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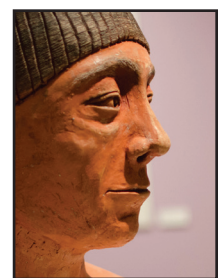
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New bill could help reduce student loan stress

PN Ernie Springer
Staff Writer

Recently, California Congresswoman Karen Bass introduced legislation that, if passed, would give much needed relief to recent graduates struggling to pay back their loans.

This would be a welcome move for students such as Bertha Martinez.

"If you want a good job, you have to go to college," she said.

These are the words Martinez remembered hearing from her parents when she was growing up.

"They told me the secret to success in America is hard work, ambition and above all, a good education," Martinez said.

She took the advice her parents gave her to heart. She worked hard in school and received good grades. Martinez ultimately graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a master's degree in school counseling.

But three years after receiving her degree, Martinez still works a low wage job and is buried under tens of thousands of dollars in student loan debt.

Martinez's situation is anything but unique. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, outstanding student loan debt in America now exceeds \$1 trillion. This is more than credit card debt and automobile debt and second only to U.S. mortgage debt.

For some students at Parkland and elsewhere, the staggering amount of debt they will face after graduating is enough to make some rethink continuing their education.

In order to address this situation, Bass introduced the Student Loan Fairness Act, which is designed to ease the burden of debt felt by students.

It accomplishes this by providing a number of provisions, the core of which is called the 10-10 Loan

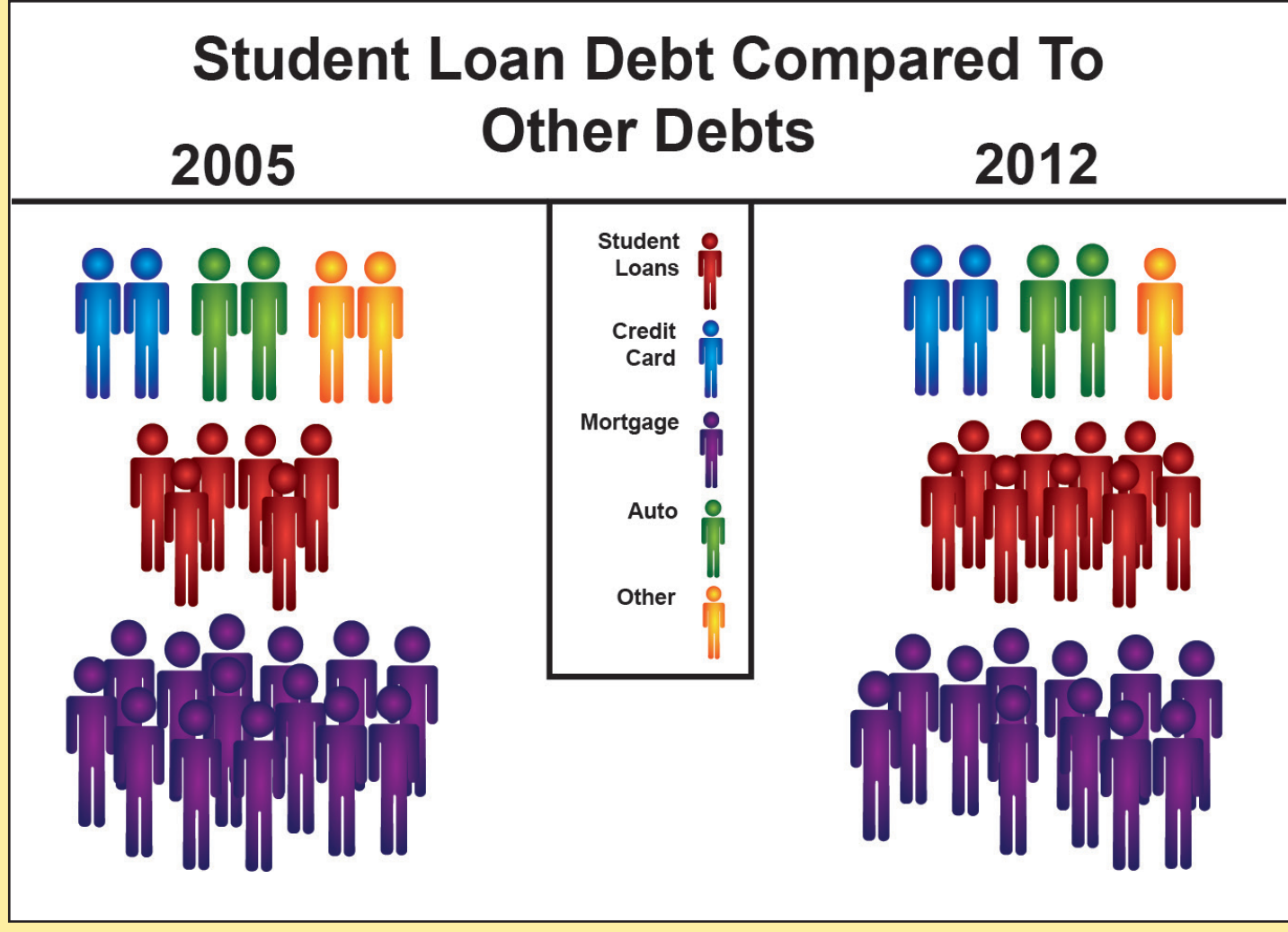


Illustration by Alisha Kirkley/Prospectus News

Repayment Plan. Under this plan, a borrower would pay 10 percent of their discretionary income monthly for 10 years. After the 10 years is up, the remaining loan would be forgiven.

Bass believes the Student Loan Fairness Act will help strengthen the economy.

"Student debt has forced tens of millions of Americans to put off major purchases and placed a tremendous drag on an economy that's already suffering low levels of consumer demand," Bass stated in a recent editorial. "Giving student borrower's greater purchasing power would help to turbo-charge our employment recovery."

The Student Loan Fairness Act sounded like a good idea to a number of Parkland students. Business Management

major Antoinette Hobbs receives financial aid and will continue to receive aid when she transfers to Eastern Illinois University in May.

"I just got approved for my financial aid for Eastern," Hobbs said. "I got a Pell Grant and a Map Grant but I also had to get student loans. I worry about how I'm going to pay for school. I think a law like this would be favorable."

Bertha Martinez also thinks the bill is promising.

"Even if I finish paying off my loans before they are able to pass the bill, I would still be in favor of it. It would be nice if my sisters didn't have to go through what I did," Martinez said.

However, not everyone is convinced that the Student Loan Fairness Act is a smart plan.

According to Andrew Flach, spokesperson for Illinois Congressman Rodney Davis, government should not be passing legislation that eliminates student loans.

He believes the role of government is to educate students about their educational loan agreements.

"It shouldn't be as easy as simply signing a piece of paper. There should be required counseling to allow the student and his or her family to weigh their options before making a decision on how to pay for their education," Flach said.

Parkland's Financial Aid Director Tim Wendt had similar sentiments. He believes the bill's chances for becoming law are slim. Instead of hoping for a change in legislation, he thinks that students should try and cut down on living

expenses during their college years.

"Students need to borrow responsibly," Wendt said. "I see a lot of students that could probably go without using student loans but they do anyway. You should never borrow money to keep up a lifestyle."

Feelings toward the bill vary widely. However, the Student Loan Fairness Act has a long way to go before it becomes a law. It must be passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate before it can be signed by the President. For more information about the Student Loan Fairness Act, visit <http://bass.house.gov/news-article/student-loan-fairness-act-2013-pushes-forward>.

Parkland student elected in agricultural organization

PN JoJo Rhinehart
Staff Writer

Parkland student Brian Gordon was recently chosen as President-Elect of the National Post-Secondary Agriculture Students Organization.

According to Gordon, this student-run organization works to unite education and industry in agriculture. They help students gain leadership qualities in the agricultural field as well as help students with career preparation.

Gordon was chosen after an extensive interview process to become the President-Elect. He and his eleven peers running for office were put through leadership building exercises. Gordon and 6 others were chosen for national officer roles.

"I hope, in my current role, to assist in making the organization even more beneficial to the students through building upon what last year's team has accomplished as well as any other new ideas that this and next year's officer team might come up with," Gordon commented.

The National Post-Secondary Agriculture Students Organization website states that their group reaches out to around 1,400 members in 18 states across the country. Students in agriculture, agribusiness and natural resources post-secondary programs are welcomed from approximately 550 institutions to take part in this organization.

Gordon's year-long process of training paid off when he achieved the position of President-Elect. According to his brother, Parkland's Agricultural Club President Chris Gordon, it was no surprise that he was chosen for the role.

"My family and I are very proud of Brian's accomplishments. I'm going to have to say I wasn't surprised that he got elected. He put a lot of hard work and dedication into trying to get this office and I'm glad that it paid off for him in the end," Chris stated. Brian's role as President-

Elect is to assist the President in running the organization and make sure that the organization keeps running smoothly.

Brian says that his club achieves their motto of "uniting education and

upon what they already know through hands-on training.

Brian's two-year term as President-Elect should give him plenty of time to make a difference within the group. The previous President-Elect has returned as the current

President of the organization, suggesting that he may very well be on his way towards presidency if he chooses to pursue the position.

"I couldn't be more honored to be a part of such a great group of students and faculty that are within our organization."

- Brian Gordon

more honored to be a part of such a great group of students and faculty that are within our organization. To be selected to represent them through such a large role has been a personal goal of mine and I couldn't be more excited to have achieved this goal while here at Parkland College," Brian said.

Chris also mentioned that although the elections were stressful on his brother, he believed his ability to work through it just showed how fit he was for the position.

"I hope he helps out the organization as a whole with his ideas and those of others. All in all, he will be a very successful team member and President-Elect for the national PAS organization," Chris stated.

Brian reflected that without the assistance of faculty on campus at Parkland, he would not have been able to have achieved the accomplishments he has.

"Don Bergfield has been my greatest inspiration in all that I have done since I have been at Parkland without his support and helping hand I do not feel that I would have had as successful of a college career," he explained.

Gordon also stated that other students should look towards Parkland faculty for help in their endeavors. The key to his success, he explained, has been other's support for what he wanted to do.

For more information on the Post-Secondary Agricultural Students Organization visit www.nationalpas.org/.

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Fact or Fiction?

W.C. Fields was originally chosen to play the role of the wizard in the 1939 film, "The Wizard of Oz."

(Find the answer on page 5)

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News

Parkland hosts semi-annual blood drive

PN Spencer Brown
Staff Writer

It's not a scene from a horror movie. It's Parkland's semi-annual blood drive. Teaming up with the Central Blood Services of Illinois, Parkland College hosts an event that has a positive effect on everyday life.

"(Blood) saves lives," June Burch stated. Burch is the Wellness Coordinator at Parkland and is directly involved in the organization and success of the blood drive.

"Hospitals can't do without it," Burch continued. "It has to be fresh and hospitals have to have an ongoing supply of it."

Mobile Unit Assistant for the organization Ron O'Connor provides a bit more insight.

"The purpose of the blood drive is to supply the local hospitals here in Champaign-Urbana, Danville and Mattoon," O'Connor stated.

He also mentioned that other surrounding areas need constant blood supply.

According to the Central Blood Services of Illinois webpage, blood supplies are needed for cancer, heart and blood vessel disease, disease of the gastrointestinal tract and emergencies such as car accidents and burns.

The average student can make a difference in just one day and assist those in need.

It takes a little under an hour to complete the donation process. Volunteers distribute snacks to donors

once the donation is complete. These help to replenish some of the nutrients lost during the process.

The actual donation of blood only takes 5-10 minutes. The rest of the time is used as precautionary measures to ensure the donor is eligible to donate. There is a health history screening followed by a mini physical exam.

Those steps have been perfected and followed throughout the years. It has nearly eliminated the risk of HIV in donated blood and greatly reduced the chances of Hepatitis transmission. Donors' health history is followed by a subsequent test for all transmittable infections. If a trace is found in any of the donor's blood, the donation is discarded and the donor is deferred from future donations.

Some students may not be aware of what their blood is for or why it is needed.

"There are three types. Platelets, red blood cells, and plasma," Phlebotomist Nikisha Nelson stated. They all serve different functions.

The Central Blood Services of Illinois webpage defines platelets as blood cells that help control bleeding. When a blood vessel is damaged, platelets collect at the site of the injury and temporarily repair the tear.

Platelets are donated through a process known as apheresis. Apheresis is a type of blood donation that can select specific blood components such as platelets. During apheresis,

the blood component such as platelets is taken from the donor's sample and all the remaining blood is transferred back into the donor's body.

This blood component supports those in need of a transfusion. Some of the most urgent are heart surgery patients, burn patients, organ transplant patients and bone marrow transplant patients.

Plasma is needed because it is a carrier for red blood cells among other ingredients in the body's internal structure. This is important, in combination with the actual donation of red blood cells, because red blood cells deliver oxygen to the body.

Nelson also cited a very important reason for the need of constant blood supply.

Blood type O negative is compatible with all blood types. Therefore, if there is an emergency in which blood is needed immediately and the patient hasn't been blood typed, that supply of O negative blood becomes a live saver.

Without even realizing it, the average student could be transformed to a hero with the prick of a needle. The blood drive takes place in the Gallery Lounge at Parkland every few months. For more information on blood drives and donation, visit www.bloodservices.org.



Photo by Emily Sur/Prospectus News
Secondary Education major Kristin Reynolds donates blood in the Gallery Lounge on Thursday, April 4, 2013.

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Lifestyle

Strategies for keeping your studies on track

 **Katie Stromme**
Student Health 101

There will be many challenges during your college career. Most can be anticipated, such as tough exams and lengthy papers. But other issues—like personal illness, financial hardship, or the death of a loved one—can threaten to derail your academic goals and feel overwhelming.

Concerns like these may be more common than you think. The 2012 National College Health Assessment found that nearly 50 percent of student respondents had experienced three or more traumatic or difficult events in the past year, including problems with finances, personal health, and intimate relationships.

Understanding how to use school resources, manage your obligations, and find support can make these situations more manageable.

CHALLENGE: PERSONAL ILLNESS

When personal health issues arise, you will probably have to miss some classes or coursework. You may be juggling other obligations, too, such as child care or taking time off from work.

SOLUTIONS

If an illness will affect you for one or two weeks, keeping in touch with classmates is one way to stay on top of your studies. Even if you can't complete the work right away, you'll be able to keep track of assignments and what's covered in class. It's a good idea to contact your professor or teaching assistant, too.

If you've been injured or have a health crisis that has longer-term consequences, speak with your academic advisor or dean. They are accustomed to helping students arrange necessary accommodations. In a recent Student Health 101 survey, nearly 40 percent of students said their school helped them remain in school.

CHALLENGE:

ANOTHER'S ILLNESS

If you're a parent, you might need time off from work to take care of a child, and the same is true for students affected by a close friend or family member's illness. You may need to change your schedule to bring your loved one to medical appointments, or travel to see someone as he or she heals.



Illustration by Dennis Balogh/MCT

It's understandable to feel torn between your academic responsibilities and providing care to an ailing loved one. Caregiving can leave you with little time for much else, and can be emotionally and physically draining.

SOLUTIONS

Speak with your classmates, professors, and advisors—just as you would if you were personally ill. Explain how you're involved with your loved one's care and how this will affect your studies.

CHALLENGE: RELATIONSHIP CONCERNS

Many issues can arise between relatives or within an intimate relationship.

SOLUTIONS

Set aside time to think about the issues and talk with someone you trust. Consider family therapy for help resolving issues and figuring out a plan for your academics.

If your safety is in danger, your priority needs to be getting yourself and anyone else affected to a safe place.

Your health care provider, local police, or school security department can help and also refer you to community resources.

CHALLENGE: FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Financial struggles can be taxing, affecting your sense of control, and may have a practical impact on your ability to pay for school.

Monetary challenges are widespread among students. In the Student Health 101 survey, more than 40 percent

of respondents said they have experienced a financial crisis while in school.

SOLUTIONS

Talk with loved ones about budgeting. Also realize that your school's financial aid office, loan officers, and bursar are available to help. They have access to all sorts of information that would be tough to find on your own, and this is what they do for a living! Together, you can figure out the best way to move forward.

CHALLENGE: DEATH OF

A LOVED ONE

Mourning is a complicated process. Whether the loss is unexpected or due to an extended illness, you deserve time and space to grieve and be with your family and friends. Further, you may need to take on responsibilities such as making funeral arrangements or handling your loved one's affairs.

SOLUTIONS

Faculty and staff are people who themselves may have been through challenging times. They can help, and your conversations might even lead to unexpected sources of support and mentorship.

Balancing conflicting priorities can lead to feeling defeated. Breaking things down into manageable pieces can help you feel less stuck.

Don't expect to be able to do everything you would under other circumstances. Focus on the responsibilities and academic assignments that are most important, or the ones that feel the most doable for you. Be realistic about your time and energy. Rather than create a towering to-do list, write down daily goals. Give yourself credit when you accomplish them.

REMEMBER YOUR HEALTH

Taking care of your physical needs will help you feel more prepared to handle challenges. Diane L. Stieper, a counselor at Southwest Minnesota State University, emphasizes the importance of getting adequate rest.

Friends and family can help with meals and food shopping, watch your kids while you exercise, or join you for a walk. When you are going through a rough patch, self-care is essential.

Mind your emotional health, too. Your school's counseling center, your health care provider, or someone else you trust can offer support. Also look into community organizations that offer support services and advocacy.

It might be tempting to isolate yourself and try to "fix it" on your own, but taking a proactive approach will help you cope with the situation and feel empowered.

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Parkland prepares for Spring



Photo by Jonny Ashikyan/Prospectus News

Mike Broadrick tills soil on a garden patch in the Eddie Albert Garden on campus, Friday April 5, 2013.

Opinions

Prospectus News

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- All submissions must follow the Parkland College code of conduct. All violations of said code will be turned over to Parkland College Administration and Public Safety.

- All content, once published, becomes property of Prospectus News.

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Please Recycle

The etiquette of texting: The need for social rules?

Debra Nussbaum
The Philadelphia Inquirer

As I watch people text in public - head down, earplugs in, oblivious but still shuffling forward a la the Walking Dead - I can't help but wonder when we'll see a news story about one of them strolling into traffic and being run over.

How did we get so hooked? Texting is one of those habits that came so quickly to our society that everything from schools to hospitals to state capitals - institutions that say things in full sentences and without emoticons - are scrambling to impose rules of the road, literally and figuratively.

Americans send more than two trillion texts a year. And all this started only in the early 2000s. By 2007, texts had surpassed the number of phone calls people made in a day. If you spend time with anyone under 40, these statistics do not come as a surprise.

Like many aspects of technology, we haven't quite figured out the etiquette of texting. We text while people are speaking to us. We text in classrooms. I have seen people text in churches and synagogues (Sorry, Pastor Bill, I once sent my daughter a text from church), we text at meetings and, probably worst of all, we text when another person is sitting right across from us trying to engage in conversation.

In response to earlier columns on manners, people write to say they agree with me about thank-you notes, or RSVPs, or other aspects of acceptable behavior. And, invariably, they add, and what about how rude people are when it comes to texting?

I've had time to think about this, and to talk to others, and to watch texters in action. And I've come to this conclusion: It's impolite to text when people are speaking to you. It's rude to text during a class or at a meeting, and it's a total disregard for the safety of others when you text while driving, biking, or walking. In New York City, people have practically trampled my 85-year-old mother on the sidewalk because their faces are buried in their phones. And our constant passion for

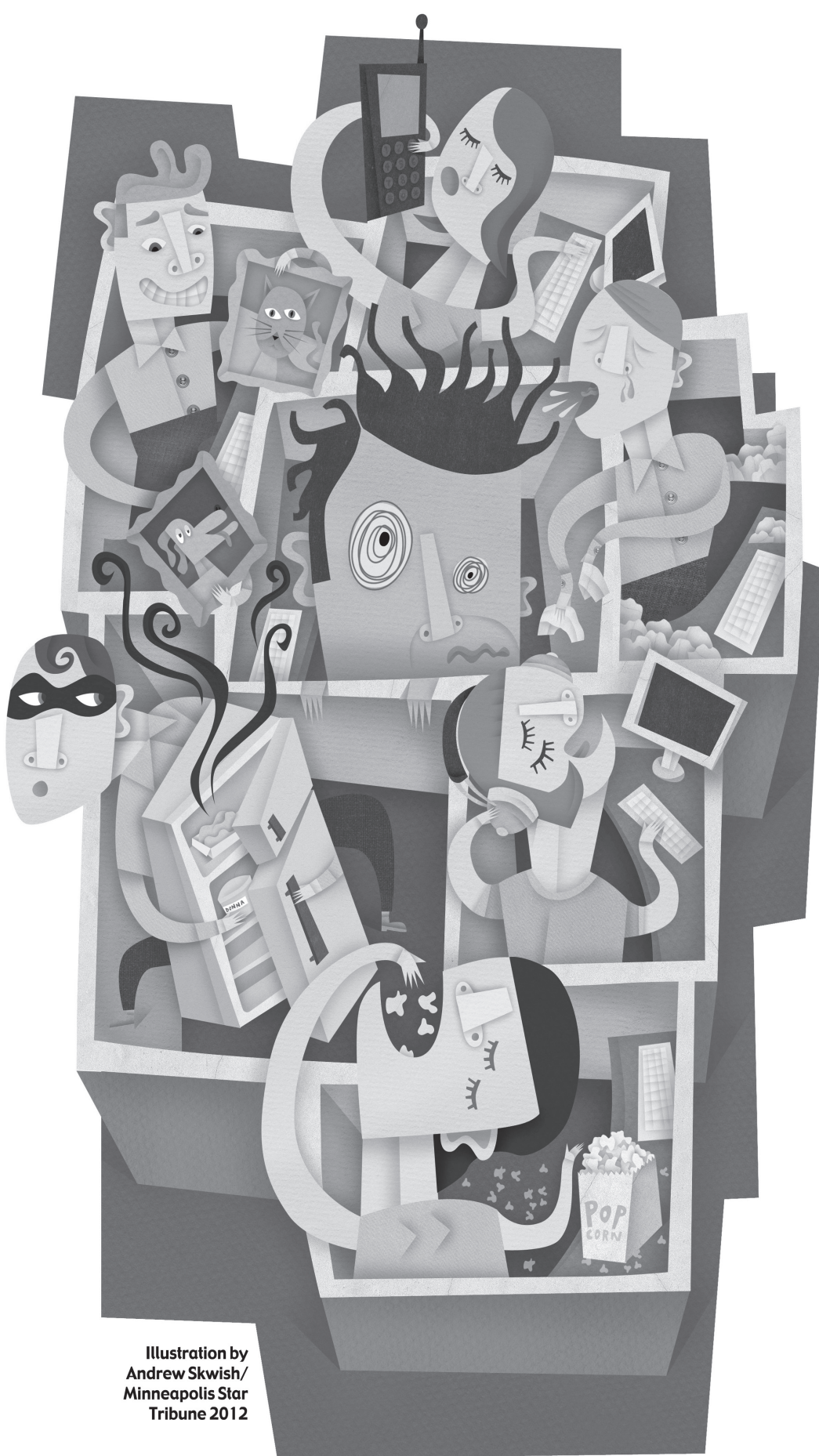


Illustration by Andrew Skwish/Minneapolis Star Tribune 2012

texting may also not be the best thing for our relationships. Last year I sat in a lovely restaurant with my husband, and there was a 30-something couple at the table next to us. Throughout dinner, they

sipped their wine and looked down at their phones and texted. They didn't exchange a word with each other.

"Texting is extremely controlled and you don't risk an interpersonal experience,"

said Pamela Pressman, a licensed professional counselor in Voorhees who works with adults and couples of all ages. Texting while people are speaking to you is "disconnecting and putting

up emotional barriers," she says. When we don't give people, meetings, services, or classes our full attention, it prevents us from relating to people and connecting with them. Pressman recently saw people texting after a viewing, moments before the start of a funeral. "How can you get more disrespectful than that?"

At Rowan, professors and instructors are asked to put texting, e-mailing, and cellphone rules in the syllabus so students understand that texting and learning don't work in concert.

"They aren't listening to us when they are texting," said Claudia Cuddy, chair of the journalism department. Recently, a student who came to meet with Cuddy for an advising session reached for her phone when she heard that call of the text. "I said, 'Put the phone away. This is my time and your time to meet,'" Cuddy told me. "Multitasking is taking a toll on every aspect of students' lives."

Texting while doing almost everything is exacting a price on politeness and how we relate to one another. My friend Harvey was in a meeting recently for a charitable group in South Jersey. Several participants around the table were texting with each other conducting their own meeting. Not only is that rude, but how is a group supposed to interact and make decisions?

I have hope that we are not doomed to be a society of the turned off and tuned out.

I recently asked two distinct groups if it was rude to text while someone was speaking to you. The first was my book group made up of middle-aged women (the near-50 and over set). Is it rude? "Yes," was the resounding answer they gave without hesitation.

Then, I put the question to my 18 Rowan students, ages 19 to mid-20s. Acceptable or rude? Again, without any pause, without first texting anyone, they all said, "Rude."

Acknowledging the problem is the first step to recovery. This epidemic faux pas, that I, too, have been guilty of, may pass.

(c)2013 The Philadelphia Inquirer

Attend to your parents — or else

Chicago Tribune

If you're a grown-up with parents, you may think it's a major pain to have to take time out of your busy life to go see them or have them over. You may get tired of their hints that they don't get enough attention. You may even have to listen to resentful complaints or demands. Plus those questions about why you let your kids get away with (fill-in-the-blank) ...

Think you've got it tough? Some of your contemporaries in China gladly would trade places with you.

That's because in the world's most populous nation, attending to your filial obligations is no longer entirely up to your discretion.

It's a legal obligation. The government has enacted a law mandating that children visit their parents and that employers give the children time off to do so. And if Junior shirks his duty, Mom and Dad can sue him to force compliance.

Chinese culture has long placed a heavy emphasis on respect and care for parents. "While father and mother are alive," said Confucius, "a good son does not wander far afield." But in China's fast-paced modern economy, many sons and daughters take jobs far from where they were raised, and see their parents only rarely.

That doesn't sit well with the elders. "I know the person who drafted this provision,

and the first thing I told him was, 'Really nice move.'" Ninie Wang of the Gerontological Society of China told The New York Times.

Americans who have not reached middle age may consider such remedies laughable. What they may not have considered is that the ranks of seniors are being rapidly augmented by the baby boomers, who have long enjoyed the power that goes with outnumbering every other generation. Boomers are used to getting their way, and they are not about to give that up just because they've got gray hair and creaking joints.

No sirree. Boomers pushed Frank Sinatra and Perry Como aside for the Beatles and Stones. They got the draft

abolished. They got the voting age changed from 21 to 18. They got the drinking age lowered for them - and then raised for their kids.

They think the world revolves around them because for two-thirds of a century, it has. In retirement, they will have not only outsized numbers but even more time to spend arranging the world to their satisfaction.

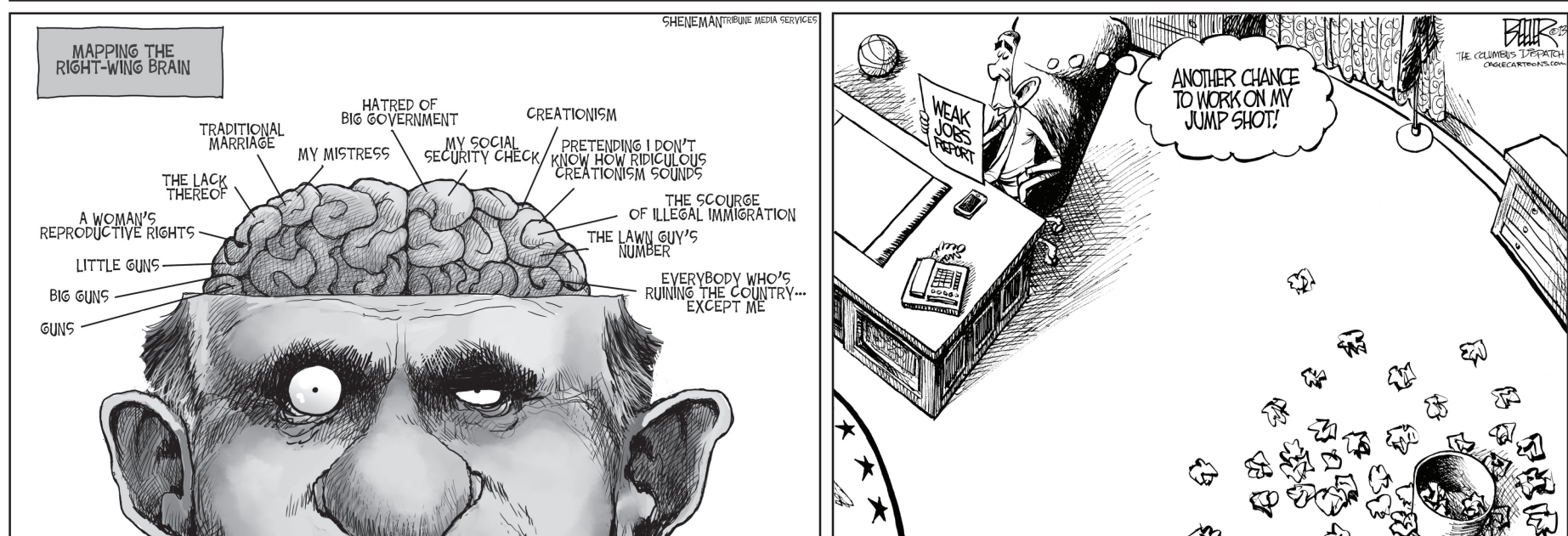
The generations that follow them have long worried about paying to keep Social Security and Medicare benefits at the level these fledgling seniors have been led to expect. But boomers will not be bought off with mere money. They will expect time with the kids - and the grandkids. They will expect company for Sunday

dinner and summer trips. Birthdays and holidays - you can guess.

What if they don't get what they want? Well, the Chinese have devised one option. And if we know anything about our representatives in Washington, it's that they have no desire to take on a bunch of cranky old folks with a habit of showing up on Election Day.

A couple of decades back, seniors who were protective of their retirement benefits earned the nickname "greedy geezers." Greedy? Kids, you ain't seen nothing yet.

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Fact or Fiction?

FACT: There was a change of cast for the part of Tin Man as well. Buddy Ebsen, originally cast, was replaced by Jack Haley after suffering an allergic reaction to the aluminum in the makeup.

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Notice to Students and Faculty Regarding FINAL EXAMINATIONS

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

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

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

Students: These official College guidelines were established to more fully ensure that you receive the full set of instructional class periods for which you paid and to which you are entitled; and that you have the appropriate amount of time to prepare adequately for your final exams. If your final exam is given earlier than scheduled, or at a date and time that is not consistent with the college's final exam schedule, please contact the Department Chair or the Vice President for Academic Services (351-2542, Room A117).

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

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

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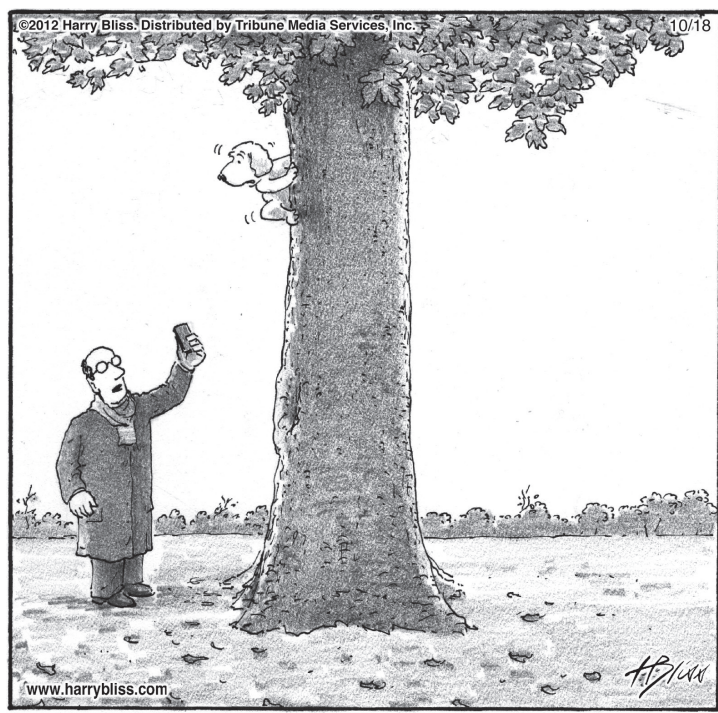
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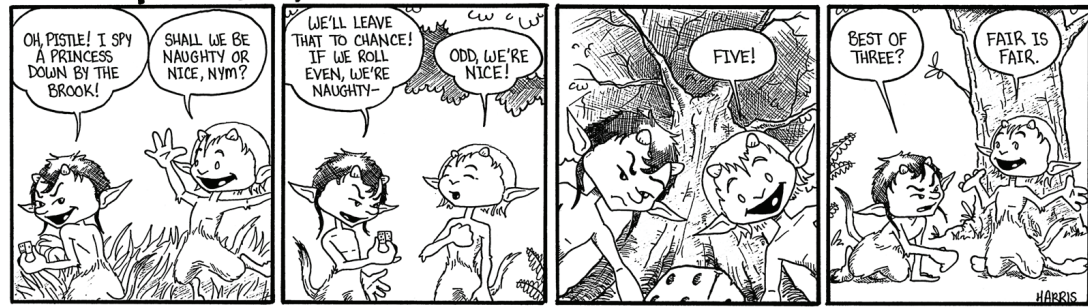
"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."
-- Albert Einstein

Sudoku (Easy)

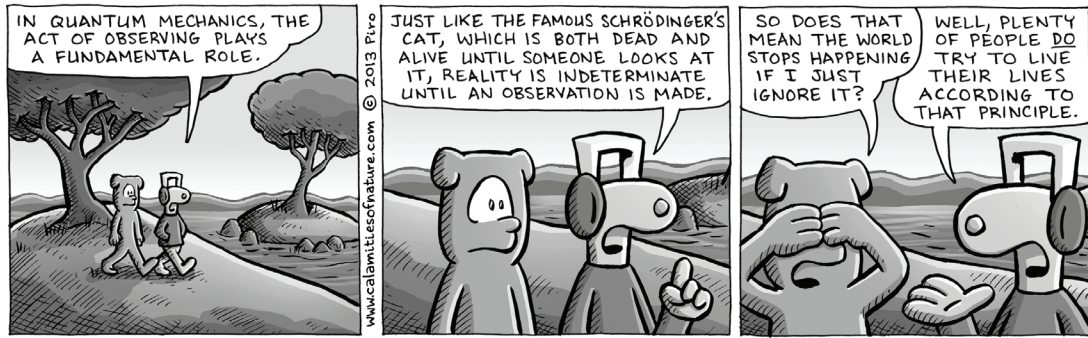
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Imps! by Jeff Harris



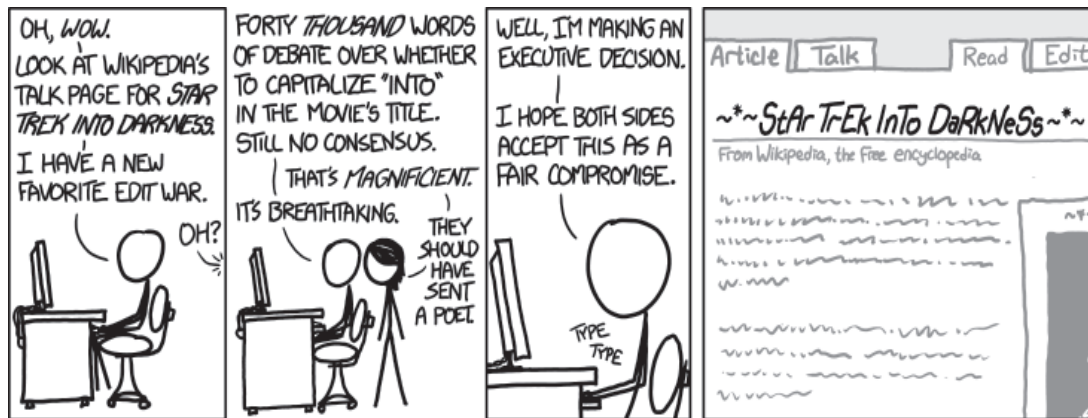
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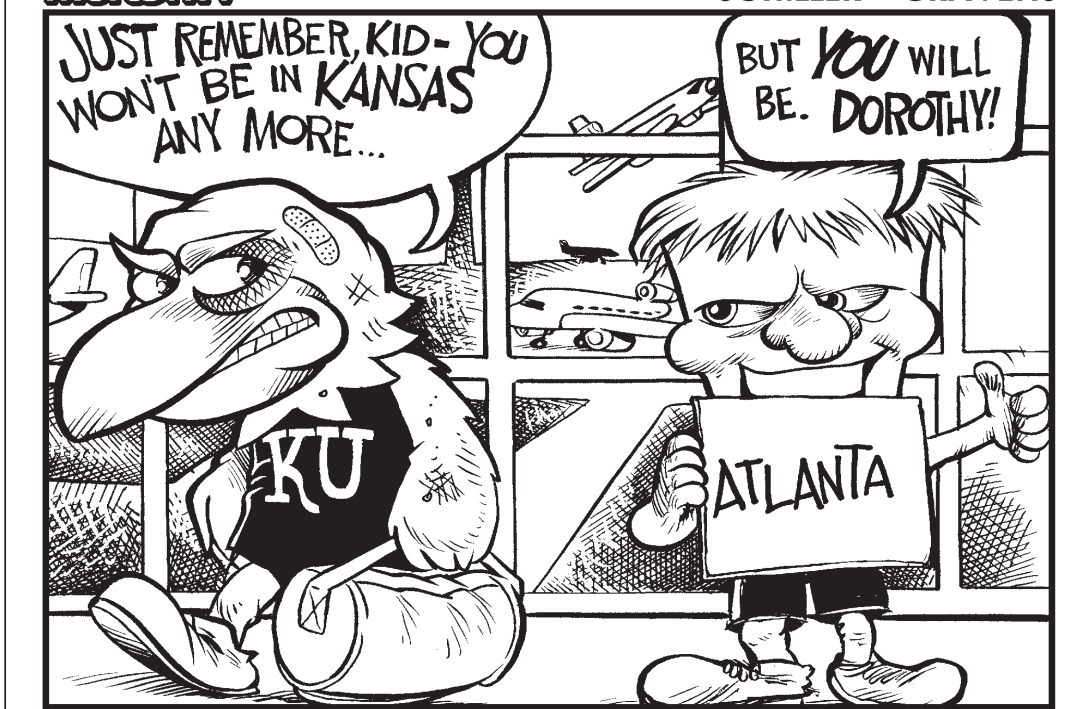
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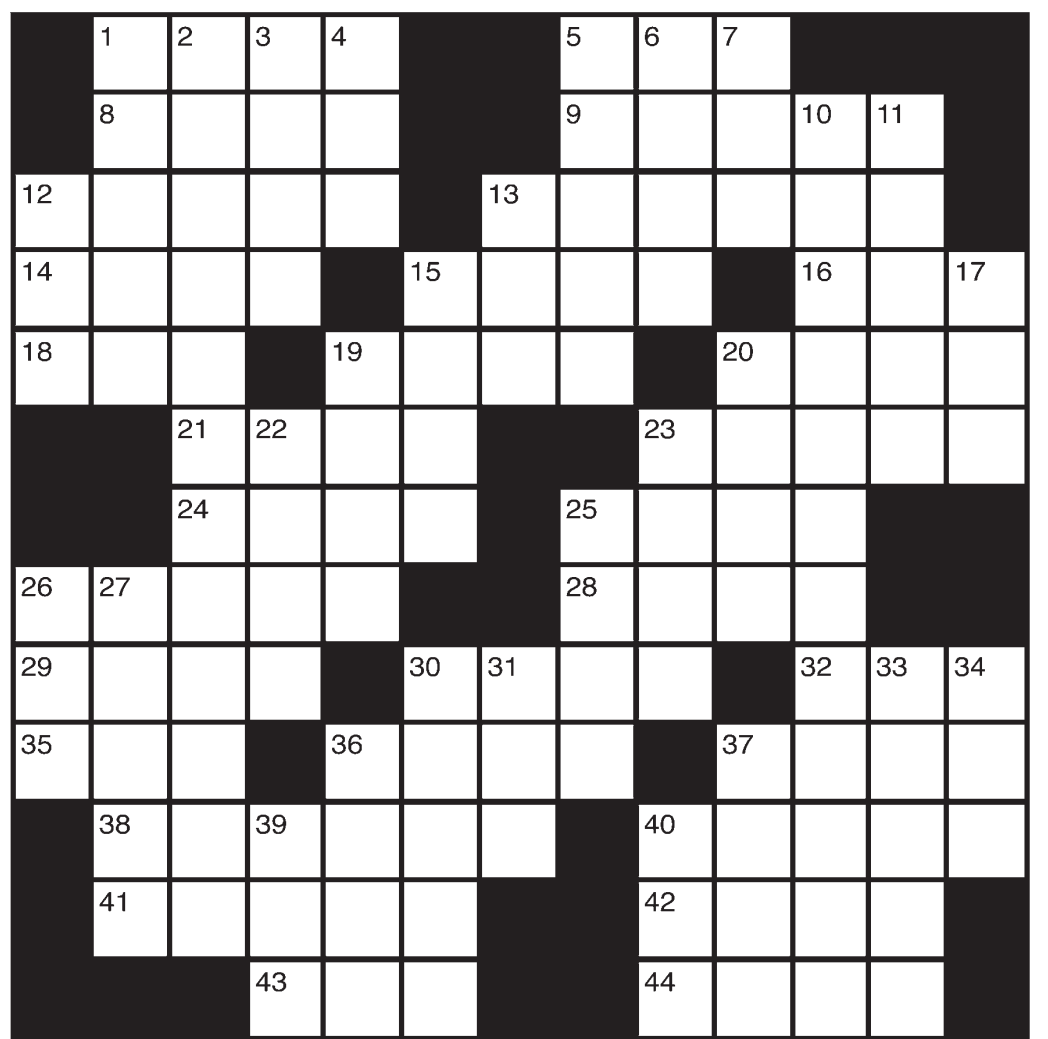
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THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/8/12

ACROSS

- Actor Sandler
- ___ Hanna; LL Cool J's role on "NCIS: Los Angeles"
- Betty White's role on "The Golden Girls"
- "CSI: ___"
- TV show host O'Brien
- Ted ___ of "Cheers"
- Nation east of Saudi Arabia
- Actor ___ Russell
- Comment from Homer Simpson
- Buddy
- "___ the Press"
- Rayburn of "The Match Game"
- Martin or Cain
- "The Price Is Right" host
- "True ___"; movie for Matt Damon and Jeff Bridges
- "___ City"
- Alaska's Sarah
- "Two and a ___ Men"
- Prince William's alma mater
- Buzzing insects
- "Much ___ About Nothing"
- Setting for "Bonanza": abbr.

- Majors and Marvin
- To ___; unanimously
- Antenna
- Popeye's love
- Film about a stay-at-home dad
- Eric ___ of Monty Python
- 180° from SSW
- ___ down the law; gives orders

DOWN

- Fragrance
- Actor on "Community"
- As strong ___ ox
- "___ in Trees"
- "Get ___"; series for Don Adams
- "___ Misbehavin'"; Broadway hit
- Bell and Barker
- Sitcom for Sofia Vergara
- ___ ear and out the other
- "Beverly Hills ___"; Eddie Murphy film
- "___ Date"; movie for Robert Downey, Jr.
- Clark ___; Superman's disguise
- "___ Jude"; song for the Beatles
- "The ___ Event"; Barbra Streisand/Ryan O'Neal film
- Max ___ of "Barney Miller"
- Joanie Cunningham's portrayer
- Expert accountants, for short
- "___ Out of My League"; recent movie for Jay Baruchel
- Bic or Paper Mate
- "The ___"; series for Mr. T
- Former NYC Mayor Abe ___
- Electric ___; dangerous fish
- "___ World"; Harry Anderson sitcom
- "___ Tree Hill"
- "The ___ King"; blockbuster animated movie
- Actor on "M*A*S*H"
- President Nixon's monogram
- Lubricate

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

G	R	A	C	E				C	A	A		
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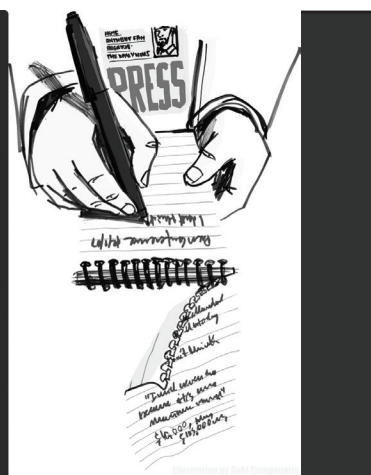
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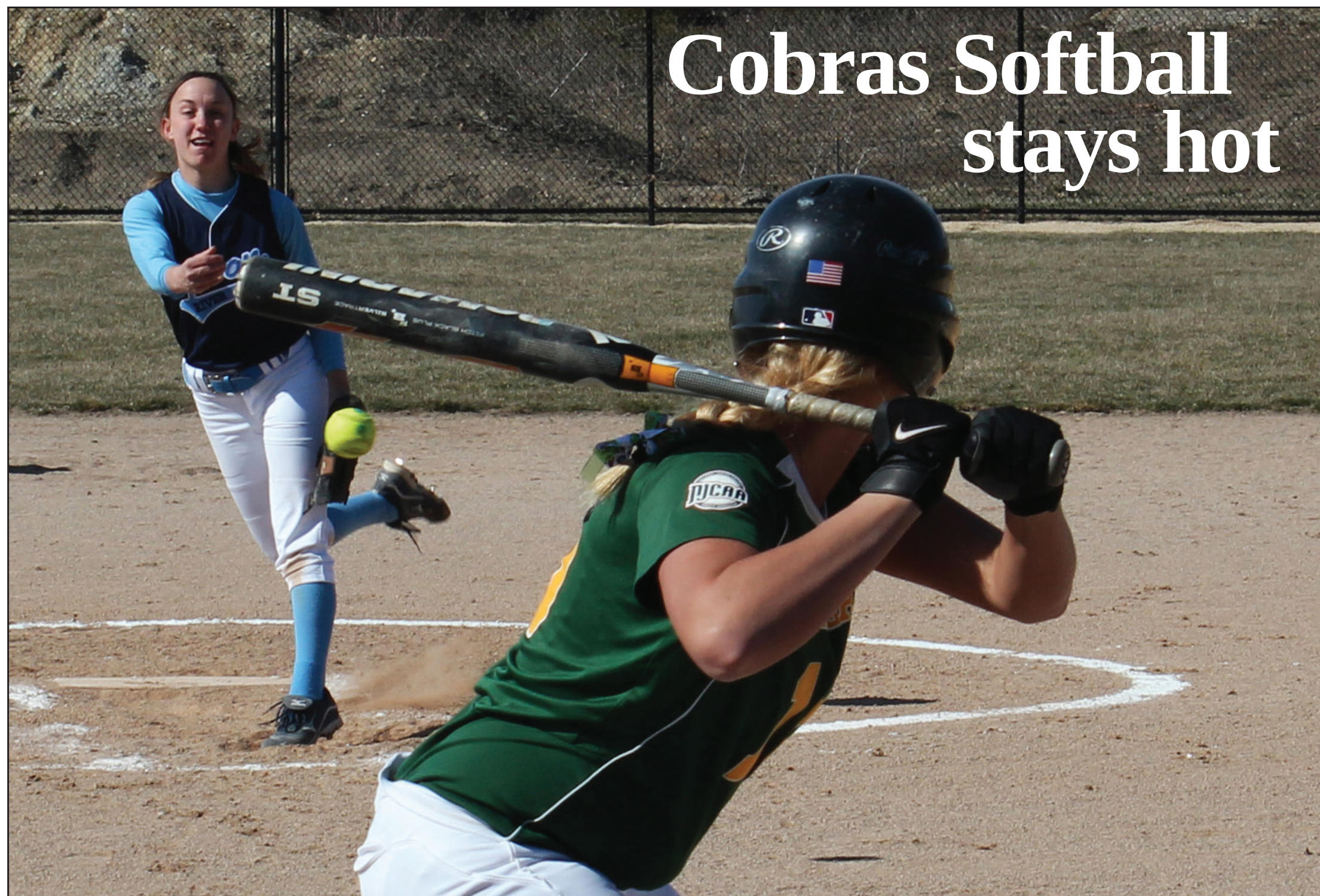
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Cobras Softball stays hot

Photo by Craig Towsley/Prospectus News

Cobras infielder Kelsey Kniepmann waits on a fastball during a double header against Spoon River, April 4, 2013.

 **Alex Wallner**
Sports Writer

The Cobras softball team was eager to show off their skills in Pensacola, Florida, where the team landed for their annual Florida trip March 8 - 18.

It was not all fun in the sun for the Lady Cobras. The team finished the trip with seven wins and three losses.

The trip included a 19-1 rout over St. Louis Community College and a double header win against Carl Sandburg with scores of 9-0 in the first game and 9-1 in the second.

"I think Florida really showed us what it takes to win," freshman Harley Tompkins said. "We played some good teams there and we came out on top. Some of the girls had clutch hits and plays when we needed them."

"Being there really gave us an advantage. When we came home, there were teams who hadn't been on a field yet and we had 10 games under our belt," Tompkins continued.

The team came home with a double header victory over Millikin Junior Varsity before going on another long road trip that included a trip to East Peoria to face the No. 11 ranked Illinois Central College and to Normal to face No. 4 Heartland Community College.

The Cobras ended the road trip with 6 wins and 4 losses. They fell to Heartland in both games of a double header, 2-1 in the first and 6-2 in the second. They split with Illinois Central College, losing the first game 2-1 and winning the second by an score of 3-1. It was a tough trip, but a learning experience.

This season is different than others, in that not only are these ladies talented, but understand each other better than anyone else. This makes them a strong unit.

"This season I am learning what Parkland softball is all about," freshman Carly Sarff explained. "The sophomores have been great to us. They have taught us how Cobra softball should be played and what to expect."

"Our team has great chemistry. We work really well together on and off the field which is very important. I've learned that college softball is very different than high school ball in the aspect of everyone wants to be here," Sarff continued.

The help of the sophomores on the team is huge, because the leadership determines the

mood and the direction of the team. They understand what to do and want to give as much instruction as they can.

The team is learning more every day. After losses, they don't put their heads down in anger, but use them as motivation to move on and get better. The potential is high for a team that always motivates each other.

"I believe our team is showing great potential. We come out every game ready to win," Tompkins said. "We've had some hard losses but that doesn't get our spirit down. If we make an error or have a bad at bat, we pick each other up and get ready for our next chance."

"We play pitch by pitch and win inning by inning. It really keeps us going and keeps our heads in the game," she added.

With the belief of everyone, this team can go far. They always try to be positive and look for the good in any situation because in the end that makes them better as a unit.

The credit does not go entirely to the players, but to the coaches as well. They help these kids become better through what they practice and try to focus on one detail at a time.

"The coaches have made me a better player by talking to me about what I am doing wrong when I do make a mistake," sophomore Tana Rentschler said. "If I have a question about a certain situation I am comfortable enough to ask my coaches and they will give me an honest answer as to what they want me to do. Without their help, I wouldn't be where

I am today."

Recruiting players is hard enough, but having them buy into the system is another task altogether. Not only do the players have to comprehend a different style of play, but will have to analyze it so that they know down the road what to teach to younger players.

Players tend to step up at certain points in the season. For the Lady Cobras that is not the case. This team keeps a high level of intensity all year long. With contributions from everyone on the team, players are keeping their performances strong and becoming a stronger team because of it.

Cobras Baseball playing well in conference

 **Mark Roughton**
Sports Writer

The Parkland College baseball team has won 14 of its last 16 games to get to a 17-11 mark after starting the season off with a record of 3-9. They have also positioned themselves in the thick of the conference race with an 11-1 start.

The Cobras endured a hard stretch, losing many close games to solid clubs like Jackson State and back to back one run games to Southeastern Iowa and Lackawanna in Millington, Tenn.

Adding insult to injury, they traveled to Jefferson, Mo. the next weekend and never got closer than two runs in any game against Jefferson College, getting swept by the host Vikings in a three game weekend series.

This became the turning point for this Cobras team.

"I think that Jeff. Co. weekend was more of a wake up call than anything," Head Coach Matt Kennedy said.

While Kennedy would be the first to tell his players not to make excuses for anything, he has an idea of what might have led to the slower than anticipated beginning to their season.

"Earlier in the year, those first 10-12 games it was we're very young, we had some injuries and the lineups weren't even close to being the same every day," he explained.

After losing another close game

to Sinclair on the first day of their Xenia, Ohio trip, the Cobras took the next two from Kellogg and won the rematch with Sinclair to finish the trip 3-1.

The Cobras then went on to sweep four game weekend series from both Spoon River and John Wood and take three out of four from Lincoln.

Freshman pitcher Kyle Weller

with 2.96 ERA and those are both tops on the pitching staff.

Freshman Jake Weber has become the closer of the pitching staff with 4 saves under his belt for a group that has only allowed more than 3 runs four times in the past 16 games.

One of which resulted in a disappointing 11-5 home loss to Lake Land to end the winning streak.

(.368) and sophomore Nolan Wilson (.305).

In the weekend series with Spoon River to open conference play, Valdez went 7-9 with a homerun, three doubles and 10 runs batted in the first two games of the series.

"You get out there and there's some days where you don't feel comfortable and some days where you do," the

get right at it," Valdez pointed out about his team's improved offensive production.

The hope with Valdez, Weller and the rest of the Cobras is that the winning brand of baseball continues. They don't have any reasons to doubt themselves moving forward.

"It's staying positive and looking for the bigger picture," Weller said. "Worry about every pitch, every out, doing the right stuff and everything will finally come together in the end."

"Like Kyle said you gotta think of it big picture, take it a game at a time," Valdez added. "This is the game right now and what happened before and what's going to happen doesn't matter because it's just right here."

"Just gotta work as a team, have a really good bench approach, and try to win a ballgame."

Yes the goal every year in the Parkland baseball program is Nationals, but you've got to play the season and improve first and Kennedy knows this all too well.

Kennedy believes that if all facets of they're team game improve, his Cobras will be where they want to be at the end of the year.

The Cobras are in action today against Danville Area at the baseball field for a double header; first pitch 2:00 p.m. Cobra fans come out and support this talented club against their rivals from the east.

“Worry about every pitch, every out, doing the right stuff and everything will finally come together in the end.”

- Kyle Weller

from Pleasant Plains, Ill. recognizes that the way the Cobras are able to practice now plays a role in their recent success.

"Getting everybody out here together and working on stuff together as a team has really helped us out," he said. "We're not separated in our groups where it's pitcher, hitters, and catchers off doing their own thing anymore."

Weller has been a catalyst for the pitching staff after earning a starting role earlier in the year. Weller is 4-2

"Pitching and defense have both been really good," Kennedy explained. "Offensively we've shown signs of improvement so we should be pretty good."

Some of the reason for improved offensive production is freshman Ramon Valdez. The Cobras' male athlete of the month for March is hitting .354 with 2 homers and 26 runs batted in.

He is one of four Cobras hitting above .300 joining fellow freshmen Johnny Herrera (.329), Brady Burns

freshman catcher said. "You've just gotta come with an approach and you just look for your pitch and when you get it, take a hack at it."

The Cobras certainly hacked at it amassing 47 hits in the Spoon River series, 30 in the John Wood series and 44 in the Lincoln series. They've scored an average of almost 10 runs per game in conference play.

"We're getting more at bats, so if you get more at bats you feel more comfortable at the plate, you recognize pitches better and you just

Entertainment

Student art exhibit at Parkland Art Gallery



Photo by Gerardo Jimenez/Prospectus News

The Parkland Art Gallery will be hosting the "2013 Parkland College Art and Design Student Juried Exhibit" from April 8 to May 4. All works on display are student submissions. April 8, 2013.

PN Mace Mackiewicz
Staff Writer

From April 8 to May 4, the Parkland College Art Gallery will be hosting the Art and Design Student Juried Exhibition. There will be many types of art displayed and they will all be competing for awards which will be presented at a ceremony on Thursday, April 11.

The Parkland Art Gallery website gives the following description of the show.

"This yearly exhibition of Parkland College student work comprises photography, painting, drawing, metals, sculpture, three-dimensional design, two-dimensional design, color theory and ceramics. Students taking

art classes in the current academic year (beginning with summer 2012) are eligible to participate. Art and Design faculty select approximately 200 works for the exhibit from among more than 400 entries."

Director of the art Gallery Lisa Costello shared some insight on the exhibit. "The Art and Design Student Juried Exhibition is the most labor intensive exhibition for Parkland Art Gallery, but it is also one of the most rewarding exhibitions and probably the most highly attended show of the year."

Costello continued, "It is an important exhibit because it provides our students the opportunity to exhibit their work and enter a juried exhibition."

Before the awards ceremony, music will be provided by Jordan Kay and the Parkland Guitar Ensemble. The ceremony will begin at 7 p.m.

The types of awards students can receive, as detailed on the Art Gallery website, are Merit Awards, The Parkland President Award, The David M. and Shirley A. Jones Student Art Award, the Parkland Art and Design Faculty Award and the Blair Kling Memorial Award. These awards have been donated by private individuals.

Not only are awards being given out on this night but there will also be scholarships awarded which include The Don Lake Art Scholarship, The Underwood-Alger

Scholarship, The Robert Ralph Ford Memorial Art Scholarship and The Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts scholarship.

Costello shared the excitement that leads up to the exhibition.

"The work looks so different when taken out of their studio classrooms and presented professionally," Costello said. "When we are installing, it is funny because many of the students can't wait until the show opens and they come up to the windows and peer in to see where their work is going to be hung."

"It is great to see the look on their face when they see it or when they bring their parents to the show. There is a moment of realization that all of their hard work was worth it," she

continued.

Julie Galaway, an art education major and the winner of the Merit and art coop awards in the exhibit also enjoys the work featured in the gallery.

"I haven't seen all of it yet but I believe it is more advanced than most community colleges art exhibits," she said.

This year, the exhibition is also tied to Champaign Boneyard Arts Festival. The Boneyard Arts Festival is a yearly festival that is held in Champaign that celebrates the arts.

"It is put together by 40 North which is the Champaign County Arts Council. So, Parkland Art Gallery is one of the many venues," said Costello.

The Art Gallery will also have a deeper involvement with the festival itself during the student exhibition.

"This year, we are having a drawing to win a \$25 gift card if people come to see the show during our regular business hours throughout the Boneyard event," Costello said. "The Boneyard Arts Festival runs from April 11-14. Many of our alumni participate in the Boneyard Arts Festival. It is a great event that is free to attend and a great opportunity to connect with local artists."

For information on the Art Gallery, visit artgallery.parkland.edu. For insight on the Boneyard Art's Festival, visit www.40north.org/events/festival.html.



Photo by Gerardo Jimenez/Prospectus News

The Parkland Art Gallery will be hosting the "2013 Parkland College Art and Design Student Juried Exhibit" from April 8 to May 4. All works on display are student submissions. April 8, 2013.



Photo by Gerardo Jimenez/Prospectus News

Art education major, Elizabeth Neathery stands next to her submission, "Charcoal Skull Studies 2," on display at the Parkland Art Gallery. April 8, 2013