



— New study finds that student drinking numbers are dropping significantly. Full story on P. 3



— Parkland Honors gives students extra opportunities. P. 3
— Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird P. 2
— Rooney performs at Lincoln Hall in Chicago. Photos on the back page.

Number of the week:

#3

The #3 nationally ranked Cobras Women's Basketball team upset former #1 ranked Kankakee and increased their win streak to 15 last week. More on P. 7

Prospectus News

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From the Editor's desk

Sean HERMANN
Publications Manager

First off, a great thank you to all of our 2,500 plus weekly readers. We appreciate all of the support you have given us throughout the past 42 years. We will feature an exclusive online-only edition of *Prospectus News* for our March 2 issue, a first for the *Prospectus*! I highly encourage those of you who have not taken the chance to check out our website to do so at this time. One of the stories that will be published in our online only edition includes a highly anticipated feature on current events in Egypt and how they are effecting those at Parkland. You can find us online at www.prospectusnews.com. If you would like to receive special updates on Facebook, visit www.facebook.com/ProspectusNews or follow us on Twitter @the_prospectus.

With that being said, we have some exciting news on the *Prospectus* front. We are looking at a complete redesign of our website, expected to take place by early June. We hope to offer many more features along with high quality multimedia, user-friendly navigation and much more! While that might be a few months away, we will still be working hard in the meantime.

Currently, we are tackling an annual project titled IMAGES, a student art magazine featuring student submitted work from categories such as photography, graphic design, poetry, drawing and more. We will be accepting submissions through March 9. If you are interested in entering or would like to find out more, feel free to E-mail images@parkland.edu. We are also working on a developing a website for IMAGES, which should be up and running by the time IMAGES will be released in early April, a first for IMAGES.

Throughout all of these tasks, however, we will still be bringing you the same great coverage that won eleven awards during last year's ICCJA conference, and we hope to bring back even more this spring.

I highly encourage and greatly appreciate the submission of any comments, questions, and criticisms you may have. Did you like a story? Is there something that could be different? I would love to hear from you. E-mail prospectus.editor@gmail.com or stop by our office, X-155. Thank you for reading!

How Colleges Prevent Financial Aid Fraud

Josh GRUBE
Staff Writer

In today's technological world, virtually everything someone does leaves a digital footprint. With the convenience of modern technology comes the ability to monitor a student's academic career, making it more and more difficult for a student to commit Financial Aid fraud.

Throughout the years, the government has enforced many laws to ensure that Financial Aid only reaches the honest and deserving students. "It was a lot easier in the old days [to commit Financial Aid fraud]," said Tim Wendt, Director of Financial Aid at Parkland College. "It's not easy to abuse the system anymore because the federal government and the state government require all institutions of higher education to calculate a student's academic progress."

One of the only ways a student could attempt to cheat the Financial Aid system is through scholarship or grant money since, unlike loans, they do not need to be paid back. After receiving the check from the scholarship or grant, the student then withdrawals from their classes, pocketing the money that would have went to pay for their education. Parkland has established requirements to prevent this situation. "There are so many different checks and balances put in place it's not really easy to do that," Wendt explains. "Number one, we reduce the amount on the check. If you're in school for two weeks, you're only going to get



Graphic by Burke Stanion/Prospectus

two weeks of Financial Aid."

Another precaution taken for Financial Aid is the required course completion ratio. In order to be eligible, students must complete at least 67 percent of all of their classes with a passing grade. After attempting 60 credit hours, students are then required to maintain at least a C average in all of their classes. If a student fell below the requirements, they would have to pay for all of their courses until they met the requirements before they could receive Financial Aid again.

Another form of Financial Aid fraud is being untruthful on the FAFSA application. The FAFSA is a federal application that determines the student's eligibility for Financial Aid. "If they're lying on the FAFSA, there are legal ramifications; they can go to jail or they can be fined up to \$10,000," Wendt said. "Let's say they make a lot of money but they say that they aren't making a lot of money; that would give them a lot more grant eligibility. If we ever have a suspicion that someone is being untruthful, we can refer them to

the office of the Inspector General for the Department of Education and they would be the ones who would do the investigation."

As a precautionary measure, 30 to 40 percent of students who apply for Financial Aid are chosen at random by the government for verification. This ensures that only students who are in need of Financial Aid are receiving it. "That is the government's way of keeping everybody honest," Wendt explained. He then mentioned proposed plans of making verification a requirement for every applicant in the future.

Another way to prevent false information on the FAFSA application is the non-filer tax statement. "One thing we enacted about five years ago is if you say you didn't earn enough to file taxes, we request that you turn in a non-filer tax statement from the IRS," he said. This is a procedure that Parkland has specifically enforced, rather than a requirement for all colleges.

With all of these measure put into place, Financial Aid fraud has now become a rare occurrence. However, there are still a few people who have attempted to benefit off of the system for non-academic purposes. "It's too bad, because education is the best investment you'll ever make for yourself," Wendt said about people who lose Financial Aid eligibility by committing fraud. Attempting Financial Aid fraud in today's day and age does nothing more than hinder the budget of the common student's education.

Spending cuts set up historic confrontation

Kathleen HENNESSEY AND LISA MASCARO
Tribune Washington Bureau

With a massive package of budget cuts passed by the House on Saturday, the stage is set for a federal spending showdown that will pose a grave test for both political parties and could lead to the first government shutdown in 15 years.

Coming less than two weeks before expiration of a stop-gap funding measure for 2011, the Republican budget represented an unequivocal and adamant demand for the deepest spending reductions in generations. Both congressional chambers are out of session next week, leaving only a handful of days to bridge deep divisions and reach an agreement by the March 4 deadline.

The package, passed before dawn Saturday after a three-day voting spree for amendments seeking ever deeper cuts, would eliminate more than \$60 billion in federal spending over the next seven months. It represents a triumph for newly empowered budget hawks, who made shrinking the size of government their top priority in the two months since their party seized control of the House.

But the budget cut package has been declared a non-starter in the Democratic-led Senate and President Barack Obama has promised a veto. Democrats are instead urging a spending freeze, something House Speaker John Boehner has rejected outright, even on a short term basis to allow for bipartisan talks.

Immediately after the vote

Saturday, Boehner, R-Ohio, called on Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., to put the proposal up for a vote and offered no overture for negotiation.

"We will not stop here in our efforts to cut spending, not when we're broke and Washington's spending binge is making it harder to create jobs," Boehner said in a statement.

Among House members, the comments were equally blunt.

"Right now, the best offer is on the table. I don't think any negotiation goes on without them having to give," said freshman Rep. Tim Walberg, R-Mich.

Democrats also were direct: "You understand this is all dead on arrival about 100 yards from here," Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., said, referring to the Senate chamber at the other end of the Capitol.

The standoff is certain to test Democrats' willingness to carve into favored programs and Republican leaders' ability to control the most ardent budget cutters in their ranks.

The two chairmen of the powerful House and Senate appropriations committees, Rep. Harold Rogers, R-Ky., and Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, have been in conversations as the process has evolved. The White House is also expected to play a role.

"It is my sincere hope that all the parties will remain reasonable as we seek to fund the federal government for the remainder of the fiscal year," Inouye said. "Neither house of Congress is in a position to dictate terms to the other, so I remain hopeful that we will come to a sensible accommo-

modation."

The deadlock has federal agencies beginning to plan for closure and federal workers braced for layoffs. Memories of a series of shutdowns in 1995 and 1996 - also the result of a budget standoff between a Republican-led House and Democratic White House - swirled. Like in 1995, Republicans in the House are claiming a clear mandate for tough budget cuts from a GOP wave election.

As lawmakers left for the week, Boehner and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell had drawn a line in the sand - immediate spending cuts - although neither has specified publicly how much would be acceptable.

House Democratic leaders offered a month-long, stop-gap measure that would hold spending at current levels as an overture to keeping the government running. McConnell, R-Ky., quickly rejected the offer as "simply unacceptable."

Both of the GOP leaders are juggling demands from conservative members who have shown themselves unafraid to buck the leadership. The House budget plan passed Saturday was amended nearly 70 times over the course of nearly 100 hours of debate. The changes largely reflect the most conservative wing of the party's vision of federal power.

Additional cuts in spending, restrictions on environmental regulation, elimination of support for Planned Parenthood and defunding implementation of Obama's healthcare law were approved.

Even military spending,

GOP's big cuts

House Republicans want to chop more than \$60 billion from domestic spending over the next seven months. Some of the biggest cuts, in billions:



Source: U.S. House Appropriations Committee
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2011 MCT

long considered out of bounds for GOP budget hawks, was trimmed. A bipartisan vote eliminated \$450 million for development of a second engine for the Joint Strike Fighter jet, a project Boehner has long backed. International aid was cut by roughly 20 percent.

These late additions promise to further complicate negotiations in the coming days and likely weeks. Democrats immediately felt pressure from dozens of interest groups, advocates and unions to stand firm to protect core Democratic initiatives. The Republican cuts, advocates said, had less to do with budgeting than ideology.

Advocates on Saturday blasted the GOP bill as an assault on wildlife and environmental protection, pointing to provisions that prohibit

See CUTS on P. 7

Barr continues to help students a year after passing

Kassy COAN
Staff Writer

Doris Barr, former Prospectus advisor, worked at Parkland from 1967-2002. While she may have passed away, her enthusiasm for and commitment to students is still benefiting us all today. Last February, at the age of 86, Barr passed away, and recently, Parkland was informed that in her will, she left \$15,000 for the college - \$7,500 of that to the Department of Fine and Applied Arts and \$7,500 to the *Prospectus*.

Barr had a very well rounded education, which was revealed in the plethora of educational opportunities she presented to students. Barr obtained a bachelor's degree in journalism from Indiana University, a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University, a master's degree from the School of Sociology at the University of Illinois, and a doctorate degree in communications, also from the University of Illinois.

Here at Parkland she applied her highly crafted background in many ways. As advisor of the college newspaper, at the time referred to as the Parkland Press, Barr was highly respected. She played a key role in the creation of a contest, which led to the name change of the newspaper to *Prospectus*. (The name *Prospectus*, submitted by Bob King, was chosen in part because of its dictionary definition, "preliminary printed statement that describes an enterprise.") Barr also taught journalism, news

writing, and English. One of Barr's previous students, who referred to their self as M.K., wrote in Barr's online guestbook, "Dr. Doris Barr was one of my favorite instructors at Parkland College. In her editing class, I learned rules and tools that I still use..."

One characteristic of Barr that contributed to her remarkable teaching ability is that she was continuously learning herself. Incessantly researching, reading, and writing Barr authored many books, such as *Communication for Business, Professional, and Technical Students* and *Writing, Listening, Speaking for Business and Professional Students*.

Barr was known for helping students into and throughout their careers. Surprisingly, the fields that she assisted students into were not limited to communications and journalism. The *News Gazette* referred to Barr as a "pioneer in the development and utilization of PLATO..." PLATO is a computerized learning program, which evolved rapidly for its time. Using these computers Barr, along with many other teachers from Parkland and the University of Illinois, developed courses in not only English, but also mathematics, chemistry, and nursing.

Doris Barr will be remembered for her love of learning and devotion that she had for teaching. Thanks to Barr, many students from various fields of study were able to enhance their learning, and many more students today will be able to do the same.

Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

Lead story

Those Ingenious Western Spies! In January, Saudi officials detained a vulture from Tel Aviv University (part of endangered-species research), calling it a spy and alarming its Israeli handlers that the bird might face a gruesome execution as an espionage agent. Then, a day later, Iran reportedly detained an Arab-American woman crossing its border from Armenia — after discovering a “spy microphone” in her teeth. (A week later, she was allowed to travel to Turkey.) In December, after an Egyptian woman was killed by a shark at a Red Sea resort, the local governor in Egypt accused Israel’s spy agency, Mossad, of releasing “attack sharks” in order to stifle tourism.

Cultural Diversity

A supposedly centuries-old Korean health treatment — the vaginal steam bath — has become a popular fad recently in Southern California, according to a December Los Angeles Times report. As the client squats on an open-seated stool, vapors of herbs such as wormwood supposedly fight stress, infections, hemorrhoids, infertility and irregular menstrual periods. Thirty minutes’ treatment runs \$20 to \$50, and

according to a prominent Beverly Hills gynecologist, the procedure actually could be beneficial.

Among the don’t-miss tourist attractions in Thailand, according to author Jim Algie’s recent guide (“Bizarre Thailand”): the monkey hospital in Lopbun, where terminal patients are treated with utmost respect (pending, of course, their imminent reincarnation); “Torso Town” in Khon Kaen province, where those critters outnumber humans by 4-to-1 and dominate the streets with shell-butting mating-rights competitions; and the Buffalo Head Temple near Bangkok, where the abbot’s pagoda, for some reason, is made of 6,000 water buffalo skulls.

China’s dynamic economy has created Western-style insecurities, including young women’s anxieties about beauty and self-improvement as they search for employment. Consequently, China has become the world’s third-largest consumer of plastic surgery services — with demand that perhaps challenges the supply of skilled surgeons. Women typically want wider eyes, “sliced” eyelids, narrower noses and jaws, and smaller chins, and both men and women seek height by attempting the painful (and usually unsuccessful) “heel implant” procedure. (A currently popular, less invasive remedy for immediate body streamlining — as when preparing for a job interview — involves ingesting eggs of the ringworm, so that the worm devours food before the stomach can digest it.)

Every Dec. 24 in Sweden, at 3 p.m., a third to a half of all Swedes sit down to watch the same traditional television program that has marked Christmas for the last 50 years: a lineup of historic Donald Duck cartoons. According to a December report on Slate.com, the show is insinuated in the national psyche because it was the first big holiday program when Swedes began to acquire television sets in 1959. Entire families still watch together, repeating their favorite lines.

Latest Religious Messages
The General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) announced in December that it issued 350,000 “fatwas” in 2010 — not the “death to” fatwas, but rather, Quranic interpretations governing everyday life. (The Authority ruled last year, for example, that car raffles are bad; that vuvuzelas are acceptable if kept under 100 decibels; that afternoon naps are prohibited because time should be better spent; and that half-sisters may shake hands with their brothers, even if their mother is Christian.)

Latest Cutting-Edge Research
Georgia Tech scientists

tested (for an October publication) the “oscillatory shaking” they witnessed by wet mice and various-sized wet dogs as they shook water off — finding an inverse ratio between size and speed, from 27 cycles per second by a mouse to 5.8 by a mid-sized dog. Their original hypothesis was that speed would decrease according to “torso radius,” but they forgot to factor in the length of the animals’ fur.

Israeli researchers, writing in the journal *Fertility and Sterility*, found that women undergoing in-vitro fertilization were almost twice as likely to conceive if they had been made to laugh by a hospital “clown” entertaining them as soon as their embryos were implanted.

News That Sounds Like a Joke

When longtime Orange County, Calif., inmate Malcolm King demanded kosher meals and double helpings, jailers resisted, and King went to court. Judge Derek Johnson asked King if his demands were religion-based, and King said yes — citing “Festivus” (a joke religion popularized on the “Seinfeld” TV show). According to a December Orange County Register report, Judge Johnson approved King’s demands.

A 2010 Chicago Tribune public-records examination of suburban Chicago traffic-stop drug searches found that sniffer dogs are usually wrong — that 56 percent of all “positive” signals by dogs yielded no contraband (73 percent failure if the driver was Hispanic).

Least Competent Criminals

A perp wanted on an arrest warrant has a powerful incentive to lie about his ID if subsequently stopped by police, and sometimes bluffing with a bogus name works. However, twice in January, in Dallas and in Great Falls, Mont., perps gave other names, only to learn that people with those names were in as much trouble as they were. Mario Miramontes, 22, wanted for parole violation, told an officer in Dallas that he was his cousin, without knowing that the cousin was wanted for sex abuse of a minor. Jonathan Gonzalez told police in Great Falls that he was really Timothy Koop Jr., but Koop was also a wanted man.

A News of the Weird Classic (February 1994)

The epicenter of California’s January (1994) “Northridge” earthquake was five miles from the United States’s then-largest egg farm, where hens had produced their usual 1 million eggs in the hours before the quake hit. The damage to the farm was a snapped water line, toppled empty egg pallets and a total of one broken egg. Said manager Robert Wagner to his employees, “We had a 6.6 earthquake that broke less eggs than you guys do when we’re working.”



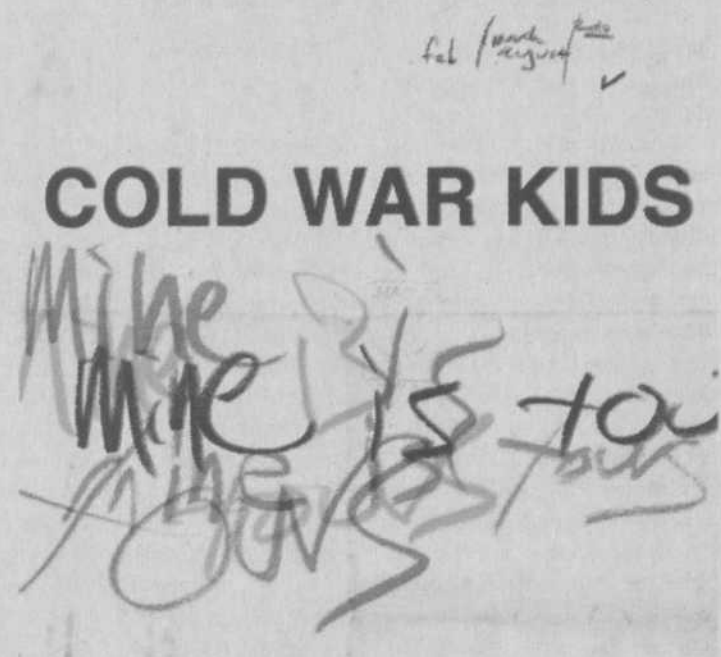
Album Review: Cold War Kids *Mine Is Yours*

Josh GRUBE
Staff Writer

Mine Is Yours is one small step for music and one giant leap for Cold War Kids. The group of California indie rockers aimed big on this third effort, released on January 25. In an interview with Absolute-Punk.net, front man Nathan Willet admitted that “there were a lot of things that [he] wasn’t that happy with,” on their second album *Loyalty To Loyalty*. To avoid this issue with *Mine Is Yours*, the band spent a lot more time in the studio polishing each track until it shined to their satisfaction.

To achieve the sound they hoped to reach, Cold War Kids enlisted the help of album producer Jacquire King, who is recently known for bringing Kings of Leon into mainstream success with their two latest albums. The final result is a collection of eleven tracks prepared for mainstream appeal. While this is not a bad thing, it gives the band a refined sound that some fans may not find as appealing.

A rich, soothing, and smooth sound encompasses *Mine Is Yours* throughout its entirety. With emotive alternative guitar fills and soulful vocals, Cold War Kids craft a melancholy haze that spans across the entirety of the album, filling the songs with a gloomy mood.



This is extremely noticeable in the song “Broken Open,” where somber guitar melodies, sympathetic bass notes, and King’s introspective narration contrast with upbeat, cymbal-dominant percussion. However, not every song on *Mine Is Yours* contains a dark and brooding vibe. Tracks such as “Louder Than Ever” bring in an optimistic component to the album. After a single, drawn-out guitar strum, a driving beat and energetic vocals simultaneously appear, pulling the listener immediately into the first verse. The song then segues into one of the most memorable choruses on the album; equipped with catchy lyrics, a head-nodding drumbeat, and lead guitar riffs to accompany the vocal melody. The major downside with this polished version of Cold War Kids is that it was polished a little too much. In the attempt for perfection, the band removed all of the unrestrained energy that made previous songs really pop. The pure passion and intensity once found in previous singles “Hang Me Up To Dry” and “Something Is Not Right With Me” is hidden under the painstaking production. Regardless, Cold War Kids have still released a great collection of songs that are ready to attract a much larger fan base.

- The Wave covers Rooney live in concert. Photos on the back page!

New songs added to rotation this week on 88.7 The Wave

Artist, title, album (year)

- Dom - “Living In America” and “Rude As Jude” - Sun Bronzed Greek Gods (2010)
- The Gallery - Catalyst - Come Alive EP (2010)
- Ben Folds - “Your Dogs” and “Doc Pomus” - Lonely Avenue (2010)
- Asobi Seksu - Trails - Fluorescence (2010)
- Smith Westerns - “Fallen In Love” and “Dance Away” - Dye It Blonde (2010)
- Foster The People - Houdini - Foster The People (2011)
- Air Waves - Bisous - Dungeon Dots (2010)
- Five O’ Clock Heroes - Postcard - Different Times (2010)
- Iron And Wine - Monkeys Uptown - Kiss Each Other Clean (2011)
- D.R.U.G.S. - “The Only Thing You Talk About” and “Stop Reading, Start Doing Pushups” - Destroy Rebuild Until God Shows (2011)
- Mikey Jukebox - Come On Along - Mikey Jukebox (2011)

If you know a song, artist, or album that you think we should be spinning and fits our format, feel free to email programming@887thewave.com.

Prospectus News

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Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon.

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Drinking losing popularity, study finds

- 63% increase in students who choose not to drink

Morgan BERNIER
Assistant Editor

There was a time when nearly every college student would tell you that they were going out to the bars, going to a house party, or, in an alternative method, going to "get drunk." However, it would appear that this is becoming a distant memory. According to Outside the Classroom, an organization that provides information about alcohol, the number of college freshmen who abstain from alcohol has drastically increased. In 2006, they reported that 38% of students identified themselves as non-drinkers. However, the latest polls indicate that this number has skyrocketed to 62%.

Brandon Busted, CEO of Outside the Classroom, believes that this increase is because "[students] realize [college is] their future." It has been mentioned time and time again that the current economic situation is having a big effect on college campuses, and the students attending, but this is, comparatively, an unusual comparison.

Another reason that more

college students may be abstaining from drinking is that they know that, in order to find a job in the competitive market, they need to have a clean reputation. Busted says that more young people realize that if they do find a possible employer, nothing will ruin their chances faster than having a picture of them doing "a keg stand" on their Facebook profile.

In order to compare the national findings to Parkland College, students from all walks of life were anonymously interviewed. It was found that 70% of the students that were asked *do not* drink. The findings are interesting, despite a relatively small sample size. With ages ranging from 19 to 48, and a sample that is half male and half female, it would seem that this sample represents the college fairly well.

Of the students who responded that they abstain from alcohol use, the reasons were wide spread. One participant, a 20 year old female, said that she has never drank alcohol, and that, while she might when she reaches the legal



38% of students identified themselves as non-drinkers in 2006. The latest polls indicate that this number has skyrocketed to 62%.

Photo by Levi Norman/Prospectus

drinking age, she does not want to break the law because of her religion. Another of the teetotalers, a 48 year old male, stated that he is "too old" to drink. There were two others who responded that they just "don't like to drink." One 26-year-old

female said she doesn't drink because "she doesn't want to become an alcoholic." Are college students really becoming more responsible? Whatever the reason, it is easy to see that the things that cause students to abstain from drinking are as

varied as the students themselves.

On the other hand, a 21 year old female who does drink, said that she does so because she thinks it is fun. "I just like to go out and have fun with my friends, we don't get wasted,

and we just have a few," she said. It would appear that this is the reasoning among most of the students who do drink, and they all responded that they do not let their drinking interfere with their studies.

Drinking is an individual's choice, and studies do show that binge drinking is a dangerous, or even deadly past time. It is important that if you do choose to drink, you put your safety first and of course, be sure that you are of age before drinking, and never should you drive drunk. It is also important to think about what could happen to your reputation or your future if you make a few bad decisions. If you do not feel comfortable drinking, remember that you are not alone. As studies show, more and more college students are choosing not to drink, providing students with a good trend to follow.

Comment on this story

and more @

www.prospectusnews.com

Parkland Honors program provides extra opportunities for students

Kelley HEANEY
Staff Writer

How do you get a grade better than an A? "Through the Parkland Honors Program, I am able to explore my interests and delve deeper into certain topics in classes I enjoy," said Lindsey Weishar, a former Parkland College Honors student. Not only can the student receive an "AH" in place of an "A" on their class transcripts, but there is also the possibility of becoming a scholarship recipient, making friends, participating in club functions, and volunteering in the community.

It appears that many students are intimidated by the title "Honors Program" and often rationalize that just passing a class is a challenge in itself. Some even have the misconception that the program is too much effort for not enough gain. "I encourage everyone with a particular interest or desire, or who just want to be academically challenged, to give it a shot," said Honors Program Director, Dr. Marsh Jones.

According to Jones, as many as 110 members are enrolled in the program.

Each student, each doing a unique project from almost every class offered at Parkland. A previous student practiced and performed a song by Ariel Ramirez, *Alfonsina y el Mar*, in Spanish. Another student visited with WWII veterans and transcribed to print the stories that they shared. One student was interested in school dress codes, while another studied the stock market and presented their findings to a class.

Project opportunities are only limited by one's imagination, with each being an in-depth topic that takes classroom studies a step further. Magnolia Talavera, another Honors Program participant, described the program as being a great opportunity for her to expand her horizons. "The projects that I did were based on what I really wanted to explore," Talavera said. "[It took] lots of effort, nevertheless, it has been very rewarding."

To become part of the Honors program, a student generally must have a GPA of 3.0 or score higher than 25 on the ACT. They must also write a 500-word essay on why the program would benefit the student, as well as complete an

application. The application, as well as more specific information, is available at the Honors Program page on the Parkland website. Upon acceptance into the Honors Program, members must submit a project proposal to the Honors Council and Honors Director for approval. The deadline for proposals is no later than one week after midterm. Project ideas are encouraged so that students can communicate their interests. Projects should also challenge students; they are expected to put in a minimum of fifteen hours of work overall on each one.

Each member of the Honors Program creates a portfolio for their projects. To graduate with honors, three projects are required. Two must be graded as an "A" with honors and one must be a service learning project. Students are also required to have a 3.5 GPA and participate in the spring Honors Symposium (where students present their best project), and attend the Honors Convocation.

Project portfolios are stored at the Parkland digital repository, SPARK, for the entire world to view, including four year university admittance

staff and potential employers. All students, staff, administrators, and faculty are encouraged familiarize themselves as well as play a role in the digital storage area. Even Dr. Tom Rammage, Parkland President, has work stored there for all to read.

Continuing students who have completed projects are eligible for a \$200 dollar scholarship each spring. Graduating students are eligible for scholarships [amounts determined later] based upon available funds, but can receive as much as \$1000. Most participating students are those planning to transfer to a four-year university, which makes the scholarships a helpful step towards those goals.

Interested students need to make decisions quickly. They should look at what is displayed in SPARK and decide if it's something that will help them reach their goals in life. The program is also on the Facebook page for Parkland Scholars. For further information contact Dr. Marsh Jones at mjones@parkland.edu or 217-373-3739.

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 (May 9 - 13) according to the official published schedule. The schedule can be found on the last part of the printed semester class 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 (351-2542, Room 117).

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 provide more fully informed 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.

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Opinions

Another bite by Apple

McClatchy-Tribune NEWS SERVICE

As CD sales plummeted, music executives looked in hope toward a new business model: Instead of trying to sell albums for \$15 to \$20 apiece, offer unlimited access to songs online for a flat monthly fee. The idea, however, has yet to catch on with the masses of music fans. The main impediment for many years was that subscribers couldn't use the services on the MP3 players that most of them owned, Apple's iPods. Now, with iPods giving way to iPhones and other mobile devices that support subscription services, Apple is putting a new hurdle in their path: It's trying to grab a huge chunk of the subscription revenue.

Apple Chief Executive Steve Jobs has never been a fan of music subscriptions, and Apple's iTunes store has been wildly successful as a conventional retailer selling downloadable songs and albums. But Jobs isn't singling out the music industry for special

(mis)treatment; starting this summer, every iPhone or iPad application that offers a subscription to video, music, news or other media will have to do so through Apple's store, with Apple taking a 30 percent vig - er, commission. Content providers may still sell subscriptions through websites or stores, but they cannot offer consumers a discount for not signing up through Apple.

The biggest impact of the decision appears to be on the operators of premium radio and subscription music services, who say their thin profit margins leave no room for the new fee. Executives at Rhapsody, the longest-running music subscription service, have even said they're considering a "legal response" to Apple's change in policy, and antitrust regulators are reported to be looking into it.

You can't blame the music services for feeling beleaguered. The growing popularity of smartphones and tablets had kindled hopes that the time was finally right for subscriptions. Now, the maker of the



Taking stock of Steve Jobs' Apple

Apple founder Steve Jobs grew his company to dominate in the 21st century. Jobs' recent announcement that he was taking a leave of absence for medical reasons was his third such notice, and each time in the past his company has kept its course.

Profit and innovation Closing stock price weekly



most popular smartphone and tablet models was threatening to turn the easiest method for attracting and holding onto customers - by letting them subscribe through the service's app - into the costliest. But while Apple may have an outsized sense of the value it provides to content providers, it's just acting like the big, powerful digital-media retailer

it is. The unseemly aspect is that Apple competes with some of the services whose costs it's about to increase. Happily for Rhapsody and the rest of the subscription world, the iPhone isn't the only game in town, like the iPod effectively was. Shortly after Apple announced its new policy, Google unveiled its "One Pass" system for digital news-

papers and magazines that charges publishers only 10 percent. Collectively, Google's Android devices are outselling Apple's iPhones in the United States. And the iPad's dominance in the nascent market for tablet computers is likely to evaporate as more manufacturers jump in. The more competitive these markets become, the less

power Apple, Google or any other middleman will have to dictate terms to services such as Rhapsody. For now, though, Apple's 30 percent fee is yet another obstacle music subscriptions will have to overcome before they can rescue the industry from the decline of the CD. (c) 2011, Los Angeles Times.

Medal of freedom

Established by President Harry Truman in 1945, the medal is awarded by the president and is the highest civilian award in the U.S.

High honors

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13 gold stars on blue background; taken from the Great Seal of the United States
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- Warren Buffett
- George H.W. Bush
- Jasper Johns
- Yo-Yo Ma
- Stan Musial

Past recipients

- Hank Aaron
- Ansel Adams
- Tony Blair
- Rachel Carson
- Julia Child
- Betty Ford
- Martha Graham
- Stephen Hawking
- Estee Lauder
- Nelson Mandela
- Frank Sinatra
- John Steinbeck
- Sam Walton
- John Wayne

Source: The White House, Library of Congress Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2011 MCT

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Letter to the Editor: MY DEAR HACKER

MY DEAR HACKER,

Over the past few years, we have been living the Facebook phenomenon. Everyone knows Facebook. Everyone uses it. And in many cases, people, both young and old, have developed a kind of Facebook addiction. It causes us to spend (or waste) millions of minutes tweaking our profiles, sharing our likes, posting photos, and, most crucial to Facebookers, updating our status.

It is startling how many millions of people around the world are using Facebook now: almost 250 million!! It is really something to find both friends and enemies there, which could turn out to be a blessing - or a curse.

For many people now a days, Facebook is like their best friend. If you are not on Facebook, some people would think you are not cool. If you are not on Facebook, friends say you aren't normal. (modernization)

Every day when we log-on, we find all kinds of new information (feedback). Because of Facebook, you don't really have to read newspapers. People talk about the news in their status: if you don't know something, someone on Facebook is going to tell you, or at least, tell you THEIR version of the news.

So, how do you think it would feel if, one morning, you wake up and, just like any morning, turn on your computer heading for your first Facebook meal of the day and

find, when you log-in to your account, you can't log-in? So, you try again. And again - only to discover from Facebook that your password had been changed just that morning - at 830 a.m - while you were still asleep!! No matter what you do to try to fix the problem, you can't do anything, except close your account.

This is what happened to me, My Dear Hacker.

I don't care that I no longer have a Facebook account; I can create a new one. What really bothers me is knowing that someone broke into my account and went through my messages, and looked at my stuff, and that that person, even for a moment, had the power to write to my friends and say ANYTHING to them using my name! I feel so angry and invaded! It is a horribly helpless feeling.

What a miserable thing for a person to do, My Dear Hacker.

I know I am not the first one who has had to deal with this can of conflicts. But, I wonder why a person would violate my privacy; my private space; my own world? I am just a regular college student. I know people hack and violate others' privacy. I am disgusted that this happens at all and, moreso, that people like you, My Dear Hacker, do this work without showing your face. It is coward's work that you do such bad things so hidden away. Don't you have anything better to do with your obvious skill? I worry that people like you will,

soon enough, rule the world. What do you think, My Dear Hacker?

Despite it all, my question to you is: Do you think - by hacking - you can change who I am?

Well, I don't think you can!

You can change my Facebook password. You can write messages to my friends. You can make my virtual life disappear. You can do whatever you want! Because, in the end, it is only a virtual life you are stealing. So virtual. I will be Jennifer until my last day! Because I am human and I am real.

I know what happened to me was not fair, but I will recover. I don't yet know if I will open a new Facebook account.

Now I am confronting you, My Dear Hacker, and I am not afraid. Unlike you, I don't have to be hidden to be me; just Jennifer.

Oddly, I am glad people like you exist: people who want to hurt me. That only means that I'm interesting enough, alive enough and "shiny" enough to be noticed.

My Dear Hacker, you should find a normal life. You can't live hidden. One day you will have to go out. I don't know if I will find you, but, maybe, you will find yourself. And that will be worse.

I only have one message for you My Dear Hacker: GOD BLESS U.

And I hope you find a normal life.

- JENNIFER MARTINEZ

"Is it possible to get to the second floor of B without touching the first floor of B?"

As many students have noticed, and been inconvenienced by, the second floor of the B wing is only connected to the rest of campus through the first floor of the B wing. I'm not sure if anyone really knows why the B wing was constructed this way, but we do know that many changes are in the works at Parkland.

You have probably noticed all of the construction projects that have been happening at Parkland, or else read the updates that we have published in the Prospectus. While I am not sure if anything will be done about the B wing, it is a fact that there will be a lot of changes with the organization of Parkland's campus. If you are interested in finding out more, you can look at some of our back issues to see what Prospectus News has reported about the construction. Also, there are easels located around campus detailing the ongoing and future plans for our campus.

Letters to the editor

-Views expressed are opinions of the writer and/or contributors and not necessarily that of the Prospectus or Parkland College as a whole.

-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"

Features

Steve Hofstetter's: Pick Your Battles

David BUSBOOM
Staff Writer

Best known as one of collegium.com's original writers, comedian Steve Hofstetter performs nearly three hundred live shows a year. This includes shows at more colleges than any other comic—over one hundred campuses a year. He has been on *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson* and *E! True Hollywood Story*, as well as *Comics Unleashed*, *Comedy All-Stars*, *Quite Frankly*, and many more. A former columnist for *Sports Illustrated*, ESPN, and the NHL, he has also written for *Maxim* and *The New York Times*. With over half-a-million friends on Facebook and Myspace, Hofstetter's popularity has only skyrocketed since his undergraduate days at Columbia University. He made his comedy album debut in 2006 with *Cure for the Cable Guy* on the Razor & Tie label, and went on to make several more, includ-

ing the popular album *The Dark Side of the Room*. Now he has a new album out to rival that one, entitled *Pick Your Battles*.

Breaking the top one hundred on iTunes' comedy charts more than ten days before its official release on February 15, *Pick Your Battles* has already reached number one. It has received consistent five-star ratings and overwhelmingly positive reviews. Critical reception for *Pick Your Battles* has been even better than it was for *The Dark Side of the Room*. *Pick Your Battles* is unique among comedy albums (Hofstetter's and otherwise) because it lacks an intro and instead jumps right into the routine.

In 2003, Hofstetter's hometown newspaper, *The Queens Tribune*, dubbed him "the thinking man's comic" for his wry humor. This title is well



deserved in the case of *Pick Your Battles*, in which Hofstetter's comedic scope covers everything from abortion and censorship, to Won-

der Woman and *Twilight*. *Pick Your Battles* has been hailed as Hofstetter's best album yet, and it is certainly first-rate, intelligent comedy. Hofstetter is edgy without being preachy, and echoes the likes of Bill Hicks (his own favorite comic), George Carlin, and Jon Stewart.

However, even in the face of this windfall, Hofstetter is nowhere close to slowing down. Though he prefers writing to live performances, he is enjoying the excitement of touring and keeping busy with a number of other projects and even has a movie in the works. You can download *Pick Your Battles* on iTunes, or check out Hofstetter's own site at www.stevhofstetter.com.

What is that place? - Solving the mystery of Parkland's IMC



Have you ever wandered into the L wing and thought, upon passing the IMC, what in the world is that place? What does it do? Who is it for? Well, we have, too. Read below as *Prospectus News* investigates Parkland's IMC.

Photo by Levi Norman/Prospectus

Morgan BERNIER
Assistant Editor

Imagine a set of closed doors, starting about two feet off the floor. On the doors, there is a set of letters with no explanation, as well as the hours of operation. Now, imagine this in the L wing of Parkland College. It seems to be an odd and out of place landmark, but it is, in fact, real and it does serve a very important purpose.

After a little bit of investigation, this unusual room was found to be the IMC, or Instructional Materials Center. The IMC's purpose is to provide the Natural Science department with lab materials. The most common classes that the IMC provides material for are those involving the Health Professions, Biology, Veterinary, and Dental Hygiene students. However, they are also instrumental in keeping chemistry labs stocked with materials, as well.

The IMC does not have a large staff, but the workers they do have are dedicated and efficient. There is only one full-time staff member in the IMC, and that is the IMC manager Tim Hutchcraft. Aside from Hutchcraft, there are two part-time staff members along with a few student workers.

Carrie Chandler, a student worker, was able to provide some insight into the duties of IMC employees. She explained that the IMC "makes up carts for labs," and that they also make sure there is a stock of the materials needed.

All of this adds up to a very busy schedule, since almost every student has to take a natural science course at some time, and since Parkland is known for its health professions department. If an instructor ever sends you down to get materials from the IMC, do not fret. All of the employees will be more than happy to help you. If you are wondering where to find this mysterious place, it is located in L163, around the corner from the natural sciences testing center. Next time you are executing an experiment at Parkland, remember to thank the people behind those wooden doors who made it all possible!

Bonus Stage!

The official gaming column of the Prospectus

"Bizarre Zombie Hero"

Jake GODIN
Video Game Columnist

What do a European jack-o'-lantern, an island full of zombies, and rock music all have in common? Not much, actually. But for this week's Bonus Stage, I'm going to do something a tad different and write about three different pieces of recent news. It will be a nice balance of blatantly awesome (if you're into zombies, and who isn't?) combined with some not-so-awesome news regarding a studios farewell and the end of an era.

First off, some sad news:

Their owner, Activision, has canned Bizarre Creations, the Liverpool-based studio that brought such gems into the gaming world like *Geometry Wars* and *Project Gotham Racing*. With Activision unable to find a buyer for the studio of 160 or so employees, February 18, 2011 became the final day for Bizarre Creations and marked an end to their twenty years of game development. This wasn't a total surprise though, as Activision had announced that they were considering closing the studio last month, but it is still unfortunate nonetheless.

Established in 1994, Bizarre Creations created games such as *Formula 1*, *Fur Fighters*, *Geometry Wars*, *The Club*, and *Project Gotham Racing* before Activision bought them in 2007. They then released *Blur* and *James Bond 007: Blood Stone*. After the mediocre sales of their last two games, and the financial changes that took place at Activision, it was announced in November that Bizarre Creations would be going up for sale. Fast forward to today and, after no buyer for the studio was found, the company was forced to close its



doors.

Anytime a company that's been around for as long as Bizarre Creations closes, it seems like a part of the industry as a whole is lost, especially when one puts out a smash hit like *Geometry Wars*. What's good to know is that the talent that was among its ranks will undoubtedly find work elsewhere.

Now for the second bit of news:

Dead Island. If you haven't heard these two words yet, then I suggest you google them. I'm serious! Stop reading this and get to a search engine and search "Dead Island trailer." Click the YouTube link, sit back and watch one amazing video game trailer.

All right, bad yet? The thing is ridiculous! I'm not talking about how good it looked either. I'm not sure what it was... maybe it was the slow tempo of a piano and violin playing together, or maybe the way it was in reverse chronological order, or even just the plight of an innocent family caught in a nightmarish vacation, but those three minutes pulled at

my heart like watching the saddest puppy dog on earth sitting on a dirty street corner. Now personally, I didn't shed any tears, but I've read plenty of accounts of people who did, and that's saying a lot for something like a video game trailer.

The whole experience has me really excited for the game though, which is being developed by Poland's Techland. It has actually been in development since 2007 but just recently obtained the support of publisher Deep Silver and is now on a tentative 2011 release schedule. Rumor has it, the game will play as a first person zombie game with a few RPG elements mixed in. Sounds ambitious to me, but if the quality they put into the game is anything like what they put into this trailer, then it may be something spectacular.

And last, but not least:

Our ever-faithful music game series, *Guitar Hero*, has been put to a halt. Activision milked it for all it's worth, and in the end, the sales for their last game to be released [*Guitar Hero: Warriors of Rock*] came out to something around

86,000 copies for the first week. To put that into perspective, *Guitar Hero III* had sold around 1.5 million in its first week.

And really, it's not all that surprising. I mean, if you think about it, you can only improve the graphics and gameplay so much in a game where all you do is sit on stage and play an instrument. What else were they going to do, add more bands? It's not like all of the other versions of the game didn't already offer a plethora of other songs to play, so that wouldn't have done much good. What the music genre could really use right now is a nice break and some time to maybe come up with a few fresh ideas.

What do you think of the demise of Bizarre? Do you think that Activision should have given them the other chance? How about the *Dead Island* trailer? Let me know at ProspectusBonusStage@gmail.com. I'll be more than happy to discuss any opinions you may have, and may even post your response in this column! Follow my Twitter account @JakeGodin.

Prospectus Pick: But.If.And.That

BUT. IF. AND. THAT.

Sean HERMANN
Publications Manager

But.If.And.That, is a "quirky, thoughtful, social community for writers, poets, readers, and lovers of the English Language," according to the blog's website. And that's just the beginning. From the hilarious, yet riveting "word of the day," to informative comparisons such as "Banned Books Around the Globe," *But.If.And.That* pulls you in like a free sample of Ghirardelli chocolate and leaves you calm and collected, reflecting on how great, or ridiculous, the English language can be.

Behind the blog is former *Prospectus News* great, Aaron Geiger, now a graduate student at WVU. "My goal with this journal is to explore the English language—its terrors and triumphs, bells and whistles—through my curiosity, and, more importantly,

through the words of established authors, poets, linguists, professors, editors, students, and enthusiasts," said Geiger of his blog. With the help of friends, family and very special guest contributors, the blog has picked up speed and with 700 plus readers, 1G of bandwidth, and tens of thousands of hits in only its first month.

But.If.And.That is great for provoking thoughts, sparking debate, producing laughs, and so much more. Even if you spend as little as a minute on the blog, you'll be sure to get a kick out of the content and walk away with a new perspective on our beautiful, yet ever-so-confusing language and the world around it. See the blog for yourself at www.butifandthat.com. If you are interested in contributing, E-mail Aaron at butifandthat@gmail.com.



**Parkland College Relations
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Seatbelts

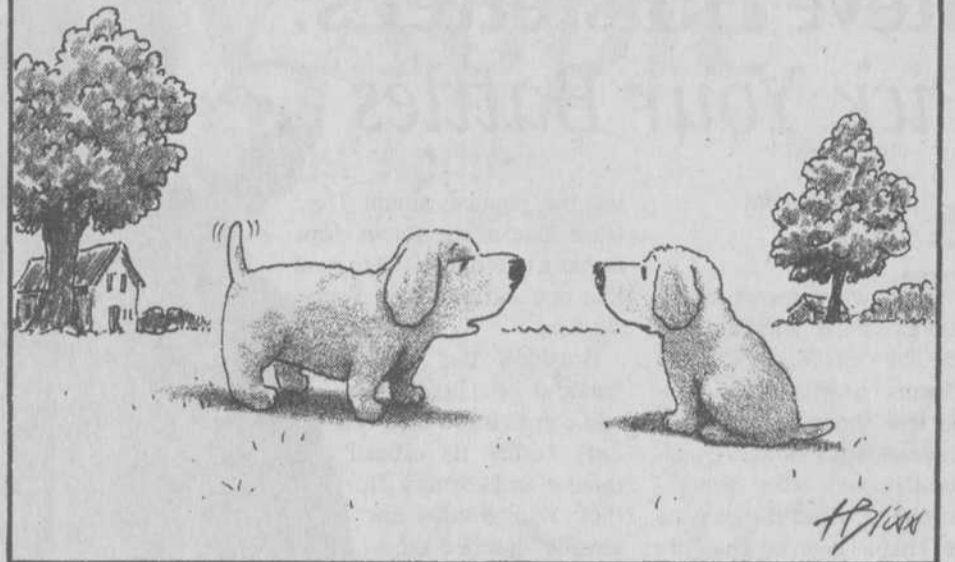
In Illinois, all front seat occupants are required to be protected by a safety belt or safety restraint system, regardless of age. Passengers under age 16 regardless of location in the vehicle must be protected by a safety belt or restraint system. Each driver under the age of 18 years and each of the driver's passengers under the age of 19 years shall wear a safety belt.

The driver of a vehicle is ultimately responsible for the safety of all the passengers under age 16 and will be issued a violation for non-compliance in accordance to the Child Passenger Protection Act, regardless of their location in the vehicle. Any front seat passenger over age 16 may be issued a violation of the seat belt law if unbelted. A seat belt citation is \$55 for the first offense.

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12/18

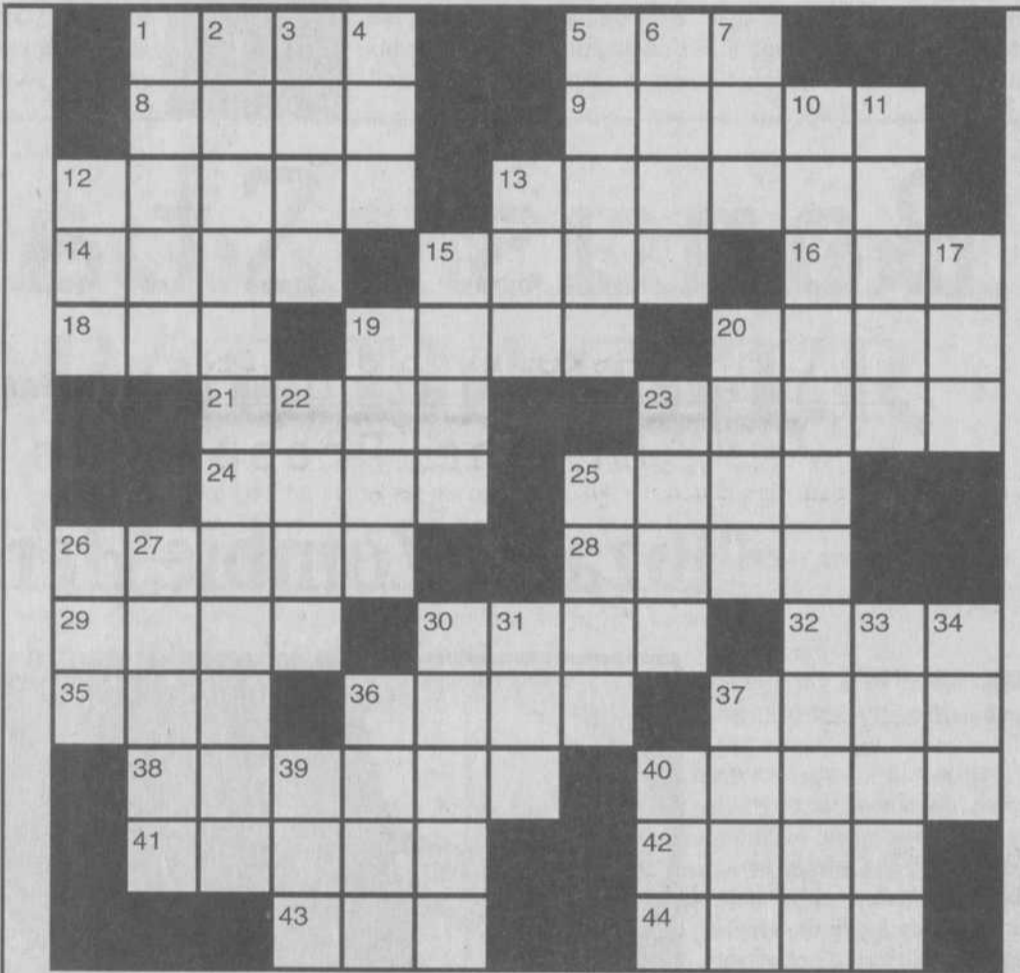
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1/23/11

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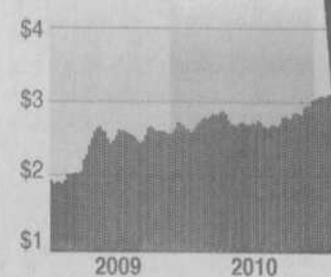
Pump prices

U.S. weekly average retail price for one gallon of regular unleaded gasoline:

Since last week
1¢

Week ending Feb. 14, 2011
\$3.14

Two-year trend



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Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

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

- "The ___ Wife"
- "Rain ___"; Dustin Hoffman film that was Best Picture of the Year
- In the distance
- Conservative Pennsylvania Mennonite sect
- Devoutness
- Canada's capital
- Jillian and Blyth
- Ranks above Pvts. in the USMC
- "The New Adventures of ___ Christine"
- Flavor enhancer, for short
- Actress Remini
- "The ___"; reality game show that was hosted by Anderson Cooper
- Alda or Thicke
- First, second, third and home
- Bridal dress
- Ricky Ricardo's portrayer
- Sharon of "Cagney & Lacey"
- Late, great tennis superstar Arthur ___
- "___ Improvement"
- Talk wildly
- Elisha Cuthbert's role on "24"
- "___ Got a Secret"
- "Driving ___ Daisy"
- Perry Mason portrayer Raymond
- "Eight Is ___"
- Olympic skater Lipinski and actress Reid
- Hidden supply
- Actress Alicia ___
- Like a Prof. Emeritus
- Seep out slowly

DOWN

- Makes progress
- "Rules ___"
- Dinner for Mister Ed, perhaps
- Arid
- "___ Game PM"; Gene Rayburn's show
- Quantities: abbr.
- Actress ___ Peeples
- Actress on "Mike & Molly"
- Ms. Berry
- Shriver or Dawber
- "Death ___ Salesman"
- Actor Sean
- ___ Moines, Iowa
- Regulations
- Series set during the Korean War
- "Win, ___ or Draw"
- "Father Knows ___"
- Rather and Aykroyd
- Alphabetic trio
- "Everybody ___ Raymond"
- "The Price Is ___"
- Bit of sooty residue
- Furious
- "The Ghost & ___ Muir"
- Be absorbed in thought
- Actor Scott ___ of "Joanie Loves Chachi"
- Boatman's item
- "___ and a Half Men"

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

T	I	M	K	N	O	T	S	M	A	D
A	L	E	E	R	I	E	A	M	A	
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1/23/11

Sports

27-0? Try 26-1!

Cobras Women's Basketball defeat #1 Kankakee

Zach STREFF
Sports Writer

For the previously undefeated Kankakee Cavaliers, a game on Valentine's Day wasn't so sweet. On Monday, #3 ranked Parkland College (PC) improved its win-streak to 13 with a 90-85 win in overtime against Kankakee Community College (KCC) and has pumped up the streak to an incredible 15 games after defeating Lincoln and the UI club team last week.

As an undefeated team, Kankakee entered the game with a dominant energy. The women Cobra's wouldn't be fazed as the two teams exchanged the lead several times during the first half. At half time the score would favor Kankakee 36-31, but the game was far from over.

Game mentalities would change when the two teams came back out on the court. PC played more aggressively as the smelled blood in the water,

while Kankakee would come out seemingly more conservative with the ball. Parkland outscored the Cavaliers 50-45 in the second half, sending the game into overtime.

Fatigue and frustration could be seen in both teams as overtime began. The two teams held each other scoreless for the first two minutes, until Cobra Sophomore Hannah Ohl ended the drought. Parkland would pull away from KCC for good as freshman Kristyne Smith scored back-to-back baskets.

The Cobra's success all came down to one word: *teamwork*. Every player on the PC team scored at least three points, resulting in 34 points off the bench. Comparatively, the Cavaliers bench only scored 6 points. Parkland stayed strong on the glass with 51 rebounds, 18 of which came from bench productivity. Both teams played with a hard defensive nose with over 10 steal a piece, and a total of 57 turnovers combined.

Outstanding Cobra performances included Freshman Brittney Burgess with 24 points, 6 rebounds. Burgess also shot flawless from the free throw line making all 6 attempts (equaling the total points contributed by KCC bench). Amanda Boyd recorded a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds (6 offensive). Two more Cobras finished the game in double figures. Sophomore Hannah Ohl would contribute 12 points and grab 6 rebounds; Traci Osby also completed the game with 10 points, 4 rebounds.

The victory boosted the Cobras to the #3 ranking in the NJCAA poll, and also carried the momentum into an exceptional win against Lincoln College. Parkland College improved its win column to 8-0 in the Mid-West Athletic Conference, 26-2 overall.

Upcoming contests include a game against Danville, and conference opponent Lewis and Clark.



Amanda Boyd (#22) goes up strong for a layup in a key win against Kankakee, who dropped below the #3 ranked Cobra's after the defeat.

Photo by Zach Streff/Prospectus

Women's Basketball Standings

School	M-WAC Record	Overall Record		
Parkland	8-0	1,000	26-2	.928
Lewis & Clark	6-2	.750	14-11	.560
John Wood	5-4	.555	13-15	.464
Lincoln Land	4-4	.500	14-12	.538
Lincoln	2-7	.222	13-15	.464
Danville	0-8	.000	3-21	.125

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CUTS

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the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gases and taking action under portion of the Clean Water Act. The bill cuts funding for the EPA by roughly one-third.

"The House vote is a betrayal of the American people. It demonstrates beyond any doubt that the people's house has been railroaded by the tea party into adopting a bill that would eliminate countless safeguards that protect our air, water, land and oceans," said Scott Slesinger, legislative director at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Still, when the Senate begins voting on the bill early next

month, it would not be surprising to see proposals for further spending reductions. Nearly two dozen Democratic senators are up for re-election in 2012, many from conservative states where spending reductions are a top concern of an edgy electorate.

Republicans, meanwhile, are caught between the vocal and energized small government conservatives in their party - some of whom have urged the leadership to allow a shutdown - and moderate and independent voters who support deficit reduction in theory but cringe at specifics.

Their task will be to keep the conversation focused on the big picture of deficit reduction, tapping into voter angst over Washington spending at a time of economic uncertainty

at kitchen tables across the nation.

There was evidence, too, that the appetite for spending cuts had limits and political ramifications even for Republicans. Two amendments that would have dug even deeper into non-defense discretionary spending - bringing those programs to 2008 and 2006 levels-were rejected.

The appetite for a government shutdown is less clear. For now, both sides are engaged in a preemptive blame game.

"Both sides believe they will win the public opinion war," said Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, said. "What happened in '95, the House did not win public opinion. This time is different."

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