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Prospectus News



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The United States Draft and You

Jake GODIN
Staff Writer

On Friday, October 29, 2010, North Korea fired upon their cautious neighbor, South Korea. South Korea then fired back, as a warning. The tension between these two nations has been ever present since the end of the Korean War, which only ended with a fragile truce and no actual peace treaty. With this sudden increase in tension between North Korea and American ally, questions have arisen as to whether or not we will have another war on our hands. And with these questions of war, there lies room for concern of bringing back a military draft, which was last seen in Vietnam.

The draft, or more formally known as conscription, is a contingency plan in the United States that can, by law, automatically place men over the age of 18 into the U.S. military. Upon reaching the age of 18, men are required to sign up for the draft. If they do not do so by the time they reach the age of 26, they could be fined \$250,000 and jailed for up to 5 years. The process by which this happens in the United States is composed of six events.

First, Congress and the President must authorize a draft, which would only occur if more troops than what the volunteer military can supply were needed.

Second, there is a lottery put in place that, based on birthdays, determines the order in which registered men are called up by the Selective Service System, which handles the draft.

Third, the dormant parts of the Selective Service System are activated and Reserve

1600s, 1700s

Each colony forms militia; all adult male citizens

1775-1783, Revolutionary War

Enlisted men offered cash bonuses, promise of free land; state militias also used

War of 1812

President James Monroe calls up state militias

1861-65, Civil War

Confederacy: White males ages 18-25 serve three years; Union: Able-bodied males, ages 20-45; both sides allowed paid substitutes

1898, Spanish American War

All males, ages 18-45, subject to military duty

1917

Selective Service Act requires civilian boards register men ages 21-30 for WWI

© 2006 MCT
Source: The News Hour,
Selective Service System
Graphic: Lee Hulteng, Judy Treble

Forces Officers report to duty.

Fourth, those who have been chosen by the lottery with low numbers are evaluated for physical, mental and moral deficiencies. If they are unfit to serve in the military, they can file a claim for exemption.

Fifth, all of the registrations for draftees are processed and an inductee will have ten days to report to a Military Entrance Processing Station for induction.

And finally, in the sixth event, the first draftees are inducted and will be integrated into the military.



I WANT YOU

Though the military has met with protest and dissent since the Civil War, millions have served when they were called.

A history of mandatory military enlistment in the United States:

There are ways to look at the draft in either negative or positive light, as was seen back during the Vietnam War. Some people avoided the draft at all costs, faking illness, hiding from the law, or just moving out of the United States while others willingly joined and accepted the draft.

Mike Sage, a veteran from LeRoy, IL, was a cog in the Selective Service System in 1971, when he was drafted to fight in Vietnam. Having mixed feelings about the draft, he wasn't sure what to think. He had made up his mind that

he didn't want to go to college, but was also fearful of being drafted. He had a wife, whom he married in 1969, which was only two years before his name showed up in the lottery. Upon finding out that he was being drafted, he felt a certain pride. A tang of patriotism. There was less fear now and, instead, eagerness to serve one's country in the good fight, the fight versus communism. It turned out that he was injured in fighting though, and was sent back to the United States where he decided to stay so that he could be with his wife.

Another veteran, this one at a much younger age of 27, had a different account on the draft and serving our country. Parkland student, Scott Olson volunteered to serve in the Air Force. Were there to be a draft, Olson doesn't believe that anyone would be drafted into the air force or navy, but instead into the marines. When asked as to why he volunteered, Olson describes his reason as being "just kinda getting away from Champaign...out of my daily grind." He expanded on that on by saying that he simply wanted to drop everything

1940
Selective Training and Service Act; men, ages 18-35, register for draft; first national lottery; first peacetime draft

1948
Draft reinstated after military population drops; men, 19-26, drafted for 12 months

1950, Korean War
Draft, men, ages 18.5-35, called for about two-year terms

1952
Reserve Forces Act; eight-year reserve obligation for draftees, enlisted in case of war or national emergency

1965-73
Opposition to Vietnam War leads to large protests against draft

1969
Lottery for selecting men replaces drafting according to age

Draft ends **1973**

1980-present
Volunteer military; men, ages 18-26 must register

that he had going on in his life and do something new. Something fresh. Like Sage, Olson mentions a certain sense of patriotism that comes with joining the military. Even though he wasn't "two hundred percent" patriotic when signing up, he said that there's no other way to feel but patriotic when you join. No matter who you are or what you do, he said, right when you do it you think to yourself, "I'm doing this for my country."

Two different people with somewhat similar viewpoints. Whether you're drafted or not, it seems that with entrance into the military comes a large sense of patriotism.

Whether or not we should be expecting a draft anytime soon, though? Doug Bando from the Cato Institute, a think tank in Washington D.C. that goes over many major principles in politics, doesn't believe we will ever have one. With the costs in training draftees to fight and the ever-looming threat of nuclear weapons, and the decent amount of soldiers that we already have, he believes that there is not enough reason for the United States to ever reinstate the draft.

So it seems that you can put down that passport to Canada and climb out of those caves. Instead, do your own part for our current servicemen and women, give them your support. None of them were forced to serve for the United States; they all did it by choice. Take a moment and reflect on our freedom and the men and women who serve our country with pride.

Looking out for college students

McClatchy-Tribune

Obama administration rules promise to strengthen federal student-aid programs as well as protect students from the aggressive and deceptive recruiting practices that are the norm at many career colleges.

A version of the truth in advertising ethos will require schools to disclose the effectiveness of their career college

and training programs and their graduation and job-placement rates.

For-profit education institutions have been loath to put out that kind of information.

Here's why. For an education sector that has grown tenfold in the last decade, lax oversight has fostered a system of high tuition costs and low graduation rates.

A scathing report by the influential think tank Educa-

tion Trust offers a damning list of examples. Only 22 percent of students in for-profit colleges' four-year programs earn degrees within six years. Contrast that with a 55 percent six-year graduation rate at public colleges and a 65 percent rate at private nonprofit schools.

The most egregious example is a 9 percent graduation rate at the University of Phoenix — the nation's largest for-profit postsecondary education pro-

vider as well as the recipient of more than \$1 billion in federal Pell Grant aid last year.

While some career colleges have achieved a level of credibility, the business model at far too many appears to be one based on student failure, not success.

Schools must also do a better job ensuring that only students that qualify receive financial aid. The U.S. Government Accountability Office, ordered

by Congress to conduct a sting, found students at for-profit colleges being encouraged to falsify their financial aid forms.

The Ed Trust report found that many students maxed out on their federal aid and were steered to private loans, which they later defaulted on.

Regulations will address some of the abuses but federal scrutiny should continue. As more students pursue post-secondary education, a strong

and fair educational structure is critical.

Career colleges play an important role as nimble providers of professional and career training. They help broaden educational access to underserved communities.

But if they're going to be in the business of education, they must do it well. Regulatory scrutiny applies the pressure.

(c) 2010, The Seattle Times.

Spirituality finds a home at college

Rick ROJAS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sandwiched between a time of squirming under parental control and the tethers of a career, college often means freedom for young people to begin a search for who they are and what they believe.

For some, that may be just a quest for the nearest party. Yet for many students, college is a time to develop spiritually in ways that can endure after they've finished school, a new long-term study has found.

"It kind of opens the student's mind," Alexander Astin, one of the study's authors and a professor emeritus of higher education at UCLA, said of the college experience. He called it

a period "stimulated by exposure to new people and new ideas."

Astin said young people often enter college knowing only what they were brought up to believe. They may never have been faced with opposing views. College is a safe haven in which they can explore their spirituality and challenge it.

The spirituality study, launched in 2003, was based on an initial survey of 112,000 American college freshmen, then a follow-up survey of more than 14,000 of the students after they completed their junior year at scores of colleges and universities nationwide. The researchers published their findings in a book released last month, "Cultivating the Spirit:

How College Can Enhance Students' Inner Lives." Astin's co-authors were his wife, Helen S. Astin, who is also a professor of higher education at UCLA, and Jennifer A. Lindholm, director of the university's Spirituality in Higher Education project.

The study found that many students struggled with their religious beliefs and became less certain of them during their college years.

It also found that many young people eschewed the rituals of organized religion but embraced what the researchers defined as the cornerstones of spirituality: asking the big, existential questions; working to improve one's community; and showing empathy toward other people.

"These spiritual qualities are critical and vital to many things a student does in college and after," Astin said.

The researchers also found that students who were more spiritual typically performed better academically, had stronger leadership skills, were more amiable and were generally more satisfied with college.

Students engaged with the liberal arts were more likely to become spiritual; those in math and science fields were less likely. Partying and overexposure to television and video games tended to inhibit spiritual growth. Community service and taking time to reflect — as well as class assignments that encouraged those endeavor-

ing abroad is another opportunity for spirituality to blossom, researchers found.

The Rev. Jim Burklo, associate dean of the Office of Religious Life at the University of Southern California, said that his 30 years of working with students through faith ministries reflects the researchers' findings. "The job of higher education is to activate the imagination," he said. "The moral imagination is a part of that."

College courses on religious subjects help teach students how to read sacred texts with an intellectually curious eye.

Sylvia Charles, a medical student at USC, said she had a spiritual awakening through yoga. That came when she was a Duke University junior and studying in Spain. Study-

ing abroad is another opportunity for spirituality to blossom, researchers found.

Yoga, Charles said, led her to a greater spiritual awareness, despite the hectic pace of college life. It's often a flurry of technology and textbooks and the melding of personal history with future goals, yet Charles managed to find a measure of calm.

"I think the really important message is the idea of being in the present moment," said Charles, 24, of Melbourne, Fla. "As students, we lose so much energy dwelling on the past or looking to the future.... It's a stressful time, trying to manage a busy and ambitious life."

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times.

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CHUCK SHEPHERD'S NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Lead Story

Librarian Graham Barker, 45, of Perth, Australia, casually revealed to a reporter in October that his hobby of 26 years — harvesting his own navel lint daily, just before he showers — has now won acclaim in the Guinness Book of World Records. His three-jar collection (a fourth is in progress) has been sold to a local museum. His pastime, he told London's Daily Mail in October, "costs nothing and takes almost no time or effort so there is no compelling reason to stop." Barker, who also collects McDonald's tray liners, said he once did a "navel lint survey," and "a handful of respondents" "confessed" to the hobby. "One guy might have persisted, but he got married, and his wife ordered him to stop."

The Continuing Crisis

Bolivia's president Evo Morales, the former union leader and coca farmer known for hard-nosed political combat, is also a fanatical soccer player and drew worldwide video attention in October for an incident during a supposedly friendly match between his pals and a team headed by the mayor of La Paz. After absorbing a vicious foul five minutes into the contest (resulting in a leg gash), President Morales confronted the offender and knelt him in his (as local media described it) "testicular zone," leaving the player curled on the ground. Afterward, Morales' bodyguards briefly threatened the gasher with arrest.

Fathers of the Year:

Real Father: In September, a judge in Kent County, Mich., finally ordered Howard Veal, 44, to prison to serve at least two years for failure to pay child support. He is more than \$500,000 behind in payments to 14 mothers for the 23 children he has fathered. Authorities suspect there are even more.

Fake Father: French officials arrested a 54-year-old immigrant in September on suspicion of welfare fraud. They had recently begun to notice the man applying for government benefits for 55 children by 55 different mothers. (He may have fathered none at all.)

David Rees draws the political cartoon "Get Your War On," but in his new day job, he is an artisan — of pencil-sharpening. "With an electric pencil sharpener, a pencil is meat," he complained to the Los Angeles Times in August. For \$15 (postage paid), Rees will lovingly, painstakingly sharpen

a customer's favorite pencil or one of his own classic No. 2's and ship it in a secure tube to protect its newly super-sharp point. Rees also gives periodic exhibitions, wearing safety goggles and apron, to demonstrate his guarantee of "respect" for the instruments — "an authentic interaction with your pencil."

The investigative journalism website ProPublica.org, curious about the workers being hired in the mortgage industry's massive, rushed re-examination of home loans previously foreclosed upon but which may have been processed illegally, began scouring the classified ads in October and November. Result: Though most employers "preferred" college graduates with credit-industry experience, it was clear from the entry-level wages offered that many were accepted only with high school educations, with at least some barely familiar with the concept of mortgages. (One staffing agency, offering \$10 to \$12 an hour, sought a "Supervisor of Foreclosure Department," but that position, also, required only a high school diploma.)

Yikes!

Life Imitates 100 Sci-Fi Movies: At a conference in Vancouver in October, University of California, San Francisco researcher Charles Chiu disclosed that a never-before-detected virus that partially wiped out a monkey colony in a lab in Davis, Calif., recently appeared to have "jumped" from its species onto a human scientist at the facility. However, Chiu and his research team said there is "no cause for alarm at this time."

Incoming University of Tennessee football coach Derek Dooley told reporters in September of encountering one unexpected problem: staph infections caused by "the worst shower discipline of any team I've ever been around." He said he had recently run a clinic on "application of soap to the rag" and "making sure you hit all your body."

Latest Research

Formulas: In July, researchers at University of Manchester devised a mathematical formula for the perfect handshake. Said psychology professor Geoffrey Beattie, "(U)ntil now there has not been a guide showing people how they should shake hands." Professor Beattie's work incorporates 12 key measures, including cool, dry palms; firm wrists; strong grips; eye contact; and using "three shakes."

Eminem gets 10 Grammy nominations

Randy LEWIS
 The Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES - The beleaguered record industry couldn't have been happier about the return to the spotlight in 2010 of rapper Eminem, the biggest-selling artist of the new millennium, and

the year nomination.

Eminem and Lady A are vying in the album category with Lady Gaga's "The Fame Monster," Katy Perry's frothy "Teenage Dream" and the latest critically acclaimed effort from Canadian indie rock group Arcade Fire, "The Suburbs." Eminem also got nomi-

marquee categories not for her summer-dominating hit single "California Gurls," which would have set up an East-West rivalry with Jay-Z's "Empire State of Mind" in the record of the year competition, but instead in the best-album field with her critically drubbed "Teenage Dream,"



Eminem performs during the release party of his album "Relapse" at the Motor City Casino in Detroit, on May 19, 2009.

(Kimberly P. Mitchell/Detroit Free Press/MCT)

heaped upon him a field-leading 10 Grammy Award nominations for his album "Recovery," including nods in all three top categories of album, record and song of the year.

Although it was widely expected that Eminem would do well in this year's Grammy competition, Hawaiian-born producer-singer-songwriter-multi-instrumentalist Bruno Mars caught many by surprise as runner-up to Eminem with seven nominations, announced Wednesday in conjunction with a televised Grammy nomination concert from the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

"I'm still kind of soaking it all in," Mars said backstage Wednesday. "It's just been a hell of a year. We record these songs in this little shabby studio, and here we are with nominations. It's just surreal."

Given that each record of the year nominee is traditionally performed live on the awards telecast, Grammy ceremony producers will have a challenge: how to present a song on national television in which the profanity is not simply a casual toss-off that's easily excised, but central to the song's message from a guy to the girl who has dumped him. Expectations are that Green will perform the PG-rated "Forget You" version that allowed many radio stations to play it during the year.

Wednesday's telecast skirted the issue by listing only the names of the artists who recorded the nominated songs, not the titles. When presenters Dave Grohl and Selena Gomez announced the titles, Gomez referred to it as "the song otherwise known as 'Forget You.'"

The other three nominees for record of the year, which honors performance, production and engineering, are "Love the Way You Lie" from Eminem and Rihanna; Jay-Z and Alicia Keys' love letter to the Big Apple, "Empire State of Mind"; and country trio Lady Antebellum's romantically desperate closing-time phone call, "Need You Now," which also earned the country trio an album of

nations for pop vocal collaboration, short-form music video and every rap category in which he was eligible: rap solo performance, rap-sung collaboration, rap album and twice for rap song.

Green's profanity-laced send-off also is up for song of the year, which is strictly a songwriter's award, along with the Lady Antebellum hit written by Dave Haywood, Josy Kear, Charles Kelley and Hillary Scott; "Love The Way You Lie" by Alexander Grant, Holly Hafferman and Marshall Mathers (aka Eminem); Ray LaMontagne's "Beg Steal or Borrow"; and Tom Douglas and Allen Shamblin's "The House That Built Me," a hit for Texas firebrand Miranda Lambert, who landed three nominations of her own in country categories.

Lambert got humorously political in choosing "Only Prettier" for her performance segment, in which she sang, "Let's shake hands and reach across those party lines. ... We might think differently, but we got a lot in common you will see/We're just like you, only prettier."

Teen idol Justin Bieber shares space in the new-artist category with Canadian rapper Drake, Portland, Ore.-born jazz-pop musician Esperanza Spalding and a pair of English groups, Florence & the Machine and rock quartet Mumford & Sons.

"I can't believe I'm in this position ... I don't know what to say," Bieber told show host LL Cool J after the new-artist nominees were named. "It feels good."

There are a bounty of multiple nominees this year, with Jay-Z, Lady Gaga and Lady Antebellum scoring six each, and five apiece to rapper B.o.B., classical producer David Frost, English guitar hero Jeff Beck, R&B-soul singer-songwriter John Legend and songwriter-producer Philip Lawrence.

Some were surprised that Southern California's Katy Perry made it into one of the

which scored a 52 out of a possible 100 on the review aggregate website Metacritic.com.

"It's amazing," Perry said during the telecast. "It's like no other award shows, because I feel like you're being recognized by your peers. Being nominated is kind of like a win, but if I win, I'll take that."

Arcade Fire's album has received the highest marks from critics among the category's nominees, with an average score of 86, compared with a 77 for Lady Gaga's "The Fame Monster," 63 for "Need You Now" and a 62 for "Recovery."

This year's nominations raise the question of how much impact "American Idol" continues to have, as none of the show's winners was in the top four fields. Adam Lambert did snag a nod in the male pop vocal performance category for the track "Whataya Want From Me" from his debut album "For Your Entertainment."

TV's newest music-focused hit show, "Glee," made its debut in Grammy land with two nominations: in the duo or group pop vocal category for the Glee cast's version of Journey's hit "Don't Stop Believin'," and in best compilation soundtrack album for "Glee: The Music, Volume 1."

San Francisco Bay Area punk band Green Day is nominated, but not in the alternative music category. Instead, the cast album for the Broadway production of "American Idiot" is in the running for musical show album along with the Afro-pop-centric "Fela!," "Promises, Promises" and two Stephen Sondheim shows, "A Little Night Music" and "Sondheim on Sondheim."

Grammys are awarded for recordings released during the eligibility period between Sept. 1, 2009, and Sept. 30, 2010, and are decided on by about 12,000 voting members of the Recording Academy. The awards telecast will take place Feb. 13 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

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Remember, it's the thought that counts

Janelle O'DEA
Staff Writer

In the average family, Americans will spend roughly \$700-\$800 on gifts this holiday season. A newly married couple may spend nearly \$1500 or more around the holidays. Constant reminders of the weak economy bombard us everywhere we look, and the holiday season, in addition to high credit card bills probably won't make many people feel much better about their finances.

So, can you avoid spending nearly all of your paycheck on your friends and family, yet still have a special holiday? Try not to fool yourself; you may have to make a small investment in order to get creative. So many gifts can be made and enjoyed much longer than any cheap, useless gift from an infomercial on T.V.

The media doesn't tend to promote the idea of making gifts or stretching your money too far (besides taking advantage of great sales) because

most media outlets are funded by advertising revenue by malls, outlets, suppliers, etc. But, remember, if you see an ad for something and you believe it'd be perfect for someone in your life, get creative with that idea.

If you see a lampshade that matches your parent's décor for \$30.00 at the furniture store, try finding a similar style at thrift store. If it's not the design you want, design it yourself with some supplies from a craft store. Plus, no

matter if it's for your parents, significant other, or a good friend, it will mean much more because it took your hard work and creative ideas to make it.

Perhaps you believe your creativity is not good enough or that you simply have none. This can't be true. Everyone is born with a little creativity, but sometimes it just has to be found and cultivated.

Other ideas include:
- writing/composing a song if you know how to play an instrument

- investing in a winemaking or beer-making kit (usually can be found for less than \$100 and can produce a gift for everyone in your life that's age 21 and over)

- investing in learning how to knit/crochet and making scarves/hats/etc

- making photo collages/photo frames (not necessarily made by you, but cheap ones can be found at T.J. Maxx and decorated by you with supplies from a craft store)

- decorating flower pots

- decorating pens

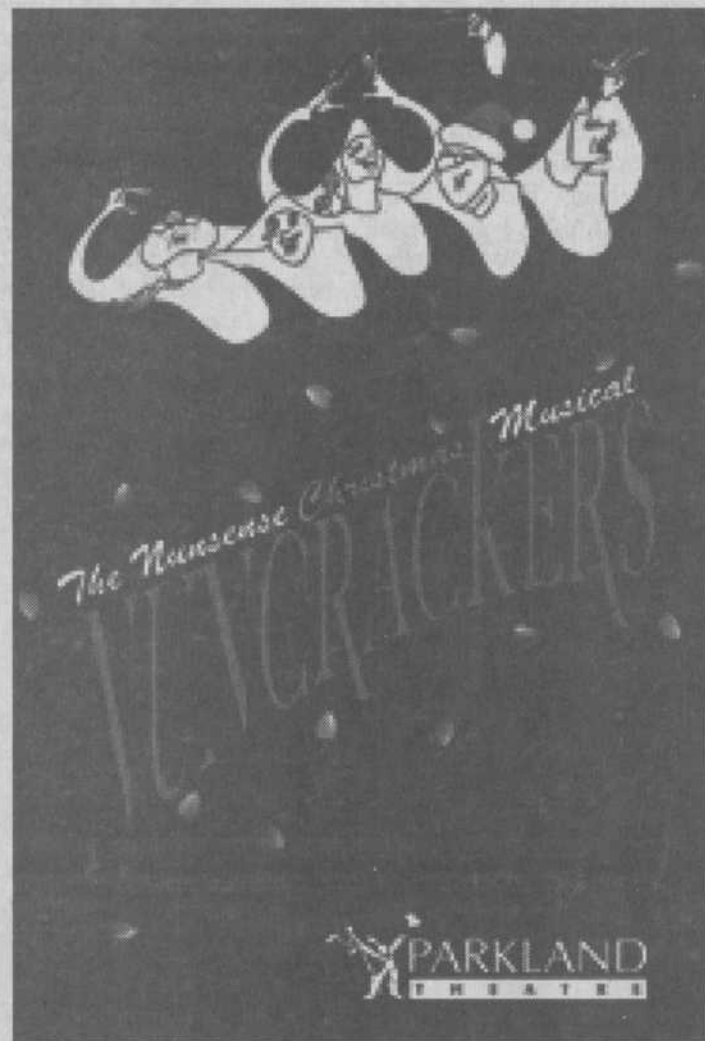
Hopefully these few ideas will help you think of ways to not fall into the trap of breaking your budget for the holidays. Of course, searching the Internet for more ideas/inspiration is never a bad idea if you get stuck. Good luck in avoiding the holiday "shopocalypse!"

Parkland Theatre presents: Nuncrackers: Bringing a whole lotta' Nunsense to the community

Kelley HEANEY
Staff Writer

What do you get when you combine several enthusiastic nuns, a T.V. studio and the traditional Christmas ballet *the Nutcracker*? *Nuncrackers* of course! This is the latest Parkland College Theatre musical production, which opened Wednesday, December 1, and runs through December 12. The third Parkland production in the series of *Nunsense* plays, written by Dan Goggin, is possibly the funniest, and if you have seen the other two you know that they weren't easy to top. Known for being hysterically funny modern plays and the winner of several awards including four Outer Critics Circle Awards, the merry nuns of the *Nunsense* series seem to be able to make just about anything comical, including a secret Santa drawing and a TV show cooking segment.

The fun in *Nuncrackers* begins when one of the nuns wins the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes and uses the money to build a TV studio in the basement of the convent. WCON goes on the air, in front of a live studio audience, with the first annual Christmas program, which was scheduled to include a rendition of *the Nutcracker*. The nuns enlist the help of their Catholic School girls and boy, as char-



Parkland Marketing

acters in the ballet, until ballerina nun, Sister Merry Leo, is hurt. Events then get out of the rehearsed order, resulting in hilarious confusion. The nun's wildly bizarre version of the *Nutcracker* ballet is ultimately performed by means of few

extra Sugar Plum Fairies making an unexpected appearance.

Home shopping is also taken to the limits (the outer limits) with the Catholic Home Shopping Service, in which the Reverend Mother tries to sell gifts to the viewing public in order

to raise funds for the convent. Items include, the Home Halo Kit, which is a metal halo with a shocking surprise for the angel in the family who becomes a little devilish and a St. Victoria's Secret unmentionables Nunder Bra, not to mention the Candy Cain and Abels and the decorative Bible Balls ornament.

Eventually, it is noticed that the convent's Christmas presents are missing, leading one of the nuns, Sister Julia, Child of God, to spend the entire duration of Christmas program at the police station, missing her cooking portion of the program, during which she was going to demonstrate the baking techniques needed for a rum fruitcake. Fortunately, Father Virgil Manly-Trott is able to substitute for her, using plastic fruit and drinking more rum than he cooks with. The mystery of the missing presents is finally solved and the program concludes with a special gift for the nuns from none other than Santa himself.

Something that's no mystery to anyone present was the impact of the musical numbers on the audience members. Misunderstood Christmas carol lyrics caused distress for the Reverend Mother, and delighted laughter from the audience, when Sister Merry Paul escorted her school children in a delicious rendition

of *Here We Come A-Waffling* instead of *A-Wassailing*, followed by *The Holly and Ivy* which became *Holly and Ivory*, complete with bottles of the soap. The unforgettable *The Three Kings* contained the misconstrued lyrics of *We Three Kings of Orient Are* and had a trio of nuns regally, dressed with shopping bags, from which they pulled their gifts for the king, resulting in audience members once again crying with delight. The honky-tonk flavored *Santa Ain't Comin' to Our House* along with *All I Want for Christmas (Is a One-Night Stand)* also appealed to audience members' funny bones and had them talking about what a great time they had seeing the show and how they wished absent friends and family members had also seen it.

Audience members aren't the only ones that the musical appeals to. With a cast of mostly women, young actresses expressed great pleasure that they were included in the cast. Several girls in the current production were first attracted when they came to see last season's *Nunsense* play at Parkland and fell in love with the whacky nuns from Hoboken. Kirby Toalson, who plays Catholic school girl, Mary Celeste Rosenberg, said that, while she has been in many other local plays for the last eight years,

this role is one of her favorites because she gets to put a bit of herself into the character, instead of being restricted by a role. Ariella Cohen, who plays the dancing Sister Leo, said that she had been in Parkland's *Nunsense* production last year, playing one of the school kids and was thrilled to be able to play the part of one of the nuns this year. She said that doing these plays is great because the audience participation makes each performance unique and unpredictable. The play calls for quite a bit of improvising from the actors and so no one is ever sure exactly what is going to happen next.

They are all confident, though, that helping deserving charities is a good thing, so the theatre is taking donations with this production for the Toys for Tots campaign. All playgoers are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy for a child to be put into the donation box and receive a dollar off of the ticket price. A 50/50 raffle is also being held, with the theater's fifty percent going to Toys for Tots. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. For theater information call 217-351-2528, or reserve tickets online at atre@parkland.edu.

Decoding Your Final Exam

This editorial content is brought to you by:

Kelley White
Managing Editor

Lauren JOFFE
The Real College Guide

College students everywhere are cringing over finals week: all-nighters, group disputes and straight-up tension. To put you on the right track to acing those final tests and projects, we break down exactly what to expect in terms of study workload, peer assistance and level of difficulty on a scale of 1 to 10. ...

The Take-home Final

While the take-home text can be challenging, nothing quite beats sitting in the comfort of your own room — with a friend — and having the Internet to help you along the way.

Study workload OK, the pros are obvious. But the con is that take-homes normally eat up more time. Professors are questioning your true understanding of the material: Their goal is to make you think, not just spit out definitions verbatim.

You'll have a limited window of time for completion, so simplify the process by anticipating what your professor will

ask and having relevant documents handy.

Peer assistance Teaming up with a friend could improve your chances of getting an A. However, working in a large group is not recommended, as it could lead to time-consuming discussions over right vs. wrong answers.

Nicole DeAngelis, a senior at Lehigh University, says: "I usually wouldn't recommend working with other people because questions are usually essay-based. If the test was made of problem sets and the teacher gave permission to collaborate with a classmate, I would work with one or two people just to make sure we got the same answer. It's pretty much about seeing where you can ask for help, and that's up to you to figure out on your own."

Approach a friend or respected classmate a week or two before the exam and set up a time to work on the test. If your take-home does not allow for group collaboration, well... it's all on you.

Level of difficulty: 3 While questions might require more think-time, having notes on hand and a friend in the room are two indispensable tools. Take-homes are atypical in traditional university settings, so count your lucky stars if you're fortunate enough to get this type of final.

The Group Presentation

When you're matched up with the right people, getting through the final presentation should be a breeze. But if you're one of the unfortunate few to get placed in a group of slackers or arrogant over-achievers, this final can be downright painful.

Study workload This type of evaluation requires significantly more work than others, so get started as soon as possible. Dividing the project among team members with varied academic strengths can drastically reduce the amount of individual work. However, if you need to pick up the slack for a fellow team member, getting through his tasks and yours can throw a huge wrench into your plans for finals week.

Leave enough time to cover a flaky student's work or contact a teacher for mediation if necessary. Also, you'll need to meet with your group often, perhaps at less-than-ideal times. Keep this in mind so as to not cut off other commitments.

Peer assistance Group presentations are the ultimate peer-on-peer working experience. You'll brainstorm on everything from writing a collective essay to creating graphics. Take advantage of each student's strong suits. And brace yourself: There's no saying what will go down with so many personalities colliding.

Level of difficulty: 5 It's easy to rely on others for support, but a group's dynamic can turn stressful — and even volatile — if members refuse to cooperate. Be prepared to pick up where others have left off: Since teachers may not evaluate students individually, it's important that you put your best foot forward for the sake of the group. Working with so many individuals is the real test.

The Standard In-class Scantron

No. 2 pencils? Check. A semester's worth of information locked into your memory? Um, maybe not so much. Scantrons require that students know all the information, from overarching concepts to straight-up numerical figures. There's no getting around hitting the books ... chapter by chapter.

Study workload Says New York University senior Jackie Chudow: "Most Scantron tests usually cover material in the textbook rather than material discussed in class, so creating a study guide with key terms and summaries is the most helpful way to get all the information down."

Revert to old-school study practices — note cards, detailed study guides and group review sessions. Questions are often straightforward — meaning you have to retrieve answers

from your memory bank.

Peer assistance Exchanging study guides with a classmate will fill the gaps in your notes. Help your brain absorb all the info by talking the material over with a friend. While loners can rest easy knowing they can beat the test on their own, think of peer assistance as supplemental... but beneficial.

Level of difficulty: 8 Scantrons are the ultimate test to beat: You have more information to absorb and no way of getting partial credit for a wrong answer. Study well in advance — don't wait till the night before the exam to memorize 13 chapters.

The Research Paper
Eek! Research papers rank high on the list of dreaded finals — maybe even surpassing the Scantron as the most intimidating form of evaluation.

Study workload Expect to spend many hours in the library and on the Internet, sifting through materials to find the right sources and information. The key is checking in with your professor for guidance along the way, since papers are assigned with more distant deadlines than other evaluations. The required word count for the assignment will dictate how much time you'll need to spend on it.

Melanie Waldman, New School University senior, says: "Final papers are the worst.

In my school, the only form of final exams teachers give is the research paper, so the workload is next to impossible to balance when five classes are giving the same form of evaluation. The most important thing I've learned is to manage my time well and start early."

Peer assistance Typically, research papers are strictly solo projects. Aside from getting some grammar tips, you're on your own. Feeling lost? Most schools have writing centers, where you can go for guidance.

"All teachers recommend we use the writing center, where students help organize your thoughts and research," says Waldman. "Since you can't really get help from classmates, additional feedback from the student center or a tutor is the best way to stay on track. When it comes down to it, it's a really helpful tool."

Level of difficulty: 7-8 It all depends on your writing ability. For some, writing comes naturally and is the preferred method of evaluation (gasp!). However, many students find writing to be a challenge, especially when adding research to the mix. But whether writing is your virtue or your vice, crafting a research paper is no easy task. We suggest you get cracking ... stat.

Opinions

Interested in writing a letter to the editor?

- All content is subject to review by the editorial staff. - All submissions must follow the Parkland College code of conduct. All violations of said code of conduct will be turned over to Parkland College administrators and/or Public Safety. - All content, once published, becomes property of the Prospectus. - All submitted content must be original work. - All submissions must be by Parkland students/faculty with correct and updated contact information. E-mail prospectus@parkland.edu, subject "Letter to the Editor"

America's young scientists at risk

Carol W. GREIDER
Teresa SZYMANIK
MCT

The Dec. 10 awards ceremony in Stockholm celebrates the 2010 Nobel Prize winners and the ability of curiosity-driven men and women to open doors on previously undiscovered areas of knowledge. But it comes on the heels of a disturbing recent report from the National Academies of Sciences warning that the United States is continuing to slide toward relinquishing its position as the world's top innovator.

That accolade instead seems to be shifting to other nations, particularly in Asia, that are making the necessary investments in science and engineering education and research that drive so much of the world's economy.

"Rising Above The Gathering Storm, Revisited: Rapidly

Approaching Category 5" provides a troubling sequel to an influential 2005 study, which called for action and investment in 20 specific areas of science, math and engineering education, research and science and technology policy. But as the hurricane metaphor in the report's title broadcasts, our nation is more at risk than ever: "It would appear that overall the United States' long-term competitiveness outlook (read jobs) has further deteriorated," according to the blue-ribbon panel that prepared the new analysis.

Scientific- and engineering-based enterprise leads to the sorts of technologies, products, services and jobs that give life and momentum to a nation's economy. Not only do the scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs benefit, the new report states, but so do the truck drivers who deliver new products, the sales teams that market

them, the repair personnel who maintain them and so forth, throughout the entire economy.

These challenging budgetary times, however, require innovation in how we support our country's young scientists and engineers at points in their professional lives when they often are the most creative. We need new approaches not just from government but also by the private sector and philanthropic community.

I was fortunate to have shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology in 2009, with two colleagues, for fundamental discoveries about the structure and behavior of chromosomes. As a young scientist 20 years ago, however, I couldn't have imagined that our work would later bear so directly on cancer and age-related disease. But fortunately I received support to pursue the biological and clinical connections of this basic research.

Early in my scientific career, I was the beneficiary of a four-year award in biomedical sciences from a program run by The Pew Charitable Trusts that has supported over 500 early-career scientists in its 25-year history. The funds helped me pursue my research, of course, but more important in the long run was the confidence the award gave me to ask bold questions. Subsequent support for over 20 years from the National Institutes of Health allowed me to continue pursuing connections of basic science to disease.

Too many creative young scientists today, however, fail to receive such funding when it can serve them-and their country-the most. Over the past quarter-century, the average age at which investigators receive their first independent National Institutes of Health research grant has increased from 34 to 42 years.

Meanwhile, the proportion of grant proposals that succeed has decreased so dramatically that we have arrived at a real crisis point. We are in danger of losing a generation of creative young minds due to lack of funding.

It takes a forward-looking country to open educational and career pathways to train young scientists, but there is also a strong pragmatic argument for doing so. "While only four percent of the nation's work force is composed of scientists and engineers, this group disproportionately creates jobs for the other 96 percent," the NAS report notes.

As other countries invest heavily in science and education, they are beginning to challenge our longstanding preeminence in the scientific and technological enterprises. Five years ago, the NAS warned of emerging global competition. Today, the

risk of losing our leadership position is even greater. In this increasingly competitive world, we need to renew and intensify our national commitment to science and engineering, with a focus on education and research.

Maintaining and improving our scientific standing requires all stakeholders to strengthen those existing programs that nurture our scientific and engineering workforce, while inventing and funding new ones. Only this will allow the United States to preserve its well-deserved reputation as an economic engine where innovation can flourish.

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Notice to Students and Faculty Regarding FINAL EXAMINATIONS

A final exam is expected in each credit course at Parkland College. Final exams for all full-semester and second-half-semester courses will be given during final exam week (December 13 - 17) according to the official published schedule. These final exams are **not to be given early** (during regular class periods). Final exams for all other courses (those ending earlier) will be given at the last regularly scheduled class meeting.

All requests from faculty to alter scheduled final exam times or dates must be reviewed and approved by the Department Chair and the Vice President for Academic Services.

In courses where a final exam is not appropriate, as determined by the Department Chair, an educational alternative scheduled during the week of final exams is expected.

Students: These official College guidelines were established to more fully ensure that you receive the full set of instructional class periods for which you paid and to which you are entitled; and that you have the appropriate amount of time to prepare adequately for your final exams. If your final exam is given earlier than scheduled, please contact the Department Chair or the Vice President for Academic Services (351-2542, Room A117).

Three final exams scheduled on the same day may be considered a conflict. Conflicts may be resolved by arrangement with the faculty of these courses.

Questions or concerns about these guidelines should be directed to the Vice President for Academic Services.

Survival guide to winter driving

Winter requires motorists to adjust their plans, habits and attitudes. Some tips:

Anticipate problems

If you have to act suddenly, it might be too late; a stream of brake lights ahead means that you, too, will need to slow or stop; start early to avoid chain pileups; try to spot alternatives; be aware of your position relative to other cars

Think snow

Before climbing in the car, adjust your thinking to the weather; reduce speeds; stay farther away from other vehicles; double your usual braking distance; icy streets can rob tires of 80 percent of their grip

Take it slow

A sudden burst of speed, change of direction or jab at the brakes can start a skid; don't be lulled by others moving rapidly or by your vehicle's ability to zip along with front-wheel or four-wheel drive; the essential thing is to be able to stop

Getting out of a spin

Don't panic if the rear end of your car begins to slide; your front tires are still gripping the road; in most cases you can straighten the car if you act quickly and smoothly, steering the front wheels in the direction the rear wheels are trying to go; this applies whether your car is front-wheel or rear-wheel drive - or four-wheel, for that matter

1

Rear end slides to left; turn steering wheel to left; ease back on the gas pedal

Source: Motoring columnist Paul Brand; Minneapolis AAA Graphic: Minneapolis Star Tribune

2

Rear end snaps back to right; turn steering wheel to right.

3

Regain control; don't accelerate until tires regain their grip on the road

Getting rolling

If you're stuck on ice, the key is patience; dig whatever you can from the drive wheels, and use sand, cat litter or another traction-booster; start in second gear if you can; avoid spinning the wheels, which heats tires, digs an icy trough and can lead to blowout or fire; if you rock the car, avoid sudden shifts between forward and reverse with an automatic transmission; it gets hot and stressed by having to reverse wheel spin directions. Instead, try to stop the car at the peak of each direction so wheels quit spinning

Stopping a slide

For anti-lock brakes, continuous firm pressure is recommended; if your vehicle isn't equipped with an ABS system, pump the brake pedal as rapidly as possible; if the brakes lock, instantly ease pressure on the pedal until the front tires begin turning again; if you've lost all control, then stand on the brake pedal completely; locking all four tires will keep the vehicle moving in a straight line even in a spin, so its path will be more predictable to other drivers

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Prospectus Advice

Q: What makes people judge others?

A: Great question! Welcome to Sociology 101. It is human nature for one to form an opinion. This may be a good thing or a bad thing. Which side a human will take on an issue, race, religion or other person/idea is highly influenced by factors such as family, environment, media and personal experience. Knowledge also plays a key role in social interaction. If you know little about a subject, you are more likely to base your knowledge off of stereotypes and myths. If you study up on a wide array of subject matter, you will have a broader knowledge base and will generally have an open mind when it comes to people's differences.

Prospectus advice is a weekly advice column. If you have a question you would like to ask, please E-mail prospectusadvice@gmail.com

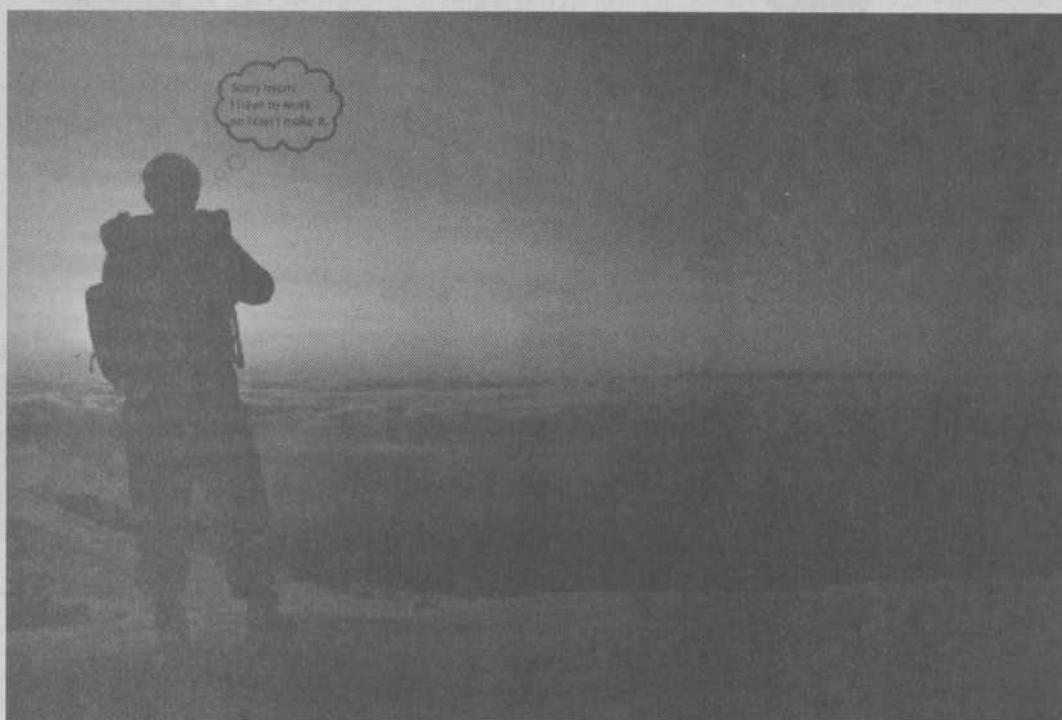
5 ways to avoid family during the holidays

Kassandra COAN
Staff Writer

The cold weather, same old songs on every radio station, and insane length of lines in every store are just the beginning of the holiday season. Along with these annual trends come the stressful family gatherings. Isn't vacation a time for relaxation? No one wants to spend their well earned break with bickering relatives. Luckily, there are some simple ways to escape from the obligation of spending holidays with relatives.

1. Perfect the skill of gift giving. Send enjoyable gifts, such as spa gift certificates, in the mail. Mom will be too busy getting a massage to even notice that you are steering clear of the commotion.

2. Visit before the holidays. Most students are expected at family events during the holidays, because they didn't show



"Sorry mom, I'm out of town. I won't be able to make it." Use this excuse and more to avoid your family over the holidays!

Prospectus Staff

up to any other family events all year long. Plan a movie night once in a while with your

parents or aunts and uncles. Or, you can simply make your appearance right before the

holiday event. "I just saw you last week."

3. Be a hard worker. We all

hear about how much everybody hates working during the holidays, but what you didn't hear about is the rate of pay. Holiday workers are typically paid "time and a half." This means you minimum wage job will pay \$16.50. What could be better than getting paid to miss the stressful gatherings? "I can't, Mom, I have to work!"

4. A vacation is better. Though this is the more selfish route, it's definitely the most relaxing. Taking a personal vacation will not only solve your immediate goal of avoiding the family, but will also have positive impacts on your future. It could be just what you need to clear your mind after the strenuous semester. With a clear mind, you can make decisions you won't regret about the upcoming semester.

5. Study abroad. No one in your family can complain about you being gone if it is with the purpose of furthering your

education. Many people are under the impression that they can't study abroad, because they "aren't smart enough." However, the requirements are not extremely demanding, and the majority of students could qualify if they truly wanted. Parkland requires study abroad participants to have a 2.75 GPA and 12 credit hours, including ENG 101. After that, it's simply a matter of going to room A116 and filling out an application.

If one of these fine tips doesn't do the job, there are numerous other excuses that can be used to avoid that holiday drama. If you are one who enjoys the daylong visits, then by all means go ahead! Good for you! But for those that are the avoiders, best of luck with falling ill the night before that awful get-together. Happy holidays!

How to survive the winter

Prospectus STAFF

With the first snowfall out of the way, it seems as though winter is truly upon us. With the incredibly cold and snowy season comes much danger and discord. Here is a list of ten tips which will help you make it through the nasty winter season.

1. Never text while walking! You never know where those patches of ice will be. We've already taken a spill.

2. Never text while driving! C'mon.. it's against the law, people! And, once again, there's ice.

3. Never talk while driving! You're all bad enough drivers already, don't make it worse.

4. Always wear appropriate clothing when walking through the snow.

Ditch the holey jeans and athletic shoes, unless you like getting wet and cold, of course. Try snow pants and Uggs. (They're still "in," right?) And do we even have to mention those gym shorts??

5. Drink a scalding hot beverage before you start your day.

If you burn your tongue, there's no way it can stick to that flagpole now.

6. Bash in all of your car windows.

Then you won't have to worry about scraping off any ice or snow..

7. Do not eat any discolored snow.

There's a three in five chance it's not your favorite sno-cone flavor.

8. Do whatever it takes to get that special toy for Tommy.

Even if it means trampling and hitting a few people along the way. It's way worth it!

9. Keep a friend's cell phone number close.

Just in case you really do get stuck in the middle of nowhere and didn't pack an extra sweater, kitty litter, and a shovel like mom and dad said.

10. Make your snowballs with rocks inside.

Give the gift of joy to someone special. They won't even see it coming..

You should now be able to survive the winter season with these helpful tips. Remember: Respect, responsibility and readiness! Happy holidays!



Do whatever it takes to get that special toy for Tommy. Even if it means trampling and hitting a few people along the way. Those special deals and great bargains are way to good to pass up, and you deserve to save that extra half of a cent!

Photo illustration by Chris WARE/Lexington Herald-Leader

Prospectus Pick: Halford III: Winter Songs



David BUSBOOM
Staff Writer

When I think of Judas Priest frontman Rob Halford, Christmas is one of the last things that come to mind. The notion of the all-powerful "Metal God" releasing a Christmas album seems ridiculous at first consideration. Nevertheless, the English heavy metal singer certainly got into the spirit of things with last year's studio album, *Halford III: Winter Songs*. As the title suggests, the album is the third by Halford's eponymous solo project (followed by *Halford IV: Made of Metal*, which was released earlier this year). The album personnel included Rob Halford on lead vocals, Roy Z and Mike Chlasciak on guitars, Mike Davis on bass, and Bobby Jarzombek on drums. Additional personnel include Ed Roth on keyboards, John Baxter on arrangements, Pete Martinez on engineering, and Maor Appelbaum on mastering.

Released in the U.S. on November 3, 2009, *Winter Songs* was Halford's first solo release in more than seven years (his last being *Crucible* in 2002). It includes a collection of new Halford-penned tracks plus traditional holiday favorites presented with original heavy metal arrangements by Halford himself and American producer/guitarist Roy Z. Most notable are the first three tracks "Get into the Spirit," "We Three Kings," and "Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel," as well as "Christmas for Everyone," "Oh Holy Night," and "Come All Ye Faithful."

The album was well-received by professional reviewers, receiving 77% approval from *Lords of Metal* and a 9/10 score from *Metal Express Radio*. Anyone wondering what Christmas carols sound like when sung by the greatest heavy metal star of all time should definitely check out *Halford III: Christmas Songs*, available from Metal God Entertainment.

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Thanks for another great semester.
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 From the Department of Public Safety

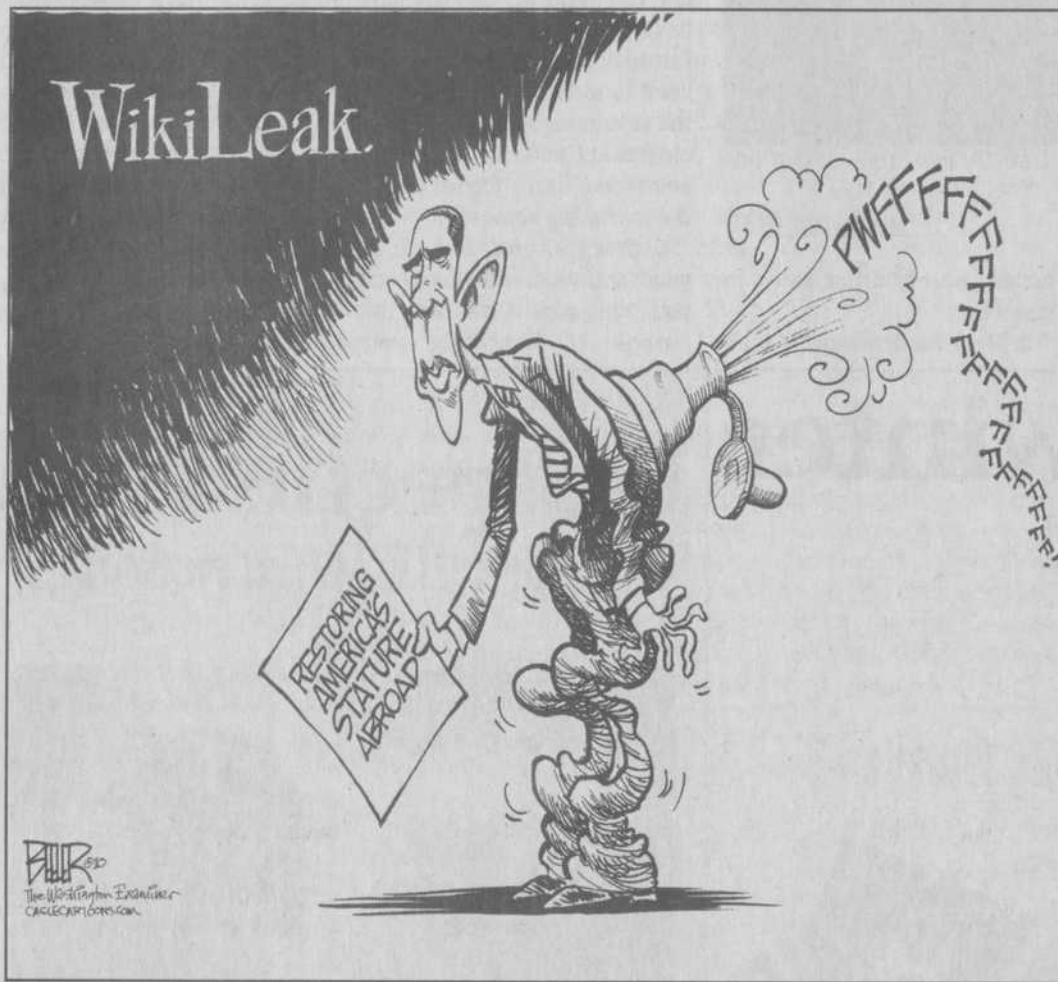


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- ACROSS**
- 1 "America's Next ___ Model"
 - 4 Morley of "60 Minutes"
 - 9 "Murder, ___ Wrote"
 - 12 King Kong, for one
 - 13 Melissa Gilbert's role on "Little House on the Prairie"
 - 14 "Mazel ___!"; congratulatory expression
 - 15 For each
 - 16 Dog-___; like the pages of a well-read book
 - 17 Arden or Mendes
 - 18 Nighttime noise
 - 20 Steve or Mel
 - 22 Actor on "The Office"
 - 26 "The ___ Wears Prada"; Meryl Streep film
 - 27 Helium or oxygen
 - 28 "Much ___ About Nothing"
 - 29 Jacuzzi
 - 32 Thickheaded
 - 35 "Dancing with the Stars" host
 - 39 "Air ___ One"; Harrison Ford movie
 - 40 Gilbert and Rue
- DOWN**
- 42 "A ___ Like Love"; Amanda Peet movie
 - 43 S. Epatha Merkerson's role
 - 47 FBI crime lab evidence
 - 48 Grow old
 - 49 Ice ___ sundae
 - 50 High school class: abbr.
 - 51 "Hogan's Heroes" setting: abbr.
 - 52 Quickness
 - 53 Loaf of bread from the deli

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

A	D	A	M		B	I	G					
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Harry Potter's magic brings full house to local theaters

Janelle O'DEA
Staff Writer

Fans started lining up two or even three hours before the show began, to get a good seat and also to share the excitement with fellow "Potterheads." A late arrival means an uncomfortable position with a craned neck, and no Harry Potter fanatic, no matter how loyal, will actually want to sit that way to enjoy the long-awaited first part of the final movie in the Harry Potter series.

Harry Potter continues to be a dear friend of our generation's. The first Harry Potter book debuted in 1997, and a short four years later, it was brought to life in the cinema. For the past nine years, Harry Potter fans have anticipated, watched, and critiqued the movies with zest. This one was certainly no different.

Harry and his two best friends, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, are on a



Wizardry at the box office

Opening weekend for "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1" was the franchise's best, netting \$125.1 million at the U.S. box office. How the series has fared:

Harry Potter and the ...	Opening weekend
2001 <i>Sorcerer's Stone</i>	\$90.3 million
2002 <i>Chamber of Secrets</i>	88.4
2004 <i>Prisoner of Azkaban</i>	93.7
2005 <i>Goblet of Fire</i>	102.7
2007 <i>Order of the Phoenix</i>	77.1
2009 <i>Half-Blood Prince</i>	77.8
2010 <i>Deathly Hallows Part 1</i>	125.1

Source: Box Office Mojo, MCT Photo Service Graphic: Pat Carr © 2010 MCT

mission given to Harry, and, to find the rest of the seven

Horcruxes, or parts of Voldemort's (gasp! Do not say the name!) soul. Along the way,

Harry and company encounter cold, hopeless thoughts of being seized

by the Death Eaters, and unexpected turns of events that make Harry question everything he once believed in.

As expected, the three begin to feel tension as the weeks press on and the Horcruxes are nowhere in sight. Harry feels that he was given no direction, that he has failed as a leader for the other two, and that he will fail his mission of keeping the wizarding world safe. The radio continues to supply a bit of morale, but not much. This is perhaps the one big discrepancy between the book and movie I noticed - there was no "Potterwatch" program on the radio. I'm sure other Potter fans have noticed the many more differences between the book and movie.

Other than cutting "Potterwatch," the movie did a fairly good job staying in line with the book. So, minus a few action-packed spots, the movie has a lot of dialogue and explanation

about the situation between Harry and the Dark Lord (the Horcruxes, their locations, the Deathly Hallows, etc.). Part two of movie seven is rumored to have lots of action, and if you've read the books, you'll know why this clearly makes sense.

Part one drew a full house for both theaters in Champaign, with costumes on some moviegoers. The midnight premiere was crowded, and it took me a good ten minutes to get out afterwards, but the rush of feeling the movie with the crowd in the theater definitely proves worth it.

Part two comes out in July 2011, and this one will be in 3-D, assuming that the re-finishing of the movie is done on time. So full Part Two draw more than a full house for both theaters? If so, let's hope someone casts a spell that can add seats!

Ask MNN: Is it better to idle or turn your car off?

Chanie KIRSCHNER
Mother Nature Network
(www.MNN.com)

Q: The other day, I was sitting outside my daughter's friend's house and waiting for her to come outside after a play date. I didn't turn off my car - I let it idle for the few moments I was there, figuring it would waste gas to turn it on and off. But is this really true? What's worse for my car and for the environment, letting it idle or turning the engine on and off?

A: That is a great question. I often wondered about that myself as I waited in the nursery school carpool pickup

line (where I can wait quite a while ...). First let's talk about what idling is. In high school, "idling" meant you were hanging out in the hallways when you should have been in class, an infraction I was accused of many a time. In terms of your car, "idling" means putting the car in park and leaving it running when you could otherwise be turning it off - in a drive-thru, for instance, or waiting at the train station to pick up your friend.

So, now that we know what idling is - better to idle or to turn on and off your car? The answer is the same one the assistant principal had for you

all those years ago - better not to idle. The rule of thumb used by California's Consumer Energy Center is this: If you're going to be idling more than 10 seconds, better to turn off your car. That's because when you're idling, you're still releasing harmful emissions into the air just like when you're driving, except when you're idling, you're getting zero miles per gallon. And contrary to popular belief, it doesn't take more gas to shut down and restart your car than it does to leave it idling for a few minutes. It will actually save you money to shut off your car rather than idle - up to 19 percent, accord-

ing to Edmunds.com.

Interestingly, one of the ways hybrid cars save energy is by automatically shutting off at red lights or when otherwise stopped. In fact, since this start-stop technology was invented, some car companies, including BMW, are talking about adopting the same technology in all of their cars, which could greatly reduce the amount of air pollution that is caused by idling cars.

While we're at it, let's dispel some other idling myths: Do you like to warm up your car for a few minutes in the winter before you drive it? My husband, who's from Chicago,

introduced me to the world of remote starters. See, in Chicago, where it's often in the teens and single digits when it's time to head out for work, everyone has remote starters to warm up their cars before they get in them. And I'm not going to lie - it's so much nicer getting into a warm and toasty car rather than a stone-cold one. But warming up your car for five or 10 minutes is totally unnecessary to actually drive it. All you're doing is wasting gas and wasting time. As long as you're not accelerating too fast (such as turning onto a highway as you turn out of your driveway), starting your

car, waiting a few seconds, and driving it immediately, but gently, is the way to go - literally.

What about revving your car's engine when you start it? Also unnecessary. It's actually a bad idea when your car's engine is cold and its parts haven't been lubricated with oil yet.

Well, there you have it, folks. So don't get caught idling in the halls ... and especially not on the streets.

- Chanie

(c) 2010, Mother Nature Network.

Gadgets: Headphones, gear to haul your gadgets, a do-it-all printer and a book on best apps

Gregg ELLMAN
MCT

When you purchase a V-MODA headphone product, you're getting much more than something to broadcast sound.

The company's newest inline is the Vibrato, noise-isolating in-ear headphone, which include a microphone compatible with many portable media devices from Apple.

V-Moda designs its products to the wear like jewelry in addition to producing outstanding sound and, once again, they achieved both in the Vibrato.

The headphones work like any device with a 3.5mm audio port and deliver sound as advertised with "vibrant bass, vivid mid-range and vivacious highs."

As mentioned, the design is critical to all V-Moda products; the Vibrato is made with zinc alloy, the cable with Kevlar fabric and all of this is attached to a 24k gold-plated jack.

The microphone and 3-button remote to control your tunes is built into the cable.

"Vibrato was masterfully tuned in collaboration with professional musicians to recreate the sensations of a live music or club experience," said Val Kolton, professional DJ and CEO of V-MODA, in a recent press release.

"Apart from the great sound, it has a distinctive angular look and a solid, luxurious feel that can only be truly experienced first-hand."

You get silicone ear tips (S/M/L/XL) with the in-ear styled headphones equipped with 8mm drivers along with leather styled carrying case and a set of sport ear hooks.



The new Epson WorkForce 635, which does about everything you expect from an all-in-one (copy, fax, print and scan). It has a 250-sheet paper cassette so it doesn't have to be filled often, along with a 30-page automatic document feeder.

(Epson/MCT)

Details: www.V-Moda.com, \$129.99

Your search for the right backpack to carry camera gear and a laptop can be a difficult one.

When you combine the equipment with outdoor activities such as biking or hiking, your choice needs to be from Clik Elite.

The company designs backpack systems specifically for working in these types of environment and weather.

I packed up the Clik Elite Cloudscape (\$130) backpack and attached the Access Point (\$61) chest pack and the Seeker (\$89) waist pack fitting way more gear than I would

ever need.

The backpack is a standard size designed with a breathable harness and hydration system that fits a 100 oz. bladder.

While I had no need for the beverage, I easily fit a camera, several lenses and a flash in the backpack.

I chose to put an extra flash, cell phone and iPod in the chest pack with an extra body and wide-angle lens in the Seeker waist pack.

On its own, the Seeker is a great storage solution, built with an endless amount of possibilities to setup and store gear.

When you're holding any of these items, it's obvious they're attractive and most impor-

tantly are made with top-notch construction.

According to the Clik Elite site, everything uses fully lined and finished seams, YKK zippers, 330 D Ripstop Cordura and 1680 D ballistic fabrics,

If you want a bigger pack for even more gear, Obscura (\$175) is a great choice. It's built with a seemingly endless number of pockets, zippers and compartments.

While these are what I tested, I must say the entire Clik Elite line is some of the best-made and functional storage solutions I've seen anywhere.

A quick glance at their site shows that the company really understands what they are making and has a solution for

any amount of gear for any use, especially for active photographers.

Details: www.clikelite.com

These days, when you go looking for a home all-in-one printer, it seems the choices are endless.

An easy solution is the new Epson WorkForce 635, which does about everything you expect from an all-in-one (copy, fax, print and scan).

There are a multitude of features, and one of the best, to me, is Epson's DURABrite pigment-based ink system (four cartridges - black, cyan, magenta and yellow).

This type of ink results in scratch-, smudge- and water-resistant prints.

Although Epson states the unit is designed for home office and small business users, its features and price make it worthwhile even for basic home use.

It has a 250-sheet paper cassette so it doesn't have to be filled often, along with a 30-page automatic document feeder.

Printing speeds can vary, but Epson tests on the unit have it as 15 pages per minute in black and 7.2 in color.

Printing can also be done directly from memory cards using the built-in multiple memory-card slots, with the images being viewed on the 2.5-inch LCD.

The setup was simple, including wireless printing since it's a Wi-Fi (802.11 b/g/n) printer. Simple tests with printing, faxing, scanning and copying resulted in prints, faxes scans and copies - not much of a shock.

Details: www.Epson.com,

listed at \$229 but I found it online for \$149.99

"Best iPhone Apps: The Guide for Discriminating Downloaders" from O'Reilly Media, is one of those books you say you don't need but once you look at it, you can't put it down.

The book is written by New York Times technology columnist J.D. Biersdorfer who gives you the advice on choosing the best of the best from over 250,000 apps currently available on the Apple App Store.

Some are free, some cost a little and some cost more, but if you don't know about the app and what it does then the decision can be difficult.

Biersdorfer breaks everything down in categories ranging from the best for kids, health, gaming and apps for home and planning a vacation.

Among the hundreds discussed in the book that caught my attention were Instapaper (\$4.99 for the full version) to read Web pages offline. AppMiner is kind of an interesting concept; it's a free app to find more apps.

Details: <http://www.oreilly.com>, listed at \$19.99 but currently available at Amazon for \$13.14

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A guide to events over holiday break

Josh GRUBE
Staff Writer

Winter break is now just around the corner. After you ace those finals, all you will have to worry about is how you should spend your newly acquired free time. This is harder to do in these cold holiday months, as it seems that there is nothing to do. To keep things interesting, *Prospectus News* has highlighted some events in the Champaign-Urbana area dedicated to keep you entertained throughout the break.

Music and Dance:

The Canopy Club has many exciting events going on throughout the break. If metal music is your thing, get ready to celebrate your last day of finals, Friday the 17th, with local death metal band Leproso. To keep the metal coming throughout the night, Carpathian Funeral, 13th Apostle, and Black Harbor will be joining the band. The show starts at 9.

Or perhaps the electronic styling's of dubstep is more of your thing. The following night at 9, "Oops, I Womped My Pants! : Vol. IV" is going to have everybody dancing at the Canopy Club. DJ Britche\$\$ and DJ Belly, along with additional DJs to be announced, are going to shake the walls with bass-heavy songs that are sure to get you out of your seat. The show begins at 9.

If don't enjoy dancing or moshing, you may be wondering when a calmer music show will come around to the Canopy Club. Look no more, because folk duo the Decadents are coming in from Bloomington Indiana, with additional guests to be announced. The show is on Thursday, December 23rd and starts at 9.

Also at the Canopy Club is a New Year's Eve celebration with the Piano Man starting at 8, as well as U2 cover band "Achtung Baby" performing the 8th of January at 9.

For more information on the Canopy Club and its upcoming events, visit their website at www.canopyclub.com/canopy.php.

For the 21 and older students, Memphis on Main is full of exiting shows during win-



Photo by Sky Seeker

ter break. On Friday, December 17th, the band White Trash Rodeo will be performing. If you're into country and southern rock, this is the way to celebrate your last day of finals! The show starts at 9.

The next night, Memphis on Main is hosting "The Nightmare Before Christmas," a concert with three bands performing. Metal band Mind Drop will be headlining the festivities with Fer De Lance and Slow Intentional Damage. The show begins at 9.

On New Year's Eve, Outbound Drive is bringing in 2011 at Memphis on Main. Outbound Drive is a country rock band that plays 70s, 80s, 90s, and current music. The celebration starts at 8.

Memphis on Main also hosts a karaoke night every Thursday from 9 to 2. For more information on the venue and its upcoming shows, see memphismain.com.

On Wednesdays, The Great Impasta is the place to be. Enjoy the jazz sounds of piano soloist Donnie Heitler as you are dining on great Italian food. He performs at the restaurant from 6 to 9. To learn more, see their website at www.greatimpastarestaurant.com.

The Cowboy Monkey is

also full of activities to keep you busy. Do you like electronic music? If so, kick off your first day after finals week with D-Roka, Saturday night. D-Roka, or Dennis Hartman, has been on the scene since 1994, making electronic beats and rocking out on the guitar. The show starts at 10.

Maybe you want to get out and do something interesting, but you aren't into music. If that's the case, the Cowboy Monkey hosts a trivia night every Sunday. From 7 to 9 each week you can keep your brain sharp answering questions in a fun filled environment at no cost.

Or perhaps you are in to music, but want to get out and play, rather than watch. Every Tuesday is open mic night, so go out there and show the Cowboy Monkey what you've got! Simply sign up for stage time after 9:45 and get ready to blow the venue away.

Every Wednesday at the Cowboy Monkey is Salsa Wednesday. DJ Doctor J and DJ Lunikis will be sending out salsa, merengue, bachata, mambo, and reggaeton sounds starting at 10. Before the show, DJ Joe Grohens hosts Tango from 8 to 10.

On New Year's Eve, cele-

brate 2010 with crazy bass-heavy dubstep sure to have everyone dancing. The DJ lineup is currently unannounced, so keep your eyes peeled to see who's going to blow the roof off of the venue. The show starts at 9.

For more information on its upcoming events, visit their website at www.cowboy-monkey.com.

At the Oregon Street location of Espresso Royale, every Tuesday night is open mic night. Get up and show off your music, comedy, or poetry from 8 to 10. To learn more about this Espresso Royale, see their website at www.espresso-royale.com.

Art:

At Parkland, The Art Gallery is currently hosting an exhibition until February 5th. The exhibition is "A Natural History of Fabrication: Recent Works by Rod Northcutt." Northcutt's works include sculpture, drawings, audio, and paintings. The gallery is open every Monday through Friday from 10 until 3, every Monday through Thursday from 6 until 8, and every Saturday from noon until 2. However, it is closed from December 22nd to January 2nd, so make sure

to check it out early into break, or you'll have to wait until the break is almost over. For more information, see their website at www.parkland.edu/gallery.

At the University of Illinois' Spurlock Museum, the exhibition "Siyazama: Traditional Arts, Education, and AIDS in South Africa" is currently underway. The exhibition will be displayed every Saturday during break, excluding Christmas day and New Years day. The museum is open from 10 until 4. To learn more about the exhibit and the museum, see www.spurlock.illinois.edu.

The Heartland Gallery is hosting "The Irish Landscape: Paintings by Sam McCready" to be admired until the 30th of December. You can check out the beautiful landscapes every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, with the exception of Christmas day. It is open from 10 to 5.

Currently at Heartland Gallery is "Natural Color: Photography by Rick Goldwasser and Paintings by Marty Maehr." The Saturday after finals week, December 18, is the last day for the event, so act fast! The gallery is open from 10 to 5.

For more on the Heartland Gallery and its exhibitions, see the gallery's website at www.heartland-gallery.com.

heartland-gallery.com.

Kalarte Gallery's newest exhibition "Masks III" is open until December 30th. The gallery specializes in traditional and folk art from India and Latin America. It is open to view from 10 to 5 every Wednesday through Saturday, except Christmas day. To learn more about the gallery and exhibition, see their website at www.kalarte.com.

Paintings and sculpture by Preston Jackson are being displayed at Cinema Gallery throughout break. The exhibition is "Glimpsings from the Closet Trunk," and is open 10 to 5 every Wednesday through Saturday. For more information, visit the gallery's website at www.cinemagallery.cc.

The Boneyard Pottery gallery is be hosting a holiday show throughout winter break. It will feature work by local artists Michael Schwegmann, Gary Beaumont, Sarah Holt, John Sweitzer, Charlie Sweitzer, and Patty Lindbloom. The exhibition is open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 until December 23rd. To learn more about the gallery, visit www.boneyardpottery.com.

Other:

Are you looking for laughs? Jupiter's Pizza at the Crossing hosts a Comedy Club every Thursday. From 8 to 10, get your comedy fix while enjoying a slice of pizza. For more information about Jupiter's, see their website at <http://jupiterspizzacom/crossing>.

Memphis on main also hosts an open mic comedy night. Every Wednesday at 9, show up to laugh or show off your comedic talent.

For those looking for family-oriented activities, The Urbana Free Library is hosting a "Noon Year's Eve" celebration on New Year's Eve. It is taking place from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. To learn more, see <http://www.urbanafreelibrary.org>.

Now that you have a taste of what is to come, you should have no problem getting out there and finding something you enjoy. Have fun and keep warm, we'll see you in 2011!

Starting teens on plastic can be costly

Susan TOMPOR
Detroit Free Press

Now that credit cards, by law, come with a long list of restrictions on late fees, penalties and rate hikes, how in the world can consumers still get ripped off on plastic?

After all, the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 puts a limit on late charges, bans most interest-rate increases on existing balances and provides other protections for consumers, such as a ban on card-issuers raising interest rates in the first year.

On top of that, college students who are younger than 21 are supposed to have a tougher time getting a credit card.

So what's the problem? Well, can you believe it, those new credit card rules contain a few loopholes.

When they try to sell you on plastic, remember that paper is usually cheaper.

But credit-card companies can't sell cash, so they pitch safety - or the notion that a prepaid piece of plastic can stop young adults from running up credit-card debt or bouncing checks.

With prepaid cards, parents - plus their teens and young-adult children - can sign up for e-mail alerts to know when and

where money was spent. More important, a son or daughter cannot spend more than what's loaded onto the card.

PASS from American Express also notes that its prepaid, reloadable card cannot be used for car rentals, cruise lines or casinos. Every effort is also made to block spending with merchant codes that are not appropriate for teens, such as gambling and adult entertainment.

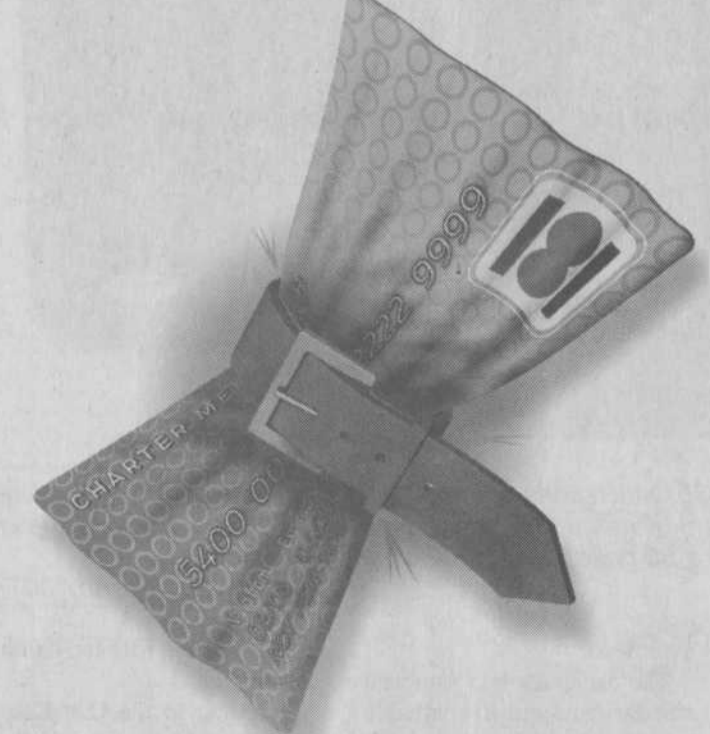
"Parents said they wanted a better way to give their teens money," said Vanessa Capobianco, a spokeswoman for American Express in New York. "It's like drivers ed."

Sounds so sensible. But what's this protection cost?

Search as you might for the fees - you know there are fees - they weren't detailed on the mailing we received for the new American Express PASS Card. Instead, we were offered a \$25 bonus with the first reload through Nov. 30.

A tempting offer, but I went online to learn that the PASS card has a \$3.95 monthly fee - although it's waived until Oct. 1, 2011.

Prepaid cards fall through the cracks when it comes to new consumer protections because they are not covered by the Credit Card Account-



Color Illustration by Marty Bach/Chicago Tribune

ability, Responsibility and Disclosure Act.

Do parents really want to spend nearly \$48 a year for this prepaid plastic for a high school or college student?

American Express says its members have responded well to the PASS card, which was first offered in May and includes roadside assistance, purchase protection and some discount programs, such as one for buying music online at

PASS music stores. See www.passmusicstore.com; card members get 20 percent off purchases when they use PASS to buy three or more tracks.

Also, if a PASS card is lost or stolen, the money on it can be replaced.

But then there's a \$1.50 fee for using the card at an ATM.

Not good, especially if you understand how ATMs work and realize it's very likely that you'd pay far more than \$1.50

to get cash from the machine.

ATM fees generally are part of the deal with many prepaid reloadable cards marketed to teens and other consumers. The Walmart MoneyCard Student Edition, for example, starts with a \$2 ATM fee.

Your teen might pay \$1.50 to American Express or \$2 to use that Walmart MoneyCard - plus \$2 or \$3 to the bank or other operator of the ATM, so you're looking at \$3.50 to \$4.50 in fees for one cash withdrawal.

Not good.

PASS does allow parents to block ATM usage - which is good - and does not charge other fees, such as for reloading money onto the card, also good.

The card is for those 13 and older.

But would I want my son to end up spending \$3.50 here or \$4.50 there to learn valuable lessons about money?

At this point in his life, cash does just fine. He lives at home; he does not drive; he does not need roadside assistance; he also has his own rewards program at home.

My son - as you might imagine - has heard plenty about fees.

And given his delight in actually getting something when he gets his hands on my money - say basketball trading cards

for \$2 a pack - I'm pretty sure he's ready to take a pass on plastic.

But who knows what will happen when he's driving, or in college. Will the idea of carrying around plastic be too cool to pass up?

GUIDELINES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND PLASTIC:

-Kids should start paying attention early to small fees on prepaid cards, credit cards and debit cards; do some basic math to see how they can add up to huge costs over time.

-One resource for parents or teachers who want to discuss money: www.mijumpstartcoalition.org. Another site that offers information relating to financial literacy for young people: www.federalreserve-education.org.

-American Express, in partnership with iVillage, has a site called "The Talk" to help discuss money issues with teens. www.ivillage.com/thetalk.

-Parents can check out options for students at their own bank or credit union. In some cases, you may be able to open a student account with fewer fees or lower minimum-balance requirements than for an ordinary account.

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Cobra Men's winning streak hits 5 with pair of wins

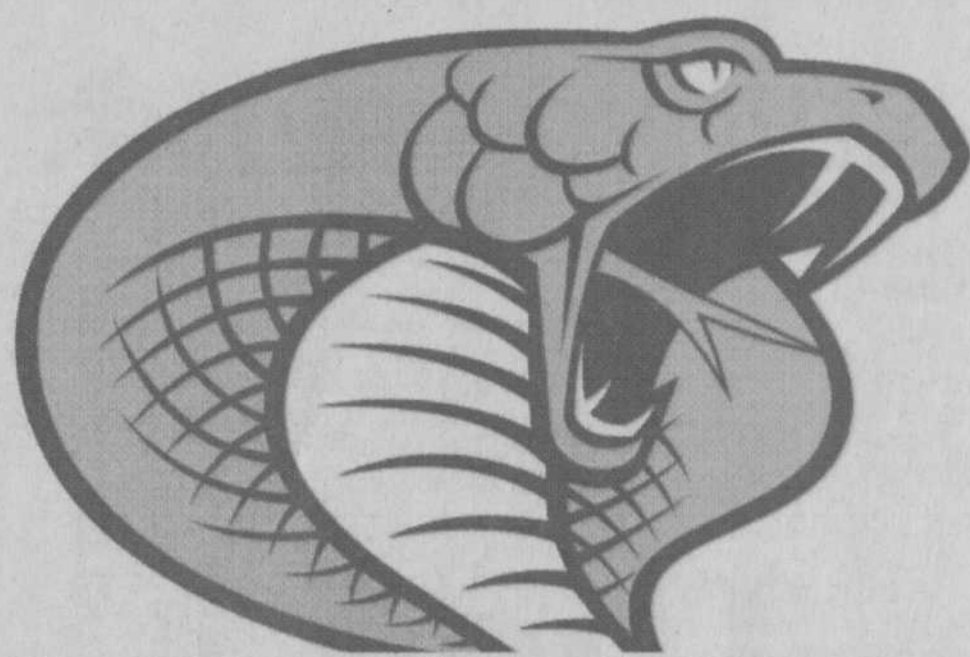
Rod LOVETT
Parkland Athletic Director

The Parkland Men's Basketball team (7-4) ran their winning streak to five games with a pair of wins at the Ken Williams Classic in East Peoria. On Saturday the Cobras ran past Carl Sandburg 104-66 before overpowering the Eureka JV 79-31 on Sunday. In Saturday's victory, all but one player would score for the Cobras who shot 56% from the field and made 21-26 from the

free throw line. PC led by just 11 at the break but extended the lead with red-hot shooting and converting defensive stops into points. Peoria native DJ Hoskins made his return home a success scoring 18 points to lead the attack. Freshmen Anthony Lewis, James Fleming, and Cody McCollum would add 12, 11, and 10 respectively. On Sunday, PC faced the Red Devils of Eureka who dressed only seven players due to injury. PC raced out to an early and took a 44-15 lead into the

break. The game would once again allow all 16 players to see action as Hoskins once again led the way, this time scoring 13 points. Freshman Aaron Naper came off the bench to score 6 points and snag 9 rebounds in just 13 minutes of action.

PC will play three home games this week as they host Olney Central in a 7:00 game on Wednesday, the College of Lake County at 4:00 Saturday, and an exhibition against a traveling team from Tasmania at 2:00 on Sunday.



#10 Parkland Women surprise #6 Lake Land

Rod LOVETT
Parkland Athletic Director

For the first month of the season, the Lake Land Women's Basketball team was perfect winning their first seven games, six over Region 24 foes. On Saturday, Parkland made sure the Lakers would not make it a clean sweep as the Cobras knocked off the Lakers 76-66 on Saturday afternoon in Mattoon. The Cobras came out ready to play as they raced out to a 9-0 lead. Lake Land would cut

the margin to two before a late surge gave PC a six-point lead at the break. Just five minutes into the second stanza, Lake Land tied it at 39 but a Nichole Schabbing lay-up and a three by Lauren Taylor put the lead back at five and the Cobras never looked back. PC took control of the glass scoring their next 10 points in the paint to build their lead to 57-47 and took their biggest lead at 14 with just under 4 minutes remaining. PC dominated Lake Land on the boards winning

48-31 and were nearly perfect at the free throw line making (29-33) 88%.

Ana Deters led a balanced attack with 18 points while Hannah Ohl had 14, Kristyne Smyth 11, and Lauren Taylor 10. Parkland (7-1) returns to action on Wednesday night when they travel to Decatur to take on the Millikin JV. PC will return home for a pair of games this weekend. Lake Land drops to (7-1) with their first loss of the season.

Cobra athletics food drive

Rod LOVETT
Parkland Athletic Director

The Parkland College Baseball Program will sponsor a nonperishable food drive from now until Tuesday, December 14. All proceeds will be distributed to local homeless shelters and food banks.

The public and campus community are invited to drop off items at the Parkland Gymnasium in Room P204 between

8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Any person who donates will receive two free tickets to an upcoming Parkland College Basketball game. If not interested in the tickets, we will send the tickets to the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club for distribution to youth who might not otherwise be able to attend.

Then, on Sunday, December 12, residents can gain free admission to the Parkland Col-

lege Basketball games versus the traveling teams from Australia-Tasmania by bringing at least two nonperishable food items to the game! The Cobra Women will compete at noon and the Men's team will follow at 2 p.m.

Please support the Cobra Baseball and Basketball teams in this worthy fundraiser, and happy holidays from Parkland Athletics!

Access Success: Meteorologist Jennifer Ketchmark

Kelley HEANEY
Staff Writer

Access Success is a business lecture series presented at Parkland College in which successful local business personnel talk about their careers. The series emphasizes that success isn't usually achieved overnight, but, rather, needs to be worked at and reminds students that most successful people started small. This applies to the most recent guest speaker, WCIA meteorologist, Jennifer Ketchmark, who joined students to talk about her career path and the choices that had to be made along the way.

Ketchmark was born and raised in Central Illinois, graduated from EIU with a BA in communication studies and then went south to Mississippi State to receive her Broadcast Meteorology certificate. While still in school, she was awarded the National Collegiate Weather Broadcaster of the Year Award of 2006 and, more recently, she was named EIU's Outstanding Young Alumnus for 2010.

On Wednesday, December 1, 2010 Ketchmark spoke at Parkland College about taking something that she loved doing, chasing storms, and transforming



WCIA meteorologist Jennifer Ketchmark joined students last Friday to talk about her career path and the choices that had to be made along the way as a part of the Access Success lecture series.

it into a profession that she is passionate about, even though it has resulted in fewer storm chasing days. Parkland's Room D-244 was filled with students and faculty as Ketchmark spoke and answered questions, discussing her love for her job and the difficulty she would have to move to a new job market or position, even if offered a large raise in pay.

One of the things she loves about her job is the people that she gets to meet in the community, especially at events like this. "So much of my job is making myself available to the community, and doing what I can to give back. Without our community, we wouldn't have viewers to watch and I wouldn't be needed to do my job. So I do things like talk to grade school

Levi NORMAN/Prospectus

children, civic organizations, and women's groups, volunteer with Special Olympics and help out with local events committees. It does mean a lot of extra work, on my own free time, but it's truly rewarding," said Ketchmark.

She also suggested that one of the best things a student can do is to find a good mentor, so that on those days when discouragement is abundant, someone will be there encourage. She herself still has a mentor to turn to on rough days, one who gives advice when something is unclear and helps with objectives in her life. She recommended students talk to professors about future plans and goals so that a practical path can be set and

that all students should learn how to have the proper mindset to get noticed by the people who matter. She conveyed that students should work like the important people are watching, because they are, and create the all-important good work ethic. She revealed that she has moved into a highly visible position because she didn't just punch in and out at a job, but rather worked hard, and people noticed, resulting in attaining goals set early in life. Working for WCIA had been a dream of hers but she was still surprised when she got the job, seeing it as a reward for her hard work when she thought people weren't looking.

Ketchmark also encouraged students at two-year institutions to continue on to a four year school. "In today's workplace, it seems like two years of education isn't enough in some fields. So do all you can to position yourself for greatness, and keep going forward with your education," she said, commenting that community colleges like Parkland seem to be a great start to a base education. "I found such inspiration in my science class when I was at EIU that I changed my major from Business to Broadcast Meteorology. Plus, it's great to just be a well informed individual."

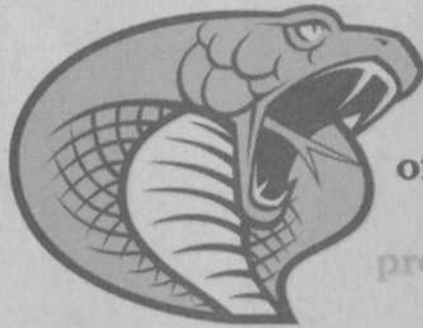
Being well informed is important for a news broadcaster, but so is flexibility, Jennifer continued, especially in television. Interns need to get experience, not just coffee, when working at a T.V. station, and to remember that rolling with the punches is important. Interns are sometimes

asked to do something that they aren't quite ready to do but this creates a challenge and helps develop growth for when that trial is part of the real job. It can be a learning experience even if the intern doesn't have the best solution.

Access Success is a monthly lecture series, with the next one scheduled for January 26, 2011, although the speaker will be announced at a later date. They are free and open to the public with all students particularly encouraged to attend, in the attempt for students to learn the expectations of employers and how those expectations can best be met. Coordinator Mark Kesler commented, "Students like to hear someone other than just the instructor. Student interest is increased when they hear the class concepts and then see it implemented." All of this is an attempt to make Parkland's graduates first in line when the businesses begin to hire staff, because they already know what the employer is expecting.

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A dying trend: Holiday movies

Levi NORMAN
Sean HERMANN
Prospectus Staff

Do you remember a time where holiday movies actually existed in movie theatres around this time of year? Nei-

ther do I. The commercial side of America has completely destroyed the holiday season as well as the movies that come with. Some of the most recognizable older holiday movies that were actually based on the holiday happenings are

movies such as *It's A Wonderful Life* (1947), *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947), *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965), *A Christmas Story* (1983), *The Santa Clause* (1994), and the more recent *Elf* (2003).

Now if you fast-forward into the present, almost ninety five percent of movies aren't even based on the holidays anymore. Some of the movies that are being released this year during the holidays are *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voy-*

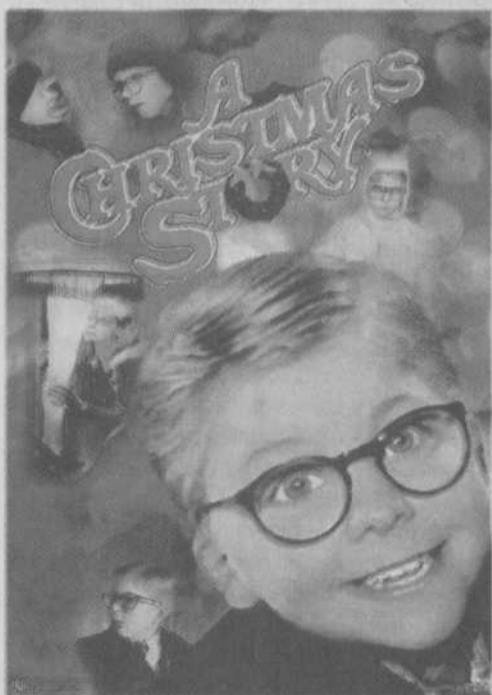
age of the Dawn Treader, *The Tempest*, *The Tourist*, *Tron Legacy*, and even *Yogi Bear* in 3D. Now don't get me wrong, some of those movies are going to be good. The whole point of the holidays is to spend time with friends, family, and loved

ones and celebrate them being in your life as well as the beginning of a New Year. Since you no longer see that now, the holidays is becoming more of a myth than a occasion to celebrate.

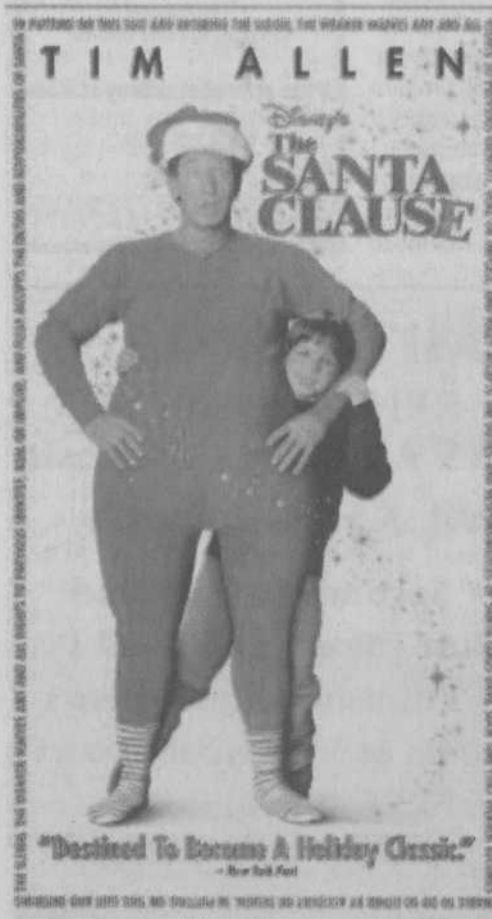
Then



When a nice old man who claims to be Kris Kringle is institutionalized as insane, a young lawyer decides to defend him by arguing in court that he is the real thing.



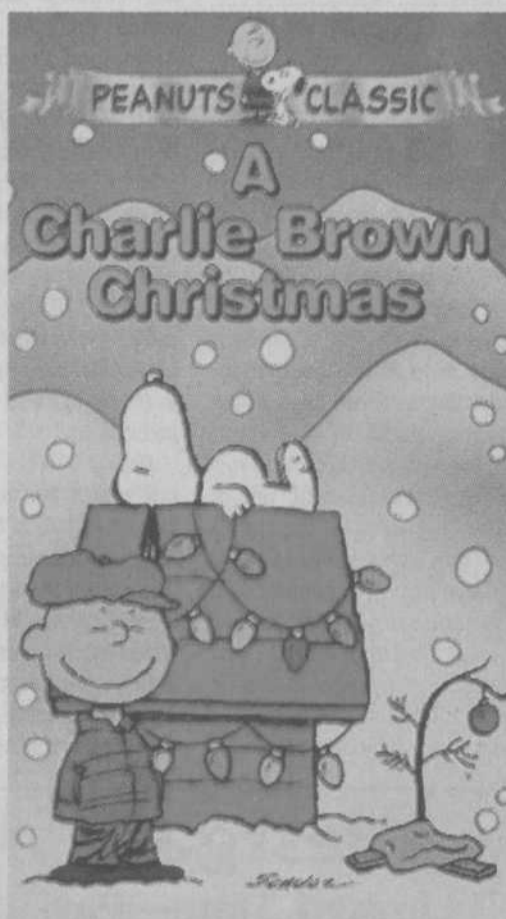
Young Ralphie dreams of owning a Red Rider BB gun. He sets out to persuade the world this is the perfect gift for him. But along the way, he runs into resistance from his parents, his teacher, and Santa Claus.



When a man (Tim Allen) accidentally kills Santa on Christmas Eve, he finds himself magically enlisted to take his place.



An angel helps a compassionate but discouraged businessman by showing what life would have been like if he never lived.



When Charlie Brown complains about the overpowering materialism throughout the Christmas season, Lucy suggests that he become director of the school Christmas pageant. Charlie Brown accepts, but it proves to be a wearisome struggle. When an attempt to restore the proper spirit with a hopeless little Christmas tree fails, he needs Linus' help to find the real meaning of Christmas.

Now

THIS HOLIDAY. DISCOVER YOUR INNER ELF.



WILL FERRELL *elf* WITH JAMES CAAN
After unintentionally wreaking havoc on the elf population, a man (Will Ferrell) raised as an elf at the North Pole is sent to the states in search of his proper identity.

After unintentionally wreaking havoc on the elf population, a man (Will Ferrell) raised as an elf at the North Pole is sent to the states in search of his proper identity.

IT ALL STARTED WHEN HE MET A WOMAN.



ANGELINA JOLIE JOHNNY DEPP
THE TOURIST

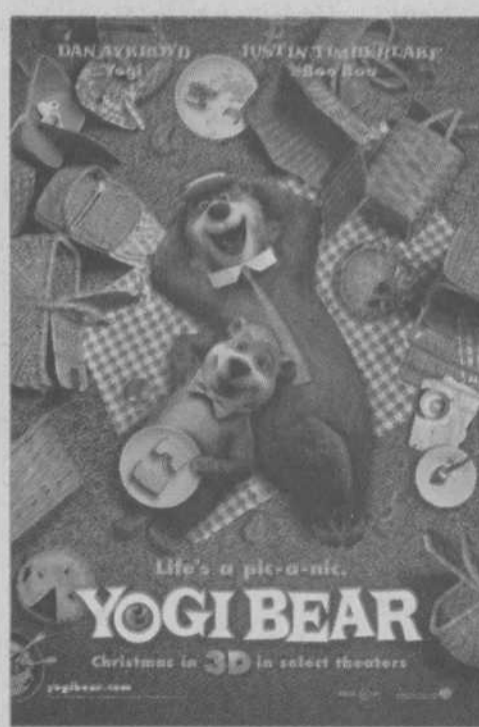
Frank, an American tourist (played by Johnny Depp), is visiting Italy to mend a broken heart. Elise (Angelina Jolie), an astonishing woman, purposely crosses his path to throw off followers of her former aficionado and thief, Alexander.



Based on a play by William Shakespeare, Prospera, the duchess of Milan, is assumed by her brother Antonio and is cast off on a raft forever with her four-year-old daughter Miranda. They survive, finding themselves abandoned on an island where a beast resides. Twelve years later, Alonso, the king of Naples, sails back to his kingdom from the marriage of his daughter to the prince of Tunisia, accompanied by his son Ferdinand and Antonio. Prospera, catching her chance for revenge, causes a tempest, wrecking the ship and stranding those on board on her island.



Sam, the tech-savvy 27-year-old son of Kevin Flynn, looks into the disappearance of his father and ends up in the same world of vicious programs and triumphant games where his father has resided for the past 20 years. With the two reunited, they embark on a thrilling journey across a visually-stunning cyber world that has become particularly dangerous.



The 100 year anniversary of Jellystone Park is underway, but it may not be for long. Mayor Brown wants to close the park and sell the land. Yogi Bear and Boo Boo team up with Ranger Smith to save Jellystone and save their home.



In the latest film of the Narnia series, Lewis and Edmund Pevensie revisit Narnia with their cousin Eustace where they meet up with Prince Caspian for a trip through the sea aboard the majestic ship The Dawn Treader. Along the way they come across dragons, dwarves, merfolk, and a band of lost warriors before reaching the edge of the world.