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What a community college has to offer

Kelley HEANEY
Staff Writer

What are some of the benefits of attending a community college such as Parkland? Why would anyone attend a two-year school, the bullied little brother of a top dog, four-year institution? Despite depiction in the media in shows such as *Community*, there are many great reasons! Some of those reasons include over one hundred programs that help develop vocational skills, preparing students to attend a four year school, reduced tuition, smaller class sizes and job market preparation just to name a few. A small school can often be rich with benefits and Parkland is abundant with them.

Parkland College is "outstanding" in several areas including, "the percent of degrees in science, the number of degree programs," according to Citytowninfo.com. The site also documented that "the open admission, career counseling and career services along with the on campus day care and the option to study abroad" were notable pros that set Parkland above the "small school" competition.

Parkland also has great,

award winning teachers, with several having won Teaching Excellence Awards in their fields. Many go out of their way to help when students don't understand curriculum and also try to make learning

has exceeded my expectations." And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

There are a number of great resources throughout Parkland, most of which are free! Parkland's large library offers

Free learning help is available in the Center for Academic Success in D-120. Parkland also features an art gallery, a theatre and the planetarium (the second largest dome in the state, no less) all located on

land's lots are well landscaped, clearly marked and well lit at night. They are free of potholes and other problems that would cause harm to a vehicle, making them safer than most.

Speaking of safety, Parkland's Public Safety is often taken for granted. According to the Parkland Crime Statistics Report of 2009, there were 5 arrests on campus, 36 minor thefts (under \$300), and 16 major thefts. There were also 5 battery problems and 2 motor vehicle burglaries. Parkland security was on campus and the student body didn't have to wait for city police to get here. This security presence may have deterred other unknown problems. It is a great benefit to have Parkland Officers here and alert.

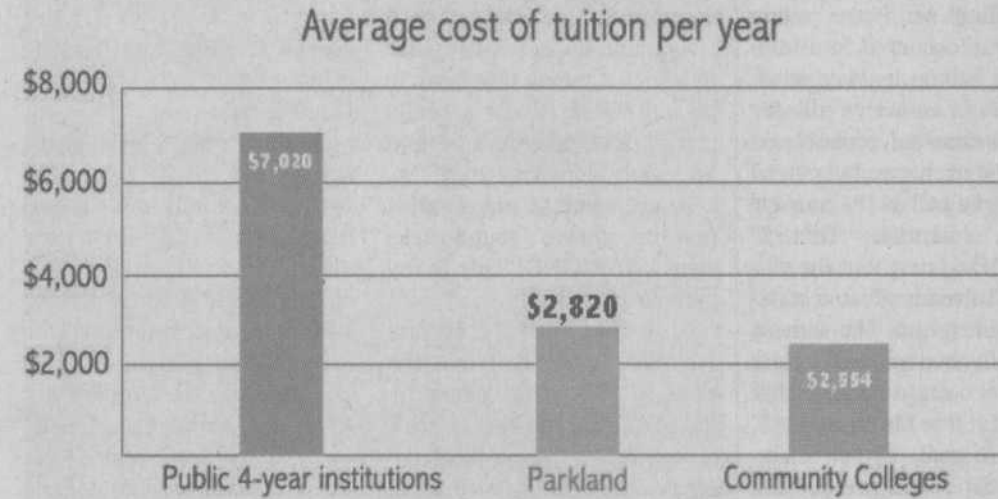
There is also fun to be had at Parkland through the many clubs and sporting events such as volleyball, baseball, softball, basketball and soccer for men and women. In addition, there is a TV station and radio station.

Another great benefit is having food establishments on campus. Recently, there were free tacos with rice and beans. Sure there was a line (it was FREE) but the food was good and appreciated. Daily options include Mama Leones across

from the bookstore and Gulliver's near the M wing.

One of the most unspoken benefits of Parkland is its beautiful campus. Many trees are on the school grounds along with flowers, plants and landscaping projects. There are also the fields from the agricultural programs that are located out by Bradley and Duncan Road. The ball diamonds and soccer fields, on the Mattis Ave. side of the school, are great for college and other sporting events. There are also the Prairie Restoration sites where there are many native plants and wildlife.

Community colleges can be an outstanding resource, and Parkland is definitely a great asset to the community. Programs and class size are important when choosing a school, but the environment needs to be conducive to learning as well. With about 24% of the student body being over 30, getting an atmosphere good for younger and older students can be a challenge. But with great teachers, plenty of learning centers and a relaxed environment, Parkland seems to have struck that balance and given a great opportunity for students to thrive.



2010 Statistics taken from www.collegeboard.com

Graphic by Sean Hermann/Prospectus

fun. "I like the personal interest from the teachers," said Claire Sims who holds a Bachelor's Degree in nursing. Sims left a 32 year long career in that field and is now studying for a career in the hospitality industry. "I think Parkland allows you to pursue things you hadn't thought of before with lots of two year programs. Parkland

free computer usage, a substantial book and magazine collection and the ability to obtain other materials for students if requested. The librarians are knowledgeable and willing to help. There is also the Parkland Bookstore on campus and, though small, it seems to carry just about everything a student needs to thrive in their studies.

campus, making it convenient for students and the surrounding community.

Another great benefit of attending a community college such as Parkland is free parking. Many colleges don't have parking at all, charge a fee for what is available, or students are left parking on the street and paying a meter. Park-

Zombies lumber into university curriculum

Childs WALKER
MCT

Arnold Blumberg plots the zombie head on a table at the front of the small theater.

"I brought a friend," says the University of Baltimore professor, clad in an unbuttoned black shirt adorned with red skulls.

Blumberg is meeting his class for the first time and it seems appropriate that he greet them beside "old Worm Eye," undead star of the 1979 Italian cult film "Zombi 2."

It was Worm Eye's decaying visage that called to a young Blumberg from the shelf of a Randallstown video store in the 1980s. Without him, maybe Blumberg wouldn't be here today, teaching a new generation about his favorite movie monster.

Zombies are everywhere these days. Last year they hit the best-seller list in a bizarre mash-up with Jane Austen called "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies." They have inspired math professors to devise statistical models for surviving a "zombie apocalypse." This fall, they'll star in the AMC TV series "The Walking Dead."

And now, they're the subject of a new course, otherwise known as English 333, at the University of Baltimore.

"Zombies are one of the most potent, direct reflections of what we're thinking moment to moment in our culture," Blumberg tells in explaining why they're all here.

Students will watch 16 classic zombie films (including "Zombi 2," in which a zombie fights a shark), read zombie comics and, as an alternative to a final research paper, have the chance to write scripts or draw storyboards for their ideal zombie flicks.

Jonathan Shorr, chair of the university's school of communications design, wanted a rotation of "interesting, off-the-wall" courses for a new

minor in pop culture. But when Blumberg pitched him a course about the walking dead, he says, "I hit the side of my monitor a couple times thinking, 'Do I have this right? Did he say zombies?'"

The more he thought about it, however, the more intrigued Shorr became. Zombies have shown great resilience as a storytelling device and in this era

lege in Chicago has offered Zombies in Popular Media for years, making several lists of the country's most bizarre courses in the process. At Iowa's Simpson College, students spent the spring semester collectively writing a book on "The History of the Great Zombie War."

Blumberg, curator of Geppie's Entertainment Museum

ready for a zombie apocalypse."

"Well, not really," Blumberg says. "But pay attention, and you'll pick up a few tips along the way."

For you doomed souls who aren't taking his class, here's rule No. 1: If zombies have you cornered and you have to shoot, aim for the head.

Blumberg starts class with a

be talking a lot about how zombies have invaded everyday language — so again, he's excited that a student has anticipated his message.

"It's pretty much anyone who doesn't have free will," the same student says.

"That's an excellent way to look at it," Blumberg replies.

Though he's an all-inclusive zombie guy who makes fun of

'cool,' I want to reinforce the degree to which this material can be found offensive by a lot of people," he says. "We're going to be dealing with stuff that's been done in horror over the years."

No one leaves. "This is not fluffy bunny cartoon stuff," Blumberg adds. "Bunnies might show up, but they'd probably be torn to pieces."

It becomes obvious that a healthy minority of the 40 students are already steeped in zombie culture. Mike Ziegler, the student who wowed Blumberg with his initial reflections on zombiedom, says that when he saw the course description, "I didn't care how many papers I'd have to write; I was taking it."

"I think the breakdown of human society has a great pull on people as an idea," says Ziegler, a part-time student who also teaches computer science at Archbishop Curley High School. "People like to think about how they'd do if zombies took over."

Darin Malfi, a corporate communications major from Severna Park, asks Blumberg to autograph his book, "Zombiomania," after class. "I was freaking out when I saw this class," Malfi says. "The required books were books I already owned. I'm gonna kill this course!"

That kind of enthusiasm is part of the reason Blumberg wanted to teach the course. If we're so enthralled with zombies, he figures, that's worth serious academic examination. "These are the things we seek out on an emotional level," he says of popular culture. "In many ways, it says more about us than anything we do in our day jobs."

(c) 2010, The Baltimore Sun.



Dr. Arnold T. Blumberg is curator of the Geppie Entertainment Museum and also teaches a course called "Zombies in Popular Media" at the University of Baltimore where he is shown on August 31, 2010.

(Babarbara Haddock Taylor/Baltimore Sun/MCT)

of gloom and dread, their popularity is cresting. Maybe they would be a perfect hook to get students talking about sociology, literature and a bevy of other disciplines that can sound fluffy.

"It's a back door into a lot of subjects," Shorr says. "They think they're taking this wacky zombie course, and they are. But on the way, they learn how literature and mass media work, and how they come to reflect our times."

The university isn't the first to jump in line with the lumbering undead. Columbia Col-

lege at Camden Yards, takes zombies seriously enough that he wrote a book about them. But he's not above tongue-in-cheek remarks about his decidedly nontraditional course.

"This hopefully is as dry and historical as we'll get for the rest of the semester," he says during a discourse on the misguided interpretation of West Indian rituals that allowed zombies into popular culture in the 1930s. "We'll get the blood and guts flying up on the screen soon enough."

Among the official course objectives, he lists "get you

deceptively complicated question: What is a zombie?"

"I know that lately, a lot of zombies have been created by viruses," one student volunteers. "Is that a zombie?"

"Absolutely!" Blumberg says merrily. One of his key beliefs is that we use zombies to reflect contemporary fears, such as our current fear of pandemics. He seems thrilled that a student has tapped this theme so quickly.

"It's a computer used to attack other computers," says another.

"Yes!" Blumberg says. He'll

the geeks who'd fight you over rigid definitions, Blumberg does have a few prejudices. Frankenstein and other monsters constructed of human parts aren't zombies, for one. And the hugely successful Marvel Comics series that turned favorite superheroes into zombies? Well, that really bothered him.

"As I get older, I have my restrictions," he says.

Before plunging ahead, Blumberg offers a warning. "If you've come in with just a general sense or just saw 'zombie' in the catalog and thought

Prospectus

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• 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.



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Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

Updates

In 2007 News of the Weird highlighted the clothes cults of impoverished Congo: "In (the country that) has lost an estimated 4 million people in the civil wars of the last decade and where many must get by on about 30 cents a day, 'gangs' of designer-clothes-wearing men" have fashion smack-downs in the streets of Kinshasa to prove that Versace and Gucci styles look better on them than on others. These "sapeurs" (from the French slang for clothes) continue to strut their genuine Gaultier and Dolce & Gabbana, according to a March Washington Post dispatch. One sapeur, "Luzolo," who lives in a one-room shack with no bed, no water and no electricity (but a closetful of designer outfits) describes the feeling as "like a spirit that comes in me." When he wears "the labels," he said, "I feel there is no one above me."

Again this year, in April, the Sensoji Temple in Tokyo hosted the possibly-400-year-old Naki Sumo ("crying baby contest"), in which infants are blessed to good health by having sumo wrestlers hoist them into the air, hold them at arm's length, and coax them (no squeezing!) to cry, thus signaling that the offering has been heard. This year, 80 babies were glorified, with special spiritual favors afforded those who cried the loudest and the longest.

In 2007, News of the Weird mentioned the nightly ceremony on the India-Pakistan border at Wagah Crossing as part pomp, part macho posturing and part Monty Python ("Ministry of Silly Walks"), in which troops from both sides wearing hard-to-describe headgear perform complicated boot-stomping maneuvers to assure their countrymen that they are protecting their nation from the other one. Lately, however, according to a July Agence France-Presse dispatch, the high-kicking show has become subdued because so many of the soldiers have reported knee injuries from the exaggerated prancing.

Cosmetic

surgery-obsessive Sheyla Hershey of Houston has endured more than 30 operations, including breast augmentations in increasingly large sizes (in her quest to have the world's largest pair). As News of the Weird reported, her luck started to go south in 2008 when licensed Texas surgeons declined to implant the M cups she wanted, and she was forced to use a clinic in Brazil. Last year, for the birth of her first child, she had the Brazilian implants removed – and later replaced with a smaller pair – but in June 2010, she was diagnosed with a staph infection. At press time she was still being treated with radical antibiotic therapy in Houston and might lose one or both breasts.

Notorious Boston criminal gang leader Whitey Bulger, who has been on the run since 1995, made News of the Weird before that because of some unusual dietary (and hence, excretory) habits. Bulger would now be 80 years old, but law enforcement officials have no idea where he is, or what he now looks like, or even if he is alive, but they believe he likes to browse books. In April 2010, FBI agents blanketed bookstores in Victoria, British Columbia, having gotten word that he might be in the area, but nothing turned up. (Bulger was the model for the Jack Nicholson character in the movie "The Departed.")

Oklahoma City bomber-helper Terry Nichols, serving

a life sentence at the "Super Max" federal prison in Colorado, recently ended what he said was his third hunger strike of 2010 to protest food quality. Lack of fiber in the diet, he said, causes him "chronic constipation, bleeding, (and) hemorrhoids" and thus disrespects "God's holy temple," which is Nichols' name for his body. The prison continues to offer Nichols only limited dietary options.

Recurring Themes

The most recent instance of the cardinal sin of the jailing profession occurred in a Minneapolis lockup in May, when a witness in an active murder case was arrested, probably on an unrelated charge, but placed in the same cell as the murder suspect, Jonathan "Thirsty" Turner, who knew that the witness had already given a statement against him. The witness was badly beaten, but jailers were not certain enough that Turner did it to file charges.

The Animal Planet channel, perhaps hard-pressed for new series ideas, has reportedly ordered "The Skunk Whisperer" into production, but there remain multi-use whisperers who claim they can talk to and analyze all critters, with New Zealand's Faye Rogers the latest to draw attention (and she singled out her ability with "worms"). All beings, she said, are "connected by a higher consciousness," allowing, for example, traveling birds to pass on important "international information" to fish. She disputed a notion spread by "horse whisperer" Bill Northern that cats are "wily" – explaining that cats merely appear wily because they prefer to be asked specific questions rather than generalities. In an August interview with the Christchurch Press, she referred to "clients," indicating that at least some people pay the \$65 (N.Z.; \$45 U.S.) an hour for her services.

Japanese ice-cream makers are famous for expanding the universe of conceivable flavors (as News of the Weird has mentioned several times), but a gathering by the fashion/style website The Gloss in July found several more, suggesting that maybe the world is about to run out of ingredients that can go into ice cream: haggis ice cream (from Morelli's in London), sardines and brandy ice cream (from Helader a de Lares in Venezuela), caviar ice cream (Petrossian in New York City) and foie gras ice cream (Philippe Faur in Toulouse, France, about \$150).

In several regions of the African nation of Cameroon, parents try to keep maturing daughters off the market by "ironing" their breasts (pressing them with heated stones and leaves to make them flatter and the girls thus less desirable for sex). The practice reached world media (and News of the Weird) in 2006 as part of a condemnation campaign by the United Nations, but apparently it continues unabated, according to new videos circulated this year and described in The Washington Post in March. According to that writer, who interviewed numerous health officials in Cameroon, the practice apparently has little effect, in that the teenage pregnancy rate remains very high.

The greatness of movie soundtracks

Patrick "PATCHES" WOOD
 Music Columnist

If there were one thing that I could possibly love more than music, it would have to be movies. You wouldn't believe how many hours I have spent immersed in film. It's insane. The cool thing about motion pictures though, what I really love, is that with almost every one there's a unique musical element.

That being said, there's a lot of artists and songs that I've discovered through film. Sometimes, I've already heard a song and it's not until I hear its use in a movie that I say to myself "Wow, that's a really grand tune, maybe I should go legally download that." So, here are some of my all-time, favorite movie soundtracks ever. (WARNING: This is my personal opinion)

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist: Adapted from the book of the same name by Rachel Cohn and David Levithan, this film follows the fledgling relationship of two teenagers as they search New York for a drunken friend and the fictional band, "Where's Fluffy?" Thrown together by a chance encounter and a rogue kiss, Nick and Norah travel through the night (and city) with music from Band of Horses, Vampire Weekend, Shout Out Louds, and We Are Scientists illuminating the way. Director Peter Sollett wanted to find music that wasn't exactly main-stream yet, from bands that were originally from New York. Although the original soundtrack boasts music from Devandra Banhart, The Dead 60's, Army Navy, The Submarines, and Bishop Allen, tunes from the indie glum-rock band, The National, can be heard in the film too.

500 Days of Summer: Starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zoey Deschanel, *500 Days of Summer* chronicles the 500 days of Tom and Summer's relationship, from start to finish. The interesting spin comes when you realize that the film's chronological order has been thrown in a blender, leading to jumps back and forth in time, from Day 5 to Day 300, then back to Day 47 again. The soundtrack pairs with the movie perfectly with older songs from The Smiths, Hall and Oates, and Simon and Garfunkel, as well as newer music from Feist, Mumm-Ra, Spoon, Black Lips, and the Australian band, Temper Trap. The musical duo of M. Ward and the film's star, Zoey Deschanel, create the band She & Him, who also has several songs on the soundtrack. It's no surprise that when released in July of 2009, the soundtrack rode all the way to number 42 on the U.S. Billboard 200 charts. Check out the bonus track of

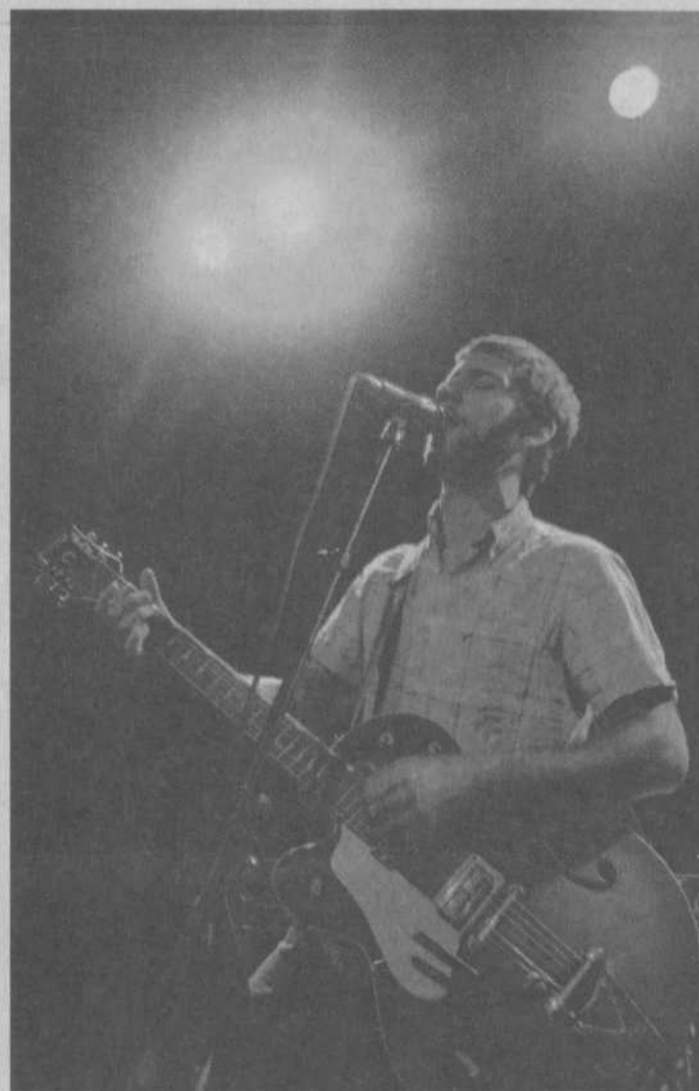


Zach Braff from "Garden State," produced the soundtrack for the popular movie and won a grammy.
 Lionel HAHN/Abaca Press

Joseph Gordon-Levitt singing "Here Comes Your Man" for a laugh or two.

Garden State: Zach Braff, known for his *Scrubs* alter-ego J.D., not only stars in this movie, but is the writer and director as well. It also turns out that Braff knows a thing or two about picking out songs for a soundtrack. The combination of Coldplay, The Shins, Cary Brothers, Frou Frou, Colin Hay, Remy Zero, and Thievery Corporation won Braff and his soundtrack a Grammy for Best Compilation Soundtrack for a Motion Picture. Pitchfork rated it a 7 out of 10 and Rolling Stone gave it 4 and-a-half out of 5 stars. What tops it all off for me is Iron and Wine's cover of The Postal Service's "Such Great Heights".

You may have noticed that a good majority of the artists on these movie soundtracks are indie/alternative, but don't let that fool you into thinking that's what makes a good soundtrack.



Adam Turla, front man of last week's Prospectus Pick, *Murder by Death*, performed at the Canopy Club Friday night.

Sean HERMANN/Prospectus

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Welcome week at Parkland: How it all went down

Josh GRUBE
Staff Writer

Just two weeks ago Student Life greeted Parkland students to the new school year with its annual Welcome Week. Taking place the second week of school, giving students time to get in synch with their new schedule, it's the perfect time for an official welcome to the school.

"We know that students are incredibly busy at this time of the year. They're going to figure out what's going on with their schedule, what's the most convenient way to park, to get to class, to catch a bite to eat..." said Tom Caulfield, Director of Student Life. "What we do during Welcome Week is some light programming that helps make sure the students know that we value them and that they're welcome. It also gives the ability to learn about student clubs and organizations."

Starting off the week on Monday was the Student Organizations Fair. Hosted in the Flag Lounge and College Center, students enjoyed free popcorn while learning about many different organizations at Parkland. Organizations that set up included Alpha Phi Omega, Chess Club, Club Access, Club Latino, Equine Riding Team/Equestrian Club, German Club, Images, Japanese Culture Club, LDSAA, Muslim



Students try to find a place to eat their free tacos as a part of Student Life's Welcome Week at Parkland.
Sean HERMANN/Prospectus

Student Association, Parkland Art Gallery/Parkland Theatre, Parkland Christian Fellowship, Parkland Student Education Association, Parkland College Student Government, Phi Theta Kappa, Prospectus News, Queer & Ally, Sister To Sister, S.V.A.P., Speech Team, Student Ambassadors, Student Government, Surgical Tech Club, and Parkland's radio station WPCD.

The next day, Student Life gave out granola bars in the College Center. On Wednesday they provided a free taco bar lunch to all students in the Gallery Lounge. They also set up an Illini Photo Booth where students could have pictures taken with a jam-packed booth of friends. Thursday they were back in the College Center to hand out more popcorn and Friday they handed out slushies.

"There are a lot of things that Student Life offered for students for free. It's rare that you can find that in other colleges. We had slushies, free lunch, popcorn, you name it," said Student Life worker Magnolia Talavera. "It was pretty cool for Parkland to do that."

Just because Welcome Week is only a weeklong does not mean it only takes a week of work. Student Life began preparing and organizing way ahead of time before the big week. In addition to the plan-

ning for Welcome Week, a lot of work was also put into the first week of school.

"We schedule extra support from our student workers and begin planning a couple months in advance, so by the first of August, we try to have enough plans in place," said John Eby, Activities Program Manager of Student Life. "We look at it as a two week experience because we do a lot the first week of classes as well. Members of Student Life, Parkland staff members, and student workers are out there greeting students, giving away pens and pencils, and making sure the people know their way around the facility. The second week of classes is when we do what we actually call Welcome Week. Students are a little more familiar with the facility, and now they can focus on other aspects like extracurricular programs."

Welcome Week shows a kind, welcoming side of Parkland that some students never consider. Student Life is a very dedicated, helpful bunch, to the benefit of students, and helps them succeed. So, fellow students, you can consider yourselves welcomed! For more information on Student Life, you can visit www.parkland.edu/studentlife, call 351-2492, or stop by their office in room X-153.



Socially conscious shoppers look for the fair-trade label, but what does it mean?

Alexia ELEJALDE-RUIZ
MCT

You've probably come across the "Fair Trade Certified" logo while browsing the grocery store aisles - and if you're like most shoppers, you probably aren't quite sure what it means.

U.S. consumers bought some \$1.2 billion in fair-trade products last year, but only 29 percent know what fair trade is, said Stacy Wagner, director of media and public relations for TransFair USA, the leading third-party certifier of fair-trade products in the U.S.

"It's the most successful program that no one's ever heard of," Wagner said.

Awareness is spreading as more products become fair-trade certified, a program that ensures farmers receive a living wage, work under ethical conditions and invest in their businesses and communities. A decade ago coffee was the only fair-trade commodity, but now

there are more than 6,000 fair-trade certified products available in the U.S., including tea, bananas, rice, wine and olive oil. The offerings continue to expand, with clothing and spirits debuting this year.

Ben and Jerry's became the biggest brand to go 100 percent fair trade when earlier this year it announced that by 2013 every ingredient in its products that can be fair-trade certified will be.

Here's how fair trade works: Farmers form a co-op and agree to abide by fair-trade standards, which include using sustainable farming methods and providing safe working conditions. In return, buyers guarantee a minimum fair-trade price that protects farmers from plunges in the market price, plus a social premium used for community development projects picked by the democratically elected co-op leadership. There's an additional premium for organic products. Trans-



Fair - the only third-party organization in the U.S. certified by Fairtrade Labelling Organizations, the international group that sets the fair-trade standards - audits the process to verify that everyone is complying with the rules, and it bestows the label.

The fair trade mission is to help farmers lift themselves out of poverty. TransFair estimates that since it started certifying in 1998, farmers have received almost \$200 million more than they would have without fair-trade status.

Consumers generally have to pay more for fair-trade products as a result, but it's not always obvious when you look at the supermarket shelf: A fair-trade product often bears the same price as its non-fair-trade peers, but it comes in a smaller container.

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REINVENTING ALTERNATIVE

88.7 THE WAVE

Opinions

A fate worse than death

Ingrid E. NEWKIRK
MCT

First, there was the jaw-dropping story of a British woman who was caught on camera tossing an affectionate cat into an outdoor trash bin. Then, it was an Eastern European girl slinging crying puppies into a fast-moving stream. Now, in America, some people have imprisoned a dog inside a box barely bigger than his own body. The box has solid sides, and the dog can only see out if he jumps up and peers over them. He has been locked in the box for months. To add to the mental torture, the dog has worn his teeth down to the nubs from biting at his prison, so his owners occasionally take

him out of the box to drill painful holes vertically into his teeth in order to irrigate them. And right there by the side of the box, the dog's keepers also manually extract sperm from him and use it to breed other dogs to sell.

There's more, but the abuse I've already described is enough to make any decent person sick.

Take a look at Google Maps and you can look down into the container and see the dog lying there.

Why, you may ask, aren't these people in jail? How is it that the local humane society has not swooped in and seized the dog?

Oh, I'm sorry. Did I write "dog"? I meant to write "killer

whale." And the people perpetrating this horror are SeaWorld executives. So why exactly does swapping one intelligent animal for another or swapping an average Joe for rich business executives lessen the horror of this orca's ordeal or the injustice of the situation? Answer: It doesn't.

Tilikum is the killer whale. He killed a human being - for the third time - earlier this year. Perhaps there's a reason why killer whales are called "killer" whales. Tilikum didn't give his keeper, Dawn Brancheau, a little playful toss or misjudge and hold her under water just a second too long for her to survive. He shook her like a rag doll, he slammed her into the side of the pool, stopped her from sur-

facting and tore her body apart. My bet is that he knew exactly what he was doing. Having seen how he is kept and knowing where he came from, it's not hard to comprehend the depth of his anger and frustration.

Tilikum is 32 years old. When he was just 2 years old, he was caught by marine "cowboys" who kidnap dolphins and orcas to sell to amusement parks. He was taken from his family, his pod, in the open waters off Iceland, and he's lived in a cement pool ever since, unable to use his echolocation, unable to swim away, to travel the oceans, to hear or see his relatives. He is "trained" to eat what he's given and do what he's told. He is also trained to roll over,

which allows trainers to masturbate him with a gloved hand and collect his semen in a container. His semen is frozen for later use or used immediately to inseminate female orcas at one of SeaWorld's parks so as to provide additional animals to use in shows.

Life in a tiny concrete tank is no life at all for these animals, as evidenced by the death this week of Tilikum's 12-year-old son at SeaWorld San Diego. Twelve! This orca would likely have lived to be 50 or 60 in the open sea, his rightful home.

After the third human being lost her life to Tilikum, SeaWorld reduced his meager "world" even further. Tilly is now relegated mostly, if not solely, to the "F pool," a solid-

sided concrete pool that measures just 36 feet long and 25 feet wide. Tilikum is 22½ feet long with a big wide orca girth. He weighs more than 12,000 pounds. So he has to scrunch just to turn around. And once turned, there he is again, nose against the other wall. He has been condemned to hang in place in the water indefinitely.

PETA is calling on the local humane society and the state's attorney to free Tilly. After all, cruelty to animals, whether to a dog or to an orca, is illegal in all states.

(c) 2010,

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Fidel Castro, former Cuban president turned Internet junkie

MCT

Fidel Castro is back from the dead (his words) and has been reincarnated as an Internet junkie. Not only is he a prolific blogger on Cuba's online Granma newspaper but, it turns out, the 84-year-old graybeard consumes 200 to 300 news items a day on the Web and is fascinated by the WikiLeaks site, with its trove of 90,000 formerly secret U.S. documents on military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The "resuscitated" revolutionary is smaller and shakier than he was before the intestinal illness that prompted him to hand power to his younger brother in 2006, but no less verbose. He spoke with the editor of the Mexican newspaper La Jornada for five hours, during which he raved about the profound impact of the Web. "Do you know what this means, comrade?" he asked, like some sort of Rip Van Winkle waking up in the 21st century. The Internet, he said, "has put an end to secrets. ... We are seeing a high level of investigative journalism, as the New York Times calls it, that is within reach of the whole world."

Well, not the whole world. Cuba, for example, has the lowest level of Internet pene-

tration in the hemisphere, plus severe government restrictions and censorship affecting those who do have access. A Brookings Institution report says that Cuba has 1.3 million users, or 13 percent of the population, according to Cuban government statistics - or about 2.6 percent by international estimates. Either way, that's lower even than impoverished Haiti's 23 percent.

In the interview, Castro blamed the U.S. trade embargo for denying Cuba access to an underwater fiber-optic cable, forcing the island to rely instead on expensive satellite access at a cost of about \$5 an hour to consumers - a third of the monthly wage of the average Cuban. President Obama issued a directive last year allowing telecom providers to enter into agreements to extend cable to Cuba, although only as far as the shore, not onto the island; a company from a third country or the Cuban government itself would have to finish the job. For that reason, or possibly because American firms are skittish about the Cuban state-controlled economy, nothing has happened. Venezuela is likely to provide cable access to Cuba before the U.S. does.

In the meantime, the techno-



logical limits and high costs, as well as the U.S. trade embargo, have served the Cuban government's political interest in maintaining its grip on media and information, which is why the Castro interview offers delicious irony. Castro called Web communication "the most powerful weapon that has existed" and extolled its power to break a stranglehold on the media by "the empire" (that means the United States, of course) and "ambitious private groups that have abused it." But

the fact that it is such a powerful weapon is, of course, precisely why unfettered access for all Cubans isn't really on Big Brother Fidel's mind.

His younger sibling, President Raul Castro, began allowing all Cubans to buy personal computers in 2008, but a private Internet connection requires government permission, which is not easily granted, and most people have access only to a Cuban intranet, a national e-mail system with approved websites and jour-

nals. On the World Wide Web, Cubans encounter filters and blocks on any information coming or going that might be construed as unfriendly to the Cuban government.

Besides Fidel Castro, Cuba has about 300 bloggers, about 100 of them unauthorized, including several who are highly critical of the government. They have a terrible time communicating with the world and have to resort to all sorts of tricks to circumvent government barriers, including phoning the information to friends abroad for posting on servers outside Cuba.

The most famous blog is Yoani Sanchez's Generation Y, which nets more than 1 million hits a month and is available just about everywhere but in Cuba, which may explain why she hasn't been muzzled; another reason may be that she is equally critical of the U.S. and its trade embargo. (She was, however, beaten and her blogger husband was attacked by a mob.) Sanchez helped Jose Luis Pardo and others establish Voces Cubanitas, an independent site with about 30 bloggers who chronicle the trials, deprivations and beauty of Cuban daily life in words and pictures.

Cuban law bans using the

Internet to spread information that is against what the government considers to be the social interest, norms of good behavior, the integrity of the people or national security. This is in line with other policies stifling free expression. This year, the government announced the release of 52 political prisoners, but so far only about half have been freed from jail and sent into exile. There's no indication that the state's tolerance for dissent has increased, or that those who express views contrary to the government's will escape harassment and detention in the future. On the contrary, five dissidents were taken into custody following a rare protest at the University of Havana last month at which they shouted "Down with the Castros!"

Fidel Castro didn't comment on the ruckus. In fact, he held his own rally at the university last week wearing his trademark army fatigues for the first time in years. Funny, though, he didn't talk to the students about Internet freedom and the wonders of the Web.

(c) 2010,

Los Angeles Times.

Parkland to take trip to Vienna

Janelle O'DEA
Staff Writer

Instead of spending your winter break on the couch watching old movies, head to Austria's capital city, Vienna, for an 11-day excursion on sustainable energy.

Parkland is inviting the public on a tour of Vienna, which "offers a snapshot of current European innovation in energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies," according to a press release.

Not only will you get to see all of the sights of Vienna and experience a different culture, but also attend daily programs that instruct sustainability in many ways. This can include learning about green construction techniques and materials, different forms of sustainable energy, and much more. The trip includes a guided

city tour as well, with a stop at Fernwärme Wien, a garbage burning plant that recycles its power for use in heating homes and businesses.

After learning about sustainable energy all day, you will be entirely ready to settle into your brand-new eco-friendly quarters. The modern apartment complex includes spacious two-bedroom apartments with communal space, along with private bedrooms and bathrooms. The rooms also have a kitchenette, so travelers can buy their own groceries and save money on the cost of food. The tentative cost of the trip is \$1,775 per person, with an extra \$140 added for those who desire a single-room apartment.

Martha Bowser-Kiener, Director of Parkland College Study Abroad program, said the plans for the trip came together in the



last three weeks. A minimum of 15 people must show interest by September 26 in order for the trip to go as planned. "It's a very good value. The \$1,700 covers round trip airfare, housing, daily excursions

on sustainability, city tours, and a few meals. \$2,000 total will cover you for the entire trip," she said.

The trip does not include any college credit, but it does offer the chance for educa-

tion on an important issue for many students, especially those involved in construction. Bowser-Kiener believes the trip will be particularly beneficial for anyone planning to lead a study abroad group in

the future.

Bowser-Kiener also notes that most recent study abroad trips have had a theme. Clearly the theme for the Vienna trip is sustainability, and when asked why sustainability was chosen, she credits the Champaign-Urbana community. "Lots of people are very passionate about sustainability in progressive Champaign-Urbana, especially with the University of Illinois being here," she said. The trip will depart from O'Hare Airport in Chicago on December 26 and will return January 5. If learning about sustainability and a new culture sound like a great way to ring in the New Year, contact Martha Bowser-Kiener by email at mbowser-kiener@parkland.edu, or by phone at 373-3707 by September 26.

Caution children at play: How students can keep their kids safe at Parkland

Morgan BERNIER
Social Media Editor

Parkland College is diverse in every way. Its halls are full of students of different ages, races, shapes, sizes, and backgrounds. One particular trait, which is currently becoming somewhat controversial, is the number of parents at Parkland. It is a very admirable trait to want to go to college after having started a family, but there are many things to consider when doing so, the most important of these being what to do with children during class.

The Parkland College Student Handbook addresses this issue in "POLICY 5.04 CHILDREN in the CLASSROOM," which states, "It is understood

that the mission of the college is to provide an atmosphere that is as free as possible from outside distractions and disruptions. In order to maintain this environment, unaccompanied/unauthorized minor children are not allowed on campus. TO protect children from possible injury and to maintain a safe, secure learning environment, children are not permitted in classes and are not to be left unsupervised anywhere on campus, including employee work areas." This policy was instated in 1993, revised in 2005, and has always been strictly enforced.

The parameters of Parkland's child policy are outlined clearly, that children are allowed on campus under the

condition that their parent, guardian, or other responsible adult supervises them. For parents, this means that if a babysitter cancels for the day, other arrangements need to be made. While that may sound unreasonable, the logic behind it is what makes this policy necessary. Officer Matthew Kopmann, Public Relations Officer explained it thusly: "(Parkland College) is not the safest place for a child to be. It is not a child-friendly environment." Fortunately for parents, there is a place where children are welcome at Parkland.

The Child Development Center at Parkland provides a safe and nurturing environment for children, while parents are in class. The Child Development

Center is a convenient, reliable, and affordable way to ensure children are taken care of while their parents are unavailable. Nancy Kemna, Director of the Child Development Center, hopes to spread knowledge regarding the opportunities that are offered by her program.

The Child Development Center accepts children between the ages of fifteen months and five years, and is located in the G-building on campus. One of the great things provided by the Child Development Center is that Parkland Students receive priority in regards to placement when an opening occurs. While tuition is on a sliding scale, it is generally between twenty and forty

dollars per day. The amount of tuition is based on family income and the age of the child. They also accept subsidy or agency tuition payments.

Nancy Kemna said that the primary purpose of the Child Development Center is "to reduce barriers that, one, prevent parents from coming to school, and, two, discourage them from continuing education." Kemna would also like for the students to know that applications should be filled out as soon as possible, as sometimes the wait can be quite long, but that there are part-time positions open currently. More information can be found on their website, www.parkland.edu/childdev, or by calling (217) 377-3777

It is crucial for parents to remember that, while Parkland is a safe place, it is not always safe for children. Parkland has a large campus filled with students hurrying from one class to another, and a meandering child could easily be caught in the rush. Officer Kopmann, and all of the Public Safety officers, are concerned for the well being of children brought to Parkland. They want everyone to be aware of the policy, and why it is in effect. If you see an unattended child, please contact Public Safety at (217) 377-2369.

Super-sized is the new normal

Siel JU
MCT

Do you love Chipotle's organic chicken burritos? Guess how many calories the total meal has. If you guessed a reasonable 300, you're right - assuming you're referring just to the organic tortilla! Eat the chicken and the rest of the tasty innards of the burrito, and you'll have consumed 970 calories! After all, Chipotle's burrito weighs in at 21 ounces - compared to the USDA's standard 5-ounce burrito.

That weighty news comes courtesy of Nutrition Action, a newsletter from the Center For Science in the Public Interest. In an article called "Still Supersized" (<http://cspinet.org/nah/articles/supersized.html>), the Center points out that while the "super size" option has technically disappeared from fast-food menus, many meal options are still extremely heavy in calories, fat, sugar and sodium.

"Since when is a cookie the size of a McDonald's Quarter Pounder patty? Since Americans started growing bigger buns," write the authors, who point out that even our "healthy" muffins and frozen yogurt treats are supersized, oversweetened and fatty. Along with snarky commentary like "When did we go from one slice to one pizza per person?" the article provides handy photos of overweight fast-food items - along with a



Lisa Mertins, Orange County Register

visualization of the fraction of the food that would be considered a "normal," USDA size.

So what's an eater on the go to do? Many people already avoid McDonald's Happy Meals, but must they also shun Starbucks, California Pizza Kitchen and the organic Chipotle? Not necessarily - just know what you're getting and plan accordingly. In fact, one handy tip may be to go for the food items with diminutive names. Starbucks' "treat-sized" chocolate chip cookie has just 130 calories, making it a reasonable indulgence, versus the

Starbucks' Chocolate Chunk Cookie with 360 calories.

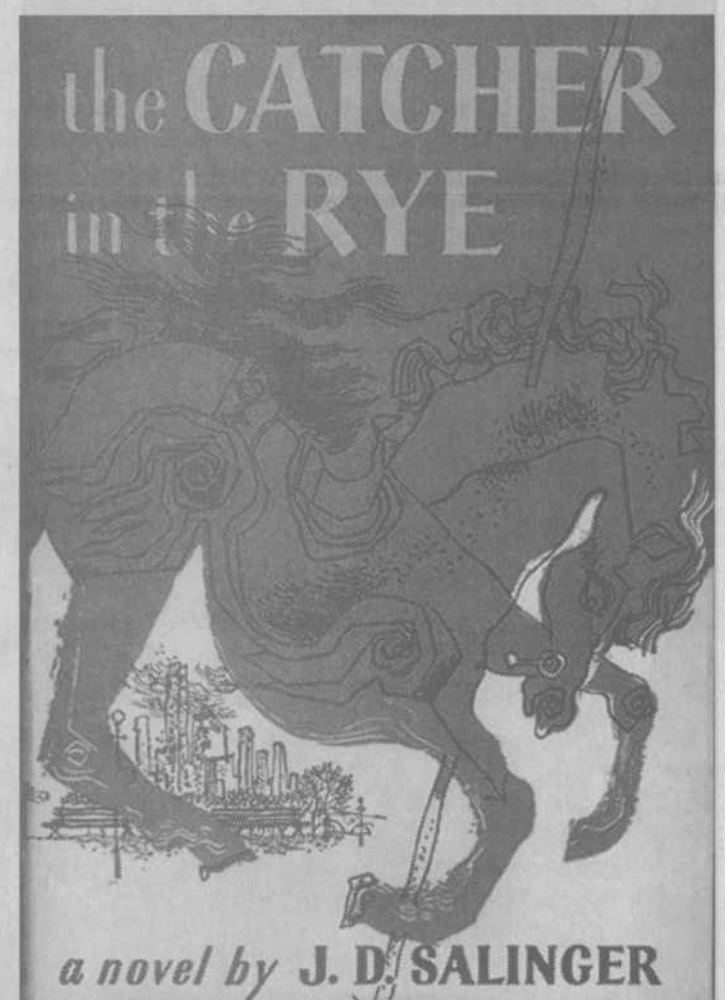
Otherwise, make your lunch your dinner too and save half for later. Half a Chipotle chicken burrito would still let you enjoy a 10.5-ounce organic lunch with a livable 485 calories! Write the authors: "Repeat after us: half is the new whole" - which gave me a brilliant marketing idea for Chipotle. Why not simply rename the chicken burrito the "perfect-for-two chicken burrito" or "the two-meal burrito" to show people they're getting two meals for the price of one

AND that just a half burrito should be enjoyed per meal, thereby making peace with the health watchdogs?

Unfortunately I don't think my healthy and frugal idea would fly with the Chipotle people, partly because the revamped names would imply that the fast-food chain's current customer base has an overeating problem...

(c) 2010, Mother Nature Network.

Prospectus Pick: *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger



David BUSBOOM
Staff Writer

Angst, confusion, alienation, rebellion. These are complex issues that every young person experiences to one degree or another, especially in college. Many writers have attempted to deal with these issues in fiction, but few, if any, have done so quite as well as J.D. Salinger in his 1951 novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*. It has been translated into almost all of the world's major languages, and around 250,000 copies are sold each year.

The novel begins with the protagonist and narrator, Holden Caulfield, sharing encounters he has had with students and faculty of his school, whom he criticizes as being superficial or "phony." After being expelled for poor grades, Holden packs up and leaves the school in the middle of the night after a clash with his roommate. He takes a train to New York, but does not

want to return to his family and instead embarks on an adventure in which he addresses his identity, his sense of belonging, and his connection to the rest of the world. I won't give away the ending, but it's optimistic.

The Catcher in the Rye is an ideal read for adults and adolescents alike, and it has been listed as one of the best novels of the 20th century. It is unusually brilliant, and captures the sense of teenage angst perfectly. Holden Caulfield is as complex a hero (or in this case, antihero) as you will find in anything written by Mark Twain or F. Scott Fitzgerald. While it has never been adapted into a movie, it has been referenced in media and popular culture numerous times. So much so, in fact, that works inspired by *The Catcher in the Rye* have been said to form an independent genre. Everyone should read this marvelous book.

Go tech-free for 24 hours and say hello to loved ones

Daniel VASQUEZ
MCT

People, are you willing to give up your cell phone, laptop, e-readers, game players and all other mobile devices for one day on Yom Kippur?

Yes, the idea is to give up mobile devices and our collective addiction to technology for one whole day on Sept. 18, the Jewish holiday. But this is not really about religion (all denominations and non-denominations welcome). It's merely about a religious-based group reaching out to the world with a call to arms - or a rather to drop arms (in this case mobile devices) in the name of sanctity and sanity.

I love tech items, as I believe technology is the ultimate social bridge when used for that purpose. Facebook, iPhone FaceTime video calling, Google Places and old-fashioned e-mail are all convenient and powerful means for to stay intimately connected with our loved ones. My 5-year-old son



(Michelle Hazelwood/The Charlotte Observer/MCT)

my iPhone 4 every Sunday to video call his grandparents in Miami when we can't make the trip. And the digitized funny faces Abuelo makes on the smart phone reduce my son to happy tears as if he were literally in front of his grandpa.

But I must admit it gets kind of ridiculous when I realize my wife has her iPhone glued to her hand reading work e-mail, my son has a Leap-

ster game player in hand as he learns to read with a "Star Wars"-themed program and I have a laptop in my lap trying to read about technology - and we haven't said a word to each other for more than an hour. I get that we could use a break sometimes and just get together to talk and play.

The Offining Inc. (www.offininginc.com) initiative aims to take back our lives


from technology for one day. The Offining ads you may see soon use the words "You don't have to be Jewish to..." give up texts, tweets and phone calls for 24 hours.

To make their point and gain attention, the Offining campaign pokes fun at Tiger Woods (who was caught cheating on his wife with the help of saved texts from a mistress), Lindsay Lohan (who is known for embarrassing and inappropriate serial tweets) and Mel Gibson (who was allegedly and infamously recorded making drunken, violent phone calls).

Offining Inc. has had success will similar efforts, including getting 10,000 people to pledge no-device dinners with their families each night.


What do you say? Are you willing to drop your tech devices for a day to regain your place and position with family and friends? It's only 24 hours, what do you say?

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Parkland College Relations

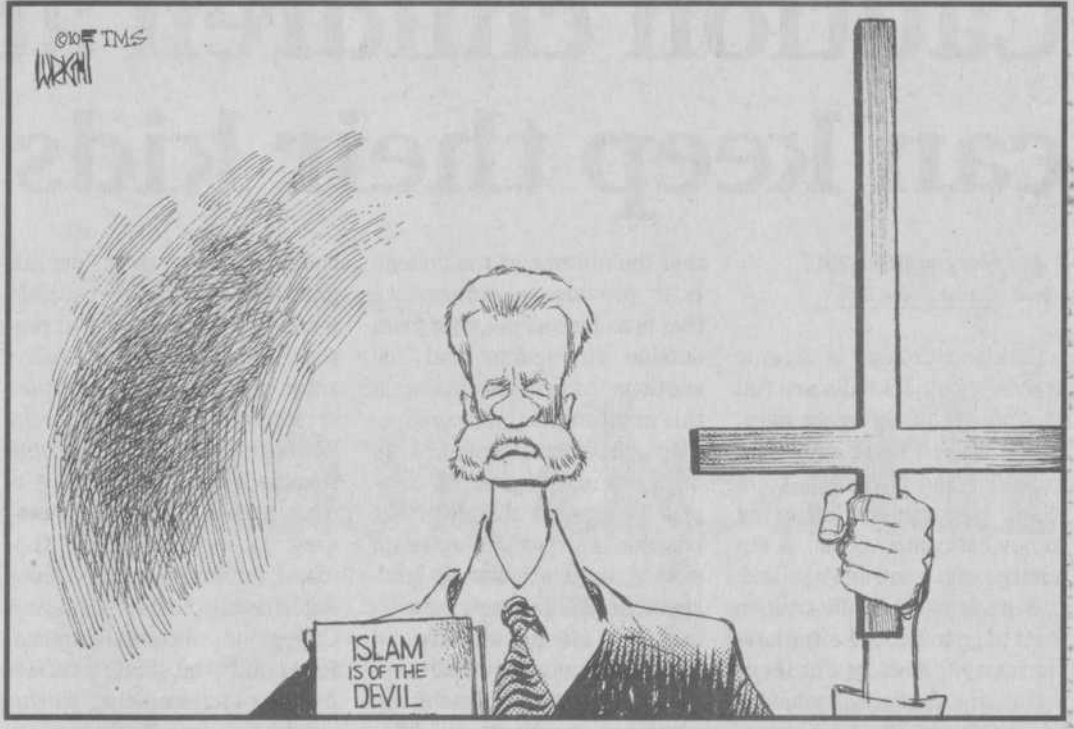
Officer Matthew Kopmann



Citation Fines Increasing in Illinois

Starting September 15, 2010 fines for citations will increase in Illinois. The fine for speeding up to 20 mph over the limit will increase to \$120. Speeding 20 to 29 mph over the limit will be \$140. Driving more than 30 mph over the speed limit will increase to \$160.

Unlawful use of a license, driving without a license, driving with a suspended license, and driving with a revoked license will all be raised to a \$1,500 fine. Driving under the influence will also be raised to \$1,500. Seat belt violations will also be raised to \$60.



Classified

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Carpooler Wanted

Living in Danville and looking for someone to carpool to Parkland this fall. Will help with gas.
Please call 630-546-0167 for more information.

ACROSS

- 1 Piano pro
- 6 Fizzy drink
- 10 Kellogg School deg.
- 13 UV ray absorber
- 14 x and y, perhaps
- 15 Blackberry lily, e.g.
- 17 *Powerful punch
- 19 "Still Life With Old Shoe" artist
- 20 Together, in music
- 21 Ham
- 23 Depict artistically
- 26 *Where the tight end is positioned, in football lingo
- 29 Polar buildup
- 31 Extremists
- 32 West pointers, sometimes?
- 33 Sulky state
- 34 See 59-Down
- 37 It prints many scheds.
- 38 "Spartacus" Oscar winner
- 41 Mined matter
- 42 Sitcom pal of Fred
- 44 Shades that fade in fall
- 45 Bond trader's phrase
- 47 Not completely
- 49 Admirals' concerns
- 50 *Shot pioneered by Wilt Chamberlain
- 53 Knife of yore
- 54 Like "ASAP" memos
- 55 Beer-making aid
- 57 Kerouac's Paradise et al.
- 58 Places where you can watch (and whose end can follow the ends of) the answers to starred clues
- 64 "Don't change it"
- 65 Liver nutrient
- 66 Bother persistently
- 67 Curly shape
- 68 "Forget about it"
- 69 Like an evening in a Frost title

DOWN

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- 2 Weapon designer __ Gal

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By David J. Kahn 9/16/10

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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SALAAM	BASH	RNA
EMIR	POLICED	DOGS
MENU	EWERS	IOLA
IRKS	DEWY	OPEL

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33 Fab Four member

35 Wax eloquent

36 As such

39 Gets going

40 Batman before George

43 Consumes

46 Treaty subject

48 Reliever's spot, for short

49 Needing a 1-Across

50 Hoo-ha

51 Really 16-Down

52 Ben player on "Bonanza"

56 Payroll figs.

59 With 34-Across, country club feature

60 Rider of Dinny the dinosaur

61 In days past

62 Untrained

63 Place to serve slop

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Building from success: Parkland aims high for fall athletics

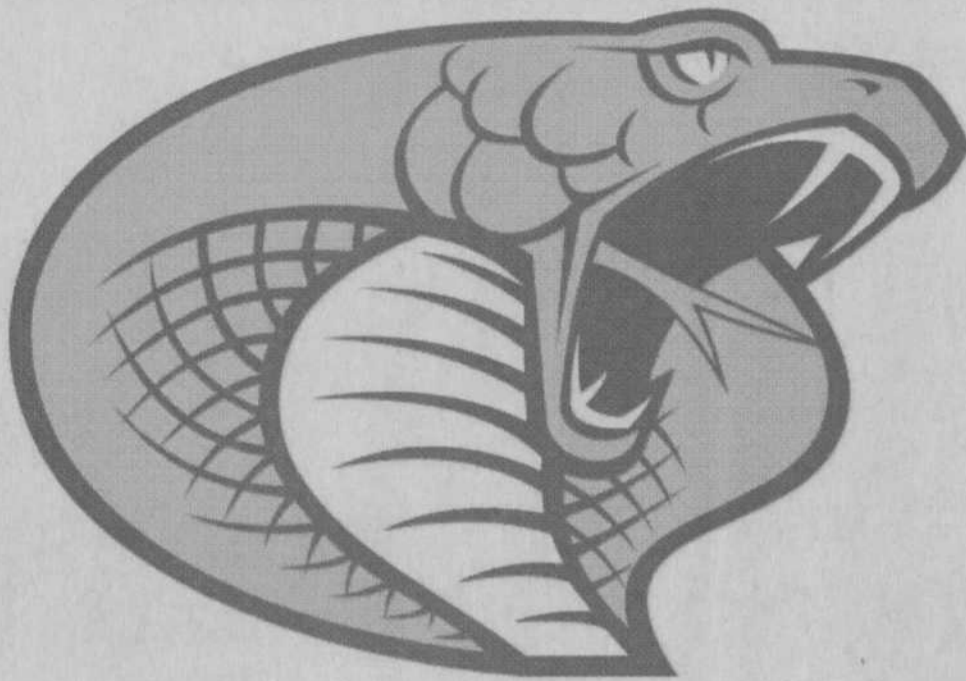
Ray DOMBROWSKI
Staff Writer

With the fall semester now in full swing it brings with it the fall sports season, and this year should give everyone plenty to be excited about.

The volleyball team will play the 2010 season with 5 freshmen on their team under the experience of second year coach Cliff Hastings. In their first season under Coach Hastings the volleyball team ended their season with an impressive 42-6 record and a third place finish at the NJCAA championships.

Hastings has been in competitive sports for most of his life, and is the director of the Prime Time Volleyball Club, where he coached the 18 year-old age group.

The team will enter the season as the defending District K and Midwest Athletic Conference Champions. Will the team



be able to replicate the success they had in 2009 and make a run for the Championship?

The answer according to their play has been an emphatic, YES! This year's

team has begun the season quickly jumping out to a 14-3 record. The team has already

taken the #1 spot in the nation and doesn't look to be giving up their spot without a fight.

Rod Lovett, Cobra's Athletic Director, is looking forward to the team hosting what should be an exciting tournament from Sept. 24-26 at Parkland College.

The men's soccer team will also be looking for a new, promising group of freshman players to help them to another winning season this year. The team will dress 13 freshmen on the roster this year from all across Illinois and also 2 new international players from Brazil (Douglas Andrade) and Canada (Khody Ellis).

The men will once again be under the coaching expertise of Mark Sikora. Beginning his fifth season Coach Sikora has a 43-29-5 record and coaching many All-Midwest Athletic Conference selections.

After beginning the season 0-2 the team fought back

to a 2-2-1 record capped by a thrilling double overtime win against Danville.

The women's soccer team will be bringing in 11 freshman to round out a roster which will try and build off of what was a learning season last year when half of the team was made up of new players. The incoming freshman will have the opportunity to learn from the experience of head coach Josh Alford.

The team has begun the season strong going 4-0, but suffered an 8-1 loss for their first of the season.

With an exciting season for your Parkland College Cobra's already underway don't forget to come out and cheer on your fellow students as they battle their way to victory.

Prospectus

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Parkland Art Gallery Art & Design Faculty Exhibition Photo's By Levi Norman



Samantha Crain (left) Murder By Death (right) at The Canopy Club.