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Prospectus News

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Recession calls into question economics of a college degree

Mara ROSE WILLIAMS
McClatchy Newspapers

Being “upside-down” means owing more on your house or car than it’s worth.

Right now, Patricia Summers is upside-down on her college degree.

She still owes \$18,000 on loans taken to get her degree in advertising from the University of Missouri. Her college time will end up costing more than \$50,000, not counting what she could have earned from a full-time job had she not gone to college.

But that job probably would have been a dead-end, low-paying service job, advocates of higher education contend.

Which is exactly what Summers is doing now: serving burgers at a Sonic drive-in.

The recession is recalibrating the economics of higher education.

“Whether college is worth it depends on how much you pay for it,” said Kevin Carey, the policy director at the Education Sector, a Washington-based education, think tank.

“It’s not worth much if you pay too much for a degree that has no value in the market, or one that pays too little to pay back what you borrowed.”

College costs are rising fast, as are student debt loads. Take Aaron McNally, 29, who last year received a master’s degree in English from the University of Northern Iowa, adding to what eventually became about \$50,000 in debt. That’s more than the national average—\$40,208—for a freshly inked M.A.

On the other end of the four-year slog, salaries are sputtering—if you get the job in your chosen field. Not finding the public relations post, McNally took a job as an assistant man-



Aaron McNally, center, an assistant manager at a Hy-Vee supermarket in the City of Independence, Missouri, helps cashier Kayla Lapointe, left, with a coupon entry, January 19, 2010. McNally has a master’s degree in English.

Jill TOYOSHIBA/Kansas City Star

ager at an Independence, Mo., grocery store.

Bigger investment. Disappointing returns. Yet college is still the only way to go, right?

Well, don’t ask Bill Gates of Microsoft, Steve Jobs of Apple, Michael Dell of Dell, Larry Ellison of Oracle or Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook. They all dropped out.

Clearly college is not for everyone, but statistics and studies still show a college degree usually translates to a higher income.

“People with high levels of education make more money on average,” Carney said. But he warned that whether a diploma means more income or a better life depends on the

individual. “A college education is no guarantee.”

With money scarce, many newly cost-conscious families are trying to work out the math:

—They swallow hard when they realize that, based on the current estimated cost of tuition, room and board, four years at Harvard costs \$188,860. Even the \$60,236 four-year cost for an in-state student at the University of Kansas can be daunting.

—The average student debt after four years is \$22,656.

—A bachelor’s degree doesn’t earn what it used to. “After adjusting for inflation, the earnings of male college grad-

uates are no higher than they were in the early 1970s, and the earnings of female college graduates have increased only moderately,” according to a College Board study of educational benefits.

—Fewer than 1 in 5 students in the class of 2009 had a job at graduation.

That gets us back to that Sonic in Columbia. Summers, who graduated in 2009, still is searching for a job in her field.

The Independence native, who also works at the MU bookstore, has her fingers crossed, and she still thinks college was worth it.

“I learned a lot of skills I couldn’t have gotten if I hadn’t gone to college.”

But Summers said that if a decent job doesn’t come along soon, her feelings about the value of her degree could change.

Although Summers is “upside-down” for the moment, her degree isn’t really comparable with a Florida condo mortgage, experts say. There are many non-monetary intangibles that come with college.

Studies indicate that college graduates are healthier, donate more blood, vote more often than other Americans and are more open-minded. They smoke less, exercise more and, a 2005 Pew study found, were 25 percent more likely than high school graduates to say they’re very happy.

But would such people, with their ambition and discipline, succeed anyway?

Studies have tried to get a fix on what more schooling adds. Some studies looked at twins and found the better-educated sibling fared better.

And the Census Bureau offers these after-tax median incomes of people 25 years or older in 2008: High school degree, nearly \$33,800; some college, but no degree, nearly \$39,700; bachelor’s degree, \$55,600.

It also should be noted that the salary gap between high school and college degrees is still growing.

Educators and politicians - President Barack Obama included - preach loudly and frequently that everyone should seek some college. In speech after speech, you hear that college graduates make at least \$1 million more in their lifetimes than those who quit after high school.

Who could pass that up? Certainly not governments, which garner more tax revenue from higher-paid citizens.

But is it true?

In 2007, Sandy Baum, a professor of economics at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., studied the value of a degree for the College Board. Her research - which factored for inflation and left out advanced degrees and their higher earning power - found that someone with a bachelor of arts degree plus 40 years of earnings came closer to earning \$550,000 more, on average, in today’s dollars.

Still, Baum said that college was easily worth the cost. Plus the recession has laid bare another factor to consider:

“Even in this economy, the number of unemployed col-

See **Degree** on page 4

When tax season comes near, the Prospectus is here!

Cassandra J. CUNNINGHAM
Social Media Editor

With W2’s and other tax forms flooding the mailbox, many students run to their parents and ask for help, but what something many students don’t know is that it is really easy to do it on your own. Students can easily educate themselves on preparing their income taxes and get their refund quickly. The Prospectus has put together a guide to filing taxes this year.

Be aware of phony e-filing websites. Students who have made less than \$57,000.00 in adjusted gross income for the previous year can e-file. E-filing is a free online filing service that allows individuals to file their own taxes from their computer. Students can log on to www.irs.gov/efile and the IRS website will guide individuals to a page that shows IRS approved companies offering free e-filing.

Do not, however, go to a search website and enter “free e-filing websites.” Some companies will offer fraudulent sites that will charge you money and use all of your personal information for possible identity theft. In some cases you may have to pay around \$10.00 for the process of a state claim but never pay anything unless it is from an IRS approved website.

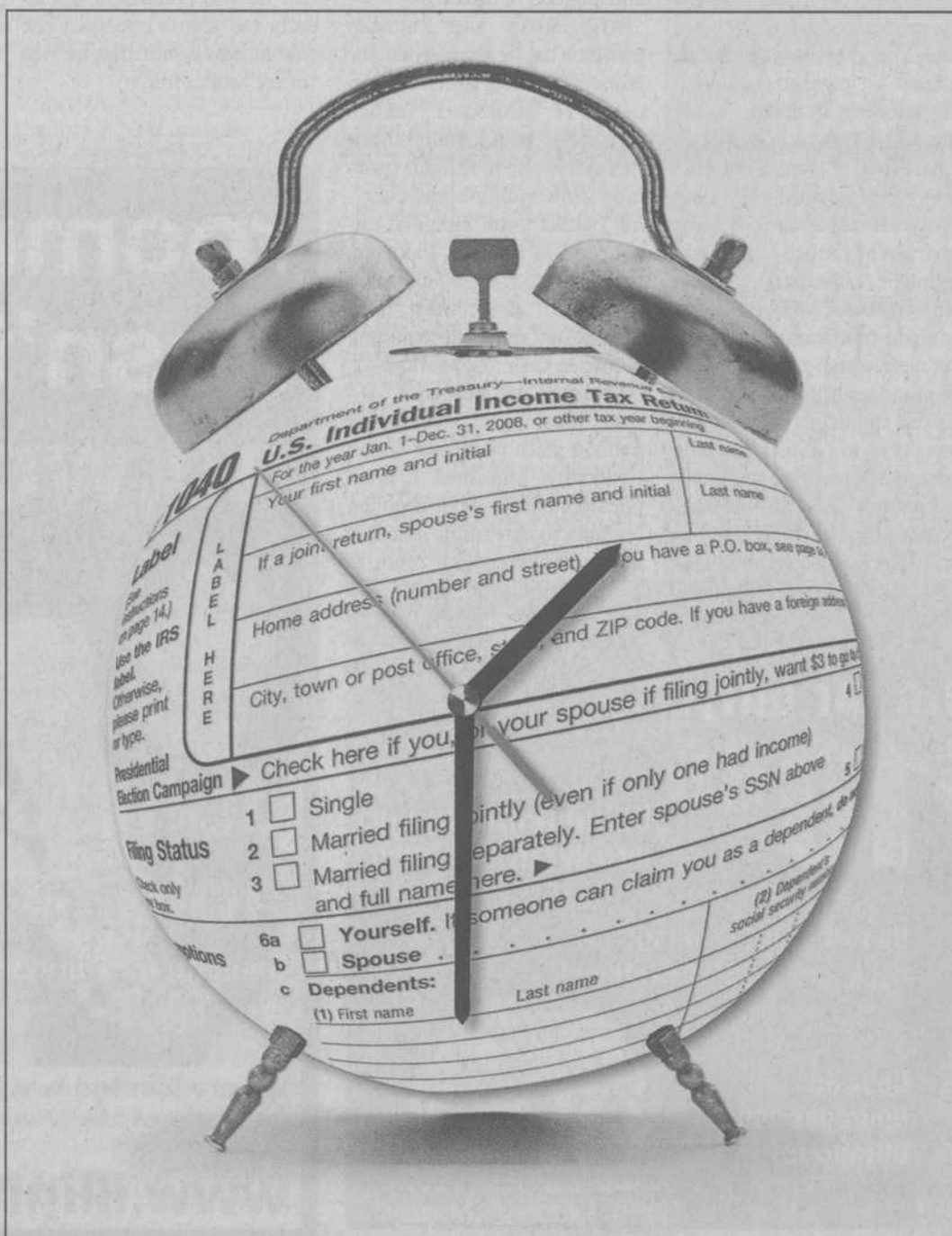
Know your dependency sta-

tus. If you pay for your own schooling, you live on your own and live without a great deal of financial help from your parents, you can file as independent. This warrants a much larger refund. Talk to your parents and see if they still claim you as a dependent or not. Remind them that the more money you get back is less money you have to ask them for.

Review, review, review. To avoid going through the hassle of filing over again, make sure there are no mistakes in your return. Check over your return a couple of times and make sure all of the information matches up to your tax form. If the information does not match, your refund will be rejected until all of the information is correct.

Choose direct deposit for the quickest return. If you have a checking account, you are eligible for a direct deposit of your refund. If you do not have a checking account, start one. This will ensure that you get your refund in as little as 10 days whereas mailing the check can take up to 7 weeks.

Know about different tax credits and deductions. Child-care expenses, living expenses and tuition and fees can be deducted from your taxes and allow for a larger refund. Students who attend an accredited institution during the tax year qualify for a tax credit of up to



\$2,000.00 for reimbursement of tuition and fees. Students who pay interest on student loans may also be reimbursed for this as well.

Keep all of your receipts and paperwork. It is important to print all of your filing papers and receipts. Save emails in a special folder regarding any online work you do. This will help with next year’s return and be a good reference in case there is a mistake that needs to be corrected.

Do not continue filling out your tax forms if you are unsure. If you are not sure if you are able to e-file or you are nervous about making a mistake, then ask for help or do it the old fashioned way. It is okay to ask for help, taxes are an important thing and there are professionals and people out there that know what they are doing.

If you decide that e-filing isn’t for you, call your local tax company. H&R Block sets up offices in many different cities during tax time and is there to help people file their taxes. The benefit of sitting down with someone is that they will make sure that you get everything you deserve out of your refund. It may cost a small fee, but the fee can be deducted from your refund and you will get the assurance that your taxes were filed correctly!

Prospectus

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Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

LEAD STORY

In December, a prominent online game player, Buzz "Erik" Lightyear, won the auction for ownership of a virtual space station in the Planet Calypso game, paying 3.3 million Project Entropia Dollars (PEDs), which at various points entered the game's play-like economy at an out-of-pocket cost of 10 actual U.S. cents per PED. Thus, Lightyear "paid" \$330,000 for nothing more than digital representations of cool-looking structures. However, Lightyear can now charge other PED-seeking players who shop and hunt for valuables on the popular space station and appears confident he will eventually earn back his investment. (On the other hand, if everyone suddenly abandoned the game, Lightyear will have spent thousands of hours online, buying, selling and bartering to earn \$330,000 worth of PEDs that would then be worthless.)

Government in Action!

In January, the Berkeley (Calif.) School Board began consideration of a near-unanimous recommendation of Berkeley High School's Governance Council to eliminate science labs from its curriculum, reasoning that the classes mostly serve white students, leaving less money for programs for underperforming minorities. Berkeley High's white students do far better academically than the state average; black and Latino students do worse than average. Five science teachers would be dismissed.

The Wisconsin legislature is considering a bill to designate a "state bacterium" (the *Lactococcus lactis*, which is crucial to turning milk into the state's famous cheese). If approved, the bacterium would join two dozen other state symbols (according to the Wisconsin Blue Book): coat of arms, seal, motto, flag, song, flower, bird, tree, fish, state animal, wildlife animal, domestic animal, mineral, rock, symbol of peace, insect, soil, fossil, dog, beverage, grain, dance, ballad, waltz, fruit and tartan.

New York City, under Mayor Bloomberg's leadership, has taken aggressive positions against cigarette-smoking and restaurant dishes made with trans fats, but the city's Department of Health is apparently more tolerant regarding heroin. A recently released, department-funded 16-page pamphlet instructs heroin users on "safer" ways to inject the drug (and suggests, if the first needle stab misses a vein, the more helpful course is to pull out and begin anew rather than try to maneuver the syringe). Of course, the booklet contains several warnings against any use of heroin, but those, obviously, are messages

habitually ignored by addicts.

Great Art!

In December, Portuguese dancer Rita Marcalo, seeking to raise public awareness of the tragedy of epilepsy (which has afflicted her for 20 years), performed a 24-hour "show" at a West Yorkshire, England, theater in which she attempted to trigger an epileptic seizure on stage. She had stopped taking medication beforehand and continually stared into flashing strobe lights, but was unsuccessful. However, in the second part of her project (which has been funded by an Arts Council grant of the equivalent of about \$20,000), she will continue the quest, but only in front of cameras, hoping to capture a seizure for a subsequent video production.

Scottish sculptor Kevin Harman was fined the equivalent of about \$325 in November for vandalizing the Collective Gallery in Edinburgh by smashing a metal scaffolding pole through a gallery window. Harman insisted that the incident was actually "art," in that it was part of a video for a project at the Edinburgh College of Art and that Harman had immediately paid to replace the window. However, it was not "art" to the gallery's management, which pressed charges. Harman, according to London's *The Guardian*, said he was less distressed by the fine than by the gallery's insulting his art by calling it vandalism.

Are the Terrorists Safe?

Although the U.S. military stateside can direct a drone aircraft halfway around the world to deliver bombs mostly on highly specific targets in Iraq, the Pentagon acknowledged in December that even after six years of war, its signals to the drone are still not encrypted. Thus, Iraqi insurgents can pinpoint drone locations merely by using ordinary computer programs like SkyGrabber, which is widely available from software retailers for about \$25. U.S. officials admitted that the software could make it easier for insurgents to anticipate the timing and location of attacks.

Afghanistan and Pakistan continue to be dangerous for blundering insurgents. In January, 14 suspected Taliban terrorists accidentally blew themselves up in Kunduz province while riding a bus carrying bombs to an intended target. And in Karachi, Pakistan, two days later, eight suspected terrorists accidentally blew themselves up while handling bombs in their "safe house."

Cutting-Edge Research

In December, University of London math professor Simon Blackburn published a complicated, square-root-deriving formula to determine whether a driver has enough room to

parallel-park within a given space. By inputting such measurements as a car's wheel base and the radius of its turning circle, a driver can calculate an exact, when-to-turn steering instruction.

A December National Public Radio report noted that fake housefires have begun appearing in urinals around the world based apparently on research showing that the men are more likely to aim at the flies, thus leaving the area surrounding the urinal cleaner. Another commentator wondered how such "research" was conducted (other than by the obvious method of paper-wiping floors around urinals and then comparing the wipes).

Police Blotter

Clovis, N.M., Nov. 21: "The grandmother, who said she relied on a walker for mobility, said the (son-in-law) had come into the bathroom while she was using it and had grabbed and twisted her nose until she could hear the bones and cartilage cracking. The man was arrested."

Apple Valley, Minn., Oct. 13: "Officers responded to a report that a man was sitting on the curb in front of his house talking to himself. When officers arrived they found a very intoxicated man who wanted officers to drive him to Washington, D.C., so that he could discuss the country's military involvement in the Middle East with President Obama."

People With Issues

Ewwwww! Prominent eastern Idaho prosecuting attorney Blake Hall, 56, was fired in November (and he also resigned from a major national political position) after his conviction for stalking an ex-girlfriend. Evidence at trial revealed that Hall had been tossing used condoms onto the woman's lawn, a total of 19 collected on 10 different days.

Truck driver Yuuki Oshima, 22, was arrested in Chiba, Japan, in December after allegedly urinating through the mail slot of a woman's apartment door on more than one occasion. Oshima told police that he was frustrated, apparently too shy to approach the woman and admit that he was "crazy" about her.

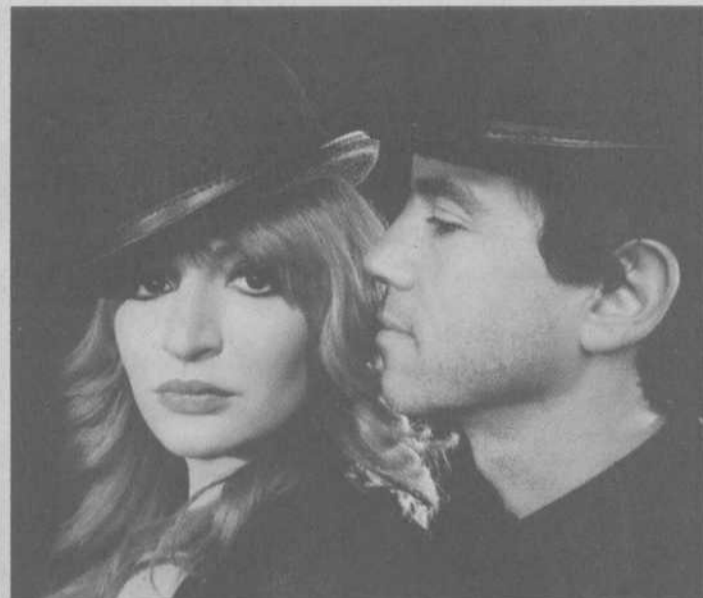
The Rise to Fame

Tara MOON CHRISTOPHER
Music Columnist

Many bands strive for fame, yet very few establish themselves. For many, it takes years of struggle and rejection, yet for a select few it comes naturally or is handed to them on a silver platter. Some of these bands will become legendary like The Beatles, while oth-

tle synth fun in their music. This connection also brings up the question of how "Morningwood" has established their place in the music industry, as I, among with the majority of MSI fans, only know of "Morningwood" because of Chantal's marriage connection.

I was first introduced to this band when I discovered that my celebrity crush, Jimmy Urine, was getting married. I



Peter "Pedro" Yanowitz and Chantal Claret Euringer, the greets that make up "Morningwood." Courtesy of "Morningwood."

ers will be one hit wonders. For Chantal Claret Euringer, fame has been an interesting journey for her band, "Morningwood." From attempting to make a name for themselves and using a boost from association with other musicians, "Morningwood" is getting noticed by today's most influential critics. This week I will be exploring the rise to fame and how this glorious group has established themselves as fame worthy from their start in 2001 to having music featured in Project Runway commercials, Jimmy Kimmel Live!, and The Late Show with David Letterman.

Through their rise to fame, "Morningwood" have evolved significantly to become a uniquely creative group that is redefining what alternative music can be. With catchy lyrics and endlessly fun beats, we can expect only the best from this amazing group of musically skilled individuals.

Not only do they fall under the alternative genre, but also it would seem that they get influence from Chantal's husband, Jimmy Urine, the lead singer of "Mindless Self Indulgence" (MSI). This influence is most apparent with the slight use electronic beats they add to their music. The union between the two genres is perfect for individuals such as myself who love to have a lit-

wondered who would be able to handle the insanity and glory that creates the man behind the madness and man believed to discover Chantal. There is no better fit in this world than Jimmy and Chantal and as far as celebrity couples go, they are the most inspiring. Since then I have been following "Morningwood" and their rise to fame and have been fascinated with the process.

Before I continue, I would like to clarify that I do not think that "Morningwood" is a band that is unworthy of fame, nor do I want to falsely accuse them of getting a free ride to stardom, as they are some of the hardest working individuals to keep what they have become.

"Mindless Self Indulgence" was just starting to get well known when they embarked on a tour with "My Chemical Romance," a tour that shot them into the spotlight. Although they were to the point of establishing themselves on the larger scale, their tour with "Linkin Park" and later with "My Chemical Romance" and bass player Lyn-z's marriage to Gerard Way gave them the extra help they needed. Through this union Chantal Claret and her band "Morningwood" have gotten huge amounts of recognition. Many

See **Fame** on page 5

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Parkland takes many steps toward campus improvements

 Merry THOMAS
Staff Writer

If you've been around Parkland within the last year, then you've more than likely noticed some of the changes taking place. It seems as though Parkland is getting a makeover, with colorfully painted walls and new floors, but these are just minimal projects going on at the moment.

You might be wondering why Parkland is making these drastic changes, and seeing that it's to the benefit of current and future students; it's a good idea to know a little something about what the project actually is.

The official title of the mass renovations and construction that is taking place is The Master Plan, which was created to develop Parkland's Campus to suit the needs of those who use Parkland's facilities.

What needs is the plan referring to? If you've been attending your classes lately, then you will have noticed that there's a rise in the number of students here at Parkland. According to the Parkland website, since it's start in 1967, the annual enrollment is 7.4 times greater today than it was back then. The Master Plan's specific goal is to "demonstrate the current need for growth, the projection of future enrollment, demonstrate potential areas of development and estimate project budgets for that development," which is much needed as outdated classrooms struggle to keep up with new technology and other various problems including the increase in the



Campus improvements are underway as phase I of Parkland's Master Plan continues through the Spring semester.

number of students.

In anticipation of the projects laid out by the Master Plan, Parkland student Julio McNeal said, "I'm glad they're doing it, it was very necessary. I expect that the campus will be cleaner and more spacious in the future—maybe brighter, too. Overall I think that it'll be more pleasant to be here."

Jim Bustard, Director of Physical Plant at Parkland, said that there's a lot of work

to be done with Parkland, and that it needs more space and an updated look.

"With the original College now nearing 40 years old, it was time to do some renovations and upgrades. The elevators needed to be renovated, both mechanically and aesthetically, and all the college wings needed to be modernized in their appearance," he said.

The elevators in Parkland are the current focus that the

Master Plan representatives are working on. All the elevators in the building are being redone this year to make them more efficient and up to date.

Other projects that are coming up this year are that both the B and C wings are being remodeled. The C wing is already underway, most of the floor has been replaced and there's also work being done to replace the trimming. There's also a roof project that will take

Levi NORMAN/Prospectus

place as soon as the weather is better, and in the spring there will be an addition to the Tony Noel Agriculture facility. Currently the Master Plan is in the process of making a design for a new Applied Technology addition that should begin construction in the summer.

It's hard to say when all of these projects should be finished, but according to Bustard, "the Diesel Technology addition should be complete


and open for class this Fall, the Applied Technology Center should be under construction on the northwest side of campus, there will be a new campus entry road off Duncan Avenue that should be open (which will have better access to the perimeter drive and the C Wing parking lots), the remodeling of the C wing and the B wing...and the elevator upgrades should be complete."

Also, something else that's happening to Parkland this spring is that Verizon Wireless is adding a new cell tower on top of the library roof. Though not apart of the Master Plan, the students can still appreciate the benefits of this project. If you're a Verizon customer, then you know about how bad the reception inside Parkland was. According to Verizon, the installation of the tower means that the service will be greatly improved. They're currently working on getting the tower up, but it most likely wont be finished until after Spring Break.

So how will all of this construction affect Parkland students and faculty? Aside from the slight disruptions when passing from class to class, it seems that Parkland is functioning as well as usual. This project is being done to make school life much easier and a more pleasing experience.

It seems that Parkland's has a very bright future ahead for its students. With all of these new additions and improvements, the students can have a truly better experience. The future of Parkland has never looked better.

Concerns in Chicago: Disinfecting sewage would hurt environment

 Jared S. HOPKINS
Chicago Tribune

Chicago is the only major U.S. city that doesn't disinfect its sewage, and the agency that treats its wastewater has a new reason for opposing the idea:

It's bad for the environment. Engineers with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago recently completed an in-house study of its carbon footprint at the request of the elected board of commissioners. Going beyond the assignment, they also decided to look at how the footprint would change if it had to kill bacteria in sewage before pouring it into the Chicago River.

Starting to disinfect the wastewater - a change the 120-year-old agency has long opposed - would bolster the district's greenhouse gas emissions and thereby cause more bad than good, they concluded.

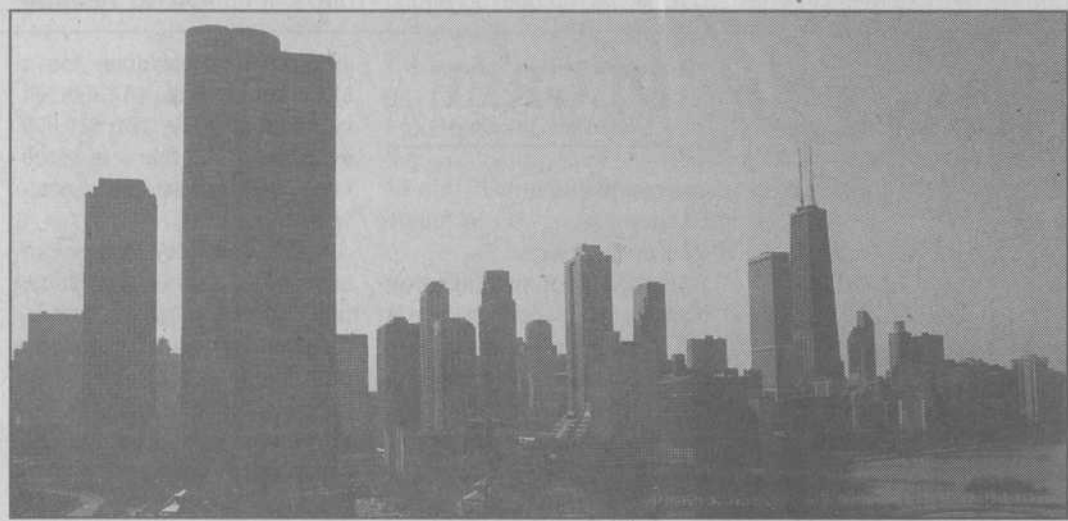
"With additional treatment, you have to weigh how much water quality is actually being accomplished with more harm to the environment in another way," said Louis Kollias, the director of the district's Monitoring and Research Department. "You're going to have to have it one way or the other. You can't have both."

Margaret Frisbee, executive director of the Friends of the Chicago River, called the district's argument an "ironic twist." Federal laws on clean water don't make exceptions for air pollution, she noted.

"We don't understand why they are so against disinfectant," she said. "This is not crazy, cutting-edge technology."

Whether to disinfect the sewage that enters the river, whose water is packed with bacteria, is a decades-old debate. The conversation has only intensified as more people participate in recreational activities like canoeing and kayaking on a resource that historically has served commercial purposes.

The Water Reclamation Dis-



trict - including Board President Terrence O'Brien, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for Cook County Board president - has rebuffed the idea of disinfecting wastewater. The district says it is waiting for the results of a study by the University of Illinois at Chicago it funded to determine whether people are getting sick from the river.

Eventually, the Illinois Pollution Control Board will decide if the district must use additional chemicals to treat its effluent.

The district studied its carbon footprint in response to a request from Commissioner Debra Shore to assess how much the district contributes to climate change. But Shore - who made disinfecting the effluent her chief campaign issue in 2006 - hadn't asked for carbon figures related to disinfection.

Asked by the Chicago Tribune if she was surprised the engineers added that issue to their calculations, she said: "It's prudent to look ahead."

The latest developments come, as the district grows more isolated in its opposition to disinfecting the murky water. Public officials including Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley now join environmental groups that have long pushed for disinfection.

District officials already have argued that there's no evidence the public's health and

safety are harmed by the water, that it is already clean enough and that disinfection will cost \$500 million to install equipment plus ongoing expenses. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has estimated the cost at \$242 million.

"You look at the record here, and every potential and possible argument against doing anything has been put into testimony," said Rob Sulski, a water pollution programs manager with the Illinois EPA.

Catherine O'Connor, assistant director of monitoring and research for the district, said the engineers took it upon themselves to study the greenhouse-gas impact of three potential regulations - including disinfecting wastewater - because they consider them the most important ones on the horizon.

The analysis found that the district's 2008 electricity consumption produced greenhouse gases equivalent to 436,837 tons of carbon dioxide, a decrease from 520,419 tons in 2005, the last time it was measured.

The report also concluded that if the district had to disinfect wastewater, its carbon footprint would increase by 98,600 tons a year. Disinfecting sewage at the treatment plants would require more electricity, which means burning more fossil fuels. That would release more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, where they contribute to global climate

change by trapping heat.

Critics said using carbon footprint as a reason to oppose disinfecting the sewage is misguided.

"Where they choose to do their due diligence is very inconsistent," said Todd Connor, a business consultant and candidate for the Water Reclamation Board. "If our goal is reduce carbon footprint, then let's make that a goal. But if that's a goal in isolation when we talk about disinfection, then that goal is wrong."

Sulski said the carbon projections mean little without placing them in the context of costs to taxpayers. The district, he said, has not studied whether the cost of disinfecting sewage is affordable to the local population.

District spokeswoman Jill Horist acknowledged that affordability hasn't been reviewed but said disinfectant is too costly to benefit just a few recreationists.

"It's treated wastewater. It's not drinking water. It's also not like your pool either," Horist said. "But it is clean."

Current treatment involves a combination of physical and biological processes that produce water Horist described as "95 to 98 percent" clean. The byproduct of treatment, a mucky sludge, is shipped out for use on farms and to landfills.

Shore said she would support a compromise in which the largest treatment plant, in

Stickney, is exempt from any disinfection requirement. That would cut the carbon impact as well as save money.

"There may be a way to reduce the impact of air emissions if you cut the (disinfecting) requirement by 50 or 60 percent," Shore said.


O'Connor said the district hopes to reduce its carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption and using carbon-neutral energy sources, such as wind. Trees on district land

are estimated to absorb 24,000 tons of carbon dioxide each year, she said, but that offsets only a fraction of the district's emissions.

"It's not likely that we're going to plant our way out of this," she said. "We'd have to really put in a rain forest."

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Parkland spring sports preview

Shagun PRADHAN
Staff Writer

Spring is in the air; can you feel it? Parkland athletics sure can! The Cobras softball team is coming off a 10-7 record from fall ball. The golf team is defending an Elite 8 appearance in last year's National Tournament. The baseball team can practically smell pay dirt after winning the NJCAA World Series. Sports are in the air and these teams are really melting away the snow now as they warm up for their respected seasons.

Parkland's spring sports have definitely stepped up their game in the past couple of years with the softball team making it to national tournaments 6 times since 2000 and the baseball team making an appearance 5 times in the World Series in the past 10 years. Rod Lovett, Parkland Athletic Director, explains his pride in Parkland athletics, "The students play great and they have a lot to show off and be proud about. I couldn't be more proud of our athletics right now." Doing well in these sports definitely has a positive affect on Parkland's image to others, "it draws attention to the school when we do well," said Lovett.

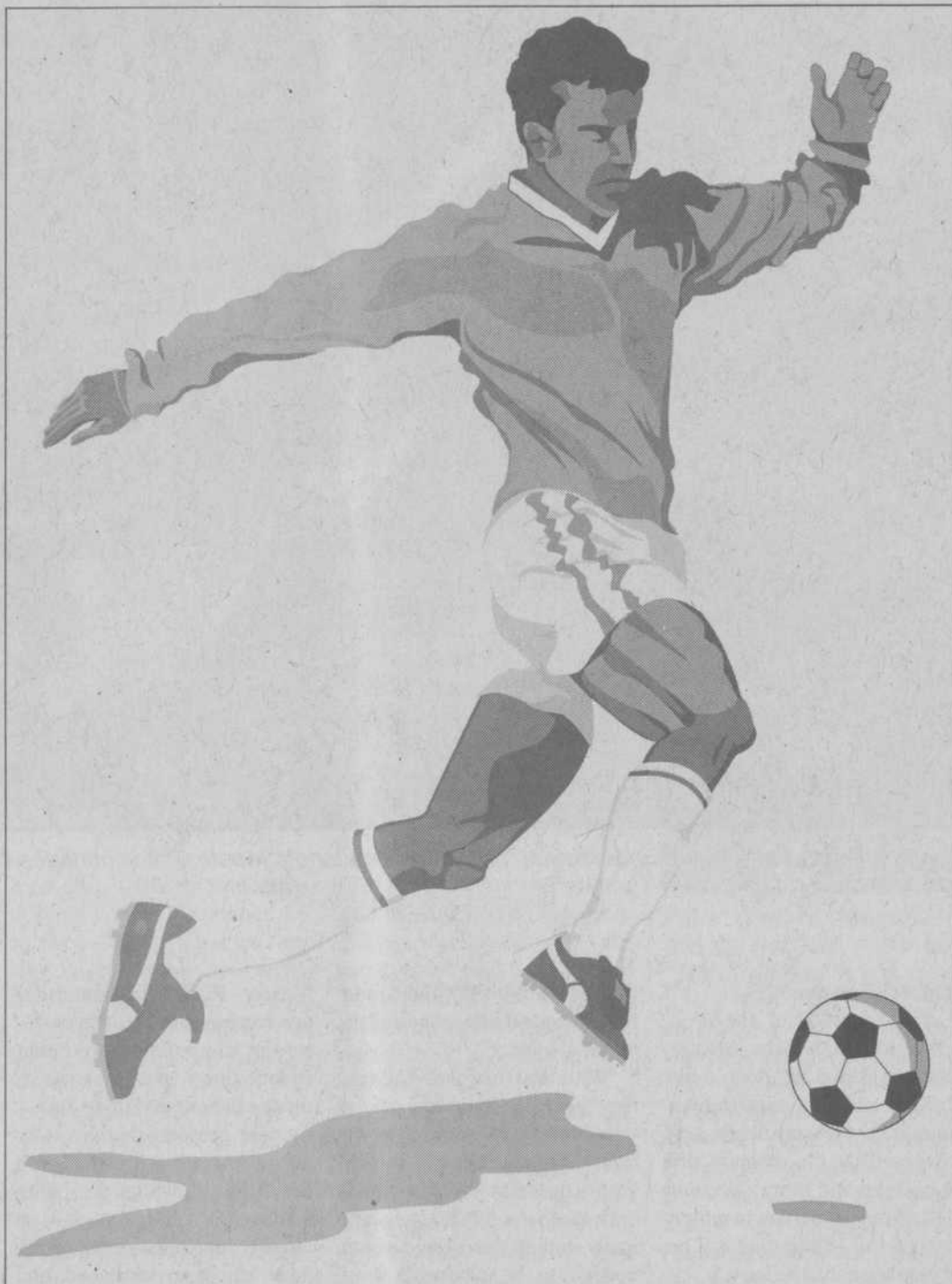
This, however, brings up a tough question: if Parkland sports are doing so well, and it has a positive affect on the college, then why not carry more sports? Currently, Parkland lacks a tennis, track and field, football, wrestling and swimming team. Most of these sports you can find at other schools, but not at Parkland.

"Budget is the main reason. Sports like football would cost a fortune, but also no schools

in our conference have a football team so we would have no one to play. Title 9 also has a huge effect on our athletic program," said Lovett. Title 9 states that no one gender sport can have more scholarships than other gender sports. If Parkland decided to have a men's track team with 40 people on it, 15 of those on scholarship, Title 9 would come into play and Parkland would have to add 2-3 women sports, with the same amount of scholarships, all of which the school would not be able to afford.

Intramurals, however, are always an option for many students looking to play those non-existent sports at Parkland. There are always a few intramural sports going on at Parkland, in which anyone can join. "The problem with intramurals is that it's hard to let the students know when they are happening and it's hard to get students interest," said Lovett. "Anyone can start their own intramurals as long as they get it cleared through me, in which I am more than willing to let that happen, as long as they meet the requirements. When the movie *Dodge ball* came out, some students put together a dodge ball tournament and that turned out to be a huge success.

I would like to see students become more active. It's very hard to communicate with the students because we don't have a set organized communication system to let students know when these things are happening. Intramurals are fun and less costly, it's just hard to communicate and get things organized," he said. Possible intramural sports this year will be basketball, volleyball and softball, depending on the amount



of interest generated.

However, for the teams playing in the spring that will be representing Parkland, they were last year, the National Champions," said Krone. "We have been practicing hard and have been running up-tempo

Freshman Pitcher Dane Krone is more than excited to

start the season of and help the team to another NJCAA championship. "Our main goal this year is to be exactly where we were last year, the National Champions," said Krone. "We have been practicing hard and have been running up-tempo

practices so we have no time to slack off," he said.

The baseball team has 6 players already committed to Division 1 schools after this year: RHP Danny Winkler (Central Florida), LHP Darin Workman (Eastern Illinois), 1B TJ McM-

anus (Eastern Illinois), OF Bob Glover (Dayton), RHP Nick Wittgren (Purdue), OF and last year's World Series MVP Kevin Kiermaier (Purdue). With that line up in mind, the Cobras are expected to get a quick start to the season going against Carl Sandburg College March 5, at the Millington Junior College Tournament in Millington, TN.

After a 10-7 record in the fall, the lady Cobras softball team is looking forward to starting the season off right. "Since we've played 17 games already this season we have gotten to know each other really well and there is great chemistry on the team," said Freshman OF Samantha Inman. "We have been practicing hard, and even though the freshmen outnumber the sophomores, we are very talented," she said. The lady Cobras face Olney Central on March 2, in Olney, IL.

The Parkland Men's golf team has big shoes to fill this year after finishing 8th in last year's National Tournament. Sophomore Michael Peters has been preparing for this season since the end of last season. "We are looking forward to another great year for Parkland golf," said Peters. "We do not have as much enthusiasm as we would like coming into this year, so we are really going to need people to come watch and support us. It would really be a great morale booster and it would make a huge difference. If we are going to go farther than we did last year we are going to need people to support us, it's that simple," he said.

Come out and support your Cobras this spring and look forward to a very successful season from all of our teams!

Prospectus Pick:

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

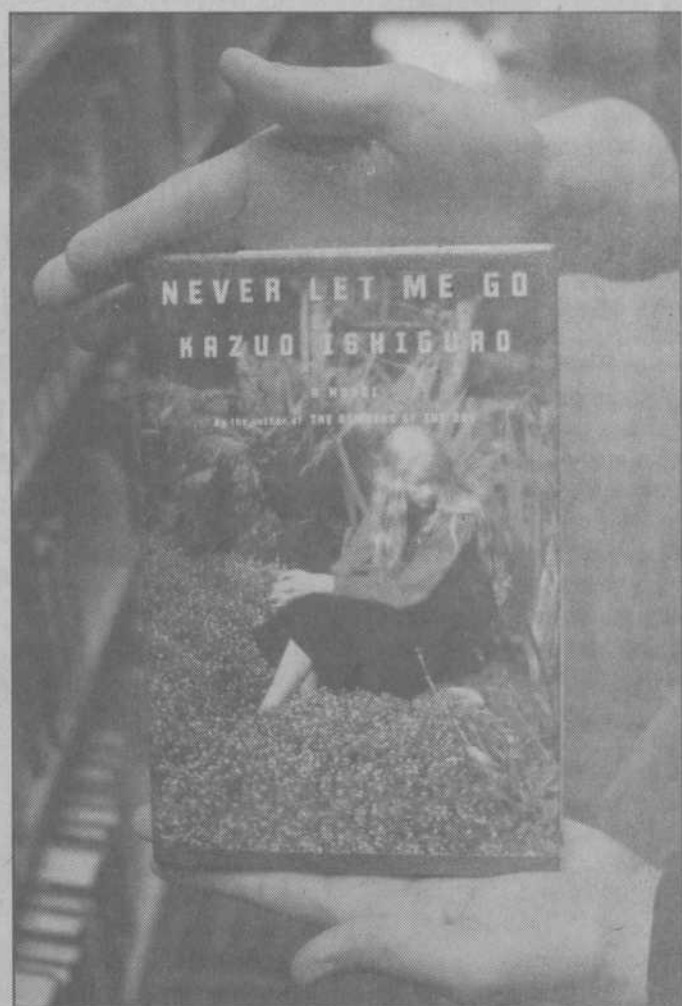
Merry THOMAS
Staff Writer

Out of all the books I've read this past year, one of my favorites was Kazuo Ishiguro's book *Never Let Me Go*. The genre is very slightly science fiction. For someone who is not really a fan of science fiction novels, I would highly recommend this book.

The story takes place in England, and the book is basically the reflection of the main character, Kathy H's, life growing up in a special school, Hailsham, and what happened to her after she left. It's obvious right from the beginning of the book that there's something very different about the students that live at Hailsham, something that makes them different from people on the "outside". At this school, all the children were taught that they were special, and that it was very important to take care of their bodies because of what they were, and that they had very specific destinies.

Kathy is 31 years old and works as a "carer", someone who provides care for these people who are so "special". Through her job, she reencounters some friends from her childhood, Ruth and Tommy, and with them they explore their strange pasts that lead them to a shocking and unnerving realization of

the purpose of their lives. *Never Let Me Go* is one of capturing this element of human nature and twisting it



those novels that really takes a hold of you and makes you question about the morality in human nature. Is it really ok to justify certain actions against someone just because of who they are? It's been done throughout history, but never quite like how it is in this novel. Ishiguro does a really good job

in such a way that feels both wrong but conceivable.

Never Let Me Go is a fantastic read, and I really would suggest it to anyone. It'll leave you with a different perspective on human nature, that's for sure.

DEGREE

continued from page 1

lege graduates is half that of the unemployed who did not go to college," she said.

Another, even grimmer way to look at it: The poverty rate is 10.8 percent among high school grads. It is one-third less for those with bachelor's degrees.

Is it just the recession that is devaluing the B.A., or is it a longer-term question of supply and demand?

The percentage of college-educated people in the U.S. population is still growing. In 2008, 29 percent of adults 25 and older had bachelor's degrees, a 5 percent increase from 1998.

Plus, about 1 in 5 people with Bachelor of Arts degrees was born abroad.

Now comes the freshman wave of 2009, the largest in history for many colleges and universities. Less-expensive community colleges are filled to bursting.

Some of that is because of ambition, some because of population growth. Some people are going to college to be retrained. Others see the classroom as a place to wait out the economic storm. In this job market, they say, what else is there to do?

So the competition among B.A. holders is tougher than ever. Time to juice the resume with a master's degree, right?

Not necessarily. While the

2008 median earnings for a M.A. holder was \$67,300, an increase of more than \$10,000 over the B.A., there is more variation in the price-cost analysis.

While a master's degree can mean extra skill or sophistication, if it's not in the right area, it can end up being irrelevant. McNally thought more English courses might help get a job in public relations, but he concedes that his master's probably wasn't needed for his current job. He still believes his education was good value.

"Maybe not in the financial sense, because I believe the cost is astronomical," he said. "But I feel as though I have benefited outside of the direct professional application, in my ability to understand the world, and to communicate with people in everything from philosophy to theology to the arts."

Emily Rosner, 27, of Kansas City, Mo., has hopped from one low-paying job to another since she graduated in 2006 with a degree in fine arts and computer design from Olivet Nazarene University near Chicago.

"Some people I graduated with landed great graphic-design jobs. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do," said Rosner, who for now makes \$20,000 a year working at a Starbucks coffee house.

Rosner said she learned life skills in school, and after struggling to pay rent and \$19,000 in college loans, she plans to go back for a teaching license.

"College was great, but I wouldn't push someone to go just to get a piece

of paper. There are a lot of good jobs that don't require a four-year degree."

College certainly is good for many, but not all, said Marty Nemko, a former instructor at the University of California at Berkeley.

"We are sending too many kids to college," Nemko said. "It is devastating and inhumane to make students feel that if they don't attend college after high school they will end up as second-class citizens."

Nemko sees colleges that rake in tuition from students who are unlikely to end up with degrees as a rip-off. Even with degrees, some students can feel cheated.

Last summer a 27-year-old unemployed woman from the Bronx, N.Y., was so disappointed in what her degree in information technology had gotten her in the job market that she sued Monroe College for \$70,000, the cost of her tuition. She claimed the school did not help her land a job in her field.

"I doubt if it will go anywhere. It is not much of a law suit," said Gary Axelbank, a spokesman for the college. "We had 3,000 graduates last June, and every one of them walked out thrilled."

Without a doubt, a degree is worth having, said Anthony Carnevale of Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce.

"Graduates who say college was a rip-off probably chose the wrong school, the wrong major, or they are living in the wrong region, where jobs are hard to come by. Education can't fix those," Carnevale said.

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OPINIONS

The Doomsday Clock keeps ticking

Lawrence M. KRAUSS
Los Angeles Times

"The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything, save our modes of thinking, and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe." - Albert Einstein, 1946.

Last week, on behalf of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, I announced that the Doomsday Clock - established in 1947 by scientists who had worked on the first atomic bomb in 1945 - was to be moved back by one minute from its previous setting of five minutes to Doomsday. As of Jan. 14, it reads six minutes to midnight.

The Science and Security Board of the bulletin and its Board of Sponsors meet regularly to assess the changing global situation, and this is the 19th time the clock has been adjusted since its inception. It had last been reset in January 2007 and in 2002, following the events of 9/11. It was closest to midnight (two minutes) in 1953, when the United States and the Soviet Union tested thermonuclear weapons within

six months of each other, and it was set farthest back in 1992, at 17 minutes to midnight, as the Soviet Union dissolved. A change of one minute now may not seem like much, and in fact this is the first time in the clock's history that such a small shift has been made. But the subtext is significant.

For the first time since atomic bombs were dropped in 1945, leaders of nuclear weapons states are cooperating to vastly reduce their arsenals and secure all nuclear bomb-making material. President Obama has initiated new arms reduction talks with Russia and directed the U.S. government to lead a global effort to secure loose fissile material in four years. And for the first time ever, industrialized and developing countries alike are pledging to limit climate-changing gas emissions.

But good intentions and action are different things. Governments won't find the political will to follow through unless the public demands it. For that to happen scientists can't just warn of impending doom; we have to dispel the

misconceptions that make it easy for business-as-usual to persist.

Here are seven wrong-headed notions that keep the clock ticking:

-The Cold War is over.
Russia and the U.S. possess more than 10,000 nuclear warheads, and what's more, each country has perhaps 1,000 warheads on hair-trigger alert, ready to launch within 15 minutes of a perceived attack. This is a recipe for disaster and no longer has any strategic purpose, because the two superpowers are no longer basing their defense on mutually assured destruction.

-The intractable rogue governments in Iran and North Korea are the chief drivers of nuclear proliferation.
In fact, violations by the U.S. and Russia of the 1970 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty have done more to spread nukes. The treaty requires the five nations acknowledged to have nuclear weapons - primarily the U.S. and Russia - to dramatically disarm. This has not occurred. Moreover, U.S. actions toward Pakistan and India - non-sig-

natories to the treaty - simply encourage the nuclear arms race between those nations by providing plutonium reactors to Pakistan and engaging in separate nuclear agreements with India.

-The United States would never again be first to use nuclear weapons against a civilian population.
The U.S. continues to reserve the right to use nuclear weapons first. There is no rational, moral, tactical or strategic purpose for the first use of nuclear weapons, and we need to recognize this fact in our strategic defense policy.

-"Limited nuclear war" is, in fact, limited.
Recent studies have concluded that even a limited nuclear exchange between Pakistan and India, for example - involving perhaps 100 warheads - would significantly disrupt the global climate for at least a decade and would kick at least 5 million tons of smoke into the stratosphere.

-We have a missile defense system to protect us against nuclear weapons.
Even before the most recent

ballistic missile defense system was installed in eight silos in Alaska and California in 2004 and 2005, 50% of the U.S. public thought we already had such a system in place. They were about as correct then as they would be now. The system that has been installed has failed almost 50 percent of the time in tests, and even then the tests were not performed against a realistic threat.

-The evidence of global climate change is based on models and assumptions, not what is actually happening.
In fact, climate change is occurring now; it's observable and measurable. The seas are becoming more acidic; sea levels are observed to be rising as predicted; continental ice sheets are shrinking at a faster rate than predicted.

-There hasn't been a nuclear attack in 65 years, which bodes well for the future.
The more nuclear weapons that nations possess, the greater the motivation for the nonnuclear nations to join the club. The more nations with weapons, the greater the chance one of them will use

them, or lose them to terrorists that will.

Every little bit helps, but turning the Doomsday Clock back by one minute is cold comfort. We need to follow Einstein's dictum and change our modes of thinking. It's the only way we can stop the ticking once and for all.

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Los Angeles Times.



Year	Event	Minutes to Doomsday
1947	Clock first appears after atom bomb used in World War II	7 min.
1949	Soviet Union explodes its first atomic bomb	9 min.
1953	U.S. and Soviet Union test hydrogen bombs	2 min.
1953	U.S., Soviet Union sign Partial Test Ban Treaty	12 min.
1960	France, China get nuclear weapons; nuclear arms race begins	7 min.
1968	U.S. Senate ratifies Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty	10 min.
1972	U.S., Soviet Union sign Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT)	12 min.
1974	SALT talks reach 30-day pause	9 min.
1980	Five-year ceasefire ends Vietnam war	7 min.
1981	Soviet Union tests missile nuclear warheads	8 min.
1984	Superpower arms race accelerates	3 min.
1988	U.S., Soviet Union sign Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty	5 min.
1990	Cold War ends	10 min.
1991	U.S., Soviet Union sign Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)	17 min.
1995	U.S., Russia have not yet implemented START II treaty	14 min.
1998	India, Pakistan perform nuclear tests	9 min.
2002	Unsettled, unaccounted-for weapons-grade nuclear material; concerns of terrorist attack	7 min.
2007	World at brink of a second nuclear age	5 min.
2010	Warheads moving closer to missing threats posed by nuclear weapons; climate change	6 min.

Colleges' gender gap: The big debate

McClatchy-Tribune
Los Angeles Times

Who's smarter, men or women? It's a topic of common - and often comic - musings, but it has also become a serious policy issue for colleges and this nation's students.

After 17 years of concentrated effort to raise the academic achievement of girls, who in previous decades had often received less attention in the classroom and been steered away from college-prep courses, the nation can brag that female students have progressed tremendously. Though still underrepresented in calculus and other advanced-level science and math courses in high school, women now outnumber men applying to and graduating from college - so much so that it appears some colleges are giving male applicants an admissions boost. As a result, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is examining whether colleges are engaging in widespread discrimination against women in an effort to balance their male and female populations.



At Ramapo College in Mahwah, New Jersey, male students are a distinct minority. The school is not unusual: The gender gap is a growing concern at colleges nationwide.

Consider some of the numbers at leading schools: At Vassar College in New York State, a formerly all-women's college that is still 60 percent female, more than two-thirds of the applicants last year were women. The college accepted 35 percent of the men who applied, compared with 20 percent of the women. In California, elite Pomona College accepted 21 percent of male applicants for this year's freshman class, but only 13 percent of female applicants. At Virginia's College of William & Mary, 7,652 women applied for this year's freshman class, compared with 4,457 male applicants. Yet the numbers of each who gained admittance were nearly the same. That's because the college accepted 45 percent of the men and only 27 percent of the women.

A 2007 analysis by U.S. News & World Report, based on the data sent by colleges for the magazine's annual rankings, found that the admissions rate for women averaged 13 percentage points lower than that for men. But percentages don't tell the whole story. It could be that the men were stronger candidates, or they might have applied in areas of engineering and science where women's numbers are still lower. But such justifications, even if true, are unlikely to fully explain these numbers. At schools such as the University of California, where admissions rely overwhelmingly on statistical measures of academic achievement such as grades and test

scores, the disparities don't appear. Far more women than men applied to UCLA - the UC's most selective campus - last year. The university accepted about the same percentage of each, with a slight edge to the women. As a result, the freshman class has close to 800 more women than men.

In recent years, several college leaders have admitted that their institutions give a boost to male applicants to maintain gender balance on campus. Most students of either sex, they point out, prefer such balance. If Vassar accepted equal percentages of each sex, women would outnumber men by more than 2 to 1.

The dean of admissions at

Kenyon College in Ohio, a formerly all-male school, brought the matter to broad public attention in 2006 with an Op-Ed article for the New York Times describing the dilemma of her admissions office. "What messages are we sending young women that they must ... be even more accomplished than men to gain admission to the nation's top colleges?" Jennifer Delahunty Britz wrote.

This page has long favored allowing colleges to use race as an admissions factor in order to diversify student populations. Exposure to people of different backgrounds and viewpoints better educates all students - not just those given a leg up. We are not in favor

of accepting underqualified or clearly inferior students for the sake of diversity. But most colleges are inundated with applications from students who more than meet their standards; the differences among many of them are slight. It makes sense for colleges to pick a balanced population from within this group. At the same time, admissions officers should avoid rigid notions of what constitutes enough men on campus. It's not harming UCLA, or destroying college social life, to admit somewhat more women than men.

Even if the civil rights commission finds pervasive gender discrimination in admissions, there's little it could do about

the situation. Such discrimination - though not racial discrimination - is legal for undergraduate admissions at private, nonprofit colleges, even those that receive federal funding. It is illegal at public colleges as well as graduate and professional schools. Commission documents on the inquiry suggest that colleges could find more "gender-neutral" ways of balancing their student numbers, perhaps by offering programs and extracurricular activities that attract men.

Those might work for some schools, but won't change the overall scenario. Not with college populations composed of 57% women nationwide. The issue we'd like the Commission on Civil Rights to investigate is: What's happening with the education of U.S. boys? Why are so few of them applying to and graduating from college?

Theories and arguments abound. Some say that boys are more active and thus less able to sit still for long periods - and as a result, more likely to be categorized as having attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder or needing special education. A 2008 study by researchers at Northwestern University found that when girls are involved in a language-related task - such as reading - they show more activity in areas of the brain involved in encoding language. Boys use more sensory information to do linguistic tasks. The study suggests boys might do better if they were taught language arts in different ways. Race is a factor as well. The gender gap is starker among African American and Latino students.

There may be no one reason - or solution. But figuring out ways to help boys achieve in school is a better response to the gender gap than making it easier for them to get into college later.

(c) 2010
Los Angeles Times.

Carmine GALASSO/The Record

Industrial chemical or autism treatment?

Trine TSOUDELOS
Chicago Tribune

An industrial chemical developed to help separate heavy metals from polluted soil and mining drainage is being sold as a dietary supplement by a luminary in the world of alternative autism treatments.

Called OSR#1, the supplement is described on its Web site as an antioxidant not meant to treat any disease. But the site lists pharmacies and doctors who sell it to parents of children with autism, and the compound has been promoted to parents on popular autism Web sites.

"I sprinkle the powder into Bella's morning juice and onto Mia and Gianna's gluten free waffle breakfast sandwich," wrote Kim Stagliano, managing editor of Age of Autism and mother of three girls on the autism spectrum, in an enthusiastic post last spring. "We've seen some nice 'Wows!' from OSR."

A search of medical journals unearthed no papers published about OSR#1, though the compound's industrial uses have been explored in publications such as the Journal of Hazardous Materials.

Boyd Haley, president of the Lexington, Ky.-based company that produces the compound, acknowledged its industrial origins but calls his product "a food" that is "totally without toxicity." He said he has been taking the supplement for nearly three years.

"Look, I put myself on the line," he said. "I have taken 250 milligrams per day, on the average."

Federal law requires manufacturers to explain why a new dietary ingredient reasonably can be expected to be safe. The Food and Drug Administration told the Chicago Tribune that



The chemical called OSR#1 is used by some as a dietary supplement for kids with autism with expectations of improving the children's lives. The chemical was first developed to separate heavy metals from soil but the manufacturer says it is non-toxic and could be called a "food."

Antoinio PEREZ/Chicago Tribune

Haley had not submitted sufficient information.

In an interview, Haley said that the compound had been tested on rats and that a food safety study was conducted on 10 people. Asked to provide documentation of the studies, he stopped communicating with the Tribune.

Experts expressed dismay upon hearing children were consuming a chemical not evaluated in formal clinical trials for safety, as would be required for a drug prescribed by doctors.

Ellen Silbergeld, an expert in environmental health and a researcher funded by the National Institutes of Health studying mercury and autism at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, said she found the sale of the chemical as a supplement for children "appalling."

"I would worry a lot about giving anything to a small child that hasn't been scrutinized for both safety and efficacy by the FDA," said antioxidant expert Dr. L. Jackson Roberts, a pharmacologist at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

OSR#1 supplements are one

of many risky, unproven therapies given to children with autism by doctors who say they can successfully treat the disorder, which has no cure and very few proven treatment options. Last year, Tribune reporters examined alternative treatments for autism and uncovered a trail of junk science and false hopes.

Haley, a retired professor at the University of Kentucky who once was chairman of the chemistry department, has

spoken at autism conferences promoting alternative therapies. His fiery presentations connect autism and the mercury that was once a part of childhood vaccines, a supposed link that numerous scientific studies have failed to prove.

"We need to get mad," he told an audience of hundreds at a national autism conference in Chicago last year.

One of the most prominent autism groups, Generation Rescue, once named him to its Hall of Fame, citing his "clear, thoughtful, feisty testimony

and writings" about mercury.

On the Age of Autism blog, parents have hailed him as a hero for his new supplement, which Haley said "easily 1,000 people" have taken. "Boyd Haley should be 'Man of the Year,'" wrote one reader.

Stagliano, the Web site's managing editor, declined to comment.

The company that makes the supplement, CTI Science, describes it as an antioxidant. But pharmacologist Dr. Arthur Grollman, director of the Laboratory for Chemical Biology at State University of New York at Stony Brook, said it is obvious from the product's chemical structure that it is also a "powerful chelator," a compound that binds to heavy metals such as mercury.

The FDA has approved several chelators as drugs to treat heavy metal poisoning. Some doctors also use the drugs - which carry significant risks - to treat children with autism based on the scientifically unfounded idea that their disorder is linked to toxic metals.

But the chemical being sold as OSR#1 is part of a family of chelators originally developed for industrial purposes, according to a U.S. patent issued in 2003 and assigned to the University of Kentucky Research Foundation. A university spokesman said Haley's company has licensing rights to that patent, which discusses ways to use the compound to remove heavy metals from soil and acid mine drainage.

In a 2006 interview for the magazine Medical Veritas, Haley told a reporter from AutismOne Radio that he was interested in developing better chelators for people.

"We've made compounds that ... work tremendously" in

See *Autism* on page 9

Yiddish takes another blow

Matthew HAY BROWN
The Baltimore Sun

It survived Hitler, Stalin, the decision to make Hebrew the official language of the State of Israel and the adoption of English by immigrants to the United States.

Now Yiddish, for 1,000 years the everyday language of European Jews, is facing another threat: budget cuts.

At the University of Maryland, which has stood alongside Harvard and Columbia as one of the nation's few schools to consistently offer instruction in the Germanic tongue, the recent announcement that the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies would be dropping it in the fall shocked area enthusiasts.

"U-Maryland has had the biggest commitment to Yiddish as a language anywhere in a hundred-mile radius," says Harvey Spiro, president of Yiddish of Greater Washington, which organized a letter-writing campaign. "We're not a particularly political organization, but this kicked us in the gut."

The center now has cobbled together the money to pay its longtime instructor through the next academic year. But after that, director Hayim Lapin says, it is unlikely to continue funding a full-time faculty member dedicated to the language.

"This is not about Yiddish," Lapin says. "What this is about is responding to the budget crisis and actually cutting back on just about all of our visiting faculty and programming. So we have less Bible than we had. We have less history than



Miriam Isaacs, shown December 18, 2009, in Washington, DC, is a visiting professor of Yiddish Language and Culture at the University of Maryland. The program has been taught at the university for three decades but is now having trouble finding funding.

Kenneth K. LAM/Baltimore Sun

we had. We have less or no Yiddish."

Professor Miriam Isaacs, who has taught elementary and intermediate Yiddish at Maryland for 15 years, worries about a future without the language.

"It's not just at Maryland that I'm concerned," says Isaacs, born in postwar Germany, where Yiddish was her first language.

"We're at a critical point in that the generation of Holo-

caust survivors, my parents, they're not around anymore," she says. "Or if they're around, they can't do a lot of translating. So if nobody learns it, you know, the Holocaust Museum archive is full of Yiddish materials. The University of Maryland has been acquiring Yiddish books galore. Who is going to read them? Who is going to be able to have access to them?"

Dating back to the 11th-century Jews who settled along

the Rhine River, Yiddish employs the Hebrew alphabet but is essentially Germanic in grammar and structure. Words derive principally from German, Hebrew, Aramaic and Slavic sources.

Dozens of those words - klutz, chutzpah and shmuck among them - have entered the American lexicon, many courtesy of the Borscht Belt wits who dominated the golden age of radio and early television comedy.

Their mention makes Spiro

wince.

"I come from New York, and I understand," he says. "But what bothers me is that people think Yiddish is inherently funny, or it's a good language for dirty jokes. The Yiddish that I read and the Yiddish I speak is a language for everyday communication. I read novels in Yiddish. I read the Yiddish newspaper."

Spoken by both the ordinary and the elite, the language gave rise to a vibrant press, a the-

ater that in the early 20th century was considered among the most advanced in the world, and the literature that spawned the Nobel laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer.

"This civilization that the Jews built in Eastern Europe, it is a culture among cultures," says Jonathan Brent, executive director of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, a leading center for the study of the language. "If you want to read some of the world's great literature, you have to read Yiddish."

Before World War II, the number of speakers worldwide was estimated at 11 million. But half were killed in the Holocaust, and postwar pogroms in Stalinist Russia and migrations to the United States and Israel also took a toll. The number of speakers today is estimated at fewer than 2 million, largely in Orthodox communities in New York, Jerusalem, Antwerp and a few other cities.

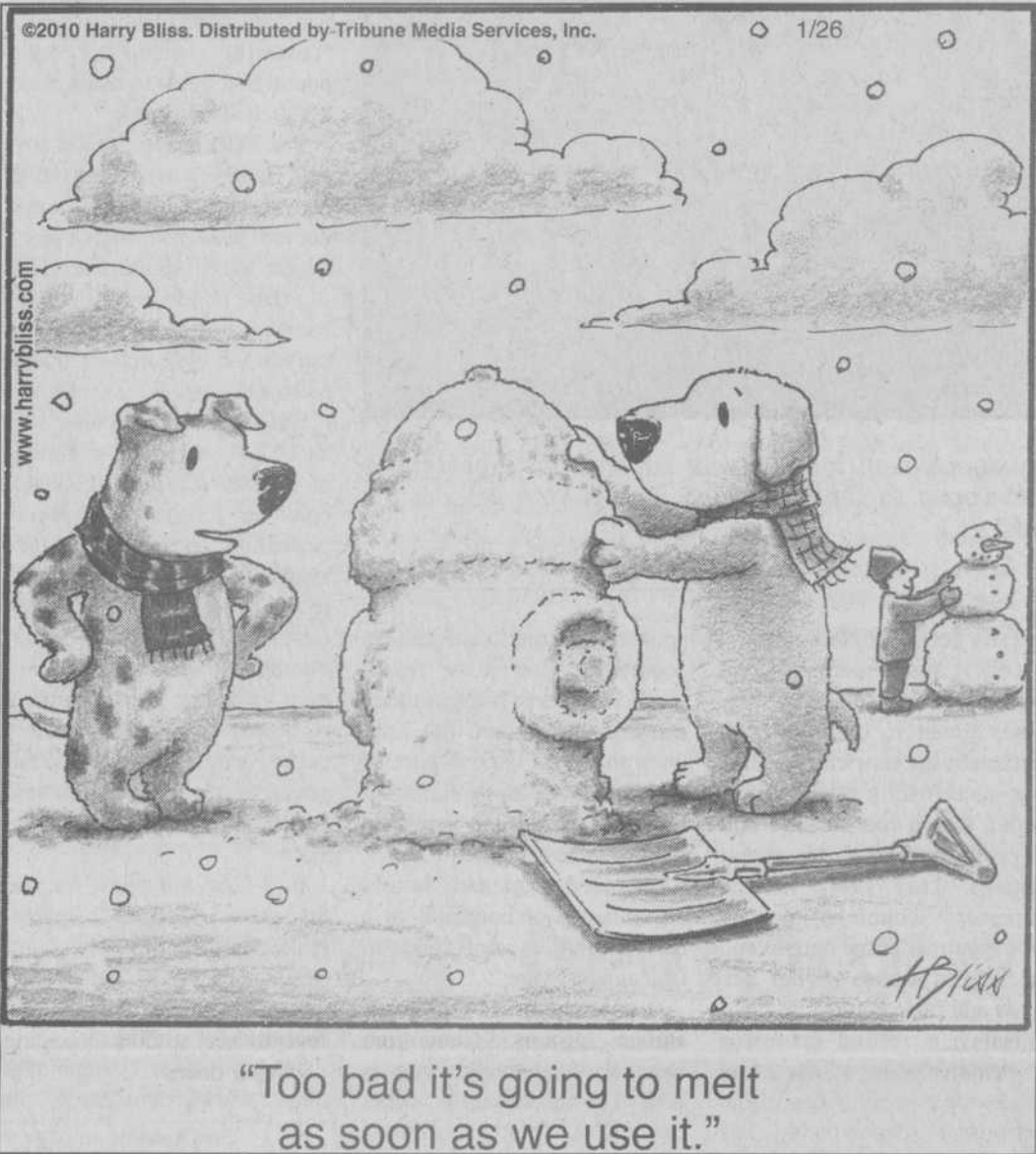
Brent sees growing interest in the language, both in post-communist Eastern Europe and in the United States, where it can be a way for younger Jews to connect with their heritage.

"There's a vast world for young people to discover that their grandparents and great-grandparents and people they never heard of created," he says. "And they're the inheritors of it."

At Maryland, Isaacs says, the Yiddish offerings have attracted mostly Jewish students.

"They are rarely Jewish studies majors, because the

See *Yiddish* on page 9

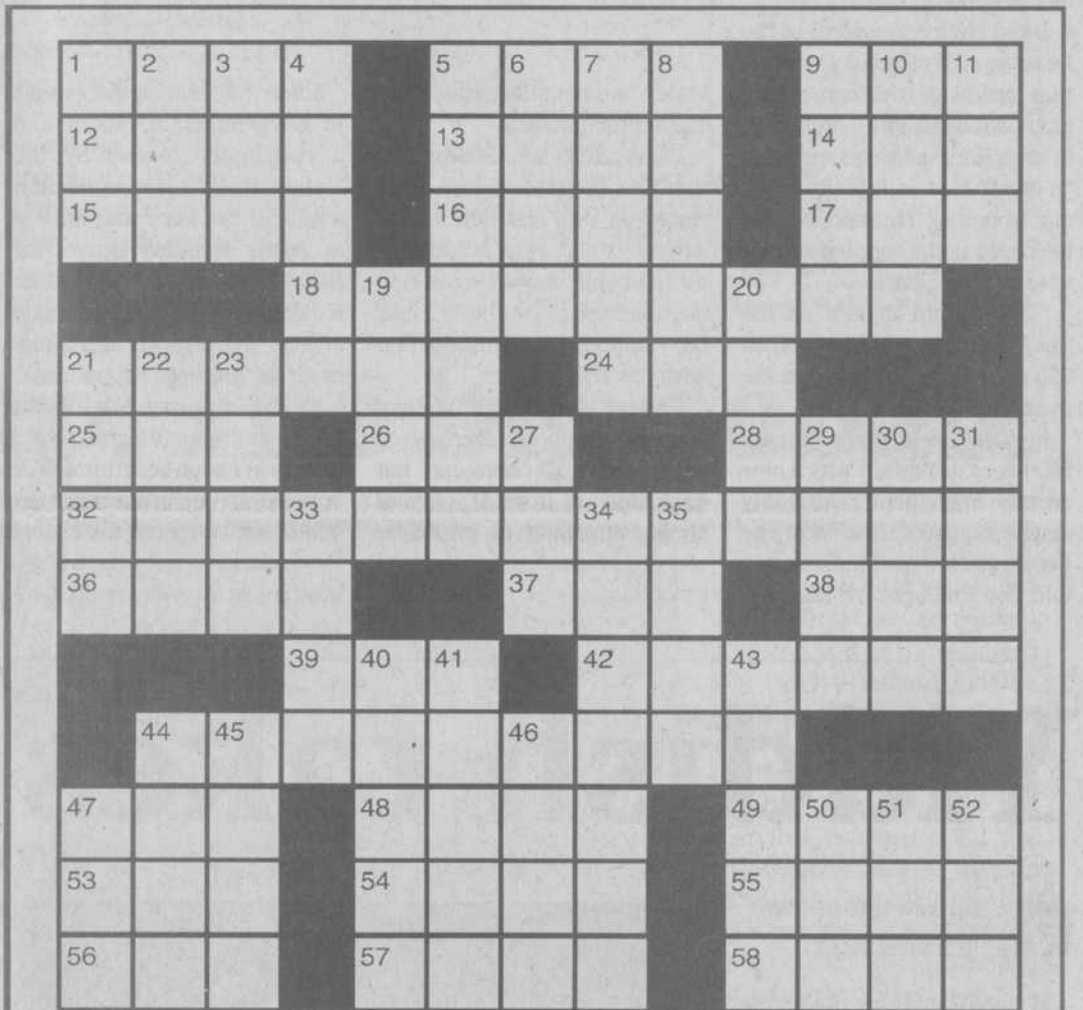


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ACROSS

- “Two and a __ Men”
- Actress Drescher
- “Wheel of Fortune” host
- Zone
- Acting part
- Go quickly
- State in which “Picket Fences” was set: abbr.
- Roof’s edge
- __ Lupino
- Patricia Heaton series
- Mel Gibson movie
- “Bill __, the Science Guy”
- “__ Age”; hit animated film
- “How the West __ Won”
- “__ the Press”
- Series for Shemar Moore
- At the __; in charge of steering
- Ms. West
- Short swim
- “Please Don’t __ the Daisies”
- Church services
- “__ Housewives”
- Farrow or Kirshner
- Copycat
- Weathercock
- Mr. Skelton
- “__ Window”; James Stewart film
- One of the Great Lakes
- Six-pointers, for short
- Turner and Knight
- Actress Patricia

DOWN

- “Hee __”
- Onassis, to friends
- Brown with a band
- “The __ of Life”
- Actor Morgan __
- Wander
- “__ & the Chipmunks”
- Poor
- “Dr. __”
- Assistant
- __ Leoni
- “__ Met Your Mother”
- Actress Moore
- Impressionist __ Little
- Farmland unit
- Diamond or Sedaka
- Actor Waterston
- Finalizes
- Falco of “The Sopranos”
- Recipe amts.
- French wives’ titles: abbr.
- Hedy and others
- Veal or venison
- Separated
- Cone-shaped dwelling
- “The Magnificent __”; Yul Brynner/Eli Wallach movie
- Passed away
- Actor George
- Peruse
- Actor on “The A-Team”
- “__ You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?”
- Actress __ Long
- Snakelike fish

Solution to Last Week’s Puzzle

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M	A	M	A		A	B	E		A	D	M			
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				J	A	M	E	S	T	U	P	P	E	R
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Parkland College Relations
Officer Matthew Kopmann

Reporting Suspicious Activity

The Police Department at Parkland College patrols all areas of campus, but the officers are unable to see every activity on campus. The department relies on students, staff, and visitors to report suspicious activity.

If something gets your attention, makes you feel uncomfortable, or is illegal it should be reported. This could be unsafe driving, arguments, medical emergencies, damaged property, vehicle crashes, etc. Do not approach or get involved in the incident. The officers have been trained to respond and assess situations so leave it to them.

Remember you can report suspicious activity 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year by:

- Dialing (217) 351-2369
- Dialing 2369 from a house phone
- Dialing 911 on staff/faculty phone

Using the emergency call boxes located throughout campus

2				9		7								8
3	7			8	4					1	7	2		
		4		6	1	8			6		4	7	3	9
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AUTISM

continued from page 7

a test tube, he said. "However, we've got to show that they're not toxic. That costs a lot of money and it's very difficult to do, you have to have the right facilities. That's where we're hung up right now, the question is, 'How do we get somebody to do these studies?'"

In January 2008 Haley changed the name of his company from Chelator Technologies Inc. to CTI Science Inc. Less than a month later, he notified the FDA he would be introducing the compound as a new dietary ingredient.

Federal law allows manufacturers of dietary supplements to market them without the rigorous testing for safety and efficacy the FDA requires of drugs. Developing, testing and bringing a drug to market can cost hundreds of millions of dollars, according to some studies.

But the law does require makers of supplements containing new dietary ingredients - such as OSR#1 - to establish that the product can be expected to be safe.

In June 2008, an FDA senior toxicologist sent a letter to Haley that questioned on what basis the product could be expected to be safe and could be considered a dietary ingredient. According to FDA spokeswoman Siobhan DeLancey, Haley has not responded to the request for more information.

DeLancey declined to discuss OSR#1 specifically, but she said the government prohibits com-

panies from selling a product until the safety requirement is satisfied. Penalties can include warning letters, seizure of products or criminal prosecution. DeLancey said she did not know of any actions taken against Haley or his company.

Haley did not respond to questions from the Tribune about the FDA.

The question of whether OSR#1 was developed as an industrial chemical apparently was first raised by blogger Kathleen Seidel of neurodiversity.com, who wrote several long posts about the product.

On its Web site, CTI Science flatly denies that the supplement is an industrial chelator.

"There is an Internet rumor that OSR#1 is an Industrial Chelator. Is this true?" a statement reads. Then it answers: "No."

Haley said he is marketing the product only as an antioxidant supplement.

"I am not breaking any law," Haley said. "We are being very, very careful."

Because taking chelators carries significant risks, treatments for metal poisoning are carried out under a doctor's care, with regular lab testing and only in severe cases. Among other dangers, chelating drugs can strip the body of metals necessary for health.

"Treatment of autistic children with a potent chelator is potentially hazardous and offers no benefits," Grollman said.

A note on CTI Science's Web site indicates the product has been "rarely associated with

short term diarrhea, constipation or fever."

The Web site also states that OSR#1 "scavenges" hydroxyl free radicals, "allowing the body to maintain its own natural detoxifying capacity."

But Vanderbilt's Roberts said that claim is absurd.

"Hydroxyl radicals are the most reactive radicals that are formed," he wrote to the Tribune. "They oxidize everything, so in essence all molecules are hydroxyl radical scavengers."

Consumers must get the product through a dentist or doctor, according to the Web site, which lists more than 550 doctors, dentists and others who work with the company. But the Tribune was able to buy 30 capsules of OSR#1 for \$60 directly from a compounding pharmacy listed on the site.

A year after the FDA requested answers about the safety of Haley's product, an autism group interviewed him about OSR#1. In the interview, posted on YouTube, Haley warns parents to be exacting when choosing what to give their children.

"Parents should know if you can't test and show the effectiveness of anything you are taking for your child, don't do it," he said. "There are so many snake oil salesmen out there, it's just incredible."

(c) 2010, Chicago Tribune.

Earning more

Annual earning potential depending on educational attainment:

High school dropout

\$25,740

High school graduate

\$33,801

Some college, no degree

\$39,665

Associate's degree

\$42,046

Bachelor's degree

\$55,656

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Graphic: The Kansas City Star

© 2010 MCT

YIDDISH

continued from page 7

Jewish studies majors have so much Hebrew they have to take that they hardly ever have room to take Yiddish," she says.

"So it tends to be students who have relatives who speak Yiddish and want to connect to their relatives. And who also want to see it stay alive, and who enjoy the culture, and have good associations with

the language."

The intensive elementary course in the fall typically fills up, Isaacs says. But given the difficulty of the material, she says, only some students go on to the intermediate course in the spring.

Miriam Friedman is one student who is sticking with it. The sophomore from Teaneck, N.J., was surprised and delighted to learn that the university offered the language.

"I thought it was an impor-

tant aspect of my Ashkenazic heritage," said Friedman, using the word for the branch of Jewry descending from the Rhine River settlers. "I viewed it as a real rock in our tradition. I love it."

Lapin, director of the Center for Jewish Studies at Maryland, says Yiddish has fallen victim to declining returns on the endowments that fund the center and limited student interest.

While he says it's unlikely

the center will have the money for a full-time instructor after next year, he says he hopes to offer language instruction on a per-course basis, when demand merits it.

"Yiddish was significant enough to my colleagues that when we discussed making the budgetary decisions, it was the one area where we said, 'Well, can we at least keep somebody on doing it on a per-course basis?'" he says. "So this is something we're serious about

and trying to sort out."

Lapin's father was an executive director of the YIVO Institute in the 1970s, and his mother continues to teach the language in the New York area. He describes Yiddish as "a core language of Jews and of Jewish literature," and says, "It belongs in any serious Jewish studies program."

"I wish we could find a way of raising the level that we're able to offer and raising student interest," Lapin says. "To

a certain extent, what we can offer is governed by student demand as well as our supply. So we would love to see the offerings increase. We would love to see students banging down our doors to do more."

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SHELTER SOLUTIONS FOR FRIGID FORECASTS

CLOSE IT UP

Before you crank up the thermostat, make sure your home isn't just letting all that warm air out.

"The average home has close to an open door when you add up all the cracks and holes, and it's usually up in the attic or in the crawl space," McGiverin said. "So, if we're going into the attic or crawl space, we may look for the areas where they have a bathtub or a toilet, because often times when they put a bathtub in, they cut a hole in the plywood to access it, and then they leave it there.

"We also go up into the attic and look around every can light, along the top of the interior walls," he added.

When you find holes, McGiverin recommends getting a tube of caulk or foam insulation and running it along the top seams of the interior walls from the attic. Or if there is a hole under your bathtub, cut out a piece of plywood and patch it up from your crawl space. Then use foam insulation to seal the seams.

Another often overlooked source of heat leaks is around the exterior of your home's crawlspace.

"Close your crawlspace vents. You can usually access these from the exterior of your house," said Celeste Becia, leader of residential energy-efficiency programs for Idaho Power. "Some people will even say keep them closed year-round to keep out critters and heat in the summer."

CHECK FOR LEAKS

When thinking about where heat can escape from your home, many people think about doors and windows, but there are a lot of other smaller leaks that can add up, according to Karen Meyer, owner of Handyman Connection in Boise.

"Forty-five percent of your utility cost is associated with heating and cooling costs," Meyer said. "So if you check all infiltration points, feeling around those areas, where all the duct work runs in your house, there are lots of opportunities for duct work to have leaks in it, to not be connected properly. You should be using some kind of metal tape to seal those — don't use duct tape."

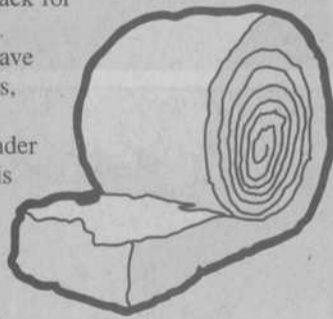
Not sure where to begin? In most homes, in the basement and the attics, there's a lot of that duct work you have access to. Look at the places where they're connected, and if there isn't some kind of a tape sealing around them, wrapping the connections in metal tape can help a lot.

IT'S ALL ABOUT INSULATION

The average cost for attic insulation runs about \$500 to \$750, and it's a fairly quick payback for comfort.

If you have chilly floors, insulation installed under your floor is cost-effective as well, but don't bother with adding insulation to your crawl space walls, according to Becia.

"If you have cold floors, install insulation batts under your floor. It can do a lot to increase the comfort of your floor in the winter time. It will definitely keep your house warmer," she said. "Insulation on crawl-space walls does practically nothing."



KEEP ENERGY BILLS IN CHECK THIS WINTER WITH SOME QUICK AND EASY IMPROVEMENTS

BY BRENDA GUTIERREZ
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The colder months can wreak havoc on your home energy bill.

"People really don't realize how inefficient their home is," said Todd McGiverin, owner of Ecohome Solutions, a Boise, Idaho, contractor specializing in home improvements that enhance the comfort, energy efficiency and air quality of your home. "Everybody knows what good miles per gallon on their car is, but I've worked with some families who are paying \$2,000 or \$3,000 (annually) to heat their home, and they never really understood that was a lot."

Winterize your home to save energy and money this season with these simple, and often do-it-yourself, tips from experts.

For a quick and easy improvement, fluff up your attic insulation, according to McGiverin.

"Any time someone walks across the insulation in your attic, the value of it is degraded," he said. "Go up there, and shake it out, fluff it up. I use a snow shovel, and throw it up in the air."

CHECK YOUR FURNACE

When it comes to heating your home, proper maintenance of your furnace or heating source is crucial, according to Becia.

"The No. 1 thing we recommend is to change the filter, and people don't do that enough," Becia said. "For the small ones, you should change those every three months. For the larger filters, you can vacuum them out and reuse them or change them every six months."

If you haven't already, install a programmable thermostat to maintain a comfortable temperature in your home.

"You should keep your home about 68 degrees in the winter time," Becia said. "Programmable thermostats are inexpensive to purchase, and you can have a heating contractor install it for you."

And turn your heat down when you're not home.

STAY OUT OF HOT WATER

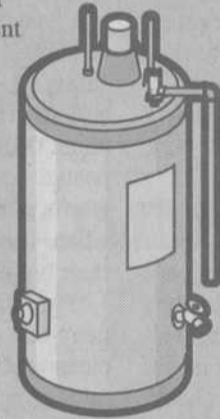
Whether your water is heated by gas or electricity, lowering your water temperature to 120 degrees can help cut costs.

"It keeps you from having to heat your water continuously at a higher temperature," Becia said. "Most water heaters installed before the mid-'90s are pretty inefficient, and you'll probably need a water heater blanket on it — if it's in the garage, not if it's in a controlled environment like in the house."

You also can reduce your usage of hot water by installing low-flow showerheads or aerators to add more air to the water but keep the same pressure.

Another tip: Wash your clothes in cold water.

"For most clothes, they're perfectly fine in cold water, to reduce your water heating use," Becia said. "Some detergent companies — like Tide — are now making detergent specifically for cold-water washing."



PUT OUT THE FIRE

A roaring fire can set a cozy mood, but fireplaces actually do more harm than good when it comes to heating your home, according to McGiverin.

"A lot of people have the idea that they're supplementing their heat in their home by lighting a fire," McGiverin said. "But fireplaces are really inefficient. Ninety percent of the heat from an open fireplace goes up the chimney. And as you go away from the fireplace to other parts in the house, you'll notice it's colder. The fireplace is actually drawing more cold air into the home."

"And when it's not being used, make sure to shut that damper," he added. "If you use it rarely, there's an inflatable pillow that you stuff into the chimney to seal it off."

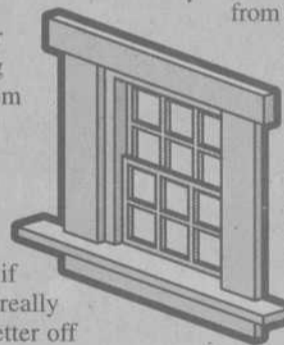
WHAT ABOUT WINDOWS?

With all of the tax incentives out there for homeowners, replacing your windows may seem like a good idea. But depending on the age and style of your windows, you might want to investigate all your options to see if that improvement will really pay off or if you are better off checking other items off your list first.

"Windows are nice for comfort and the look of a new window is nice, but it's not as cost-effective of an improvement," Becia said. "Adding insulation, weather stripping and caulking would give you more bang for your buck. They don't cost as much and do provide more tangible energy savings. If you want an immediate benefit, insulation is the best thing you can do, especially if you're looking at return on your investment."

The area around a home's windows also is often overlooked, according to McGiverin.

"Everybody thinks of windows and underneath the doors as being weak points in the home, and they are, and additional weather stripping can help a lot," McGiverin said. "But one of the other things that we do is if you feel the wall next to the window and it's cold, you should be putting foam insulation between the wall and the window itself."



HOW IS YOUR HOME HEATING INDEX?

Todd McGiverin of Ecohome Solutions performs energy audits and does needed improvements to increase a home's energy efficiency. Want to do a quick tally on how energy-efficient your home is? Check your home heating index with this easy formula from McGiverin:

From your gas bill, total therms for the year, divided by the square feet of the house, divided by 0.06.

So, for example, 700 therms divided by 1,700 square feet, divided by 0.06 equals 6.86.

Anything less than 6 would be considered a fairly energy-efficient home. If you get a number greater than 6, there's room for improvement — and a lower energy bill.

HOME MAINTENANCE IS A MONEY-SAVER

Whether you're clipping coupons or cutting back on dinners out, chances are your family is trying to save money any way it can.

However, when it comes to the home, many people neglect necessary repairs because they fear remedying the issues will require more time and money than they can afford.

The truth is: Frequent maintenance can actually extend the life of your home and save money.

Energy-related home repairs often are very inexpensive to complete and can begin saving you money immediately.

Here are a few tips from Karen Meyer, owner of Handyman Connection in Boise, to trim your energy costs this season:

1. Windows and doors are the No. 1 source of energy loss and probably the biggest cash drain on your energy bill. Some fixes are as simple as replacing weather stripping. To determine if your home requires this, turn off the lights and examine a door or window: If you can see light around it or feel any sort of draft, dollars are escaping and new weather stripping is definitely needed. (Replacement windows are a more expensive fix so do the math first to see if the cost of the project will be offset significantly by energy savings and any of the qualifying rebates from federal stimulus dollars.)

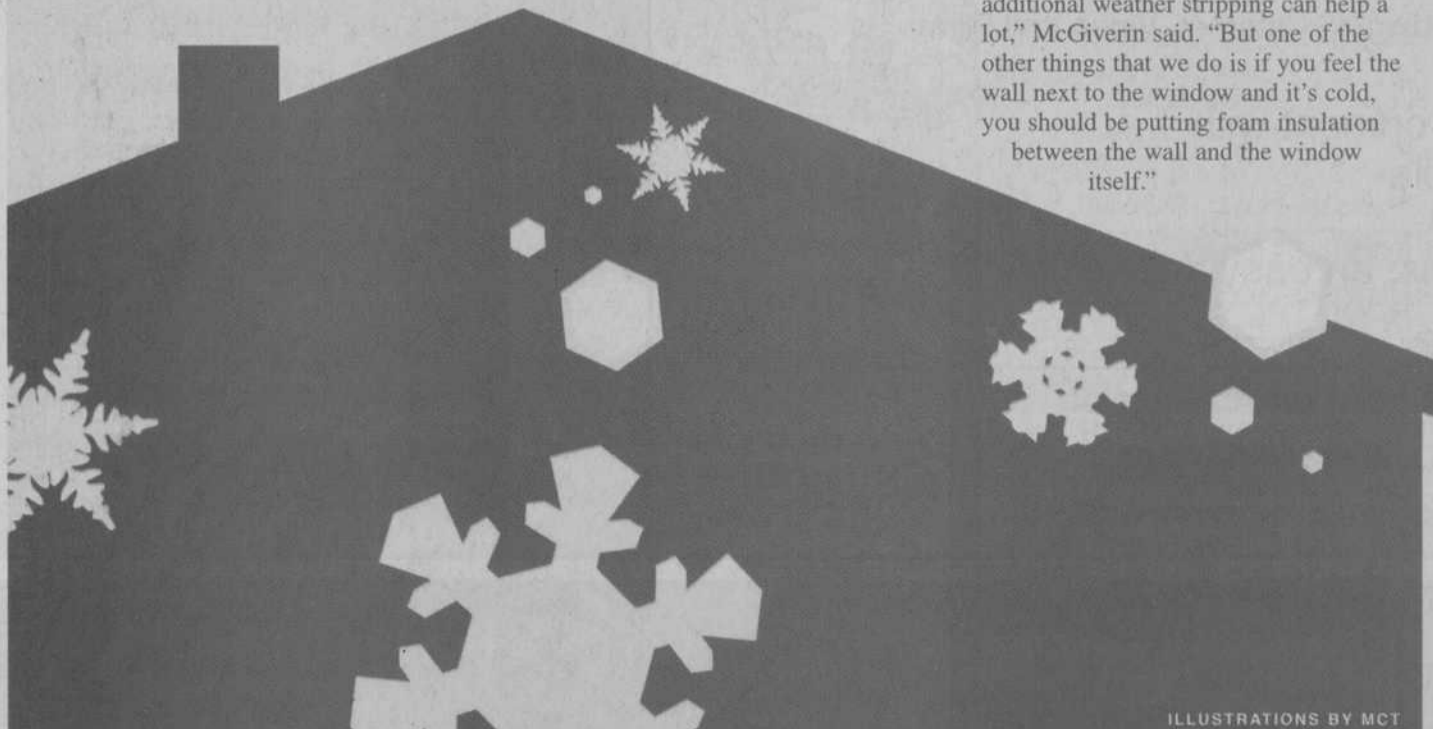
2. Another way to save is by installing foam gaskets around switches and outlets on exterior walls. Sealing the voids created by electrical boxes prevents air exchange between the inside and outside of the house (this is also known as the "chimney effect," where conditioned air escapes through the walls and ultimately decreases the energy efficiency of your HVAC system).

The necessary gaskets can be purchased for a nominal amount at most hardware or big-box stores and are easily installed by following the instructions on the packaging.

3. Install a setback timer for your water heater so it operates only when you are home and will need hot water. There's no need to heat water while you are sleeping, at work or out of the house for an extended period of time. You even could consider an on-demand water heater, which is tankless and only heats water as it's needed. They are a bit more expensive (roughly \$1,000), but the payback is rapid. Furnaces also can be put on timers to conserve energy.

4. If you frequently forget to turn the lights off when you leave a room, consider motion sensor light fixtures. Just like the exterior floodlight variety, the interior version turns on when it senses motion and off when there's none. Compound the savings by selecting a compact fluorescent light bulb instead of an incandescent one; an Energy Star-qualified bulb uses 75 percent less energy, lasts 10 times longer and pays for itself in about six months.

5. Over the years, insulation — specifically insulation installed in attics — becomes compacted and loses its effectiveness. If you can see the dry-wall or plaster, it's time to add insulation. Installation costs will vary, but loose-fill insulation is typically less expensive to install than batt insulation and, when installed properly, loose-fill insulation also provides better coverage.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY MCT