



# Prospectus News

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## Parkland celebrates graduates of 2013

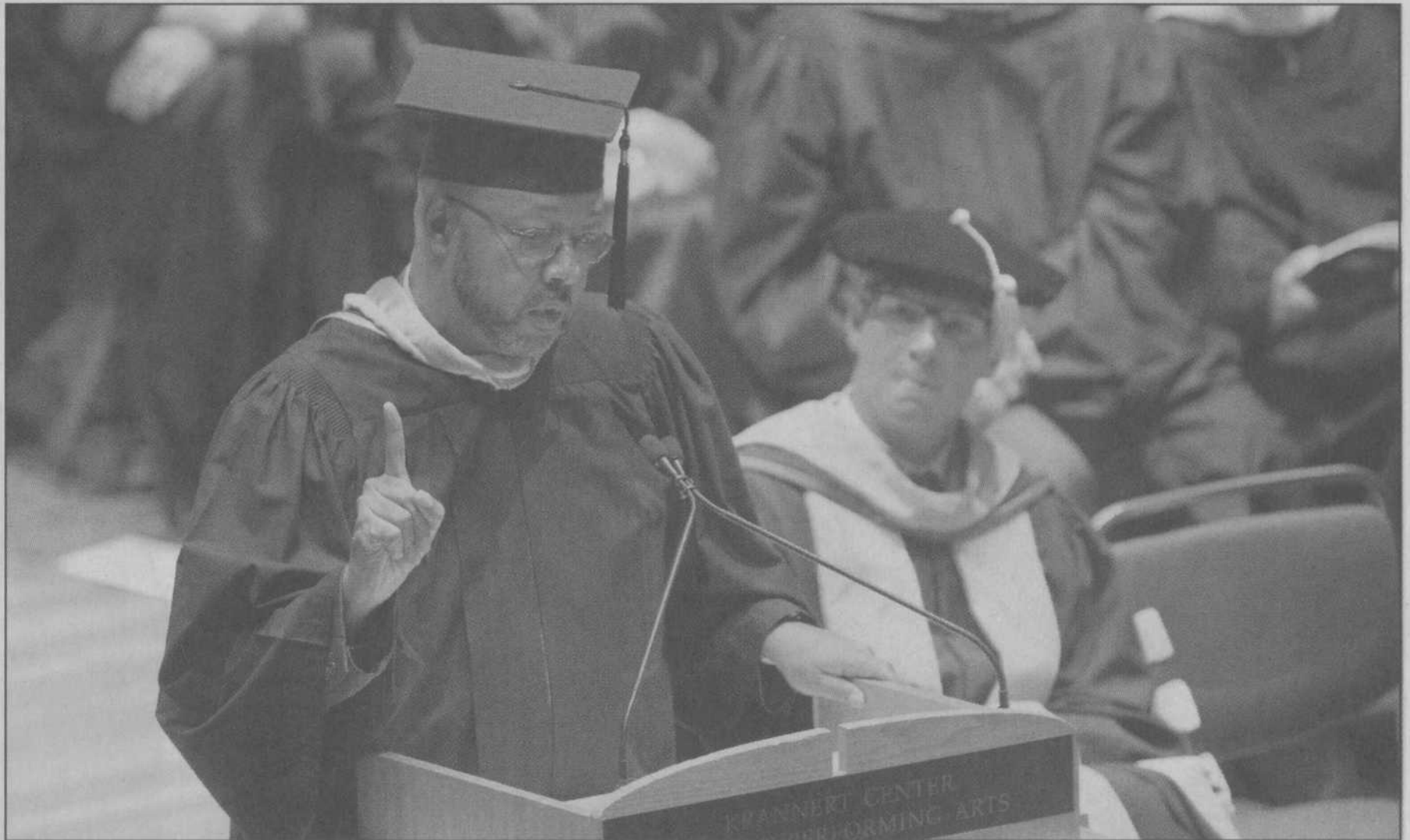


Photo by Darrell Hoemann/The News-Gazette

Commencement speaker Leonard Pitts Jr. describes his graduation experience during the Parkland College commencement in the Foellinger Great Hall at Krannert Center for Performing Arts in Urbana on Friday, May 17, 2013.

**PN** Ted Setterlund  
Staff Writer

The Parkland College Commencement was held on May 17 in the Foellinger Great Hall at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Hundreds of friends and family members filled the three-level concert hall in order to see their children or friends walk on the stage to

receive their degree. The ceremony, which started at 8 p.m., opened with all of the graduates filing in and taking their assigned seats along the main level of the concert hall. The other graduates who have received certificates were sat on the stage of the concert hall, along with the staff and speakers. 2013 Parkland graduate Amanda Jean Beals was

and like a little kid could not wait to tell my parents," Beals said during her speech. "When I was walking to my car, it started to soak in what I needed to do. I just said that I had to speak in front of hundreds of people. I haven't even started taking speech yet. Well today is that day where I get to make that speech, and we graduates get to complete a milestone in the path of our

lives." Parkland College President Dr. Tom Ramage was another key speaker in the Commencement. Introduced by Student Representative of the Board of Trustees Christian Sheehan, he started at Parkland College in 1998 as the chairman of the then-new Distance and Virtual

See GRADS on P. 5

## Summer Camp Music Festival seeks to "Make a Difference"

**PN** Shane Rogers  
Staff Writer

A music festival can make a huge impact. This impact can be felt by the artists, the attendees, and even the environment. For this reason, Summer Camp Music Festival sought to ensure that the impact made by the festival this year would be a positive one.

At the core of this effort was the "Make a Difference" program centered at the Soulshine Stage. This stage was a bit different from the others at the festival. Here attendees could find gathered a number of different nonprofit organizations and activities.

Gathered under and around the huge tent and stage area, informational tables were set up to inform festival goers about a number of causes including the Buffalo Field Campaign, who were canvassing for signatures to protect wild buffalo at Yellowstone National Park.

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, a group driven to build a sound relationship between people and nature were represented, as were the Sustainable Concepts Green Team, the company responsible for providing recycling and waste management for the event.

Other groups were on hand as well, many were paired up with bands to help spread



Photo by Shane Rogers/Prospectus News

Festival attendees watch as Keller Williams with More Than A Little take the Sunshine Stage at Summer Camp Music Festival in Chillicothe, Ill. on May 24, 2013.

their message. Among these groups were HeadCount, an organization dedicated to registering voters and raising social consciousness, who presented the band Floodwood; global advocacy group ONE, who were represented by Henhouse Prowlers and the Peterson Garden Project, who showcased The Ragbirds.

Festival officials did more than make this information available to attendees. They came up with a way to encourage people to find out

more about these groups. They produced an all-star concert of Everyone Orchestra featuring Victor Wooten, Allie Kral, Joel Cummins, Al Schnier, Vinnie Amico, Roosevelt Collier, Mike Dillon and others conducted by Matt Butler. The only way to earn admission to this concert was to complete a treasure hunt by visiting different nonprofit groups for information or completing different tasks centered around the "Make a Difference" program.

Summer Camp Music Festival "Make a Difference" Coordinator Vanessa Robinson explained the motivation behind the program.

"The Soulshine Tent and the onsite sustainability pieces, including programmingsuchas Go Green Raffle and Treasure Hunt, have been something I've worked particularly hard on to get patrons involved in finding their own cause and being a part of social change," Robinson said.

"Each year we try to

increase our overall goals of more compost/recycling vs. landfill, more outreach, and more artists and musicians involved," she continued. "I can confidently say each of those was increased this year, although I'm still waiting on final numbers from waste."

The festival itself took a stance, as well. As the band moe. prepared to take the stage, the announcement was made that Summer Camp would be joining the March Against Monsanto movement.

"Jan Goldberg, the founder of the festival, is quite passionate about Monsanto protesting and improvement of food regulation all around," Robinson explained. "He teamed up with Nahko and Medicine for the People to make announcements throughout the weekend regarding the March Against Monsanto that took place over the weekend all over the country."

Jay Goldberg Events & Entertainment Marketing Manager Gabrielle Falconer had this to say about the move, "I think one of the main reasons why we stand behind it is our farmers. Illinois is a huge farming state and Monsanto threatens their livelihood."

"I also think that a good chunk of our community is realizing we need to get back to our roots. Farmers markets, co-ops etc. are all coming back

See CAMP on P. 2

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### Fact or Fiction?

June is Black Music Month.  
(Find the answer on page 5)

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# News



Photo by Shane Rogers/Prospectus News

Festival attendees spend time between performances by looking at merchandise in vendors' stalls during Summer Camp Music Festival in Chillicothe, Ill. on May 24, 2013.

## CAMP

continued from page 1

because people want to know where their food comes from," she continued.

These efforts did not go unnoticed. Marketing major Lisa Catrambone spoke to Summer Camp Sorting Manager Teagen Andrews and found out that the festival had required that all vendors' products be compostable. Catrambone even visited the onsite waste-sorting facility.

"The smell was definitely indescribable," Catrambone remarked. "It was amazing to see all the volunteers spending hours in the heat trying to make the world a better place

while so many other things were going on."

"I think it makes a difference to the younger crowd to learn about things that effect the environment that they might not even know about. Summer Camp can be life-changing, in many different ways, but you have to have the right mind set," she concluded.

Catrambone was not alone in her admiration of the work done by the Green Team. Graphic Design major Jodi Reis had this to say, "I think it's awesome that the festival decided to have the vendors use all compostable materials. Seeing how much trash can build up in one day it seems insane not try and take as best care of the camp grounds as possible."

"I think that all festival should try their best to use compostable materials," Reis continued. "These things bring in so many people which create a whole lot of trash. Even the tiniest bit can make a difference. I would want to encourage all of our festivals around the U.S. to try and go green."

The festival was not satisfied with simply reducing their own footprint, however. Festival founder Ian Goldberg sought to leave a lasting change. According to Robinson, he worked closely with Caterpillar Inc. to encourage them to create a more environmentally friendly biodiesel electric generator.

"Caterpillar was only able to offer B5 (5%) and feel

comfortable about being liable for the generators," Robinson stated. "Anything above that put in the generators would cause the festival, or generator users, to be liable if something went wrong."

Goldberg explained, "We got with our vendor, Altorfer Rentals and the engineers at Caterpillar and asked them to change the ratings on their generators to allow for use of biodiesel fuels."

"By changing this designation it allowed us to use biodiesel without voiding the warranty on the generators," he continued. "We got Caterpillar to do a bunch of testing and reviews and they finally certified all their generators for use of the B20 Biodiesel."

"This meant not only could we use it, but anybody using a Caterpillar generator around the world can now use biodiesel fuel in the generator without voiding the warranty. We are very proud and excited about this change and what it can mean for cleaner burning fuels around the world," Goldberg concluded.

The lasting effects of these efforts remain to be seen, but to those in charge, it was worthwhile.

"We wanted to bring amazing music to the people who came to the festival and make sure everyone had a good time while still focusing on things like sustainability, activism and comradery and I think that happened," Falconer stated.

"The whole 'Make a

Difference' area is a very important part of the festival for us," Goldberg explained. "It is why we do what we do. Bring people together to enjoy the music and fun, but also with a purpose of making our future a brighter place."

"I am so proud of the team we have in place that makes this very important aspect of the festival happen every year. It is all the food we collect with Conscious Alliance, the cell phone drives we do, the education we offer on nature and nature awareness with the Sun Foundation, and all the great NPO groups we have that makes this festival have meaning," he added.



Photo by Shane Rogers/Prospectus News

Carrie Sangiovanni performs guitar and vocals during the Caravan of Thieves set on the Campfire Stage during Summer Camp Music Festival in Chillicothe, Ill. on May 24, 2013.

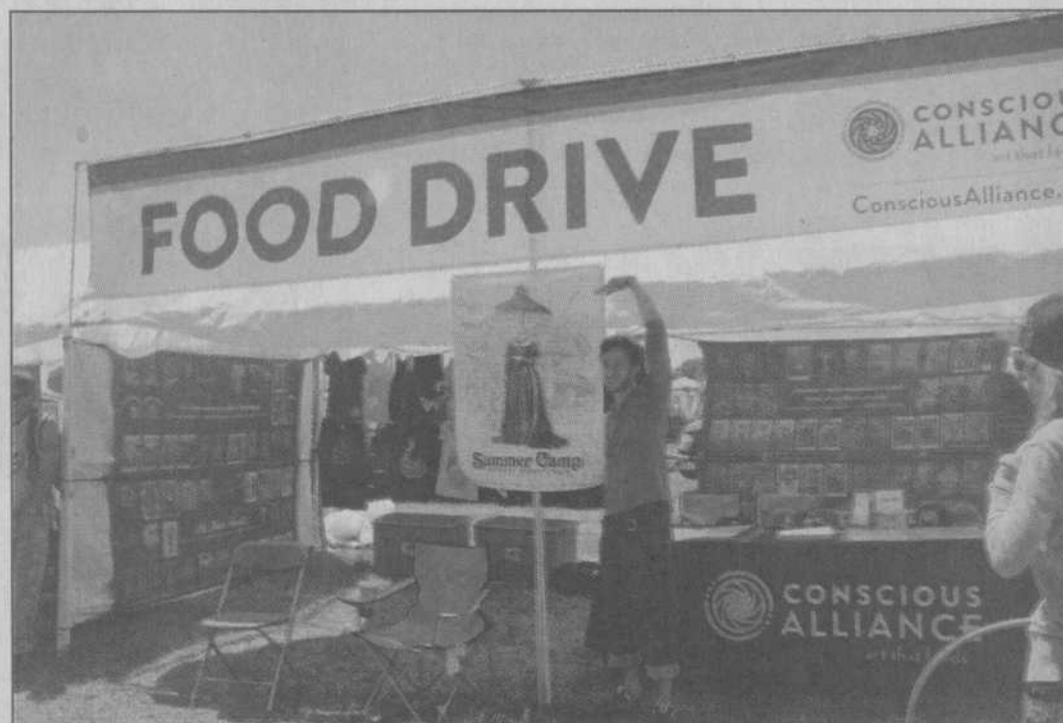


Photo by Shane Rogers/Prospectus News

Nonprofit organization Conscious Alliance sells art and collects canned goods as part of a food drive during Summer Camp Music Festival in Chillicothe, Ill. on May 24, 2013.



Photo by Shane Rogers/Prospectus News

Bassist Victor Wooten leads a song during the Everyone Orchestra performance held during Summer Camp Music Festival in Chillicothe, Ill. on May 26, 2013.



Photo by Shane Rogers/Prospectus News

Trey Anastasio of Phish leads his band during a performance at the Sunshine Stage on May 24 at Summer Camp Music Festival in Chillicothe, Ill.

# Lifestyle

## The tattoo controversy: Do or don't?

**PN** Mace Mackiewicz  
Staff Writer

Tattoos have been around for years. Younger adults have started to get tattoos before entering the workforce, and face the consequences on their body art when considered by prospective employers.

While views on tattoos have started to progress in the modern day, having a tattoo can still harm one's tattoo when entering the work place and if it's not hidden might compromise their chance of getting a job.

Earth Science major Joey Moody from the U of I has a mixed opinion on tattoos.

"I think they can be one of the coolest things a person can do to their body if they're done well. But most of the tattoos I see make me get on Facebook just people getting laugh due to how bad and stupid they are," Moody said.

It's not just tasteless tattoos that are having problems, it's also ones that could be considered art or have personal meanings to people that can get them into trouble professionally. While getting a "YOLO" tattoo arguably should give someone problems when trying to get a job, something tasteful could also give someone trouble when searching out a job.

Moody also provides insight on why tattoos could be viewed negatively socially and professionally.

"Probably because a lot of people aren't okay with the idea of permanence, or they see enough of their friends getting ridiculously bad tattoos that it spoils their opinion. Or just the fact that tattoos aren't for everybody. Some people just have no interest in them, so they can't see why someone else would want one," Moody explained.

He continued, "Because



Photo by JoJo Rhinehart/Prospectus News

Music major Hayley Andrews receives a tattoo from artist Rick Kutch at No Regrets Tattoos & Body Piercing in Champaign on Thursday, May 30, 2013.

tattoos have especially in the past always been associated with alternative and counter-cultures, and many counter-minded management types can't see past the unprofessional stigma they've always tended to carry, though that sort of view is obviously changing to some extent."

A recent article in the *The New York Times* explains that for the most part in corporate America, even with the growing number of tattoos, the employees are made to cover up their tattoos so that they

are not in any way visible. The pew research poll mentioned in the article also provides more insight on modern views on tattoos.

"Merely by glancing around, it's clear that tattoos are no longer the sole province of gang members, garage mechanics, guys who are admirably confident that they will have the same girlfriend forever and Hollywood outliers like Angelina Jolie and Lena Dunham. Twenty-three percent of Americans have a tattoo, according to a Pew

Research poll from 2010; and 32 percent of people ages 30 to 45 have at least one tattoo."

Matthew Stines, owner of No Regrets Tattoos & Body Piercing and tattoo artist of 17 years, had this to say about the negative stigma.

"Naturally, people in society have always been afraid of something different," he said. "They don't understand it so they naturally want to be negative about it. Not until athletes and celebrities getting tattooed has it become more mainstream."

A Forbes article offered up a more optimistic view for tattoos. The article showed evidence that certain corporations are focusing less on the way their employees look and more on their skills in the workplace.

"Workplace tattoo policies vary among and within industries. But with many contemporary companies stressing commitments to diversity and inclusion, tattoos are becoming increasingly unproblematic across the board. Lax tattoo policies for

blue-collar and art-related jobs aren't shocking, but the increasingly tolerant outlook of frontrunners in corporate, educational and medical industries are more surprising."

Someday soon we might see a giant shift in the perception of tattoos in the workplace, but until then, body modified people may still face difficulties when securing a job and may want to consider placing their body art somewhere that can still be covered up when needed.

## Summer preview for the Planetarium and Art Gallery

**PN** Matthew Jackson  
Staff Writer

Parkland's own Staerkel Planetarium and Art Gallery have new schedules for the summer, each offering unique opportunities to have fun and learn something new.

The planetarium, which will be celebrating its 25th anniversary season, has new shows to cater to the summer crowd.

The planetarium will run shows Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings over the summer, however summer construction will affect the

Planetarium.

On June 14, 2013, there will be a Father's Day special, where dads can get in free with a paying child to enjoy what the planetarium has to offer.

The main feature for the Father's Day special will be "Violent Universe," which will explore the forces that hold the universe together, and are trying to rip it apart.

Something else Leake is very excited for is the "Flight Ventures" show. It looks at the science and history of flight; it even has a flight simulator for children to try

out.

Several other shows that will be shown throughout the summer will include "Cosmic Colors," which explores the electromagnetic spectrum, "Big Bird's Adventure," a show aimed at children which takes them to the moon, and "Prairie Skies," which shows people how to identify constellations in our skies.

"The Parkland Art Gallery is pleased to announce the first summer series of Global Lens at Parkland College," Art Gallery Director Lisa Costello said. The Global Lens 2013 film series, a series of

critically acclaimed narrative feature films, will be shown at Parkland College for the summer and fall.

These films are from all over the world, and can be a great opportunity to learn about new cultures.

All events are free in room C118 at 6:30 p.m. The Parkland Art Gallery's hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The first of these shows, "Modest Reception" will be shown on Thursday, June 27, 2013. It is a bold comedy-drama with themes of power, privilege, and corruption.

On Thursday, July 18, 2013, the second movie "Southwest" will be shown. This is a movie from Portugal that is a dreamlike tale. Thursday August 1, 2013 will feature the third of these films "Student."

A gallery show "Meredith Setser: Tunnel Vision" will be going on through the first of July for a month. There is a reception for the artist from six to eight p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2013.

This will include a talk by Meredith Setser about her work.

There will also be a gallery talk: "Digital Media Design,"

given by Paul Young on Wednesday, June 13, 2013 at 10 a.m. He will talk about the challenges and rewards of working in the digital media world.

Parkland's theatre will not be putting on productions for the summer, but will begin the 2013-2014 season on Oct. 3, 2013.

For more information on the Parkland Art Gallery and the Planetarium, you can also visit their website at [www.parkland.edu/gallery](http://www.parkland.edu/gallery) and [www.parkland.edu/planetarium](http://www.parkland.edu/planetarium).

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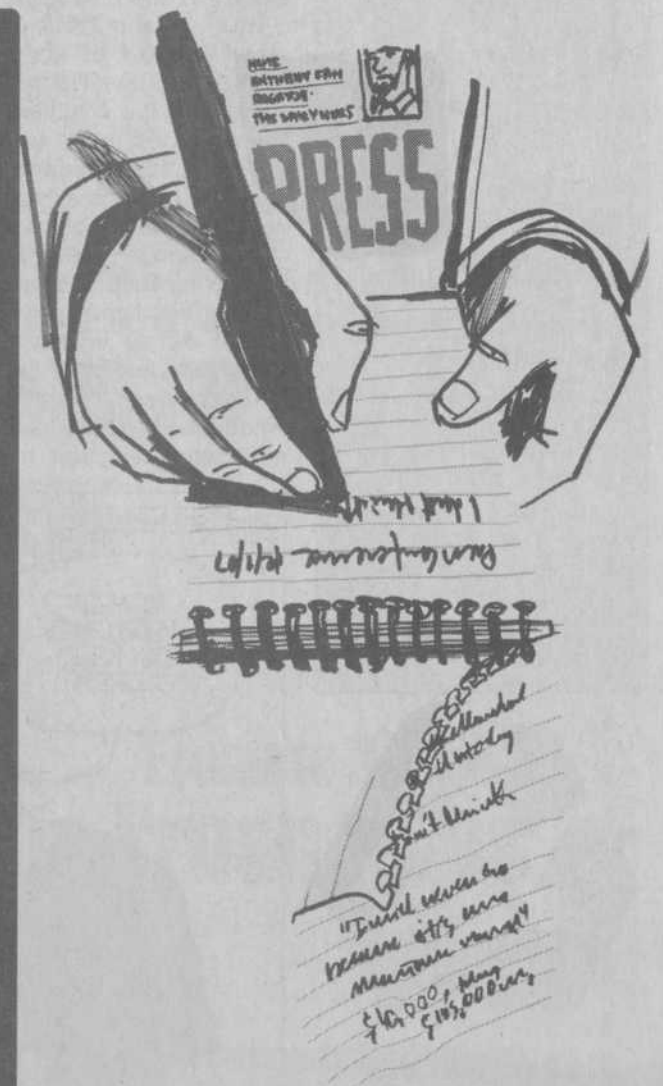
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# Opinions

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## Six truths about summer — it's no picnic

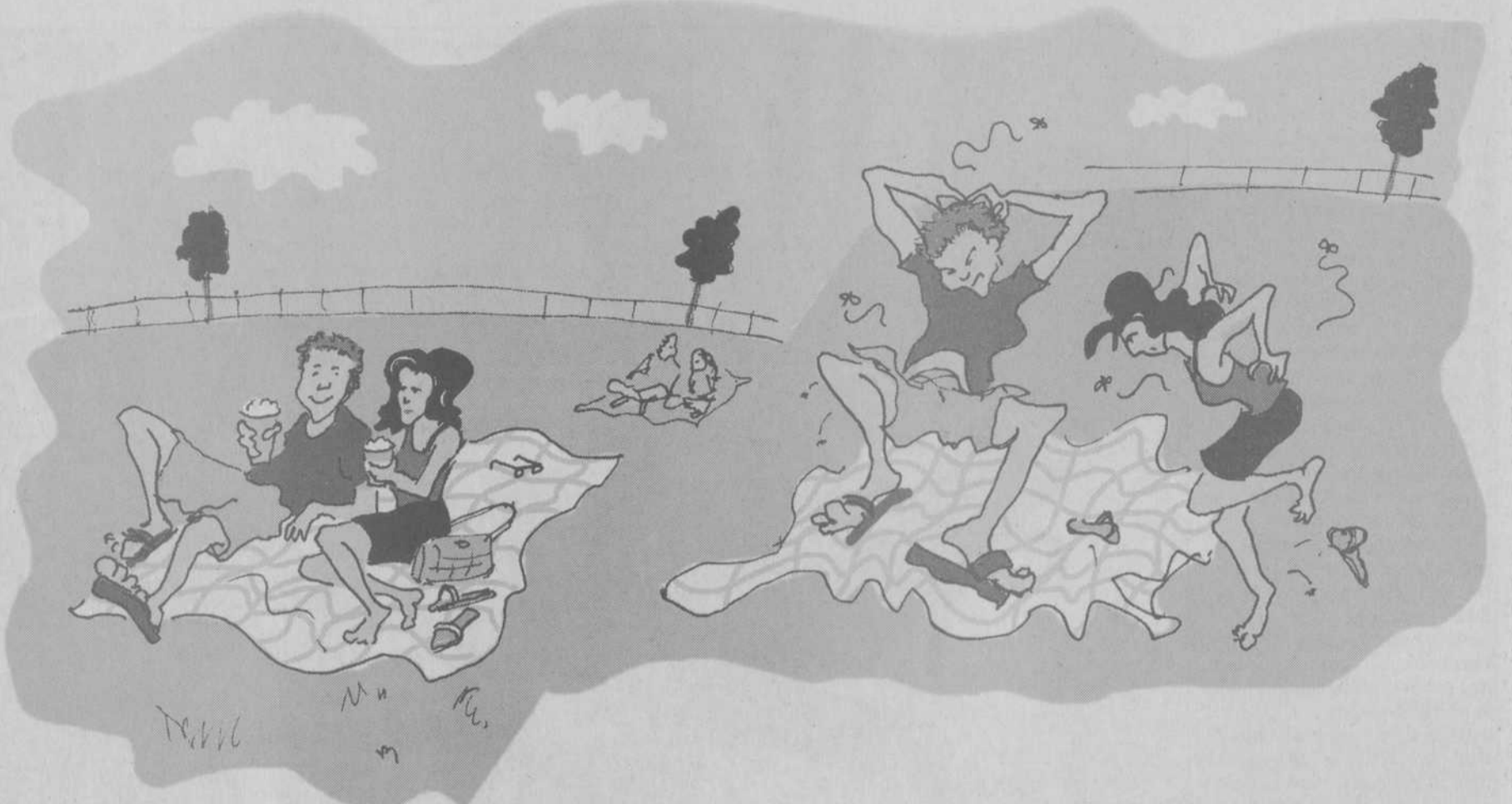


Illustration by Tom Borgman/St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**Gina Barreca**  
*The Hartford Courant*

It's time to tell the truth: Summer isn't for sissies, but we forget that every year. Here's what you need to remember:

1. Nobody looks at middle-age people at the beach, with "middle-age" being defined as being too old for work-study and too young for cremation. If you are between those ages, don't worry about what anybody will think about your bathing suit, your tan lines or whether your hair gets messed up. They're not looking. The only thing messed up in our culture is the idea that we're under a spotlight just because we're sitting in the sun.

OK, all right, so there is one group looking at middle-age women at the beach: other middle-age women, all of whom are nudging the pool

soul sitting next to them and asking "Do I look like her? The one over there with the bad tan line? Do I look like her from the back?" As I've said before, we should stop doing that. It would make everybody's life better.

2. You will sit outside to eat in a moment of cheerful insouciance and you will be eaten alive by insects like a character actor in a bad horror movie. You will have sprayed yourself liberally with Off, Deet, Deep Woods Deet, and Get Off of ME Already and you will still appear to the buzzing creatures of twilight exactly like a prime filet they roll out in fancy steak joints. You will need calamine lotion, anti-itch creams, anti-infections creams (for where you charmingly scratched yourself until you bled) and those little pink antihistamine pills that will knock you unconscious until

October. But by October the bugs will be gone, so it'll be OK.

3. Nobody looks good in white pants. Forget it. Don't look at models: Professional models are as genetically modified as a Monsanto sugar beet. White pants on regular people simply become a convenient blank space upon which nature will write in grass stains, ketchup, mustard, red wine, salsa and oil from fried things you shouldn't have been eating in the first place. Nature writes dirtier than "Fifty Shades of Gray," which is also a good description of what your white pants will look like after two washings. For clarification: Off-white, ivory, pearl and light beige all count as "white."

4. Playing with an outdoorsy accessory called a "fire pit" in your backyard, on your patio or on your deck (which is, we pray, not made of wood - do

we need to explain why?) does not make you One With The Elements or even one of the hirsute extras from "Game of Thrones." Not even if you're a guy. It makes you, at best, somebody who found a good use for twigs. Fire pits will not any more effectively prevent you from being eaten alive by insects (see item No. 2) than anything you can spray on yourself. But it will cause you to burst into flames like Johnny The Human Torch if you do spray anything incendiary in its vicinity, which includes very cheap "coolers" that spritz when you open the top.

Also, who was the genius deciding we all need to start lighting fires on hot summer nights? A guy with a lot of faux-copper basins to sell, maybe? I'm just asking. If he tells us to start burning old truck tires in our driveways as next year's new summer tradition,

can we exercise some critical thinking before we all say "What a terrific idea! The kids will love it!"?

5. You will sweat. Even if you use stuff clinically proven to seal every pore in your armpit like grout, you will perspire to the extent that you will need to throw some of your shirts into the fire pit. They'll burn prettily next to the white pants.

6. Despite all this, you will have some great times this summer. There will be fresh fruit on locally made ice cream, homemade lemonade, buttery corn on the cob, sweet ice tea, cotton candy at state fairs and burgers from the grill. And this is precisely why it's good that we're all going to stop looking at each other at the beach (see item No. 1).

(c)2013 The Hartford Courant (Hartford, Conn.)

## What to do when your laptop dies

**Karen Stabner**  
*Los Angeles Times*

It happened, as crises do, without warning. I was doing something essential, like trolling online for better and deeply discounted kitchen knives, when suddenly the image on my laptop went from hi-res to out-of-register. Most of the color fell away and a grim message appeared: My computer was having a problem, as though I hadn't noticed; I should wait a minute and try to turn it on again.

An hour later I was on the street in front of the Apple store, laptop-less. The fellow at the Genius Bar could tell that the video card wasn't working but couldn't fix it. At the ripe old age of 6, this was a "vintage" computer that required a trip to the central repair facility, where they keep antique parts.

I shuffled home, powerless except for an equally outre cellphone, feeling quite the antique myself. Those of us who had a life before we had a personal computer tend to

compensate in one of two ways. Some people fall head over heels for every new device or app, which we have to have, in part to keep up, in part to prove that we're au courant behind those invisible bifocals. My cohort, on the other hand, adopts a more grudging relationship to electronics, which are only there, after all, to do our bidding.

Or at least that's what we say to cover our blinding insecurity about depending on machines that know more than we ever will.

Five to seven days without a laptop, said the genius apologetically.

Come on: I've spent decades without a laptop. I'll show Generation Tech a thing or two about self-sufficiency.

First I had to figure out some logistics. I had dumped several student papers onto a little flash drive, so I headed for the nearest copy store to print them out; I would edit them on hard copy. I valiantly kept tabs of my email on my cellphone, even though I wrote

shorter replies because I can't stand to type with my thumbs. I opened a link or two on the phone, and how cool was that? I could visit the Web, in all its minimalist 2-point-type glory, without making my glabellar furrow much deeper than it already is.

By Day 2 I was far less chipper and certain that I would never be one of those modern viewers who watches "Les Miserables" on a cellphone screen, which seems to get smaller the more you use it. The impulse-buy solution was to purchase a tablet immediately, but I don't even buy shoes without a day's reflection. Or maybe I could rent a laptop somewhere, if it didn't require surfing the Web on said cellphone screen to find out if such an option even exists.

The low-rent option was to borrow a friend's kid's discarded laptop, whose security rivaled that of Fort Knox; even though I could see my Wi-Fi account icon orbiting at the center of the network

cluster, I couldn't get it to work. Everything anyone has ever said about IBM and Apple speaking different dialects is more than true; it knew what I wanted, I knew what I wanted, and still, nothing. I succumbed to magical thinking and kept clicking on "connect" over and over, certain that the fourth or 10th or 12th time would be the charm, and then I gave up and read the newspaper.

I mean I really read the newspaper, in a way I haven't in years. I paged through it, section by section, stopping to read whatever appealed to me, abandoning the Pavlovian rhythms the computer dictates. If there was an email waiting for me, let it wait, at least a little bit. The laptop imperative was silenced for the moment, and the cellphone just doesn't command the same respect.

I slowed down, not having realized that, like everyone else, am pretty revved up most of the time, despite my protestations of sanity where electronics are concerned.

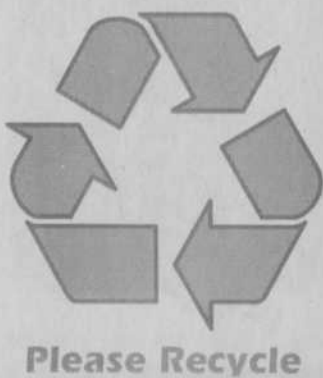
Technology's an equal-opportunity seductress: It's one of the few elements of society that doesn't care how old I am.

But don't think that this is going to be one of those take-your-life-back, smell-the-roses-stories, because by Day 3, I really missed being able to check breaking headlines and the extended weather forecast on a bigger screen, I missed media news, I missed whatever else I was missing, which I couldn't possibly know because I had no way to check.

Yes, that's a frantic edge creeping into my voice even now, and the rest of the weekend wasn't much better. Let's just say that I successfully completed more than my usual ration of crosswords and KenKen and made a pie crust I didn't need.

I began to wonder what I'd do if the laptop were beyond fixing; I fantasized about a great big 27-inch monitor, about a desktop and a laptop

See LAPTOP on P. 5



# WPCD album review: Rogue Wave's "Nightingale Floors"

**Ted Setterlund**  
Staff Writer

"Nightingale Floors," the new album by the indie rock band Rogue Wave, marks a great departure from their well-known analog or lo-fi sound. That is not to say that it has not been done before in their earlier work. Specifically the ones that they did for Jack Johnson's label Brushfire Records such as "Asleep on Heaven's Gate" have always been combining the lo-fi sound with more commercially acceptable forms of music such as using acoustic instruments.

In an interview with Baebal Music, singer Zach Rogue explains that he and drummer Pat Spurgeon are always trying to combine their own sound with others.

"I'm more of the songwriting person, where Pat is more the studio experimenter, and we both influence each other's tendencies and corral each other at the same time. We try and find that balance. The bands that we like are those that have a pop sensibility but at the same time have the element of psychedelic experimentation. It's a little weird; it's a little emotional; it's a little unknown; but it's also something you can sing to," Rogue said.

The lead single "College" is probably the most lo-fi out of the 10 tracks on the album. The static is there, the distorted guitars are there, but the lyrics do not have the energy to be classified as one. It is similar to what Nada Surf did in their 2012 release "The Stars Are Indifferent to Astronomy," in which the melody is very catchy but the lyrics do not make that much sense to be considered an angst song, such as "You can have the knowledge, all the things you learn in the college."

Lyrics continue to be a problem throughout



Rogue Wave album art courtesy of Exclaim.ca.

this album. At times it works with what the melody is focused on, even if the words are corny. In "S(a)tan," the popping bass riff and the Cure-like guitar melody have a good effect with Zach's lyrics. In some cases such as "Do what the devil wishes, and beckoned him to stay," it does not go well when the devil is being named for a song that is supposed to be dark and mysterious.

Rogue Wave has had a history of experimenting with different sounds, including using Arcade Fire style acoustics in their previous two albums "Asleep on Heaven's Gate and Permalight." In this album, the acoustics are still there, such as in *Siren's Song*, but there are elements of psychedelic rock and dream pop present throughout as well.

The closing track "Everyone Wants to be You" takes a lot of inspiration from psychedelic rock and dream pop acts such as Mazzy Star, and it is also one of the best tracks on here. Although slow moving throughout, it is the most different out of all the songs.

Overall, this album deserves a listen for the different amount of genres that Rogue Wave worked with. It is definitely a departure from their previous works of making commercial-friendly music. It is still there, but unlike their Brushfire-era albums they are putting more styles of music rather than just focusing on combining just two different types. The first half of "Nightingale Floors" is the weakest compared to the more memorable second half, although a couple of songs such as "Siren's Song" do stick out from that section.

"Nightingale Floors" will be released on June 4, 2013 under the Vagrant Records label in MP3, CD, and vinyl formats.

## GRADS

continued from page 1

Learning department, responsible for Parkland's online courses.

"I'm sure that each of you know well that good decisions have lasting consequences. Coming to Parkland College was an excellent decision. You've studied with some of the finest faculty in this nation focused on one thing, the art and the science of teaching," Ramage said.

Executive Director of the Parkland College Foundation Carl R. Meyer was the Honorary Associate Degree Recipient for this year's commencement. Meyer has helped raise an excess of over 25 million dollars for school equipment and scholarships since he started in 1997. "I'm sincerely humbled and appreciative of being named for this honorary degree. Parkland is such a special place, and it has been very enjoyable to work for such an outstanding institution," Meyer commented.

Meyer will be retiring from his position of Executive Director after spending 16 years in that position.

Pulitzer Prize winning syndicated columnist Leonard Pitts Jr. was the

Commencement Speaker this year. After a brief humorous introduction about himself, he explained that the future graduates of 2013 should be happy for themselves for what they are doing.

"Always persist. When you are in doubt, persist. When you fall, persist. When life intervenes, persist," Pitts Jr. explained to the new graduates.

Leonard Pitts Jr. is well known internationally for his column, "We'll go forward from this moment." The column was written a day after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and talks about how strong America was during it.

Following his speech, the students who received their Associates at Parkland College were each announced alphabetically to claim their degree. Some of the students received a roaring applause from many of their friends and family members who attended the ceremony. Several tables of cookies and drinks provided by several Parkland organizations were offered after the ceremony for those in attendance.

The ceremony was broadcast live on the Parkland College cable channel PCTV. The Commencement is currently viewable at <http://online.parkland.edu/commencement/>.

## LAPTOP

continued from page 4

and a tablet. I rented an hour on a computer at my local FedEx branch, just to check in with the outside world, though I told myself I was doing important research.

And then, just as the waiting work burden started to get a little scary, the email appeared in my inbox. I could pick up my healed computer. I sprinted back to the store, took the stairs to the third floor at an impressive clip - and hesitated for a moment, to compose myself before I reclaimed the machine. One has to maintain the proper power dynamic. I don't want it to get a swelled head.

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## Cobras baseball ends injured season



Illustration by Noah Musser/MCT

**Alex Wallner**  
Sports Writer

In sports, injuries are bound to happen. For Parkland's baseball team, however, it is much different as many of the team members were playing injured the entire season.

The Cobras had pitchers playing in the outfield, and other players playing certain spots that they had never played before. Even through these struggles Parkland's baseball team pulled through and ended with a decent season.

The Cobras finished with a 34 win and 23 loss season, ending in a 12-2 loss to Danville Area Community College on May 18, 2013, a tough loss to an already tough season.

"My thoughts of my season that we had this year; I felt like we had a good offensive side but our pitching and defensive side struggled quite a bit. We didn't play together as a team as good as we should of," freshmen infielder Marvin Campos said.

"It was very disappointing because you can't compete if you're not at full strength and it was disappointing to all of us, I know the players that were injured, it was disappointing

for them because they weren't able to perform and bring what they have to the game," Athletic secretary Mickey Cler described of the team's situation.

Injuries may mean the end of a season, but not the end of a career, as players who get injured are usually those who work hard at getting their strength back and improving their skills on the field.

Next season seems to be bright, as the Cobras lose 13 players, but keep 20. Without injuries, the Cobras will look for the same success as they've had in the past.

"After looking back at the team's performance this season considering the injuries, you could say that I thought it was an average year. We definitely missed guys like Alex Smith, Caleb Leach, Chase Armstrong and Jack Wietlispach and without those guys it forced others to play positions they are not accustomed to playing and having guys hit in a spot in the lineup they may not be comfortable in," Head Coach Matt Kennedy explained.

Kennedy continued, "The guys that did stay healthy and that were playing at the end of the year, I think it will only make them better for next year.

Many days we were starting seven freshmen and that is very promising for next year."

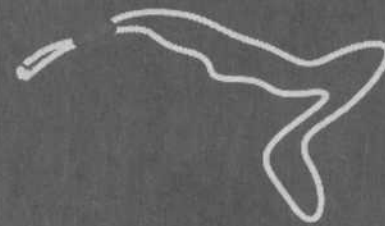
What every baseball player aims for is not only the World Series, but also getting better on the field. Parkland has amazing personnel to help aspiring players that want to go far in this sport.

"I am hoping next season brings a better year. This year I felt that our sophomores did not do a good job of 'leading'. Our energy, willingness to work together and desire to win has to improve. I think that the returning group will provide that and hopefully with the experience we gained this year on the field, it will lead to a more successful season," Kennedy said.

"Well, we sophomores are trying to go be more talkative and have more leadership to make things happen next year and hopefully looking to improve on our pitching and defense," Campos said.

Overall it was an up and down season for the Cobras, but without injuries it could have been a remarkable one. Next year will be the year that the Cobras prove that their injuries were a minor setback to what will be an outstanding year on the diamond.

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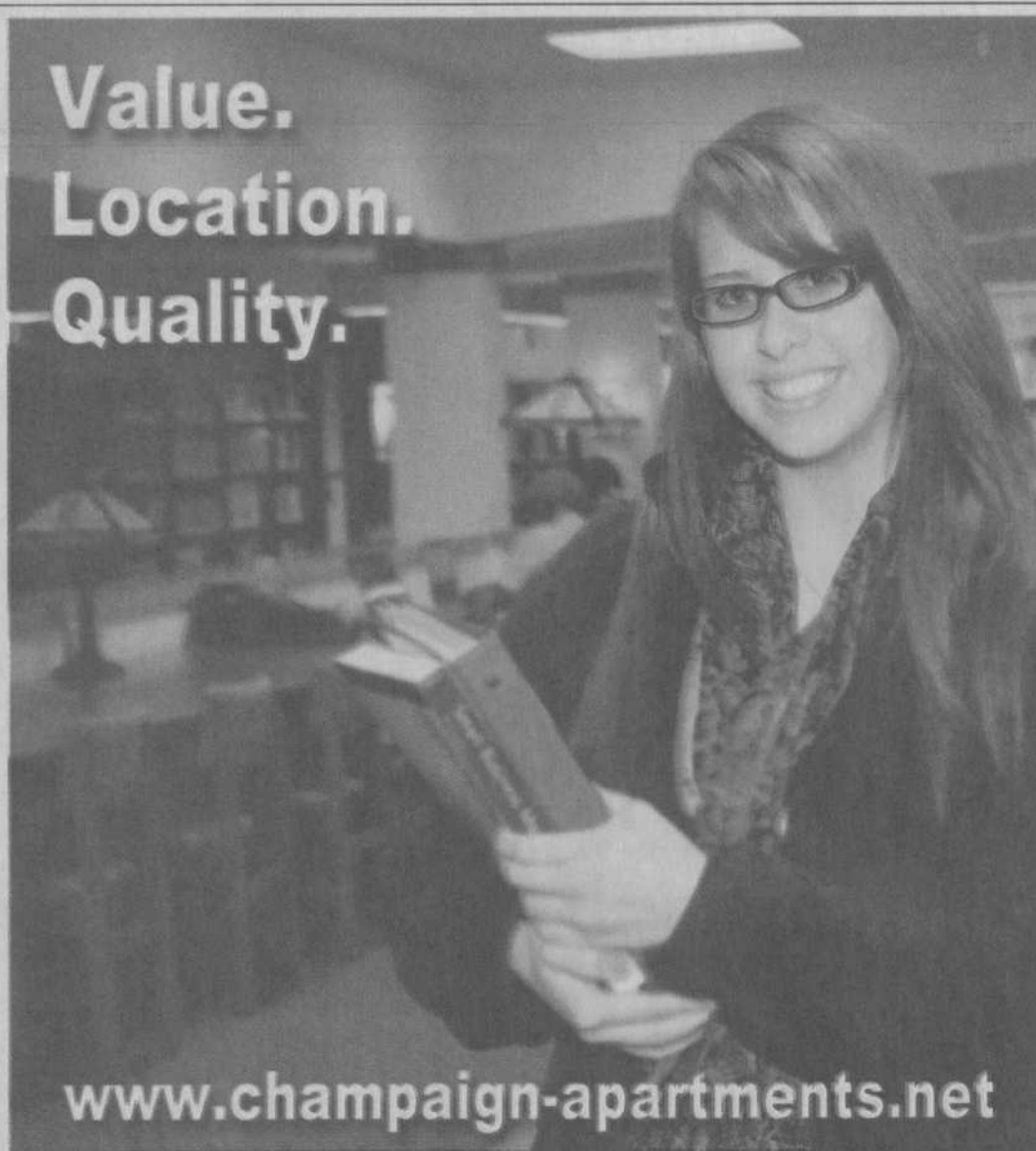


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# Entertainment

## Achievements more important than gameplay?

**PN** Mace Mackiewicz  
Staff Writer

In the current console generation achievements and trophies have become normal for video games. The player completes certain tasks and then can earn an achievement on the Xbox or PC or a trophy on the PlayStation 3 which has a set worth and goes towards the players Gamerscore on the Xbox and trophy level on PlayStation.

Achievements, which started out as a novel idea of sorts at first have kind of become a competitive event. People compete to have the highest Gamerscores and the most completion of a game.

If the player doesn't get a lot of the achievements in a game it lingers over them with the console menu telling them they only have so many achievements out of the max amount for their game.

Achievements have spawned a group of gamers that can be called achievement hunters, whose goal outside of just beating the game is to get as many achievements as possible.

Many games now have achievements that purposely require the gamer to play through the entirety of a game multiple times to get everything required. This can take up many hours to accomplish.

Achievements can be both a good thing and a bad thing. The good thing about achievements is that it adds something for the player to do other than just complete the game. There are certain objectives they can complete outside of the main path which can enhance and augment their enjoyment of the game. No longer is a game complete after finishing the last level or boss.

Along with this achievements can also increase the value of the game in the view of a gamer. Games are not cheap and not everyone can afford to buy a new one very often. Increasing the amount of time someone can play the games they have can be very important to people who game on a budget and need to squeeze every bit



Illustration by Alisha Kirkley/Prospectus News

of value possible out of the game.

Achievements also allow players to show off what they have done in a game. In older games it was just word of mouth if someone completed a hard objective or got 100 percent completion. Now the player has an achievement or two to prove it and can even share the accomplishments on their Facebook and Twitter accounts.

English major Kevin Reynolds had some positive things to say about

achievements.

"I personally enjoy collecting as many achievements as possible. It's fun and adds friendly competition with my friends online and it's always a challenge getting the last few achievements for a game I've spent hours on," Reynolds said.

There are also a lot of downsides to achievements. The gamer isn't necessarily achieving anything more than they would if the achievements

didn't exist in the first place.

Their Gamerscore may be high and say they've gotten quite a few achievements, but what have they actually accomplished outside of doing a few extra tasks in a game?

A lot of time spent on playing the games trying to get further achievements and getting 100 percent completion could be used to spend time with friends, or maybe playing a new game and adding variety.

An article on Kotaku went into detail on several people who were so obsessed with achievements that they actually started doing a process known as a "boosting," which is when two gamers get together and purposely let one or the other win games so that they can earn more achievements.

A quote from the Kotaku article goes into detail about how the individuals got involved in boosting their Gamerscores so high.

"It was a friendly race at the time. It was to 20,000. My buddy was at 15,000 and I was at 13, I was 2,000 behind him. I said, 'OK, this might take years.'" Kristen said of the beginning, three years ago, when she got serious about her Gamerscore.

Recently Microsoft's new console, the "Xbox One," was unveiled and since the launch there have been details on the future of achievements on their consoles. It looks like it could be rewarding people not for just playing their games, but also watching ads and videos in trade of points.

According to an article on the website ItWorld, Microsoft has filed a patent for achievements for watching videos. The actual patent goes into more detail about how such a system works.

"To increase interactive viewing and encourage a user to watch one or more particular items of video content, awards and achievements may be tied to those items of video content. For instance, users could earn rewards for watching a particular event, such as the Super Bowl, or 'performing a specific action' while watching a video."

The future of achievements and Gamerscore is still up in the air at the moment but they don't seem to be going away anytime soon. With technology advancing and more games coming out players can look forward or not to new and more achievements coming their way in the future.

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