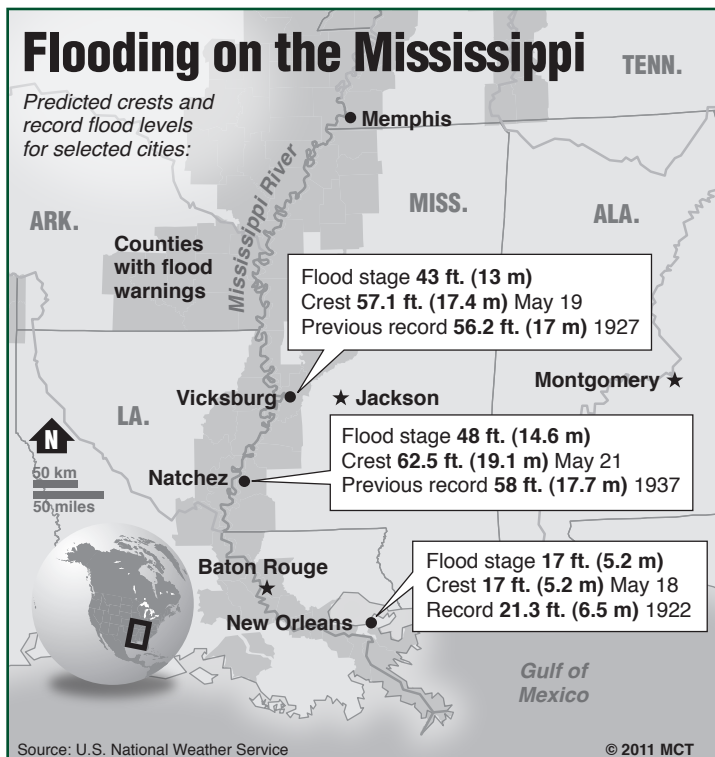
But for tornadoes, the jury is still out, because the historical record is too patchy.

Climate change may enhance one precursor of tornadoes while diminishing another one, she said. "We will need a lot more data and modeling before we can say for sure which effect will dominate."

Kevin Trenberth, a senior scientist in the climate analysis section at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, said that when warmth and moisture at the surface builds up, one response by the atmosphere is to transport it upward, a process known as convection. That's what causes intense thunderstorms, tropical storms and hurricanes, he said.

The main driver of super-cell thunderstorms - those with deep rotating updrafts - is warm moist air near the surface, he said. "In terms of climate change, the main sources of warm moist air in the regions that have been hit is out of the Gulf of Mexico or out of the tropical Atlantic. This sets the stage for the atmosphere becoming very unstable."

What happened in the case of the three big tornado outbreaks in April and May was that normal weather systems tapped into the moisture out of the Gulf and became massive super-cell thunderstorms that



set the stage for very large tornadoes, Trenberth said.

Tornadoes also depend on windshear, a weather component that normally occurs at this time of year, he added.

Jeff Masters, a meteorologist and co-founder of the website Weather Underground, writing on his WunderBlog on Tuesday, said that this year's violent tornado season is "either a fluke, the start of a new trend, or an early warning symptom that the climate is growing unstable and is transitioning to a new, higher energy state with the potential to create unprecedented weather and climate events. All are

reasonable explanations, but we don't have a long enough history of good tornado data to judge which is most likely to be correct."

Over the past 50 years, the average U.S. temperature has risen more than 2 degrees Fahrenheit, precipitation has increased an average of 5 percent, and many types of extreme weather events have increased in frequency and intensity. With hurricanes, only the intensity has increased.

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Opinions

College: To be or not to be (yourself)



Michael Smerconish
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Jason Lamoreaux will graduate June 14 from Upper Merion High School. Last year at this time, he was navigating the college-application process, which includes the writing of a personal statement and this dilemma: Do I tell them what I think, or what I think they want to hear? Lamoreaux took what some might view as a risk. Instead of addressing world hunger or carbon emissions, he offered an honest insight into his personality.

Andrew Ferguson applauded the approach when I told him about Lamoreaux. Ferguson recently documented the charade that the college-application process has become. His best seller, "Crazy U: One Dad's Crash Course in Getting His Kid Into College," is a testament to kids' adopting alternative personas that they think will please admissions officers. His own son had other ideas. He once told his guidance counselor that he wished to attend a school where he could go to a football game, take off his shirt, paint his chest in the school colors, and "major in beer."

In this sell-yourself environment, Ferguson discouraged his son from lifeguarding the summer before his senior year.

A professional college counselor "had said that there are all these things that the kids should do, you know, start a business, go to Guatemala and build wheelchair ramps in warehouses," Ferguson wrote. "I knew he didn't have the entrepreneurial spirit, and I wasn't going to send him to Guatemala, so we were sort of at a loss, and he ended up lifeguarding anyway."

Ferguson's book highlights the application essay as a particular source of student and parental angst. Ferguson laments that the essays seem ill-suited for 17-year-olds - an unrealistic, touchy-feely search for a high schooler's most intimate thoughts.

"They ask things like, 'Tell us your most embarrassing moment,' or 'If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be?'" Ferguson told me. "This college counselor told me that my son needed to dig down deep and let us hear his innermost thoughts. I said: 'Lady, he's a 17-year-old boy. He doesn't have any innermost thoughts.'"

Jason Lamoreaux's academic record at Upper Merion has included both A's and B's - with more of the latter than the former. He's carried a couple of honors-level courses. His honors physics teacher emailed his mom earlier this

year, saying: "Jason is definitely an asset in the class; I'm glad he's here. Honors classes can be a little 'stuffy' sometimes. He breaks the mold." Lamoreaux was a co-captain of the swimming and water polo teams this year, and likes classic rock, comedy and summer lifeguarding.

Last year, he applied to several schools but refused to end nuclear proliferation in his essay. Instead, he discussed watching a lacrosse championship against rival Upper Dublin.

"As a swimmer and one who had to compete regularly against Upper Dublin, they had always been a powerhouse filled with pompous jerks who thought they were better than everyone else," he wrote.

"... It was a Thursday night at Upper Dublin and the league championship was on the line. As a swimmer and water polo player, I know how it feels to not get too much support from fans except for the occasional friends who come to watch me."

"Before the game, I had put on my Spanish National water polo team flame-decorated Speedo. ... I pulled my shorts off, and ran up and down the stands with my chest painted blue (one of my high school colors) in my flame-decorated Speedo.

"Our fans erupted. It was louder than it had been all game.

"There are a number of ways to show school pride, make a contribution or be part of a team. Not every action is remembered or even deserves mentioning, some aren't even recognizable in the scheme of things. And I do know that what I did was a little bit 'out there,' maybe even over the top to some people. But I know that what I did made a difference that day and, even if a lot of people don't remember that one thing, I know for sure the lacrosse team will never forget it. And really, that's the whole point!"

His musings won raves from Ferguson.

"An essay like this should cheer the hearts of every parent and every applicant. It shows that, despite lots of advice to the contrary, you can apply, succeed, and never surrender your individuality!"

To my surprise, it also won accolades from Leonard Krivy, who for decades has been a prominent educational consultant in Cherry Hill, N.J. "The home field advantage is relevant to many aspects of our lives," he told me. "This is a very interesting and well told perspective on home field advantage - and one with which most of us can identify.

"Jason shows accomplishments that invite the colleges' attention. He has taken well-thought risks and has confidence in his ideas and ability to follow through, and he has become part of the school's history and has made a difference," Krivy continued.

"You can write a modern-day version of the Gettysburg Address. However, unless you meet the school's objective criteria, you probably won't be admitted and the essay may not be read."

Another of Krivy's rules: "Schools like a well-rounded class, not necessarily well-rounded individuals. FOCUS ON YOUR SPECIAL STRENGTHS."

Jason Lamoreaux applied to nine schools. He was rejected at one, wait-listed at another, and accepted at the remaining seven. The head of admissions at St. Mary's College in Maryland wrote a note on his acceptance saying "how glad he was that he was wearing his Speedo."

Lamoreaux will enter Gettysburg College in the fall. And he will go places.

(c) 2011, The Philadelphia Inquirer.

In the 2012 campaign, environmentalists don't matter

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Soon after his party's "shellacking" in the midterm election, President Obama ordered government agencies to ensure that new regulations took economic growth into consideration and that old ones be revoked if they "stifle job creation or make our economy less competitive." Five months later, it's becoming pretty clear what he meant: The environment and public health will be thrown under a bus for the sake of his re-election in 2012.

The latest victim of the administration's new political direction is a proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule to limit emissions from industrial boilers, which power oil refineries, chemical plants and other factories. The EPA indefinitely rescinded the proposal last week, citing Obama's January executive order on regulations and claiming that

the agency hadn't had time to properly address industry concerns about the rule since a draft was released in September. The EPA first proposed a version of the boiler rules in 2004, and it has had ample time and input to get it right by now.

Also put on a slow track by the administration are new rules on storing toxic coal ash, an issue EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said she'd address in the wake of a disastrous Tennessee spill in 2008; earlier this month, EPA officials said they wouldn't get around to finishing the rules, which were expected by the end of last year, until at least 2012. The powerful coal industry scored another victory when the administration delayed an EPA guideline on mountaintop-removal mining last month.

In the calculus of presidential politics, environmentalists don't matter in 2012. The economy is the top subject on Americans' minds, and

Obama no doubt figures he can blunt criticism of his regulatory record and maybe corral some independent voters by cutting smokestack industries a little slack. Never mind that the economic calculus doesn't pencil out; according to EPA estimates, the rule on industrial boilers would cost polluters \$1.4 billion a year, but the value of its health benefits would range from \$22 billion to \$54 billion. And never mind that the rule would prevent up to 6,500 premature deaths each year.

But those are moral and financial reasons to regulate, not political ones. Here's an argument Obama and his political advisors might grasp: It's possible for a president to so alienate his base that it fails to show up on election day. Something to keep in mind before November 2012 rolls around.

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times.

Prospectus News

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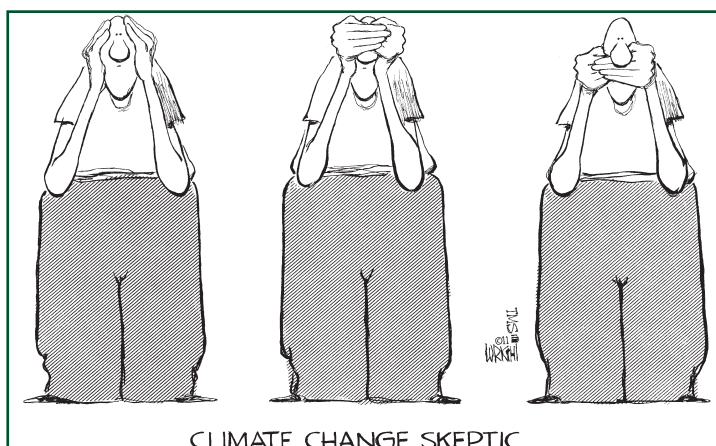
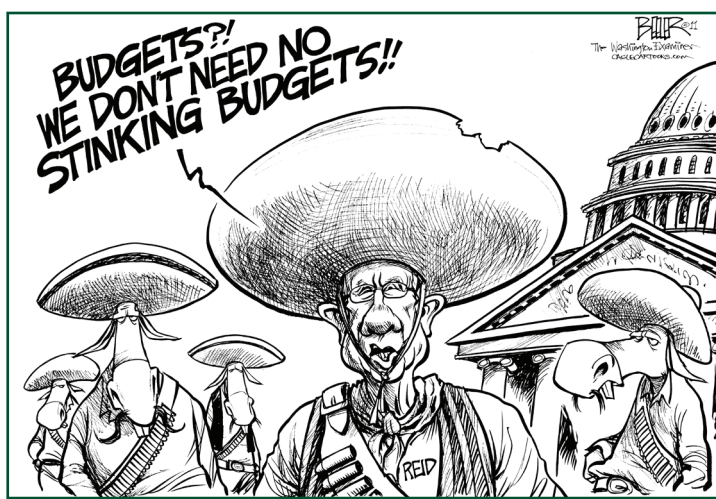
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Cellphones: Quietening the public nuisances

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Anyone who has been forced to endure a stranger's loud and public cellphone conversation in a supermarket line or a restaurant will understand this story:

A woman boarded an Amtrak train in Oakland, Calif., last Saturday night and proceeded to talk loudly on her cellphone for much of the rest of her 16-hour voyage. Repeated pleas from her fellow passengers - and the conductor - to be quiet fell on, um, deaf ears. Things got so bad that Amtrak officials stopped the train between stations Sunday afternoon in Salem, Ore., and had

local police escort her off for being an "unruly passenger." (Usually you have to be a ranting drunk on the train to get that designation.) As a wit on Gawker.com wrote, "She was later charged with unspeakable crimes against humanity and sentenced to life on some distant planet where there are no reception bars, ever."

The question of how to cope with cellphones in public has been a thorny issue for more than a decade. But what's heartening here is that Amtrak officials did something assertive on behalf of the suffering passengers after the woman broke the rule forbidding cellphone use in coach cars at night.

Increasingly, there are rules to limit cellphone use everywhere. On some shorter lines, Amtrak has "quiet cars" where noise from phones, laptops and other devices is prohibited. Gyms often outlaw cellphones in workout areas, and restaurants sometimes nix them. The Los Angeles Public Library system restricts use to lobby areas.

But often rules are unenforced or are not

posted or don't exist at all. In fact, L.A.'s Metropolitan Transportation Authority is working on providing cellphone access on subway trains, not taking it away. (Loud radios are still prohibited on buses and trains.)

A sense of entitlement pervades our public areas - a kind of "I want to talk, therefore I will" attitude. And cellphone use is just one example. If only those police officers who took the woman off the Amtrak train could come cart away the people who yak loudly on their townhouse patios on Saturday at 8 a.m. or crank up their stereos at 3 a.m.

But short of a rudeness police - hey, is there a ballot initiative there? - it would improve social well-being if librarians, bus drivers, gym staffers and apartment building managers were more aggressive about quieting irresponsible noise-makers. Wouldn't it be great if you could get your entire apartment building designated "quiet," like the Amtrak cars? Until that happens, we can all start by being aware of the people around us and reminding ourselves of what we tell children: Use your indoor voice.

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times.

The Three Rs, plus coal: American Coal Foundation works with Scholastic

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Anyone who as a child looked forward to ordering new books from a colorful brochure handed out in school, or who eagerly thumbed through the "Harry Potter" series, has a soft spot for Scholastic Inc., the venerable educational publisher and purveyor of children's titles. Sad to say, the company has of late been abusing the trust it built over decades as a beloved presence in U.S. schools.

A division of Scholastic partnered with a coal industry trade group to produce an energy curriculum for fourth-graders - a poster and related materials - that extols the virtues of coal but neglects to mention the strip mining that degrades the landscape and removes entire mountaintops, the pollution of air and water associated with coal, or its role in global warming. The American Coal Foundation posted an online announcement about its joint project with Scholastic, which sent the "United States

of Energy" package, free and unsolicited, to 66,000 teachers on its mailing list, and emailed it to 82,000 more.

In this case, schools got what they paid for - a biased, incomplete and frankly embarrassing promotional product parading as education. We're reminded of the glossy lunch menus some school districts sent home with children in the late 1990s that showed colorful cartoons of dancing M&M candies extolling the virtues of healthful eating. Of course, no one knows how many teachers actually used the Scholastic/American Coal Foundation materials. It's quite possible that the vast majority of them tossed the freebie.

In praising its partnership with the educational publisher, the coal group noted that Scholastic has formed similar alliances with Coca-Cola and Home Depot. "Four out of five parents know and trust the Scholastic brand," the website enthused.

Maybe not so much anymore. In addition to this cynical, mercenary project, Scho-

lastic lent its hand last year to a promotion for SunnyD, the corn syrup-sweetened beverage. Classes that collected 20 SunnyD labels could win free books; teachers were encouraged to hold SunnyD parties and create posters of the labels.

In a statement this month, Scholastic announced that it would review its policies, admitting it had not been "vigilant enough" with the coal partnership, although it did not concede there was anything wrong with the curriculum or with having private companies pay for glowing "educational" materials in an effort to promote themselves. The problem, according to the company, was simply how the joint venture looked to the public. Not quite. Though this was hardly a pact with Lord Voldemort, Scholastic has some serious soul-searching to do before it regains a full measure of trust.

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times.

"The students' ran across, the campuses to study".

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Features

Parkland student to perform at Taste of C-U

Sean Hermann
Editor-in-Chief

Most students like to enjoy their summer by relaxing by the beach, or hanging out with friends. Parkland student Conner Buenting, majoring in Communication, likes to keep things interesting. Buenting, a man who wears many hats, is not only a DJ for the show TGIF on 88.7 WPCD.FM, but also a Production Assistant at WCIA, and is currently on a trip to Rome. In addition to that, Buenting and a group of friends will take center stage at the 2011 Taste of Champaign Urbana, performing in the band I Can Be Your Jack Dawson. *Prospectus News* had a chance to chat with Buenting shortly before his trip.

Prospectus: What inspired you to start the band?

CB: I met these guys through playing in worship bands around the area and we all talked about getting together and playing sometime. Then I saw the ad for the Virginia Battle of the Bands and thought it was the perfect opportunity to play a show together, so we picked some covers, wrote an original, and gave ourselves a name: I Could Be Your Jack Dawson.

Prospectus: How exactly did you come up with that specific name?

CB: The name is an inside joke hinting how we think that we are each the perfect man for any and every girl, even though it's obvious we're not that at all.

Prospectus: Is your band primarily a cover band or do you play originals?

CB: As of now, we are primarily a cover band but we are still working on writing originals. Our idea is that as long as we are playing good songs that people can get into, covers or originals, then that is what we will play at our shows.

Prospectus: What are the band's influences?

CB: The bands influences are Blink 182, Yellowcard, Four Year Strong, Justin Bieber, Judy Garland, and the sounds my dog makes when he is sleeping. But mostly just the first three...

Prospectus: Should we expect and surprises from your per-



Photo courtesy of Conner Buenting

Parkland Student Conner Buenting (left) will perform with his band I Can Be Your Jack Dawson at the Taste of Champaign Urbana on Saturday, June 18 at 11am.

formance?

CB: We wear suspenders and play rock music. Shoot! I just ruined the surprise.

Prospectus: What's it feel like to be playing in front of such a large audience?

CB: Well, the most we've played in front of is about 50, but it's a ton of fun! Even if we were just playing in front of 2 people, we would still have just as much fun. It's just the love we have of entertaining people.

Prospectus: Signed any autographs yet?

CB: Do BOTB applications count as autographs? If so then yes.

Prospectus: What makes your band different from everybody else?

CB: We wear suspenders... that's about it. (Just Kidding) I think it's the passion we all have to play music and entertain people. You can see that in our energized performances and our fast, fun music.

Prospectus: When did you start playing music?

CB: I started playing guitar about 12 years ago and singing about 5 years ago.

Prospectus: What's your dream gear (guitar/amp/effects) set up?

CB: My dream gear is an amp I can carry in my pocket, but can still blast sound to fill an auditorium. A guitar with strings that always stay in tune, no matter what, and an effects board that reads my mind when selecting an effect and that are all invisible and unbreakable.

Prospectus: Do you have a decent following with your radio show? (Is that still happening over the summer?)

CB: Yes, our parents love the show! We are starting to get a decent on following on TGIF because we have some regular callers who participate in Request Shouts, a segment on the show involving a shout-out and a requested song. Yes it is still happening over the summer and will begin again the first week of June, Fridays from 4 to 6.

Prospectus: What's an interesting fact about you?

CB: An interesting fact about me is that I love lamp.

Be sure to check out Buenting and his band, I Can Be Your Jack Dawson, at the Taste of Champaign Urbana on Saturday, June 18 from 11am to 12pm at the main event tent.

Behind the Scenes: Campus Technologies

Josh GRUBE
Staff Writer

With today's fast paced technologically advanced world, the Campus Technologies Department at Parkland College is more necessary than ever. Campus Tech is in charge of email, internet access, telephones, servers, computers, printers, peripherals, My.Parkland, and much more. "Campus Tech is comprised of a group that supports the network, the desktop computers, and all of the programming or corporate applications on campus," Connie Macedo, the Associate Director for Technical Support Services, explains. "It's a pretty big group."

In addition to the primary staff positions, Campus Technologies also hires student workers as lab monitors. These monitors help maintain an effective lab environment, making sure that all of the rules are being followed as well as providing assistance if needed.

One of these lab monitors is Robert Williams, who monitors the M108 lab. "It's nice to be able to help other students if they need help with anything," said Williams. "I'm studying to be in microcomputer support, so helping people is what I'm going to school for."

This is currently the busiest time of the year for the department, as the student population greatly decreases over the summer. During the summer months, Campus Technologies replaces old computers in labs and offices. They help various offices throughout campus prioritize what they need and then initiate the purchasing, receiving, and installation of those necessities.

Over the last year, Campus Tech has been working on upgrading the operating systems of the computers on campus to Windows 7. However, some campus computers have not made the switch. This is because of the computers being incapable of running Windows 7 smoothly or due to compatibility issues with programs that are needed for certain courses. "We put Windows 7 on as many labs as we could," said Macedo. "But there's a lot of software on campus that still, perhaps, won't run on Windows 7, so we have to gauge in a par-



Photo by Ashley Melloncamp/Prospectus News

Connie Macedo, Associate Director for Technical Support Services, pauses for a quick photo before getting back to a busy day of work at Campus Technologies.

ticular lab if they need these types of software that won't run." She also mentioned that the computers unable to run the operating system will either be upgraded or replaced.

When making updates to Parkland's technology, Campus Technologies uses a progressive approach, rather than making the changes all at once. "We tend to wait a little bit because we want all of the bugs to be worked out as much as possible, but at the same time we can't be too late because it inconveniences people," said Macedo. "The computer science department is kind of a driving force behind a lot of the software; they need the latest and greatest. We test it there before we put it anywhere else so we can learn what works and what doesn't." A big update currently in the works is Office 2010, which has already been installed in a few places around campus by request.

Currently, Campus Technologies is working on a test project named STAR. Short for "Student Technical Assistance and Resources," STAR will be a one-stop place for students who need help with any technological service that Parkland provides. "We do hotline support right now for faculty and staff, and we've identified a need where we saw students coming in needing the same sort of assistance and there's no centralized spot for them

to go," Macedo explained. "What we're going to try this next year is during peak times we're going to have a physical location where students can stop by and ask questions or get assistance. The information will also be located on the server in some format that people could go to if they wanted to help themselves. We're going to document that and see how it goes." This physical location is planned for a four week period near the college center: two weeks before the Fall semester and the first two weeks during the semester.

Campus Tech is a big group with huge plans. If you have an issue with any of Parkland's technological services, be sure to stop by the STAR location for help early this fall. Also, be on the lookout for Office 2010 making its way to computers around campus!

10 Facebook settings to check right now

Mark W. Smith
Detroit Free Press

As Facebook becomes the window to the Web for its more than 500 million users worldwide, the security of the social network has never been a hotter topic.

One recent example is Pam Aughe of Clarkston, Mich., who had her account hacked into by a scammer who tried to bilk her friends out of money.

And while it can be hard to make a Facebook account hack-proof, there is certainly a lot you can do to prevent a story like Aughe's.

Here are 10 Facebook settings for you to check now.

1. Who can see what?

Your first stop should be your privacy settings, which you can get to under "Account" at the top right of any page.

Here, make sure you're using a set of custom settings. Click "Customize settings" under the grid on that page to see who can see which parts of your Facebook profile.

Unless you use your Facebook account as a public page, every option should at least be set to "Friends Only." From there, you can make each setting more specific, keeping your photos hidden for certain people, for example.

2. Place your friends in lists

To make the previous tip more powerful, place your Facebook friends in lists. If you begin to define lists such as Co-workers, Best Friends, Employees, Students, etc., you can set each of your settings to be visible or not visible to a

whole list of people.

To do this go to "Edit Friends" under the Account menu. Type in a friend's name and add it to a list.

Then you can make sure that only your best friends, for example, can see the photos you post. Or you can make sure that your students or employees don't see your status updates.

You can also add a friend to a list as you accept their friend request.

3. How secure is your password?

This is the front line to your Facebook security and should be taken seriously. Good passwords include capital letters, punctuation, numbers and words that can't be found in the dictionary.

Resist using anything that someone who knows you well enough could guess (kids, pets, phone numbers, etc.).

If you think for any reason that your account's security has been breached, change your password immediately. Doing so will end every active session of Facebook for your account, locking out anyone else but you.

4. Who can find you?

Facebook also allows you to set what people see if they're not your friend. Under privacy settings, click "View Settings" under the "Connecting on Facebook" setting at the top of the page.

Here, you can set what people see when they search for you on Facebook.

Pay special note to the bot-

See NOW on P. 7



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Lifestyle

 **Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz**
Chicago Tribune

There are telltale signs that a product has gone bad. Moldy bread. Clumpy milk. The layer of fur blanketing the cream cheese. But what about the toothpaste sitting in your pantry for years after a zealous bulk purchase? Or those condoms waiting optimistically in your nightstand for longer than you wish you recall?

Many such products carry expiration dates, but thrifty shoppers often wonder if they really must toss dated items that still "seem" perfectly fine. After all, how can headache medicine stop working from one month to the next? And why should you believe the expiration date on one lotion when another doesn't carry one at all?

The Food and Drug Administration requires that expiration dates be printed on all prescription and over-the-counter drugs, but not on cosmetics - unless the cosmetics are also considered drugs, such as toothpaste with fluoride, anything with sunscreen, anti-dandruff shampoo and antiperspirant. But even then, over-the-counter drugs without dose limitations don't have to carry expiration dates if tests have proven they're stable for at least three years, which is why one sunscreen may have a date while another won't.

Expiration doesn't necessarily mean the product turns putrid or ineffective once the date passes. Manufacturers set expiration by choosing a date and conducting stability tests to ensure the product will still be good at that time.

Expiration dates tend to be conservative to account for a wide range of storage conditions and consumer handling, said Dr. John Bailey, chief scientist with the Personal Care Products Council, an industry trade group. But for some products there can be a cushion. Here's a guide to products that commonly carry expiration dates.

Condoms: Because the latex in condoms degrades over time, becoming brittle and more prone to breakage, the FDA requires they carry an expiration date, up to five years from the date of packaging, established by testing to ensure their integrity. Storing condoms for prolonged periods in a hot environment, such as a windowsill or glove compartment (a wallet is usually OK), can speed up deterioration, while storing in a cool, dry place could make them usable past the expiration date, said Dr. John Santelli, professor of clinical population and public health at Columbia

Web Winners: Retirement planning for all ages

 **Reid Kanaley**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Retirement planning is no small task. Ideally, you start it in your 20s - though not everyone has the forethought. For the rest of us, these sites provide some direction.

Social Security may have an uncertain future, but for now the retirement planner at the Social Security Online site is not a bad place to start investigating the steps to take to prepare for old age. Links go to instructions for applying for benefits and tell when to do so. An eerie life-expectancy calculator will tell you, statistically, how much longer you can expect to live. (The calculator, we noticed, grants at least another year, even if you're already 110.) <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2>

How to save. Should you save aggressively now? How do I figure out my net worth? When does a reverse mortgage make sense? The retirement page at Money.cnn.com provides "what to do" plans for people by age category - 20s and 30s, 40s, 50s and 60-plus. Though you may not need it, there's advice for "How to handle a million-dollar windfall," and it's nice to dream. <http://money.cnn.com/retirement>

SmartMoney.com is another magazine site with some entertaining information about retirement and living into old age. There's an article documenting the trend in "retirement getaways" offered by retirement communities trying to entice new residents, and one with advice for job-hunting seniors. A separate section deals with the issues in caring for older family members, such as choosing a nursing home and managing a career if you are also a family caregiver. <http://www.smartmoney.com/retirement>

Boomer guide. The baby boomer retirement guide at Kiplinger.com has information about retiring abroad, tax considerations in retirement, easing - instead of crashing - into retirement and considering an annuity as a "do-it-yourself pension." Like many sites, including those above, this one has a wealth of calculators for figuring what your own retirement goals should be and how much you need to be saving to get there. Also find out your tolerance for investment risk, and how to set up a budget. <http://www.kiplinger.com/guides/boomers>

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Don Bartletti/Los Angeles Times

A fresh egg ready for shipping is marked with "Enjoy by Sep 21, 10." The expiration date is 30 days from when it was laid at Armstrong Egg Farms in Valley Center, California.

Expiration dates to be observed as guidelines



- Extreme heat, sun light, and humid conditions can speed up deterioration, it's best to store items in a cool, dry place.
- Many drugs retain 90% of their potency up to five years after expiration date if stored properly.
- The biggest risk is microbial growth. If it doesn't look or smell right, time to toss out.

University's Mailman School of Public Health.

Saline solutions, eyedrops: Sterility is the greatest concern. The preservatives used to prevent microbial overgrowth become less effective over time, putting the solution at risk of contamination, said Dr. Thomas Steinemann, ophthalmology professor at Case Western Reserve University. Patients who have used outdated or contaminated product can get eye infections or worsen a problem they aimed to treat, he said. Also, especially once a bottle has been opened, the water starts to evaporate, leaving behind a greater concentration of salt, said ophthalmologist Elmer Tu.

Anything with sunscreen: The ingredients that absorb UV light and prevent it from reaching your skin can change or degrade with time and extreme temperature, diminishing the effectiveness of the sunscreen, said Dr. John Bailey, chief scientist with the Personal Care Products Council. If the product still looks, smells and feels right, you can probably use it for a year past the expiration if you're willing to take the risk (that is, if you tolerate the sun well), Bailey said. But if you're fair-

skinned or burn easily, it's best to abide by the date. Other doctors, such as Glogau, advise people to buy a new bottle each year.

Drugs (liquid): Liquids are generally less stable than solid forms of drugs, so err toward abiding by the expiration date, said Ohio State's Weber. Sometimes it's hard to see inside containers to determine if something is off with the liquid, but if it smells funny or looks cloudy or discolored, don't take it. Never swig straight from the bottle, to avoid contamination with bacteria.

Drugs (solid): While patients should follow expiration dates on prescription drugs, taking expired over-the-counter drugs could just mean they won't be as potent, said Robert Weber, senior director of pharmaceutical services at the Ohio State University Medical Center. There has been some clamoring for a re-evaluation of drug shelf life. The military, upon testing the stability of 122 types of expired drugs, found that many retained 90 percent of their potency five years after their expiration date. But those were unopened and ideally stored; heat or high humidity can shorten life span.

Toothpaste: The greatest concern is the reduction in the concentration of fluoride, which is key to cavity prevention, said Frank Lippert, a researcher at Indiana University's Oral Health Research Institute. Anti-tartar and whitening agents also can degrade, making the product less effective. Toothpastes with chemicals such as triclosan, which fights gingivitis, have an even shorter shelf life because that chemical can leach into the packaging material over time, cutting effectiveness. Also, disappearing flavor and the process of syneresis (when water leaves the gel and makes the tube hard to squeeze), make old toothpaste unpleasant.

Beauty products: For cosmetics with active ingredients, such as acne-fighting or anti-aging products, abide by the expiration date because the low concentrations of active ingredients can degrade quickly, said San Francisco dermatologist Richard Glogau. Other cosmetics that don't require expiration dates sometimes still carry them, often in the form of PAO (period after opening), a symbol of an open jar that suggests how many months you should keep the product after opening it. The biggest risk is microbial growth. If it doesn't look or smell right, it's time to dump, said Bailey.

Batteries: There's no reason not to use an old battery unless there's visible damage to the can, said Kurt Iverson, spokesman for Duracell, which prints a seven-year shelf life for its alkaline batteries as a guarantee rather than an expiration. The metals oxidize as they age, and there can be a small amount of self-discharge from batteries as they sit for long periods unused, but the only consequence is that an older battery might have a shorter life, Iverson said. (Tip: Don't store batteries in the refrigerator or freezer; room temperature is best for quality and life span.)

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 Boomer Guide - kiplinger.com/guides/boomers

VETS

continued from page 1

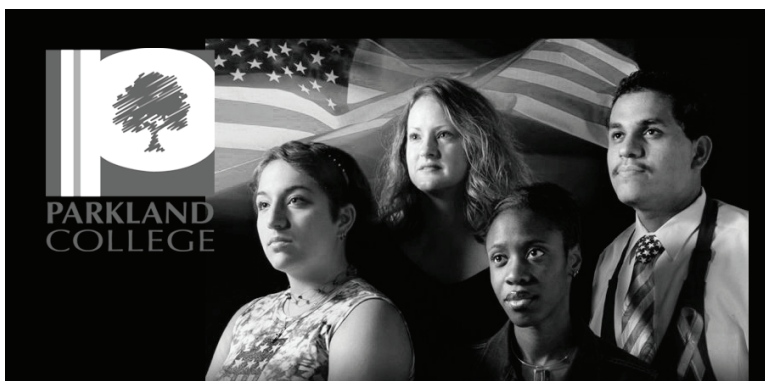
students who regularly attend meetings often have a better school performance overall and are more likely to graduate. Of course, this may be because those students are already dedicated to succeeding, using all available resources to their advantage or the club may help with obstacles in the student's path.

In addition to social events, one of the club's regular activities includes a representative of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs making a bi-monthly visit. The representative helps with any non-educational veteran's benefits that may be causing questions or problems. Current SVAP president, Aubrey Lucas said, "every-one takes away something different [from the meetings]. Many of the members are from other places, not here, so they are able to share experiences or discover different study programs and other things. It is a great networking tool." Other activities include the Parkland Veterans Day Ceremony and fundraisers at Veterans Affairs Hospitals.

When asked about his experiences with the Parkland Veterans Affairs office and financial aid problems, Lucas, who is in the Navy Reserves, reiterated the lack of funds at the beginning of the semester. It was an issue he said was addressed by the SVAP recently and resulted in a

proposal sent to the financial aid office. The outcome was that new students were given better information emphasizing the problem. "Parkland was very helpful and Kristina [Taylor] did exactly what was needed," he said.

For military veterans needing paperwork help, these two resources can aid in different ways. They also provide a place where experiences can be discussed and shared with others who have had similar experiences. In addition, networks can be created for possible future employment situations. For veterans wishing to partake of these services, the Student Veteran's Association will begin meeting again with the Fall Semester in X-150 on Tuesdays at noon, and can also speak with Kristina Taylor in the Financial Aid Office, A-173.



**Student Veterans Association
Parkland (SVAP)**
Meetings this fall Tuesdays in X-150
The Office of Financial Aid and Veteran Services is located in room A170.
Contact Kristina Taylor for more information
(217)351-2222 or by email at
finaid@parkland.edu.

.EDU

continued from page 1

Two of the major cell phone providers, Sprint and Verizon, both offer student discounts on every bill of up to 25%. Some employers also offer discounts, and sometimes both discounts can be applied simultaneously. These discounts usually offer a little more proof than an e-mail address, and sometimes must be put in place in person, but are worth the effort that it takes.

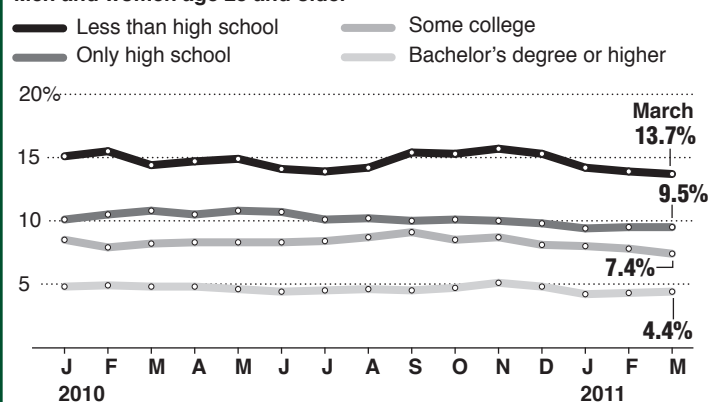
The best place to find a wide variety of student discounts is studentrate.com. Although the discounts on this website are not necessarily found only there, it is a great collection of almost every student discount that is offered. By having this resource readily available, it is a great way to see if a purchase price could be decreased just for being a student.

It can be easy to forget about the discounts and free products offered by many companies exclusively to students, but it is a great way to save money, or even to try new products for free. Take advantage of every opportunity that is offered while you still can, because it is hard to remain a student forever!

Getting degree still helps

The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows higher trends in unemployment for those who did not graduate high school than those with higher education in 2010.

Unemployment rate by education level Men and women age 25 and older



Source: U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Parkland College Relations Officer Matthew Kopmann

Summer Safety

Many students are enjoying the summer off while others are continuing to take courses. Whatever your plans are for the summer, make sure you stay safe.

Here are some safety tips for the next few months. If you are planning a vacation and choose to drive to your destination, make sure you buckle up. Take turns driving to stay alert. Before you set out, confirm that the vehicle has valid license plates and insurance.

If you party, party smart. Travel with your friends and stay together. Avoid underage or excessive alcohol consumption. Do not consume alcohol before or while you are swimming, operating a boat, or personal watercraft. Boating under the influence (BUI) is just like a DUI, dangerous and illegal.



NOW

continued from page 5

tom option, which allows you to set who can see what you have "liked" on Facebook. Many don't realize that by default this option is set to show everyone on the Web what you like.

Don't want that future employer to know that you "like" naps or skipping class? This is a good thing to check.

5. What does my profile look like to Grandpa?

Even the most conscientious Facebook user can miss a check box or two, putting his or her entire weekend escapade on Facebook for Grandpa to see.

But the good news is that you can preview what your profile looks like to any of your friends, many of whom can see different things depending on how advanced you have set your privacy settings.

In your privacy settings, click "Customize Settings" then "Preview My Profile."

Here, you'll be able to type in any friend's name and see exactly what they see. Very handy.

6. Browse Facebook securely
One of Facebook's most vulnerable features is that much

of your browsing is done without a secure connection to the website. Hackers have exploited this hole by accessing your personal information if you use Facebook on a public or unsecured WiFi network.

In your account settings, choose Account Security. There's a check box there to enable secure browsing whenever possible. Check that.

You'll soon see that Facebook will be using https:// instead of http://. That's how you know you're more secure.

7. Who is logging in as you?

One of Facebook's greatest security features is the ability to individually approve each computer or mobile device that logs into your account.

You can name each computer you use Facebook with (work, home, laptop, iPhone, etc.).

To turn this on, go to your account settings, click on "Account Security" and choose that you want an e-mail or text message when someone tries to log in from a computer that isn't one you've approved.

Here, you can also see all the open sessions of Facebook tied to your account. Someone logging in from five states away? Click "end activity" and they'll be stopped in their tracks.

8. Which apps know you?

As we have used Facebook over the years, each of us has amassed lists of applications that have access to our Facebook information.

To see which apps currently have access to your Facebook information, go to your privacy settings and click edit under "Apps and Websites" at the bottom left of the page.

On the next page, click edit settings next to "Apps you use."

Here, you'll see a list of all the apps that have your information on file. Many of them are used for convenience, such as integration with the popular Instagram photo-sharing app or commenting services on news websites. But there are certainly some you could lose.

Click the X next to any app from which you want your information yanked.

9. Even your friends' apps know you, too

This one is even scarier. On the same app privacy page,

check out the subhead that says "Info accessible through your friends."

You may not know it, but anything your friends can see on Facebook can also be seen by any app that your friends add on Facebook - including apps that you have no idea were ever given access.

To disallow this, click on edit settings and uncheck all the boxes that allow you to choose what can be shared with apps that your friends add. Click

save.

10. Who can post on your wall?

I said in my Sunday package on Facebook security that the social network has become a veritable cesspool of spam.

Many of these spammy links are clickjacking schemes, which spread by posting links on a bunch of your friends' walls.

The only foolproof way to prevent these links from gumming up your own wall is to set

it so no one can post directly on your wall. Friends can still comment on your status messages, links and photos, but won't have the ability to leave you a public note.

To change this setting, head to the customize settings area under privacy. Then uncheck the "Enable" box where it allows friends to post on your wall.

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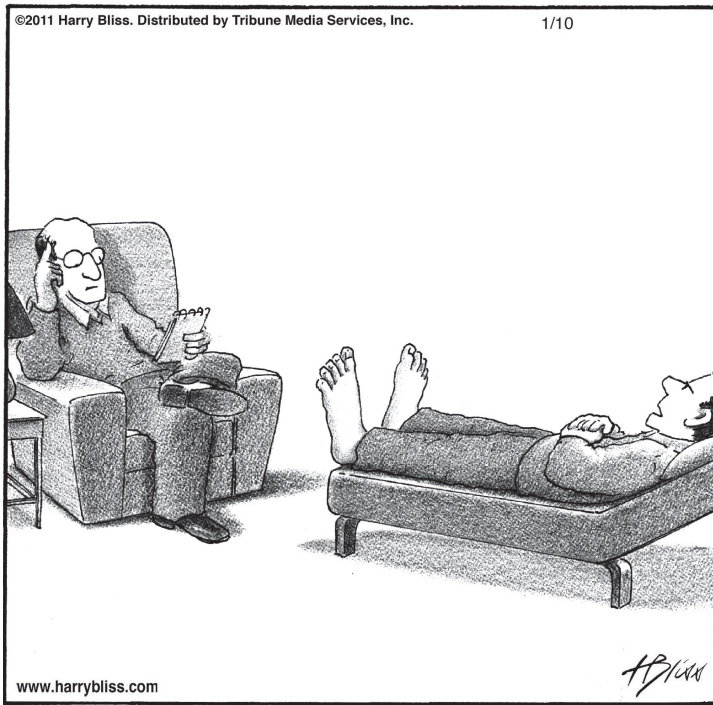
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Sudoku (intermediate)

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

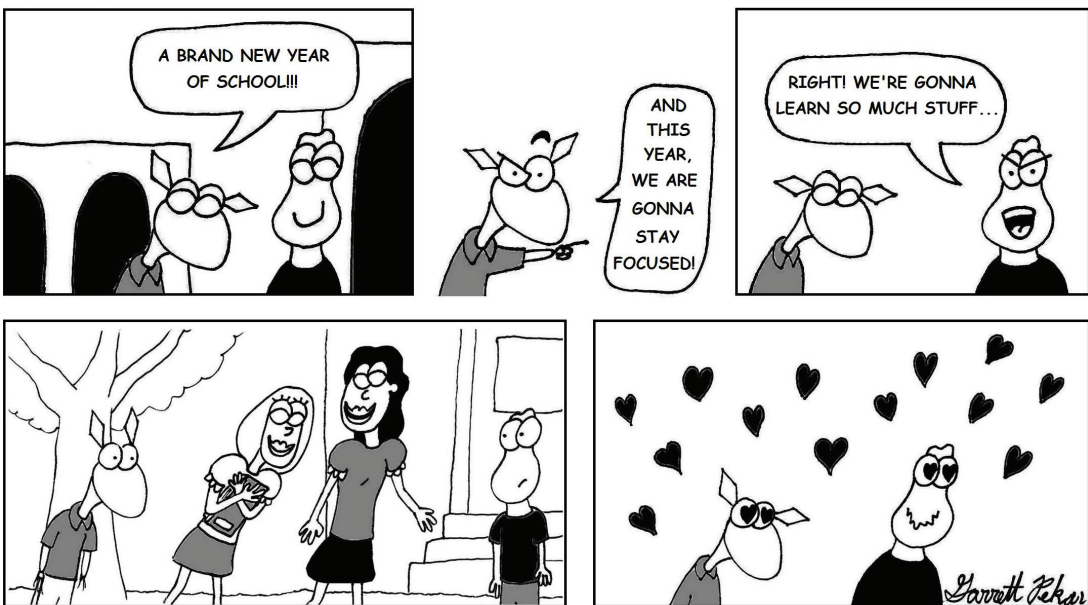
BREWSTER ROCKIT



Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro



SHRIMP



WONDERMARK BY DAVID MALKI!

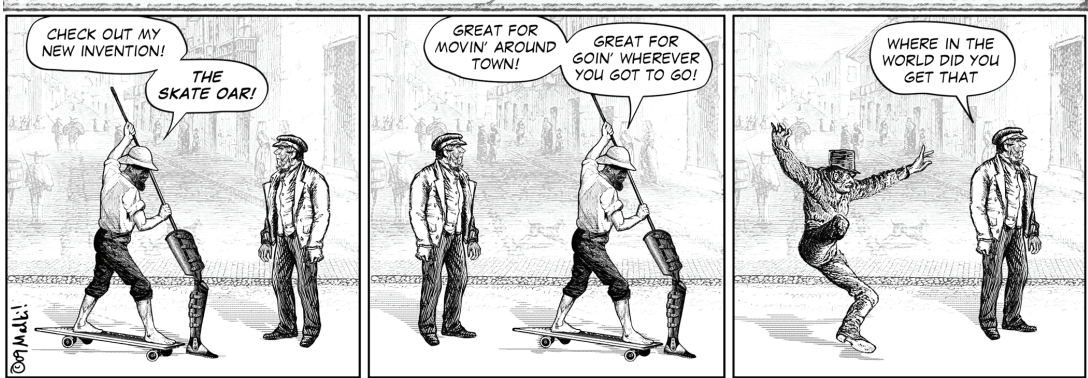
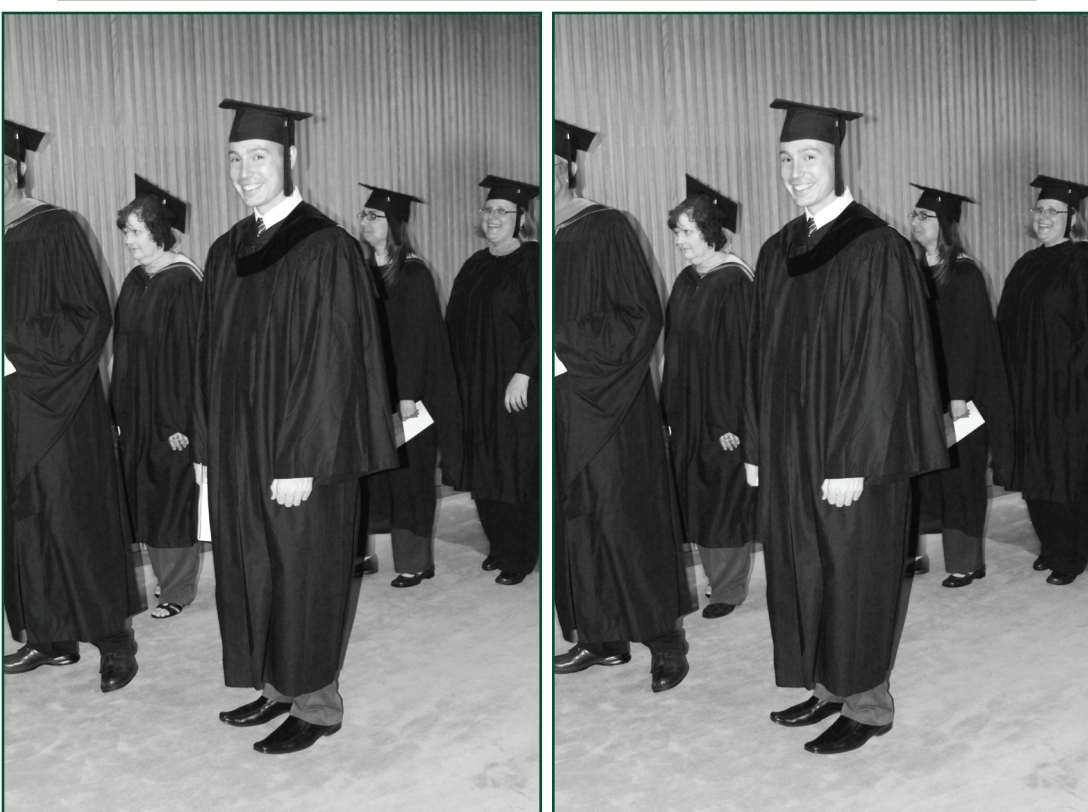
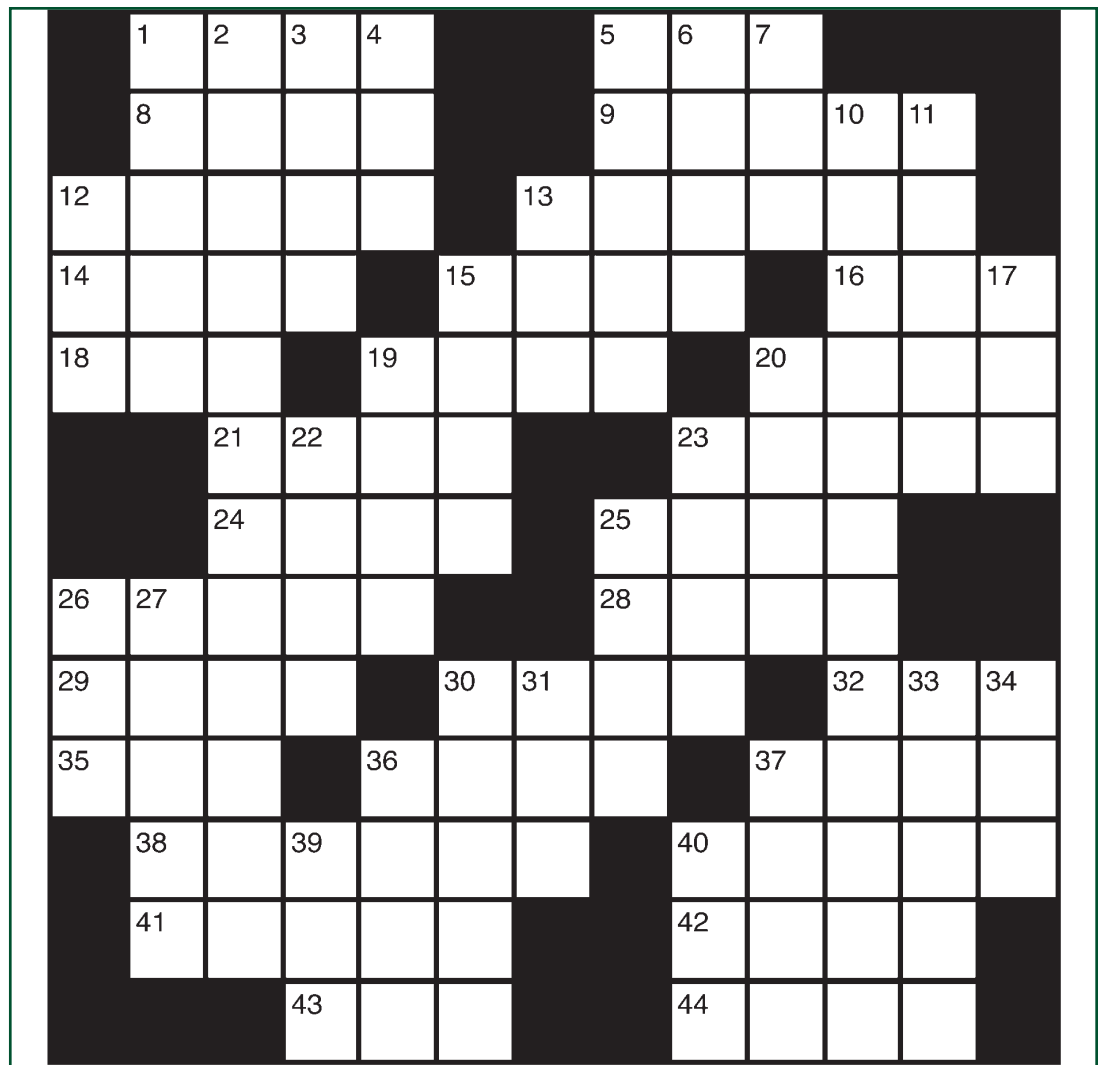


Photo Find



The TV Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews



4/3/11

ACROSS

- 1 "___ '70s Show"
- 5 Bartender on "Cheers"
- 8 "___ Improvement"
- 9 Lt. ___ Van Buren; "Law & Order" role
- 12 Food for which Oliver Twist asked for more
- 13 Like a collision in the sky
- 14 Actor Rip ___
- 15 Actor Danza
- 16 "O Sole ___"; song from Naples
- 18 Cries of sudden pain
- 19 "The Man Who ___ Liberty Valance"; John Wayne movie
- 20 Singer/songwriter Billy ___
- 21 Walk around with a long face
- 23 Information on a book spine
- 24 Days of ___; times long past
- 25 "The ___ Chaparral"
- 26 Like a harsh, grating voice
- 28 "___ Rider"; movie for Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper
- 29 Sandwich choices, for short
- 30 Diner on "Alice"
- 32 "Scarecrow and ___ King"

DOWN

- 1 "___ Momma from the Train"; film for Danny DeVito & Billy Crystal
- 2 "48 ___"
- 3 Sitcom for Sherman Hemsley
- 4 ___ Aviv, Israel
- 5 Actress Eva Marie ___
- 6 Opie's pa
- 7 Farrow or Kirshner
- 10 Sean Murray's role on "NCIS"
- 11 Lead character in "The Little Mermaid"
- 12 Classic Pontiac
- 13 Cow's comment
- 15 "How do I love ___? Let me count the ways..."
- 17 "Grand ___ Opry"
- 19 Nimble; agile
- 20 Lively Irish dances
- 22 Fumbler's word
- 23 Mowry and Carrere
- 25 "From ___"; Johnny Depp movie
- 26 Baseball hitter's stat.
- 27 Church table
- 30 Swampland
- 31 Trauma centers, for short
- 33 Actor Claude ___
- 34 Sault ___ Marie
- 36 Long, long times
- 37 Make a quick cut
- 39 "___, Baa, Black Sheep"
- 40 Birmingham's state: abbr.

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

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

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4/3/11

Sports

Hard work pays off! - Parkland athletes ring in numerous awards on the year

Markus RODGERS
Sports Writer

What's more impressive than a two-year college that can consistently yield nationally recognized athletes a single sport? A two-year college that consistently yields nationally recognized athletes in many sports! Parkland College has virtually turned into the Kobe Bryant of JUCO's, showing us a little bit of everything when it comes to production on the courts, fields, and courses. Some schools can boast an impressive record for their sport of choice, but when taking a look at Parkland athletics from top to bottom, it is apparent that the athletic department has done a wonderful job preparing our student-athletes. "Our athletic department is great," says Charles Glass, guard for the Men's Basketball team. "Everyone from top to bottom does everything they can to put us in position to be successful."

Women's basketball was led by the outstanding ability of Hannah Ohl as she fueled the Cobras to a record season. Along the way she picked up many awards, including: M-WAC All-Conference, M-WAC MVP, All Region 1st

Team, NJCAA National All-Tournament team, and 1st team NJCAA All-American. Joining Ohl in the backcourt and on the NJCAA All-Tournament team was freshman April Barnett. Barnett began contributing more as the season progressed and really made strides in the National Tournament. The Cobras will be looking forward to her leadership next year as a sophomore. Amanda Boyd and Brittney Burgess each earned All-Region Honorable Mention, as Boyd also joined guard Lauren Taylor in receiving M-WAC All-Conference Honorable Mention. Ana Deters, Another exciting freshman this year, racked up on awards and was named to the M-WAC All-Conference Second Team and All-Region 1st Team.

Returning sophomore guard DJ Hoskins has been equally as effective for the Men's team this season, averaging 16 points, four rebounds and leading the Cobras to the first national's appearance this decade speaks for itself. Along the way Hoskins earned individual awards including an elusive All-American NJCAA DII vote. Assisting Hoskins this season was freshman guard Shaquille Lowery, who had a consistent stat line and



won Second Team All-Conference. "I started shooting the ball a lot better," Lowery said, reflecting on his first season as a Cobra. "If I can get off to a hot start next season I believe I can be a First Team caliber player." After two consecutive years of completely refurbishing the team, he will undoubtedly be a cornerstone in the direction that Parkland is moving in. This offseason promises yet another intense recruiting period and could offer a conflict of its own, but Lowery puts it best, "As long as we play defense, rebound and stay together we'll be OK."

Sarah Gray and Sam Inman led softball to a solid season. They each won All-Region honors and First Team All-Conference this season. Macy Shupe and Kelsi Hoey went Second Team All-Conference, while Brittany Einck was an honorable mention. Gray, Hoey and sophomore Sarah Frerichs exploded in the M-WAC tourney, each making the tournament team.

Men's soccer has had a class of freshman athletes jump

right onto the scene and contribute this season. Douglas Andrade and Khody Ellis were named M-WAC All Conference First Team. Sophomore Alex Ramsey has caught the eye of the committee, gaining honorary mention accreditation. Ellis also took home a First Team Region 24 plaque; Andrade and freshman Gregg Flore received an honorable mention. Last year's Goal Keeper of the Year, Bosko Kovacevic, was injured most of the season and never could find the rhythm he had last season. Kovacevic hopes to regain his swagger after transferring to University of Auburn at Montgomery.

Volleyball had three major contributors in route to finishing 13th at nationals. The trio of Alexis Braghini, Susie Jean, and Molly Goodrich raised their play to superhuman-like standards while each taking home All-Conference First Team honors. After that task was complete they turned their sights on Region 24, which is known for its stiff competition; they each took home First Team All-Conference as well.

Braghini and Jean managed to take their talents to a national level, winning First Team and Second Team All-American respectively.

The Cobras dedicated a lot of time and effort to their craft, but just as essential is the help they're receiving behind the scenes. Coaching plays a large part in how the Cobras execute their game plan. "Since we got here the coaches have treated us like family on and off the diamond," said baseball star Jordan Parr. "It really makes you open up and play well."

The Cobras aren't the only ones who appreciate their coaches. Many of the Parkland coaches have similar credentials on their walls, including women's basketball coach Karrie Redeker. In addition to a successful season, Redeker also claimed M-WAC Coach of the Year, the Region 24 Coach of the Year, District M Coach of the Year and, most impressively, IBCA DII Coach of the Year. Volleyball head coach, Cliff Hastings, also added a Coach of the Year Award of his own for Parkland.

We all know that regard-

Graphic by Burke Stanion

less of being a player or coach, there is no "I" in "TEAM." Everyone wearing a Parkland uniform did something to contribute to their team, and the way each team finished spoke volumes to that notion. "I didn't get a chance to contribute on the court as much as I wanted," said an ex-basketball player, "but we've always been a family; I'm as happy when they succeed as I am when I succeed." This cannot be completely donated to one player or coach, but everyone who plays, manages and supports the Cobras.

With any luck the 2011-2012 season will follow the successful trend of the 2010-2011 campaign. With such an impressive resume, the Cobras won't have much trouble adding to their already top of the lint recruiting class. As the last couple of signees make their visits and determine the best option for their careers; many more student-athletes are choosing Parkland College as their route to success.

Candace Buckner
McClatchy-Tribune
News Service

Megan McCracken can remember the year, the exact day and even the light blue-and-red color scheme on the jerseys of the opposing Renegades. As many of those mental-health books stacked so tidily by her bed say: You never forget the moment when it happens to you.

"I call it my yips," says McCracken, a senior softball catcher at Olathe North. "It started when I was 14. I was in an indoor tournament during the winter season, and I was catching. There was a runner at third, and I overthrew the pitcher."

The Renegades' runner trotted home, and that was the ballgame. McCracken's team had lost, and she blamed herself. Even worse, she could not get over her seemingly simple mistake.

McCracken's youth-league games and tournaments ripened into a varsity high school career, where she continued to play catcher. But as she would stand up to complete the task of throwing the ball back to the pitcher - something she's done since she was 8 - she could feel her body tense up. The ball would turn into a feather in her right hand. Her brain said one thing; her arm did another.

McCracken could not bring herself to confidently throw the ball back to her pitcher.

That one haunting mistake against the Renegades eventually turned into years of the yips.

"It's a feeling that's hard to describe," McCracken says. "I was pumping five, six times, and I could not get the ball back to the pitcher for the life of me."

"It's not a physical problem. I can throw to second base fine, and I can pick off fine. It's definitely just a mental block that I have going on."

Athletes are praised for their speed, agility and strength, but their greatest capability can often be found between their ears. What goes on there can make otherwise talented ath-

letes - young and old - developmental blocks in which the simplest tasks can offer a tremendous challenge.

An all-star basketball center struggles to make a free throw, a former Gold Glover baffles the baseball world with a streak of errant plays or a Division I-bound softball catcher tenses up before making the 40-foot throw to the pitcher's mound. Whether it's Shaquille O'Neal, Chuck Knoblauch or Megan McCracken, the most challenging game of all can be the mind game.

"They all start with the internal dialogue," says Jack Singer, a California-based clinical and sport psychologist. "If you speak to yourself critically ... then you develop self-fulfilling prophecies, and the thing you were afraid of happens."

McCracken, her ponytail dangling out of a red ribbon, wraps up a tough game that mercifully ends for Olathe North. Her helmet is the first to hit the dusty baseline, then her chest protector and finally her knee pads. She looks ready to storm off this field but knows better. She wouldn't dare do anything like that in front of her teammates.

"Being a catcher, my teammates are looking at me to be on top of it every play," McCracken says. "I can't for the sake of the team show any defeat or any glimpse of doubt."

McCracken exudes confidence these days. She is not the same girl whose life was changed in that game against the Renegades years ago.

"I felt very down on myself," McCracken says. "It was at a point in my life where I was not mentally mature enough to deal with failure."

Lincoln Prep all-state track star Sheilahn Puryear can relate. Puryear first learned hurdling in the AAU and enjoyed national success. Then in high school after some tough experiences, Puryear developed her own mental block. Suddenly, she could not clear a hurdle.

"When I first started running track, I was used to winning. Then I started doing really

For some athletes, the mental game is the toughest



David Eulitt The Kansas City Star

Catcher Megan McCracken has a Division I scholarship and the respect of her teammates and coaches, but had to work to overcome her self-described "yips," where following an bad experience on the field, she struggled to throw the ball back to the pitcher.

bad, and that really messed up my mind," says Puryear, a senior who has competed in track for the better part of eight years. "When I do (the 100-meter) short hurdles, it takes a lot out of me to go over the hurdles. It's just really difficult to get over the hurdle."

That same lack of confidence haunted Chris Dailey during his high school tennis career. Dailey was the first Excelsior Springs boys player to qualify for state. However, another

Dailey legend exists: The kid who feared playing near the net - quite a liability for a tennis player.

Just like McCracken, Dailey remembers the exact practice when he developed a dread for the net. He was a freshman on a team full of confident seniors, and they knew his weakness was in closing to the net. With a nervous Dailey at the net, the seniors sent a flurry of lasers right at him.

Excelsior Springs coach AW

Michael said the seniors were not trying to taunt or haze Dailey; they simply wanted to cure his net problems. The seniors thought that sending darts right at Dailey could help fix his problem.

They were wrong. "I hated doubles then, because you're forced to play the net. One of the seniors knew that and he told me, 'Chris! This ball is coming right at you!' " Dailey recalls. "I was freaking out. Next thing I know, my teammate serves the ball and it hits me right on my forehead."

From that day forward, Dailey's mind had him steering himself away from the net.

Right or wrong, the actions of others can intensify an athlete's mental block and add to their struggles. McCracken knows this all too well.

"That's one of my major downfalls. I care too much about what people think," McCracken says. "When I first started, I was younger and everyone was like, 'What's going on? What is this?' And I'm 14 years old and I have no clue what's going on. So I started caring what other people think and not playing for myself."

It's no coincidence that players like Puryear and McCracken have busy minds. Puryear gets deep into psychology and loves analyzing people. She wants to earn her degree from Virginia State and become a family and marriage therapist.

McCracken carries a 4.3 grade-point average, is self-aware enough to own up to her type-A personality and has a passion for elementary education. However, these players' bright minds may have led to their physical struggles.

"It's called paralysis by analysis," Singer says. "People just get stuck in glue, because they're doing too much thinking."

Singer, who operates a website at <http://askdrjack.com>, has worked in the field for more than three decades and has guided both youthful athletes and professionals. Singer thinks that panicked thoughts

and overanalyzing - where athletes ask themselves questions beginning with the words "what if" - can lead to the brain setting off internal sirens. The body responds with a fight-or-flight reaction and immediately tenses up.

As simple as it seems, Singer suggests the remedy starts with positive thinking.

"The problem is our self-talk," Singer says. "You can learn how to change your internal dialogue, and that's the key to everything."

McCracken has studied books to find the cure and listened to all kinds of advice but only began to see real change after deciding after her junior year that she had had enough. She began to focus on positive thoughts with the help of a supportive family and coaching staff.

Dailey, who graduated from Excelsior Springs in 2007 and now plays at William Jewell College in Kansas City, needed several years to conquer his fear of the net. Recently, he was selected the Heart of America Conference player of the week.

This month, Puryear competed in her first 100-meter hurdles race in years and finished second. She said the confidence from that victory has given her the enthusiasm to pick up the event again.

"My attitude really changed towards track," Puryear says. "I really just started to gain more confidence. When I practice now, I can just attack the hurdle. It just gave me the confidence to get over the hurdle. And now that I see myself doing well, I have more desire to do it and more passion to do it."

Yes, McCracken's yips are finally gone.

"Now getting over it, I see that failure happens all the time - and that's one of the main things that has gotten me through it," McCracken says. "I know that if I fail, it's not that big of a deal. It's a game, and I do it for the love of the game."

Entertainment

Album Review: Company Of Thieves Running From A Gamble



Josh GRUBE
Staff Writer

Chicago indie rockers Company of Thieves released their sophomore effort *Running From A Gamble* on May 17. As a countdown to the album's release date, the band gave their fans a special preview of each song by uploading videos day-by-day of acoustic performances on their YouTube account. On top of this, Company of Thieves gave their fans an unusual treat when they revealed a coupon online for a free copy of the CD to be used at FYE stores.

The first single from *Running From A Gamble*, titled "Death Of Communication," was released on March 15. The track starts off by quickly fading in the rhythm section: a high tempo drum beat and a thumping bass line. Following close behind are lead singer Genevieve Schatz's vocals, equipped with an extremely catchy melody. Fuzzy guitar riffs and smooth piano notes quickly join in, forming an addictive alternative rock song that could easily become a radio staple.

As with their debut album *Ordinary Riches*, Company of Thieves infuse a jazzy vibe into the alternative rock sound, creating a fresh style that sets them apart from other groups. However, this time around the band bravely ventures outside of their usual sound, adding an interesting diversity amongst the release. For instance, some of the songs are a bit heavier, such as the closing track to the album, "After Thought." Schatz steps outside of her usual soulful singing style to scream out the final lines, ending the album with a bang.

Strongly contrasting this song, as well as the rest of the album, is the track "Tallulah." In this track, Company of Thieves are joined by a three piece horn section consisting of trumpet, trombone, and tenor saxophone. The result of this collaboration is an lively upbeat jam. Due to the strong ska-pop sound combined with its aptness to become stuck in the listener's head, it could very well be this generation's equivalent to Katrina And The Waves' hit song in the 80's "Walking On Sunshine."

With *Running From A Gamble*, Company of Thieves have nimbly escaped the sophomore slump to create another catchy album. People who enjoy a taste of pop added to rock music should be able to fall for this album easily. Check out Company of Thieves' web site at www.companyofthieves.net, their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/companyofthieves, or request their music on WPCD Champaign, 88.7, by calling 217-373-3790.

Students learn by producing sitcom

Jonathan Storm
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA - The FedEx man arrives with flowers at the apartments in the 200 block of North 35th Street. The medical examiner's minions are just removing an old man's body. Is the sender psychic?

Nope. It's another collision of reality and fantasy on this cool, sunny day. TV majors in the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts and Design are shooting a scene with the dead-man dummy on the last day of season three of "Off Campus," the Drexel University sitcom. The flower delivery is to a real person in an apartment next door.

At Drexel, each season is one half-hour episode, and this one will turn up on TV in the fall, after postproduction. The first two are to air back-to-back Friday on the university's DUTV, Comcast channels 54 or 62 and Fios channel 37 in Philadelphia, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Planes buzz overhead repeatedly. Trucks lumber loudly by on nearby Powelton Avenue. Motorcycles, street rods with glass-pack mufflers, junkers with no mufflers - they all cruise noisily up 35th, drivers curious about the cameras. At least the guy on the clackety-clack skateboard has the decency to hop off and carry his board quietly by.

"In a real shoot, probably, I would shut the street," says executive producer (and Drexel television professor) Andrew Susskind, who has a 20-year string of TV credits behind him, including time as president of television at Ron Howard's Imagine Entertainment. But a "real shoot" would have lots of Hollywood bucks to pay for police to man the detours and provide security for Natalie Portman or Bruce Willis or whatever big name had come to town.

Instead, "Off Campus" has local actors in front of the cameras, and scads of students and noisy vehicles behind.

What do you do, soundman Rich Mach, a sophomore from Norristown, Pa., is asked: "You pray. ... Sometimes, you have to edit and dub the dialogue back in, but we try not to."

Mairin McKinlay, a junior from Cheshire, Conn., who, at 5 feet 6, handles the boom mike, is s-t-r-e-t-c-hing as tall she can with her arms overhead to keep it out



Sharon Gekoski-Kimmel/Philadelphia Inquirer

Drexel University Television, DUTV, is making a reality TV series called "Off Campus." Here, Devin Hassan, left, works the camera, as the cast of five, Chris Ready, from left on steps, Tom Saporito, Kat Catanakis, Jamie Kerezsi and Jay Robin, watch a body being removed in one of the scenes.

of the shot.

She could have worked in costumes or writing or more "appropriate" fields for a woman, but it is 2011. "I know production's a male-dominated area, but this mike isn't that much heavy lifting, and I prefer being on set."

"Off Campus" is a cross between "Friends" and "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," with more serious moments, filmed in single-camera style on location, unlike most classic sitcoms, which are done on a stage before a studio audience. At Drexel, sometimes it really is a single camera, as production jiggles along this day while somebody goes off to find the Steadicam.

The show stars Kat Catanakis, Jamie Kerezsi, Chris Ready, Jay Robins and Tom Saporito - the only paid help besides professors - as roommates out of college and just beginning life in a not-so-real world. And it's two things in one, not a floor wax and a dessert topping, but a TV show and college class: TV series production.

The course is designed to give students an experience as close to real TV as possible, and in all aspects of production, even things like budgeting. But it's a little different. No blocked streets, for instance, and no craft service, which is the specialized department on a TV or movie set that supplies the snacks.

Today's treats are provided by higher-ranking employees: the supervising producers, juniors Kristina Massie of Fairfax, Va., and Laurel Chadwick of South Berwick, Maine. "Our job is to see that everything runs smoothly," says Massie. "Part of that is making sure everyone is well-fed on the set."

Ian Abrams, cocreator of the CBS drama "Early Edition" (which starred "Friday Night Lights" Kyle Chandler) and current director of Westphal's screen

writing and playwriting program, oversees the student-written scripts. Some of their ideas turn out to be worthy of big-time broadcasters.

Two new shows this fall, ABC's "Apartment 23" and Fox's "The New Girl," are about roommate relationships, while Tim Allen in his new series, "Last Man Standing," complains, as does one of the "Off Campus" characters, that he's standing right next to people discussing his character foibles as though he weren't there.

"Off Campus" is a good gig for a rising actor.

"The production value is really outstanding," says Saporito, who plays the annoying mook and who Susskind says could be on network TV soon. "We've gotten some great demo-reel footage from this ... something impressive to send to agencies and directors and people like that. The money's great, but there are all these connections. All these kids are going to be working in the industry at some point. Some of them already are."

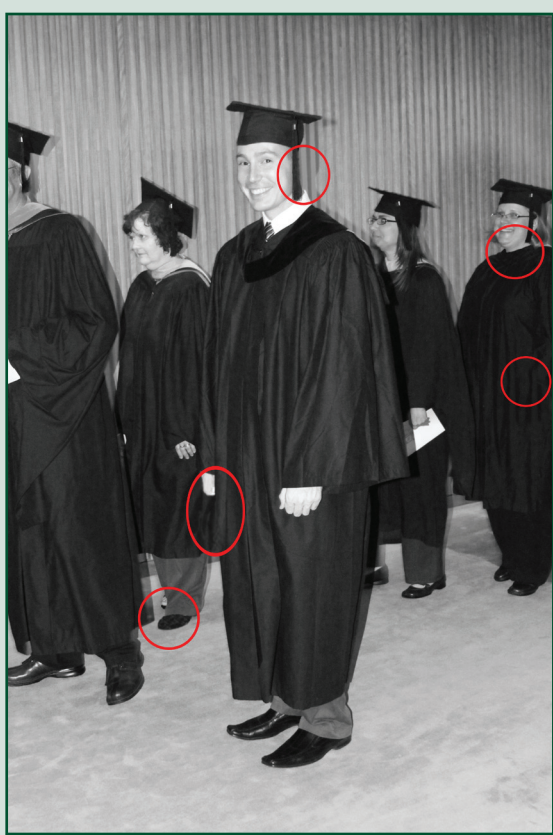
Joe Haesler, here to help the students, many of whom are his friends, is one of them. He interned at the CN8 cable channel while at Drexel and has worked on "America's Got Talent," "American Idol," "So You Think You Can Dance" and other shows since graduating in 2009. Because of his college training, he says, "I can do just about anything on set, so anytime I get an offer, I can take it."

The show's pretty funny, occasionally poignant, and better than several new fall network series, but it will never make millions in syndication for Drexel. Haesler, and graduates like him, are the more significant university product.

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REINVENTING ALTERNATIVE

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Billy O'Keefe
McClatchy-Tribune

Fans of Rockstar-published games might look at "L.A. Noire's" marketing, see the usual Rockstar game symptoms, and very understandably assume that, just as "Red Dead Redemption" was "Grand Theft Auto" in the Old West, this is "GTA" in 1940s Los Angeles.

But while "Noire" looks and sounds like a "GTA" game, it plays almost nothing like one. In fact, it plays quite like no other game out there, and if you can give it a chance to grow on you, this police detective simulator achieves its objective skillfully and with exceptional confidence.

First, a word on what "Noire" is not. Though you're free to explore this massive, meticulously replicated chunk of Los Angeles however you like, this isn't your typical open-world game. There are random street crimes scattered outside the game's main storyline, but the overwhelming



majority of "Noire's" activity lies along the main road.

Additionally, you cannot run around, Niko Bellic-style, and raise random hell. Outside of specific instances in which you're trading bullets with criminals, you can't even draw your weapon. You're police detective Cole Phelps, and this is the story of his ascent through the ranks, not of the time he lost his mind and murdered half the city.

Perhaps more jarring is that, third-person shootouts and car chases aside, "Noire" is primarily an adventure game. Some criminals will die from your gun, but most of your playtime will consist of carefully scouring crime scenes for evidence and using your findings - combined with smart witness questioning and suspect interrogation - to successfully close a case.

Games have covered this ground before, but "Noire" does it better by venturing beyond the usual adventure game limitations.

Crime scenes, for instance,

aren't restrictive, cause-and-effect pixel hunts; they're wide-open areas you freely explore like you would in any other open-ended third-person game. Some wonderfully subtle (and, if you're feeling confident, optional) musical clues tell you if you're near clues or have found all there is to find, but if you proceed to interrogation before fully turning a scene inside out, "Noire" does not intervene.

That goes as well for interviews. "Noire" compiles questions from clues you find, and you're tasked with believing, challenging or (if you have evidence to back it up) outright accusing interviewees of deceit. "Noire" leaves it up to you to read people's faces for signs of dishonesty, and it provides the means for doing so with some frighteningly advanced facial animation technology.

Occasionally, you can request help - most cleverly, via an "Ask the Community" feature that polls other players' responses in the same sit-

"L.A. Noire"

For: Playstation 3 and Xbox 360

From: Team Bondi/Rockstar

ESRB Rating: Mature (blood and gore, nudity, sexual themes, strong language, use of drugs, violence)

Price: \$60

uation. But "Noire" mostly lets you sink or swim here as well. If you fudge a line of questioning that undermines a case, the game doesn't ask you to try again. The story barrels ahead, with the consequences of your misdeeds funneling into the overarching storyline.

(Don't worry, completionists: You can replay completed cases as you please.)

The only place you'll see a retry button is if you die in a shootout or get caught while stealthily tailing a suspect, but "Noire" keeps the difficulty of these portions pretty tepid.

Compared to "Noire's" creative, lavishly detailed crime scene searches and its polished interrogation interfaces, the actual action is more sufficient than exemplary. The cars handle well and the cover-based shooting works perfectly fine, but both function more as dessert than the main course. Given how perfectly Team Bondi prepared that main course, that'll more than do.

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