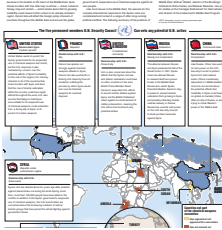




## Top Stories

### The complex map of Syria politics



The complex map of Syria politics

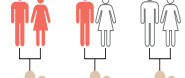
News - Page 5

### Lung cancer genetics

Preliminary studies reveal people with mutations on chromosome 15 find it harder to quit smoking. A smoker's risk.

#### Chance of lung cancer

Parent with gene variant



Casual smoking bad for health

Lifestyle - Page 3



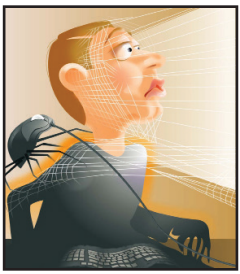
Bad behavior isn't an illness

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Cobra women's soccer end season early

Full Story - Page 7



Skepticism a key tool in the digital age

Full Story - Page 8

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## Construction continues for new addition to C-wing



Photo by Ted Setterlund/Prospectus News

Construction continues for the new addition to the C-Wing at Parkland College, which is expected to be finished in late summer 2014.

## Parkland honors veterans



Photo by Ted Setterlund/Prospectus News

John Carlson, a Security Patrol officer in Public Safety and former Lieutenant Colonel, appears at the Veteran's Day Observance in the Flag Lounge on Monday, Nov. 11, 2013. Carlson was just one of several veterans to appear at the observance. This ceremony also included a singing of the National Anthem by Urbana High School students as well as the posting of colors by the University of Illinois ROTC. The public was invited to attend this ceremony put together in honor of the veterans in the community.



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Listening to artists such as Bach before a test can actually help increase scores. (Find the answer on page 5)

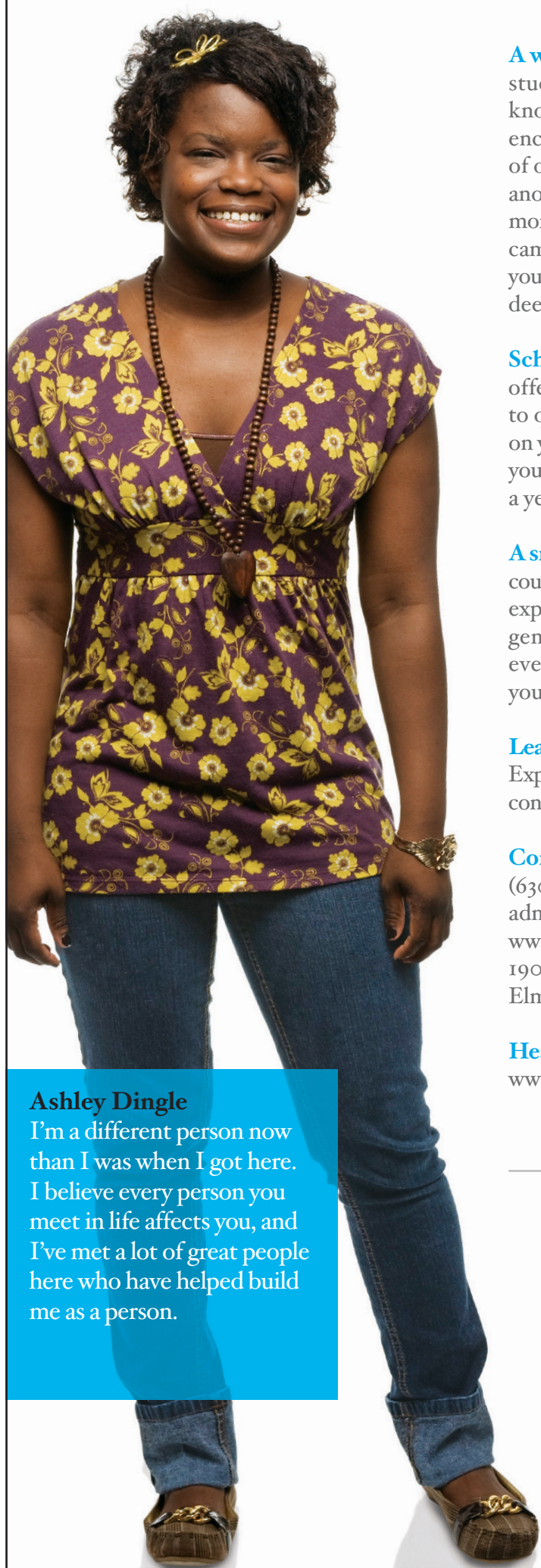
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#### Ashley Dingle

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#### Cody Boals

I felt very comfortable transferring to Elmhurst because the teachers and other students were so welcoming. Then when I joined the baseball team, I found an instant group of friends.





# Lifestyle

## Casual smoking bad for health

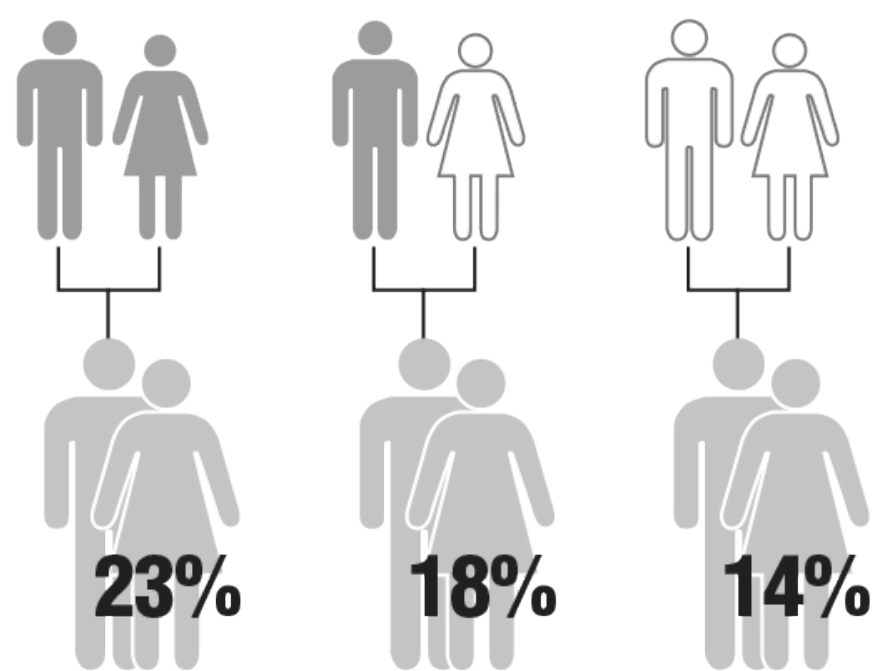
 **Stacy Hill and Sara Dejene**  
Student Health 101

### Lung cancer genetics

*Preliminary studies reveal people with mutations on chromosome 15 find it harder to quit smoking. A smoker's\* risk:*

### Chance of lung cancer

■ Parent with gene variant



\*Studies only covered white people; study of other populations expected soon

Source: AP

Graphic: Angela Smith

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Many people have a favorite activity to do with friends. But one particular social activity has caught the attention of researchers: social smoking.

In a recent *Student Health 101* survey, over 40 percent of respondents who smoke said they considered themselves "social smokers," saying they use tobacco mainly when spending time with other people.

#### Reasons for Smoking

There are lots of reasons people use tobacco. Taking a cigarette break can be a way to relax, to connect with people in a quieter atmosphere, to step away from work for a moment, or be associated with certain environments or experiences.

A 2010 study in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* found that students often connect drinking with smoking, and that while tobacco use might be judged negatively in other situations, it may be seen as acceptable at parties and when consuming alcohol.

Further, the researchers identified the following reasons for social smoking:

- Facilitation of social interactions
- Structuring time and space at parties
- "Feeling more calm" when drinking
- Social smokers also tend to smoke outside restaurants and bars, apartment buildings, or during breaks with co-workers.

#### Occasional vs. Steady

Social smokers fall into the larger category of "occasional smokers." In 2004, researchers at the Tobacco Research and Treatment Center and Division of General Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, set out to define social smoking among students. Among a random sample of nearly 11,000 survey participants, they found that these smokers:

- Used smaller amounts of

tobacco, and smoked less frequently, than "regular" users

- Had less nicotine dependence
- Had less interest in stopping their tobacco use, and fewer recent quit attempts

Interestingly, in a 2009 study in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, more than 50 percent of students who reported smoking a cigarette in the last 30 days responded "no" to the question "Do you consider yourself a smoker?" This confirms earlier results published in 2007 in *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*.

The 2007 research found that typically, social smokers say the following about their habits:

- They use tobacco only occasionally, mainly to relax.
- They're not "really" smokers.
- They prefer their close friends and romantic partners to be nonsmokers.
- They don't smoke for stress relief.
- They're not dependent on nicotine, so it will be easy to stop when they want to.
- They'll quit once they leave their current environment.

#### Long-Term Patterns

For most smokers, tobacco use serves a function, and this trumps any concerns about potential health risks or other consequences. And among social smokers, many believe they won't experience the negative effects of smoking, mostly because they'll quit before long.

There is conflicting evidence as to whether this is true. A 2011 study published in the *American Journal of Public Health* found that students who smoked occasionally, but didn't identify as smokers, were more likely to be interested in ceasing their tobacco use than steady smokers. But in a 2009 study published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, college students who said they weren't smokers (despite actually smoking) were less likely to quit.

#### Use Social Triggers to Quit

When someone is trying to quit, social situations associated with smoking can be a difficult challenge. Even if that person doesn't feel dependent on it, nicotine is a powerful drug, and the brain is going to crave

a hit.

The good news is that social ties are actually a strong determinant of success with quitting. A 2008 study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found, "Smoking behavior spreads through close and distant social ties, [and] groups of interconnected people stop smoking in concert." The researchers found that if one person stops smoking, the chances of his or her friends or family smoking decreased by almost 40 percent.

If you or someone you know is trying to quit, here are some strategies for sticking with that plan:

**Be aware.** Be conscious of smoking triggers. If smoking is connected with drinking for you, avoid situations with alcohol, suggests Dr. Janet Thomas, a professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

**Distract yourself.** Keep gum or mints handy and substitute them for cigarettes. One respondent to the recent *Student Health 101* survey suggested keeping one's hands occupied.

**Involve friends and family.** Studies indicate that many smokers' friends also smoke.

If tempting situations are hard to avoid, explain to friends or family members your intentions to quit. If they're aware, they'll be less likely to offer cigarettes or smoke themselves. It can be easier to quit as a group.


**Focus on motivations to quit.** Having reasons—such as appearance improvement, one's own health, or the health of friends and family—can serve as motivation to resist even the occasional cigarette.

Dr. Anna Song, a professor at the University of California, Merced, emphasizes that more research is needed to find ways to help social smokers quit. "Once we get a better grasp of how social smokers think and behave, we'll be better able to create interventions that will be efficient and effective."

Students can access the *Parkland College Student Health 101* magazine online at <http://readsh101.com/parkland.html>.

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Student Health 101

## Public Safety on winter car care tips

 **Ben Boltinghouse**  
College Resource Officer

This morning I went out to my car and discovered that while it has an excellent maintenance crew that's super quick about replacing any broken appliances, complimentary window scraping is not one of the services my apartment complex provides.

As I scraped away the frost that had collected on my windows overnight, it dawned on me that preparing your vehicle for winter weather was a perfect topic to write about at this point in late fall/early winter.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has a 4 page pdf you can find on their website that gives a pretty thorough picture of what you should be doing to keep yourself safe when driving in the colder months. I'm going to give you a summary of what they say in this article, but for more information check out their website at [www.nhtsa.com](http://www.nhtsa.com).

Take your car in for a tune-up. Sure, it may cost you up front,

but it's no fun breaking down in a snowstorm, and you'll probably save more to take care of any issues they can see at the shop, rather than after your car has broken down on the roadway.

Make sure your battery is fully charged. It uses more of the power to start your engine when it's cold outside, and battery power drops when it's cold, so you want to make sure you've got enough to get your car going when the temperatures drop.

Fill up your window washing fluid and check on your wipers. There's nothing worse than driving through a storm and not being able to see because your wipers are worn and you're out of fluid.

Inspect your tires. This is probably the biggest one; you definitely don't want to drive through a storm with bare tires. Make sure you've got at least 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch in tire tread and that they are properly inflated to the correct levels.

Besides using these tips to take care of your vehicle, there are other things you can do to

ensure that you stay safe on the road. When travelling to visit family and friends, make sure you have a route planned out and that you leave with plenty of time to get there. Running late and then rushing through traffic isn't good anytime, but the snow and ice makes it especially dangerous.

Also, try to avoid letting your car get low on fuel, your vehicle is going to get really cold, really quick if you run out of gas in the cold. Be sure to keep your vehicle well stocked with the right supplies you'll need if you do end up getting stranded.

The following is a list of items that will be helpful in the winter months: Snow shovel, Ice scraper, jumper cables, flashlight, blankets, non-perishable food, water, and any necessary medicines.



Illustration by Pete Daniels/MCT

The holidays are coming up, and we want you to get to spend time with family, friends, and loved ones, which for most people involves some travelling. Hopefully by following these Winter Travel Tips you'll stay safe and enjoy the Holidays!

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### Fact or Fiction?

**FACT:** This is known as the "Mozart effect." Listening to classical music before taking a test or while studying has been shown to increase brain power and test scores.

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# Opinions

## Bad behavior isn't an illness

**Theodore Dalrymple**  
*Los Angeles Times*

When the 1980 edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (commonly known as the DSM-3) was being prepared, psychiatrist Allen Frances lobbied for the inclusion of a new diagnosis: masochistic personality disorder. His push failed, and by the time the fourth edition came out in 1994 (edited by Frances), he was glad it had. He no longer believed such a condition existed.

Masochistic personality disorder, as Frances had conceived it, "diagnosed" those whose typical behavior brought them unhappiness by "self-sacrifice in the service of maintaining relationships or self-esteem."

The diagnosis might help explain women who put up with violently abusive lovers or husbands or repeatedly choose such men as sexual partners. Feminists attacked the proposed diagnosis, arguing that it blamed women for their own abuse. And it was on those grounds, not scientific ones, that the DSM-3 excluded the diagnosis.

In fact, the pattern of behavior that Frances' disorder sought to categorize is common; I encountered it often in my clinical practice. "His eyes suddenly go funny," a patient would say of a violent boyfriend, "like he's having a fit. He stares, he doesn't blink, and then he starts to strangle me. I don't think he knows what he's doing."

"Would he do it in front of

me, then?" I would ask, and the scales would fall, at least temporarily, from her eyes. But the willingness to excuse abusive behavior was often astonishing.

I recall one patient with an arm and a jaw broken by a man just out of prison after a long sentence for killing another woman. She rejected our warning that she was in imminent danger and walked out of the hospital arm in arm with her abuser.

Frances was right, though, to later reject his diagnosis classification - not because masochistic behavior is a fiction but because a description of behavior is not the same as a medical diagnosis.

We all show patterns of behavior, and some prove far from conducive to our own success or happiness. Such behavior does not make us ill, however, but weak and fallible.

No edition of the DSM, including the latest, recognizes a masochistic personality disorder. Yet the new DSM-5 does agree with abused women that their male abusers are suffering from a psychiatric condition: intermittent explosive disorder. The diagnostic criteria include having had three violent and unpremeditated outbursts in a 12-month period in which people or animals were hurt.

Leaving aside the question of why the diagnosis should require three rather than two or four behavioral outbursts in 12 months (or, for that matter, in six or 18 months), a question must be asked: Is the habit of losing one's temper and destroying things

or hurting people really a medical condition? Doesn't the diagnosis empty the act both of meaning and moral content, all in the service of a spurious objectivity?

The notion of an outburst of temper grossly out of proportion to whatever provoked it - a factor necessary to the diagnosis - implies moral judgment as to what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate displays of anger.

Appropriateness is an irreducibly moral concept, requiring conscious judgment; no number of functional MRI scans of the amygdala or of any other part of the brain will assist in that judgment.

To qualify as intermittent explosive disorder, the DSM-5 asserts, an individual's outbursts should not have tangible ends, among them power and intimidation. Yet if we exclude such ends, it becomes inexplicable as to why outbursts should commonly occur in response to a minor provocation by a close intimate or an associate. To be devoid of tangible ends, the outbursts would have to occur completely at random, and they seldom do. The editors seem to have reflected little on the meaning of their own work.

It is easy, of course, to lampoon psychiatric nosology - the system for classifying disorders - and to underestimate the difficulty of producing such classification. After all, no objective laboratory markers or correlatives of psychiatric disorder exist. Psychiatrists



Illustration by Doug Griswold/San Jose Mercury News

must show discretion in what they regard as genuine illness, and they will often be wrong. But no one who has encountered, say, a manic in full flight is likely to doubt that he is in the presence of illness.

On the other hand, let's consider "factitious disorder." According to DSM-5, the illness consists of "falsification of physical or psychological signs and symptoms, or induction of injury or disease, associated with identified deception."

Should that really be considered in quite the same light as psychosis or mania? That is, should we grant the same status to someone pretending to be ill as to someone genuinely ill?

Yet this is precisely what the DSM-5 does, establishing its authors' lack of common sense,

the quality that psychiatrists, perhaps more than any other kind of doctor, need. The manual's lack of common sense would be amusing were it not destined to be taken with superstitious seriousness by psychiatrists around the world, as well as by insurers and lawyers.

If the DSM-5 reflects the American Psychiatric Assn.'s views, then that organization clearly views humanity with Swiftian distaste. And that distaste is motivated, one suspects, by the hope of an endless supply of patients. For it stands to reason that a man in possession of a psychiatric disorder must be in want of a psychiatrist.

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## Everyone spies on everyone else

**Glenn Garvin**  
*The Miami Herald*

I guess it's not surprising that nobody in Berlin got the joke Barack Obama told on his visit in 2008, when he pledged to a wildly cheering crowd that his election would mean a new era of "allies who will listen to each other." True, the president's sense of comic timing needs some fine-tuning: It took five years for him to deliver the punch line - that he'd be doing his listening on an NSA tap of German Prime Minister Angela Merkel's cell phone. But give him a break - it took three seasons before anybody thought Seinfeld was funny, too.

Merkel, predictably, was a real crankypants about the whole thing. "Spying among friends is not at all acceptable against anyone," she said stiffly. But she wasn't the only foreign leader to react angrily to reports of U.S. spying on its allies released by disaffected NSA computer jockey Edward Snowden.

In France, Spain and Mexico, U.S. ambassadors were

called in to be administered 40 diplomatic lashes. Brazil asked for help from the United Nations. European Parliament President Martin Schulz said that American intelligence was "out of control" and British Prime Minister David Cameron agreed that was a "good and sensible" judgment.

Yet an odd silence surrounds some of the other disclosures from Snowden and his allies at WikiLeaks. The holier-than-thou-yanks Cameron had nothing to say about the news that the GCHA - the British version of the NSA - earlier this year launched a hacking attack on Belgium's British intelligence agency. And mum's the word in Paris and Berlin when it comes to a leaked U.S. diplomatic cable in which a leading German aerospace executive declares that French intelligence is stealing Germany blind: "France is the evil empire in stealing technology, and Germany knows this."

Plenty of genuine outrages have been uncovered by the blizzard of leaks about the rampant growth of the U.S.

surveillance state. The fact that we spy on our allies is not one of them. Governments - all governments - have a voracious appetite for information about one another, one that is checked only by the availability of resources. If we collect more intelligence about our friends than they do about us, it's not because they aren't trying.

A Defense Department study of spies captured and convicted in the United States between 1947 and 2001 showed that 15 percent of them were working for countries that were considered either neutral or U.S. allies. Among them were Great Britain, France, South Korea, the Netherlands, Taiwan, Israel, Japan, Greece, South Africa, the Philippines and El Salvador.

And remember, those are just the spies who were arrested, only a tiny part of the intelligence landscape. Espionage - particularly commercial espionage, in which other countries try to steal sensitive technology - may be one of our biggest growth industries. A 2005 report by the

National Counterintelligence Executive, an association of all the U.S. government agencies charged with protecting the nation from foreign espionage, showed that 108 different countries tried to steal American technology during the previous year.

Nor are we talking about people trying to get a peek at the next iPhone. The target technology included everything from laser sights for M-16 rifles to components for Hellfire and Hawk missiles. The spies significantly "eroded the U.S. military advantage by enabling foreign militaries to acquire sophisticated capabilities that might otherwise have taken years to develop," the report said.

The United States has less need of five-fingered discounts on weapons than most of its allies. But there are other good reasons to keep a covert eye on your friends. For one thing, they don't always act like your friends. Had a suspicious President Eisenhower not ordered U2 spy planes to keep a careful eye on America's top three allies of the era - Great

Britain, France and Israel - he would have been caught flat-footed by their secret plan to attack Egypt and seize the Suez Canal in 1956. Instead, he was prepared to apply quick pressure and force a withdrawal before the Soviet Union went nuts.

Despite all the faux-fierce rhetoric around the world the past few weeks, other nations understand this. Their loud complaints otherwise are partly an attempt to embarrass the United States into giving up its gigantic advantages in the espionage game, if only for a little while, and partly an attempt to convince their own citizens that they aren't powerless in this situation - no government wants to look like a 98-pound weakling getting sand kicked in its face.

That's why the headline over a satirical piece in the New Yorker last month was not only hilarious, but apt: N.S.A. PROMISES TO STOP GETTING CAUGHT SPYING ON ALLIES.

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# The complex map of Syria politics

## In the heart of the Middle East, a breakdown of the competing interests in the outcome of civil war

THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR IS BEING DRIVEN BY A COMPLEX MAP OF competing interests in the outcome of civil war. The conflict has become a proxy war for the interests of the major powers in the region, including the United States, Russia, China, and the Arab League. The war has also become a test case for the effectiveness of international law and the United Nations Security Council.

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For the permanent members U.N. Security Council  Can veto any potential U.N. action

**UNITED STATES**  
President: Barack Obama

**Policy:** The U.S. has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. The U.S. has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. The U.S. has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.

**FRANCE**  
President: Nicolas Sarkozy

**Policy:** France has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. France has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. France has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.

**UNITED KINGDOM**  
Prime Minister: David Cameron

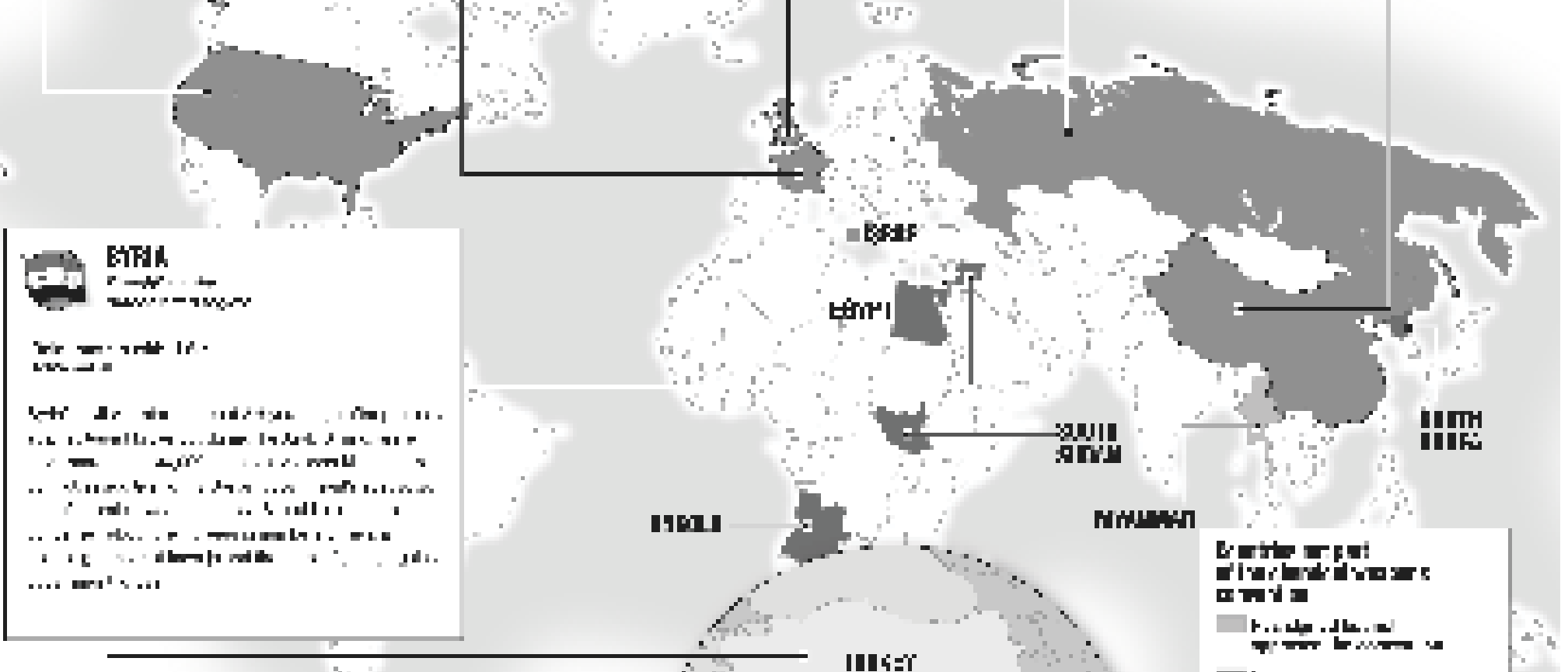
**Policy:** The U.K. has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. The U.K. has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. The U.K. has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.

**RUSSIA**  
President: Vladimir Putin

**Policy:** Russia has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. Russia has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. Russia has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.

**CHINA**  
President: Hu Jintao

**Policy:** China has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. China has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. China has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.



**TURKEY**  
President: Abdullah Gül

**Policy:** Turkey has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. Turkey has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. Turkey has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.

**ISRAEL**  
Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu

**Policy:** Israel has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. Israel has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. Israel has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.

**LIBYAN ARAB JAMANA**  
Prime Minister: Mustafa Sanjalal

**Policy:** Libya has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. Libya has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. Libya has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.

**JORDAN**  
King: Abdullah II

**Policy:** Jordan has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. Jordan has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. Jordan has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.

**IRAQ**  
President: Nuri al-Maliki

**Policy:** Iraq has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. Iraq has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. Iraq has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.

### Syria's five neighbors

### Other key regional players

**EGYPT**  
President: Mohamed Morsi

**Policy:** Egypt has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. Egypt has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. Egypt has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.

**IRAN**  
President: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

**Policy:** Iran has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. Iran has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. Iran has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.

**SAUDI ARABIA**  
King: Abdullah

**Policy:** Saudi Arabia has a long-standing policy of supporting a democratic and free Syria. Saudi Arabia has provided military and financial support to the opposition forces. Saudi Arabia has also imposed sanctions on the Syrian government.

### Lasting impact of the Arab Spring

The Arab Spring has had a lasting impact on the Middle East. It has led to the overthrow of several authoritarian regimes and the rise of democratic movements. It has also led to a period of instability and conflict in the region.

 <b>TUNISIA</b> President: Mohamed Morsi	 <b>EGYPT</b> President: Nouri al-Maliki	 <b>LIBYA</b> President: Nuri al-Maliki	 <b>YEMEN</b> President: Nuri al-Maliki
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# Puzzles & Comics

Bliss



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How people treat you is their karma; how you react is yours.  
- Wayne Dyer

## Sudoku (easy)

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

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**Imps!** by Jeff Harris



**GREEN APPLES** by Jeff Harris



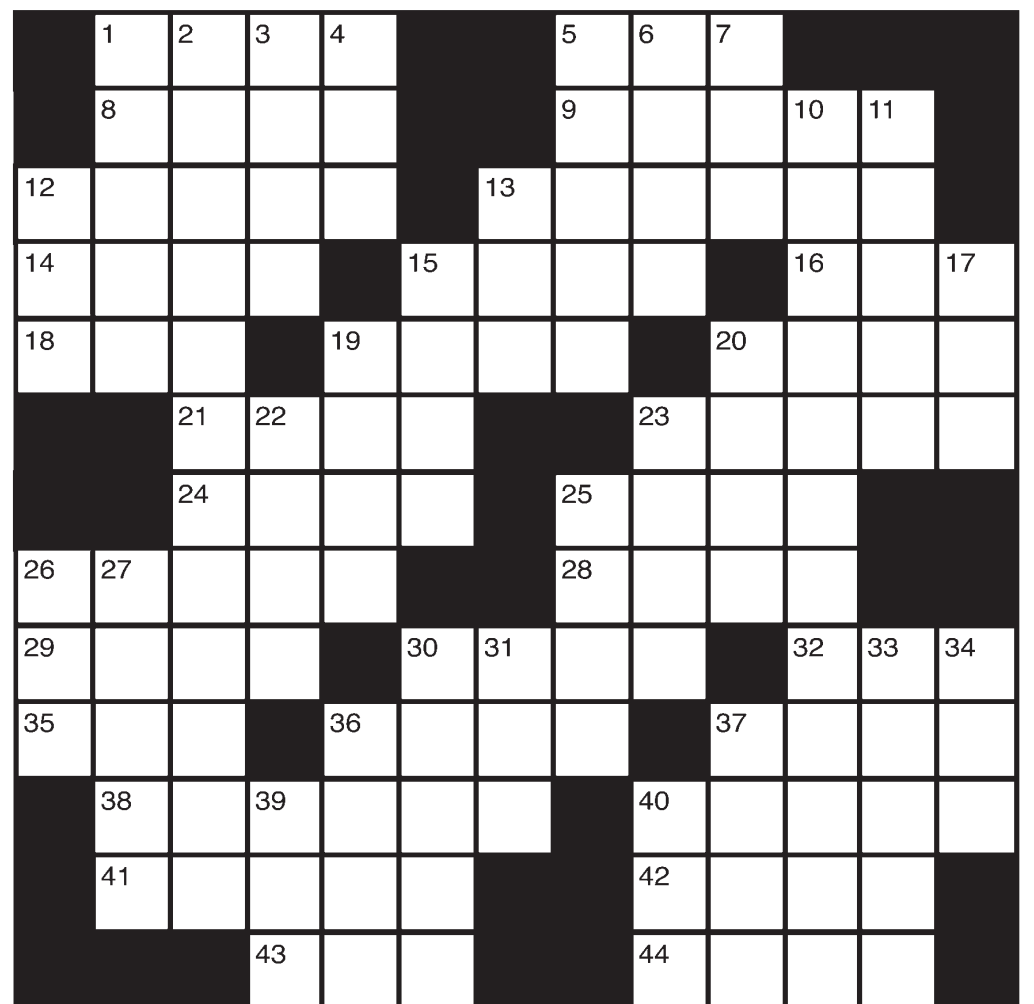
Best In Show



by Phil Juliano

## THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/1/13

### ACROSS

- "\_ the Press"
- "One Day \_ Time"
- "\_ for All Seasons"
- Soviet prison camp
- Edie \_; Nicollette Sheridan's role on "Desperate Housewives"
- One of the twins on "Little People, Big World"
- Thomas Kinkadee's paintings
- Actor Sean \_
- Calendar periods: abbr.
- "Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo \_"; Neil Patrick Harris movie
- Actress Helen
- Woodwind instrument
- \_ ahead; make arrangements
- Trigger or Mister Ed
- Old western actor Calhoun
- \_ off; fall into a light sleep
- Member of the wedding party
- Sherman Hemsley sitcom
- Jagger of the Rolling Stones
- Drama series set at an acting school

32 \_ de plume; pen name

- Rollaway bed
- Wise man
- Actor Richard \_
- Child actress Shirley \_
- "The Bionic \_"
- Mexican misses: abbr.
- As blind as \_
- Sault \_ Marie
- "Star Trek: Deep Space \_"

### DOWN

- Shriver or Bello
- Actress on "CSI: Miami"
- Dines
- One of Ted Turner's networks
- \_ 99; Barbara Feldon's role on "Get Smart"
- Rotate
- Pub order
- Actress on "Private Practice"
- Greek sandwiches
- Hope or Barker
- Bill's wife on "The Little Couple"
- Small and weak
- "\_ Spot Run"; David Arquette movie
- Lead role on "JAG"
- Seep out
- "\_ Who's Talking"; movie for John Travolta and Kirstie Alley
- "\_ Improvement"
- \_ Edna; funny British character
- Monogram for composer Cohan
- Public uprisings
- Not true
- "Ice \_; Dawn of the Dinosaurs"
- Give a speech
- "\_ Behaving Badly"
- Quarrel
- Huge Asian desert
- Rushmore and McKinley: abbr.
- Obi-\_ Kenobi; "Star Wars" character

### Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

M	A	J	O	R			M	I	A					
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# Sports

## Cobra women's soccer end season early



Photo courtesy of Rod Shilts

**Alex Wallner**  
Sports Writer

Parkland women's soccer performed another good season with a record of 15 and five and a region 24 record of five wins and one loss.

However, since the team lost to number one ranked Lewis and Clark in the Region 24 championship, the Cobras ended their season shorter than planned. The loss wasn't the most upsetting part of this game for many of the women on the team.

The fact that some of the athletes wouldn't have a chance to play on the same team again is a hard fact to accept at the end of a season.

"The bond I built with the sophomores was a family bond. We only grew closer as the season went along. We got to know each other well last year on and off the field and this year only strengthened that bond," athlete Mandy Stoll said.

Team chemistry is a component needed for success and the closer that teams are

with each other, the more that translates on the field.

For Coach Josh Alford's squad, building on chemistry makes his team a contender throughout the year. Alford is not only a successful coach, but is also successful at making these young women better people.

"He has taught me that hard work and believing in what I'm doing will get me very far. If you don't believe in training hard then you won't train hard and you won't be successful," Business Administration

major Meaghan McLennand said.

English major Lynnette Ramsey explained that Alford taught the team that if they just put in the time and effort, all their goals would become achievable. The team had a very tough schedule as they ended the season with five losses, all against teams in the NJCAA Top 20 soccer poll.

"I knew it was going to be a good year coming into it. I was excited about the incoming freshmen and could tell that this year was going

to be different. Nationals was everyone's goal, we just fell short this year again," Stoll commented.

The Cobras rival this year was Lewis and Clark, who they lost to previously in the season by one goal. Overall, this season was not one to be sad about, but one to reflect on. Losses happen to every team, at least once, and are what make a team work harder in anticipation of the next year.

After all, going undefeated is something that may seem like an insurmountable feat,

but does not always mean anything. The teams that lose can actually be the better teams, because it makes them hungrier to compete and work harder.

While the season may be over for the women of Parkland's soccer team, the coach and freshman are ready to come back next year to work for another chance to go to Nationals.

For more information on the soccer team or other teams at Parkland, visit [parkland.edu/athletics](http://parkland.edu/athletics).

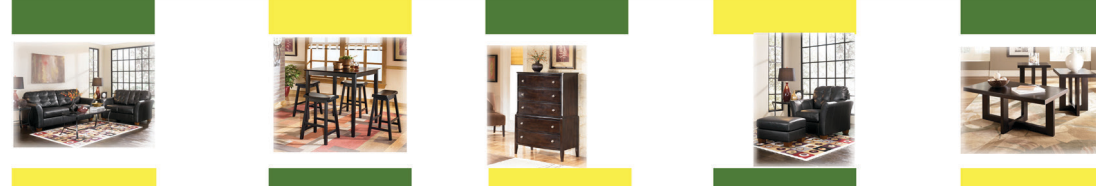
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# Entertainment

## Skepticism a key tool in the digital age

 **Mace Mackiewicz**  
Staff Writer

A lot of information gets passed and shared on social networks. Friends try to keep friends informed and people like to share information about their lives.

But there's also some misinformation that gets shared and it's important to occasionally be skeptical about some of the posts floating around.

In the 90s and early 2000s before social networks dominated everyday life and people usually shared information via email, people used to forward stories to each other warning them of certain things that could happen or even telling them of some sort of miracle cure.

Today the types of things that used to be forwarded from grandmas on AOL are now being shared on Facebook.

Some recent examples of stories being shared that aren't true are how Facebook was going to remove all instances of Nativity scenes, a story about how a town in Michigan was going to implement Sharia law, and even a story on how Michelle Bachmann wanted to ban Halloween.

Another example of things that get shared but can also be used to scam or spam someone using Facebook is all of the fake giveaways.

There are posts claiming to be from Mark Zuckerberg and Apple working together to provide people with a free iPad, iPod etc.

Sometimes these include links for people to sign up for it that in turn gives the application permission to access one's account and send spam to the user's friends.

Apple is only one example, there are several other products used to proliferate the hoax including PS3, Xbox 360, and any other popular piece of technology.

"I really dislike these scams when they show up on my newsfeed, some of these items I really want. But it's obvious these are fake and it's frustrating to see them being shared by my friends," Photography Major



Illustration by Laurie McAdam/The Modesto Bee

Shelby Richardson explained.

Some of these stories start out as satire that was misidentified as truth; others are shared for confirmation bias based on one's own political or religious standing.

There are many websites one can use to fact check stories and claims that appear on their Facebook and Twitter feeds. Some of those websites include Snopes.com, Factcheck.org, Politicfacts.com and even a simple Google search can check information on things.

Snopes.com is a website that gets users to submit stories they may have heard on Facebook or online in general and then fact checks against present evidence, and finds out whether it's true, false, mixed or a legend.

The bottom of the article usually includes all the sources they used to show the outcome and it explains in great detail why something is or isn't true.

Factcheck.org is similar to Snopes but has a few differences. They allow for users to submit questions

regarding political things in nature like "Obamacare" and then lists all the myths surrounding it and states what the truth of them is.

Other things to be skeptical about when it comes to the internet are emails and posts about either how to become rich quick that involve the individual sending money, or really anything that involves sending money through the internet to a stranger.

The most infamous example of a scam involving money are the emails that went around in the 90s from

someone claiming to be a Nigerian prince offering to give the recipient his fortune if they sent a lump sum of money to him.

These types of scams are mostly done by email and if a link is involved could even cause the recipient's email account to become compromised and added to a pool of spam email accounts.

Internet users should also be wary of mystery text messages appearing on one's phone. Messages like,

"You've won a 6000 dollar shopping spree to 'Bestbuy'," that then provide a link are almost always a complete scam that leads to a website that will ask for important information that should not be filled out.

Parkland alumni Anthony Wilder explains why texts are frustrating to him,

"I've woken up to a few texts saying I have won a shopping spree. While I am still in a groggy state of mind I believe it at first but then the websites ask for so much personal information. It's just heart breaking to learn something like that is fake you know," Wilder said.

It's important not to click on every offer on the internet, especially if it's not a website that users recognize.

They can include malicious software which can usually be blocked by antivirus programs, but sometimes get through and will infect a computer.

While social networks can be used to share important and interesting information it can also be used to trick people into being scammed or believing something that's not true.

It's important to try to be skeptical on the internet to avoid believing in false information or compromising personal information in hopes to win something.

If an offer seems too good to be true, or a story too bizarre to be believable, chances are it probably is.

To stay on the safe side, skeptics can use website such as Snopes.com, as mentioned above, to double check their information before passing it on or accepting it themselves.

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