



Parkland student spotlight: Magnolia Talavera Pg. 3



— Parkland offers second chance to those without a highschool degree/GED P.3
— Prospectus Pick: Halo; Reach P. 5
— Cobras volleyball coverage P. 7



What Confucius says is useful to China's rulers. Opinions on P. 4

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Students would buy time, but with what money? ■ Students forced to juggle even more with tuition on the rise

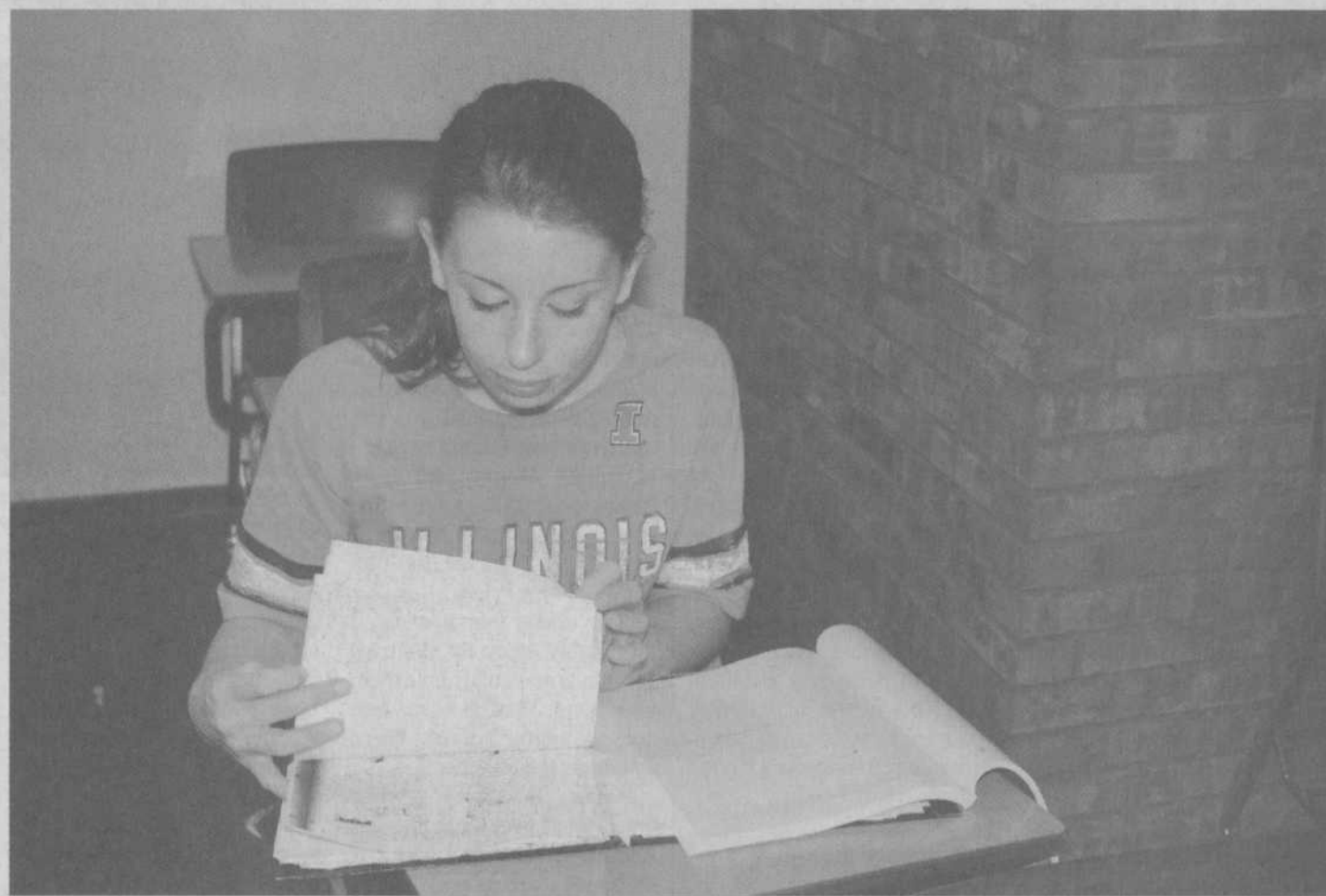
Janelle O'DEA
Staff Writer

I hustled through the parking lot, determined to make it to class on time, when suddenly I stopped in my tracks. To my left sat a pickup truck with windows wide open and rock music blaring. Inside rests a student, clearly exhausted, blocking out the world for at least five minutes before dragging himself back inside.

Living the life? Not so much. The declining economy and skyrocketing tuition costs are putting most college students in an uncomfortable situation. Students have exhausted themselves at work to keep up with paying bills, making it difficult to focus on classes.

Parkland student Alice Cronenberg testified just that. "Now, I don't work two jobs, but I do work at least two doubles a week. And go to school full time. I've gotta say, it's exhausting. And I did that to myself, just to pay the bills," she said. Even her boss saw the writing on the wall, and didn't want to overexert her. "Let me tell you, my awesome boss Harold very hesitantly allowed me to work all of those doubles. I only work those hours to pay my bills comfortably," said Cronenberg, who serves at the Great Impasta in Champaign. Cronenberg is also currently finishing her general education requirements, with hopes to specialize in fundraising and event planning.

Many students discover the truth of the cliché "something's gotta give," when figuring out how to keep up with schoolwork and keep themselves out of debt. Paige Jamieson, a Parkland sophomore,



"Jamie Johnson, a Parkland student employed at Silgan White Cap, works on French homework from the books she purchased twice due to theft. Johnson gets roughly 3-4 hours of sleep per day and usually works a 12-13 hour shift at her job, leaving little to no time for studying."

who plans to double major in psychology and nutrition, also works two jobs. As a result of this exhausting school-work-life combination, she admitted she often couldn't get what she paid for in regards to the educational value of her classes.

"My biggest sacrifice is pretty equally split between any type of social life and regular exercising. Also, if any school projects allow me to do a little less, I take the opportunity, which is unfortunate because I'd love to take a vested interest in all of my classes," said Jamieson. Jamieson says

for her own tuition, rent, food, utilities, gas, and books. While she enjoys the independence of being on her own, she wishes she had more time.

Even with a little help from her parents, Aubree Henderson, a sophomore majoring in psychology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, said working, going to class, and doing homework 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is "the story of my life."

Henderson explained how she is financially dependent on her parents for rent, utilities, and food. "I am paying my

own tuition with loans & scholarships, but I'd like to make as much money as I can now when they are helping me so I can save up for later when I'm in grad school. It's also nice to have my own spending money and not have to ask my parents for more than they're already giving me," she said.

Even students who receive financial aid find it difficult to keep up with a full load of classes and a full-time job. Jamie Johnson, a student at Parkland hoping to transfer to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for lin-

Janelle O'DEA/Prospectus

guistics, lined out a typical day. "For me, it starts at 9 a.m. when I get out of bed. I go to school all day until 5 when my mom picks me up for work, and then I work a 12 or 13-hour shift until 5 or 6 a.m. Then I sleep for three hours and start all over again," said Johnson.

Johnson explained how she studies over her breaks at work, but "it's hard because people are always asking me questions and talking to me." Johnson also works around loud, heavy machinery, making it much more difficult for her to focus.

Worst of all, she took her French workbook and textbook to work to study, and both were stolen. She bought them both with financial aid and figured she would have no luck attempting to get any money back or any kind of compensation, so she used the teacher's editions until she saved up the money for the new books. "One was \$84, one was \$88," said Johnson. Due to fate, her determination and tenacity, she was forced to pay for the nearly \$90.00 books twice.

Every student at every school, no matter how much help they receive from parents/family or financial aid, still feel the strain on their budgets from tuition increases. Once students move on to bigger universities, the increases in tuition put an even heavier strain on student budgets.

Chris Randles, the Vice President of Administrative Services and Treasurer of Parkland College, explained how "Parkland systematically increases tuition in small increments, as opposed to waiting a few years for a drastic increase, which is more difficult for students and their families to plan for. It's also easier for us to budget if we do it that way (systematically)," he said. For example, tuition for a class at Parkland College (for a District 505 resident) only increased 5.15% from last year to this year. In plain English, it was a simple \$5.00 increase.

"Also, it hasn't helped because the state should be providing us 1/3 of our operating budget (33%), and right now, they are only providing us 12%," said Randles. That's a 21% gap the state is leaving

See **Students** on page 7

Obama urges students to remain informed in political processes

Katie CROWE
MCT

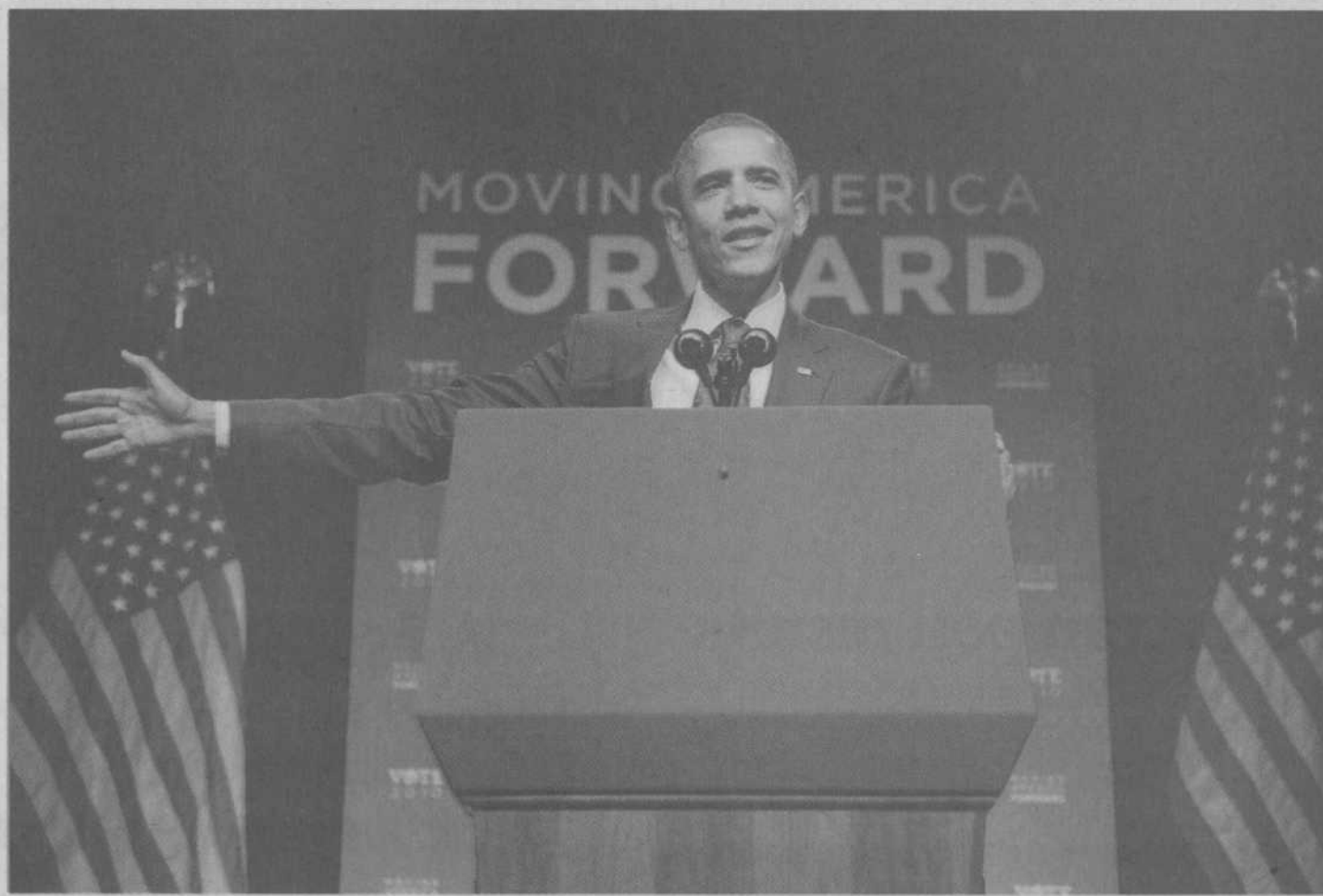
Facing national polls showing decreased enthusiasm among young people, President Obama spent the week rallying college students nationwide to stay "fired up" throughout the upcoming midterm elections.

"We can't sit this one out," the president told a crowd of more than 25,000 Tuesday at the University of Wisconsin. "We cannot let this country fall back because the rest of us didn't stand up and fight."

Later in the week, Obama excited young supporters at a rally hosted by the Democratic National Committee in Washington, D.C., reminding them: "we've been through worse as a nation and have come out stronger."

"It was always going to be hard, he said as Thursday's combined rally and concert event, organized for the Democratic Gen44 Group. "I need you to stay fired up, all the way to Nov. 2, because Nov. 2 is going to say a lot about your future." The Gen44 group was founded as a fundraising, outreach and activation group that continues to attract college-age individuals and young professionals.

While encouraging young people to be proactive in the election, Obama simultaneously emphasized another core issue, the current affordability of a college education.



President Barack Obama delivers remarks at a Democratic National Committee Gen44 fundraising event held at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., September 30, 2010.

(Brendan Hoffman/Abaca Press/MCT)

The president said Sept. 27 in a conference call with student journalists nationwide that in a single generation, our country has fallen from first place to 12th in college graduation rates.

"We want to open to the doors of our colleges and universities to more people so

they can learn, they can graduate, and they can succeed in life," Obama said in his discussion of the educational reforms his administration has implemented thus far.

He proposed that by 2020 the U.S. will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates. He said that so far,

his team has raised the value of Pell Grants, simplified financial aid forms, changed the way federal loans are administered and passed the Affordable Care Act, which allows young adults to remain on their parents' health plans until age 26.

"Obviously it's up to students to finish, but we can help

remove some barriers," the president told the young journalists.

He also mentioned the need for government to put pressure on universities to examine their spending habits and the importance of students' exposure to "jobs of the future."

"Community colleges are

going to play a critical role in making sure that higher education creates a workforce that's ready for new jobs," the president said. "We need to make sure we're giving young people a better sense of what jobs are out there in the future so that people end up gravitating towards the skills and degrees that they need to get employed."

As per the president's request, Dr. Jill Biden will hold the first-ever summit on community colleges Tuesday at the White House, bringing together colleges, philanthropies, business and government representatives, and students.

In addition, Obama mentioned that his administration would work with university presidents to get a handle on increasing tuition prices.

"Part of what I think we need to examine is, are we designing our universities in a way that focuses on the primary thing, which is education?" he said. "If all the amenities of a public university start jacking up the cost of tuition significantly, that's a problem."

The president's main concern, however, and the explanation for the rising cost of college, he said, is the state of the economy in general. Obama told students improving the economy overall is "critical" and stressed that in times like these, both students and their parents need to be conscientious consumers.

See **Obama** on page 5

Prospectus

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The rules of correspondence: all submissions must be signed with a phone number and address. The Prospectus staff will 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

LEAD STORY

More than a half-million children in the U.S. take antipsychotic medicines and (reported The New York Times in September) "(e)ven the most reluctant (doctors) encounter a market-ing juggernaut that has made antipsychotics the nation's top-selling class of drugs by revenue, \$14.6 billion last year, with prominent promotions aimed at treating children." In one psychiatrist's waiting room, observed the Times reporter, "(C)hildren played with Legos stamped with the word Risperdal" (an antipsychotic made by Johnson & Johnson). (The company, which recently lost its patent on the drug, said it has stopped handing out the toys -- which it advertised were reminders for doctors.)

The Litigious Society

Justine Winter, 17, who was badly injured in a car crash in Flathead County, Mont., in March 2009, filed a lawsuit in July 2010 against the pregnant driver whom she had hit and killed (along with the woman's 13-year-old son). However, the local prosecutor has already charged Winter with two counts of homicide, based on text messages she had sent her estranged boyfriend minutes before the crash. "If I won (you)," she texted, "I would have you ... and I wouldn't crash my car." Also, "That's why I'm going to wreck my car. Because all I can do is f--- up. Because I am a terrible person, and I know it." Also, "Good bye ... my last words." That was then; nowadays, Winter says the woman she hit was driving negligently and that construction companies failed to maintain the roadway properly.

Craig Smallwood of Hawaii filed a federal lawsuit earlier this year against the makers of the online virtual-world game "Lineage II" for failing to warn him that he would become so addicted to playing it that he would be "unable to function independently in usual daily activities such as getting up, getting dressed, bathing or communicating with family and friends." (He claims to have spent 20,000 hours over five years playing.)

Ironies

Between suicide, murder, assault, drunken driving and drug use, the soldiers of the 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division, at Fort Bliss, Texas, have been statistically in greater peril while stateside than while deployed in Iraq. "Being back (home) is what we don't do well," Lt. Col. David Wilson told The New York Times in July. During the last year in Iraq, the brigade lost only one

soldier to combat, but in the previous year stateside, seven were killed and four people died in crimes committed by brigade personnel.

Challenging Times for Labor Unions:

At a rally in Washington, D.C., in July denouncing employers who hire nonunion carpenters, many of the chanting protesters were nonunion day workers hired by the carpenters' union to make the demonstration look bigger, according to a Wall Street Journal report.

Compelling Explanations

The Republican candidate for governor of Colorado, Dan Maes, explained in August that he began the campaign supporting "green" programs, such as Denver's innovative "bike-sharing" project, but that he has rethought his position. Now, he told reporters, environmental programs are, in reality, plots. "(I)f you do your homework and research, you realize that (encouraging people to park their cars and ride bikes in the city) is part of a bigger strategy to rein in American cities under a United Nations treaty."

Civilization in Decline

After an historic site along the lower Jordan River was closed for a day in July for public health reasons, an environmental group, EcoPeace/Friends of the Earth (Middle East), called for a permanent suspension until the governments of Israel and Jordan (on either side of the river) assure that it is safe from agricultural discharge and untreated sewage. Fearing sites on the river both claim to be where John the Baptist baptized Jesus, and pilgrims flock to the sites to be baptized, as well.

Least Competent Criminals

Lame: Gerald Maxwell, 39, a convicted burglar who was caught in August breaking into the same Sarasota, Fla., home he had broken into last year, quickly tried to explain his innocence to officers. "I was going back in there to leave a thank-you note, because I'm the guy who burglarized this place last year (and) I just got out of jail."

Terrance Mitchell was arrested in Waterloo, Iowa, in July, identified from video as the man who tried to shoplift surveillance equipment from a store. Mitchell was thus apparently unaware that stores that sell surveillance equipment might operate surveillance cameras.

Visionary pop star is trying to redefine music with her high concepts

Jon Bream
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Pop star Janelle Monae performs at the Canopy Club in September as a part of the Pygmalion Music Festival.

Onstage, Janelle Monae is high-concept, high-energy and high-hair. Her performance is an enrapturing and ambitious multi-media melange of a Fritz Lang movie, Philip K. Dick novel, Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, Frida Kahlo painting and James Bond soundtrack with a little Queen, Prince, James Brown, David Bowie, Judy Garland, OutKast and the B-52's thrown in.

On the phone, Monae was polite, monotone and business-like -- more like she was applying for a job she didn't really want than giving an interview to promote her next performance.

The first topic was trying to explain why Monae, clearly one of 2010's rising stars, is opening for Georgia cult rockers Of Montreal.

"It's not an opening act type of thing," Monae said from Washington D.C., where she was playing with Of Montreal, which just released its 10th album, "False Priest."

"I'm doing this because I thoroughly enjoy Of Montreal as friends and I truly love them as a band. Who goes on first doesn't matter to me. We're collaborating together."

Monae, 24, always dreams big. She has ever since she was a kid in Kansas City with her sights set on Broadway.

"I have the right to my imagination," said Monae, an OutKast protegee who was signed by P. Diddy to a record deal in 2008. "And music is my weapon for those who try to get in my way."

Her "ArchAndroid" is the most eclectic recording of 2010, a 69-minute concept album about a 28th-century android who is sent back to the 21st century to liberate Metropolis from oppressors. If you don't dig the sci-fi story, you can still groove to the music -- download just one song or consume the ear-expanding, 18-tune opus. "The ArchAndroid" has received glow-in-the-dark reviews.

"I'm very grateful, very humbled," the soft-spoken Monae said of the rave reaction. "I haven't gotten too high off the praises and accolades, and I haven't gotten too low off of any opinions or critiques."

One of the most remarkable aspects of the album is Monae's authoritative grasp of so many styles of music -- from funk and folk to classical and bossa nova. A devoted music-head who attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in

New York and performed in off-Broadway shows, she created her album with Chuck Lightning and Rocket Wonder of the Nondalant Arts Society, her intellectual arts collective in Atlanta.

The musical diversity, she said, "just comes natural. It's not for the sake of being different or for any political reasons. I also feel for my generation, it's important that a lot of the music that has come before me -- and definitely has inspired me -- remains preserved."

With her art, Monae is trying to help young women "find their space in this world. I think it's definitely important that we celebrate each other's differ-

Patrick Wood/Prospectus

ences as it pertains to music and art and all those things. It opens up more doors, and people become more comfortable with themselves and not feeling like there isn't a place for them."

(c) 2010, Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



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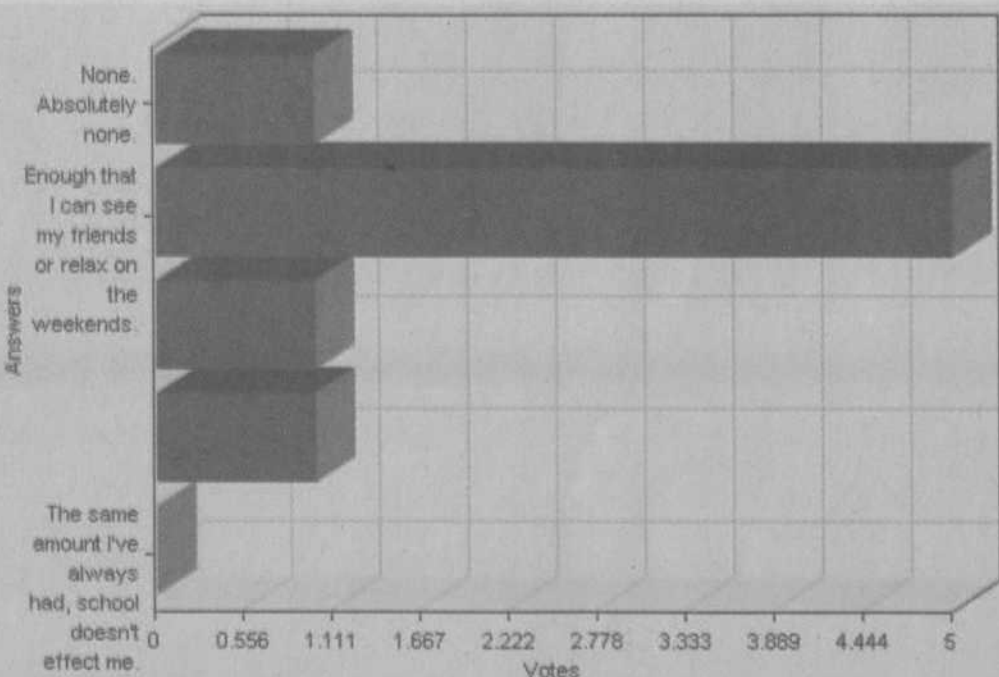
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Lee Jeans advertisement featuring a woman and social media icons. Text includes: "I ♥ my sisters.", "Helpfully supports Breast Day* for all the women in her life touched by breast cancer. Donate \$5 and wear jeans to join her in the fight on October 9, 2010!", "Join the Facebook team", "http://www.leejeans.com/love", "Lee Jeans", "Wash. 200. 22. 22. 22. 22.", "EIF", "CANCER RESEARCH", "THE WORLD WILL BE CHANGED BY BREAST CANCER. THAT'S WHY WE'VE STARTED BREAST DAY."

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How much free time do you have now that the semester is in full swing?



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Adult Education offers a second chance

Kelley HEANEY
Staff Writer

Can you imagine not being able to read a newspaper, your mail, job applications, or even financial aid forms? Nearly 50 million Americans are limited in their reading skills, according to education-portal.com. Also, illiteracy is often a leading basis of high school dropout rates. There is a second chance for those that may be struggling. The Adult Education department at Parkland College offers free GED preparation classes and other programs. This gives those that never earned a GED, or High School diploma, a second chance.

Free GED preparation classes are offered to anyone who is over 17 and has officially dropped out of high school. A GED (General Education Development) certificate requires tests in five subjects; writing skills, social studies, science, interpreting arts and mathematics. Passing is determined by the examinee meeting a national standard for a minimum score. Parkland's Adult Education program saw a graduation rate of 48.19% in 2008-2009, which is greater than the state or federal targets, according to their brochure.

Tawana Nickens, Adult Education Director, said that previously the adult education focus was on skill improvement and



The Adult Education department at Parkland College offers free GED preparation classes and other programs, which gives those that never earned a GED, or High School diploma, a second chance.

getting the student a GED, but recently that focus has changed to "connect these students to opportunities beyond the basic skills and more to post secondary skills. Many students want to continue their education after a GED. We are here to lead them down the pathways that build the skills to help them attain a living wage," said Nickens.

With a total enrollment of

nearly 1,400, 72% of those students in the in the Adult Education program completed at least 12 hours of education this fiscal year. Many are now returning to improve their education and try to find a better paying job. Unfortunately, there is currently a waiting list for the program due to a state mandated enrollment cap of 852 students and limited grant money.

Also available through the Adult Education Department is Project READ, which is a free, national program that is intended for adults who would like to improve their reading and writing skills. Books and materials are provided free to the student through the program, which served 549 students in the past year. Program tutors are required to participate in 12 hours of training to

Jessica WILSON/Prospectus

earn Project READ certification and are always needed.

Additionally, the department offers English as a Second Language (ESL) courses to area residents are not as fluent in English. Nickens said that what is taught at the center is "survival English," or the basics needed just to get by in the United States. In this program, students become acquainted with American tra-

ditions, practice for the citizenship exam and learn to carry on a conversation in English.

Another great resource is the national Bridge Program. This new program focuses on improving the skills of adults wanting to work as a health professional. The function is to help students move from GED and beginning English level classes into post secondary classes, and the job market, by enhancing the abilities needed for an entry-level career or technical instruction in health care.

Adult Education is about more than just continuing an interrupted education. It is about getting people back on their feet, preparing them for jobs that will pay suitable wage and gaining confidence. There are a variety of reasons why people drop out of high school, but reentering the education arena is a big step toward being able to be self sufficient and productive in society. Helping a person obtain those feelings is priceless, as shown by the passion of Nickens. "Knowing that you are really, truly helping someone who wants to be helped is why we are here," she said.

If you or someone you know is looking to go back into school, but might not have the skill set or a high school diploma/GED, contact Tawana Nickens at (217) 351-2390 or tnickens@parkland.edu

Power packs: Teens today prefer friendship in groups

Vikki ORTIZ HEALY
MCT

When Brenda Lee was a teen in the 1970s, she had one - and only one - best friend throughout high school.

So, Lee worried when her 15-year-old daughter, Robyn, seemed to be cycling through a new best friend every six months at York Community High School in Elmhurst, Ill.

"It's like a bad thing to have one friend," explained Robyn, who clarified that she actually has four best friends at all times, with 15 to 20 other close friends she considers part of her regular social circle.

"If you have one friend, it means only one person likes you," she said. "That's not cool."

Technology, modern-day parenting techniques and societal norms have made it possible - if not preferable - for teens to claim hundreds of friends on their Facebook pages, to text weekend plans to dozens at a time from their cell phones, and to spend hours electronically keeping up with people they barely know rather than actually talking to one close friend.

For decades, experts studying teen cliques have known that teenagers prefer to travel in packs. In studies conducted in 1963 and in 1995, researchers found teen friendship groups averaged six persons, said Melissa Witkow, an assistant professor of psychology at Willamette University in Oregon.

In 2005, when teens were asked to estimate how many friends they kept in touch with regularly, the average answer was 20, according to data from the Pew Internet & American Life Project.

"When I think of myself growing up, you lived in your neighborhood and you had your best friend that lived down the street from you. You didn't necessarily travel in this powerful pack," said Susan Bartell, a New-York based psychologist who specializes in teens and tweens. "Now the group is where they're getting their strength from."

lished last summer in the online edition of Journal of Research on Adolescence showed that teens with more friends in school had higher grade-point averages.

But those monitoring the change also are paying attention to potential downsides.

"The notion of friendship is still critical, but it's becoming much more complicated," said

her group of 500 friends, teens she hadn't seen since kindergarten and others she had met only once. The high school senior eventually got rid of her Facebook page because just reading her friends' news updates could take an hour.

Text messaging has opened the door to many new connections, she said.

"I'm friends with some peo-

up with their parents managing their free time, from arranging play dates to enrolling them in organized sports and other activities. Some psychologists wonder whether, now, social-networking technology is further delaying opportunities to learn negotiation and other socializing skills children once derived from making friends the old-fashioned way.

exclusive and does shut other kids out and can perpetuate that 'Mean Girls' stuff," she said.

Marianne Boe, a social studies teacher at Resurrection High School in Chicago, sees signs of changing friendship in the hallways. A decade ago, she could easily identify clusters of girls who stayed friends through all four years of high school. Today, it's harder to pinpoint the cliques because they are more fluid, Boe said.

"They've got all these friends, but they don't have those intimate ties," said Boe. "It's easy to convince yourself you have a million friends, when really, who are the ones who know dad is out of a job? Or who know that your parents are getting a divorce?"

Other research suggests that teens' friendship habits today are different but not detrimental.

Studies show that the groups teens associate with most closely online are still friends made at school and through extracurricular activities. The Internet often enhances those relationships, said Vili Lehdonvirta, of the Helsinki Institute of Information Technology.

"It's just a continuation of existing friendships," said Lehdonvirta, "a way of overcoming issues of distances."

Psychologists suggest the best way for parents to deal with the shift in the way teens treat friendships is to help the adolescents maintain a balance. Allow them to enjoy the group friendships fostered by various forms of technology, but encourage them to participate in other environments, such as after-school jobs or volunteering, that promote one-on-one connections, they say.

It's an approach that Lee, Robyn's mom, tries to remember every time she starts feeling sorry for her daughter's last best friend who doesn't appear to be coming around anymore.

"You always think something happened, but it doesn't seem to be that way," Lee said. "They're still part of the group."



York High School students Robyn St. Laurent, 15, from left, Natalie Krepulec, 15, Paige Jordan, 16, and Allison Rosado, 15, hang out together after school, September 23, 2010 in Elmhurst, Illinois.

(Scott Strazzante/Chicago Tribune/MCT)

The shift to group-style friendships has notable upsides, such as increasing the likelihood of more diverse connections and boosting teens' self-esteem by giving them a place to belong. A study pub-

Bernardo Carducci, a professor of psychology at Indiana University Southeast.

In a sample collected last week from 70,000 Facebook pages, 10- to 20-year-old users had a median number of 440 friends. That's more than double the 197 median for those 40 to 50 years old, said Dan Zarella, who gives marketing lectures about how to understand such trends for HubSpot, his company, based in Cambridge, Mass.

MaryRose Moss, a 17-year-old in Chicago, knows firsthand how friendships can accumulate. She created a Facebook page when she was 14 and within months counted, among

ple that I wouldn't be as close to if it weren't for technology," said Moss. "It's so easy to send a text to somebody even if you didn't know them very well."

Her parents marvel at the ease in which their daughter collects friendships and at the way she and her friends hang out in big numbers, even on first dates or while attending a school dance.

"Only after I was a senior in high school was there a group of people that were friends, and in my group, there were more girls than boys," said her mother, Linda Moss. "MaryRose has been doing it since freshman year."

Many of today's teens grew

"If somebody disagrees with you, you can 'defriend' them with the click of a keystroke," said Carducci. "You don't get that practice, you don't get that connection, you don't get used to having to do the work."

Bartell, a psychologist and author of "The Top 50 Questions Kids Ask," said she has seen some teens identify with a group so closely that they give their groups names or label members of the group siblings on Facebook.

But the same group that makes some teens feel part of something can make teens on the outskirts feel even more alienated, Bartell noted.

"It sometimes gets very

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Opinions

What Confucius says is useful to China's rulers

Daniel K. GARDNER
MCT

Confucius, the venerable sage who lived in the 6th century BC, is enjoying a 21st-century revival. His rehabilitators? The Chinese Communist Party. Yes, that party, the one celebrating the 61st anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on Oct. 1. The same party whose chairman, Mao Tse-tung, vilified Confucius' "stinking corpse" during the Cultural Revolution and ordered the Red Guards to destroy all temples, statues, historical landmarks and texts associated with the sage. But, as China turns 61, the Great Helmsman is out and Confucius, who would have turned 2,561 on Sept. 28, is in.

As early as February 2005, the Beijing leadership began endorsing the sage's teachings again, citing him approvingly in a speech delivered to the National Congress by President Hu Jintao: "Confucius said, 'Harmony is something to be cherished.'"

Since then the terms "harmonious society" and "harmonious world" have become mantras of the party leaders and the basis of their domestic and foreign policies. During

the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Olympics, the world was greeted not by quotations from Mao's Little Red Book but by warm homilies from the teachings of Confucius.

What explains this redemption? Confucius gave attention to two overarching matters: what makes for good government, and what makes for a morally good individual. His answers were elegant - and compelling - in their simplicity. Good government rules not by physical force but through moral force. The ideal ruler embodies virtue, which is expressed in his unfailingly benevolent treatment of the people. In turn, the people voluntarily, even eagerly, choose to follow him.

Because government, to be good, requires a good ruler - and good officials - Confucius also characterizes what makes for a good person: someone who possesses a love of learning; strives to achieve benevolence, righteousness, propriety and wisdom; treats others as he would wish to be treated; is trustworthy and loyal as a friend, filial as a son and obedient as a subject; and, reciprocally, is affectionate and caring as a parent or an official.

What in this millennium-old

vision resonates with Beijing today?

With the proclamation "to get rich is glorious," Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader for two decades beginning in the late 1970s, ushered in the post-Mao era. An ideology of socialist revolution through class warfare gave way to an ideology of getting rich. And, of course, the Chinese - or at least some - have since become very wealthy indeed. But unbridled economic growth has spawned a host of problems: a widening gulf between rich and poor, urban and rural; heightened social tensions; increasing unemployment; rising crime; rampant corruption, especially among government officials and local business leaders; environmental degradation; healthcare and elderly care that is out of the reach of vast numbers of people; and a skyrocketing incidence of public protests (tens of thousands annually).

The Communist Party is neither unaware of nor insensitive to these problems. But it is determined to confront them without surrendering any of its political control or authority; it has shown little inclination to make substantive changes to the prevailing political system

or institutions of government.

In the ideology of Confucianism, party leadership has rediscovered a potent language for addressing the challenges China now faces. The teachings of the sage, after all, offer the promise of social harmony. The crux of the Confucian agenda is that individuals, whatever their social or economic status, are to treat their fellow human beings empathetically and with proper respect. A philanthropic, communal spirit imbues humanity, creating a society in which "all within the four seas are brothers." Here the Beijing leadership sees an opportunity to lessen the wealth gap and ease social tensions - and at little financial cost to the government.

And if official corruption is one of the most serious grievances among the people - frequently capable of sparking social unrest - traditional Confucian teachings again provide authorities with the language to show the people that they are attacking it head-on. The official China Daily observed in 2007: "In traditional Confucianism, the cultivation of personal moral integrity is considered the most basic quality for an honest official. The qualities

of uprightness, modesty, hard work, frugality and honesty that President Hu encourages officials to incorporate into their work and lifestyle are exactly the same as the moral integrity of a decent person in traditional culture."

Confucius promises a government that cares for the people, that makes their well-being its primary concern. This is to govern by virtue. And virtue creates its own legitimacy: paternalistic, affectionate care of the people by the rulers is sure to be reciprocated by the people's trust and obedience. Hu Jintao's appropriation of the language of Confucianism not only fills the ideological void left by Marxist-Leninism's demise but also suggests to the governed that, in seeking to create a harmonious society and a harmonious world, he and other officials take their "Confucian" responsibility of moral leadership to heart. Their expectation is that the people, in turn, will place trust in the government and be obedient to it, with minimal dissent.

China's government appears determined to address the fissures and tensions born of almost three decades of unrestrained economic develop-

ment. But it seems equally determined to bring about such change without reforming the prevailing one-party system of governance. The regime in Beijing, eager to keep its power intact, to maintain the political status quo, has chosen, for the time being, to goad the Chinese toward social harmony through traditional ideological and moral exhortations.

Resuscitating the sage today thus serves the party's political aims. But to conclude that cherry-picking soothing phrases from Confucian writings is the same as a genuine and enduring commitment to the vision of Confucius would be a mistake.

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Alcohol And Your Body:

■ How Drinking Can Affect Weight, Sleep, and Memory

CASSANDRA LEVI
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

Christopher Apgar, a junior at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, has never worried about his weight in the past. But recently, he had been feeling that his drinking habits were catching up with him, so he started to hit the gym. "I actually have a bit of a beer belly for the first time ever," he says. Apgar says he may also cut back on his drinking.

In a recent poll of 933 students by Health 101, just over one third said they thought alcohol has caused them to gain weight, and about one-fourth said that weight gain is a reason they would try to limit their alcohol intake. About one-quarter said alcohol has caused

them sleep problems, and more than one-third have experienced memory problems that they attribute to alcohol.

While medical research has shown some benefits from moderate consumption of some alcohol containing beverages, the negative physical effects of alcohol can motivate students to change their habits when it comes to drinking. Elizabeth Wall, a senior at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio, has improved her health by limiting alcohol. "I feel a lot healthier, have lost weight, and I haven't been taking naps because I'm getting enough sleep at night," says Wall.

Weight Issues

Here are some of the factors

about alcohol that may contribute to putting on the pounds:

It adds calories. Alcohol is a dense form of calories, says Andrea Davis, a health and nutrition counselor in New York City. It contains seven calories per gram, compared to four calories per gram for proteins and carbohydrates. Those calories are considered "empty calories" with no beneficial nutrients, such as vitamins and minerals, according to MedlinePlus, health information from the National Library of Medicine.

A frozen strawberry margarita can weigh in at 350 calories, which means that two margaritas can exceed the calories in a double cheeseburger (620 calories).

It can inhibit fat burning.

Because the body processes alcohol first, before fat, protein, or carbohydrates, drinking alcohol slows down the burning of fat. So drinking can promote fat storage.

It can stimulate the appetite. By loosening inhibitions and weakening willpower, alcohol can make you more likely to overeat—especially high-calorie foods.

Sleep Problems

Dawn Skop, an alcohol and drug counselor at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, says that alcohol can disrupt normal sleep patterns. "Individuals need a balance of the dream sleep (REM) stage and the deep sleep (non-REM) stage to feel refreshed

in the morning," says Skop. "Even just a couple of alcoholic drinks before sleep can interrupt the deep, rejuvenating part of the sleep cycle."

Apgar has noticed the disruptive effects of alcohol on his sleep: "I always wake up early, usually thirsty. Even if I sleep a lot, the next day, I feel like I need more sleep."

Memory Troubles

Alcohol consumption can impair memory after just a few drinks, and the more consumed the greater the impairment can be, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Such memory impairment can impact how you perform academically.

"Large amounts of alcohol interfere with the functioning of the circuitry of the hippocampus and its interaction with other brain regions involved in memory formation," says Skop. "Alcohol may impact the frontal lobe as well, a part of the brain in charge of judgment, planning, organizing, and decision-making."

Remember you must be 21 to drink alcohol and moderation is key for staying healthy and safe.

Student Health 101 is an online health and wellness magazine - find the latest issue online, and Enter2Win \$1,000 cash, at <http://readsh101.com/parkland.html>.

OBAMA

continued from page 1

In all of his appearances last week, especially while speaking to student media, the president spoke positively about the future job market and spoke confidently to students about their career-finding potential.

"I do worry sometimes that young folks, having grown up or come of age in difficult economic times, start feeling as if their horizons have to be lowered and they've got to set their sights a little bit lower than their parents or grandparents," he said. "Right now we're going through a tough time, but I have no doubt that you guys are going to be successful," Obama told the students in all his appearances last week.

Most importantly, the president told those in attendance at last week's rallies, re-engaging in politics and the upcoming election is crucial to bringing about change.

"If we stay on focus, if we stay on course, then ultimately we will make progress," he said. "It takes time; progress takes sacrifice. Progress takes faith. But progress comes. And it will come for your generation, for this generation - if we work for it, and fight for it, and if we believe in it."

Obama encouraged students to knock on doors, make phone calls, and inspire their friends, family, and coworkers to "not lose heart" in the kind of change he and the Democrats propose in the near future.

"The energy that you were able to bring to our politics in 2008, that's needed not less now, it's needed more now," Obama said, in conclusion to his week of campaigning. "So there better not be an enthusiasm gap, people. Not now. Not this time."

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Student Health 101

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Student Spotlight: Magnolia Talavera

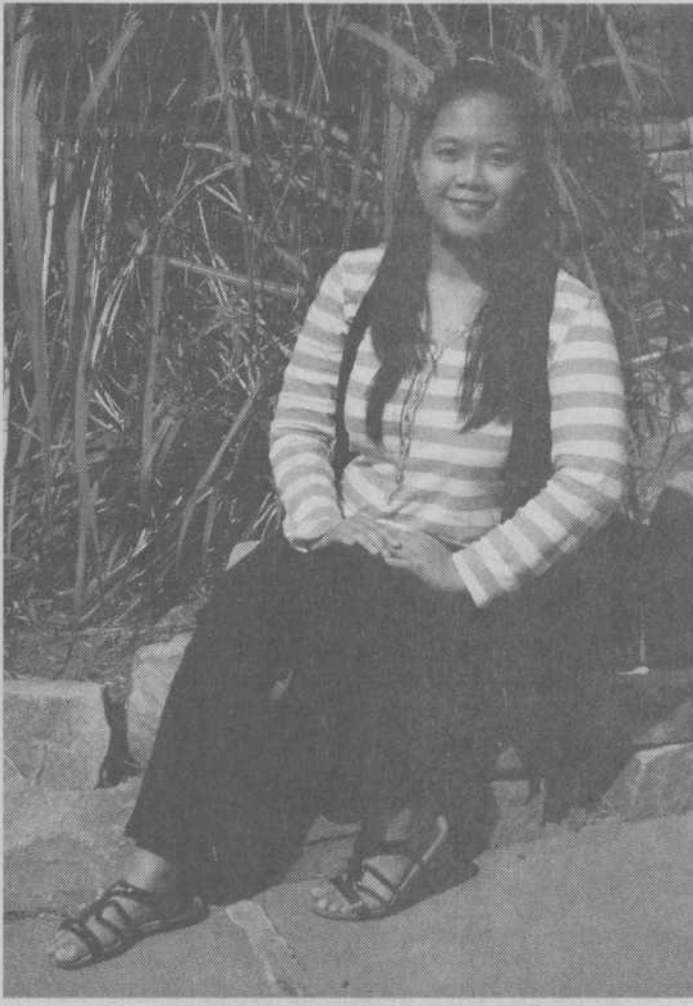
Jake GODIN
Staff Writer

Born and raised in the Philippines until the age of 17, Magnolia Talavera has since moved to Illinois for 3 years and is currently a fulltime student at Parkland College. She has future plans to transfer to the University of Illinois in the fall of 2011, but for now is working on her degree in childhood education. She chose that degree due to her strong love in working with children. In fact, she enjoys working with them so much that she would like to volunteer at Crisis Nursery in Champaign, which provides emergency intervention in cases of child abuse in families. Talavera also works at two different jobs as well. The first is working at Student Life where she puts in a few hours doing office work at Parkland and the second is at Health Profession on Mattis. Despite having two jobs and being a full time student, Talavera is a member of the Parkland College Speech Team, a part of Alpha Phi Omega, Phi Theta Kappa, and is a part of the Parkland College Student Education Association.

But if you thought that was a lot for one student to handle, Talavera is also planning to do a community education workshop at Parkland where she'll teach people how to tie dye. She's currently working on finalizing all of the paperwork for the class but will hopefully be rolling it out in the spring of 2011. In the workshop, she will show people the art of tie dye and impart some knowledge of art in general.

So, she's in a handful of organizations, has two jobs and seeking a third for voluntary work, has classes, two of which are honors, and is preparing for a future workshop. You would think that's enough for one student to juggle, right? Well, Talavera goes even further.

She is planning on setting up her own home business selling personally crafted jewelry. Stressing that it will only be a casual sort of deal, she is still quite excited about the business. She is working through a site called Etsy, which provides one place where people can go to buy and sell handmade crafts. An eBay for crafts of sorts. She is in the process of getting everything kosher and



Parkland student Magnolia Talavera keeps busy with school and work, is a member of the Parkland College Speech Team, Phi Theta Kappa, and Parkland College Student Education Association, and is also planning a community education workshop on tie dyeing.

Levi NORMAN/Prospectus

plans to be up and running in the near future.

Being so busy, Talavera doesn't have too much idle time. But, in the little leisure time that Magnolia has to herself, she said that she very much enjoys reading and has quite a collection of books along with a couple checked out from the Parkland College Library. She said that she could possibly tutor someone in writing or reading if they were interested, but only if she has time.

Magnolia stressed that she wants to be an example to people, not to be busy but to follow your dream. That is her mantra and she knows all too well what might happen if you don't. The way she puts it is, "If you don't like what you're doing it is not likely that you will enjoy it and succeed."

So be sure to follow your dreams people, and do what you love.

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Prospectus Pick: Halo Reach

Jake GODIN
Staff Writer

Halo. If just seeing that one word got you thinking of one of video game's most gripping adventures of all time, then you have no doubt heard of the sixth installment of the game, Halo: Reach.

Halo: Reach is a prequel to the entire series, taking place before the original Halo. Where Halo 1, 2, and 3 all follow one main protagonist, Master Chief, throughout his journey on stopping one overly powerful and zealous alien group, the Covenant, from destroying all of humanity, Halo: Reach turns the story over to a new group of heroes: Noble Team. They are six super soldiers, called Spartans, which quickly find themselves in the middle of a hos-

tile takeover on their planet, Reach. The odds are against them when facing such a powerful foe, but you play as a new member of the team, Noble Six, and along with your squad, you six become the only hope that the planet Reach has. The only hope that humanity has.

The game play brings back more of a Halo: Combat Evolved (Halo 1) feel by employing the use of "health" again instead of solely having to rely on shields during combat. This adds the need to replenish your health with health packs that can be found at different intervals throughout the game. For the first time in the series, Bungie added space combat to the game as well. This wasn't added into multiplayer, only during the campaign, and provides a very nice change of

pace during the game. A few weapon alterations have been made in Halo: Reach, which will leave you without a couple of weapons found in the past Halos and replacing them with counterparts that are just a tad different.


The multiplayer is, in many ways, the same as Halo 3 but with a few improvements here and there. One such improvement is the addition of the "Arena" which takes the place of the ranked matches that were found in earlier Halos. It's a monthly system and you play three initial games that will rank you into a category based on your performance. This is a nifty new element to the multiplayer of Halo and adds a new dimension to the way you rank up. The Forge editor has come with quite a



few upgrades though, mainly the one huge "Forge World" that you can edit on and the inclusion of many more structures to place in a map.


Bungie's last Halo game provides a nice refresher to the game play that had been carried on in the previous Halo games, and with the online

multiplayer, you won't find yourself short on entertainment. The controls are a tad different from past games, but as long as you know your way around an Xbox 360 controller, you'll be fine. Graphically, it's still around the same level as Halo 3 and Halo: ODST but you can definitely notice a difference. The soundtrack is amazing thanks to Bungie's Martin O'Donnell. Even as you run amidst the chaos of a battlefield you can still hear the great sound effects that Bungie put into the game. Halo: Reach is definitely worth picking up if you're a fan of the series or even if you're new to it. The Halo series has some great FPS elements that will make any fan of the genre able to enjoy it.



Parkland College Relations

Officer Matthew Kopmann



Medical Assistance

All Parkland College Police Officers are EMT-Basic trained. This means that any medical issues on campus should be reported to the Department of Public Safety. The officers are trained for many medical or traumatic emergencies and can initiate an ambulance for transportation to the Emergency Department.

In the event of a medical call on campus there are a few safety points to keep in mind. If you have pertinent information about the injury or illness please standby and communicate that information to the officers. If you are not involved in the incident please keep the area clear. This will assist the officers in responding quickly and safely.

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ACROSS

- 1 Cruise or Bergeron
- 4 "___ It to Beaver"
- 9 "Voyage to the Bottom of the ___"
- 12 "Ice ___: The Meltdown"; blockbuster animated film
- 13 Lead character in "The Little Mermaid"
- 14 "___ Take Sweden"; movie for Bob Hope and Tuesday Weld
- 15 "The Golden Girls" setting; abbr.
- 16 "___ Witch Trials"; Kirstie Alley/Shirley MacLaine film
- 17 Actress Peeples
- 18 "___ of Endearment"
- 20 Moran and Gray
- 22 Actor on "CSI: Miami"
- 26 Orange rinds
- 27 "Hogan's Heroes" setting; abbr.
- 28 "___ G. Carroll of "Topper"
- 29 "___ About You"
- 32 Actor Tom ___
- 35 "The ___"; reality series hosted by Phil Keoghan
- 39 "A Bell for ___"; Gene Tierney film
- 40 Surrounded by

- 42 OPQ forerunners
- 43 Kingdom; domain
- 47 As flat ___ pancake
- 48 "Major ___"
- 49 Actress Zellweger
- 50 Mongrel
- 51 ___ Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
- 52 "Law & ___: Special Victims Unit"
- 53 "Death Becomes ___"; Streep film

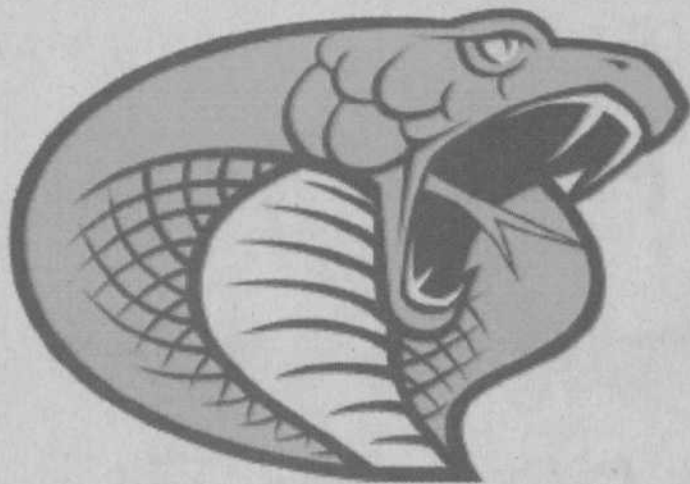
Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

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Cobras Volleyball win three straight against Lewis and Clark

Frank CALABRESE
Staff Writer

NJCAA ranked No. 4 Parkland College Cobras Volleyball (25-5, 3-0) bewildered the women of Lewis and Clark Community College of Godfrey, IL by winning three straight sets. The Cobras made a statement to their conference revivals with a 25-11, 25-17, 25-19 victory. Assistant Coach Ron Hoppe credited improved blocking and aggressive serving for the decisive September 29th win. The Cobras posted a season high 12 aces, with 5 aces attributed to Parkland Freshman Melanie Moore. The Cobras also recorded a sea-



son high for blocks, with 22 team blocks. Coach Cliff Hastings was very satisfied with the Cobra's strong fundamental performance, especially offensively. He complimented

his team's "very clean, sharp play."

Leading kills for the Cobras were Parkland Sophomores Melissa McClain, with 8 kills out of 15 attempts, and Alexis Braghini, with 10 kills out of 16 attempts. Both had two errors. Parkland Sophomore Molly Goodrich scored 18 assists. Parkland Sophomore Susie Jean led the team with 8 digs. After the match, Melissa McClain said that the Cobras "played really well as a team," and was looking forward to the rest of the season.

The Parkland College Cobras next play four tournament matches in Des Moines, Iowa this weekend in the DMACC Tournament.

STUDENTS

continued from page 1

for Parkland College to deal with. "Unfortunately, when the state cuts our budget like that, we do our best, but many times it falls back on our students."

Parkland College isn't the only college feeling the cuts from the state. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the top feed-in university for Parkland students, is dealing with severe budget cuts, as well. At the end of the fiscal year 2010 for UIUC (ending June 30), the state owed them an astounding \$381 million.

As a result, the UI Board of Trustees approved a guaranteed four-year 9.5% tuition increase for incoming freshman in the school year 2010-2011, according to a news feed on the school's website. Current UIUC students do not have to worry about the increase because of the university's Guaranteed Tuition Plan.

Why, by now, aren't there laws and programs enacted to help students make it through college, probably the poorest time in their lives? Students make an active choice in becoming students. They clearly want to try and better the world, so why not help them?

Trey Willis, an undecided Parkland student, thinks about what it would be like for students if the government stepped in. "I imagine taxes would pay for that for the most part and that would make a lot of tax payers mad...regardless of the good their money is doing," he said. "But even though some college students will drop out and waste taxpayer money a lot more people will attend college who before didn't see college as an option because its so expensive and time consuming, especially with work and a personal life. So at least it would give people a realistic shot at college."

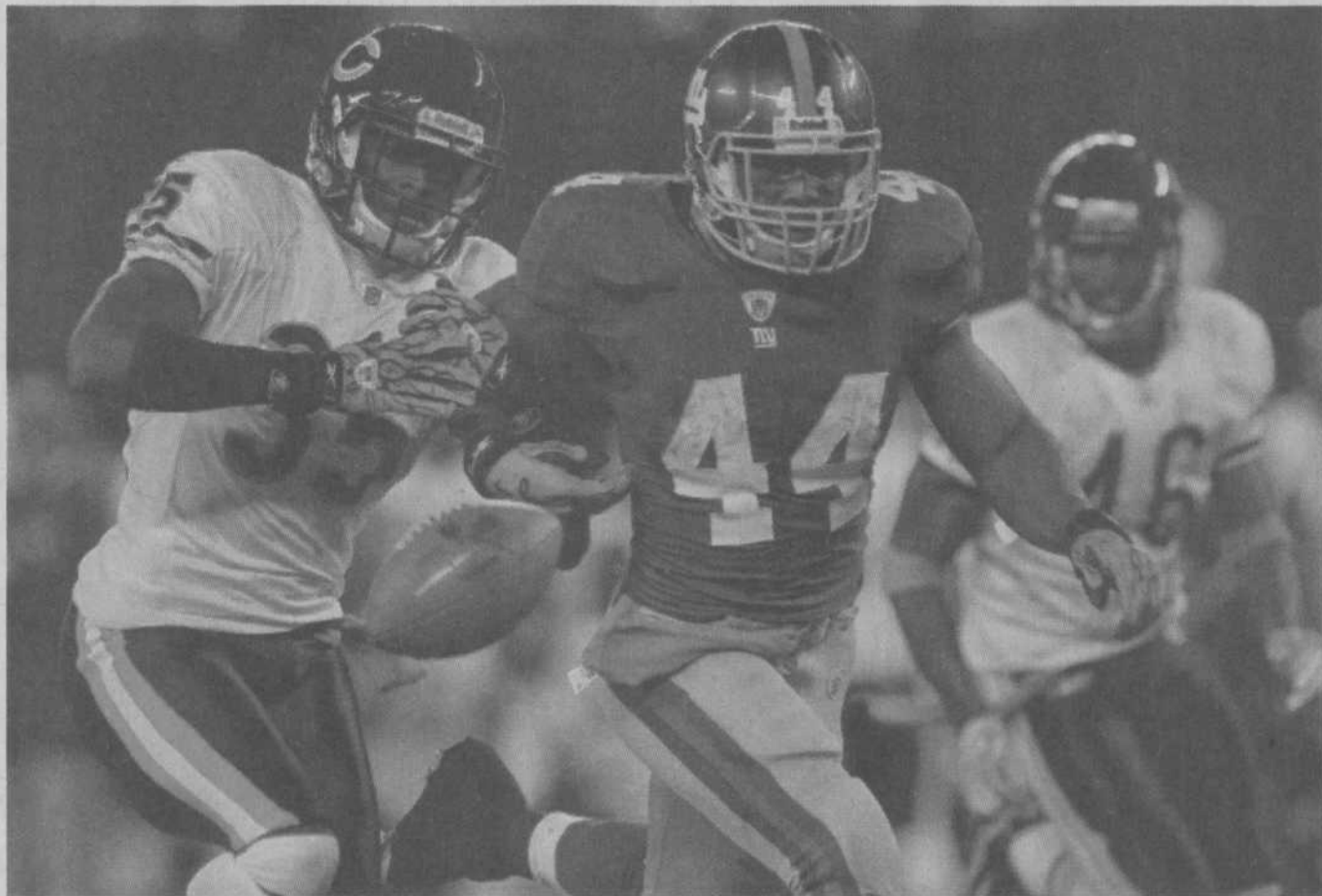
It's rather shocking that after spending money on and always trying to improve the public school system, legislators don't make many moves to help college students get through school. If they have enough money and enough audacity to bail out the bank-

ing system, GM, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, they can probably afford to throw a few dollars at students to help with other necessities besides books and tuition, including food, transportation expenses, and Internet service.

"I have two jobs and go to school, but it's not really because the economy is bad right now. I just think it's always going to be hard to work low wage jobs, live in your own place, and go to school on top of it," said Patrick Dahl, physics major at Illinois Wesleyan University. It seems he, and many other college students these days, have accepted the challenges as a part of college life.

College life is stressful enough trying to meet the expectations of your professors, parents, and peers. With the added stressors of a terrible economy, increased costs, and a scant job market to graduate to, it's no wonder many students feel they're not getting what they paid for out of their classes.

How can you focus on your education and future when no matter what you look at, all you see are dollar signs? College students are facing some of the most difficult financial times in their lives early on. With or without help, students are learning how to get by even when times get tough.



New York Giants running back Ahmad Bradshaw fumbles the ball as Chicago Bears' Zackary Bowman makes a play in the fourth quarter at New Meadowlands Stadium. That play proved to be one of only a handful of highlights for the Bears in a 17-3 loss. Players also wore pink to honor and promote breast cancer awareness month.

(Jose M. Osorio/Chicago Tribune/MCT)

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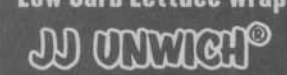
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Fresh sliced turkey breast, applewood smoked ham, provolone, and tons of lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (A very traditional, yet always exceptional classic!)

#12 BEACH CLUB®

Fresh baked turkey breast, provolone cheese, avocado spread, sliced cucumber, sprouts, lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (It's the real deal, and it ain't even California.)

#13 GOURMET VEGGIE CLUB®

Double provolone, real avocado spread, sliced cucumber, alfalfa sprouts, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (Try it on my 7-grain whole wheat bread. This veggie sandwich is world class!)

#14 BOOTLEGGER CLUB®

Roast beef, turkey breast, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. An American classic, certainly not invented by J.J. but definitely tweaked and fine-tuned to perfection!

#15 CLUB TUNA®

The same as our #3 Totally Tuna except this one has a lot more. Fresh housemade tuna salad, provolone, sprouts, cucumber, lettuce, & tomato.

#16 CLUB LULU®

Fresh sliced turkey breast, bacon, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (JJ's original turkey & bacon club)

#17 ULTIMATE PORKER™

Real applewood smoked ham and bacon with lettuce, tomato & mayo, what could be better!

- ### ★ SIDES ★
- * Soda Pop \$1.39/\$1.59
 - * Giant chocolate chip or oatmeal raisin cookie ... \$1.50
 - * Real potato chips or jumbo kosher dill pickle.... \$0.99
 - * Extra load of meat \$1.50
 - * Extra cheese or extra avocado spread \$0.75
 - * Hot Peppers..... Free

FREEBIES (SUBS & CLUBS ONLY)

Onion, lettuce, alfalfa sprouts, tomato, mayo, sliced cucumber, Dijon mustard, oil & vinegar, and oregano.

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60 YEARS OF PEANUTS

GOOD GRIEF! THAT'S 253 DOG YEARS!

CELEBRATING SNOOPY

Events celebrating the 60th anniversary of "Peanuts"

■ "Countdown to the Great Pumpkin" is a social media game that will be held until Oct. 31. Complete a series of daily "Peanuts"-themed "to-dos," such as changing your profile picture to that of a "Peanuts" character, and earn a point for each task completed. The winner will get a special "Peanuts"-loaded iPad and have a shot at an extra \$25,000. Get more information at greatpumpkincountdown.com.



■ Visit the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, in Washington, D.C., to see comics and a portrait of Charles Schulz by photographer Yousef Karsh. "It's a great honor to have your portrait there and have the Smithsonian recognize him as a significant American," Jean Schulz said. More at www.npg.si.edu.



Charles Schulz at his drawing board in 1956.

■ Visit the Charles M. Schulz Museum, in Santa Rosa, Calif., and check out the new exhibit "Portraits of Schulz." While you're there pick up a copy of "Sparky: The Life and Art of Charles Schulz" by author Beverly Gherman. Find out more at www.schulzmuseum.org.

■ Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, Calif., invites kids to dress up for Snoopy's Costume Party at Camp Snoopy every weekend through October. More info at www.knotts.com.

"Snoopy represented fantasy ... where you can do your happy dance and not have to have a reason for it."

— Jean Schulz

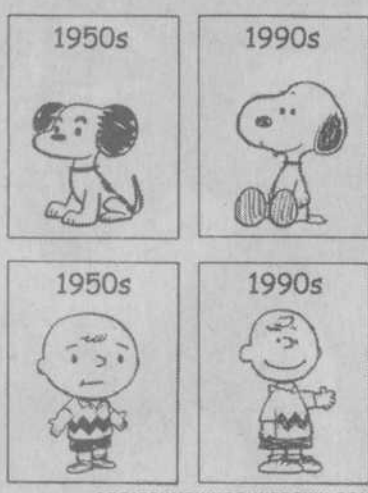
BY MERRIE LEININGER
McClatchy-Tribune

Sarcastic Lucy, charging 5 cents for advice; Linus, waiting with his blanket for the arrival of the Great Pumpkin; Snoopy, imagining himself as a "World War I Flying Ace" on his doghouse, goggles on and scarf flapping in the breeze; and, of course, Charlie Brown, tumbling through the air as the football is pulled out from under him.

Everyone knows these kids and the imaginative beagle, thanks to comic artist Charles Schulz and "Peanuts," which is now 60 years old. Despite the fact that there have not been any new strips since Schulz died Feb. 12, 2000, just hours before his last original Sunday strip appeared in newspapers, the Peanuts gang continues to bring smiles to our faces daily through advertisements, games, greeting cards, video games and the funny pages.

"The underlining thing — the strip and its message — continues to speak to people," said Schulz's widow, Jean Schulz. "Its basic message was one of hope, but also of frustration — all the things in life, like unrequited love, when you can't win the baseball game, when you can't kick the football, that we all experience — and yet life continues to give us little bits of hope."

"Peanuts" ran without interruption for nearly 50 years. Encores of the comic strip appear today in more than 2,200 newspapers in 75 countries and 21 languages. Peanuts Motion Comics can be seen on iTunes, and Jean Schulz said "Peanuts" comics now are accessible on iPads. "Peanuts" animated specials have become seasonal traditions, and thousands of products are available. Phrases such as "security blanket" and "good grief" are a part of the global vernacular.



GREATPUMPKINCOUNTDOWN.COM

Schulz once described himself as "born to draw comic strips." A Minneapolis native, he was just 2 days old when an uncle nicknamed him "Sparky," after the horse Spark Plug from the "Barney Google" comic strip. Throughout his youth, he and his father shared a Sunday-morning ritual of reading the funnies. After serving in the Army during World War II, Schulz got his first big break in 1947 when he sold a cartoon feature called "Li'l Folks" to the St. Paul Pioneer Press. In 1950, Schulz met with United Feature Syndicate, and on Oct. 2 of that year, "Peanuts," so named by the syndicate, debuted in seven newspapers.

Much of his life made its way into the strips. Snoopy's brother, Spike, was named after a dog Schulz had as a child. "Sweet Babboo" was Sally's nickname for Linus, who she peppered with affection for years, much to his annoyance. Jean Schulz said that phrase came from her.

"I don't know why, but I had called him my Sweet Babboo, and then, lo and behold, sometime later,

years later, it appeared in the comic strip."

The Emmy- and Peabody Award-winning "A Charlie Brown Christmas," is still a holiday tradition, years after it first aired on the CBS network on Dec. 9, 1965. More than 30 animated specials have been produced, and Jean Schulz says a new one will be released in 2011.

"The feature story is Linus and his blanket-hating grandmother coming to town, and they are all trying to hide the blanket from her," Jean Schulz said. "We think this has some wonderful charming moments — and that's what people are looking for, charming moments that move them and that are funny and live up to your own expectations, and the expectations we feel that Sparky would have had for it."

Jean Schulz travels around the world as a representative for Sparky, and, in her role as the president of the Board of Directors of the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center, which opened on Aug. 17, 2002, in their hometown of Santa Rosa, Calif. This year, she sat on panels and promoted the 60th anniversary Peanuts book in Japan, China and Italy.

Back at home, Jean Schulz said she recently went to her granddaughter's school for an open house, and, right there in the math room, she spied a familiar drawing hanging from the wall.

"There were two rows of drawings of all sorts, but there was a Snoopy on the doghouse. It was drawn very crudely, but you could tell it was Snoopy."

"Charlie Brown represented hope, and Snoopy represented fantasy — living in his own world — a world lots of people would like to live in, where you can do your happy dance and not have to have a reason for it."

PEANUTS PRODUCTS

What other comic sells you insurance, root beer and Ford cars, and stares at you from your morning cup of coffee, postage stamps and Christmas ornaments?

The "Peanuts" comic has become much more than a newspaper comic strip. The characters are such a ubiquitous part of our culture that children today are no longer introduced to them simply through the paper. Here's just a few places you can find Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus and the others:

■ **GREETINGS:** Hallmark has a huge number of items with the "Peanuts" gang on them: mugs, cards, and multiple stuffed versions of Snoopy: The "Flying Ace," Camping Snoopy and Joe Cool. They also have a humorous snow globe that shows poor Charlie Brown tangled in his kite string and hanging upside down from a tree.

■ **ACCENTS:** For all kinds of water bottles, bags and shirts, visit www.cafepress.com/snoopystore.

■ **BOOK:** "Celebrating Peanuts: 60 Years," from Andrews McMeel Publishing, is 544 pages of comics and commentary. You can get it at Amazon.com for \$75.

■ **COMIC STRIPS:** See the comics at <http://comics.com/peanuts>



■ **BOARD GAMES:** Peanuts chess set, \$49.99, where the characters are the pieces, from USAopoly. They also make a Peanuts Monopoly, and the 60th Anniversary edition is \$34.99, available at Amazon.com. Sports Images makes a Peanuts 60th Anniversary Yahtzee, which costs \$16.99.

■ **DOWNLOADS:** Download videos and motion comics from iTunes. Videos are \$10; motion comics 99 cents each, or the full season for \$7.99.

■ **STICKERS:** Make your own "Peanuts" stickers at www.stickeryou.com/theme/Peanuts, for \$6.99 a page.

■ **MASCOTS:** Snoopy has been the mascot of Knott's Berry Farm (www.knotts.com) since 1983, and the characters can now be seen at all of Cedar Fair's parks (www.cedarfair.com).

■ **DRESS-UP:** A full-body Snoopy child's costume will cost you \$55.97 at www.halloweenexpress.com.