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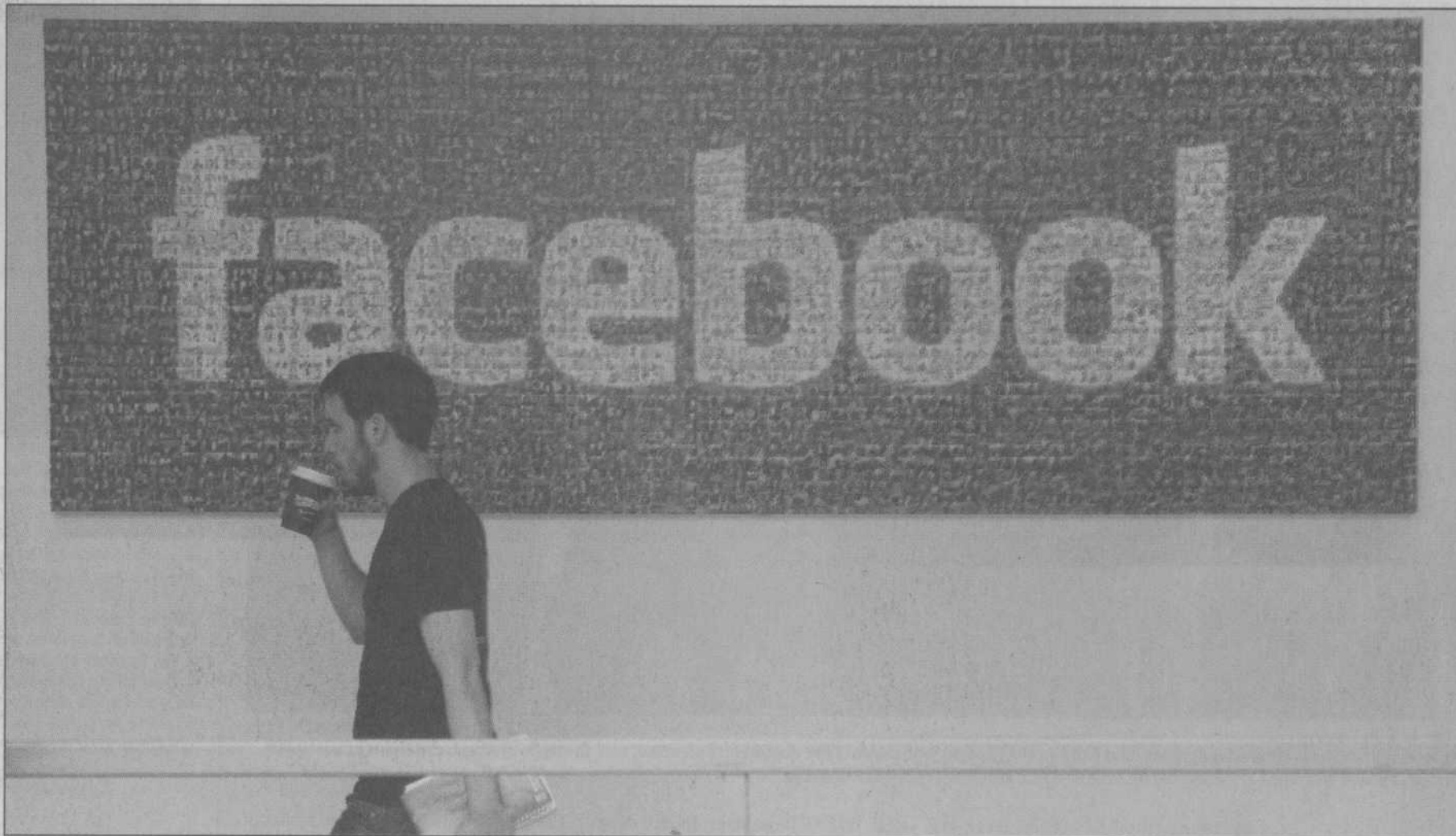
Sports | Women's Basketball

Number one ranked in NJCAA poll, Parkland Lady Cobras now 29-1. Read the full story to meet the team! **Page 7**



Photo by Scott Wells | Prospectus News

FILL IN THE BLANK



In this March 15, 2013, file photo, a Facebook employee walks past a sign at Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif. Facebook is giving users more options on how they want to be identified on their social media pages and to other users.

Facebook adds new gender option for users

Martha Mendoza
AP National Writer

Facebook users who don't fit any of the 58 gender identity options offered by the social media giant are now being given a rather big 59th option: fill in the blank.

"Now, if you do not identify with the pre-populated list of gender identities, you are able to add your own," said a Facebook announcement published online Thursday morning and shared in advance with The Associated Press.

Facebook software engineer Ari Chivukula, who identifies as transgender and was part of the team that made the free-form option, thinks the change will lead to more widespread acceptance of people who don't identify themselves as a man or woman.

"We're hoping this will open up the dialogue," Chivukula said.

Alison C.K. Fogarty, a gender identity researcher at Stanford University, said giving users control over the words describing their gender is a big step in social recognition of a growing trans community, especially coming from the world's largest social media company.

"People are still fighting to make room for gender identity within the socially constructed binary of male and female,"

Fogarty said. "Labels and identities are powerful in that they give a sense of community, a way of articulating one's experience."

In February 2014, Facebook expanded gender identity from male and female to a list of dozens of options, including Androgynous, Gender Fluid, Intersex, Neither and Transgender. Those choices will all still be available.

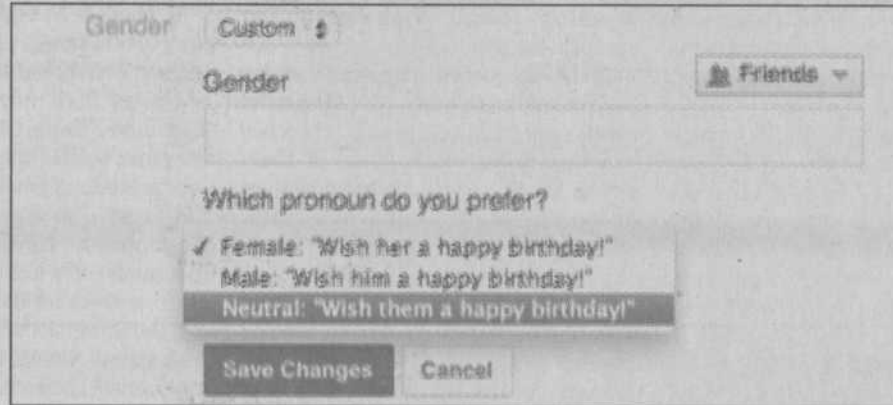
People who choose a custom gender can also choose the pronoun they would like to be referred to publicly: he/his, she/her or they/their.

Facebook has a setting for users to control the audience who sees their gender.

Last year's changes created an online stir, with thousands of comments — some grateful, others confused or hostile. But staff at Facebook said there was full support to take it even further this year, from CEO Mark Zuckerberg on down.

As of Thursday, the free-form option rolled out to U.S. users, while the custom gender identity option with a list of words was available in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Argentina and Denmark.

One thing that has not changed is an "interested in" option for Facebook users to define whom they might want to date. That option still only allows men or women, but



Screenshot from www.facebook.com

This screenshot from a Facebook user's personal information page shows a custom setting without pronouns involved.

users can click both options, one option or neither option. They can also hide it entirely.

Facebook, which has 1.23 billion active monthly users around the world, would not release how many users have chosen gender identity options beyond man or woman, citing privacy concerns and a general practice of not sharing user information.

The Williams Institute, a think tank based at the University of California, Los Angeles, estimates there are at least 700,000 people in the U.S. who identify as transgender, an umbrella term that includes people who live as a gender different from the one assigned to

them at birth.

Sarah Kate Ellis, CEO and president of the advocacy group GLAAD, said that the past few years have brought "real movement in trans visibility" and that Facebook has been a leader in making that happen.

"This helps to accelerate trans acceptance in our country," Ellis said. "I'm excited about the future for gender identity."

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- Be breathing slowly or irregularly:
 - less than eight times a minute
 - or ten seconds or more between any two breaths

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Which is it?

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Answer on page 8

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NEWS

Anti-Israel divestment push gains traction at US colleges



AP Photo/Chicago Tribune, Brian Cassella

In this Tuesday, May 13, 2014 photo, Dina Abdalla, left, and Leila Abdul Razzaq, of Students for Justice in Palestine, talk to a fellow student in front of an "apartheid wall" their group created to promote voting for divestment at DePaul University in Chicago.

Rachel Zoll
AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The lecture hall had filled quickly. Several students arrived wearing keffiyehs, the traditional Palestinian headscarves, while in the front row, a young man sat draped in the Israeli flag. As the meeting opened, a student government officer reviewed the rules of debate, warning physical confrontations would not be tolerated. "We want this to be safe for everyone," she said.

It was time for a ritual that has become increasingly commonplace on many American college campuses: a student government body, in this case at the University of California, Davis, would take up Israeli policy toward the Palestinians, and decide whether to demand their school divest from companies that work with the Jewish state.

In the United States, Israel's closest ally, the decade-old boycott-divestment-sanctions, or BDS, movement is making its strongest inroads by far on college campuses. No U.S. school has sold off stock and none is expected to do so anytime soon. Still, the current academic year is seeing an increasing number of divestment drives at colleges and universities, stretching from the University of California system to Northwestern University and beyond. Since January alone, student governments at four universities have taken divestment votes.

While the campaigns unfold around resolutions largely proposed by chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine, outside groups have become increasingly involved — from American Muslims for Palestine and the Quakers' American Friends Service Committee, on one side, to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, on the other. At some campuses, candidates for student government are being asked their views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The heated rhetoric has led to claims of anti-Semitism and of infringement on free speech.

"I don't think anyone is surprised when they hear a BDS movement is coming," said Ira Stup, a 2009 Columbia University graduate and former director of J Street U, the college arm of the liberal pro-Israel lobby J Street, which opposes BDS. "It's becoming a regular occurrence."

"It's creating a debate. It's creating a significant amount of conversation in the entire community and it's set on the terms the activists want it to be set on," said Rahim Kurwa, a doctoral candidate and member of Students for Justice in Palestine at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The boycott-divestment-sanctions movement grew from a 2005 international call from Palestinian groups as an alternative to armed struggle over control of the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, which Israel captured in 1967 and Palestinians seek for an independent state.

BDS advocates say the movement, based on the campaign against South

African apartheid decades ago, is aimed at Israeli policy, not Jews, in response to two decades of failed peace talks and expanded Israeli settlement of the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

But supporters of Israel say that boycotting the country is no way to make peace, especially since many BDS supporters do not differentiate between protesting Jewish settlements on occupied lands or Israel as a whole.

In the U.S., activists have pressed for boycotts of Israeli products and cultural events, and for divestment by churches and investment funds. None of these efforts has gained as much momentum in the U.S. as the campus divestment movement.

College activists organize lectures and workshops on Israeli policy and Palestinian history, while staging protests that include mock Israeli military checkpoints, or a mock West Bank separation barrier that activists call an "Israel apartheid wall." Flash mobs perform the dabke, or Arabic folk dance, to highlight Palestinian culture.

Advocates write op-eds for campus newspapers with appeals to protect Palestinian human rights, often accusing Israel of colonialism and racism. Pro-Israel groups counter with their own demonstrations, lectures and opinion pieces. When divestment proposals come up for a vote before student governments, the hearings can last for days, drawing campus-wide attention, whether or not the measure prevails. The 2013 hearings at UC-San Diego stretched over three weeks.

"It helps get the plight of the Palestinian people into mainstream discourse," said Taher Herzallah, national campus coordinator for American Muslims for Palestine, an Illinois-based education and advocacy group that provides advice and support for student activists.

Protesters at some schools have taken a harder line in their activism. Palestinian advocates generally will not engage in dialogue or joint public events with pro-Israel students, calling such interactions "faithwashing" meant to weaken the movement.

Last year at Ohio University in Athens, student senate president Megan Marzec accepted an ALS ice bucket challenge, but instead of ice she poured fake blood over her head in what she said was "a message of student concern of the genocide in Gaza."

"There definitely is a sharpness to the anti-Israel side that's uncomfortable," said Hal Ossman, executive director of the Jewish campus group Hillel at Cornell University, where a divestment proposal failed to win passage last year.

The student divestment votes are symbolic. University administrators and boards — not student governments — oversee investments, and trustees have rejected the resolutions for several reasons, including that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is too complex to single out one country.

Only a few dozen student governments have cast ballots on divestment proposals

since 2012. Of those votes, about a dozen have won passage.

Yet, the number of campus campaigns has grown steadily in recent years, and Israel and Palestinian advocates say the 2014-15 academic year, which started soon after Israel's war with the militant group Hamas in Gaza, is shaping up as one of the busiest so far.

Nowhere is the impact more evident than the University of California system. Student governments at five of the 10 UC campuses have voted for divestment. Two more, Santa Cruz and Davis, did the same, but the votes were thrown out over procedural issues. Since December, divestment also won the backing of the labor union UAW2865 representing thousands of teaching assistants and other workers for the entire UC system, and the University of California Students Association, which represents student government bodies statewide.

The UC Board of Regents has said they would only divest from companies working in a country that the U.S. government said was committing genocide. But the West coalition of Students for Justice in Palestine is pressing ahead.

"The movement is getting more and more organized. They're learning from their own best practices," said Roz Rothstein, chief executive and co-founder of the California-based group Stand With Us, which helps train students to defend the Jewish state. "The strategy is being shared across campuses."

The gains have spawned a kind of ideological arms race on campus: Both sides have been building up networks to support student activists.

American Muslims for Palestine provides posters, speakers and a step-by-step planning guide for demonstrations; another handbook is distributed by the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation. The Institute for Middle East Understanding, an educational and advocacy group for Palestinians, the American Friends Service Committee and Jewish Voice for Peace, a national group that supports BDS, help with organizing or media strategies. In 2013, the Palestine Solidarity Legal Support Fund launched with the help of the Center for Constitutional Rights and others, to provide legal advice and representation for activists. At last year's annual meeting of National Students for Justice in Palestine, about 120 schools registered, the organization said.

Meanwhile, every major American Jewish group has in some way put resources into countering the college divestment movement and the uptick in anti-Israel activity. These include the Israeli on Campus Coalition, Stand With Us, CAMERA on Campus, The David Project and AIPAC. Among the newer groups is the California-based AMCHA Initiative, which aggressively watches for anti-Semitism on campus.

"There was a huge surge in anti-Israel activism, and then you saw the pro-Israel community respond with an even larger surge of pro-Israel activism," said Jacob Baime, executive director of the Israel on

Campus Coalition, which works closely with Hillel, the national Jewish campus organization.

At some schools, student government candidates are being asked to state their position on Israel — and AIPAC has suggested students solicit position papers from the candidates. At UCLA, Palestinian advocates asked student government candidates to sign a pledge that they wouldn't take Israel trips organized by some pro-Israel groups. Some candidates signed on.

The push for divestment comes at a time when the American Jewish community, and especially younger Jews, are more divided than ever about Israeli policies, and pro-Israel groups worry about losing the support of a generation. It's also a time of a larger and better organized Muslim and Arab student presence on U.S. campuses.

However, the fight over Israel is not playing out strictly as Jew versus Muslim, or Jew versus Arab, even though members of each group play prominent roles, according to Cary Nelson, a retired English professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and co-editor of the book, "The Case Against Academic Boycotts of Israel." The BDS movement in the U.S., he said, is emerging "from the heart of the American left."

Advocates for Palestinians have linked divestment to social justice movements against racism, militarization and globalization that are important to many college students. United Students Against Sweatshops, which focuses on labor rights, endorsed National Students for Justice in Palestine. In 2013, the council of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association endorsed a boycott of Israeli academic institutions. Campus divestment advocates often come to student government hearings with the backing of student associations for blacks, South Asians, Mexican-Americans, gays and others.

"Drawing these connections cross-struggle has been huge for our movement," said Tory Smith, a 2012 Earlham College graduate and member of National Students for Justice in Palestine.

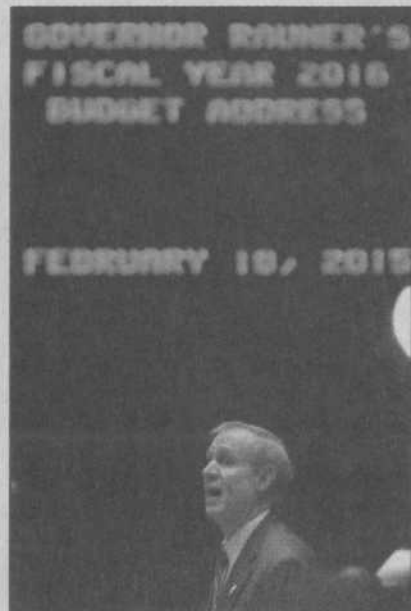
The increased activism has spread alarm about anti-Semitism on campus. After the divestment hearing last month at UC Davis, the school's Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi was defaced with swastikas. Fraternity leaders said they believed they had been targeted over their support for Israel. The coalition of student groups that supported divestment condemned the vandalism.

At Temple University last year, a Jewish student was slapped by another student at a booth for Students for Justice in Palestine. The group condemned the assault and said the assailant was not a member of their organization.

After University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, junior Daniel Pearlman spoke last year against an ultimately unsuccessful divestment proposal, he said he was "terrified" by ugly name-calling on

SEE ISRAEL PAGE 5

Rauner budget could cut Amtrak trains



Seth Perlman | AP Photo

In this Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015 photo, Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner delivers his State of the Budget Address to a joint session of the General Assembly in Springfield Ill. Rauner may have proposed a budget that includes no new taxes, but any Illinois resident who thinks they've dodged an increase may want to wait a bit. Democrats say they'll continue to push for a hike, either in Illinois' income tax or other sources, to avoid some of the huge cuts the GOP governor proposed.

Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Gov. Bruce Rauner's proposed state budget would cut 40 percent from Illinois' funding for Amtrak trains during a time when ridership has been climbing.

Passenger numbers and ticket revenues have grown during the past five years, according to an analysis by The (Springfield) State Journal-Register.

The Lincoln Service train between St. Louis and Chicago, for example, saw more than 633,000 passengers during the most recent federal fiscal year. That's a 25 percent increase from five years earlier.

Ridership on the Illini-Saluki line between Carbondale and Chicago went up 22 percent to nearly 316,000 passengers during the same period. The Illinois Zephyr between Quincy and Chicago saw nearly 215,000 riders in the most recent year, up 6.2 percent from five years earlier.

Amtrak passengers are people like Jacksonville residents John and Barbara Fritsche, who waited Thursday at a crowded station in Springfield for a popular late-afternoon train to Chicago. "We probably take it twice a month," John Fritsche said. "We can read and work, and not be stuck in traffic."

Rauner's budget proposes \$26 million in spending for Amtrak, a cut of \$16 million from the previous year's appropriation. Frequency of passenger trains will depend on the final funding approved by the Legislature, but an Amtrak spokesman said the Rauner budget would likely lead to service reductions.

"We do not believe the current funding recommended would be sufficient to maintain the current level of service," said Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari.

Under a cost formula worked out in 2013 between Amtrak and some state transportation departments, Illinois pays 85 percent of the cost of state corridor routes, with ticket revenues paying 15 percent. The formula stemmed from a change in federal law to make Amtrak funding from states more equitable.

The Illinois Department of Transportation released a statement on funding saying the agency "is working closely with the governor's office on finding solutions to the serious fiscal problems facing the state." The department said it would keep customers "appraised as the budget process moves forward."

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LIFESTYLE

Students celebrate the Chinese New Year

Brittany Webb
Staff Writer

Many people here at Parkland celebrate the Chinese New Year (also called the Spring Festival or Lunar New Year), a 15 day long festivity observed in China, Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, and the Philippines among other countries. It is a time for all generations to honor the traditions of their culture. The celebration of the New Year includes family time, large feasts, and small gifts.

Jialu Li, a sophomore in Electrical Engineering, said the most important part of the Spring Festival is to gather with family and eat good food while reminiscing on the good parts of the past year. Her favorite part was the small gifts, given in red envelopes, called lucky money. Li explained that celebrating the New Year isn't quite the same now that she lives here in America.

"It used to be the lucky money part since I could buy new clothes and studying materials when I was young," Li said. "If I was in China, I would definitely come back home and visit my family."

Tae Kim, a Korean student here at Parkland, explained that the New Year is also honored in his country. His family also gets together and eats different kinds of food, shares New Year wishes and plays games. Kim's favorite thing about the New Year's celebration is getting together with family and eating good food.

"We Korean celebrate both January 1st of lunar calendar and that of western-solar calendar," Kim said.

The Alliance of International Students at Parkland holds an international coffee hour once a month. This



Above pictured are Parkland students participating in a Lunar New Year game during an Alliance of International Students meeting.

month, the topic was the Lunar New Year.

"It was designed to be a social hour for international students on campus as well as to bring together people from different cultures," Amber Landis, Associate Professor in the Humanities Department here at Parkland, said.

To be here in America during this time of year can sometimes be difficult for International Students, as

they would prefer to celebrate the New Year with their friends and family.

"That was why our group wanted to have a coffee hour about it," Kim commented. "Some international students who are from Asia might have difficult time during lunar New Year day, because they might feel alone and miss their family so much."

There are different traditions depending on where

in Asia one's family resides. In China, the most important meal is the New Year's Eve dinner. It is a family reunion dinner, where members of the family who have moved away come home to eat with relatives.

Fish is normally served, along with dumplings, which signify prosperity during the New Year. In Korea, families make food and drink offerings to the spirits of their ancestors.

A soup with thinly sliced rice cakes, called duk gook is eaten, or sometimes with dumplings. The white rice cakes in the soup are said to represent a clean start to the New Year.

Holding with tradition of the New Year, the Alliance of International Students gave red envelopes containing chocolate coins. In China, the red envelope contains money, anywhere from one to a few thousand yuan (\$1-\$300) which the children, unmarried young adults, and elderly use for clothes, school supplies and other inspiring gifts.

"When I was a kid, I could receive lucky money in red envelopes from my relatives, which encouraged me to study harder and better in school," Li said.

The Chinese New Year is a time for family and tradition, a time for all to come together and celebrate the year, whether good or bad. All cultures have similar celebrations, whether it is Thanksgiving in America, the Day of the Dead in Mexico, or Yom Kippur in Israel.

Family and tradition are important in all cultures, no matter the time of the year they are celebrated.

For more information on the International Coffee Hours contact Amber Landis at alandis@parkland.edu.

Debate rages over color of dress photographed in rare light

Shawn Pogatchnik
Associated Press

It's the dress that's beating the Internet black and blue. Or should that be gold and white?

Friends and co-workers worldwide are debating the true hues of a royal blue dress with black lace that, to many an eye, transforms in one photograph into gold and white. Experts are calling the photo a one-in-a-million shot that perfectly captures how people's brains perceive color and process contrast in dramatically different ways.

"This photo provides the best test I've ever seen for how the process of color correction works in the brain," said Daniel Hardiman-McCartney, the clinical adviser to Britain's College of Optometrists. "I've never seen a photo like before where so many people look at the same photo and see two sets of such dramatically different colors."

The photo, taken earlier this month before a wedding on the remote Scottish island of Colonsay, also illustrates the dynamics of a perfect social-media storm. Guests at the wedding could not understand why, in one photo of the dress being worn by the mother of the bride, the clearly blue and black-striped garment transformed into gold and white. But only in that single photo, and only for around half of the viewers.

The debate spread from the wedding to the Internet, initially from friend to perplexed friend on Facebook.

One such wedding guest, musician and singer Caitlin McNeill, posted the photo Thursday night to her Tumblr account with the question: "Guys please help me. Is this dress white and gold, or

blue and black? Me and my friends can't agree and we are freaking the (expletive) out." She's consistently seen gold.

One of her friends, Alana MacInnes, saw gold and white for the first hour, then black and blue. Buzzfeed sensed clickbait heaven and, amid its own newsroom argument, was among the first to call McNeill. It posted more than a half-dozen stories on the image and the tsunami of reaction.

On Twitter, #TheDress and variants surged to the top of trending lists globally within hours. The entertainment elite then chimed in.

Taylor Swift saw the dress was "obviously" blue and black. "What's the matter with u guys, it's white and gold," countered Julianne Moore. Kim Kardashian, never one to miss a trending topic, reported she was seeing gold but to husband Kanye West, it was solidly black and blue. "Who is color blind?" Kardashian asked the twitterati.

The answer, says Hardiman-McCartney, is that every viewer seeing either set of colors is right.

He says the exceptional bar-code style of the dress, combined with the strongly yellow-toned backlighting in the one photo, provides the brain a rare chance to "choose" which of the dress' two primary colors should be seen in detail.

Those who subconsciously seek detail in the many horizontal black lines convert them to a golden hue, so the blue disappears into a blown-out white, he said.

Others whose brains focus on the blue part of the dress see the photo as the black-and-blue reality.

"There's no correct way to perceive this photograph. It sits right on the cusp,

or balance, of how we perceive the color of a subject versus the surrounding area," he said. "And this color consistency illusion that we're experiencing doesn't mean there's anything wrong with your eyes. It just shows how your brain chooses to see the image, to process this luminescence confusion."

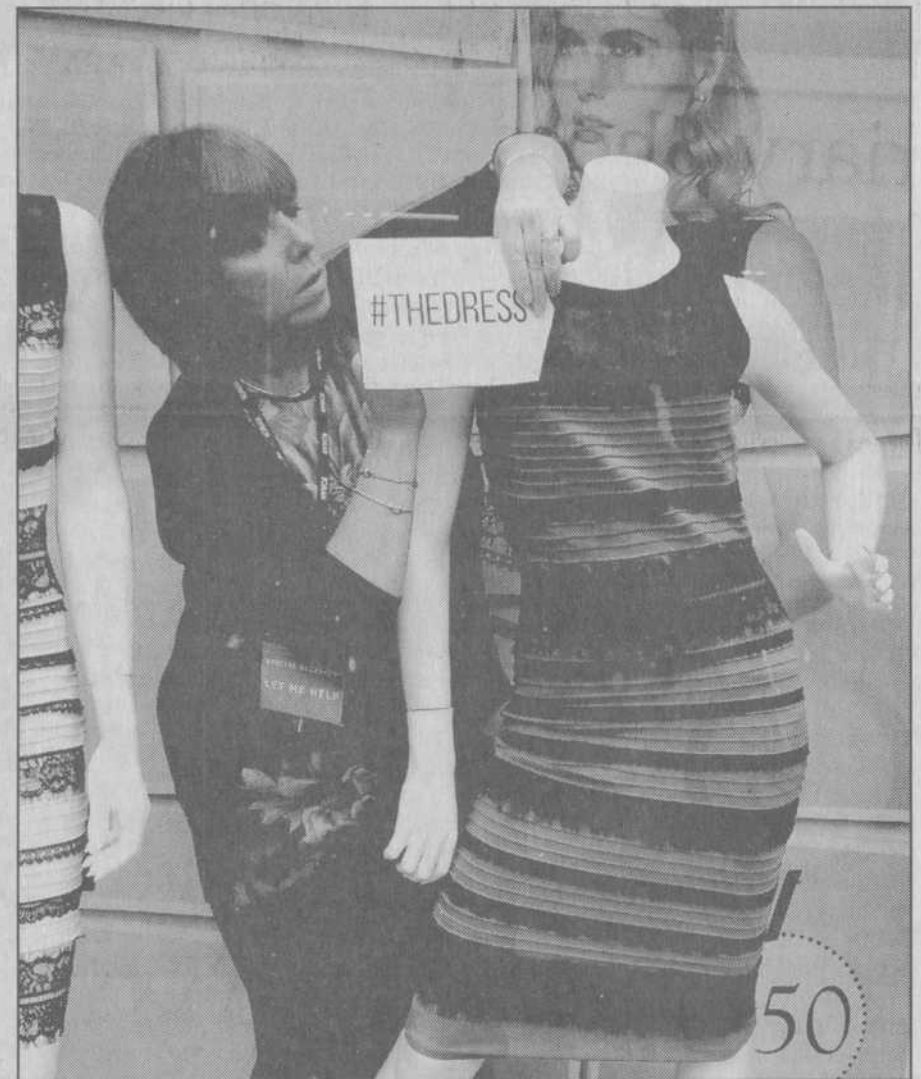
The photo produced a deluge of media calls Friday to the Tumblr reporter, 21-year-old McNeill, who calls the seemingly endless phone calls "more than I've received in the entirety of the rest of my life combined." She says the photographer, who is also the mother of the bride, never wanted the publicity.

There's one clear winner: English dress retailer Roman Originals, which has reported a million hits on its sales site in the first 18 hours following the photo's worldwide distribution.

"I can officially say that this dress is royal blue with black lace trimming," said Michele Bastock, design director at Roman Originals.

She said staff members had no idea that the dress, when shot in that singularly peculiar light, might be perceived in a totally different color scheme. Not until Friday anyway, when they arrived at work to field hundreds of emails, calls and social media posts. They, too, split almost 50-50 on the photo's true colors.

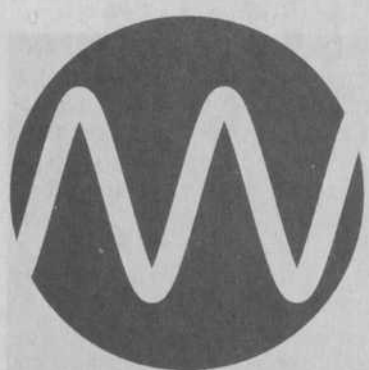
All agreed, however, the dress for the Birmingham, England-based retailer was likely to become their greatest-ever seller. The chain's website Friday headlined its product as "#TheDress now back in stock — debate now."



Rui Vieira | AP Photo

Shop manager Debbie Armstrong adjusts a two tone dress in a window display of a shop in Lichfield, England, Friday Feb. 27, 2015. It's the dress that's beating the Internet black and blue. Or should that be gold and white? Friends and co-workers worldwide are debating the true hues of a royal blue dress with black lace that, to many an eye, transforms in one photograph into gold and white.

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REINVENTING AN ALTERNATIVE

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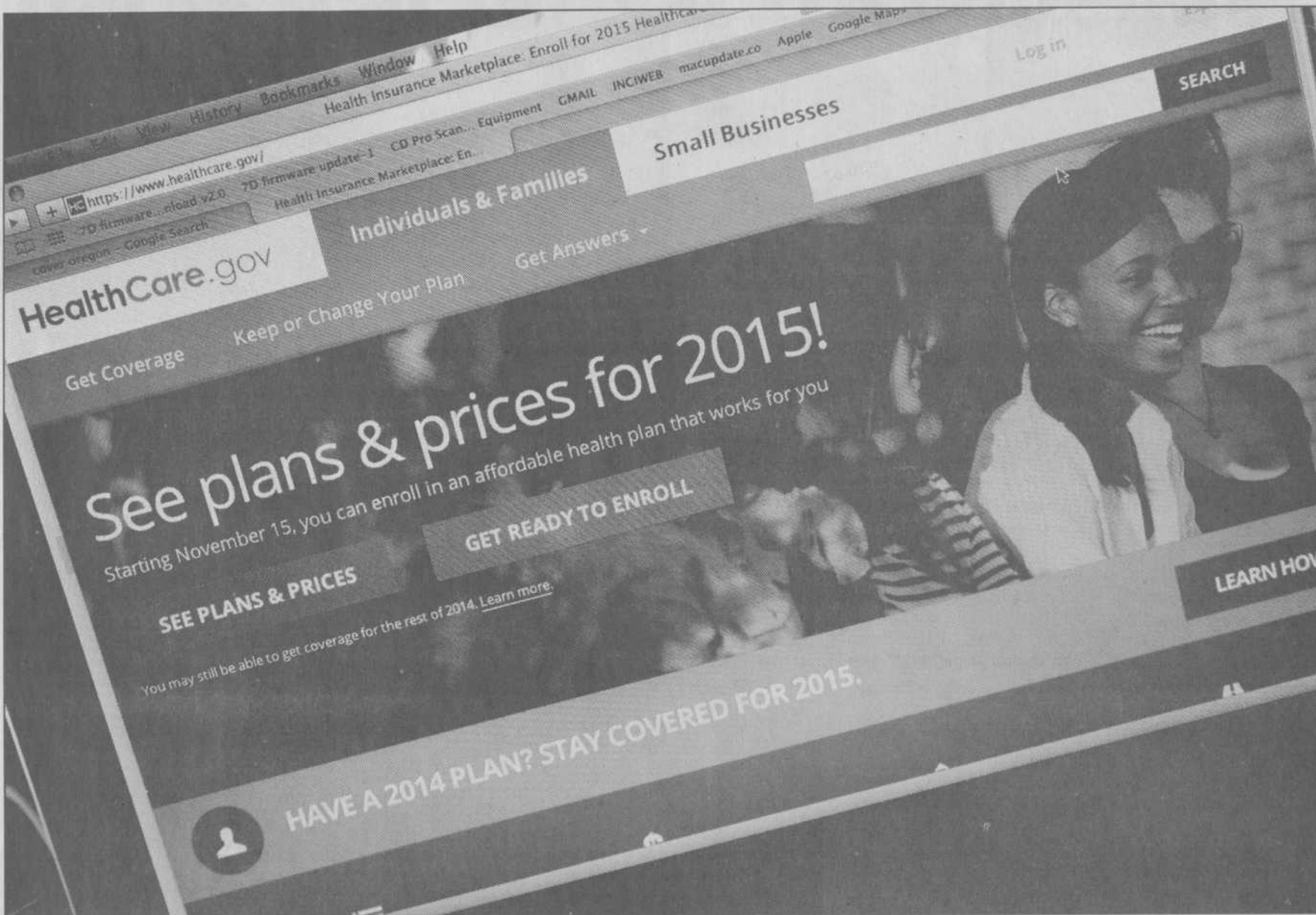
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OPINIONS

Millions affected if health subsidies are barred



In this Nov. 12, 2014 file photo, the HealthCare.gov website, where people can buy health insurance, on a laptop screen, is seen in Portland, Ore. Insurance coverage for millions of people is riding on the latest politically charged Supreme Court clash over President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. The case being argued Wednesday focuses on who's eligible for federal tax subsidies intended to make health coverage affordable. Three years after Chief Justice John Roberts saved Obama's health law in an epic, election-year fight over its constitutionality, the chief justice could again hold the pivotal vote.

GOP Senators pledge help to those affected

ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three leading Republican senators are promising to help millions of people who may lose federal health insurance subsidies if the Supreme Court invalidates a pillar of President Barack Obama's health care law.

But in a Washington Post opinion article, GOP Sens. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, John Barrasso of Wyoming and Orrin Hatch of Utah provide no detail on how much assistance they would propose, its duration or how they would pay for it. Nor do they address how they would overcome GOP divisions or Democratic opposition to weakening the law.

The article appeared days before Wednesday's oral arguments in a case brought by conservatives and Republicans that could end the functioning of the 2010 health care law by invalidating the subsidies that help millions afford required health coverage. A decision is expected in June.

The senators' article is the latest

political salvo that seems aimed as much at the court's nine justices as at the public. Last week, Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell said nullifying the subsidies would cause "massive damage to our health care system."

Congressional Republicans unanimously opposed the law's creation and have long worked on plans to weaken and replace it. They have not united behind a specific proposal.

In their column, the three senators acknowledge that if their side prevails in court, 6 million Americans could lose subsidies and many would no longer afford coverage. They call the case "an opportunity" to reshape the law and say they "have a plan to protect these people and create a bridge away from" the statute.

"First and most important, we would provide financial assistance to help Americans keep the coverage they picked for a transitional period," they wrote.

Without saying how, they wrote that they would also give states more flexibility to create their own health insurance marketplaces. And they blame the health law for problems like forcing many Americans to surrender their previous insurance and doctors.

"People do not deserve further disruption from the law," they wrote.

Democrats say the law has forced insurers to cover more benefits and cite figures showing a dramatic reduction in the number of uninsured Americans.



In this photo taken Feb. 24, 2015, Kimberly Davis talks about the medications she now takes to slow the progression of her multiple sclerosis, at her home in Jackson, Miss. The Supreme Court will hear arguments next week over whether millions of people covered by the nation's health care law can legally continue to get financial help to pay for their insurance. If the court says no, millions of consumers across more than 30 states could lose federal subsidies for their premiums.

Plaintiffs in the case say the Obama administration has unlawfully given federal tax credits to Americans who have bought health coverage from federal insurance marketplaces serving 37 states, which are mostly run by Republicans.

They say the law as written only permits that aid in the 13 states running their own marketplaces.

Democrats say people in all states qualify for assistance.

Alexander chairs the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, Hatch heads the Senate Finance Committee and Barrasso is in the Senate Republican leadership.

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Illinois' benefits remain an issue

Michael Tarm
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A federal appeals court has declined to tackle the issue of whether Illinois' constitution bars the reduction of health care benefits for retired public-sector employees in Chicago.

A unanimous six-page decision by a three-judge panel of 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, said the dispute is still winding its way through state channels and that it won't intervene.

"We are reluctant to resolve a novel issue of state constitutional law," the opinion, written by Judge Frank Easterbrook, said. "The federal judiciary has an institutional interest in allowing states to resolve novel issues of state law."

The case before the panel stemmed from a lawsuit from retired city police and others that argued the state constitution and U.S. contract law should have prohibited the city from forcing retirees to pay more for their health care in a cost-saving measure.

In a related but broader case, the Illinois Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the constitutionality of the state's landmark pension overhaul next month.

The high court already ruled last summer that the state constitution rules out reductions of health care benefits for retired state workers.

While the 7th Circuit did not say one way or another how the Illinois constitution might affect Chicago policy on retirees' health care payments in Wednesday's filing, it did vacate a U.S. district court finding that the state constitution would not render that policy unlawful.

A lawyer for the retirees, Clinton A. Krislov, said Thursday that the decision to kick the case back to state courts — which he said tended to be sympathetic to the retirees' legal position — was a victory.

"We couldn't be happier," he said. "This is exactly what we wanted... to send the issue back to the state."

The city's law department said it was pleased the court rejected plaintiffs' arguments that were grounded in U.S. contract law. But at the same time, the department said, it was "disappointed that, instead of also ruling on plaintiffs' state law claims, it remanded those claims to state court."

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Officials: US report finds racial bias in Ferguson Police Department

Eric Tucker
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Justice Department investigation found sweeping patterns of racial bias within the Ferguson, Missouri, police department, with officers routinely discriminating against blacks by using excessive force, issuing petty citations and making baseless traffic stops, according to law enforcement officials familiar with its findings.

The report, to be released as soon as Wednesday, marks the culmination of a months-long investigation into a police department that federal officials have described as troubled and that commanded national attention after one of its officers shot and killed an unarmed black man, 18-year-old Michael Brown, last summer.

It chronicles discriminatory practices across the city's criminal justice system, detailing problems from initial encounters with patrol officers to treatment in the municipal court and jail.

Federal law enforcement officials described its contents on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly before the report is released.

The full report could serve as a roadmap for significant changes by the department, if city officials accept its findings. Past federal investigations of local police departments have encouraged overhauls of fundamental police procedures such as traffic stops and the use of service weapons.

The investigation, which began weeks after Brown's killing last August, is being released as Attorney General Eric Holder prepares to leave his job following

a six-year tenure that focused largely on civil rights. The findings are based on interviews with police leaders and residents, a review of more than 35,000 pages of police records and analysis of data on stops, searches and arrests.

Federal officials found that black motorists from 2012 to 2014 were more than twice as likely as whites to be searched in traffic stops, even though they were 26 percent less likely to be found carrying contraband, according to a summary of the findings.

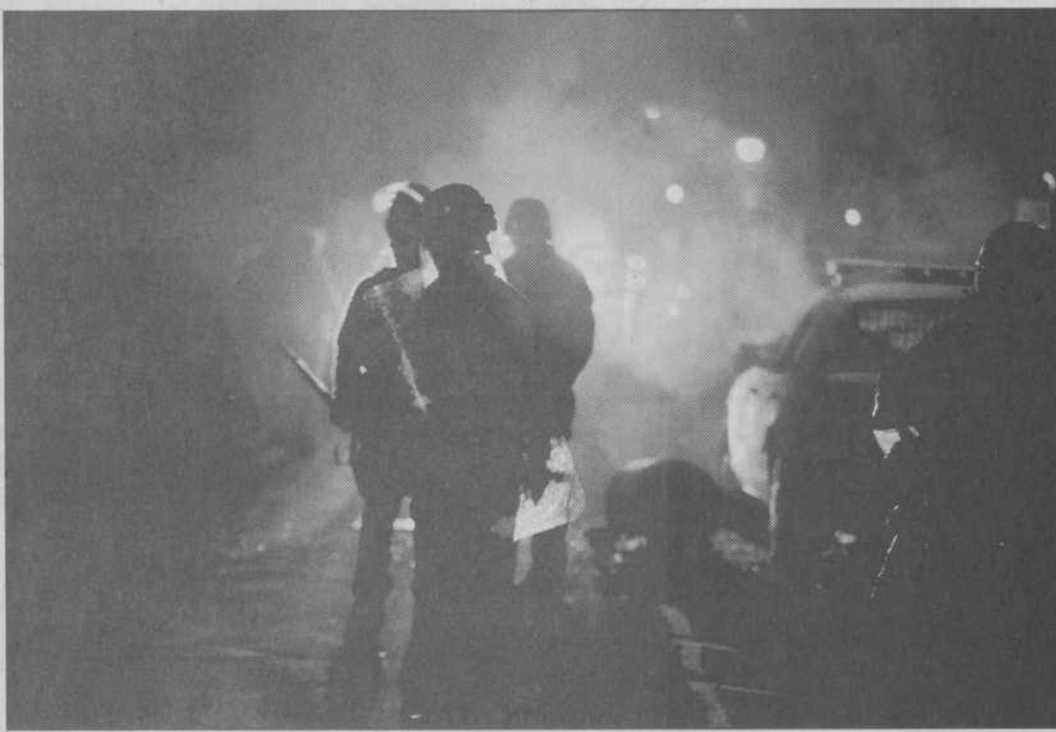
The review also found that blacks were 68 percent less likely than others to have their cases dismissed by a municipal court judge. And from April to September of last year, 95 percent of people kept at the city jail for more than two days were black, it found.

Of the cases in which the police department documented the use of force, 88 percent involved blacks, and victims of the 14 dog bites recorded by the department all were black.

Overall, African Americans make up 67 percent of the population of Ferguson, about 10 miles north of downtown St. Louis. The police department has been criticized as racially imbalanced and not reflective of the community's demographic makeup.

Brown's killing set off weeks of protests and initiated a national dialogue about police use of force and their relations with minority communities. A separate report to be issued soon is expected to clear the officer, Darren Wilson, of federal civil rights charges.

Ben Crump, the attorney for the Brown family, said that if the reports about the findings are true, they "confirm what Michael Brown's family has believed all along, and that is that the tragic killing of an unarmed 18-year-old black teenager was part of a systemic



In this Nov. 25, 2014 file photo, police officers watch protesters as smoke fills the streets in Ferguson, Mo., after a grand jury's decision in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown. A Justice Department investigation has found patterns of racial bias in the Ferguson police department and at the municipal jail and court. The full report, to be publicly released on March 4, says the investigation found Ferguson officers disproportionately used excessive force against blacks and too often charged them with petty offenses.

pattern of inappropriate policing of African-American citizens in the Ferguson community."

The report provides direct evidence of racial bias among police officers and court workers, and details a criminal justice system that issues citations for petty infractions such as walking in the middle of the street, putting the raising of revenue from fines ahead of

public safety. The physical tussle that led to Brown's death began after Wilson told him and a friend to move from the street to the sidewalk.

The practice hits poor people especially hard, sometimes leading to jail time when they can't pay, the

SEE BIAS PAGE 5

FROM PAGE 2

ISRAEL

Twitter and Facebook and comments that he said left Jewish students feeling targeted — "They mentioned genocide, apartheid, ethnic cleansing."

In 2010, at the urging of 13 leading Jewish groups, Education Secretary Arne Duncan extended protection to Jewish students under the Title VI civil rights law. So far, no violations have been found, a department spokesman said.

Advocates for Palestinians have made their own complaints of harassment and intimidation against school administrators and pro-Israel groups.

The Students for Justice in Palestine chapter at Loyola University Chicago was temporarily suspended after some of its members tried to register for one of the Taglit-Birthright Israel trips that are meant to bond young American Jews with Israel as their ancestral homeland.

After a review, administrators concluded

neither the Jewish nor Palestinian students had properly registered their activities, but no one was found guilty of harassment.

At Barnard College in New York, the Students for Justice in Palestine chapter said their free speech rights had been violated when administrators removed a banner promoting "Israel Apartheid Week," part of a protest held throughout North America and Europe. Pro-Israel students said the placement of the sign, which had a drawing of Israel and the territories without any internal borders, implied an official school endorsement. Barnard administrators said they would review their display policy.

Dima Khalidi, director of the Palestine Solidarity Legal Support Fund, said her group received 230 requests for help in 2014, and about 70 percent came from college students and faculty who said they were being harassed or unfairly punished by school administrators, or their activism had been curtailed through excessive security fees for their school events or administrators' requests for the name of

every student participant.

As the BDS movement has gained traction, many pro-Israel groups have begun to ask whether their approach so far has helped their cause or has inadvertently inflated the significance of the opposition.

Pro-Israel students at some campuses have decided to no longer attend divestment hearings, saying their presence gives the proceedings an unwarranted legitimacy.

And some Jewish students say the threat of anti-Semitism at colleges has been overblown. Jewish community leaders are debating whether resources would be better spent on projects among Palestinians and Israelis that aim to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Rothstein, of Stand With Us, disagrees. She said Palestinian advocates arrive at school each year "prepared to go on the attack," so her organization will be expanding to counter them. "We're trying to grow and scale up," she said, "as fast as we can."

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FROM PAGE 4

BIAS

report says, and has contributed to a cynicism about the police on the part of citizens.

Among the report's findings was a racially tinged 2008 message in a municipal email account stating that President Barack Obama would not be president for very long because "what black man holds a steady job for four years."

The department has conducted roughly 20 broad civil rights investigations of police departments during Holder's tenure, including Cleveland, Newark, New Jersey and Albuquerque.

Most such investigations end with police departments agreeing to change their practices.

Justice Department officials were in St. Louis on Tuesday to brief Ferguson leaders about the findings, a city official said.

Several messages seeking comment from Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson and Mayor James Knowles III were not returned. A secretary for Jackson said he is not doing media interviews.

Knowles has previously said the city is attracting a large pool of applicants to police jobs, including minority candidates seeking the position left vacant by Wilson's resignation.

John Gaskin III, a St. Louis community activist, praised the findings, saying "Ferguson police have to see the light in how they deal with people of color."

"It's quite evident that change is coming down the pike. This is encouraging," he said. "It's so unfortunate that Michael Brown had to be killed. But in spite of that, I feel justice is coming."

Jim Salter and Jim Suhr in St. Louis and Alan Scher Zagier in Ferguson contributed to this report.

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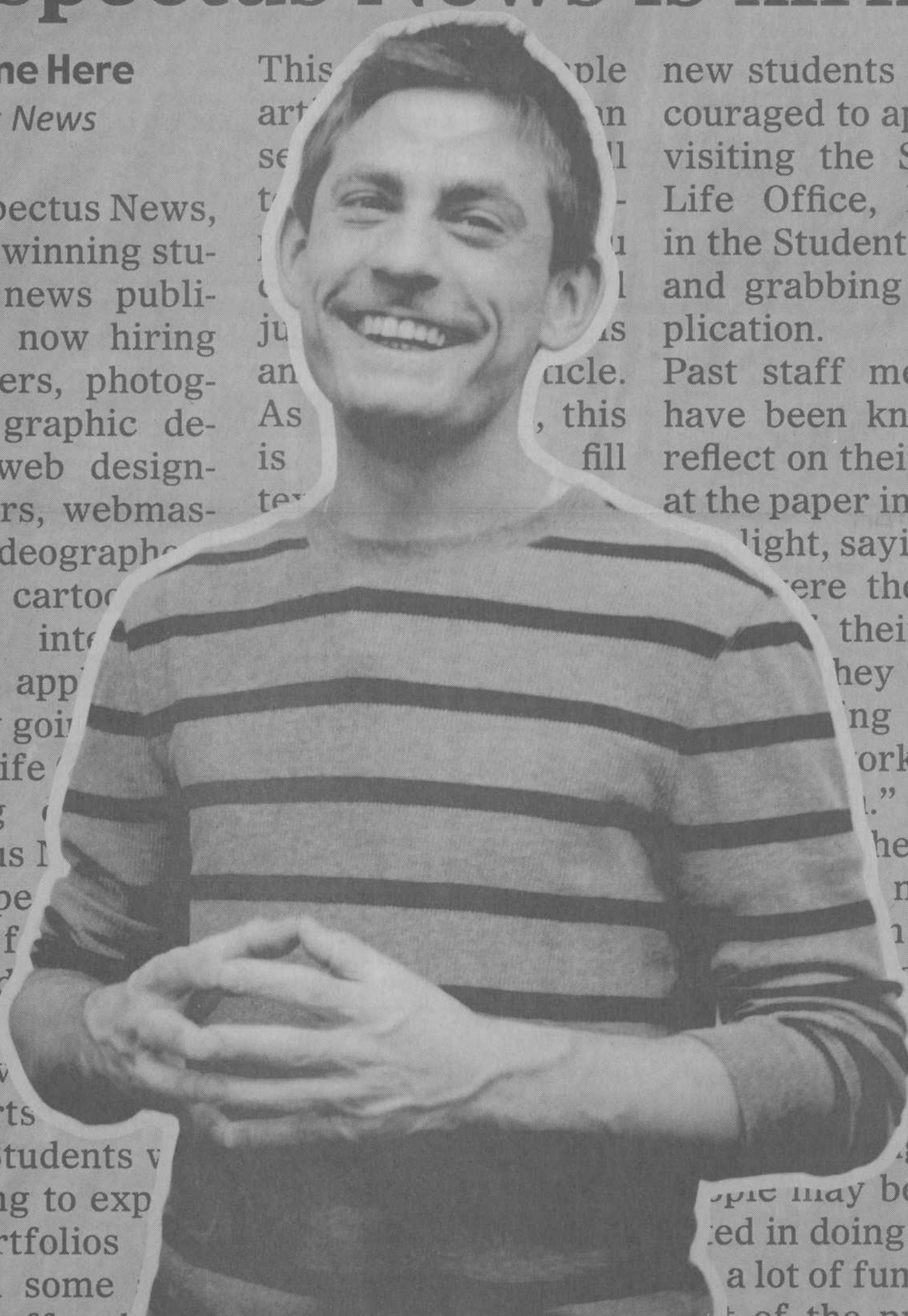
Prospectus News is hiring!

Your Name Here
Prospectus News

The Prospectus News, an award winning student-run news publication, is now hiring new writers, photographers, graphic designers, web designers, editors, webmasters, videographers and cartoonists. Students interested should apply as a person by going to the Student Life Office by going to Prospectus News. The Prospectus News is known for some and ground pieces in dal, sports politics. Students are looking to expand their portfolios get in on some stuff.

This article... new students are encouraged to apply by visiting the Student Life Office, located in the Student Union, and grabbing an application. Past staff members have been known to reflect on their years at the paper in a positive light, saying that were the "best of their life," they "Would love to go work on the paper."

Another thing may be doing another people interested in this is that topic may be interested in doing about a lot of fun to be a part of the program.



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COMICS & PUZZLES

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Events

Do you have an event you'd like to add to our calendar? Email it to prospectus.production@gmail.com

Thursday (3/5)

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Presently Absent: Paintings by Tom Berenzin in the Parkland Gallery.

Saturday (3/7)

10:00 a.m. - Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland in the S Building.

Noon - Presently Absent: Paintings by Tom Berenzin in the Parkland Gallery.

7:00 p.m. - "Zula Patrol: Down to Earth" in the Planetarium.

8:00 PM "Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity" in the Planetarium

Tuesday (3/10)

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Presently Absent: Paintings by Tom Berenzin in the Parkland Gallery.

Upcoming:

3/11 10:30 AM State University Transfer Day

3/11 11:00 a.m. - Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland in the S Building.

3/13 10:00 AM Spring 2015 Open House & Majors Fair in the Student Union

For a full list of Parkland events, go to <http://bit.ly/1FQzHQc>.

Friday (3/6)

7:00 p.m. - "The fear factor of GMO plants" in the Planetarium

8:00 PM "Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity" in the Planetarium

Monday (3/9)

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Presently Absent: Paintings by Tom Berenzin in the Parkland Gallery.

Last week's answers

Sudoku #7

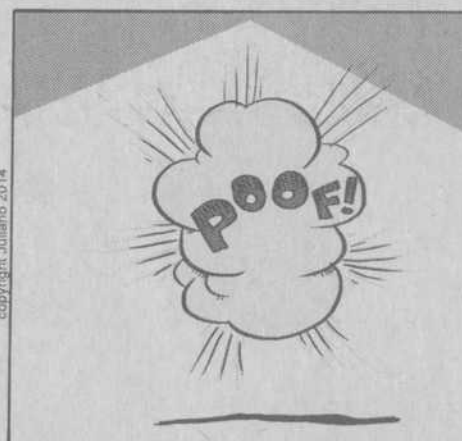
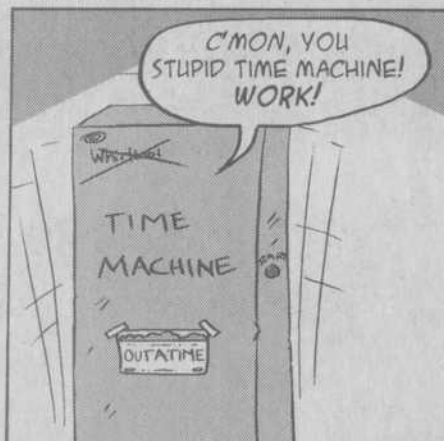
1	6	5	3	7	4	9	2	8
4	2	8	6	5	9	7	3	1
7	3	9	8	2	1	6	5	4
2	9	7	1	8	3	4	6	5
3	4	1	5	6	7	8	9	2
8	5	6	9	4	2	3	1	7
9	8	4	2	1	6	5	7	3
6	7	2	4	3	5	1	8	9
5	1	3	7	9	8	2	4	6

Sudoku (easy)

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

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Best in Show



by Phil Juliano



Amper sand by B. Deutsch

Crossword (solve for the answers below)

1	2		3		4		5	6		7		8		9
10					11									
12								13						
14		15		16		17				18				
19						20				21		22		23
24										25				
26													27	
28												29		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Seed that follows command to open? (6)
 - 5 Takes a break, having a day in France surrounded by rolling sand (8)
 - 10 Made a phone call and spoke (4)
 - 11 Enrage a repeat sex pervert (10)
 - 12 Grain, and what to do with it, we hear? (6)
 - 13 Gave someone a ring and made a suggestion (8)
 - 14 Recent recruit finally deserts to fight in irregular army - becoming this? (9)
 - 18 Secured return of silver money... (5)
 - 19 ...money that gives difficulty to the French (5)
 - 20 Experienced peacekeepers found west of the river (9)
 - 24 Steps taken by those who get their skates on? (3,5)
 - 25 Drink some Schweppes with liqueur (6)
 - 26 External cell tissue in nerve-ending to trap gas (10)
 - 27 I happen to kiss a goat! (4)
 - 28 Government department makes attempt to conceal a ruse that's gone wrong (8)
 - 29 Neat drives (6)
- DOWN**
- 2 Learned English and Italian in an uncultured environment (7)
 - 3 This does not describe a posh girl who is in prison endlessly (7)
 - 4 Merseyside? (7)
 - 6 As was Troy by Greeks, ultimately, in action (9)
 - 7 Maiden perhaps might get the upper hand (9)
 - 8 Drove, we hear, with good judgement - showing this (4-5)
 - 9 Firm has to rearrange dates quickly (9)
 - 14 In 1999, make a mistake over English books - causing hilarity (9)
 - 15 Upstanding father wears short protective coat with elastic material (9)
 - 16 They're discovered by pupils (9)
 - 17 Describes a Dutchman giving rebuke kindly? (9)
 - 21 Their properties should be permanently frozen (7)
 - 22 Martial law upheld without resistance by Eisenhower (7)
 - 23 Fallout can be expected from this type of family? (7)

Last week's answers

1	O	R	A	N	G	E	S	Q	U	A	S	H			
S	W	E	E	P	E	U	P								
S	T	A	N	N	A	T	O	R	P	I	N	K	O		
E	R	E	A	A	A	S	T								
11	O	R	D	U	R	E	12	V	I	O	L	E	T	T	A
U	A							S	A	G					
13	S	O	L	I	T	O	14	R	E	U	S	A	B	L	E
								O	E	A	D	U	L		
16	F	O	R	E	D	E	C	K	19	I	N	V	E	R	T
21	I	D						C		B					E
21	G	O	L	D	C	A	R	D	23	C	A	M	B	E	R
U	E	O	E					A	K	L	R				
26	R	U	S	T	Y	27	D	U	N	S	I	N	A	N	E
E	S	P	I	O	N	K	E								
28	P	U	T	T	I	N	G	G	R	E	E	N			



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SPORTS



Photos courtesy of Marketing and Public Relations | Parkland College

Lady Cobras On a Roll ...

Jordan Hannah
Staff Writer

The Parkland Women's Basketball Team has recently seen a great amount of success. According to Assistant Coach Bill Dobrik, the team sought to draw out its inner potential and go for big this season.

"It was my hope that we would have the opportunity to take the next step as a program and have an even better season than we did last year. I believed that we had the talent to do so but wanted to be sure that we lived up to our potential," Dobrik said.

Dobrik explained that this moment of success is not the only goal for this season. The team leads the NJCAA polls, has 28 wins, and only 1 loss, but Dobrik still believes the team can do better.

"Honestly, the ranking and the winning streak is nice but at this point in the season, it means next to nothing," Dobrik stated.

With the Regional Championship and Nationals looming in the near future, the team cannot afford to take a break now. Dobrik explained that being a part of the Regional Championship is very important to the organization.

"We have to be focused on playing our best basketball to end the season in order to give ourselves a chance to win the Region Championship and make it back out to the National Tournament," Dobrik explained.

Two of the team members also had their own input about their recent record. Both of which agreed with their coach, seeing their own potential for this season. Point Guard Laura Litchfield is a transfer student from Southwestern Illinois College. She explained how ready she felt for this season.

"I am more aggressive defensively and I'm guarding the ball and pressuring more," Litchfield stated. "When we pressure and dictate what our opponents do, it helps our transition game and helps everyone get involved. I think that's really important when we all get involved. We seem

to naturally flow."

Guard/Small Forward Nadine Vaughn is a sophomore and has seen firsthand what it takes to win. Vaughn also agreed with her coach, along with her teammate, that the team has potential for something greater than simply being NJCAA poll winners.

"I would have to say that making it to Nationals last year and finishing 5th in the nation was an eye opener to us sophomores," Vaughn stated. "We knew we were capable of being better than 5th and I feel that we have carried that energy over to our practices and getting our other teammates on board."

Both players elaborated on how they are preparing for this great achievement in order to capitalize on the hard work they have put in this season. According to the players, Coach Lindemann trains using techniques similar to real game situations.

"Every day at practice we are seeking to get better, and compete against one another in game situational drills," Vaughn explained.

Litchfield explained how their practices help the team prepare for future games and how she individually trains to become better at the game.

"I wasn't here last year but I can say that this year, Coach Lindemann has done a great job making our practices very competitive and game-like. Individually, we are all very competitive and hate losing so, when we practice with a no lose mentality, it transfers over to our games," Litchfield stated.

This all translates into the heavily trained team that is currently NCJAA record holders. Above all, the team simply wishes to thank the students of Parkland College.

"To all Parkland students and staff members, thank you for the support this season as it coming to the end," Vaughn said.

Students wanting to attend a game can find more information about the team and their upcoming schedule at <http://www.parkland.edu/athletics>.



Nadine Vaughn
Sophomore Forward



Laura Litchfield
Sophomore Guard



Chelsea Cross
Sophomore Forward



Hannah Wascher
Sophomore Center



Kennedy Hartman
Sophomore Guard



Haley Toohill
Freshman Guard



Cassidy Alderman
Freshman Guard



Josie Zerrusen
Freshman Forward



Bailey Trimble
Sophomore Guard



Lauren Moses
Freshman Center



Ashley Mitton
Freshman Forward



Morgan Zindars
Freshman Guard

ENTERTAINMENT

New second stage generating buzz

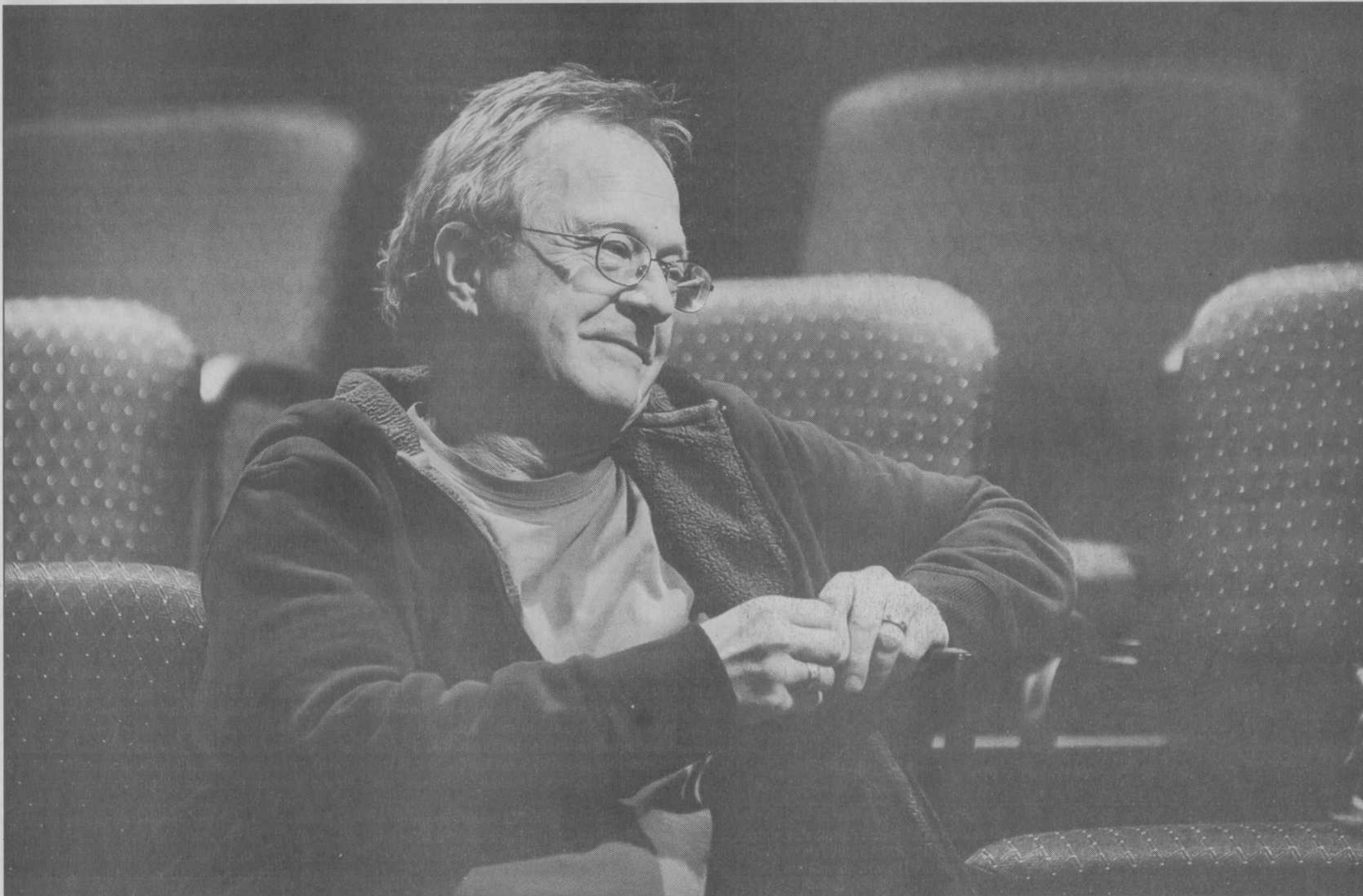


Photo by Scott Wells | Prospectus News

Director Gary Ambler watches a dress rehearsal of *The Sparrow* on Feb. 17, 2015. *The Sparrow* is the first production to be held in Parkland's new Black Box Theater.

Zach Trueblood
Staff Writer

The long awaited black box style theatre, the Parkland Theatre's Second Stage, is finally open and housing productions in the C-Wing. The first production to take place in the new theatre was "The Sparrow", which successfully drew attention from the student body here at Parkland and brought a lot of people through the theatre's doors. Most nights of production were completely sold out as many were eager to view a production on the new stage.

The Second Stage suits the play style of "in the round" very well. In this style, the audience is seated around the center of the stage. Actors perform very close to the audience and this, in turn, causes the audience to feel a closer connection to the performance.

Dallas Street is the Theatre Marketing and Business Manager. Street has been a crucial asset in getting the new stage ready for use. He explained how the idea and need for the new stage came about.

"I believe the idea originated with Vice President Seamus Reilly who, at the time, was the Department Chair for Fine and Applied Arts," Street stated. "We were in need of a smaller venue that not only serves as a theatre for smaller sized shows, but could be an all-purpose room for meetings and a dedicated space for acting and movement classes."

According to Street, the development for the Second Stage has taken nearly three and a half years. Two and a half of those years were spent on construction and one was spent on planning with architects. "Around the World in 80 Days" was supposed to premiere on the new stage last semester but that didn't happen because of construction delays. Now that the theatre is up and running, there should be plenty of show options throughout the following year.

"We've chosen some inventive shows for Parkland's 2015-16 Theatre season. Two will be in the Second Stage. One is titled 'Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom.' It's a very inventive play about gaming and zombies," Street claimed. "We'll also produce in the Second Stage 'The Curate Shakespeare As You Like It', a very clever reduction of Shakespeare's play told by a traveling troupe of actors. Our other two shows will be in our larger theater, 'Noises Off' and 'Fiddler on the Roof'."

The Artistic Program Director of Theatre Joi Hoffsommer detailed the many different ways in which the Second Stage will be used. It's not simply for productions

of plays or musicals. Many classes will be taught in the new space and even rented out to other acting companies in order to generate revenue and exposure for the venue.

"The greatest benefits for the students will be in learning to use two very different, but ubiquitous, styles of theatre spaces," Hoffsommer explained. "Of course, there are always the basics that are true no matter where you are, but there are differences in design, technology and performance that are significant. It's great that the theatre students will get the chance to experience both and learn in both."

When compared to the main stage of the Theatre Department, the Second Stage is optimized for a more intimate production setting. All the sound and lighting is brand new. This offers crews the ability to work with new equipment to help maximize performances.

"The sound is especially good for theatre. You can hear actors' voices well and the capability to blend music and sound effects with voice is lovely. The grid is an exceptional height. You don't always get that in a black box style theatre. It makes a difference in flexibility and detail for lighting design," Hoffsommer said. "The seating is comfortable and close to the action. There's a lot to love."

There's a wealth of theatre classes offered at Parkland, and the new theatre offers both students and faculty an opportunity to take advantage of the potential that the Second Stage has to offer in relation to instruction. Nancy Sutton, Fine and Applied Arts Department Chair, explained how the Theatre Department plans to utilize the new space.

"Parkland's Second Stage, our new black box theatre, is a welcome addition to the academic spaces we offer to our students, as well as an additional space to meet the needs of numerous community groups," Sutton stated. "The space provides theatre students the opportunity to experience innovative methods of staging and lighting and to work in a more flexible creative space than what our traditional main stage theatre does. Together, the two spaces can provide our students and theatre goers with a multitude of opportunities and experiences."

Although there were setbacks with construction, everyone in the Theatre Department is convinced that it was worth the wait.

For anyone interested in upcoming performances in the Second Stage should visit <http://theatre.parkland.edu>, the next production is a Night of One Acts on March 13 and 14.



Photo by Scott Wells | Prospectus News

Lighting Designer Sarah Aker makes final preparations before a dress rehearsal of *The Sparrow* on Feb. 17, 2015 in the Black Box Theater. Aker earned her Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Florida State University.

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Fact or Fiction?

We're all kinda right! According to Daniel Hardiman-McCartney, the clinical adviser to Britain's College of Optometrists, it all just depends on how we focus on an image and how our brain processes what we see. Read the full story on page 3!

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In the correct lighting, however, the dress made by Roman Originals is, in fact, Black & Blue.

