



Prospectus News

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improving student
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Honors in Action with Phi Theta Kappa

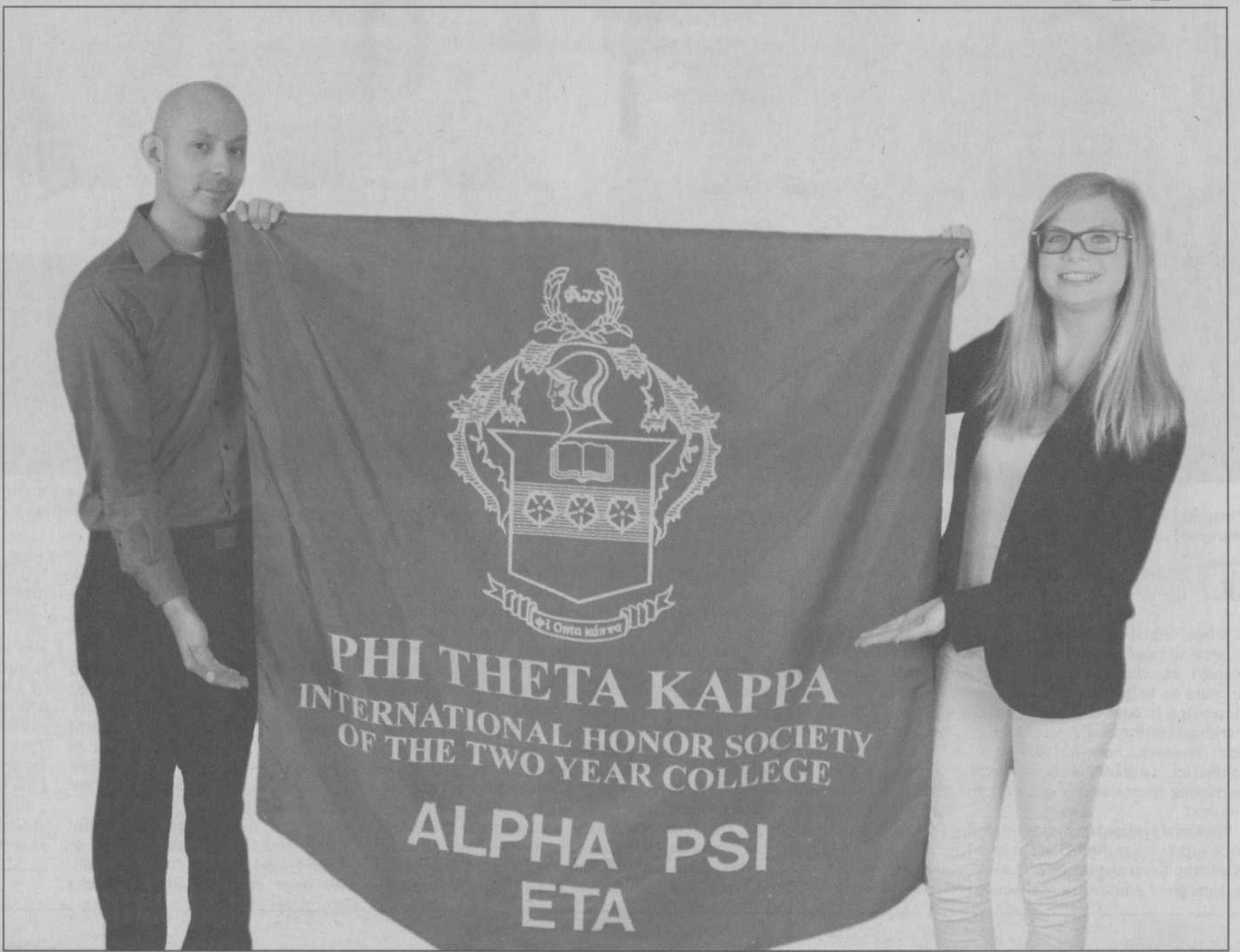


Photo by Christopher Taylor/Prospectus News

Phi Theta Kappa member Jose Gomez and President Jenny Olmsted display their society's banner to celebrate the beginning of their "Honors in Action" project on Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014.

PN Humna Sharif
Staff Writer

Phi Theta Kappa is one of the most prestigious honors societies of two year colleges. Parkland's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa can be joined by students with a minimum GPA of 3.5. Being a member of an honors society allows likeminded individuals to come together and be a part of different programs, which aim to make a positive impact on society.

Monday, Nov. 17 marked the beginning of Phi Theta Kappa's Honors in Action project. The events of the Honors in Action project were based around the theme of "exploring the natural environment."

The week was called the Environmental Awareness and Food Drive week. Two goals were set for this project, the first being collecting canned and nonperishable foods for the local Eastern Illinois Food Bank, located in Urbana. The second goal was to collect monetary donations for kiva.org.

"Kiva.org is a website

that provides micro loans to entrepreneurs in developing countries and in United States. Kiva.org is trying to help build more sustainable businesses, as a way to fight off poverty," Jenny Olmsted, Regional President of Phi Theta Kappa, said.

Kiva.org itself is an example of a truly sustainable non-profit organization, as it only lends money to entrepreneurs. Once the new business starts flourishing, and is able to support itself, the money is paid back to Kiva, which then lends the money to another entrepreneur.

"As of now we are raising money for Kiva.org so it can be lent to a female dairy farmer in Kyrgyzstan, so she can buy dairy cows and sell eco-friendly milk in her hometown," Olmsted added. "We encourage people to invest with Kiva because their money will always keep moving in good causes."

Phi Theta Kappa had a table set up in the new Student Union building from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. throughout the week. The first day of the

Environmental Awareness Week called "Green Out Day" aimed to raise awareness amongst Parkland Students about different agricultural practices, and what the impacts of those practices have on the environment.

Students who stopped by the table to learn about these issues or to donate food or money also got a green ribbon to wear and, if they were lucky, a donut to munch on. The second day called "Ecosystem Day" focused on raising awareness about the impact on different species through different agricultural practices.

The third day titled "Skip a Meal Day" invited all students to donate their leftover change after buying meals, for the benefit of those who have no option but to skip a meal or two each day. The fourth day of the Environmental Awareness Week was called "Trash Day." The focus of the day was drawing attention to the amount of trash generated at Parkland and what strategies could be adopted to

reduce the amount of waste. Friday was the last day of the Environmental Awareness Week and the main goal was to draw attention to the contributions of farmers and their role in developing a sustainable society.

Throughout the week Phi Theta Kappa was accepting food and money donations to help the local population.

Phi Theta Kappa members spent months researching the topic of their Honors in Action project, and also handed out informative fliers about agricultural practices and environmental issues to students throughout the college.

"Our research shows that 28 percent of all land used annually for food production grows food that will be wasted. Also that by 2050, the world population will reach 9 billion and, that to feed everyone, agricultural production will have to increase by 60 percent," Amber Simmons, Executive Vice President Phi Theta Kappa, provided. The research done by Phi Theta Kappa also focused

on sustainable agricultural practices.

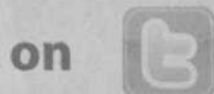
"There are three tiers to sustainable agriculture. First it has to be economically sustainable so a profit can be made off of it to keep it going. Second, it has to be socially sustainable and, third, it has to be environmentally sustainable," Simmons elaborated. "Since the State of Illinois has plenty of viable farm land, we want people to know how to make the best out of their piece of land."

The Environmental Awareness Week at Parkland turned out to be successful; sizeable donations were collected, and Phi Theta Kappa members remain hopeful that in following years they will keep improving and do much more to help their planet and the people on it.

Students interested in learning more about sustainable business practices can visit www.kiva.org/about. Local gardeners and farmers can also visit www.ampleharvest.org to connect with local food pantries.

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Fact or Fiction?

The human body cannot digest chewing gum.

(Find the answer on page 3)

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News

Mentoring program improves student success

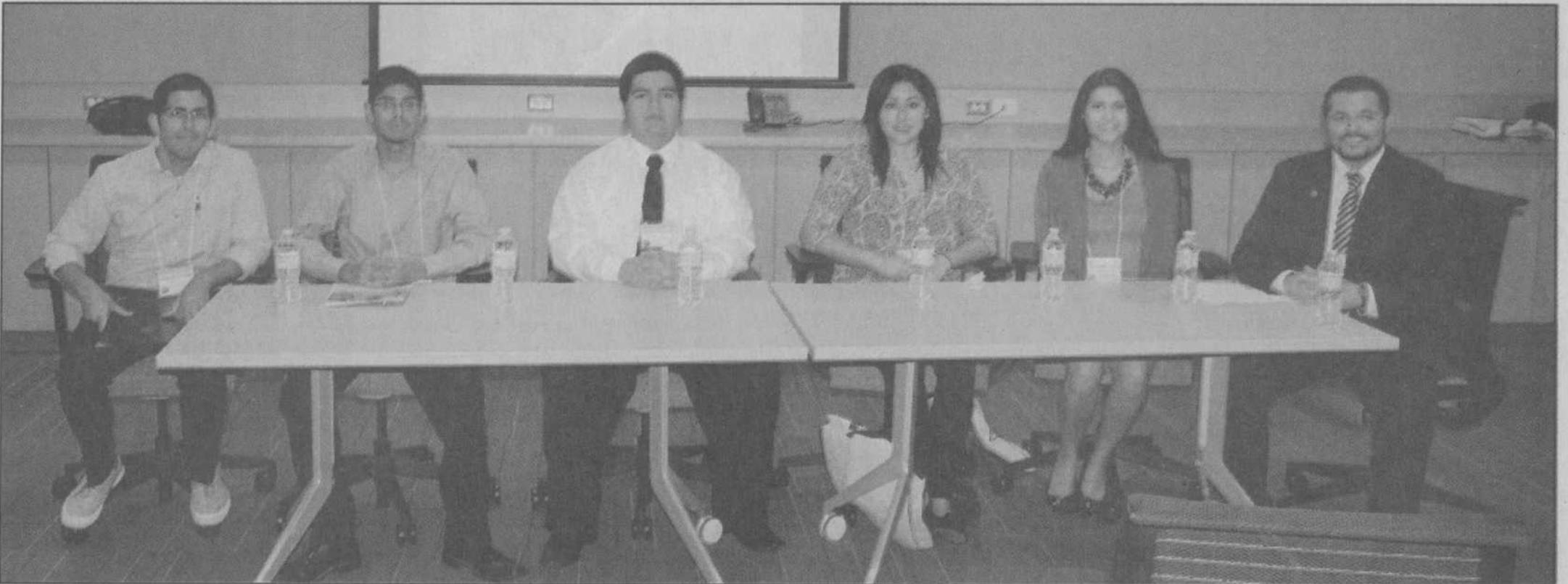


Photo courtesy of the Comadre y Compadre Mentoring Program/Parkland College

Pictured from left to right are Eduardo Coronel, Jonathan Mendoza, AJ Jimenez, Wendy Ramirez, Angeles Rivera and Moises Orozco at the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Midwest FOCO Conference.

PN Zach Trueblood
Staff Writer

When Parkland College noticed that a large demographic of its students weren't excelling, it did everything it could to help solve the problem. According to data collected through Parkland Institutional Accountability and Research, only 33 percent of in-district Latino/a students were persisting from one fall semester to the next.

Parkland realized this issue needed to be addressed so the PAT or Parkland Academy Team was formed. The PAT is a group of administrators focused

on improving Latino/a student retention at Parkland.

The Parkland Academy Team has two Program Assistants, Moises Orozco and Eduardo Coronel, that provide support and guidance for the students involved in the Comadre y Compadre Mentoring Program.

"The Comadre y Compadre Program has been in development for several years. This is the first year the program has gotten the funding in order to grow its efforts thanks to the Parkland Academy Team. Dr. Tom Caulfield has really helped jumpstart the program for us," Coronel stated. "The purpose of the Comadre y

Compadre Program is to provide incoming Latino/a students with a support system and information about institutional resources. In addition the mentors who work with the Comadre y Compadre Program are able to develop leadership skills through their interactions with institutional agents and their mentees."

Members of the Comadre y Compadre Program have participated in the Leadership Conference in Alton, Ill. and an Academic National Conference in Kansas City, Mo. Current mentors have also participated on panel discussions such as the Student-Parent Information

Night. With outreach from the Comadre y Compadre Program and its mentors, they have been able to make over 300 family connections in the Latino community.

One mentor has seen the program help her mentees in many different ways. Business Administration Major Angeles Rivera, is also the President of Club Latino. She has helped to create a strong connection between the Comadre y Compadre Program and Club Latino.

"I've got six mentees so I frequently call or text them. When we meet up I don't want it to be stressful at all. We meet at places like Starbucks

and Chipotle, just comfortable public places. I try to give advice and be a friend as well as a mentor," Rivera said. "Many of my mentees are also in Club Latino. The Comadre y Compadre Program really benefits by working with Club Latino. We're able to introduce students to the same culture and like-minded students. They're able to build this supportive family with other students within Club Latino."

Rivera explained that being a part of Comadre y Compadre benefits her as well. She said that it pushes her to

See MENTOR on P. 5

Get to the POINT! P2 - PARKLAND POINT



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Lifestyle

A final round of study tips

PN Kaleb Schwaiger
Staff Writer

The fall 2014 semester is coming to an end, and finals are already around the corner. With naught but a week until the big test days, students everywhere are in full on study mode. A few students were able to be pulled away from their studies to provide their hints and tips for studying.

Since finals encompass the entire semester, it's a bit too late to start learning from scratch. So where does one begin? Some students suggested reading the end of chapter reviews, and go from there. Others attempt a full re-reading of the book, from day one to the penultimate day.

Nursing Major Abigail Langley is a fan of going back over the chapter reviews. She explained that the reviews should cover all the key points of the lesson, and provide a good idea of what the student remembers.

"I like to go back over the reviews, and I usually find things I'd forgotten all about. This is how I narrow down what I need to go back over and toss out what is still fresh in my mind," Langley said.

After narrowing down the topics needed, Langley likes to use flash cards to study. Once she gets the same card right three times in a row, she puts it into the known pile. When she gets all the cards into that

pile, she goes back over them, repeating the process.

"Once I get the cards right six times total I feel confident I can remember the material and move on. I'll go back over them a day or two before the final just to make sure, but I rarely have a problem with them at that point," Langley added.

Other students like to spend the weeks before finals reading the entire book, reabsorbing as much material as they can. This method, combined with key points and flash cards, makes for an extremely thorough method of studying.

Pre Pharm student Bhargov Patel fully endorses this method. He also likes to get into a group and go over the material with classmates.

"When you know the material and can successfully answer quiz questions from classmates, it makes you feel really confident about the final," Patel said. "Having friends to study with speeds the process along as well, and often times turns a dull topic into something entertaining and enriching."

Linguistics Major, Kofi Bazzel, also finds the group study method to be of great benefit.

"When you can get a good group of people together studying, you can accomplish so much more than you could on your own," Bazzel said. "Often times many people

in the group have the same questions, and with multiple minds working on a task, the information is found quicker and more efficiently. This leads to less time searching for answers and more time solidifying what we have already learned."

Of course, to effectively study, one must start studying.

"While it's better now than later, it's better later than never," Bazzel added.

While teachers are certainly busy this time of the semester, their offices are still open and they are still available to help students. If a student goes to a professor with their questions, the professor can accurately guide them on what they do and do not need to know for the upcoming final.

All of the students interviewed could recall a time when an instructor told them they were studying the wrong thing, and saved them lots of headaches and wasted time.

As a last bastion of hope, the Center for Academic Success in room D120, is sure to have students studying similar topics and willing to work together to tackle these final study periods.

Being in a room with like-minded individuals can be a big boost to motivation, and help students get over these final few days until the exam day.



Illustration by Dennis Balogh/Akron Beacon Journal

Personal Trainer

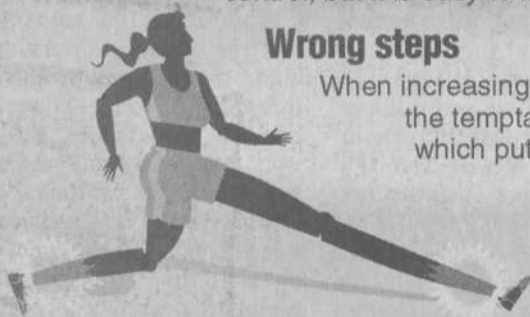
Some common exercise pitfalls

People who exercise can see real benefits in health and weight control, but it is easy to fall into these errors:

Wrong steps

When increasing your walking speed, resist the temptation to take longer strides, which put extra stress on your shins.

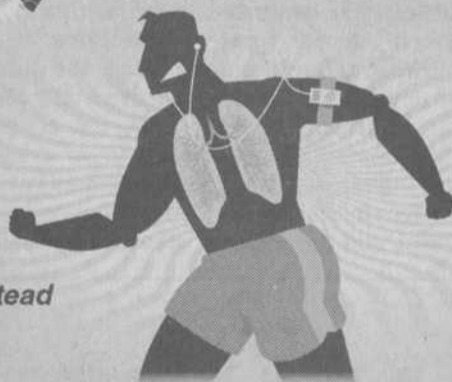
Increase the frequency (cadence) of your steps instead



Huffing and puffing

Breathing rapidly and shallowly does not deliver oxygen deep into the lungs, where it can be absorbed.

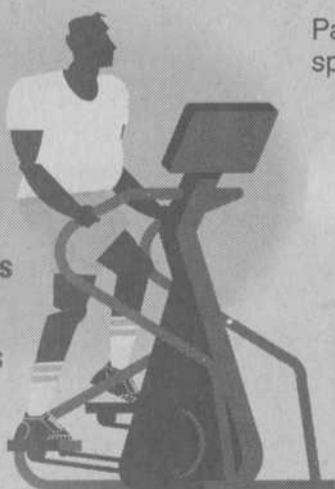
Take long, deep breaths instead



'Spot reduction' myth

Particular exercises do not remove fat from specific parts of the body ("spot reduction")

Myth: Stair machines reduce fat on buttocks



Myth: Sit-ups reduce waist fat



Do a well-rounded exercise routine, and fat will gradually be burned from deposits all over the body

Source: Sports Medicine and the Physician
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

Personal Trainer

Good moves for walkers

Regular walkers can head off some common overuse problems with these simple exercises:



Foot roll Prevents shin pain



1 Standing with your feet almost together, roll up onto your toes, hold for 2 seconds, and roll back down.

2 Roll onto the outsides of your feet, hold for 2 seconds, and roll back down.



3 Next roll onto your heels with toes off the ground, hold for 2 seconds, and roll back down.

Do this sequence 10 times before every walk.

Straight leg raise Prevents knee pain

Sit up straight with one leg straight, one bent



Raise leg 6-12 in. (15-30 cm), hold 5 seconds

Flex foot, don't point toe

Do 10 on each side, two to four times a week

Source: Racewalker Mark Fenton; Michele Stanten, Prevention
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

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Fact or Fiction?

FACT (sort of): When you swallow gum, your body is able to break down the artificial sweeteners and other flavors, but the rubbery gum is usually undigestible. However, contrary to popular folklore, your body doesn't take seven years to allow it to go through your digestive system. It might pass slower than other foods, but it should be out within a week.

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Opinions

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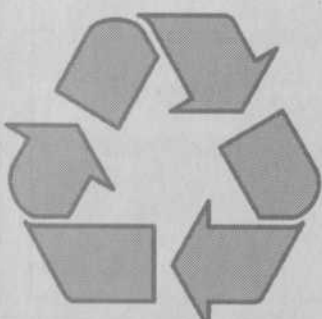
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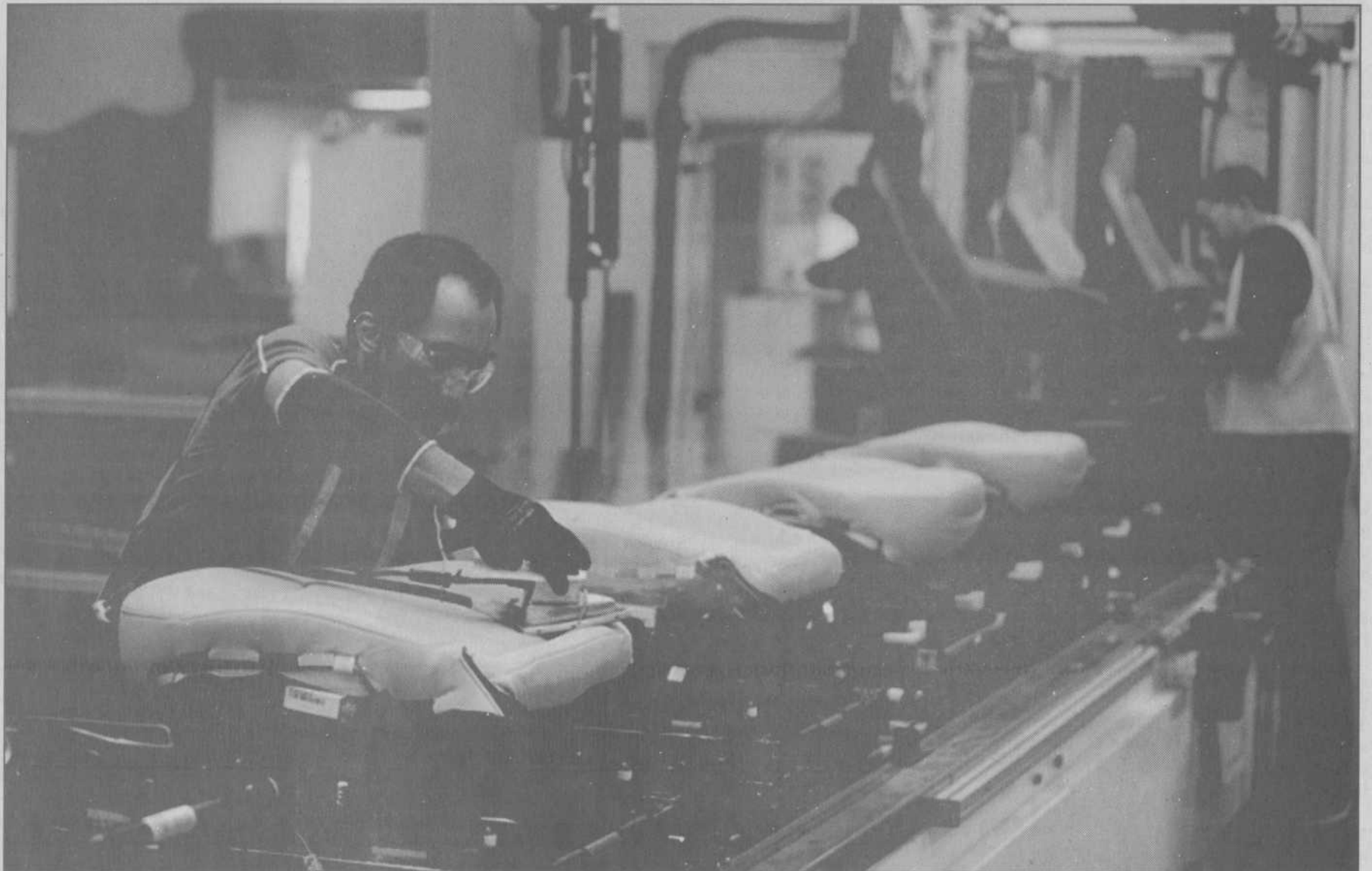
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Did you know?

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



Are electric cars greener?



D. Ross Cameron/Bay Area News Group/MCT

A worker steams wrinkles out of a leather-covered seat at Futuris Automotive in Newark, Calif., where the company assembles about 150 seat kits a day for use in the vehicles built by electric car maker Tesla, Sept. 11, 2014. Futuris is one of a number of suppliers for Tesla who are relocating to the Bay Area.

Joshua Graff Zivin, Matthew Kotchen and Erin Mansur

Los Angeles Times

Long thought a thing of the future, electric cars are becoming mainstream. Sales in the United States of plug-in, electric vehicles nearly doubled last year. Credible forecasts see the number rising within a decade to half a million vehicles per year, which would easily exceed sales of the Toyota Camry today.

Although the technology for electric cars is improving quickly, the industry still depends heavily on public policy - such as the \$7,500 subsidy that the federal government gives everyone who buys one. The rationale for such aggressive policy support is, in part, rooted in the idea that these cars cause less pollution. Indeed, conspicuously "green" consumers dominate sales of

electric vehicles, just as they did initially for hybrid vehicles such as the Toyota Prius.

But whether electric cars are actually greener depends on where the electricity comes from. Our research, along with other studies, finds that electric cars are not necessarily the environmentally friendly choice when it comes to the emissions of carbon dioxide - the pollutant of greatest concern for climate change.

It is true that electric cars have no tailpipe emissions (they don't even have tailpipes!), which means they can help clear local air. But the electricity used to charge these vehicles comes mainly from power plants that burn coal or natural gas, with coal being the biggest emitter. Other sources of electricity - wind, solar, hydro and nuclear - generate zero emissions.

Figuring out whether the electricity is more environmentally friendly than

just burning gasoline directly in cars depends on statistical sleuthing to estimate changes in emissions within the overall electricity grid in response to the additional electricity needed to charge an electric car. We've done this using data on every hour of every day for recent years across the nation, and the results are striking.

Where and when electric cars are charging affects how their emissions compare with the alternatives of a conventional or hybrid car. In some places and at some times, electric cars generate more emissions. We find, for example, that charging an electric car at night in the upper Midwest will generate more carbon dioxide per mile driven than the average conventional car that burns gasoline. In contrast, electric cars in the western United States and Texas always generate lower emissions than even a hybrid, and this arises

because natural gas rather than coal tends to be used for generating the additional electricity in these regions.

Our findings are based on how electricity is actually generated and current technologies that determine the efficiency of vehicles. But how might things change in the future to affect whether electric cars will reduce emissions and therefore help address climate change? We know the fuel economy of non-electric cars will increase in the coming years. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has nearly doubled the average fuel efficiency goal for cars by 2025. Meanwhile, the manufacturers of electric cars are seeking to significantly increase the distance that one can drive on a charge.

But the critical driver of electric-car emissions is how the electricity is generated. And this is where the future of electric cars as a means for

addressing climate change is related to the future of power plant regulations. The EPA is in the process of developing its "Clean-Power Plan" to reduce emissions from power plants. This, along with other rules, will make the electricity sector cleaner and help ensure that electric vehicles are the green choice down the road.

More than 100 years ago electric vehicles were the dominant and most promising technology for powering personal automobiles. But oil won that battle and reigned over the 20th century. Now electricity is poised to make a comeback, and might yet power the transportation sector this century. The push is due in large part to concerns about climate change, so it is important to have policies that ensure electric cars are part of the solution rather than the problem.

(c)2014 Los Angeles Times

Letter to the Editor: Parkland College Fall Open House

To the Editor,
I would like to thank the area residents who made Parkland College's Fall Open House a well-attended, enjoyable occasion. Thanks also to the faculty, staff, and students who took the time to give college hopefuls a glimpse into their higher education and career futures.

A large tractor and a racecar stood near our front door to campus, the new Parkland Student Union, which hosted 200+ visitors at the Nov. 7 event. These vehicles highlighted our automotive, diesel, motorsports, and related technical programs. Inside, Parkland Student Ambassadors provided tours, while the heads of our academic programs graciously fielded questions and handed out information about what certain majors require. Their efforts put career decisions into sharper focus for many. Meanwhile, people viewed dry-ice experiments, medical

procedures, and equipment in Parkland's chemistry, dental hygiene, veterinary technology, and surgical technology labs. (By the way, our surg tech program graduates maintain a 100-percent pass rate on national board exams.)

Health Professions programs at our Mattis facility also got involved, giving folks a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like to work in massage therapy, practical nursing, occupational therapy, and other fields.

Parkland's spring and fall open houses offer us further opportunities to engage the community in learning. But you don't have to wait until our next one to find out just how to make your community college work for you. Stop by at any time.

Committed to your success,
Tom Bennett

Parkland College Board of Trustees, Chairman

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"It's not how much we give
but how much love we put into giving."
-Mother Teresa



Photo courtesy of the Comadre y Compadre Mentoring Program/Parkland College. Pictured from left to right are Angeles Rivera, Wendy Ramirez, AJ Jimenez and Jonathan Mendoza at the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Midwest FOCO Conference.

MENTOR

continued from page 2

do better and set a good example for her mentees. She feels like she is a positive influence on their lives and can be a leader for them when they feel lost.

Another dedicated mentor in the Comadre y Compadre Program is Kinesiology Major Wendy Ramirez. She's been involved with training for the program since the summer but officially started at the beginning of fall semester.

"I've got six mentees total. We either meet up, email or text at least once a week to discuss

how school is going. I try to be a friend for them and someone they can confide in. I'm able to help them relieve stress and focus on school," Ramirez explained. "I think Comadre y Compadre is a really good program. I used to be in their shoes, feeling lost and not knowing anyone. I can relate to them and it's really nice for them to know they have someone to count on as a mentor and a friend."

Any student looking for more information about the Comadre y Compadre Program can visit the office of Moises Orozco and Eduardo Coronel in room U118 inside of Student Life, or contact them at 217-353-2152.

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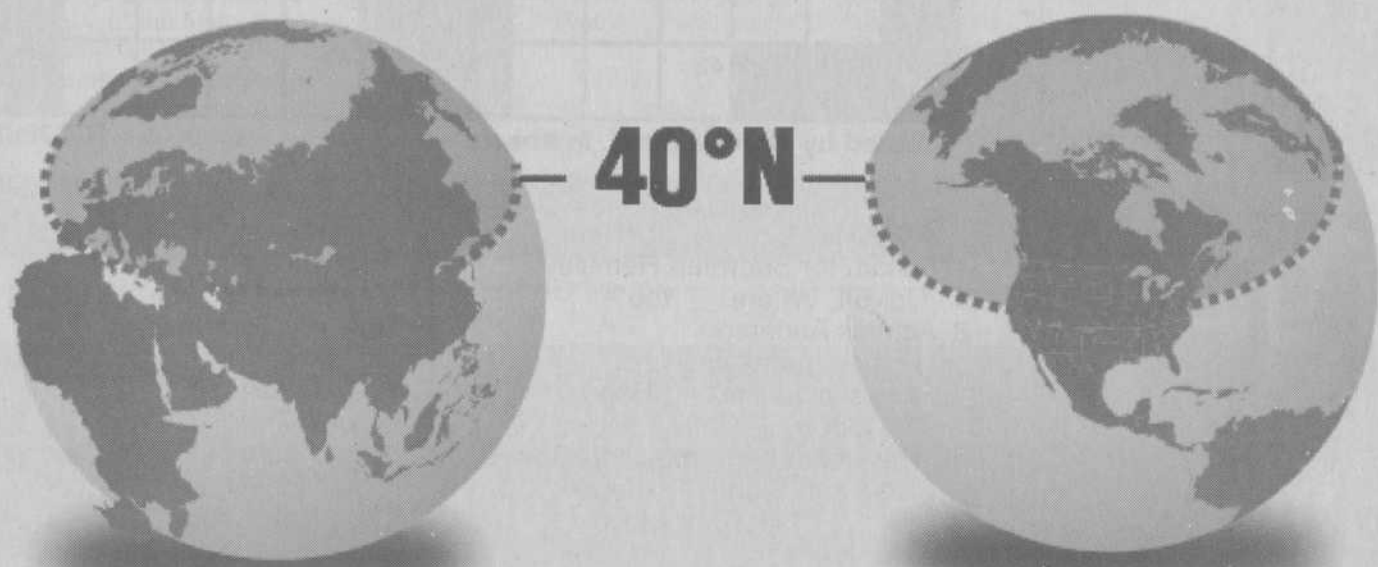
Also on

Healthy Living

Lacking sunshine

People who live above the 40th parallel north do not get enough vitamin D from sun exposure and need to take supplements and eat enriched food.

The north face



Suggested foods

- Fortified milk and daily products
- Fortified breads and cereals
- Fatty fish, such as salmon and tuna

NOTE: People who stay indoors or regularly use sunscreen may also lack vitamin D

Source: Harvard School of Public Health © 2014 MCT

music downloads

Week ending Nov. 25, 2014



#1 Album
Shady XV
Various Artists

Top tracks

- Blank Space**
Talyor Swift
- The Heart Wants What it Wants**
Selena Gomez
- Uptown Funk**
Mark Ronson
- Take Me to Church**
Hozier
- I'm Not the Only One**
Sam Smith

Source: iTunes

Tribune News Service

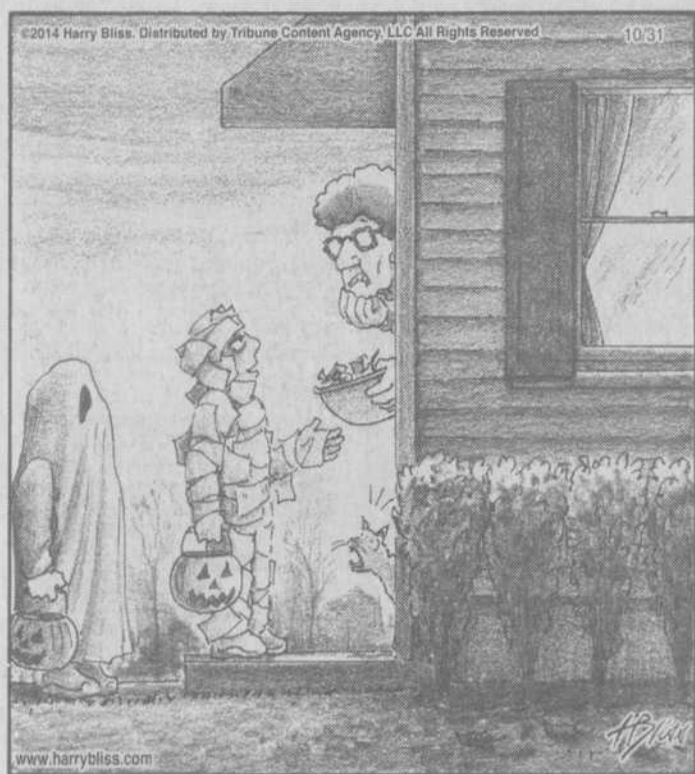
Movie picks

Tribune News Service					
Chicago Tribune					
Los Angeles Times					
Philadelphia Inquirer					
PG 13	Interstellar	★	★	★	★
PG 13	Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1	★	★	★	★
R	Nightcrawler	★	★	★	★
R	Birdman	★	★	★	★
PG 13	The Theory of Everything	★	★	★	★
PG	Big Hero 6	★	★	★	★

Tribune News Service

Puzzles & Comics

Bliss



"I put the whole thing together with my mom's health care statements - pretty scary, huh?"

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When I was 5 years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down 'happy'. They told me I didn't understand the assignment, and I told them they didn't understand life.

-John Lennon

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Sudoku (easy)

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

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Imps! by Jeff Harris

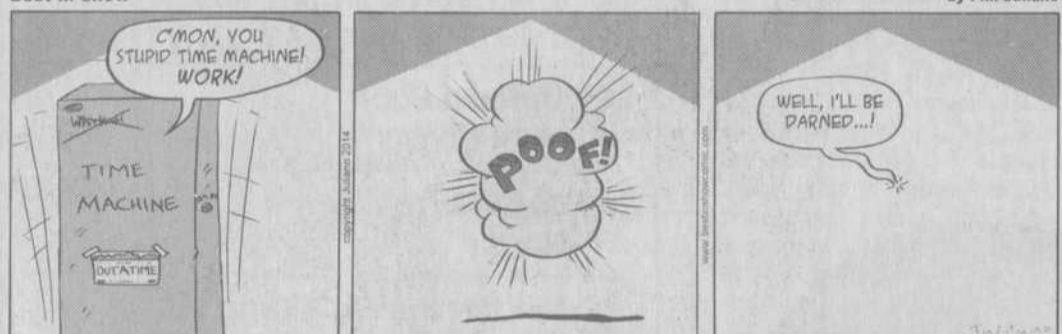


GREEN APPLES by Jeff Harris



Best In Show

by Phil Juliano



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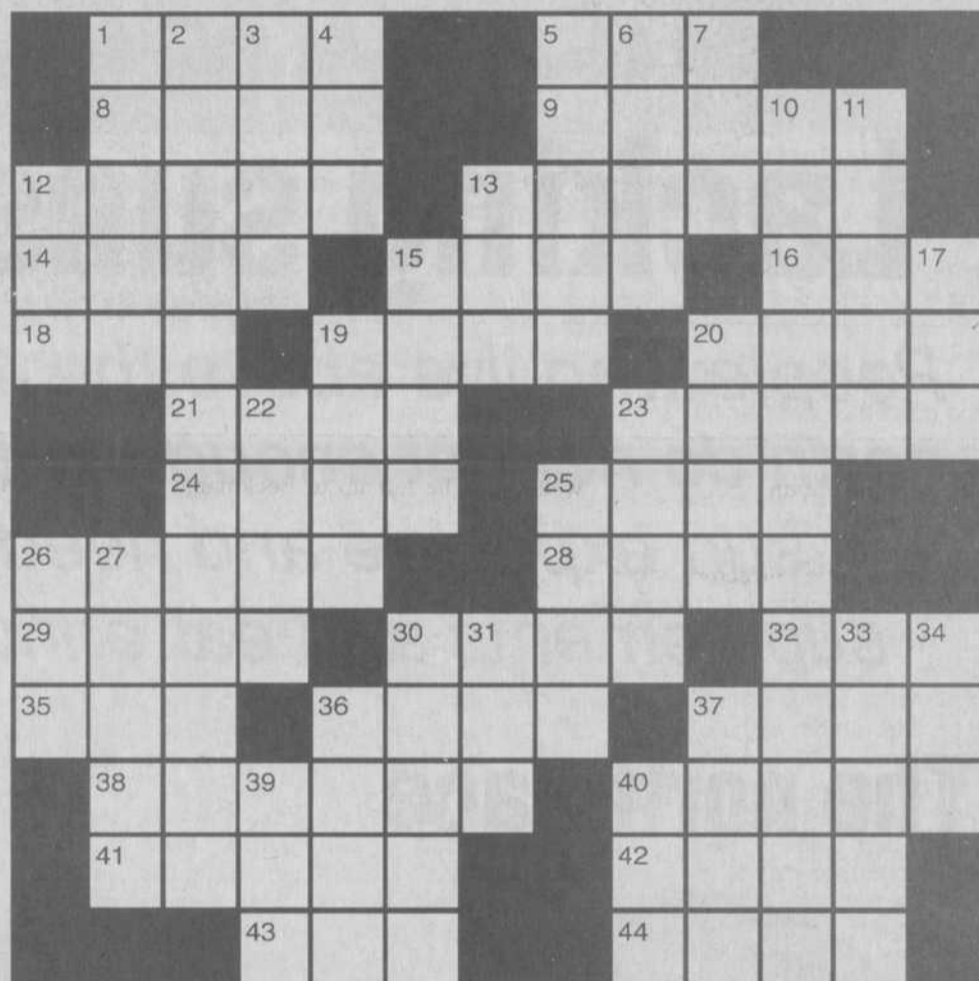


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- Actress Anderson
- Harmon and Hamill
- Gossip columnist __ Hopper
- "I've Got a __"
- "The Defiant __"; movie for Tony Curtis and Sidney Poitier
- Lois __; Clark Kent's love
- Actor Kilmer
- __ person; apiece
- "The __ Pebbles"; Steve McQueen movie
- "Chicago __"
- "We __ to Talk About Kevin"; film for Tilda Swinton
- Dishwasher cycle
- Whip mercilessly
- Artist Chagall
- West and Sandler
- Limbaugh, for one
- Singer Perry
- Orange rind
- Mom on "Little People, Big World"

DOWN

- Coeur d' __, Idaho
- Sofia Vergara sitcom
- Finishes
- Actress Peeples
- Turn over a new leaf
- "The Amazing __"
- Goof
- Actor on "Person of Interest"
- "Dancing with the __"
- __ Sing; family cook on "Bonanza"
- Laura __ Giacomo
- Godiva or Gaga
- Jamie __ Curtis
- "Sinbad: Legend of the Seven __"; Brad Pitt movie
- Evergreens
- Muppet on "Sesame Street"
- Actor __ Julia
- Talking horse
- Highest spade
- __ out; distributed
- Pretty garden flower
- 180° from WSW
- "Mork & __"
- "Say __ to the Dress"
- Actor Rex __
- Setting for "Magnum, P.I."
- Battery size
- Short swim

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

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

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10/27/13

Illinois keeps football coach Tim Beckman



Nancy Stone/Chicago Tribune/MCT

University of Illinois coach Tim Beckman speaks to the media outside the ballroom during Big Ten Media Day at the Hilton Chicago on Monday, July 28, 2014, in Chicago, Ill. Beckman will continue to coach the Illini Football team for the 2015 season.

Shannon Ryan
Chicago Tribune

Illinois athletic director Mike Thomas saw enough improvement from football coach Tim Beckman's team to retain him.

"It was important to see improvement in our football program this season," Thomas said in the statement. "It's my expectation that with the upcoming bowl and another off-season of development, that Tim's continued leadership will keep Fighting Illini football moving forward and even more competitive in the conference and nationally."

There was no mention of a contract extension or staff changes, which

would now be left up to Beckman, according to a team spokesman.

Thomas declined an interview request from the Tribune.

He pointed out in the statement that the Illini (6-6, 3-5 Big Ten) have won three of the last five games of the season, including victories against two other Big Ten bowl-eligible teams in Minnesota and Penn State.

"Our student-athletes have played their best football of the season down the stretch of a tough schedule that included nine bowl-eligible opponents," Thomas' statement read.

Beckman is finishing his third season of a five-year contract.

His job security was in question

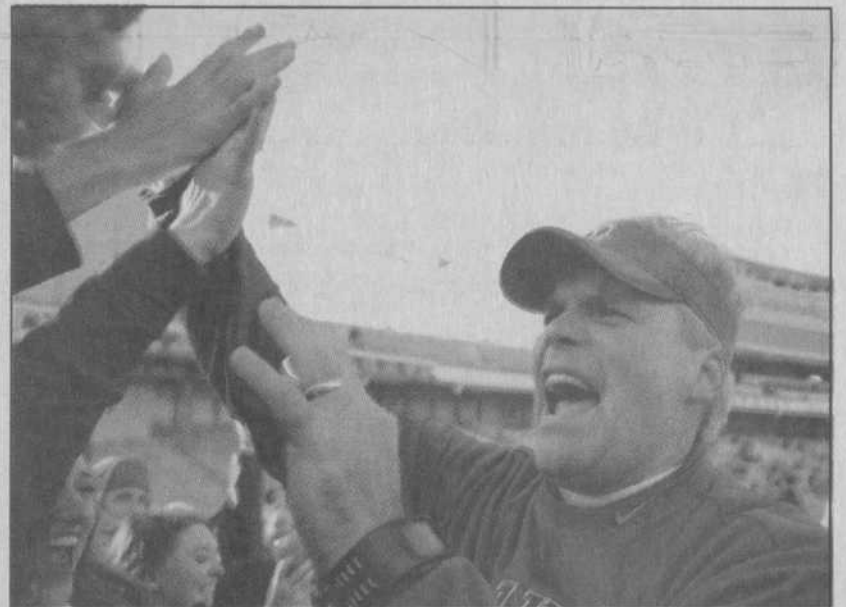
before the season even started after going 6-18 overall and 1-15 in Big Ten games through his first two seasons in Champaign.

During the season, Thomas declined to discuss Beckman's status.

His return seemed unlikely when the Illini started this Big Ten season 1-5. A 38-27 home loss to Purdue on Oct. 4 dropped Illinois to 3-3 overall and cast a gloomy shadow over the program.

But the Illini rallied in impressive fashion, beating Penn State and Northwestern in the last two games of the regular season.

—
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John J. Kim/Chicago Tribune/TNS
Illinois head coach Tim Beckman high-fives fans after a 47-33 win against Northwestern at Ryan Field in Evanston, Ill., on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014.

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Entertainment

No. 1 'Hunger Games: Mockingjay'



Photo courtesy of Murray Close/Lionsgate/MCT

Jennifer Lawrence stars as Katniss Everdeen in "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1."

Saba Hamedy
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES - The Thanksgiving holiday had moviegoers hungry for box office leftovers.

In its second weekend, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1" topped the box office again, grossing \$82.7 million in the U.S. and Canada over the five-day holiday. The Lionsgate film has pulled in \$480 million worldwide to date.

"Mockingjay - Part 1" became the third-highest Thanksgiving five-day gross, falling just behind "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" and "Frozen," which set records last year. It edged ahead of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," which grossed \$82.4 million in November of 2001.

The film also marks the fourth time Lionsgate has had the No. 1 film over the Thanksgiving weekend. The Santa Monica, Calif.-based studio also scored big with "Catching Fire," and "Twilight" franchise films "Breaking Dawn - Part 1" and "Breaking Dawn - Part 2."

But the holiday wasn't as generous to newcomers "Penguins of Madagascar" and "Horrible Bosses 2."

Twentieth Century Fox's animated "Penguins of Madagascar" debuted at No. 2 with \$36 million. Meanwhile, the Warner Bros.-distributed comedy "Horrible Bosses 2" rounded out the top five with \$23 million.

Going into the weekend, the odds were in the "Hunger Games" franchise's favor.

While some critics called "Mockingjay - Part 1" a solid segue, others complained that the two-part approach to the finale feels like a cheap cash-in.

The film opened to \$123 million last weekend, surpassing the \$100 million debut of "Transformers: Age of Extinction" to become this year's biggest opening.

It earned a high A-minus rating from audience polling firm CinemaScore and a decent 66 percent "fresh" rating on review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes.

Unsurprisingly, the young adult

franchise has drawn audiences largely younger than 25. Based on the best-selling novels by Suzanne Collins, the "Hunger Games" movies have been huge hits.

"Penguins of Madagascar," the spinoff of DreamWorks Animation's Madagascar franchise, also attracted younger audiences and families. An estimated 58 percent of moviegoers were younger than 25. Females made up 51 percent of the audience.

The PG-rated film follows the penguins Skipper, Kowalski, Rico and Private as they work with undercover organization The North Wind to stop Dr. Octavius Brine from destroying the world. Benedict Cumberbatch and John Malkovich voice some of the animated characters.

By comparison, the third installment in the PG-rated "Madagascar" franchise opened with a healthy \$60.4 million in 2012. "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa" opened with \$63.1 million in 2008 and ultimately collected \$603.9 million worldwide.

"Kids love the movie and there won't be any new family films for another three or four weeks, which is a good thing for us," said Chris Aronson, head of domestic distribution at 20th Century Fox.

The film was originally slated for a March 2015 release date, but Fox moved up the opening. Historically, animated films tend to play better over the Thanksgiving holiday.

While the studio hoped the film would open to as much as \$45 million over the long weekend, Aronson said he thinks the film will play well into December.

"The marketplace in general is a little soft but I think we'll overcome that in the next few weeks," he said. "I think we're in good shape with the holidays coming up."

The film earned an A-minus rating from CinemaScore and a decent 69 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Meanwhile, raunchy R-rated "Horrible Bosses 2" didn't end up hitting its \$40 million projections. Though it notched a B-plus rating on



Photo courtesy of Murray Close/Lionsgate/MCT

Josh Hutcherson stars as Peeta Mellark in "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1."

CinemaScore, it earned a 35 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

"The weekend was a little disappointing for us," said Dan Fellman, president of domestic distribution for Warner Bros.

"Tracking had a much higher number ... but this is a tough year for R-rated movies and we took a gamble."

The Sean Anders-directed film, which cost about \$43 million to make, brings back comedic trio Nick (Jason Bateman), Kurt (Jason Sudeikis) and Dale (Charlie Day). It also stars Jennifer Aniston, Kevin Spacey, Jamie Fox and Chris Pine.

Like its 2011 predecessor "Horrible Bosses," which opened to \$28.1 million, the film catered to largely older, male audiences. About 59 percent of moviegoers were older than 25 and males made up 51 percent of audiences.

Fellman said the film will hopefully

play better in the coming weeks.

"I think we'll get back on track ... it just started a little softer than we had anticipated," he said.

In its sixth weekend at the box office, Disney's "Big Hero 6" stayed strong at No. 3.

The film has grossed \$167.2 million in the U.S. and Canada and \$56.9 million overseas, making its global haul \$224.1 million to date.

Christopher Nolan's "Interstellar" also held steady at No. 4. It was up 3 percent from last weekend, adding \$22 million over the five-day period. To date, the film has pulled in \$147 million in the U.S. and Canada.

Focus Features' "The Theory of Everything" moved from No. 10 to No. 7 as it expanded into more theaters.

The film, which has a solid 83 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes, is based on Jane Hawking's memoir, "Travelling to Infinity: My Life With

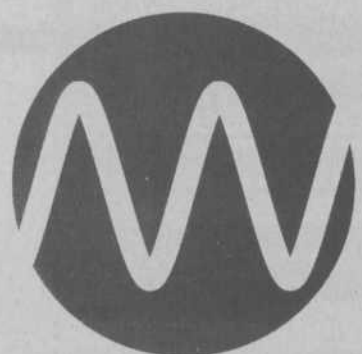
Stephen." It stars Eddie Redmayne as Stephen Hawking and Felicity Jones as Hawking's wife, Jane Wilde.

For the five-day weekend, the film pulled in \$6.4 million, making its overall estimated domestic cumulative total about \$9.6 million.

In limited release, "The Imitation Game" had the fifth overall highest per-screen average of \$120,518. The Weinstein Co., which stars Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley, has pulled in \$482,000 since opening in four theaters in New York and Los Angeles on Friday.

The current box office is down about 4 percent year to date. But studios and movie chains are still holding out hope that holiday ticket sales in the U.S. and Canada might come close to matching last year's record of \$10.9 billion.

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