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Prospectus News

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Maybe money does grow on trees:

■ A guide to your Financial Aid paperwork process

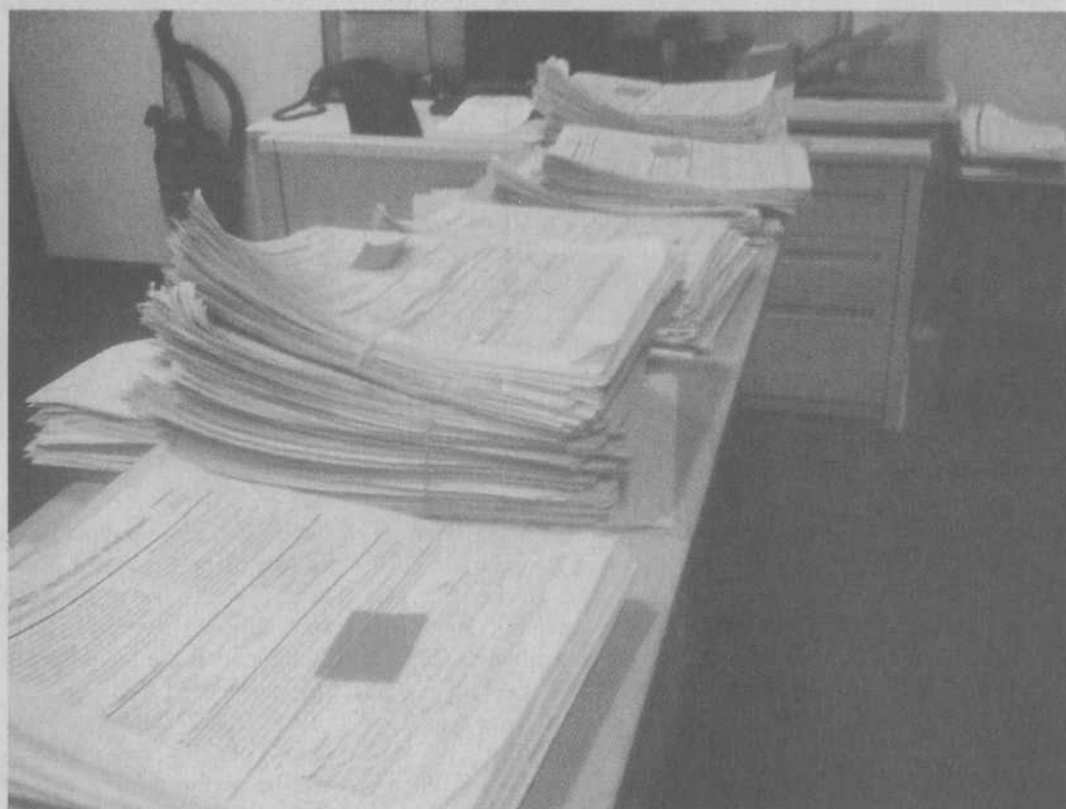
Janelle O'DEA
Staff Writer

On Monday, August 23, a deep summer haze hung over the line like a thick fog. A line of students stretched from the Financial Aid Office to what seemed like miles down the hall.

The insanity of fall semester began to settle in as more students become increasingly anxious about the status of their financial aid. Though the paperwork is much simpler than past years, it does still confuse students.

The FAFSA form is one vital part of the financial aid process. The five-lettered demon students and staff try to tackle early in the year, returns to Parkland's campus and brings with it the typical FAFSA baggage: delays, anxiety, frustration. FAFSA confuses students and keeps staff busy with tedious and mostly unnecessary tasks, correcting information that shouldn't be corrected if it'd been filled out properly the first time. Students can't be blamed for the delays, either, because FAFSA is confusing and changes every year. Many times, a student's information fails to process due to an error on the FAFSA form.

To make sure the procedure runs as smooth as possible, double check even basic information, such as your address and zip code. Submit the form



A stack of financial aid applications accumulated over five days lies on top of the desk of Stacey Bennett, a financial aid associate at Parkland. This year has been the worst in Parkland's history regarding demand for financial aid and the number of applications received.

online and receive helpful reminders for small details that could turn into an hour-long wait. Go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> to get started and look for them on the right as you fill in your information.

If you're confused as you begin to fill out your FAFSA, Parkland's Financial Aid Office, located in room A171, is happy

to help. There are three computers set outside the office for exactly this reason. You can fill out your FAFSA on the spot and get assistance from Parkland staff at the same time. Before you go, make sure you have all of the information needed to fill out the form. If you are a dependent student, make sure to bring all of your par-

ents' information, or better yet, bring a parent with you. Check the FAFSA website for a list of documents needed (for independent and dependent students) in the process.

This year has been the worst in Parkland's history regarding demand for financial aid and the number of applications received. Niko Fleming,

a 19-year-old Parkland student, waited in line at the financial aid office on Monday. He waited for nearly half an hour just to check the status of his forms, after submitting them in June. According to Wendt, the office is now processing forms turned in from the end of July. That means at least a month's wait if you turn in the forms now, but probably more.

"This is a very rewarding profession, financial aid. But it's also frustrating because we want to help and we're only following what the government tells us to follow," said Tim Wendt, Director of Financial Aid at Parkland College, in regards to helping students through their process. Of anyone, the staff in the financial aid office will understand your frustration, so do your best not to take attitude with them. They may tell you things you don't want to hear, but don't shoot the messenger. Being pleasant can make the process much easier for both you and them.

On top of all of the applications are hundreds of students calling in or walking in to check the status of their forms. The more calls staff take, the more students they see in the office, and the more emails they reply to all take away from working on the verification process, resulting in a nasty catch 22 for staff. Try checking your status on MyParkland before you go

to the office.

All students can check the status of their financial aid through MyParkland, the new student interface. On the left, under the WebAdvisor tab, is the link for financial aid. Here, you can check the status and see if there are any further steps you need to take. You can also find links to PDFs of any further forms you may need to submit.

Most importantly, fill out your forms as early as possible. The earlier you turn in your work, the earlier the process can begin. Applying before March 1 of the school year you're applying for will get the process started earlier, and if you're verified, you'll definitely have your money in time for the start of the semester.

To reach Financial Aid at Parkland College, call 351-2222.

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Colleges say new health law may imperil student policies

Julie APPLEBY
MCT

Colleges and universities say that some rules in the new health law could keep them from offering low-cost, limited-benefit student insurance policies, and they're seeking federal authority to continue offering them.

Their request drew fire from critics, however, who say that student health plans should be held to the same standards that other insurance is.

Among other things, the colleges want clarification that they won't have to offer the policies to non-students.

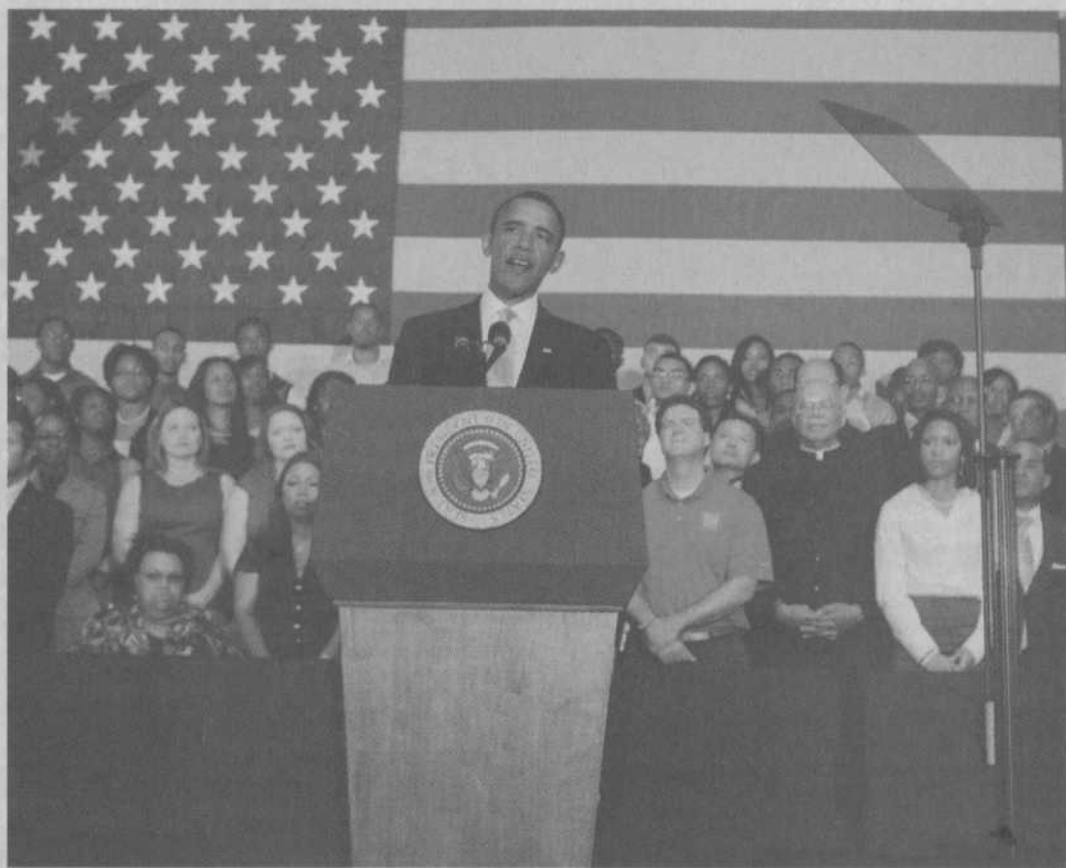
Without a number of changes, it may be impossible to continue to offer student health plans, says a letter that the American Council on Education sent Aug. 12 to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, signed by 12 other trade associations that represent colleges.

Additionally, the colleges say that some provisions of the law don't apply to their policies, including those that require insurers to spend at least 80 percent of their revenue on medical care and that bar them from setting annual coverage caps.

Many of the provisions at issue don't go into effect until 2014, but the colleges say they need clarity soon because they're negotiating long-term contracts with insurers now.

HHS spokeswoman Jessica Santillo said Sebelius had received the letter and "looks forward to sending a response." Santillo added that the health care law allows many young adults to stay on parents' policies until age 26.

The request comes amid



President Barack Obama speaks to students at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

(A.J. Sisco/Abaca Press/MCT)

continued scrutiny of student health plans, including an ongoing investigation by New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, who said in April that some of the plans left students "at risk while providing massive profits for insurance companies."

His investigation has found that policies offered to New York students were inexpensive, ranging from as little as \$100 a school year to more than \$2,500, but that the benefits also vary widely, with some capping annual coverage at \$25,000 or setting per-illness caps as low as \$700.

"Buying these kinds of low-quality products with low premiums enables colleges" to

keep students' costs down. "But the problem is the protection provided students under the plans isn't sufficient," said Mark Rukavina of the Access Project, an advocacy group in Boston that's studied student health plans. "If you are a student who needs care, given the caps on benefits, you are in trouble."

More than half of colleges nationwide offer student insurance plans, according to a March 2008 study by the Government Accountability Office. While 80 percent of college students were insured, often through their parents' coverage, only 7 percent bought their own policies or purchased school-based plans, according

to the GAO.

Starting in 2014, the new health law bars annual caps such as those in student health plans. Starting this year, insurers must offer at least \$750,000 in coverage per year, although insurers or employers can apply for waivers from that restriction.

Colleges say their plans don't fall under the annual cap requirement because they're considered "limited duration" policies, meaning they expire after a certain number of months, generally the school year.

They also say that such limited duration policies don't have to meet rules that require insurers to spend an average of

at least 80 percent of revenue on direct medical care, rather than administrative costs or profits, or issue rebates to policyholders.

Law professor Bryan Liang disagrees.

"That sounds like wishful thinking on their part," said Liang, a critic of student health plans who's the executive director of the Institute of Health Law Studies at California Western School of Law in San Diego. Even if the plans are considered limited duration policies, he said, such policies are regulated by states, which can set similar spending rules.

Many student plans would flunk the spending test. A recent report by Massachusetts state officials, for example, found that spending on medical care among the 13 insurers that offer student plans in the state ranged from 46 percent to 89 percent, with the average at 69 percent.

Requiring them to meet even some of the new rules could drive up premiums, colleges say. Premiums could increase, for example, if regulators determine that student health plans are considered "individual" policies rather than group plans, which often get a better rate, said Steven Bloom, the assistant director of federal relations at the American Council on Education.

Additionally, the colleges fear that they'd be required to offer the plans to anyone who applied for one, even if the applicant wasn't a student, Bloom said.

Liang, the law professor, doubts that colleges would be forced to offer insurance to anyone who walked into a campus health center.

"That's like saying I, as a non-IBM employee, could go to IBM and say, 'You need to give me insurance,'" said Liang, who sent a letter Aug. 17 to Sebelius in response to the education council's request.

He doesn't think that school plans should be offered any special protection in the regulations that are being developed to implement the health care law.

The school-based policies "financially benefit the school and their insurance company partners over the student ... are poor in coverage and may violate consumer protection law and public policy," his letter says.

In another letter sent to Sebelius last week, a grassroots group made up of college health directors, doctors and others involved with student insurance say that the secretary should require poor-quality plans to improve their benefits.

Jim Mitchell, a spokesman for the Lookout Mountain Group, said that its members agreed with some of the education council's requests, including its concern that colleges not be required to offer coverage to non-students. The group disagrees, however, with the council's position that student health plans are exempt from some rules that go into effect this year, including the restriction on annual limits.

"Student insurance plans can't be the only insurance unaffected by these health reform laws," said Mitchell, who's also the director of the Student Health Service at Montana State University.

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Prospectus

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The Prospectus deadline for all advertising is 5 p.m. of the Wednesday immediately before the upcoming edition.

Letters and Editorial Policy

Views expressed are opinions of staff and contributors and not necessarily that of the Prospectus or Parkland College.

The Prospectus welcomes letters to the editor. We accept submissions from the Parkland community and the public. The editor will also consider original works of fiction and short writings if space is available.

The rules of correspondence: all submissions must be signed with a phone number and address. The Prospectus staff must verify the identity of letter writers. Correspondence may be edited to accommodate the space requirements of the paper. The deadline for all submissions is 12 p.m. of the Thursday immediately before the upcoming issue.

Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

Lead Story

A recent surge of neo-Nazism in several countries – including, improbably, Israel, and Mongolia (where some dark-skinned natives are rabidly anti-Chinese) – has generally been denounced, but Corinna Burt credited it with rescuing her from a life of acting in pornographic videos. According to a hate-group watchdog, the Portland, Ore., woman is “the most prominent National Socialist Movement organizer in the Pacific Northwest.” In an August interview with Gawker.com, the white-supremacist Burt (a mother of two and a professional embalmer who is also into bodybuilding) said she terminated her porn career because, “If we (Caucasians) consider ourselves a master race then we have to act like a master race, not degenerates.”

Government in Action

Though volunteers got the project started in May, Ventnor City, N.J., continued through the summer to seek financial donations to finish the new restrooms that provide relief for those visiting the town's Atlantic shore. Said Commissioner Stephen Weintrob, “How would someone like to have a toilet named after themselves, or a urinal or sink?”

A Treasury Department

inspector general reported in June that, out of 2.6 million applicants for federal mortgage relief, 14,000 “home buyers” wrongly received tax credits and that in fact, 1,300 of them were living in prison at the time of filing, including 241 serving life sentences. Sixty-seven of the 14,000 received tax credits for the same house, and 87 more potentially fraudulent tax-credit applications were filed by Internal Revenue Service employees.

Things That Shouldn't Get Backlogged:

California requires that if a sex offender's GPS tagging device signals that he's in a prohibited area, parole agents must immediately respond, but that law was easier to pass than to implement. As of June, according to a San Diego Union-Tribune investigation, the state had fallen about 31,000 responses behind.

It is common knowledge that American corporations avoid taxes by running U.S. profits through offshore “tax havens” like the Cayman Islands and Bermuda, but a May Bloomberg Business Week investigation traced the specific steps that the pharmaceutical company Forest Labs takes to short the U.S. Treasury. Although Forest's anti-depressant Lexapro is sold only in the U.S., the company's patent is held by an Irish subsidiary (and since 2005, shared with a Bermuda subsidiary in a tax-code hocus-pocus that insiders call the “Double Irish”), which allows the vast majority of the \$2 billion Forest earns a year on Lexapro to be taxed at Ireland's low rate (and at Bermuda's rate of zero). Bloomberg estimates that the U.S. Treasury loses at least \$60 billion annually by corporations' “transfer pricing” – enough to pay for the entire Department of Homeland Security for a year.

Great Art!

Time magazine reported in August that among the entrants in this year's “Detroit Hair Wars” (showcasing 34 stylists working with 300 models) were The Hummer (stylist: “Little Willie”), in which a mass of extensions is shaped to resemble the vehicle, including four large tires – with “metal” wheels and front grid added –

sitting upon the styled hair of model Sharv Bailey; and Beautiful Butterfly (stylist: Niecy Hayes), featuring extensions thinned, teased and stretched into four artistic “wings” arising from the styled hair of model Taja Hiu. Both stylings appear to be at least 2 feet long, dwarfing the models' heads, and take at least 10 hours to prepare.

Police Report

Least Competent Police

In March, four NYPD officers, acting on department intelligence, went to the home of Walter and Rose Martin in Brooklyn, N.Y., looking for a suspect, and broke a window as they worked their way inside. The Martins, retired and in their 80s, were clean, and a police spokesman later admitted that officers had wrongly visited or raided the Martins' home more than 50 times since 2002 because of a stubborn computer glitch. When the software was originally installed, an operator tested it by mindlessly typing in a random address, but that happened to be the Martins' house, and thus the visits and raids began. The Martins say they have been assured several times that the problem had been corrected, but evidently their address has wormed its way too deep into the system.

PASSION PIT FINALLY MAKES IT TO THE C-U, FINALLY!

Patrick “PATCHES” WOOD
 Music Columnist/WPCD

Cambridge, Massachusetts natives Passion Pit have yet to play a show in Champaign-Urbana. Chicago seems to be the closest that they've come while in Illinois, and that's just sad. We poor college kids can hardly afford to eat, so how the heck can we drop what we're doing and book it to Chi-town? Fortunately for you (and me), Passion Pit will be making a stop in the C-U area at the University of Illinois Assembly Hall on Wednesday, October 20 while on the Campus Consciousness Tour.

According to the tour homepage, reverb.org/project/CCT, the tour is “half rock tour, half environmental campaign,” and “aims to inspire and activate students in an electric atmosphere while leaving a positive impact on each community the tour visits.” The tour not only provides great music from artists such as Ben Harper, OAR, Guster, and Drake, but also educates students about living a greener lifestyle. In fact, the tour itself is set up in such a way so as to leave a smaller ecological footprint.

Tickets for Passion Pit are available to students in a pre-



sale that begins September 1 and ends September 3, while tickets to the general public go on sale on September 4. However, if you're one of the poor, starving college students that I mentioned at the beginning of this piece, don't fret.

WPCD 88.7 The Wave, Parkland College's radio station, will be giving away a pair of tickets a day beginning Mon-

day, August 30 to Friday, September 3. All you have to do is tune in between 7 and 10 p.m. and know your Passion Pit tunes. Instead of spending that grocery money on tickets, let The Wave help you out. It's as easy as turning the radio on.

For questions or comments about this article, music, and 88.7 The Wave, email Patches@887thewave.com



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#10 HUNTER'S CLUB®
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Campus wants greater attire awareness

Eric FERRERI
MCT

On the first day of class, everything N.C. Central University junior Ricky Magwood wore was much too big for him - from a billowy white T-shirt to the gold chain hanging nearly to his waist.

But it's hot out, Magwood argued. And he's an art student, so he's going to get messy anyhow.

Ricky: Your chancellor would like a word with you.

NCCU Chancellor Charlie Nelms thinks eye-catching outfits - whether risqué or just plain sloppy - are obstacles to learning. This fall, he's put in motion a subtle campaign to eliminate everything from pajama pants to plunging necklines.

"Suggestive, revealing clothing, by men or women, should not be worn in a classroom," Nelms said recently. "And you shouldn't be wearing pajama pants to class!"

Nelms' concerns are echoed across America's college campuses, where students routinely file into lecture halls in pajamas, baggy clothing or skirts better suited for a night out on the town. Universities are fighting back; some have imposed strict dress codes, others softer guidelines.

While the sloppy American college student isn't specific to historically black colleges, those institutions place a particularly heavy emphasis on appearance, said Marybeth Gasman, an education professor at the University of Pennsylvania who studies histori-



Some professors and colleges are now taking a stand against sloppy dress and are revising their dress code policies.

(Janet BLACKMON MORGAN/Myrtle Beach Sun-News)

cally black institutions.

"Many people look at one African-American and see him or her as representative of all blacks," Gasman wrote in an e-mail interview. "People don't do that to whites - they are seen as individuals. The stakes are higher for African-Americans. I understand that many HBCUs want to make sure that their students are seen in the best light and that they look professional when they go into the workforce."

At NCCU, Nelms is soft-pedaling his message by urging professors to talk about appearance. It is part of an ongoing series of initiatives Nelms has put in place since

taking over at NCCU in 2007 to raise expectations. Graduation and retention rates must rise. Employees are expected to be more respectful and responsible. And students should be presentable.

"Please dress appropriately for class," reads the syllabus for literacy enhancement, an undergraduate course enrolling 400 students in 20 class sections. "Men should not wear do rags or hats inside the classroom. Ladies should not wear mid-riff tops, mini-skirts or short-shorts in class."

There's plenty of skin on display these days on college campuses. Young women are more likely to dress provocatively - a

shirt too tight, a skirt too short - many students say.

"I look at it like a fashion show," NCCU Freshman Chelsea Gorski said. "You want people to notice you, but you don't want to be flashy."

Gorski hit the campus cafeteria one recent day wearing a lime-green top stretched over a lacy black camisole.

"It's like this top," said Gorski, nodding toward her chest. "I'd wear this without a cami if I was going to the club, but going to class, I wear a shirt under it."

The male offenders lean toward the disheveled, such as Magwood, whose first-day-of-class outfit also included baggy

shorts and an Orlando Magic hat with the brim flipped up.

"I think this is sloppy," he conceded, "but not everyone can afford nice clothes."

Public universities in North Carolina don't have formal dress codes, but some private institutions do. Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, for example, prohibits hats, do rags, bustiers, halters, pajamas, bedroom slippers and "Daisy Duke" shorts.

At NCCU, the issue can be dicey. There are no hard data to prove clothing can distract, just anecdotal evidence from professors. Administrators can't order students to buy new clothes, and they are wary of stifling free expression.

And what's OK to wear?

Bernice Johnson, dean of the University College, uses common sense.

"If there's a student with a dress so short people are whispering about it, that's a distraction," she said.

But not all students go to class dressed for a night of clubbing. Some well-dressed student leaders led a counter-revolution of sorts last year, handing out information cards defining terms such as "business casual" and noting what sort of dress was and was not acceptable.

And in some corners of campus, students and professors take it a step further.

On the first day of her senior-level career management course, business professor Shirrell McNeill led her students in a detailed discussion of acceptable dress. McNeill's discussion hit on everything

from appropriate skirt length to the proper colors for men's neckties.

"You never know who's watching," McNeill tells her students. "There are professional recruiters on campus all the time, and you want to look like you're ready to get out there and make a difference right now."

For college students looking to get into the job market, a good first impression is particularly important when competing with people with more skills and experience, said Lindsey Hart, talent acquisition specialist with Red Hat, the Raleigh-based technology firm.

"It's the first thing you see," Hart said. "If someone has on something very tight or has something falling out, it will be noted."

McNeill's class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, the business school's designated "professional attire" days. That means students are to come to class dressed for a job interview - suits and ties for men, smart business suits for women.

And keep the cleavage hidden.

"I don't want to see everything falling out of your blouse," McNeill told her students. "That is really, really inappropriate."

(c) 2010, The News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.)

Older adults' use social networks growing fast, study finds

Sarah LUNDY
MCT

Ruth Roseboom checks her Facebook page at least once a day. The 78-year-old grandmother from Celebration, Fla., has 40 Facebook friends and likes to see what they are up to on any given time.

Roseboom is part of a growing number of adults logging onto social networks such as Facebook and Twitter to stay connected, according to a study released Friday by the Pew Research Center's Internet and America Life Project.

In fact, for adults 50 to 64 years old, the use of social networking sites have jumped by 88 percent in the past year, the study found. For those 65 and older, it has doubled.

The younger generation remains the biggest users of Facebook and other sites. But the report shows that seniors currently make up the fastest-growing group.

"It's surprising to see just how fast they are growing," said Mary Madden, senior research specialist and author

of Pew's study.

Orlando, Fla., grandmother Rosie Chapman, who only revealed that she's older than 65, joined Facebook more than a year ago. Like Roseboom, she prefers to go online to keep tabs on friends and loved ones, especially her three college-age grandchildren. Neither she nor Roseboom, however, generally share their daily activities.

Chapman was struck by some of the spiritual comments her grandson posts. "I never saw that side of him before," she said with a smile. "I'm so proud of him."

For the study, a survey was conducted of 695 adults who were 50 to 64 and 518 adults who were 65 and older.

The Pew Center points to several factors that contribute to why older adults are logging on to social networks now.

-It helps bridge the "generation gap." The social networking sites bring people of all ages together in one space. Roseboom and Chapman are examples of that.

-More social network users

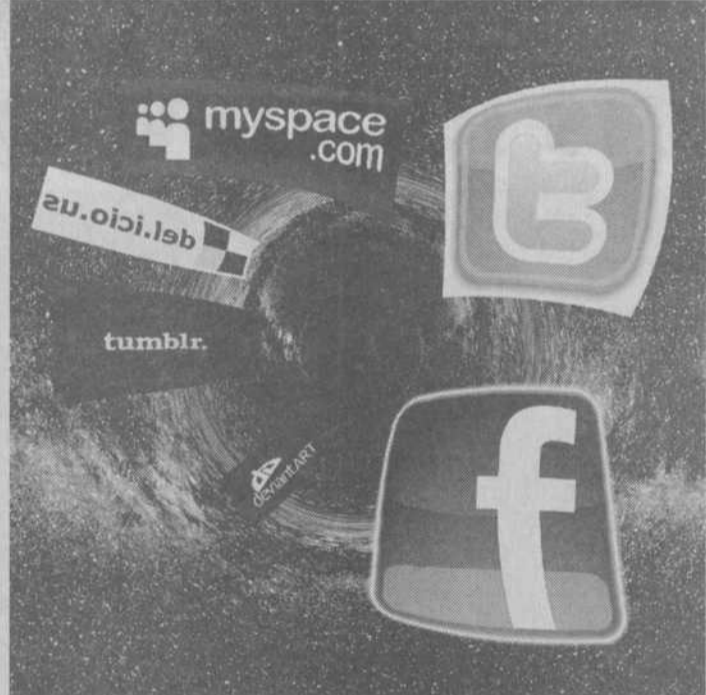


Illustration By Isaac Mitchell

are more likely to reconnect with people from their past. These reconnections can be powerful support when people are entering another phase of their life, such as retirement or a new career.

-Older adults are more likely to be living with chronic diseases, and those with diseases

are more apt to seek support online.

More organizations, such as AARP, that cater to older adults are promoting social media networks.

Jeff Johnson, AARP manager of Florida operations, said the nonprofit organization uses Facebook and Twitter, as well as e-mail and traditional mail to reach members.

"Over the past year, we have noticed more and more people discovering Facebook," he said.

For the first time, AARP included a session last year at its annual convention that focused on social networking. It turned out to be standing-room only event.

It proved to be so successful that a session is scheduled at this year's convention, which will be held in Orlando next month.

In May, AARP also taught its volunteer leaders for the first time how to use Facebook and Twitter to advocate for older adults.

"There is a growing understanding" on how it can be used, Johnson said.

John Evans Henderson, 62, knew he needed to embrace Facebook and Twitter as he embarked on a new career. He's taking classes and focusing his new business on design building, especially homes, that are both "green and healthy."

The Maitland, Fla., man has two Facebook accounts - one personal and a fan page for his business, Mr. House Guy. He spouts his opinions on his

personal account, but opts to share environmental issues on his fan page.

"I use it to get the word out about what I'm learning and what I can do for people," he said.

Henderson isn't surprised to hear more people his age are using social networking. He's reconnected with several high school friends. It feels more like a natural progression for him, he said.

"I think more people are seeing the way businesses are going," he said, adding they have to adapt to the changing technology.

Seniors Now Computer Learning Center, which offers Orange County, Fla., senior centers, doesn't have a class dedicated to social networking. But it may develop one, said the group's president Tom Springall.

Most older adults, he said, come to the organizations wanting to know two things: how to e-mail and how to get on the Web.

So far, e-mail is the most popular way older adults prefer to communicate online, he said.

That, too, was reflected in Pew's study.

Overall, 92 percent of those ages 50 to 64 and 89 percent of those 65 and older send and read e-mails.

"While e-mail may be falling out of favor with today's teenagers, older adults still rely on it heavily as an essential tool," the report said.

Twitter, the micro-blogging site, tends to be lagging far behind Facebook. For example, Roseboom wasn't sure what it was and Chapman didn't find a need to use it.

But it is slowly gaining ground.

In 2009, just 5 percent of users ages 50 to 64 had used Twitter or another status update service. That's gone up to 11 percent now.

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Opinions

How to save public television: The PBS Channel

Jack SHAKELY
MCT

Epiphanies can come at you from the damndest places. Mine was delivered by a cute, doe-eyed, bilingual animation character named Dora the Explorer.

"Dora the Explorer" is the kind of morning children's show that epitomizes public television. It's gentle, funny, educational and culturally sensitive. Kids gobble it up. But "Dora" isn't produced or aired by PBS. If it were, it would cost tens of millions of dollars and become the subject of a thousand pledge breaks that might just help it to break even. "Dora," by contrast, is produced by and aired on Nickelodeon, and the show is seen by twice as many kids as PBS can muster. Not only that, in its 10 years on the air, thanks to product licensing, it has earned its parent company many millions of dollars, not even counting money the show generates through advertising.

Why does such disparity exist? Why is public television, both nationally and locally, awash in red ink despite its enormously popular programming while Nickelodeon (and its fellow networks including the History Channel, A&E, National Geographic and Animal Planet) are making money?

If you asked Dora, she could answer in a second - in Spanish

and English: "Cable."

So now we come to my epiphany: PBS should market itself as a network to cable and satellite providers rather than having each individual affiliated station across the country offer itself for free.

The PBS Channel, with its strong lineup of shows such as "Sesame Street," "American Experience," "Frontline," "Nature" and "Nova," would have no trouble whatsoever getting every cable and satellite provider across the country to carry it. The providers just like every other network that is part of the basic cable package would pay it, and the need for those annoying pledge breaks would vanish overnight.

So simple, so elegant, and yet probably impossible to pull off. Why? To understand the difficulty, we need to look back in history.

Early public television (what we used to call educational television) was a delivery system in search of a product. From the first public television station in Houston in 1954, the operation was conceived as strictly a local affair, broadcasting educational programs into schools a few hours a day, always during school hours. Regular citizens couldn't even pick up the UHF stations without buying a converter box for their TVs.

By 1960, there were more than 200 public television sta-

tions covering every major city in America, but no network. But though the public television stations in the 1960s didn't have a network, they became very good at joining forces to lobby Congress for money. In 1969, both the Corp. for Public Broadcasting and the Public Broadcasting Service, or PBS, were created, and American public television was off and running (ironically, however, the first public television national hit in 1969 was "The

Forsythe Saga" from the BBC).

The national system for public broadcasting created back then was cumbersome and expensive. But it was the only system we had. It would be more than five years before premium cable network HBO and Ted Turner's WTBS "superstation" would change the delivery of television programming forever.

Cable television in the 1970s was fresh, loaded with potential and instantly hated by the

powerful commercial television networks. A series of draconian laws were enacted to keep cable television literally out in the backwoods, relegated to those areas of rural America without strong signals. Even if public television executives could have imagined a PBS cable network in the 1980s, it would have been political suicide to suggest it. This was the time when President Reagan was successfully cutting millions of dollars out of the Public Broadcasting Service budget, and the National Association of Educational Broadcasters went bankrupt. It was a time to hold the fort and wait for better days. But the good days never returned.

Public television hit its peak, both in viewers and donations, in 1987, and it's been a slow but steady decline ever since. From a peak of almost 3 million viewers, its Nielson ratings today seldom creep above 1 million. At the same time, cable's share of viewers has grown prodigiously, with some cable shows such as "The Closer" outdrawing its competition on the four major networks.

PBS is losing staff, market share and money, but before it can go cable, it must address the rhinoceros in the living room - the more than 300 local public television stations. Some, including WGBH in Boston, produce numerous national shows and are

thriving. But many would die, some very quickly, without the PBS affiliation that allows them the right to air the network's shows in their markets. KCET, the flagship public television station in Los Angeles, produces few local programs; among them the poorly rated "SoCal Connected." With its \$60 million annual budget and pledge breaks so interminable they have been described as "the fundraising equivalent of waterboarding," KCET would sink without PBS and, recent protestations to the contrary, station management must know it. In a new system, production facilities and staffs at places such as WGBH might be kept on to become the backbone of the new PBS Channel, but those with little to contribute would be dissolved.

It probably doesn't matter. Most public television stations will merge or go broke in the next five years anyway, and PBS in its current configuration can't be far behind. But as Dora the Explorer knows, there are always new frontiers to conquer. The PBS Channel should be the next one. The technology is there; the money would be a cinch. Do we have the political muscle to make it happen?

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Los Angeles Times



Pricy conditions for new book editions

Julio MCNEAL
Staff Writer

Ah! The start of a new semester. That means long lines for the admissions and financial aid offices, freshmen walking around with that "I should have gotten the tour" face and of course the all too daunting task of textbook buying. Yet it is the latter which truly gets under the skin of so many students new and old. Book buying, or more specifically book prices, has been the source of early semester anxiety for students for many years. But until recently it has never caused so many to be conscious of the pricing due to an improving, yet unstable economy.

More and more you see people turn to alternatives for acquiring books. Devices such as the Kindle, I-Pad, and the availability of eBooks have never made textbook buying so less complicated and more cost efficient. The renting of books has definitely showed signs of being an increasingly popular choice. But regardless of all these improvements in the book buying world you still see huge lines that crowd the halls at the beginning of each semester.

In the past, I personally had no qualms about buying books because I knew financial would at least cover that if nothing else and I usually had the option of buying used. However, I have noticed that many courses have started using software supplements that not only cause the prices of books to skyrocket but can't even be returned if you don't need them. Furthermore, I, like a lot of my fellow students, have had financial aid scares and what was once secure is no longer so. This insecurity has created a need for multitudes of people to not only rethink their



Books are now piling up and so are the costs that come along with them.

budgets, but also their classes to fit that budget.

One such student, Stevi Wajada had this to say, "Book prices are expensive compared to the other bookstores. It's not awful but you can find books online for cheaper. I looked online but (it) was so close to class time I had to buy them at the book store." And other students share similar sentiments as well. Freshman, Bissie Buscombe said, "I think book pricing could be a little lower, especially on used books. The resale value on new books is so low and everyone knows college students are

broke. It seems unfair to pay up to \$500 for a class then pay \$200 for the books in a community college."

Now although these are just two opinions, they aren't far off the mark for the general consensus of how most feel towards the book store and its pricing. Yet, has anyone stopped to think about the people who over see some of the operations of the bookstore? I recently had a chance to sit down and discuss the bookstore and its prices with one of the heads of Human Resources, Chris Randles, and got an excellent take on how he

felt about things.

"I am aware of the textbook cost, certainly when I was in school. But we have textbook cost breakdown and helps people to understand that we don't take a \$10 book and make it \$200. It's not just a Parkland, U of I or Champaign problem; it's all over the country. The textbook markup is standard. It has to help pay for bookstore staff. Cost is often high for institutions using warehouses."

Then, I mentioned the swelling popularity of the Kindle or I-Pad and Randles said, "Kindle, I-Pad, (are) very handy having multiple books on these

devices. (They) are a big deal but there are always people who want to have hard copies of the books. Something about holding the book and taking notes for future reference. (Textbooks) always will have some place if not as big as a place now."

And I must say that I agree. Yes they are heavy and yes they are terribly inconvenient on the budget but I would always prefer a physical textbook to an electronic one. And regardless of how you feel about the pricing, there is one thing you have to admit is pretty nice about the book store that you

Levi NORMAN/Prospectus

can't get from any form of online transaction: and that is customer service and customer satisfaction. When you buy from the book from the bookstore you know immediately what you're buying, why you need it and you have the option for a swift return if the book is unnecessary. Something you would have to wait days for with results possibly not to your liking. So, despite all of the misgivings that surround buying from the bookstore, there are some perks that can keep you coming back, and let's face it, you are not alone in your dilemma.

Bicycle safety a growing concern in Illinois

Kelley HEANEY
Staff Writer

Most people agree that if a sport or hobby produced 52,000 injuries a year, something should be done to make it safer. That is how many people the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said were injured while riding a bicycle in the U.S. in 2008. They also found that there were 716 bike fatalities in 2008, accounting for 2% of all traffic fatalities that year, even though bikes were used for only 1% of all trips. This statistic was actually lower than 10 years earlier when the total was 760 fatalities.

In the interest of making bicycle riding safer, new Illinois laws have been designed to help encourage vehicles to share the road with bicycles. Governor Quinn recently signed a bill into law that established penalties for motorists who drove recklessly or unnecessarily close to, toward or near a bicyclist. Depending on the seriousness of the resulting accident, the charges range from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class 4 felony. Also signed was a bill establishing vehicle license plates for biking, the proceeds of which will go to statewide bicycle and motorist safety education campaigns because, even though bicycle sales have fallen recently, millions of bikes are sold every year.

Human error is often the cause of bicycle accidents. According to the Joint Transportation Research Program, a two-year study of Indiana bicycle crashes released in 2007, most crashes were right angle crashes and most occurred in the daylight rather than the evening hours. Occasionally, alcohol played a factor, with either the driver or the bike rider having been impaired. In fact, according to the NHTSA website, 23% of fatalities in 2008 were documented that the bike rider had a blood alcohol

level of .08 or higher.

College Relations Officer of Parkland College, Matthew Kopmann, said that "often injuries are caused by bicyclists riding on sidewalks, and running stop signs, but that normally it is equal parts rider and driver" in the blame game.

stop sign for loading or unloading children."

Alex Lamb, a student at Parkland said that he tries to obey all the bicycle traffic laws, but also stated that he was unsure of what they all were, having only ridden for about a week. When asked what the biggest

that motorists need to remember that "a bicycle is considered a vehicle," and passing one should only be done when safe in a passing zone. Passing on hills and other no passing zones could result in a ticket for the driver. There needs to be a three foot clear-

have rules and safety suggestions posted.

In addition, many bike riders are concerned with their bike's safety. The Champaign Fire Department has a program of registering bikes for free. Bring your bike to any fire station between 8 a.m. and

10 p.m. and they will register the make, model and owners information giving the person a numbered decal to place on the bicycle. Then if the bike is lost or stolen, police will let the fire department know when they find the bicycle.



52,000 were injured while riding a bicycle in the U.S. in 2008 according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Read more to find out what Governor Quinn and co. are doing to make the roads safer for bicyclists in Illinois.

Levi NORMAN/Prospectus

"Bicyclists are required, by law, to follow the same rules of the road as motorized vehicles," said Kopmann. "They must ride in the same direction as motorized traffic, stop at all stop signs and stop lights, and have all safety equipment working on their bike, such as a headlight that can be seen for 500 feet if riding at night. They are also required to stop for school buses that have out the

issue between drivers and riders seemed to be, he said that it was a lack of visibility on the part of the rider. Another Parkland student, Mary Jo Holmes, agreed with that, saying that drivers aren't watching out for bicycles, causing her to try to stick to riding on the sidewalks. Officer Kopmann pointed out that riding on the sidewalk is not legal in Illinois.

Officer Kopmann also noted

ance between vehicle and bicycle when passing, and, if it isn't allowed, the vehicle needs to follow the bicycle at a safe distance until it is okay to pass. The bicycle should be to the far right in the lane, giving motorists some room to get around.

The Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles has bicycle rule booklets available in the lobby and website and there are many other websites which

Dogs and other pets welcome at Florida dorm

Luis ZARAGOZA
MCT

Jasmine Parham's new college roommate is a dear friend from back home.

The roomie responds to "Leo" and never goes to class, but can perform some neat tricks.

Leonora, a frisky border collie, and her owner, Parham, are among the first residents of the first pet-friendly dorm at Stetson University in DeLand, Fla. About 20 students and their pets - dogs, cats and a few caged gerbils and rats - are taking up residence at Nemech Hall, an established dorm, as the fall semester begins this week.

Stetson is not the first college to have a pet-friendly dorm, but it's among the relatively few schools - perhaps a dozen or so across the country - that have formal policies and accommodations. Stetson officials say the dorms could become a recruitment tool that helps set the school apart, just as big schools such as the University of Central Florida entice students with football stadiums, basketball arenas and trendy eateries.

The idea behind the dorm is to give students - freshmen, in particular - a familiar presence as they make the sometimes stressful transition from home to campus.

"What better way to do that than to have a family friend

there to greet you when you get out of class?" said Justin Williams, the university's director of housing and residential life. Having a pet along for the college journey makes a dorm "a home away from home," he said.

Parham, a freshman from Palm Coast, Fla., agrees. "I love having my best friend here with me," Parham said. Eckerd College, a private school in St. Petersburg, Fla., has had pet-friendly dorms for years. So has Stephens College, a private school in Missouri that was the previous home of current Stetson President Wendy Libby.

Libby brought the pet-friendly-dorm concept with her to Stetson a year ago. Stetson staff members visited Eckerd and Stephens to get ideas on how to set up similar living arrangements.

Although small, independent colleges such as Stetson dominate the list of pet-friendly schools, powerhouses Caltech and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology allow certain small pets in some campus dorms.

Many schools, especially public ones, may shy from pet-friendly dorms because of liability worries connected to animal attacks or building maintenance, Stetson officials said. Students sign an agreement that sets out terms. Obedience training is required for

dogs. Aggressive or noisy animals can be sent home.

In establishing policy at Stetson, the welfare of the animal was a priority. So inspections will be held to make sure students are caring for their pets properly.

Students pay a \$400-a-year surcharge to get a pet-friendly dorm room, with \$200 of that refundable if the room is kept in shape. Part of the fee goes toward pet-related costs, such as establishment of a fenced dog walk near Nemech Hall. The rooms designated for pets are singles instead of standard double-occupancy rooms to avoid having cats and dogs as roomies.

Not all animals are allowed. Dogs 30 pounds and less are OK, as are cats and caged rodents such as rats, gerbils and hamsters. Small fish and turtles that can reside comfortably in small water tanks are fine, too. Because of potential odor issues, birds, most reptiles and rabbits are not on the approved list. Depending on how things go this year, however, the list may be expanded and the dog-weight limitation could be relaxed.

It's too soon to tell whether Stetson's pet-friendly-dorm experiment will expand. Nemech Hall can accommodate up to 34 students with pets. Two additional rooms for resident staff also are pet-friendly.

Arthur DeFilippo, a residen-

tial-life coordinator on staff who lives in Nemech Hall with his wife, came to work at Stetson in part because of the pet-friendly living accommodations.

There was no way the couple was going to give up Elphie, their pet puggle - a canine mix of pug and beagle.

"For a lot of people, pets are like members of the family," DeFilippo said. "It's about quality of life."

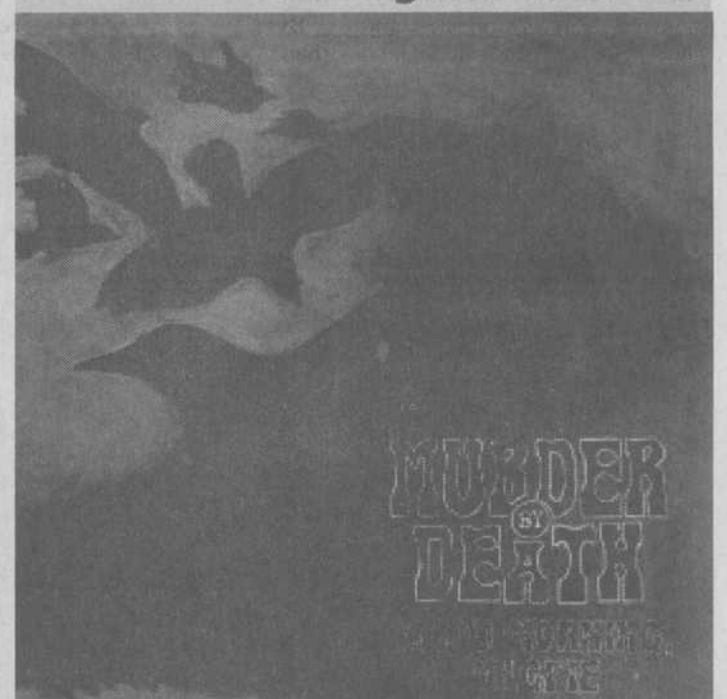
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Prospectus Pick: Murder By Death



Morgan BERNIER
Social Media Editor


In the year 2005, I had an experience that changed my life. That experience was discovering a rock band from Bloomington, Indiana called Murder by Death. The first album I heard from them was *Who Will Survive And What Will Be Left Of Them*, which is one of my favorite albums of all time. This album is designed in the format of a rock opera, following a plotline that revolves around a man in a small town in Mexico who made a deal with the Devil, causing his entire town to be overwhelmed by death and misfortune. Lead singer Adam Turla is quoted as saying "It's meant to entertain, bring the feeling of sitting around telling ghost stories or something. Also, I'm a religious studies major, so I tied in a lot of weird religious stuff."

The band's latest release, *Good Morning, Maggie*, was released in April of this year and continues the trend of albums that bring a different era to mind. *Murder By Death* is a new age rock band with an old west feel, utilizing such instruments as the electric cello in order to create a sound unlike anything being released today. When the instrumental


line up is combined with Turla's deep baritone vocals, reminiscent of Johnny Cash, percussion that makes you want to go line-dancing, and lyrics that revolve around a tragic hero, you will feel like you are in an 19th century saloon.

Maggie cultivates this feeling with the opening track, "Kentucky Bourbon" and takes it one step further with the second track, "As Long As There is Whisky in the World," which sounds like it could have been recorded in a bar, and reminds you of an Irish drinking song. The entire album sounds as though it came from the past, and never fails to make me think that, somehow, the "wild west" isn't lost.

Murder By Death is embarking on a tour to promote their new album this fall, and early on they will be right here in the C-U. The band is playing at the Canopy Club on September 10th, and I know that I will be there. The stage presence of the band is very memorable, as it seems as though they think of every member of the audience as family. With such unsurpassable talent and unmatched kindness, *Murder By Death* is a band that is sure to be around for a while. Personally, I hope that they are ten years down, thirty more to go.



Parkland College Relations Officer Matthew Kopmann



I hope everyone had a great summer. As Parkland College Relations Officer I want to welcome you to Parkland College. My responsibility as the College Relations Officer is to engage and interact with students, faculty, and staff. This is done based on the Community Policing Philosophy which is creating relationships through positive police interactions.

As a student if you have questions, issues, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other Police Officer. One of my focuses as the College Relations Officer is the college center area. This is where my office is located. I will also meet with individuals, groups, or classes for discussions or presentations.

My schedule is Monday through Friday 8am to 4pm. If my office door is open, I encourage you to stop in.

Officer Matthew Kopmann
Office: X110
Phone #: (217) 353-2085
Police Department Phone #: (217) 351-2369

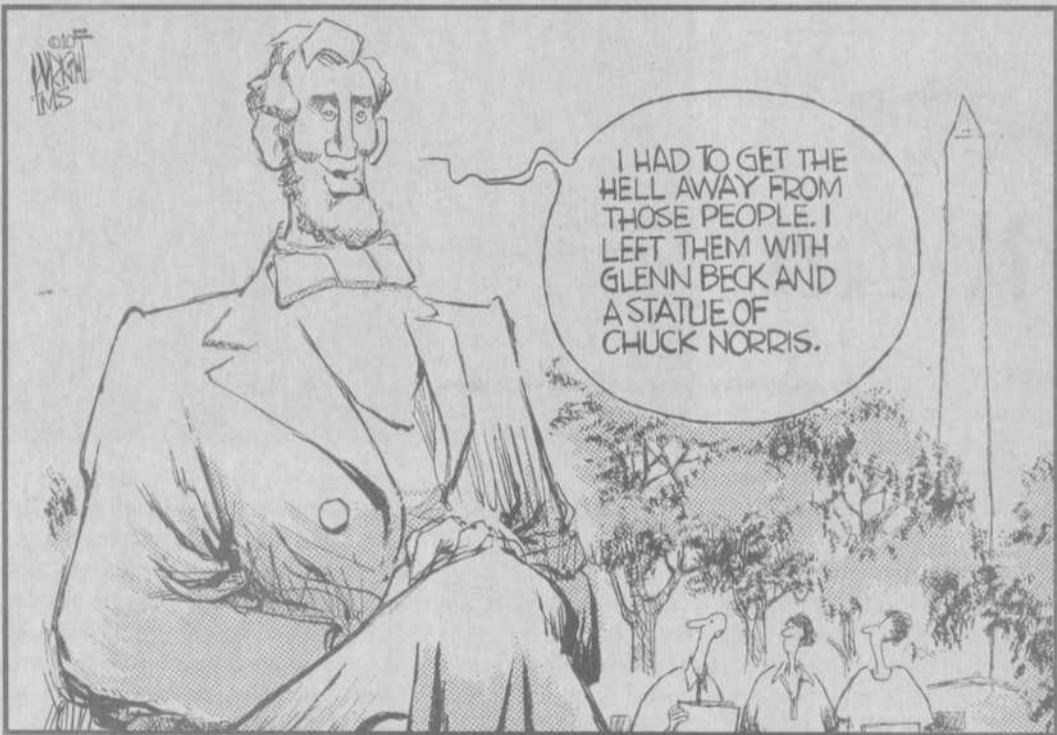
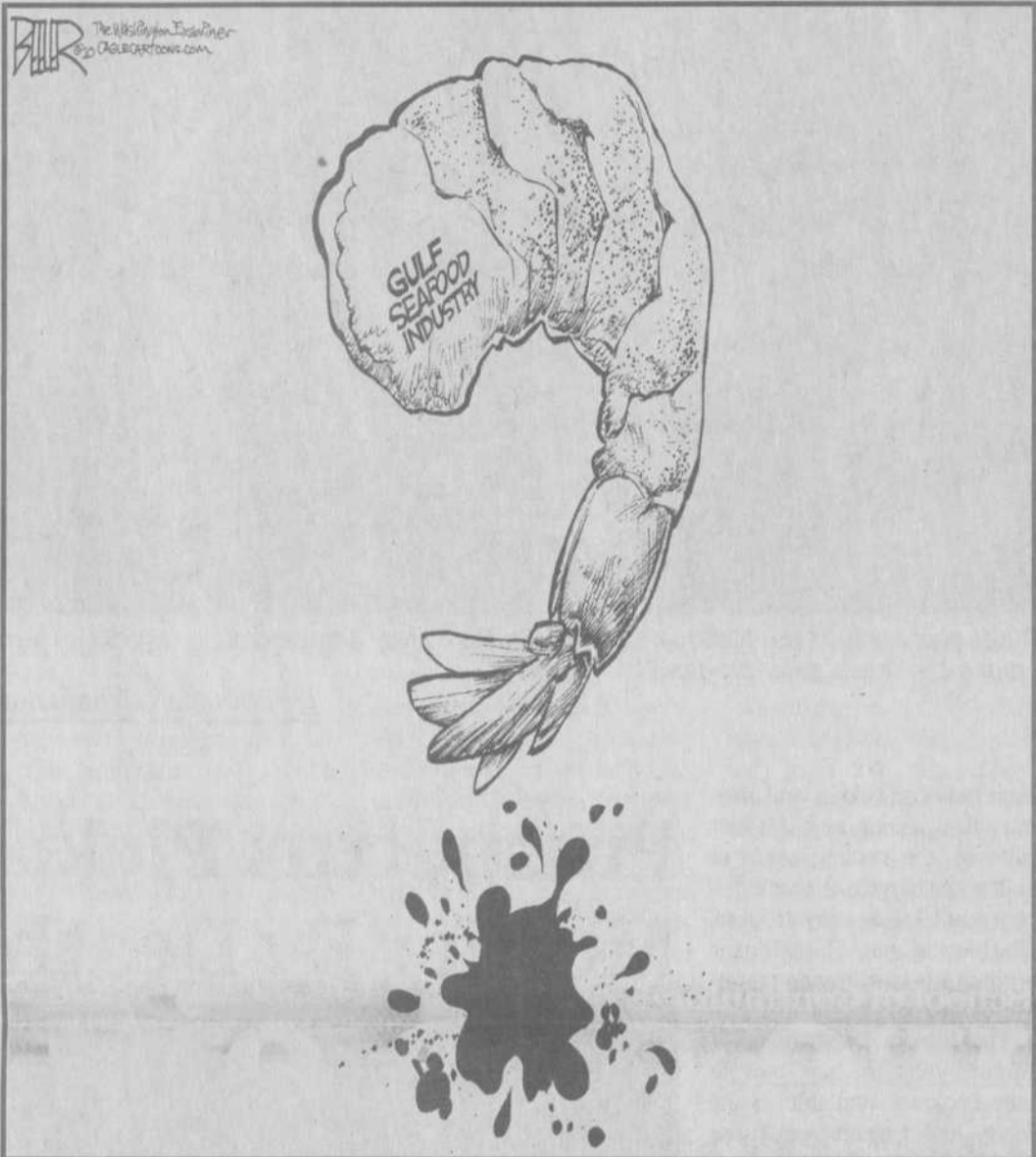


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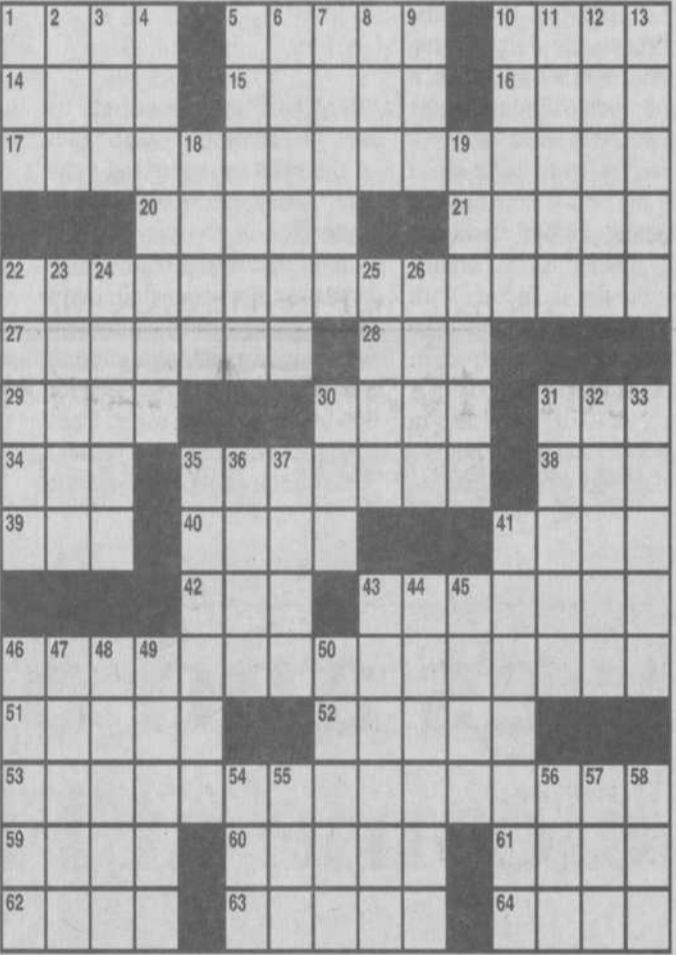
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ACROSS

- 1 Green gem
- 5 Runs easily
- 10 Ruler marking
- 14 High spot
- 15 Baton-passing event
- 16 Delhi dress
- 17 Consequences of a minor accident, perhaps
- 20 Less than 90 degrees, anglewise
- 21 Baseball card data
- 22 "The Greatest Show on Earth" promoters
- 27 Totally dreadful
- 28 Place for cookies
- 29 Like EEE shoes
- 30 Skin: Suff.
- 31 Air gun ammo
- 34 '50s political monogram
- 35 Before long
- 38 Span of history
- 39 "So's ___ old man!"
- 40 "¿Cómo ___ usted?"
- 41 Horse's stride
- 42 Adjust to the desired wake-up time, as an alarm
- 43 Gently slips past
- 46 Product improvement slogan
- 51 Be ___ model: exemplify grace in success
- 52 Hideous sorts
- 53 Cozy inn whose abbreviation is a hint to this puzzle's theme
- 59 Grandson of Adam
- 60 Celtic priest of old
- 61 Basis of an invention
- 62 Tennis do-overs
- 63 1,000 kilograms
- 64 Word with ghost or boom

DOWN

- 2 "The Simpsons" storekeeper
- 3 FDR or JFK, politically
- 4 Wide-open space
- 5 Emotional shock
- 6 Hertz auto, e.g.
- 7 Of days gone by
- 8 Bar bill
- 9 Damascus' land: Abbr.
- 10 "Lord, ___?": Last Supper question
- 11 ___ decongestant
- 12 Greek island where Minos ruled
- 13 ___ fit: tantrum
- 18 Pond gunk
- 19 G.I.'s group
- 22 Off-color
- 23 Tolerate
- 24 Winona of "Edward Scissorhands"
- 25 Spun CDs at a party
- 26 Caustic remark
- 30 Crime lab evidence, briefly
- 31 Beauty's beloved
- 33 Mythical man-goat
- 35 Get noticed
- 36 River of Flanders
- 37 Lead-in to girl or boy
- 41 Tones one's body
- 43 Enter stealthily
- 44 Use emery on
- 45 Hide's partner
- 46 Genesis tower locale
- 48 No-show in a Beckett play
- 49 Half-full or half-empty item
- 50 Smudge-proof, like mascara
- 54 Banned bug spray
- 55 Certain sib
- 56 Commotion
- 57 Use a Singer
- 58 Beachgoer's



By Jeff Chen 9/13/10

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A	Z	U	R	E	S		F	I	N	E	F	O	R
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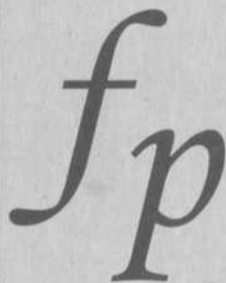
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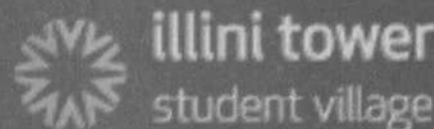


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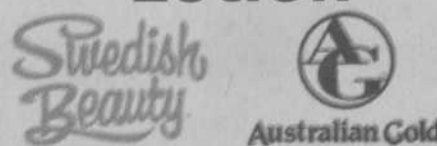
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Muslim men gather for Friday prayers and the official start of the holy month of Ramadan outside the Pul Khashti mosque in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2004.

Understanding Islam

With more than a billion followers, Islam is one of the largest religions in the world, yet many misconceptions persist about Muslims, their practices and their faith.

Common Practices

Islam is a diverse faith practiced in different ways by Muslims across the globe. However, some commonalities exist across the spectrum. Muslims are encouraged to read the Quran — especially during the holy month of Ramadan, and the Hadith. Most practicing Muslims offer Salat, or prescribed prayer, five times a day at prescribed intervals. Both men and women are encouraged to dress modestly and generally pray in either separate rows, sections or rooms. Muslims view pork and pork products as unclean and try to stay clear. And, whether a Muslim regularly attends Friday worship services or worships at home, most Muslims rejoice at the end of the 30 day Ramadan fast, which culminates in a three-day festival, Eid ul-Fitr “the Feast of Fast Breaking.”

Five Pillars

The religion of Islam is grounded on Five Pillars:

Declaration of Faith (Shahadah): Every Muslim states the phrase “There is no God but (Allah) and Muhammad is the messenger of God.”

Prayer (Salat): Muslims pray five times a day facing Mecca — at dawn, at noon, in mid-afternoon, after sunset and at nightfall. The prayers are usually spoken in Arabic and consist of a series of prostrations.

Almsgiving (Zakat): Almsgiving can be in the form of money or food, but Muslims are required to donate as a form of “social responsibility and service to God.” It is usually 2.5 percent of a person’s wealth.

Fasting (Sawm): During the ninth month of the lunar year, Ramadan, Muslims are required to abstain from food, drink, tobacco, chewing gum and sexual relations from sunrise to sunset.

Pilgrimage (Hajj): At least one pilgrimage to Mecca — Islam’s holiest city, located in Saudi Arabia — is required of all Muslims who are physically and financially able to take the trip during their lifetime.

Denominations

Like Christianity, Judaism and many other faiths, Islam has many denominations. As with other faiths, practices within each denomination vary widely depending on historical, cultural and geo-political influences. Many Muslims do not affiliate with a denomination at all and instead just refer to themselves as “Muslim.”

Sunni: More than 80 percent of Muslims are Sunni, making it Islam’s largest group. Sunnis believe God did not name a leader to succeed the Prophet Muhammad after his death and that the first four religious leaders elected by the newly formed religious community were the rightful successors.

By HALIMAH ABDULLAH
McClatchy Newspapers

Islam was founded in seventh century Arabia and shares many teachings with Judaism and Christianity. Today the world’s second largest religion, with 1.5 billion adherents, Islam is a culturally diverse and multifaceted faith. Whirling dervishes in Turkey practice an ancient art of meditative spinning, while Muslim hip-hop groups such as Native Deen speak to a more modern aesthetic. Egyptian bloggers and Malaysian religious scholars might all consider themselves Muslims, yet they could spend hours debating how to express devotion and adapt to 21st century global culture.

Islam translates from the Arabic for “submission to God,” and the religion’s followers are known as Muslims, or “ones who submit to God.” Most American Muslims follow a mainstream and moderate version of the faith, are middle class, educated and live near urban centers where mosques have stood for generations. Fewer than 10 percent of Muslims are Arabs, and roughly a quarter of Muslims in the United States are native-born African Americans. There are more than 2.5 million and perhaps as many as 6 million American Muslims, according to different research groups.

Islam has been a part of the American fabric for centuries, arriving with African explorers on early expeditions and later with Africans who came to the Americas either as free blacks or slaves.

Muslim women often express pride that one of their faith’s key figures was Khadijah, the Prophet Muhammad’s first wife, a well educated and wealthy businesswoman. Scholars argue that early Muslim societies granted women greater financial and property rights than their counterparts of other faiths, and lament that some of those rights have been curtailed in modern times by ultra-conservative groups in conflict-ridden parts of the Islamic world.

Similarly narrow interpretations of Islam — such as those promoted by al-Qaida, the Islamist terror network, and the Taliban, the hardline Islamist movement in Afghanistan — have been used to justify the repression of women and assault against civilians in several countries.

The headline-grabbing violence of such groups have left ordinary Muslims in an uneasy position in the West, where they’ve experienced hate crimes, legal challenges to the building of mosques and other results of an anti-Muslim backlash. The vast majority of Muslim groups in the West and abroad have rejected terrorist attacks as a distortion of their religion and point to Islam as a faith built primarily upon principles of peace.

The Quran is the central Islamic holy text.

CHERYL DIAZ MEYER/
DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT



ELIZABETH FLORES/
MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT

The chador is a full-body cloak, sometimes covering the face, that some Muslim women wear.

reported sayings and deeds of Prophet Muhammad recorded by followers passed down and over the centuries.

Hijab (hee-jab): Means “cover” or “curtain.” This is a reference to the modest style of dress as proscribed in the Quran. Muslims interpret hijab in varying ways. Most Muslim women will wear a headscarf when praying or entering a mosque. Some wear a headscarf in public, others steer clear of revealing clothing, and still others cover completely with flowing robes known as burqas or niqab.

Imam (ee-mahm): The religious leader in Muslim communities. An imam’s position of importance and influence varies depending on denomination and community.

Jihad (jee-had): Though it translates to “struggle,” some interpret it as an internal battle to maintain the faith and others interpret as holy war.

Jummah (joo-mah): Congregational prayer held on Friday.

Madrasah (mah-drah-sah): The Arabic word for school and can include both religious and secular institutions.

Masjid (mas-jeed) or mosque: An Islamic house of worship.

Mecca: The holiest city in Islam, located in Saudi Arabia. When Muslims pray they face Mecca and can use a compass to find its direction.

Mullah (muh-lah): An Islamic scholar versed in traditions, sharia and theology.

Quran (ko-rah-n): The central Islamic holy text. Muslims believe the angel Jibril (Gabriel) began his revelations to the prophet Muhammad and these revelations became the Quran.

Ramadan (rah-ma-dahn): The ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar when many Muslims believe the Quran was revealed to the prophet Muhammad.

Zakat (za-kot): Stands for purification; Muslims give up a portion of their wealth in excess of what is needed for sustenance to “purify” what they retain.

McClatchy Newspapers correspondent Hannah Allam contributed to this report.

Shiites: Islam’s second largest denomination. Shiites believe the leadership following the prophet’s death rightfully passed to Ali, Muhammad’s cousin and son-in-law, and succession would continue through familial connection.

Nation of Islam: A predominantly African-American religious organization with about 100,000 members that blends some traditional Islamic beliefs and practices with a black empowerment and a racial separatist approach to the faith.

Progressive Muslims: A small but growing liberal movement in Islam that focuses on individualist interpretation of religious scripture, interfaith dialogue and gender equality in prayer, leadership and observance.

Islamism, which is concerned with the role of women in Islam, is often closely aligned with the movement’s key thrusts.

Sufi: Adherents focus on a mystical and ascetic approach to Islam. Sufis seek divine understanding through a direct and personal connection to God.

Wahhabism: A Sunni Islamic sect that dominates religious prac-

tice in Saudi Arabia and advocates a literalist approach to Islam.

Terms to Know

Allah (ah-lah): The Arabic word for God.

Eid ul-Fitr (eed al-fitter): “the Feast of Fast Breaking,” a three-day celebration that marks the end of the Ramadan 30 day fast.

Hadith (ha-deeth): The

Islam overview

Islam has exerted political, social and artistic influence throughout the Middle East, North Africa and Asia.

Divinity

■ **Allah,** the only God and Creator of the universe

Symbol

■ Crescent and star

Beginnings

■ **Based on** the revelations of Muhammad, a prophet born in Saudi Arabia around 570 A.D.

Practice

■ **Duties:** Profession of the unity of God and the prophethood of Muhammad, prayer, almsgiving, fasting and pilgrimage

■ **Pilgrimage, or hajj:** All able Muslims must make a pilgrimage to Mecca, the holy city, at least once

■ **Worship:** Muslims worship five times a day, at home, at work or with a congregation; an imam or scholar leads special services at a mosque on Fridays

Beliefs and afterlife

■ **Life and death:** Life is a proving ground, death the gateway to eternal life; believers should follow a strict moral code

■ **Judgment day:** Angels in heaven record a person’s deeds; on the last day, the book is read and all the dead are rewarded or punished

Sacred writings

■ **The Quran,** God’s word given to Muhammad; also contains some stories with Biblical references. In Islam Jesus, Isa in Arabic, is honored as a prophet and messenger of God, and his mother Mary, Maryum in Arabic, is one of the faith’s most highly regarded women. Muhammad, the faith’s founder, is revered as both a prophet and the final messenger of God.

Sources: Multifaith Resources, Dictionary of World Religions, CIA World Factbook
Graphic: MCT



EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/MCT

A whirling Sufi dervish spins everyday both in public and private as part of his religious practice.