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Parkland more than just a college



Photo by Andrew T. Kurtenbach/Prospectus News

Parkland College works with community members in District 505 to provide a positive atmosphere for students to learn in, as well as to give back to the community.

PN Zach Trueblood
Staff Writer

Parkland College may not be located in the center of Champaign-Urbana physically, but it is firmly based in the heart of the community. Parkland reaches out to the residents of District 505 in many different ways in hopes to bolster the community, and those within it.

Over 75 percent of students at Parkland are local or from District 505, which consists of Champaign-Urbana as well as many surrounding towns. Admissions advisors visit each school in the district to answer questions about Parkland, and also to promote the college.

Along with regular campus visits from any interested parties, the college offers trips for every 8th grader in Champaign Unit 4 schools. The Office of Financial Aid

and Veteran Services offers a Financial Aid night to local high schools. These visits are designed to answer some of those confusing questions about FAFSA and Financial Aid in general.

Parkland prides itself on communicating with the community, parents and students alike. Student Services Advisor, Mary Kay Smith, plays a pivotal role in this communication process.

Along with Student-Parent Information Night held on Oct. 30, there was also a Campus Wide Open House held on Nov. 7. This Open House included the Health Careers Open House.

"It's a great time for folks in the community to come and check out the various programs that are offered at Parkland, see the lab spaces, and visit with staff and faculty," Smith said. "We've also just

completed the Student-Parent Information Night, which is a great opportunity for parents to learn more about the Parkland College experience and college in general. We also offered that presentation in Spanish for our Latino families. Over 180 people attended the event."

Moises Orozco, Program Assistant of the Parkland Academy Team, spearheaded the Latino portion of Student-Parent Information Night. A number of students on the student panel were mentors from the Comadre y Compadre program; another initiative intended to target Latino students on campus.

The other Program Assistant of the Parkland Academy Team who works alongside Orozco is Eduardo Coronel. Coronel gave some insight into how Parkland reaches out to the growing Latino community

in District 505.

"Due to the increase in the Latino population, Parkland is making a significant effort in reaching out to those Latino families and students," Coronel said. "One way we're doing that is through our Comadre y Compadre program. Wherein returning Latino/Latina students mentor new students."

Parkland also does its fair share to give back to the community. The goal of the college is not just to educate but to also enhance the surrounding community.

The college and its benefits the community, in turn, Parkland benefits the community. It's a cycle that has helped both progress over the years.

Professor of Humanities and Service-Learning Coordinator, Brian Nudelman, feels very strongly about community involvement at the collegiate

level.

Nudelman referred to Parkland College's Mission which is, "to engage the community in learning." He also stated that one of Parkland's purposes is "to guide and assist students in becoming active, responsible, ethical, and self-disciplined citizens in our democratic society."

"Through the College's support of volunteerism in general, and service-learning more specifically, we are putting that mission and purpose in action, by encouraging students, faculty, and staff to get off campus and out in the community," Nudelman explained. "[We are] doing work that not only helps strengthen the community, but also encourages Parkland folks to see community involvement

See COLLEGE on P. 5

Coffee and cake with Parkland's German Club

PN Jose Alzaibar
Staff Writer

The Parkland College German Club has been around for more than 30 years, which makes it one of the oldest active clubs on campus.

Eva Frayne has been a member of the club since it first started, and she is still an active member today. She has been here at Parkland since the college first opened its doors to the public. She explained that there was once a time when there wasn't a German Club here on campus.

"I was there. I was at Parkland on day 1 in 1967," Frayne said. "But for the first ten or so years we did not have a German Club. In 1977 the president of student

government was in one of the German classes and with his help we founded the German Club."

The club currently boasts more than a dozen members, who meet every Monday at 12 p.m. in the Speech Lab located in the D Wing. They practice conversing in German, and share German foods such as Pumpnickel Bread with bratwurst, pickles, and German cookies known as "doppelkeks".

According to the President of the club, Ron Coffel, students don't have to speak German to become a member.

"Everyone is invited to join, or just sit down and have lunch with us for a day," Coffel said.

This semester is special for the club because two of the

members are actually German exchange students; Raphael Berding and Leif Steen.

"Both of them have added an even more authentic feel to the club. We're definitely speaking and hearing more German at our meetings more often now," Coffel added.

Every year the club has a sale of authentic German chocolate and bread to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall. The club was active at the time the wall fell, and Frayne actually had the opportunity to visit Germany a couple of months prior to the event.

"I was there in April. Nobody could conceive of such a thing happening, Honecker, the East Germany Head of State, that same year had said that the wall would stand for another

hundred years. A couple of months later in 1989 it fell," Frayne said.

While Frayne was never personally affected by the wall, it was still a sensitive issue for every German. She still remembers where she was when she found out.

"I was here in Urbana when somebody came and told me 'they're tearing down the wall.' I couldn't believe it!" Frayne recalled.

Parkland's German Club has held a small get-together on the date of the event since the wall fell. If they can't meet on the exact date they try to set a time close to the actual date. The club invites everyone to join them for traditional "Kaffe und Kuchen", which translates to "coffee and cake"

in English. Besides the social aspect of the meeting, many historical and cultural facts about Germany and the Berlin Wall are discussed.

Students that have seen the club's poster advertising their yearly "Kaffe und Kuchen" event may have noticed that the picture featured in it actually has Berlin divided in four instead of two. That is because, contrary to popular belief, Berlin's West side was actually divided in three, one side French, one side British, and one American.

Students interested in learning more about Germany, should pay the German club a visit. Students are always welcome to join their yearly meeting commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall as well.

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(Find the answer on page 3)

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News

Former FAMU band member guilty of manslaughter in hazing case



Red Huber/Orlando Sentinel/MCT

A jury Oct. 31, 2014 found a former member Dante Martin of Florida A&M University's Marching 100 band guilty of manslaughter in the fatal hazing of drum major Robert Champion. Martin, who faces up to 22 years in prison, showed no emotion as Circuit Judge Renee Roche read the verdict. Martin, 27, also was found guilty of felony hazing and two misdemeanor counts of hazing involving two other band members.

Stephen Hudak
Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — The manslaughter verdict in the fatal hazing of Florida A&M University drum major Robert Champion should send a message as loud and clear as the famous Marching 100 band, State Attorney Jeff Ashton said Friday.

"I hope this scares people enough to stop it and to realize it's not worth it and just to find better ways to show you belong than hitting people or hurting people or endangering their lives," Ashton said outside the courtroom where FAMU percussionist Dante Martin was found guilty of manslaughter and three counts of hazing.

Martin, who faces up to 22 years in prison, showed no emotion and Champion's parents clasped each other's hands as Circuit Judge Renee Roche read the verdicts, which followed less than two hours of jury deliberations. Sentencing is set for Jan. 9.

Martin's family sobbed outside the courtroom but declined to discuss the verdicts, shooing away reporters. Defense lawyers Richard Escobar

and Dino Michaels said they plan to appeal on behalf of the 27-year-old Martin, accused of organizing the fatal ritual aboard a bus parked outside the Rosen Plaza hotel in Orlando.

Martin, 27, was led from court by Orange County deputy sheriffs. He was denied an appeal bond.

The late drum major's father, also named Robert Champion, said he and his wife would pray for Martin and Martin's family.

Pamela Champion said the verdict would be nothing to celebrate unless it leads to the end of hazing on the nation's college campuses, in high schools and among athletic teams, bands and other youth groups.

"We hope that people will get the message that hazing is cruel ... and it needs to stop now," Champion said.

The panel of four women and two men listened to three days of testimony and nearly four hours of arguments Friday from Ashton and Martin's defense team.

Ashton told jurors that hazing may have been a deeply rooted tradition in the celebrated marching band, which has performed at presidential inaugurations, the Super Bowl and

the Grammys, but that should not excuse those who beat Champion to death while hazing him on the percussion bus.

"Tradition didn't kill Robert Champion. Tradition isn't to blame for Robert Champion's death," the prosecutor said. "You don't get to break the law because those who came before you did it. That may work when you're 10, but it doesn't work when you're an adult — an adult who has the ability to say, 'No ... I won't be part of this barbarous ritual anymore.'"

Defense attorney Richard Escobar countered that Champion, a talented musician who had been a FAMU student for seven years, already held leadership positions in the high-energy Marching 100 when he voluntarily participated in the ritual known as "crossing bus C" that led to his death Nov. 19, 2011.

Champion was struck more than 100 times as he tried to bulldoze his way from the front of the bus to the back through fellow band members.

Escobar argued said the crossing on the bus was not a hazing but more akin to a toughness competition.

He argued the ritual was an

exercise that had been in place for generations, created by those who helped make the band great.

"Brutal as it was, senseless as it was ... it was a competition," he said.

Martin did not testify during the trial. In addition to manslaughter Champion's death, Martin was charged with misdemeanors in the alleged hazings of Keon Hollis and Lissette Sanchez of Orlando, who were not injured during their hazings on the bus.

Champion collapsed after the ritual, which occurred inside a bus parked at the Rosen Plaza hotel in Orlando hotel following the Florida Classic game between FAMU and Bethune-Cookman University.

An assistant medical examiner testified that he died of "hemorrhagic shock" as a result of the beating.

Nine other former band members have received probation and community service sentences for their roles in Champion's hazing. Another, Jessie Baskin, is serving a year in jail. Three others are awaiting trial.

Though Martin faces potentially the longest prison sentence, Ashton said he didn't view him as a "bad

person." Among those assembled for the final arguments were Champion's parents; Martin's family; and Rick Mitchell, who is defending the university in a wrongful-death case filed by the Champions.

The parents say FAMU allowed a culture of hazing to flourish for decades in its marching band.

Champion's mother held his ballcap, which had the words "The Example" written under the brim.

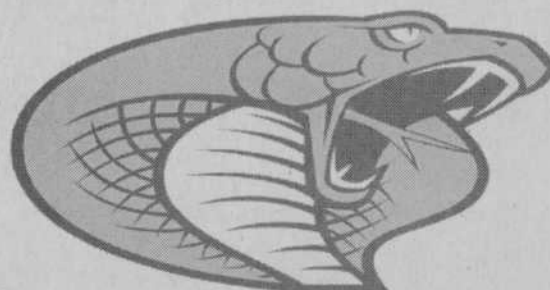
Ashton told jurors that the drum major from suburban Atlanta earned the nickname for his hard work, athleticism, musical talent and leadership.

But the prosecutor then held up an autopsy photo for the jury to see.

"The last decision he made in life is also an example — it's an example of peer pressure," Ashton said. "It is an example that even the best are subject to the desire to be accepted by their peers. It is an example of what happens when decades of indifference and decades of fantasy lead us to ignore the law."

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Lifestyle

Depression Screening Day: Help for you and your loved ones

PN Kaleb Schwaiger
Staff Writer

There are days in everyone's life when they feel down in the dumps, tired, perhaps even disinterested in normally fun activities. These are signs of depression that almost everybody experiences from time to time.

For some people, it's a never ending battle. Wednesday, Nov. 5 was National Depression Screening Day here at Parkland College.

Monica Cherry, a Crisis Coordinator at Community Elements, talked about how people can feel all alone in their depressed states. They don't want to reach out to others for fear of bringing them down, or because they think that others will not understand.

"We are here to help correct that way of thinking. We offer a wide variety of outlets for help," Cherry said.

Community Elements has a dedicated crisis center that specializes in mental health evaluations, assessing suicidal and homicidal patients, and prescribing help and proper treatment.

Some of the other services offered by Community Elements include a 24 hour crisis hotline, with the ability to offer voluntary or involuntary hospitalization.

They also have group homes and a youth center, as well as community support groups.

"We are here to help out with these ways and more," Cherry added.

Judy Brown, Chief Admissions Officer at the Pavilion Center for Addiction Recovery in Champaign, talked about the vital services provided by the Pavilion.

"We offer mental and behavioral health treatments, primarily for addicts and those with a suicidal mindset. We typically hospitalize a patient for anywhere from ten to fourteen days, and continue checking up with them after that point," Brown said.

Brown also explained that depression and drug use can go hand in hand. Sometimes mixing depressive feelings with the rollercoaster effects of drugs can lead to a vicious cycle of never being happy.

Some of the services offered at the Pavilion help combat that cycle such as inpatient detoxification, residential treatment, partial hospitalization, and other individualized treatment plans.

According to their website, the Pavilion was recognized by the Joint



Photo by Scott Wells/Prospectus News
Parkland Counselor Jennifer Klatsky gives opening remarks at the National Depression Screening Day event on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014. Symptoms of depression can include prolonged sadness, significant changes in eating and sleeping patterns, and social withdrawal.

Commission as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measure (sic) for 2012. The Pavilion offers high quality treatment for those in need, and refers different support groups to the family and friends of those afflicted.

The Family Service Self-Help Center provides a listing of dozens of different help groups.

These groups include addiction and dependency, physical and emotional abuse, health groups, parenting, youth and student, bereavement, and

sexual orientation among others.

For students at Parkland, the counselors in U267 are on hand for short term counseling. They offer somewhere around six to eight short, 15 minute sessions to help assess students and get them back on track.

Dennis Cockrum, a counselor at Parkland, touted the effectiveness of these short sessions.

"Students sometimes need a gentle nudge in the right direction, to know someone out there understands and

can help. The services we have in the community and here at the college are lifesavers for some," Cockrum explained.

Students wishing to set up an appointment can visit the office located in room U267, or call 217-351-2416.

After a brief assessment, further counseling times can be set up as needed. The assessments can be done either by phone or in person, and usually take 15 minutes.

Appointments are usually scheduled the next week, but in an emergency a session could be set up for that same day.

"We hope you will come if you are struggling yourself, or bring a friend if they need help," Cockrum added.

For more information regarding counseling sessions or group help services, the Counseling and Advising Center located in room U267, is a hub for all these needs and more.

CAS provides students with many academic resources

PN Humna Sharif
Staff Writer

The Center for Academic Success, also known as CAS, is located in the D-wing of Parkland College. It's a place centered on Student Learning and Success. The services provided by CAS include math faculty tutoring, peer tutoring, writing lab, academic development lab, advising, and personal planning.

"We look at CAS as a place for students who need help academically, we provide them the resources and help they need to succeed here at Parkland with their courses," Tracey Hickox, Director of the Center for Academic Success said.

"Students usually come here to get help with their math. We also have a lot of students who use the services of the writing lab," CAS Assistant Anita Taylor said.

The writing lab is one of the biggest resources of CAS. Students can go and get help from faculty members present there. Faculty will provide assistance on understanding a particular assignment. They will also look over rough drafts and help students figure out the best way to write something that best meets the assignment given to them.

"Faculty at the writing lab do not proof read papers, and they also don't write anything for the students. However, they do help students come up with their own ideas about the writing assignment and then help students refine those ideas and translate them onto a paper," Taylor added.

Another resource that CAS offers is faculty tutoring and peer tutoring. Parkland College has a nationally certified peer tutoring program. CAS has tutors for math, natural sciences, computer sciences, and accounting. Omar Adawi is a full time math faculty

member; he is also the Peer Tutoring Coordinator for CAS.

"Peer tutors are actually Parkland College students who are doing well in their chosen field of study," Adawi explained. "To be eligible to become a peer tutor, a student must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. I prefer to hire students who are able to tutor in at least two different subjects. This semester we have 13 peer tutors available."

Applications for peer tutoring can be filled out in the career center. Peer tutors have to be enrolled in a tutor training course simultaneously while they are they are tutoring.

Strategies and methods for tutoring are taught in the course. The tutoring course is worth one credit hour and is provided to

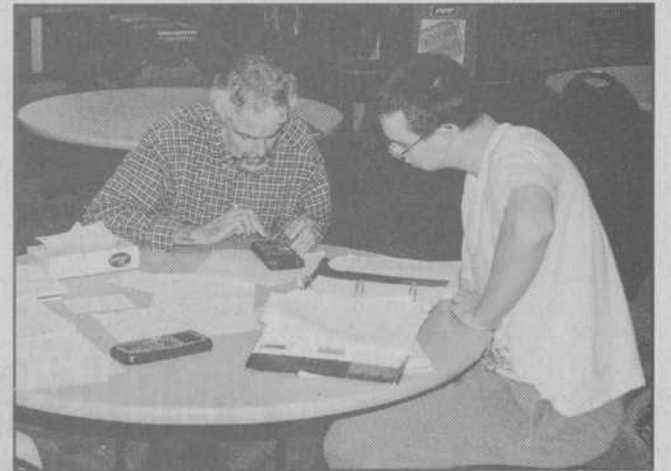


Photo by Andrew T. Kurtenbach/Prospectus News
Tutoring majors Sam Bieber and Alex Gaynor assist their work in the Center for Academic Success in room D120 on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014.

See CAS on P. 5

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- All content, once published, becomes property of Prospectus News.

- All submitted content must be original work.

- All submissions must also include up to date contact information.

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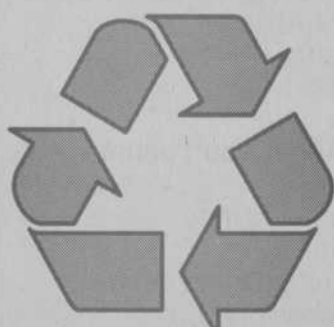
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Did you know?

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



Please Recycle

COLLEGE

continued from page 1

as central to being an engaged citizen in our communities."

It's apparent that Parkland's reach extends far outside of its walls. Parkland is literally referred to as a Community College. A college made up of the community, for the community.

Students interested in Service Learning contact Brian Nudelman at bnudelman@parkland.edu.

For those inquiring about Parkland's various community programs and events contact Admissions and Records at 217-351-2482, or visit their office in the Student Union, room U214.

CAS

continued from page 3

the students free of cost.

CAS data shows that an average of 60 people per day use the faculty tutoring and peer tutoring services. The majority of the students using the faculty tutoring or peer tutoring services at CAS need help with math in some form or another.

Data also shows that students who use the tutoring program eight or more times a semester have higher chance of getting an A, B, or C than students who use the program less than eight times.

"Sometimes they wait too long before they come here and they have already failed an exam and their grade is suffering. So I believe

there are still a great many students who are not taking advantage of the resources we have here," Adawi added.

CAS also has an Academic Development Lab, which offers learning software to assist students in preparing for the developmental courses. CAS also offers tutorial and module courses that are worth one or two credit hours.

"It's a great resource for students who sometimes need help with developmental courses," Hickox elaborated. "They need to pass these courses to be able to place in certain courses that are required for their major. Here at CAS we can help them get ready for those developmental courses. It's a free service and students can spend as much time as they need to get ready for their class."

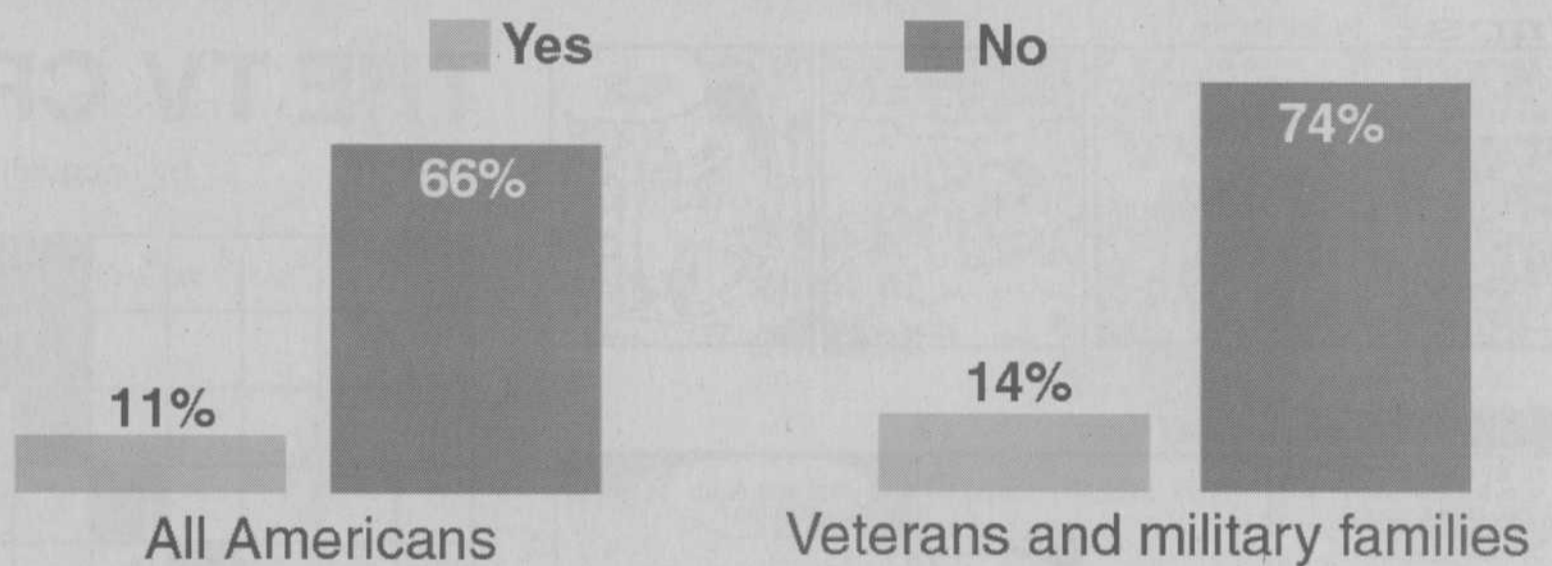
These courses are designed to help students fulfill their below 100 level readings, writing, and math requirements. Preparation for TEAS and help with elementary chemistry is also provided through tutorials.

The Advising and Personal planning unit of CAS is there to help students achieve academic success. Student Development Advocates assist students in understanding college expectations, choosing a field of study, and picking classes for different semesters. CAS advisors also provide assistance pertaining to time management and out of class issues.

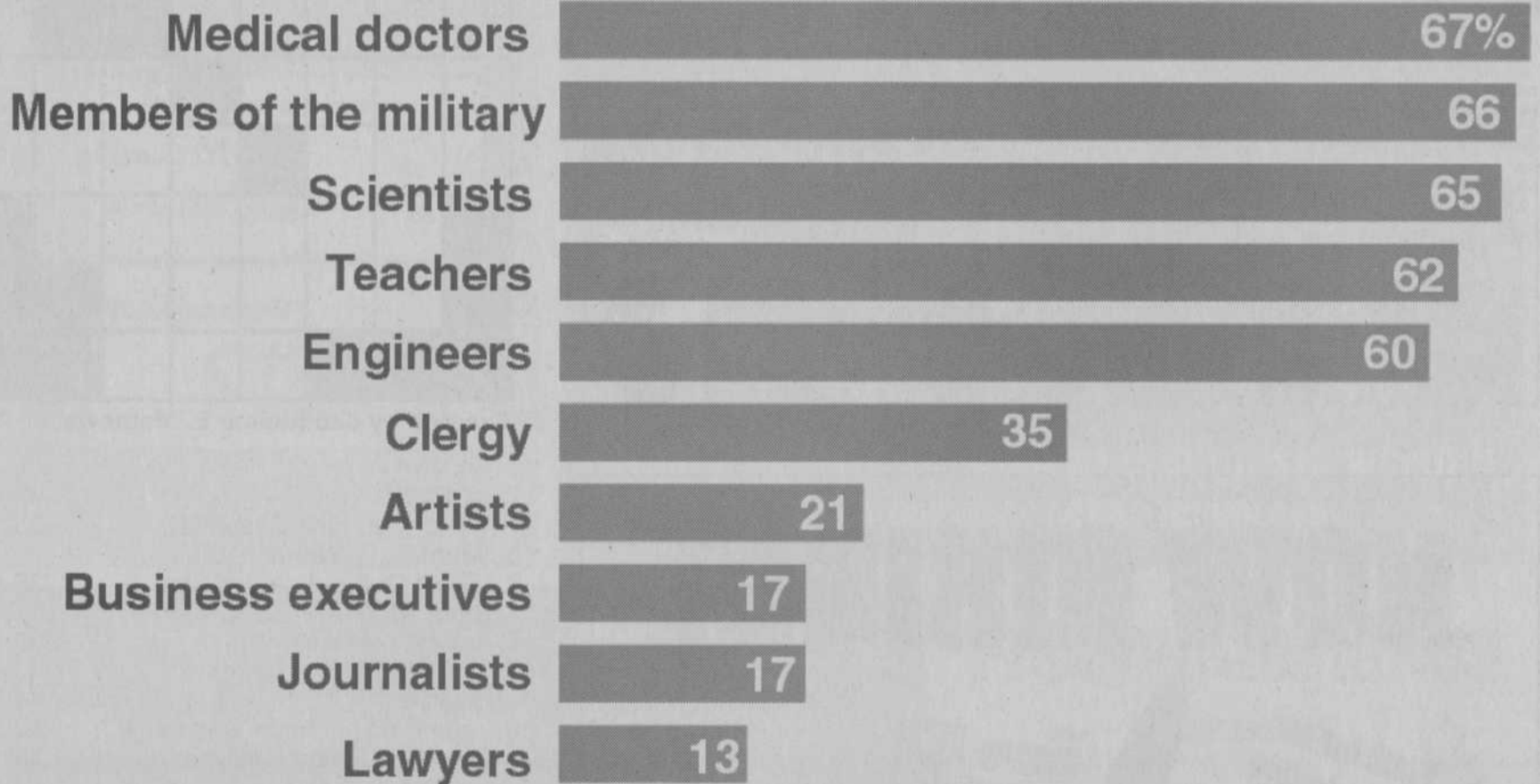
Some units within the CAS have selective hours on weekday evenings as well as Fridays. In general it is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on any of the resources available visit room D-128.

Veterans Day poll

Do you think the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has lived up to its motto "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan?"



How much do you think the following contribute to the well-being of our society?

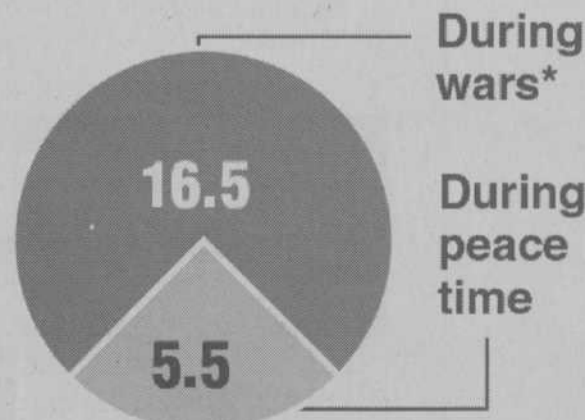


U.S. living veterans

More than 21 million men and women who have served in the U.S. military are still living.

Time of service

In millions



*Those who served in more than one war are counted only once

War veterans

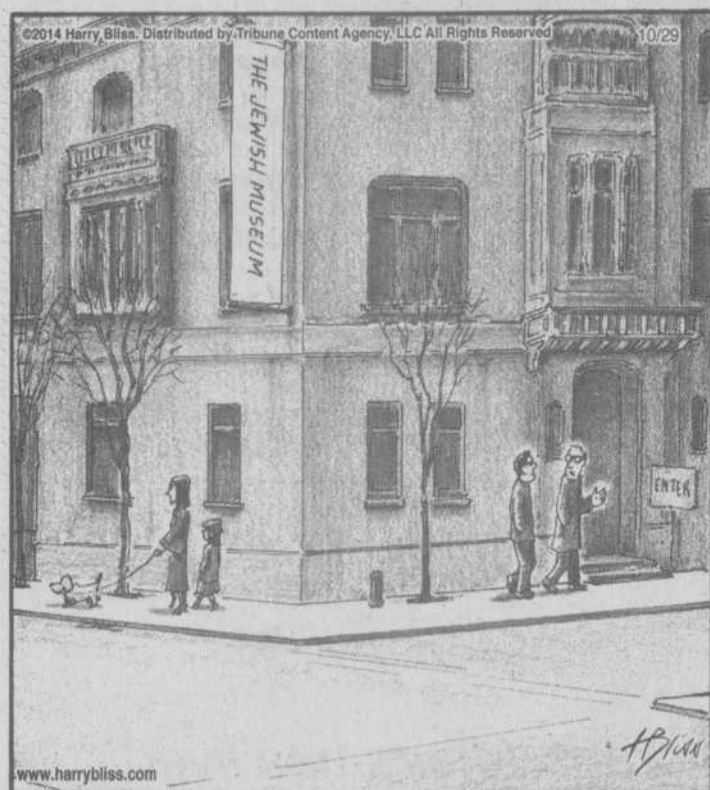
In millions, by conflict**



**Exceeds total for those who served during wars since some served in more than one conflict

Puzzles & Comics

Bliss



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If you let them make you, they'll make you paper mache, At a distance you're strong, until the wind comes, Then you crumble and blow away.

-Brandon Boyd, Incubus

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Sudoku (intermediate)

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

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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

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7						
	8					9				10	11			
12						13								
14					15						16			17
18					19						20			
		21	22							23				
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26	27									28				
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35						36						37		
	38		39							40				
	41									42				
						43				44				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/13/13

ACROSS

- "The ___ and the Beautiful"
- "Murder, ___ Wrote"
- "She's Out ___ League"; Jay Baruchel movie
- Actress ___ Berry
- ___ Ryan of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
- Long-running prime-time serial about the Ewing family
- ___ Domini; A.D.
- Green gemstone
- "___: Miami"
- Ryan or Tilly
- "___ of Honor"; Patrick Dempsey movie
- Sandra and Ruby
- Sitcom for Sherman Hemsley
- Lovers' secret meeting
- Hackman or Wilder
- Julia Child or Emeril Lagasse
- Actress Sally
- Wolf's doleful wail
- "Desire Under the ___"; film for Sophia Loren
- "The A-___"

DOWN

- ___ away; carried off
- "Rules ___"
- Center of the alphabet
- Actor John of "Touched by an Angel"
- "Evening ___"
- Actor on "Gilligan's Island"
- Perpendicular addition to a building
- Role on "Body of Proof"
- Curvy letters
- "___ Legend"; Will Smith movie
- "American ___!"
- Seymour or Pauley
- Suffix for cartoon or violin
- Repair
- "The Price Is Right" host
- Diner where Alice worked
- Actor ___ Barry
- Informal talk
- Nourished
- "What ___ About You"; Jennie Garth series
- Info on a book spine
- Golfer Ernie
- Recent Dennis Quaid series
- Bit of sooty residue
- One-dish meal
- Restaurant's list of dishes
- Expression of mock surprise
- Capture

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

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

Rolled towel

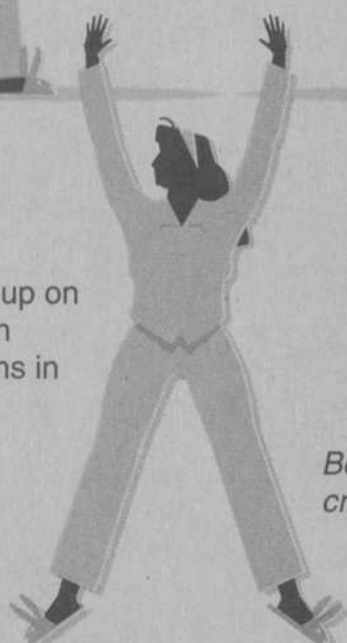
Start with arms in front



Inhale as you lift over head; do not force; exhale and return to front

Lying side bend

Lie face-up on back with legs, arms in X-shape

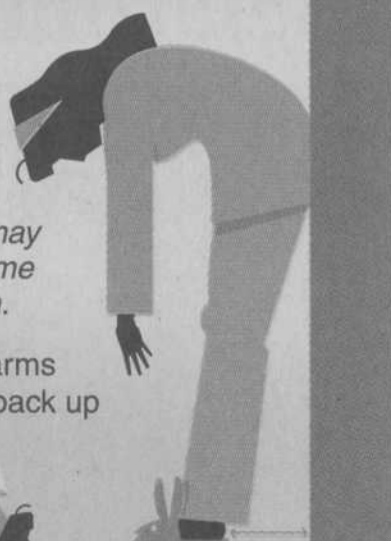
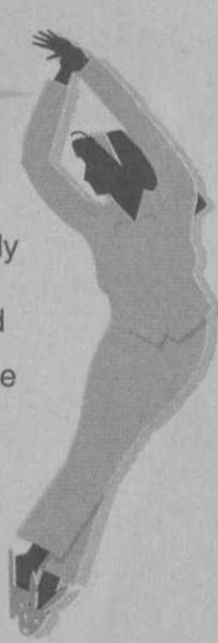


Pull left arm and upper body toward right with right hand

Cross left ankle over right

Body makes crescent shape

Repeat on other side



12 in. (30 cm)

Source: Prevention
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

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Healthy Living

Portion control

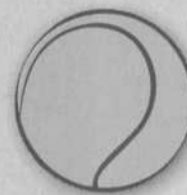
Here are some easy ways to guesstimate portions:

1.5 oz. (45 g) of cheese



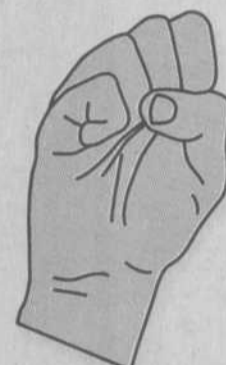
Four stacked dice

1 cup of pasta



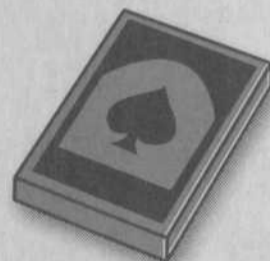
Tennis ball

1 cup of cereal



Adult's fist

3 oz. (85 g) meat or chicken



Deck of cards

Source: Kaboose Nutrition Tips, MCT Photo Service

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Entertainment

Academy to honor Harry Belafonte for his activism

 Susan King
Los Angeles Times

When Harry Belafonte appeared in mob-controlled Las Vegas in the 1950s at the Thunderbird Hotel, he decided to challenge the racist system that prevented African American performers from staying at hotels on the Strip.

"I walked into the lobby, going to the desk to register," said Belafonte, 87. "The woman looked at me like I was a Martian. She went back and got the manager. I went into his office, and he said, 'The rules are you can't stay here.' I was absolutely taken aback. I said, 'Well, I don't think this is going to work.'"

The manager turned Belafonte over to "the big boss."

"I said, 'I'd just like to leave town quietly, and you go ahead, do what you want to do with your rules,'" Belafonte said. "He said to me, 'The only way you are going to leave here without playing out that contract is in a box.'"

Belafonte called his uncle in Harlem, who had connections to Alex "Shondor" Birns, the Cleveland mobster. "Word came down the rules no longer applied to me by intervention of a very high authority," Belafonte said. "So I took that moment to push: I went swimming. I did everything I was told not to. Eventually, my whole band stayed at the hotel. Things changed."

This Saturday, the activist-actor-singer-songwriter will receive the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the Governors Awards ceremony in Hollywood. Previous winners of the Hersholt award include Angelina Jolie, Oprah Winfrey, Paul Newman and Audrey Hepburn. This year, honorary Oscars are going to actress Maureen O'Hara, screenwriter Jean-Claude Carriere and director Hayao Miyazaki.

The Hersholt award, academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs said, is granted to those who are "instrumental in humanitarian causes" and who "bring a spotlight and public awareness to certain issues."

"Mr. Belafonte has been an activist his whole life," she said.

Belafonte fought against injustice long before he met the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1956 and became a major force in the civil rights movement.

"I am not an artist who became an activist," Belafonte said. "I am an activist who became an artist."

The artist came to fame six decades ago, making his film debut in 1953's "Bright Road" and later starring in 1954's "Carmen Jones" and 1959's "Odds Against Tomorrow." He brought Caribbean music into the mainstream in 1956 with "The Banana Boat Song." And he became the first African American to win an Emmy, for his 1959 CBS musical special.

Belafonte's activism, however, wasn't always beneficial to his career.

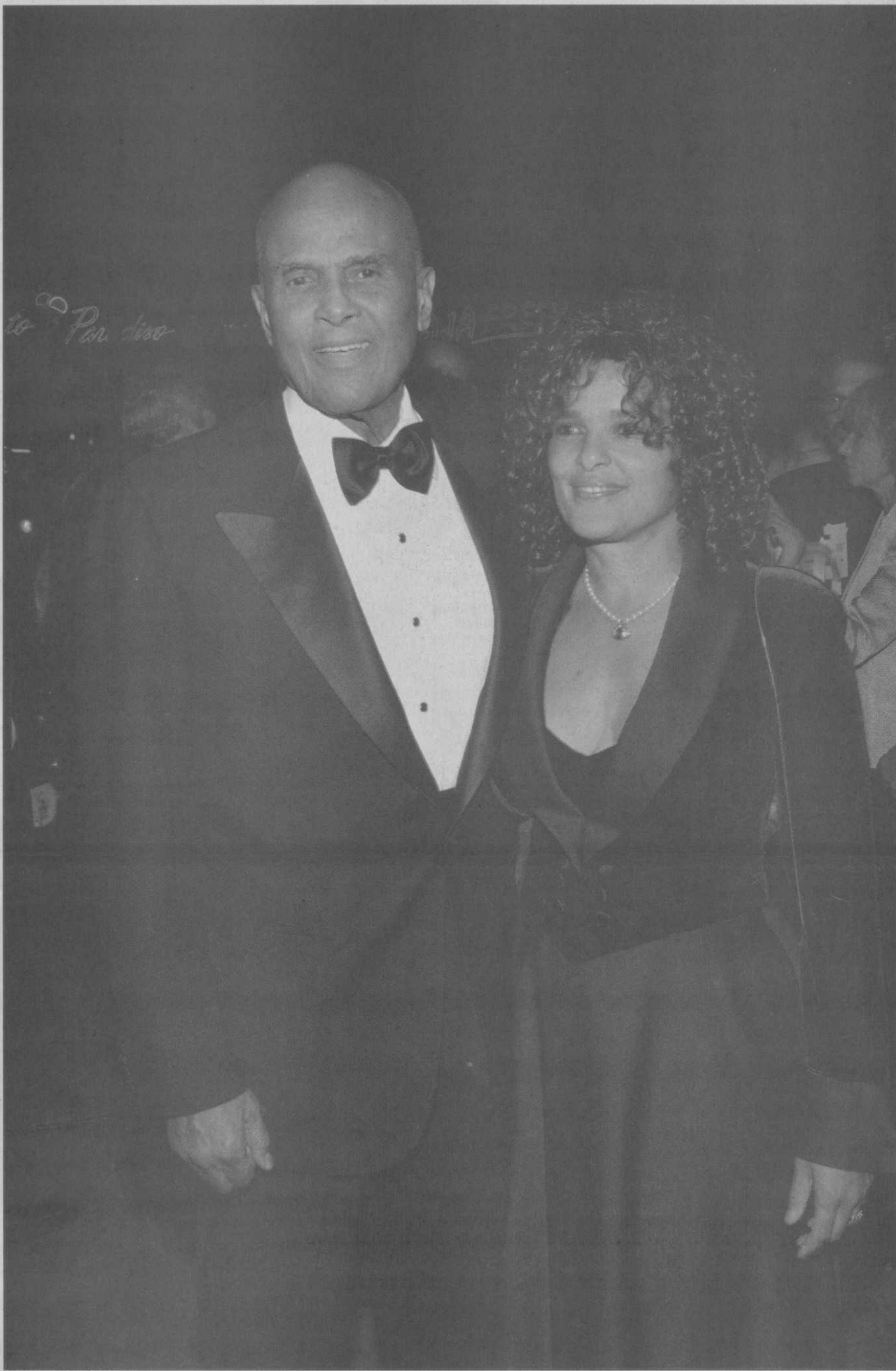
"People say, 'You have sacrificed a lot,'" he said. "I say, hold it. Let me just paint a scenario for you."

If he hadn't been an activist, Belafonte noted, "I never would have become so intimately involved with Nelson Mandela. I would never have been so intimately involved with a man who selected me not only to be a confidant but a close friend - Dr. King. I never would have been embraced to the extent I was by Eleanor Roosevelt. She stepped into my life in a huge way because of our mutual sense of injustice in the world."

Belafonte's pursuit of social change began as a youngster in Harlem watching his Caribbean family wrestling with issues of race and poverty.

"There was a theme in our circle of never accepting oppression without resistance," he said, singling out his mother, whom he described as "very feisty and very much against injustice."

After volunteering as a teenager for the U.S. Army during World War II, Belafonte and other black



Harry Belafonte attends the US premiere of "Bobby" at the AFI Fest 2006 Black Tie Opening Night Gala in Los Angeles, California, November 1, 2006. Lionel Hahn/Abaca Press/MCT

veterans expected to return to a "very generous America" because they had shown "great loyalty to this country, to the values of this country." Instead, he said, "we came back to a very rigid set of racial lines that were being drawn. The laws of segregation were being intensified."

Belafonte's life changed when he went to see "Home Is the Hunter," a drama about the problems of black veterans, at the American Negro Theater in Harlem.

"It was kind of an epiphany," he said. "I found something that so delighted me and attracted my attention. I really wanted to be a part of it. That ultimately led me to study theater."

While he was at the theater, he met the man who would be one of his greatest friends and influences: the blacklisted African American actor, activist and singer Paul Robeson.

"We were quite overwhelmed by his presence," Belafonte said. "We began to listen to his ideas and what he had to say."

By 1954, Belafonte found himself on the blacklist, a fact that angered Ed Sullivan, host of CBS' popular "Ed Sullivan Show."

Belafonte had just won the Tony Award for supporting actor for the musical "John Murray Anderson's Almanac" and was set to appear the following week on the Sullivan show.

But then Sullivan got word from CBS that Belafonte was in political hot water.

Sullivan summoned Belafonte to a meeting.

"He was really looking for a way in which I to maybe challenge the reason I was blacklisted," Belafonte said. "He said, 'I have a list of things that you are charged with that has caused them to believe you are very unpatriotic.' I asked him tell me what the list described me as being."

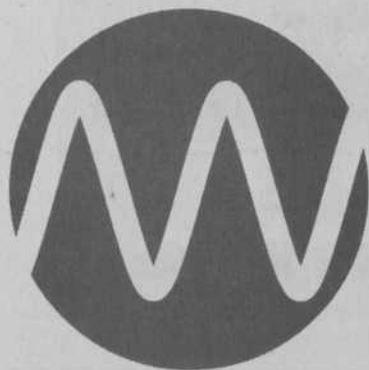
Sullivan read the list.

"As a matter of fact, your list is way short of many of the things I have done and will continue to do," Belafonte told Sullivan.

Then Belafonte challenged Sullivan, asking the Irish American host to compare how the Irish rebellion against the British was considered "an act of nobility," whereas the reaction to black Americans and "our resistance to the tyranny we've experienced" was quite different. "I appealed to him on that basis," Belafonte said.

Belafonte left the meeting. That afternoon his agent called and said Belafonte would be on "The Ed Sullivan Show" that Sunday.

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