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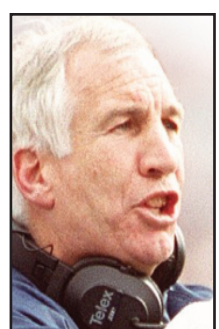


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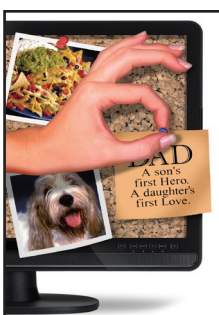
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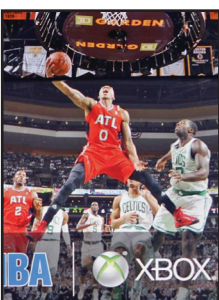
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New fitness center to aid in recruiting



Construction continues on the Parkland Fitness Center addition June 22, 2012. The facility is now open for use, although finishing touches are still being completed on the exterior.

PN Spencer Brown
Sports Writer

Recruiting is a huge component of any athletic program. Parkland's many coaches stress the importance of bringing in the best talent available. Numerous strategies are employed during conversations with recruits as a means of swaying their decision.

However, encouraging a player to commit to Parkland based on a tactic such as style of play isn't the only way to convince these prospective student athletes to become a Cobra. Parkland's record of success as well as construction advancements become an enticement to both potential scholarship athletes and walk on athletes who may make a difference.

This year, the accolades piled up in numerous Cobra sports.

The athletic year kicked off with the men's and women's soccer teams. An up and down

year for the men's soccer team saw them finish 10-9-1. Despite this, there was no shortage of excitement from the Brazilian freshman Dhani Cerra.

Cerra tallied 11 goals and eight assists on the season and was named to the All-Region First Team for Region 24. His teammates performed admirably as well. Douglas Andrade, Ben Flodstrom, and Gregg Flores received MWAC All-Conference Second Team honors.

Head coach Josh Alford headlined the women's soccer program. Ending the 2011-12 season with a record of 14-2-1 earned Alford distinction as the Region 24 Coach of the Year. Leading him to that award were the four First Team All-Region players in his lineup.

Jenny Musick, Sadie Somers, Priscila Azuaga, and Keren Sharabi were the recipients of the award. Sharabi and Somers were first and third on the team in assists respectively. Azuaga, a freshman, had an

outstanding season as she led the Lady Cobras in scoring with 16 goals and chipped in 8 assists. Musick, the Cobras' career leader in goals scored, finished with 13 goals and is headed to Austin Peay State University in the fall.

Parkland women's volleyball team earned high praise as well in the fall. Spearheaded by Region 24 Coach of the Year Cliff Hastings, the Lady Cobras concluded the season with a 41-8 record and a ninth place finish at Nationals.

A lot of the success can be attributed to Melanie Moore, Region 24 Player of the Year and First Team All-American. The sophomore setter was instrumental in the capture of the program's 15th consecutive conference title and fourth consecutive trip to Nationals. Her 1672 assists and average of 9.78 assists per set were amongst the top five nationally.

This team had the advantage of a Second Team All-American as well. Morgan Martells, also MWAC Co-Freshman of the

Year, led the team with 521 kills, 176 blocks, and a hitting efficiency of 38.1%.

Cobra athletics had a great showing on the hardwood this past year. Before heading to SIU-Carbondale, former men's basketball coach Nate Mast produced 41 victories over the last two years.

A lot of those victories were due in large part to the tandem of Shaquille Lowery and Jamel Johnson. Lowery and Johnson, both Second Team All-Conference players, led the team in scoring. Johnson was the team's leading rebounder while Lowery was the front runner in assists. Added to the fray was All-Conference Honorable mention Cody McCollum who averaged nearly 10 points a game.

After an impressive 34 win campaign in 2010-11, women's basketball head coach Karrie Redeker added another 20 wins to her profile. She'd do so behind Region 24 Player of the Year Caitlyn Cody. Cody, a transfer, led the team with

11.1 points per game and was second in rebounds with 6.2 a game.

In addition to Cody, the team's leader in assists, Kristyne Smith, earned Second Team All-Conference honors. Ebany Brumfield, a force in the paint averaging 7.1 rebounds per game, was an All-Conference Honorable Mention.

As the basketball season closed, the baseball and softball season began what would be an exciting year for both.

The Cobras baseball team, who finished at 40-20, racked up numerous accolades. Two All-Region First Team pitchers, Bo Weir and Josh Witt as well as All-Region First Team infielder Wes Minton were key parts of the past season.

Drawing the most attention, however, was catcher Bobby Burns. Named a Third Team All-American, Burns did not commit one error, led the team with a .377 batting average,

See NEW on P. 7

Rural newcomers: Young, educated, there by choice

PN Pam Louwagie
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

MARIETTA, Minn. - As soon as his big-city banking employer allowed him to work remotely, Andrew Lewis fled his traffic-jammed, necktie world to seek serenity. Now, when he turns away from the three computer screens on his desk, he can wander out the door of his old farmhouse and gaze at the rippling green carpet of crops that stretches beyond his 10-mile view. Corn, soybeans and sky.

Lewis is part of a small but steady contingent of educated transplants, often in their 30s and 40s, who are choosing to settle in the countryside. Seeking simpler lives, they are tipping the scales back a bit from the often-cited "brain drain" of rural high school graduates who leave for work or college in bigger cities.

"Even in the light of decline, there is growth," said Ben Winchester, who documented the continuing trend through his University of Minnesota Extension research. Despite perpetual images of the dying small town, he said, "there's more depth to population than just the total number. ... They have definitely contributed to keeping our small towns alive."

In Minnesota, the phenomenon is most pronounced in the central lakes region, with its lure of



Photo by Glen Stubbe/Minneapolis Star Tribune/MCT
Maribeth Olson, right, with her husband Ken, daughter, Brooklynn and son Brayden, was recruited to a physician's assistant job in Madison, Minnesota. The Olson's, like many others, are choosing to move to rural settings, despite having jobs in the city, for a variety of reasons.

water and woods. There, in the last census decade, counties such as Hubbard, Mille Lacs and Carlton gained residents ages 30 to 44 at rates above 25 percent.

But even in southwestern Minnesota, which continues to shed population overall, many counties have gained residents in that age group.

Lac qui Parle County, where Lewis lives with his wife and 7-year-old twin boys, epitomizes small-town

America. It has a little more than 7,000 people, and the county's single spotlight glows at a rural intersection.

Between 2000 and 2010, the 30 to 44 age group grew 15.1 percent, among the highest in the southwest part of the state.

Lewis, who grew up in Montreal and Toronto and later worked in the Twin Cities, moved to his hobby farm near the South Dakota border 6 { years ago at age 44. He's about 40 miles from a Wal-Mart.

Lewis always loved the country, but moving there was an adjustment at first "because there's nothing," he said, sweeping his head to the vast open space around him.

Now he rides his three horses, raises three pigs and collects eggs from his chickens. His sons run freely on the 10-acre property, bought for half the price of the family's home in Coon Rapids. Some nights, they watch stunning sunsets across the plains.

"The thing that we miss most is no pizza delivery," he said with a chuckle. Still, he added later, "beats a cubicle any day."

Lewis, whose wife, Andrea, grew up in the region, quickly learned the advantages and disadvantages of no anonymity: "We're told about people whether we want to hear about them or not ... the feuds and whatnot," he said. "I just let it roll off my back."

On the flip side, when Andrea got breast cancer, the locals raised money to help with the costs, including more than 10,000 miles she logged to get chemotherapy and radiation.

Local government and civic leaders have worked hard to try to attract and keep newcomers like the Lewises.

Trench diggers cleave the countryside, laying 647 miles of fiber-optic cable as part of a \$9.7 million project to bring free high-speed Internet infrastructure to all houses and businesses in the county.

The town of Dawson offers commercial real estate to job-creating business owners for as little as \$1.

In Madison, Minn., earlier this month, hundreds gathered under the marquee of the Grand Theatre to raise some of the nearly \$100,000 needed to buy digital movie equipment so the venue can stay open when film becomes obsolete.

See RURAL on P. 7

News

A "healthy" food stamp, or just a heavy hand?

Monica Eng
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO - On a recent steamy holiday weekend, customers at a discount grocery store in Evanston, Ill., loaded their carts with bags of chips, boxes of cookies, 2-liter soda bottles and jugs of fruit punch - among other items - then paid for it all with food stamp credit.

Although some may be surprised to see "nutrition assistance" dollars going to buy food with little nutritional value, it's perfectly legal under federal rules.

Some politicians and health advocates want that to change, saying restricting food stamp purchases to healthier items would encourage better diets, reduce health care costs and make better use of precious tax dollars.

Critics of the idea say such proposals are condescending, probably wouldn't be effective and would stigmatize aid recipients.

So far, lawmakers in several states, including Illinois, have unsuccessfully pushed bills to make soda, chips and candy ineligible for purchase with food stamps, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Others have suggested that the program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, could be modified as part of the current farm bill negotiations in Congress.

Supporters say that adding restrictions could divert billions of SNAP dollars from junk food to healthier choices, thus saving billions more in obesity-related health care costs, which are predicted by the government to reach \$550 billion by 2030.

But just how many taxpayer dollars go to purchase soda, chips, snack cakes and candy each year? The USDA says it has no idea.

"They don't keep track of what is purchased," said Republican state Sen. Ronda Storms of Florida, who introduced a failed bill to restrict junk food purchases. "How then ... does the state know whether the purchases are for legal items and not, say, toilet paper, magazines, beer, et cetera? Ask that question and you might hear the crickets chirping."

One California watchdog group released a report this month suggesting that this lack of transparency covers up what amounts to billions of dollars in corporate welfare to junk food makers and other companies at a time when Congress is contemplating blanket cuts to a program that provides crucial assistance to hungry people.

"We don't have the information because there are huge economic interests who prefer this information to remain secret," said Michele



Photo by Phil Velasquez/Chicago Tribune/MCT

Health advocate Lisa Carrero assists with healthy food choices at a nutrition class at Tony's Finer Foods in Chicago, Illinois, on May 23, 2012.

Simon of Eat Drink Politics, who wrote the report. "It's convenient for USDA to say that we are not authorized to collect information on what people buy with food stamps, but the truth of it is that Wal-Mart knows exactly how much was spent on what."

The USDA has so far opposed restrictions on junk food purchases. Although government data have linked poverty to higher obesity levels and more soda consumption, the department's website says: "No evidence exists that food stamp participation contributes to poor diet quality or obesity."

Simon counters that's precisely why the data are needed: so the public, researchers and policymakers can determine if the program is contributing to poor diet quality and what programs - if any - can improve that.

USDA representatives say the department is "interested in understanding the food purchase and consumption choices of SNAP clients, but relies on other data sources such as national food consumption surveys" that don't break out statistics on SNAP participants.

Still, in recent months the department has explored a more focused approach. This year the USDA will launch a feasibility study on gathering point-of-sale data for SNAP recipients. And, according to documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, the department has

contracted with a private company to examine proprietary retail data with the goal of learning, among other things, "what food items are most frequently purchased with SNAP benefits."

USDA officials caution, however, that none of that information about SNAP recipients' choices will "tell us anything at all about how they would spend their money if restrictions were imposed."

There's no question that, in a time of lean budgets and class tensions, data on SNAP purchases could be a political hot potato. Simon acknowledges that some observers might use it to "judge and stigmatize" SNAP users.

"This would be counter-productive especially when cuts to the program are being considered," she noted in her report. "But fear should not keep us from accurately evaluating the effectiveness of SNAP, particularly given the program's potential for positive impact."

Supporters and opponents of the bans are remarkably diverse groups, with conservative fiscal hawks and liberal public health advocates both tending to favor the idea. On the other side are not only large food corporations and anti-regulation conservatives but also groups working to feed the hungry.

"We believe that choice leads to dignity and that individual choice should not be impeded," a spokesman

for the Greater Chicago Food Depository wrote in an email to the Chicago Tribune. "We provide food for hungry people and help people access SNAP without placing judgment on their choices."

Simon and other critics note that many of these groups receive significant funding from food manufacturers. The depository's top donors include Kraft Foods and Sara Lee, and funders of the national Feeding America organization, based in Chicago, include Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Kraft Foods.

Regarding the potential conflict of interest, Feeding America responds: "We advocate for policies that are in the best interests of our clients - the people who use the programs. Our policies are not driven by our donors."

Kraft and Coca-Cola each referred the Tribune to an industry association for comment. The Coalition for Preserving Food Choice in SNAP/Food Stamps, which includes the American Beverage Association and the Grocery Manufacturers Association, issued a statement saying: "Rather than limiting food choice and layering over an already complex program with additional hurdles for recipients that may cause stigma and result in confusion and nonparticipation, efforts should focus on nutritional education, access and outreach."

Public health groups and anti-hunger advocates are split on the issue of SNAP

restrictions.

Simon says she believes transparency and data-based reforms are the best way to protect the program. The status quo "only makes the program more vulnerable for attack ... because the public health implications are mindboggling," she said.

That statement echoes concerns expressed as early as 1964, when Illinois Sen. Paul Douglas spoke out on the issue during a congressional debate to determine what restrictions would be included in the brand new Food Stamp Act:

"I do not want to include Coca-Cola or Pepsi-Cola or any of that family," Douglas said. "If we include them, this will be used as propaganda against an otherwise splendid and much needed measure. I want to help the poor and hungry and not sacrifice them for Coca-Cola. The senator (Allen J. Ellender of Louisiana) knows these have no nutritional value - none at all. ... The only benefit I see in the present language is that it will increase the sales of Coca-Cola and other cola and soft drink companies."

But in the end, soda was allowed under the new food stamp program.

At recent nutrition classes for Chicago families with children at risk of obesity, parents talked about government strategies that might help families with kids like theirs make better choices. Most of the participants were low-income, but the organizers did not ask them to disclose

whether they received SNAP benefits, which are obtained in Illinois through the Link card.

The parents agreed that educational programs on how to read nutritional labels, eat and shop better could be effective, as could bringing down the price of high-quality fruits and vegetables. But they were split whether it would help to prohibit purchases of soda and junk food.

"Maybe there should be (restrictions) so kids could be healthier," said Veronica De La Vega, who went on an educational field trip to a Humboldt Park grocery store with her family. "But most people will still do whatever it takes to get what they want. They need the education in order to get healthier habits."

Others felt that removing unhealthy items from food stamp eligibility could, at least, encourage better choices.

"My friend has the Link card and she comes over with soda and chips even though I try to tell her that I'm trying not to let my kids eat that," said Lisa Peszat, who attended a class in McKinley Park. "It's just too easy to get it."

"They should really put some restrictions on it so people are more conscious of what they are buying for their kids," said Ana Alejandre.

One SNAP user at a South Side farmers market who asked that her name not be used favored restrictions on junk food but felt they should be balanced with other modifications to the program, which currently prohibits the purchase of warm and hot foods.

"I find it interesting that with SNAP you can buy 9 million unhealthy things but you can't buy a rotisserie chicken," she said. "I am a big fan of restricting soda, but I would rather they make healthy food more affordable while they discourage the other things."

Where a lot of programs fail is when they are saying no this and no that but they don't give you a doable alternative to encourage a better choice."

Illinois state Sen. Linda Holmes, D-Aurora, last year introduced a bill to restrict food stamp purchases that never even got assigned to a committee for a hearing. She predicts that if obesity-related disease and health care costs continue to rise, so will efforts to add restrictions.

"We need to be creating healthier people in this country," she said. "This is the first generation that may have a shorter life expectancy than their parents, and that is largely due to diet-related problems like obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. Every session someone introduces one of these bills, and I think we are just going to keep pushing."

(c)2012 Chicago Tribune

Construction of the Student Services Center continues



Photo by Matt Crosby/Prospectus News

Construction continues on the new Student Services Center in front of the Administration Wing on June 22, 2012. The center is expected to be completed by fall of 2013.

Seeking a reform for food stamps

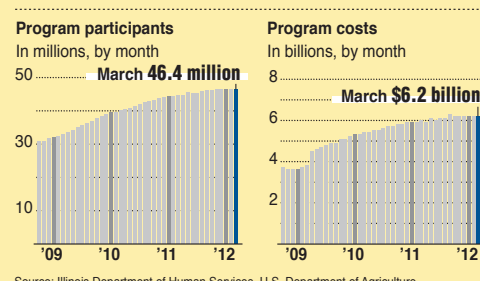
Food stamps, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, are being targeted by politicians and health advocates who want the federal program to restrict the ability to buy food with little nutritional value, which is currently allowed.

How food stamps can/can't be used

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Not allowed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot foods ready to eat or heated in store • Lunch-counter items or foods to be eaten in store • Any nonfood items • Vitamins or medicines • Pet food • Alcoholic beverages or tobacco | <p>Allowed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other food or food product for human consumption • Seeds and plants for use in home gardens to produce food |
|--|--|

A brief history of food stamps

- 1940 - 1939 A pilot program of food stamps begins; participants buy orange stamps to obtain prepared food and household items; blue stamps are used for commodity surplus goods that change weekly
- 1950 - 1941 Soft drinks are excluded from the program
- 1960 - 1964 The Food Stamp Program is signed into law as part of a series of policies to address poverty; alcohol and tobacco are excluded, along with imported foods
- 1970 - 1973 Garden seeds and plants are added to list of items approved for purchase; imported-food ban is lifted
- 1980 - 1977 Program participants are no longer required to purchase food stamps
- 1990 - 1996 Participation declines after changes to food stamp administration make eligibility more difficult
- 2000 - 2008 Program's name changes to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP
- 2010 - 2011 SNAP sees record enrollment of 46 million participants, or 1 of every 7 Americans



Sources: Illinois Department of Human Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Eat Drink Politics
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Lifestyle

Up-and-coming social media websites

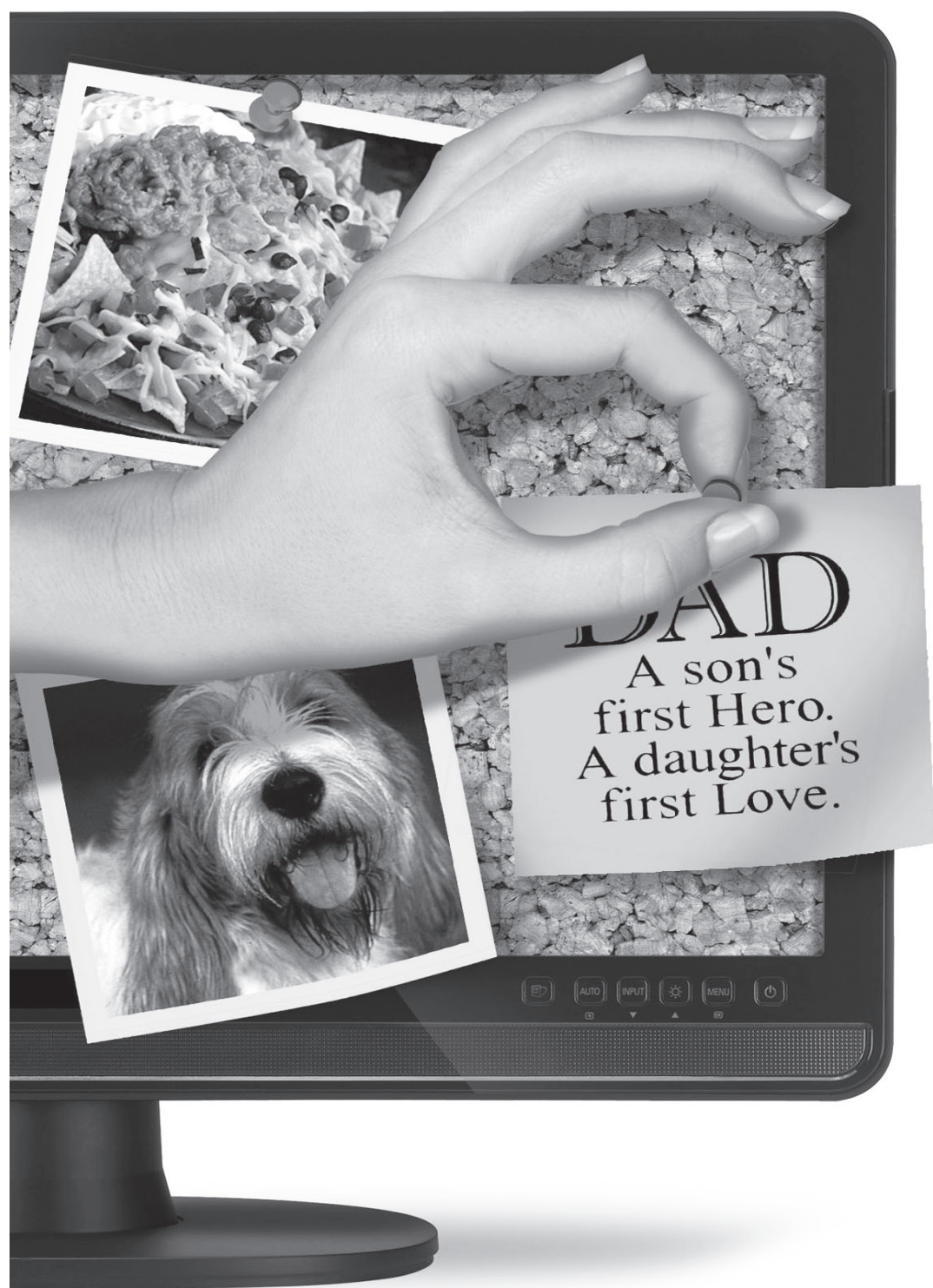
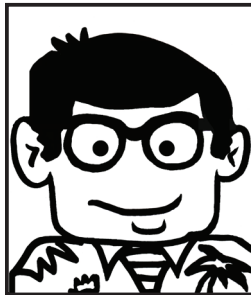


Illustration by Rick Nease/MCT

Sites like Pinterest.com are gaining popularity among social media users.

Buster Bytes
Tech Columnist



By now everyone has heard of Facebook, Twitter and MySpace. And although it seems that everyone has an account on one of these sites, other social media outlets have begun to make a name for themselves as well.

Three in particular that seem to be picking up steam are Reddit, StumbleUpon and Pinterest. While these sites may have different purposes and divergent users, one thing they do have in common is their increasing fan base.

Pinterest, for one, recently became the fastest site to ever reach 10 million monthly unique visitors in the United States, according to TechCrunch.com. So many people want access to the site that it is currently available by invite only.

Not only are people visiting Pinterest, they're staying once they get there. According to studies performed by comScore.com, metrics show that Pinterest users spend an average of over 98 minutes on the site. This figure ranks them behind only Facebook and Tumblr amongst social media sites.

The idea of Pinterest is simple. The site provides its users with an online pinboard.

Once they've signed up for their account, the site's users can "pin" images or videos they find around the internet to their board for others to see.

Other users can then visit their board, comment, like or even re-pin things they like to their own board. Users who find boards that frequently add material they enjoy can "follow" the board. This allows them to be notified when the user posts new content.

Once the account is created, pinning new content to your board is easy. On Firefox, pinning something to your board is as easy as creating a bookmark. In fact, the "pin it" button is in the bookmarks drop down menu.

Users can find nearly anything pinned up. New products, pictures of food shaped like cartoon characters and funny images and memes abound.

Another great way to find interesting things online is StumbleUpon. Users log on to the site and create an account. While setting up their account, users are asked to select the topics in which they are interested.

Stumblers select interests such as Beauty, Drawing, Health, Rock Music or even Adult Humor. The site then adds a small toolbar to their browser. Unlike other, more obtrusive toolbars, this one is rather easy to turn off on Firefox, and on Chrome it exists simply as a little round button until you begin using it.

When you want to begin stumbling, all you have to do is press the Stumble! button. The service uses the topics you selected and the ratings of other users to randomly take

you to a website which has materials about which you will hopefully be interested.

As users stumble, they are able to like or dislike sites. They can choose to stumble through a specific topic rather than all of their interests as well. They can even like pages that they find on their own. If no one else has liked the page, the user will be asked to categorize it and specify whether it is suitable for work.

The last site, Reddit, is a little different. It is a social news website. On Reddit, users can share links or short text posts. Other users of the site then vote the post up or down, ranking it based on how interesting it is.

Users of Reddit can choose to browse through "hot," "new" or even "controversial" topics from the main page. The main page defaults to the hot list, where posts about a wide variety of topics can be found.

Here too, users can create an account. After doing so, users can subscribe to different categories, allowing them to read new posts about subjects they like on their home page. Topics here are called subreddits and cover everything from world news to religion.

Whatever your interests may be, using sites like this can help you learn more about them. A brief warning may be in order, though. Visitors to these sites frequently look up to find that hours or even whole evenings have disappeared.

For more information, visit Pinterest at www.pinterest.com, StumbleUpon at www.stumbleupon.com and Reddit at www.reddit.com. If you do, don't feed the trolls.

Title IX anniversary brings out the statistics, nostalgia and knives

Amy Fickling
McClatchy-Tribune

In 1973, just a year after Congress passed education legislation now known simply as Title IX, tennis great Bobby Riggs took to a court in Houston to face female tennis champion Billie Jean King in a match he practically sneered at from the outset. Who knows if there was anyone among those watching who made any connection between that event and the law that required all schools that receive federal funding to provide equal educational opportunities for its male and female students?

But just like Title IX, that tennis match was about more than just grinding out a win on the field of athletics. It was social commentary.

In London, the Sunday Times proclaimed it "the drop shot and volley heard around the world."

"The match didn't just change women's tennis, it changed tennis," said King in a 2008 interview with NPR.

Now a tennis legend, Billie Jean King spoke May 9 at a luncheon at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., about the U.S. Tennis Association's initiative to get kids under 10 involved in tennis as a path to a healthy lifestyle. When the traditional question period arrived at the end of her speech, the first one was about this year's 40th anniversary of the landmark Title IX. The 1972 U.S. Open women's champion got a little emotional in her response.

The question: Do you think it's still needed? And if so, should it be changed or expanded and how?

"Well, it's the 40th anniversary. It was passed June 23rd, 1972. One of my heroes (sic) is Ms. Green, Congressman Green of Oregon. She's no longer with us. But it was her idea. She was called the Mother of Education. And then the other person who's one of my heroes is Senator Birch Bayh who was in the Senate and introduced the bill. These people were fantastic," said King.

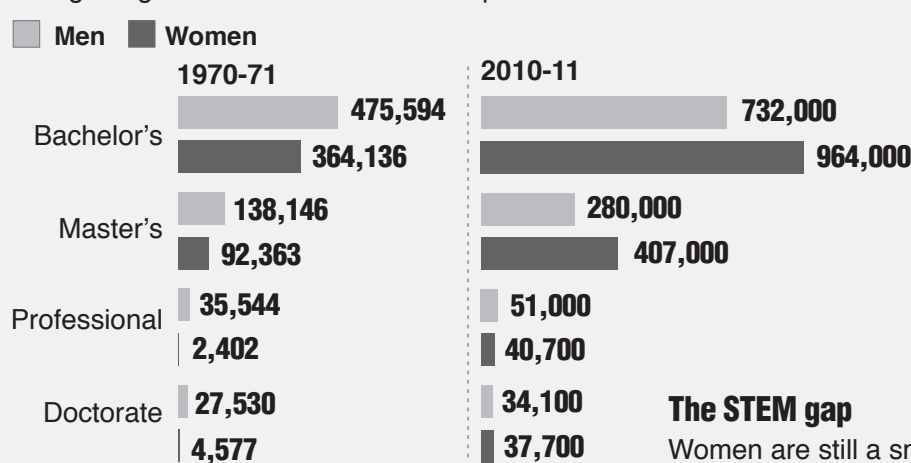
"... it was about education, it wasn't about sports. That's how it originated. Sports was tagged on as a last-minute thought. Before 1972, the quotas at the Harvards of the world were 5 percent, if you wanted to be a woman doctor, if you wanted to be a woman lawyer, OK? These were our forward-thinking educators. A woman could not get an athletic scholarship until the fall of 1972. And there weren't very many in the fall of 1972, I can tell you. There was hardly any because a lot of schools resisted on changing the

Title IX, 40 years later

The landmark civil rights law opened major educational opportunities for women when it was signed by President Nixon on June 23, 1972.

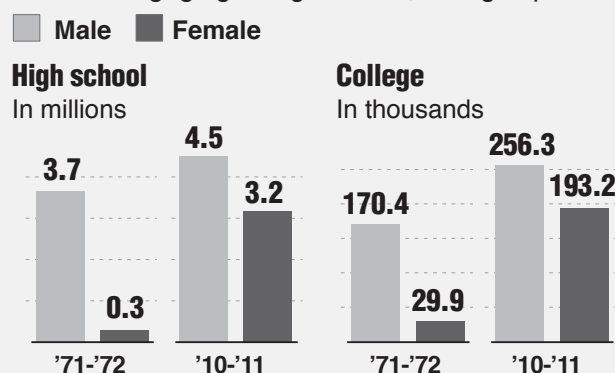
More women earn college degrees

Women earn almost three times the bachelor's degrees now than they did before Title IX. The number of women and men earning college degrees before Title IX vs. the present



More girls, women play sports now

Number engaging in high school, college sports



Source: National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Commerce

Graphic: Judy Treible

What Title IX says

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

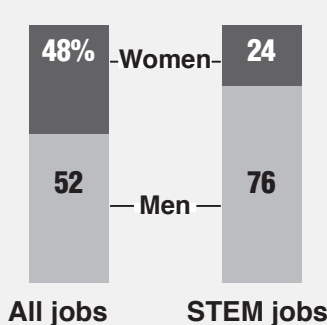
--Title IX of Educational Amendments Act of 1972

The STEM gap

Women are still a small share of the high-paying science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) workforce

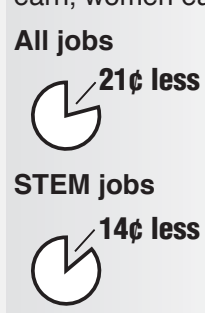
Jobs by gender

For 2009



Pay gap impact

For every dollar men earn, women earn



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law."

Adele Kimmel of Public Justice (www.publicjustice.net), appearing on a panel about where we are now on Title IX, hosted by the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., on June 20, said the popular focus on the sports aspect of Title IX lies in the fact that only athletic teams are sex-segregated in the education arena. She said Title IX requires equal opportunity to participate in sports, but not quotas. And it does not require schools to cut men's sports.

But colleges and universities are famously cutting sports teams in this economic environment. And some schools explain that their sports activities bloated under Title IX.

"Sports cuts are not the fault of Title IX," said Neal McCluskey, associate director of the Cato

Institute's Center for Educational Freedom, also on the panel. The cuts are the fault of the universities "and poor financial management," he said.

In McCluskey's view, 40 is old enough for Title IX. "It should not be allowed to get any older." He cited statistics that he said indicate that up until 1972, the percentage growth of women going to college far exceeded the growth in college attendance among women since then. He hinted that something was already happening in society to drive women's interest in education.

"Culture almost always has to change first before the government designs policy," he explained. So maybe the question has to be asked, in 1972, was there clear evidence Title IX was needed?

to think we need gender parity" as well.

"One of my concerns in this whole conversation is that the genders can't be different," Schaeffer said. "It might be helpful to step back and say 'what would it look like if we were equal?'"

Kimmel said society and the education field need to "embrace the differences between men and women, but because they are different, women shouldn't have a disadvantage or miss out on opportunities" that men tend to have set before them.

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Opinions

Prospectus News

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



The story the media got right

John Timpane
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA - The Jerry Sandusky case was more than a media circus; it may have been a story that the media (at least in the public eye) got right. Television, radio and newspapers told the story fairly, the verdict seems to be - and, for many thousands, social media provided a forum for venting, an encyclopedia, and a community.

On Saturday, many were citing the comprehensiveness and fairness of coverage, far different from public opinion in the fall, when the first blitz of stories struck some as a rush to judgment, and a factor in the firing and death of Penn State football coach Joe Paterno.

Psychic bruises remain. Louisa Smith of State College, Pa., writes via e-mail that "media coverage hasn't been kind to the town." She says the articles focused too much on Sandusky supporters: "This made for a better story - 'football-crazy town supports monster' - but it (that angle) wasn't at all reflective" of the general attitude. That true feeling, she says, emerged Friday night, with the cheers and fireworks in the streets after the verdicts.

Vicki Fong of State College says via Facebook that, unlike what she calls the "self-righteousness and misinformation" in November, this time "most of the national and local media have conducted thorough trial coverage that balanced rights of accused and accusers."

Richard Goedkoop, who now lives in Lancaster, Pa., is a retired professor of communication at La Salle University. "I'm impressed with the intensity and fairness of the coverage, locally and nationally - everyone from my local station, WGAL, to the national networks, all the resources the media threw at the story," he says.

Perfect? No. Kathy Ramsland is an associate professor of forensic psychology at De Sales University and an expert on sexual abusers. She

says via Facebook that some media accounts assumed guilt: "That's become part of our 'crime as sport' culture - certain people want to be 'the one' to make it over the finish line (announcing guilt) first."

Social media, all warts on display, were afire with the Sandusky case from the start. As Ramsland says, "Bloggers believe they can state their opinion without any evidence. In fact, there's no accountability for skewering someone online."

Mockery of Sandusky, who on Twitter was generally prejudged as guilty, was caustic and often profane. On Friday, Twitter was all but aching with mass impatience. Both @garrettmueller and @TheMattBarrett groaned, "How long does it take 12 people to say 'guilty'?" And there was acid glee at the verdict and Sandusky's prospects, as with @AntBoyTheGreat: "Sandusky guilty a real monster finally in jail he won't see the light ever again."

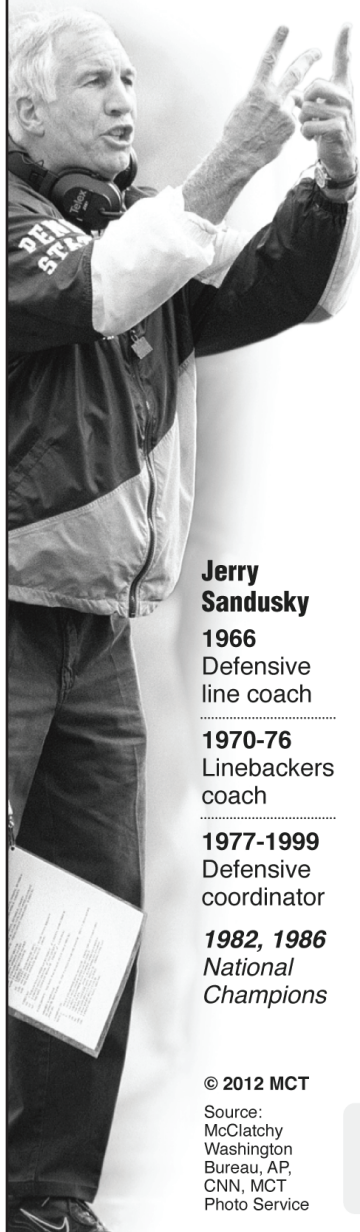
But the other side of the Web - thousands of individuals reaching out and getting information, support and comfort - was also evident.

Witness Mari Fagel, also known as Your Legal Lady. She writes for Huffington Post and Yahoo, is a radio host on WWRL in New York, runs a Web cast on @Spreecast, plus her own blog, LegalLady.com, plus a Twitter account that was, as of Friday, near meltdown, with more than 50 queries an hour from tweeters on tenterhooks. "As the trial went on," she says, "more and more people were tweeting me to ask specific legal questions. I had to answer each one instantly. That's what they expect, and there are so many others out there who will answer if I don't."

The legal questions were "smart," Fagel says, "asking the right things. That reflects the media coverage, which went into great depth with the law. It also reflects how people, using social media, can become their own reporters. Was 20 hours a long time to deliberate? Would the jury deliberate over the weekend?

Penn State scandal

Jerry Sandusky, a former Penn State University assistant football coach, originally faced 52 criminal counts he sexually abused 10 boys from 1994-2009, although four counts were dismissed. He was found guilty of 45 counts late on June 22.



Jerry Sandusky

1966 Defensive line coach
1970-76 Linebackers coach
1977-1999 Defensive coordinator
1982, 1986 National Champions

© 2012 MCT
Source: McClatchy, Washington Bureau, AP, CNN, MCT Photo Service

1977 Sandusky starts The Second Mile, a children's charity; he is alleged to have encountered victims through this foundation

'94 1994-98 Alleged inappropriate conduct with three boys including shared showers

'95 1998 Victim's mother learns about joint showers; contacts university police

'96 June 1 State Department of Public Welfare investigator and university police detective interview Sandusky; said he would not shower with children again

'98 1999, May PSU football coach Joe Paterno tells Sandusky he will not be next head coach; Sandusky retires, but stays on as volunteer, retains full access to campus, facilities

'99 2000, fall Janitor allegedly sees Sandusky performing oral sex on young boy; second janitor allegedly sees Sandusky and a boy leave a shower room holding hands; no reports filed with university or law enforcement

'00 2001 Jan. 12 Curley, Schultz testify before grand jury
Nov. 4 Sandusky arrested; charges filed against Curley and Schultz for lying to grand jury, failing to report incidents to report authorities

2012 June 22 After an eight-day trial, Sandusky is found guilty on 45 of 48 counts of child sex abuse, 25 felony counts and 20 misdemeanors; his bail is revoked and he is jailed, awaiting sentencing

'02 2002 March 1 Assistant coach Mike McQueary allegedly witnesses Sandusky having sex with a boy in shower
March 2 McQueary reports this to Paterno
March 3 Paterno tells PSU athletic director Tim Curley
Mid-March McQueary meets with Curley and senior vice president for finance and business Gary Schultz
Late March, early April Curley tells McQueary keys to locker room taken from Sandusky, incident reported to The Second Mile; PSU president told of incident in shower, but not given full details
2008 Sandusky banned from school of alleged victim after mother reports sexual assault to police
2010 Sept. Sandusky retires from The Second Mile
Dec. McQueary testifies before grand jury
2011 Jan. 12 Curley, Schultz testify before grand jury
Nov. 4 Sandusky arrested; charges filed against Curley and Schultz for lying to grand jury, failing to report incidents to report authorities

Would the verdicts be subject to appeal?"

She found herself a creature of this media moment, bouncing from radio to Web cast to blog to Twitter to Huffington Post. "I have to cover it through all these outlets now," she says. "This is a much more personally emotional case than any I've ever covered. And social media, this time around, have played a key role in bringing the anti-abuse and victim communities together."

Those communities went to Twitter accounts, blogs,

and hotlines. Scott Berkowitz, founder and president of the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, says that use of the group's National Sexual Assault Hotline spiked 50 percent when charges against Sandusky were announced in November, and rose an additional 30 percent during the trial, particularly, he says, among self-identified male victims.

"This story never would have come to national prominence without aggressive reporting," Berkowitz says. "Most of

the coverage was incredibly sensitive to victims in the case."

Media coverage of the Sandusky case, by itself, won't abolish pressures on victims not to report abuses, Berkowitz says, "but it's a big moment for our culture, telling victims that their parents, teachers, and communities will listen to them, take them seriously, and support them."

(c)2012 The Philadelphia Inquirer

Essay mills — a coarse lesson on cheating

Dan Arieli
Los Angeles Times

Sometimes as I decide what kind of papers to assign to my students, I worry about essay mills, companies whose sole purpose is to generate essays for high school and college students (in exchange for a fee, of course).

The mills claim that the papers are meant to be used as reference material to help students write their own, original papers. But with names such as echeat.com, it's pretty clear what their real purpose is.

Professors in general are concerned about essay mills and their effect on learning, but not knowing exactly what they provide, I wasn't sure how concerned to be. So together with my lab manager Aline Gruneisen, I decided to check the services out. We ordered a typical college term paper

from four different essay mills. The topic of the paper? Cheating.

Here is the prompt we gave the four essay mills:

"When and why do people cheat? Consider the social circumstances involved in dishonesty, and provide a thoughtful response to the topic of cheating. Address various forms of cheating (personal, at work, etc.) and how each of these can be rationalized by a social culture of cheating."

We requested a term paper for a university-level social psychology class, 12 pages long, using 15 sources (cited and referenced in a bibliography). The paper was to conform to American Psychological Association style guidelines and needed to be completed in the next two weeks. All four of the essay mills agreed to provide such a paper, charging us in advance,

between \$150 and \$216 for the paper.

Right on schedule, the essays came, and I have to say that, to some degree, they allayed my fears that students can rely on the services to get good grades. What we got back from the mills can best be described as gibberish. A few of the papers attempted to mimic APA style, but none achieved it without glaring errors. Citations were sloppy. Reference lists contained outdated and unknown sources, including blog posts. Some of the links to reference material were broken.

And the writing quality? Awful. The authors of all four papers seemed to have a very tenuous grasp of the English language, not to mention how to format an essay. Paragraphs jumped bluntly from one topic to another, often simply listing various forms of cheating or providing a long stream of

examples that were never explained or connected to the "thesis" of the paper.

One paper contained this paragraph: "Cheating by healers. Healing is different. There is harmless healing, when healers-cheaters and wizards offer omens, lapels, damage to withdraw, the husband-wife back and stuff. We read in the newspaper and just smile. But these days fewer people believe in wizards."

This comes from another: "If the large allowance of study undertook on scholar betraying is any suggestion of academia and professors' powerful yearn to decrease scholar betraying, it appeared expected these mind-set would component into the creation of their school room guidelines."

And finally, these gems: "By trusting blindfold only in stable love, loyalty, responsibility and honesty the

partners assimilate with the credulous and naive persons of the past."

"Women have a much greater necessity to feel special."

"The future generation must learn for historical mistakes and develop the sense of pride and responsibility for its actions."

It's hard to believe that students purchasing such papers would ever do so again.

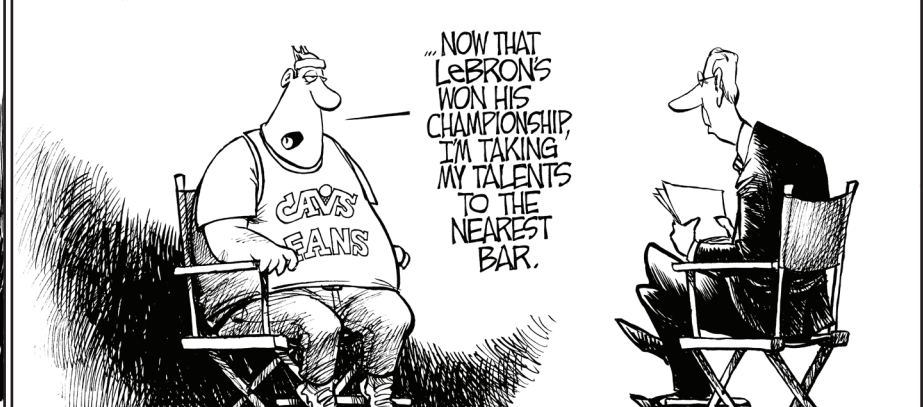
And the story does not end there. We submitted the four essays to WriteCheck.com, a website that inspects papers for plagiarism, and found that two of the papers were 35 percent to 39 percent copied from existing works. We decided to take action on the two papers with substantial plagiarizing and contacted the essay mills requesting our money back. Despite the solid

See MILLS on P. 7

Political Maxims

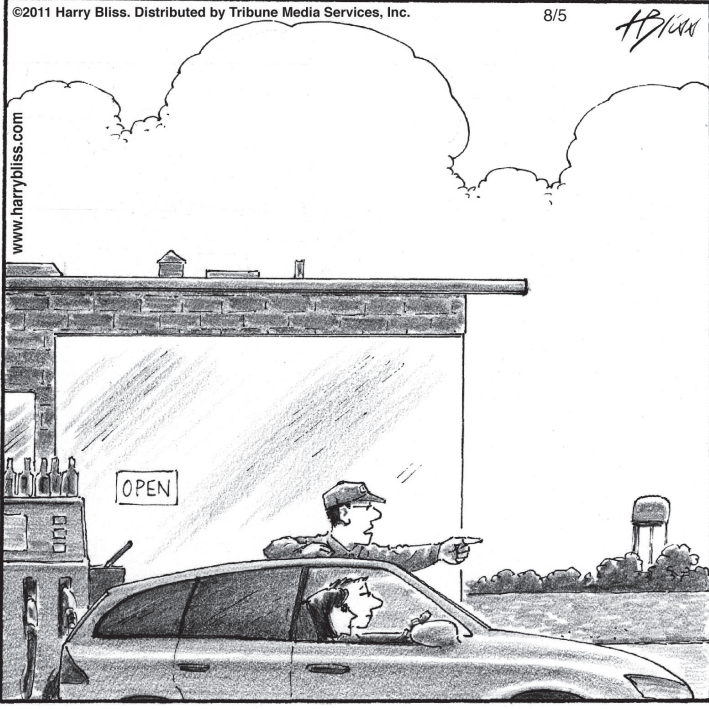


THE DECISION II



Puzzles & Comics

Bliss



"If you crash through the detour sign, hit the road workers and smash into the cement truck, you've gone too far."

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"And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."

- F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Sudoku (easy)

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BREWSTER ROCKIT



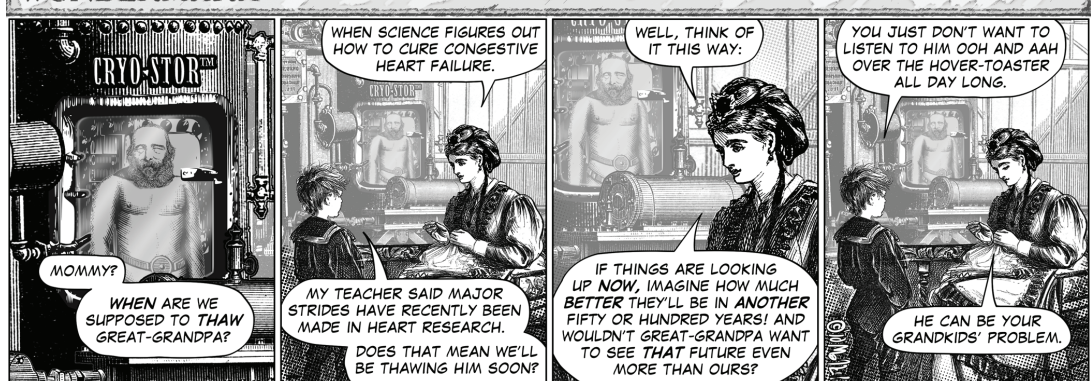
Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro



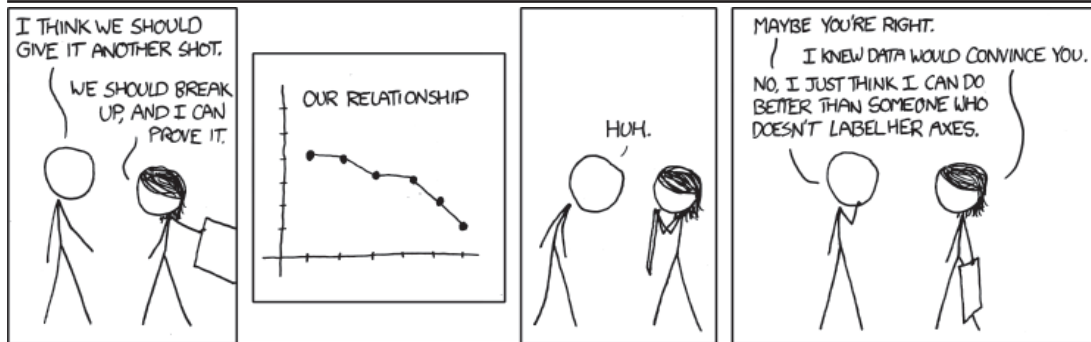
Best In Show



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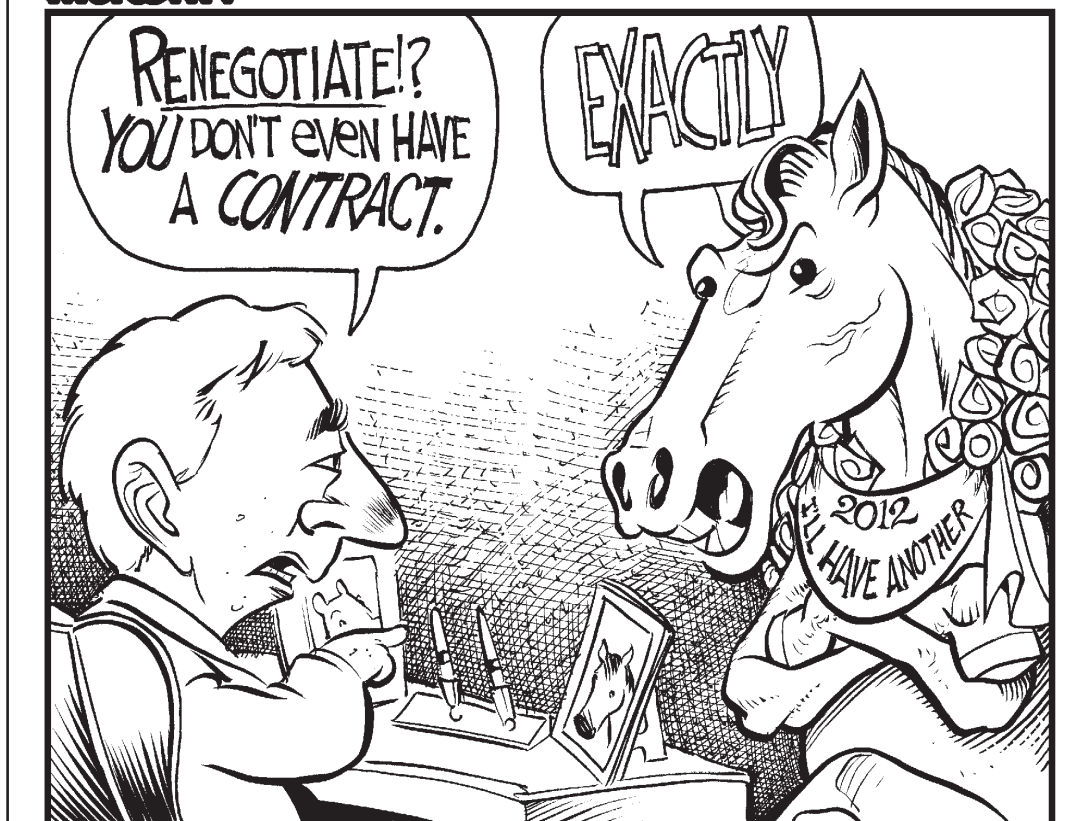


xkcd.com



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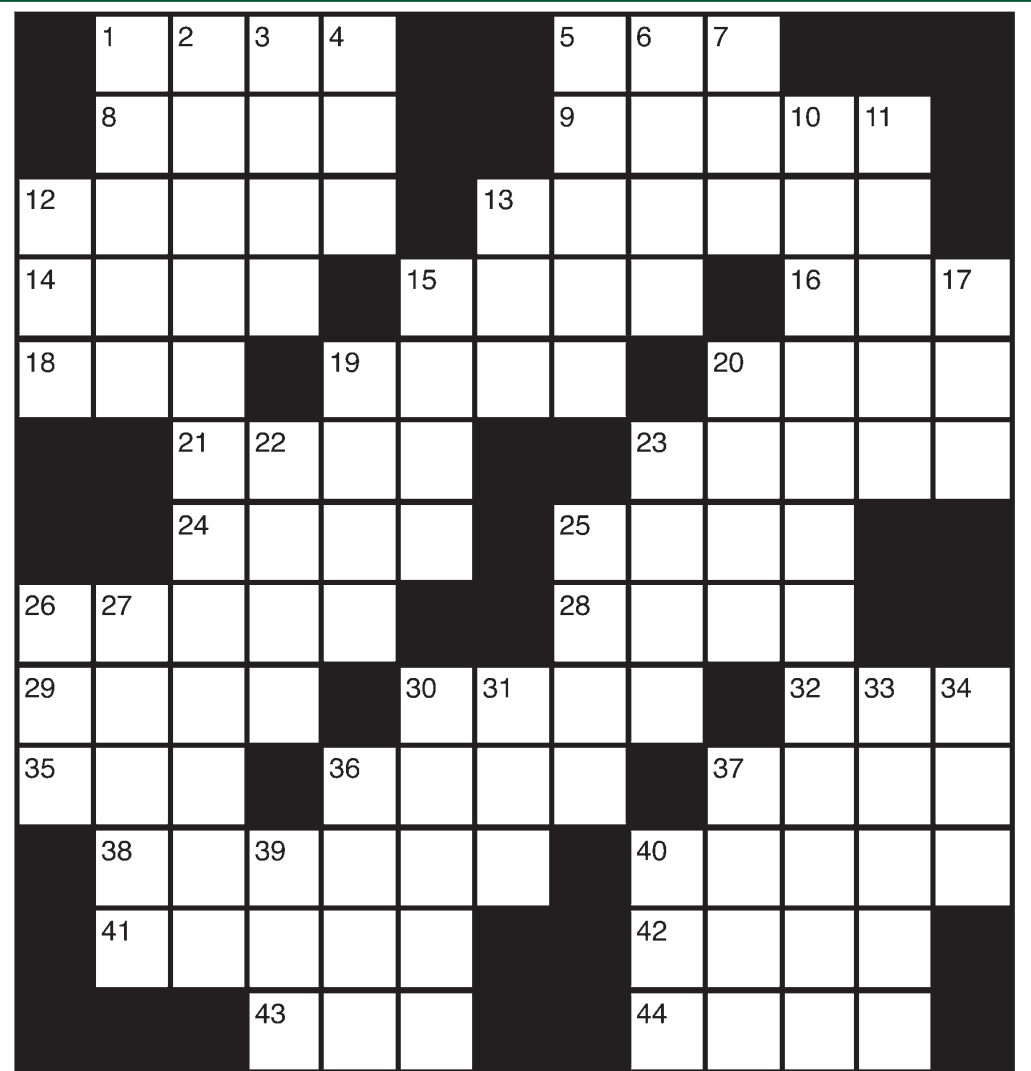
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The TV Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/13/11

ACROSS

- Ernie's "Sesame Street" buddy
- Actress Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
- "Unhappily ___ After"
- Alan Autry's role on "In the Heat of the Night"
- Sports building
- Shoelace alternative
- Waist accessory
- Monty or Arsenio
- Paul's cousin on "Mad About You"
- Pig's home
- Bixby or Cosby
- Flying mammals
- Actress Patricia
- Carvey and Delany
- "From ___"; Johnny Depp movie
- "On Golden ___"; last film for Henry Fonda
- "___ Time Crooks"; movie for Woody Allen & Tracey Ullman
- Jellystone Park bear
- Boatman's items
- Relaxed; peaceful
- Historical period

- Have dinner
- Mound of sand
- "___! Or My Mom Will Shoot"; Sylvester Stallone movie
- "The Lord of the Rings: The ___ of the King"
- Actress Debi
- Main character in "The Little Mermaid"
- "Crossing ___ with John Edward"
- Crafty; wily
- Stein and Stiller

DOWN

- Soft round hat
- Role on "Two and a Half Men"
- "___-a-Cop"; Burt Reynolds film
- Singing syllable
- "___ for Adano"; old Gene Tierney war movie
- Ineffective; void
- Network for "20/20"
- Actor on "NCIS"
- Major artery
- Stomach muscles, for short
- Actor Kilmer
- "___ Street Blues"
- Pack animal
- Lucille ___
- "The Big ___ Theory"
- Sushi bar offerings
- "Indiana Jones and the Temple of ___"; Harrison Ford movie
- "Gomer ___, U.S.M.C."
- Distress signal
- Actress Tierney
- One of the Three Stooges
- Actress Jillian
- Laughs loudly
- Spring month: abbr.
- Formal two-person combat
- Rescue
- "... the season to be jolly..."
- Unruly crowd

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

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| S | U | R | G | E | O | H | A | R | A | |
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11/13/11

Sports

Two former Cobras taken in MLB Draft

Mark Roughton
Sports Writer

The tradition of success associated with Parkland baseball was once again realized this month. Two of the Cobras' recent stars were chosen by Major League teams in the 2012 First-Year Player Draft.

Class of 2010 pitcher Nick Wittgren was the first to be selected. He was chosen at pick No. 287 in the ninth round by the Miami Marlins. Later on in the draft the Los Angeles Dodgers chose class of 2011 infielder Jordan Parr with the No. 806 pick during the 26th round.

Wittgren and Parr each spent one season as Cobras during their baseball careers.

Wittgren was the first to join head coach Matt Kennedy and the Cobras in the fall of 2009.

"Everything attracted me to Nick," Kennedy said. "He was a big athletic kid that threw mid to upper 80's (in high school) and his arm was very whippy which told me he would eventually throw harder as he matured physically."

Despite wanting to go straight to a Division 1 school he ultimately decided Parkland was a good fit and it turned out to be.

The spring of 2010 was really good to Wittgren as he went 10-0 with 54 strikeouts on the way to a fifth place national finish.

"Nick was very good for us but that year was such a developmental year for him," Kennedy said. "Basically he threw his fastball at about 87-88mph and then a curveball."

He admits that Wittgren was also working on a change-up while at Parkland but it had not been perfected yet.

Nonetheless, Wittgren's experience at Parkland was impactful even though it was for just the one year.

"It was quality competition



Illustration by MCT 2012

that would get you ready for any level you were going to play at," Wittgren explained.

Eventually that success allowed him to advance to Division 1. His hometown school, Purdue University, offered him a scholarship during his fall season with the Cobras.

However, his career took a slight turn before he ever played a game at Purdue. In August of 2010 he dealt with an Ulnar-Nerve Transfer in his right elbow.

This caused him to miss all of his first fall with the Boilers, and changed his role on the pitching staff completely.

The coaching staff at Purdue was unsure as to how his arm would bounce back, so he was thrust into the back half of the bullpen where he eventually flourished.

After winning the closer job,

he amassed 22 saves in two years and was an All-Big Ten performer both seasons while leading Purdue to one of its greatest seasons ever in 2012.

What the Marlins are getting in Wittgren is an above average fastball at 90mph and above with a hard breaking curve in the low 80's and that ever improving changeup he began working on at Parkland.

"My change up is really coming along," he said. "I've been working on it a lot and have seen improvement on it already."

Jordan Parr's time at Parkland began the following year in the fall of 2010.

He first went to Illinois State in the fall of 2009. After he tore the labrum in his left shoulder, he was never truly able to find his rhythm and decided to transfer.

"It just wasn't a good fit for

me," Parr said. "The players and coaches were great but I just was never able to get comfortable."

It all worked out perfectly for Kennedy and the Cobras.

"Cam Parr (Jordan's dad) approached me and let me know that Jordan was leaving Illinois State and asked if we had interest," he said. "Obviously we did and the rest is history."

And an interesting history it was, as his collegiate career got off to a great start. Jordan went on to hit .355 with 6 homeruns and 32 RBI in his only year with Parkland.

"I can't express in words how much coach Kennedy meant to me and to my career," Parr said.

After an assist from his brother Josh, who played shortstop for U of I at the time, Illini coaches noticed him and

brought him on in the fall of 2011.

His first year at Illinois was as good as Parkland after they watched him hit .348 with 5 hrs and 45 RBI.

Kennedy saw the talent he possessed while at Parkland and knew it would translate well.

"Jordan obviously is a big, strong, athletic kid that can play all over the field," he said. "At the plate he possessed a tremendous amount of bat speed and ran extremely well and could hit anywhere in the lineup as he handled the bat well."

Even though both had the distinct opportunity of being drafted, it does not mean that they must turn pro like in a football or basketball draft. Wittgren (junior) and Parr (redshirt sophomore) still have college eligibility remaining

and have the option of coming back to continue their college careers.

"I couldn't be happier for them and I wish them the best of luck in their pro careers, if they choose to do that," said Kennedy.

All draft picks are required to make a decision to sign by July 13 or else they must return to school to play the following year. Nick Wittgren didn't need that long.

"I actually signed the Friday after the draft," he said. "It is a once in a life time opportunity and you can not pass up on living out your dream."

Wittgren is now a member of the Jamestown, NY Jammers of the New York-Penn League. They are the Class A-Short Season team for the Miami Marlins.

Parr made a different choice.

"I'm gonna go back to school," he said. "I felt that with two years of eligibility left I could definitely better my position later on."

He reached the decision after close consideration with his family and coaches at Illinois.

Parr is currently with the Rochester, MN Honkers of the Northwoods College Summer League North Division.

Wittgren and Parr can now be added to the list of many recent former Cobras to get chosen on draft day.

Also on that list are class of 2010 outfielder Kevin Kiermaier, who is playing with the Class A-Advanced Charlotte Stone Crabs (Tampa Bay Rays), 2010 pitcher Danny Winkler is now with the Class A rookie team Asheville Tourists (Colorado Rockies), and another 2010 product in infielder Josh Parr (Jordan's brother) is with the Short Season Rookie Club Yakima Bears (Arizona Diamondbacks).

RURAL

continued from page 1

Business leaders recruit hard, too. When Madison clinic administrators interviewed 27-year-old Maribeth Olson for a physician assistant job last year, they took her and her husband on a tour of local real estate, businesses and the elementary school. They hosted a social gathering at the local VFW club. The couple, originally from Nebraska and South Dakota, packed their belongings and moved from suburban Pittsburgh in December.

Standing on their front lawn as their 3-year-old daughter maneuvered her training-wheeled bike across the street, the couple said they longed for simpler schedules, less crime, smaller schools and more space - some of the same traits that draw others, surveys show.

They miss the convenience of all-night grocery stores and a variety of restaurants, but her husband, Kent Olson, said "overall, it was a better move."

Like the Olsons, many newcomers grew up in rural areas, but a majority are not returning home, moving instead to different small communities, Winchester said. Real estate firms try to

appeal to their sensibilities. United Country-Milaca, in Mille Lacs County, advertises "find your freedom."

"We sell a lifestyle," broker Brad Maitland said. "It's a feeling that you have when you wake up in the morning and you look out in the pasture and you see your horses grazing. ... People that have that desire, when they can attain it, which is usually probably in that age demographic ... they go for it."

Denise Green came "kicking and screaming" to her hometown of Milaca 10 years ago, she said, when her husband wanted to move from the metro area.

"I swore I'd never come back ... the teenage years aren't easy, and you look at the small-town mentality a lot different," she said. "You think everybody's cliquy and they hate you."

Now, at 52, she sees it differently. She has developed deep friendships, she said. "Because of the lack of entertainment and things to do, there's more of a community feel."

Living there is worth the hassle of commuting to the Twin Cities for her human resources job, she said. "My priorities are different," she said. "I needed to slow down."

The migration enriches rural communities, Winchester said

others say, because newcomers bring ideas and skills to civic, school and church clubs.

A survey in west-central Minnesota showed that 60 percent of newcomers took leadership roles in the community, and 81 percent donated to local causes. Most had some higher education, too, with 68 percent holding bachelor's degrees or above, and 19 percent holding associate degrees.

In Lac qui Parle County, Dr. Brant Hacker, 43, moved to Madison seven years ago after working in the Twin Cities and earning a medical degree at the University of Minnesota.

Living in Madison required adjustment, he and his wife, Julie, said. The first time they shuttled their children to the local swimming pool, a grade-school boy asked for a ride home. Stunned, they gently declined. They didn't want anyone to think they were stealing a child, Julie recalled, smiling.

The couple has connected with the community. Julie started a book club. Brant coaches high school tennis. Both serve on the board of a preschool they helped revive.

"At first, I thought it would be really lonely," Julie said. "Physically, you're sort of out there, but then you come to someplace like this and you know everybody. You feel like you could make a difference."

Besides, she said, she loves the way the stars shine brighter without city lights, how she can hear the whir of a car on the highway miles away.

"This is as basic in life as you can get," she said.

—
(c)2012 Star Tribune
(Minneapolis)

MILLS

continued from page 4

proof we provided to them, the companies insisted they did not plagiarize. One company even threatened to expose us by calling the dean and saying we had purchased the paper.

It's comforting in a way that the technological revolution has not yet solved students' problems. They still have no other option but to actually work on their papers (or maybe cheat in the old-fashioned way and copy from friends). But I do worry about the existence of essay mills and the signal that they send to our students.

As for our refund, we are still waiting.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Dan Ariely is a professor of psychology and behavioral economics at Duke University and the author of "The (Honest) Truth About Dishonesty." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

—
(c)2012 Los Angeles Times

NEW

continued from page 1

and contributed 38 RBI. Burns will be attending Morehead State University in the fall.

Softball head coach Chuck Clutts had a plethora of talent as well. Raeshel Braden, Alison Kimble, Elizabeth Sprague, selected to the All-Conference Second Team, all helped orchestrate a third place finish at Nationals. Taylor Hull, an All-Conference First team outfielder, was a very versatile weapon that influenced this team's 47 victories.

Not to be forgotten is Kelsey Knipmann. Only a freshman, she led the team with a .435 batting average and earned recognition as a Second Team All-American. Knipmann will be in a Cobra uniform for the 2012-13 season.

Parkland College has tallied countless athletic achievements this past year which gives it quite the appeal for athletes being recruited. Boasting the image even more is newly reconstructed fitness

center.

It is being built as an addition to the Dodds Center. Part of the remodeling process includes locker rooms, team rooms, and restrooms.

Space is being built for an indoor walking track, new strength training areas, and even areas for dance, aerobics, and kinesiology. It is slated to be a state of the art facility.

The Parkland administration, as a bonus, has installed live construction cameras on site. They allow anyone to access and view the progress that is being made on not only the Fitness Center, but the new Student Services Center as well. They can be found at livecams.parkland.edu.

The accolades as well as the construction progress are in plain sight for all students and parents who visit Parkland College. The presumption is this visibility will hopefully influence student athletes to not only visit Parkland in the summer but to attend in the fall.

Courtyard on Randolph

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Entertainment

Products, games unveiled at E3 Expo

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Every year, the biggest names in the video games industry gather for the E3 Expo to show off the new games, apps, and hardware that fans can look forward to for the next year.

This year, the event featured a number of exciting new games from the biggest companies, as well as details for Nintendo's new Wii U and their upgraded 3DS system, the 3DS XL.

E3 started off this year in similar to past years with Microsoft's press conference. According to the official Xbox website, Microsoft began by showing off "Halo 4," a new installment in the main Halo franchise, which is now helmed by 343 Industries.

Microsoft also demoed the new South Park RPG and even had South Park creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker come up on stage and talk about what it was like writing for the game.

Microsoft also showed off the new "Tomb Raider." Other highlights from the Microsoft press conference were "Gears of War: Judgment" and "Call of Duty Black Ops 2."

EA showed off their lineup of games and some new features next. The EA website details that one of the games that was shown was "Medal of Honor: Warfighter," which is a sequel to the most recent "Medal of Honor" reboot. EA presented a brand new "SimCity" for PC, "Dead Space 3" with an all new co-op feature and "Crysis 3."

EA also detailed a new premium service for "Battlefield 3" called "Battlefield 3 Premium", which gives the customer more weapons and early access to



Photo by Al Seib/Los Angeles Times/MCT
During Microsoft's E3 Media Briefing at the USC Galen Center in Los Angeles, June 4, 2012, Yusuf Mehdi, chief marketing officer for the company announces that there will be much more video content available to the Xbox 360 this year. The new content will include WatchESPN, NBA, NHL, and 35 more video providers.

any new downloadable content for the game. For a full list of other games, release dates, and information shown at EA's press conference, visit www.ea.com/e3.

Ubisoft's press conference showed off a slew of long awaited sequels as well as a couple of brand new properties. According to the official Uplay website they showcased sequels like "Far Cry 3" and "Assassins Creed 3" a game which takes place during the American Revolution and features a half Native American as the protagonist. Ubisoft also showed a spinoff of "Assassins Creed 3" with the first female African American protagonist in the entire series.

Ubisoft also showed huge

support for the Wii U with games like ZombiU, a new zombie fighting game with an emphasis on survival, as one bite from a zombie will kill you. They presented "Rayman Legends" which introduced the concept of a fifth person who uses the Wii U pad to help the four people who control the main characters to get through the game.

Ubisoft closed their press conference in style however by showing off a new title that hadn't been even hinted at before called "Watch Dogs." The game puts you in control of a character that seems to be able to hack anything in the city.

The skill is used for anything from disrupting cell phones to causing car accidents by

messing with the lights at an intersection. It looked similar to "Grand Theft Auto" but with quite a unique twist of being able to hack what looked like anything. For further information on games coming out from Ubisoft and release dates you can go to www.uplay.ubi.com/en-GB.

Sony took the stage next and promised games with both new and old faces. According to the official PlayStation website they presented games like "PlayStation All-Stars Battle Royale," a game that plays like Nintendo's "Super Smash Bros." but with Sony characters. Sony also previewed "God of War Ascension," and a new "Little Big Planet."

One of the major highlights

of the show was the reveal of a new game made by the same development team as "Heavy Rain," Quantic Dream. The game will be called "Beyond: Two Souls" and features a character modeled after and portrayed by Ellen Page who seems to have a supernatural influence around her. Like "Heavy Rain," "Beyond: Two Souls" will support PlayStation Move technology.

The absolute biggest show stopper was gameplay of Naughty Dog's new game "The Last of Us." The game looked both beautiful and quite brutal. In it, the characters must combat enemies in a post-apocalyptic environment where ammo is scarce. For more on what Sony showed as well as release dates and the

entire press conference you can go to www.us.playstation.com/e3-2012/.

According to the Nintendo All-Access @ E3 2012 website, their show started off with Shigeru Miyamoto, the man behind most of Nintendo's major games like "Super Mario Bros." and "Legend of Zelda" showcasing "Pikmin 3," the long awaited next installment of the "Pikmin" franchise.

Nintendo's conference was filled mostly with specs on the Wii U. They did feature a couple of games here and there, with some of the highlights being ports and enhanced versions of "Batman: Arkham City Armored Edition," "Mass Effect 3," "Ninja Gaiden 3," and "Assassins Creed 3."

Nintendo featured Wii U and 3DS games of their own as well. These included "New Super Mario Bros 2" for the 3DS, "New Super Mario Bros U" for the Wii U and "Scribblenauts Unlimited," which will be available for both systems.

Nintendo also hosted a post E3 Nintendo Direct video online, which showed some additional details on games as well as a new 3DS model known as the 3DS XL, which increases the size of both screens as well as having a superior battery life.

For more information on what Nintendo showed at E3 you can go to e3.nintendo.com. Nintendo Direct videos can be found at www.nintendo.com/nintendodirect. For further information regarding other things at E3 including release dates and apps that were not covered you can go to e3.gamespot.com where you can find complete coverage of the expo.

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