



Prospectus News

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Women leaders honor their past

■ Parkland celebrates Women's History Month



From top left: Dayna Long, Eleni Kametas, Cat Calcagno, and Sgt. Yvonne Meyer. Each woman has contributed unique leadership skills to Parkland.

Photo Illustration by Jonathan Bouvet and Briana Stodden/Prospectus

By CASSANDRA CUNNINGHAM, NADA YOUSSEF, AND AARON GEIGER

Although our American society has not achieved equality of the sexes, there has been a dramatic improvement in how women are perceived even in the past few years. Just last year, the prospect of recognizing Hilary Clinton as our president was not a far-fetched idea.

However, Wellpoint CEO Angela Braly, a name you probably don't recognize, was named by Forbes magazine as being the fourth most powerful woman in the world—she still made \$26 million less than her male predecessor. And unless you're really in tune to business, her name is likely to slip through the cracks. Here's a test: write down ten major names in business, and see how

many of them are men. Count the women. If you didn't write down at least three, then you're not up-to-date on the ratios of entrepreneurship in the United States.

Everywhere in our society—from sports, business, technology, education, and even voting—women are catching up, if not surpassing, men in every field. It's now an established fact, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, that in ratios to men, more women vote, graduate high school, achieve bachelor's degrees, and use computers.

At Parkland, women reflect a microcosm of their predecessor's achievements, and many are working hard to make their own imprint on history. Until 2006, Parkland's success was led by Dr. Zelema Harris, an African American woman who helped to diversify the college, and worked to keep the school

current with rapidly changing technology and student populations.

But what makes a woman a leader? What makes a woman strong? Is there a need to open a new dimension of leadership by using the word "woman?" The Prospectus decided to ask some of the leaders of Parkland for their take on women and their role in history.

Dayna Long, student, Phi Theta Kappa president

Dayna Long is an English major at Parkland. She loves reading, writing, watching movies, getting dressed up and going out on the weekends. On the outside she seems like any ordinary college student, but digging deeper, one will find that she is far more unique.

Dayna Long is president of Phi Theta Kappa at Parkland, a member of Rotaract, and she serves on the Student Affairs

Committee. She is a student worker at the Parkland College Library, she works in the Phi Theta Kappa office every week, and she tutors a junior high student in English once a week in Urbana.

"Being considered a strong woman is incredibly flattering. Personal strength is always something I both admire and aspire to," said Long.

Long believes it's important to look up to other 'strong' women.

"Lately, I have felt really admiring of Suze Orman. It has to have been tough to earn credibility in finance, which is such a male-dominated field, and yet she's one of the most widely known financial advisors in America. Plus, I was reading one of her interviews in a magazine and she was just full of great advice for women in response to the recession. At

one point she said, 'Nobody will care about you more than you—nobody' and I feel like that's a great thing for all women to hear. We have to put ourselves and our interests first," said Long.

Long is a well-opinionated young woman, especially when it comes to women and education.

"I really believe that people who know more are able to make better decisions, both personally and for their country. And education for women is especially great, because women are great at networking and are more likely to share what they have learned with other women and with their children," she said.

Yvonne Meyer, Sergeant, Public Safety

As a single mother, and completely dependent upon herself, Yvonne Meyer decided to

join the Champaign police, and transferred to Parkland's Public Safety department under Chief Von Young. Through her excellence in leadership Meyer was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

"Being a woman police officer, people assume I'm just a mean person. They think all I want to talk about are guns, cars, and violence. They think I should have a gun strapped to me at all times, ready for combat like Lara Croft," said Sergeant Meyer.

Make no mistake, Meyer is a professional, but she serves Parkland well through a strong balance of public relations and crime prevention. But the path to her success was tough, and Meyer was forced to take a leadership role in her life, not just her career.

"I got married at 19. I said

See **Women** on page 3

To help the community, couple attempt to buy exclusively from black-owned businesses

By TED GREGORY
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO—Maggie Anderson drives 14 miles to buy groceries, which might seem curious given that she lives in bustling Oak Park, Ill. She and her husband, John, patronize gas stations in Rockford and Phoenix, Ill. They travel 18 miles to a health food store in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood for vitamins, supplements and personal care products.

The reason? They want to solve what they call "the crisis in the black community." They want to buy black.

The Andersons, African-Americans who rose from humble means, are attempting to spend their money for one year exclusively with black-owned businesses and are encouraging other African-Americans to do the same. It is part experiment, part social activism cam-

paign. They call it the "Ebony Experiment."

"More than anything, this is a learning thing," said Maggie Anderson, who grew up in the Liberty City neighborhood of Miami and holds a law degree and an MBA from the University of Chicago. "We know it's controversial, and we knew that coming in."

But the Andersons said they also have known that a thriving black economy is fundamental to restoring impoverished African-American and other "underserved" communities, and they have discussed for years trying to find a way to address the problem.

What they came up with is provocative. One anonymous letter mailed to their home accused the Andersons of "unabashed, virulent racism. Because of you," the writer stated, "we will totally avoid black suppliers. Because of

you, we will dodge every which way to avoid hiring black employees."

Apart from that letter, a solid majority of comments they've received have been encouraging, the Andersons said, adding that most people see the endeavor as beneficial to all.

"Supporting your own isn't necessarily exclusive," said John Anderson, a financial adviser who grew up in Detroit and has a Harvard degree in economics and an MBA from Northwestern, "and you're not going to convince everybody of that."

The undertaking "is an academic test about how to reinvest in an underserved community" and lessen society's burden, John Anderson noted. Focusing the estimated \$850 billion annual black buying power on black businesses strengthens those businesses, creates more businesses, more



Store owner Karriem Beyah, left, talks with Maggie Anderson as she shops at Farmers Best Market, February 27, 2009, in Chicago, Illinois. Beyah encourages shoppers to try new foods and also eagerly accepts their advice on items he should stock on his shelves.

Terrence Antonio James/Chicago Tribune/(MCT)

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Prospectus

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• Views expressed are opinions of staff and contributors and not necessarily that of the Prospectus or Parkland College.

• The Prospectus welcomes letters to the editor. We accept submissions from the Parkland community and the public. The editor will also consider original works of fiction and short writings if space is available.

• The rules of correspondence: all submissions must be signed with a phone number and address. The Prospectus staff must verify the identity of letter writers. Correspondence may be edited to accommodate the space requirements of the paper. The deadline for all submissions is 12 p.m. of the Thursday immediately before the upcoming issue.



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Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

LEAD STORY

Belgian workers take sick leave nearly four times as often as U.S. workers, mostly attributed to Belgian law, which grants full salary the first month and then government-guaranteed 80-percent pay indefinitely. A recent study, noted in a January Wall Street Journal report, found that only 5 percent of Belgian leave-takers were proven malingerers, but that the biggest medical problem now is easily-diagnosed "depression" (exacerbated by the worsening economy), leading to free-form medical leave-taking and creative treatments often unchallenged, such as for the man who frolicked on the soccer field, bought an Alfa Romeo, and reconnected with old friends (all of which, not surprisingly, said his doctor, lessened his depression).

Fine Points of the Law

—On successive days in January in the courthouse in Sheboygan, Wis., 17-year-old Alan Jepsen and 17-year-old Norma Guthrie were each charged with sexual assault for having consensual sex with their respective 14-year-old, opposite-sex companions. However, Jepsen was charged with a felony (maximum: 25 years in prison), and Guthrie was charged with a misdemeanor (maximum, 9 months).

—In January, a judge at Britain's Bristol Crown Court dropped the case against a 20-year-old man accused of robbing a driving instructor because the victim-witness was "too believable" in her testimony to the jury. Judge Jamie Tabor explained that the victim had only seen the defendant for a split-second, but that she appeared so sincere and courageous that the jury probably regarded her courtroom identification of the man as more authoritative than the mere glimpse deserved.

Compelling Explanations

—Australia's Queensland Rail agency disclosed in January that it would quickly offer refunds to passengers on a Cairns-to-Brisbane train that crashed just outside Cairns, but reiterated at the same time that it would not pay refunds to survivors of a November 2008 Brisbane-to-Cairns train crash that killed two and injured nine. The difference, according to a Queensland Rail general manager, was that the 2009 trip was just getting underway from Cairns when it crashed, but that the 2008 trip, also near Cairns, was "95 percent over" by the time the deadly crash occurred (and thus, the survivors had basically reached their destination).

Not My Fault

—Timothy Hoffman, 26, was awarded \$76.6 million by a jury in Viera, Fla., in January for becoming paralyzed in a 2003 incident when, on a dare, he dove headfirst into the Indian River, which, unknown to him, was about a foot deep at that point. One reason for the large judgment may have been that the defendant, C&D Dock Works, one of whose employees may have been the one that issued the dare, is bankrupt and did not defend itself at the trial. (There was also evidence that Hoffman may have solic-

ited the dare himself.)

—Paul Sanchez, 67, an "occasional" golfer, filed a lawsuit in Brentwood, N.H., in February against the Candia Woods Golf Links for a 2006 incident in which his approach shot hit a yard marker in the fairway, bounced back, and struck him in the eye. Sanchez claimed the course owners were negligent in placing the sign in the fairway and also should have warned him that balls would bounce off of it.

Ironies

—(1) The \$500,000 top prize in Alaska's January statewide lottery, to benefit the organization Standing Together Against Rape, for victims of sexual assault, was won by Alec Ahsoak, 53, who incidentally is a twice-convicted sex offender. (2) Sweden's Hallands Nyheter newspaper reported in January that a police officer had endured four operations at a private clinic in Gothenburg to correct a birth condition that made one leg shorter than the other, but operations on the longer leg cut off too much, so it is now shorter than the leg that used to be the shorter one.

I Demand My Rights

—In January, an appeals court in Newark, N.J., reinstated Doris Sexton's worker-compensation lawsuit against a county-owned nursing home where Sexton had claimed that breathing a co-worker's perfume one day in 2004 had made her permanently disabled and tethered to an oxygen tank. A lower court had decided that it was far more likely that her disability was caused by Sexton's 43-year, pack-a-day cigarette habit than by the brief exposure to perfume.

—Inadvertently, Raed Jarrar, 30, made his August 2006 airline flight from New York to Oakland, Calif., pay off hand-somely for him, despite some inconvenience and harassment. Jarrar, an Iraqi-born U.S. resident married to an American citizen, was wearing a T-shirt with Arabic lettering at the JetBlue gate at JFK airport when the airline denied him boarding. After negotiating, he was allowed to board provided he cover the shirt and sit in the back row. In January 2009, JetBlue and two officials of the Transportation Security Administration agreed to pay Jarrar \$240,000 to settle his racial profiling lawsuit. (The T-shirt read "We Will Not Be Silent" and was in both English and Arabic.)

Oops!

—In January, assistant coaches Scott Coy and Darren DeMeio, of the Westminster College (New Wilmington, Pa.) football team, who were in Nashville, Tenn., for a coaches' convention, were seriously injured during 4 a.m. horseplay-wrestling at their hotel. The men, who weigh a combined 525 lbs., crashed through the double-paned window in their fourth-floor room and fell to the ground in their underwear.

Least Competent Criminals

—Not Ready for Prime Time: (1) John West, 20, and Ashley Sorensen, 20, were arrested in Auburn, Calif., in January after allegedly stealing the tires and

rims off a car. The pair had put the tires on their own car and then violated a cardinal rule by returning to the crime scene, to see if the owner had called the police. (She had, and she pointed out the pair's car to officers.) (2) A man who demanded the bank's money in Nicholasville, Ky., in January left empty-handed after an employee at the counter informed him that the building is now a regional water-district office and not the bank that used to be there.

Recurring Themes: Dogs Causing Trouble

—(a) On the Open Road: A 70-lb. pit bull jumped on a car's gearshift at a carwash in Pryor, Okla., in November, sending the car out of the bay, to circle the lot briefly. And a boxer-shar-pei mix similarly jostled the gearshift of a van in Port Jefferson, N.Y., in November, sending it through the front window of the Cool Bean coffee shop. (b) On the Firing Line: Oregon State Police said a gunshot into a boat on Tillamook Bay in November was probably caused by a Labrador's jumping on a 12-gauge shotgun while the boat was unattended. And a 19-year-old man had several toes shot off on a hunting trip in January in Forrest City, Ark., when his dog jumped onto a shotgun in the front seat of his truck.

A News of the Weird Classic (October 1993)

—The Baltimore Sun reported in June 1993 that New York City artist Todd Alden had recently asked 400 art collectors worldwide to send him samples of their feces so he could offer them for sale in personalized tins. Said Alden, "Scatology is emerging as an increasingly significant part of artistic inquiry in the 1990s." A 30-gram tin of the feces of Italian artist Piero Manzoni, canned in 1961, sold just before that for \$75,000. Subsequent to this story, News of the Weird periodically tracked the fluctuating price of the several Manzoni tins, including Britain's Tate Gallery's 2002 purchase for \$38,000 (which was over 100 times the price of an equal amount of gold). A colleague of Manzoni revealed in 2007 that his tins probably contained just plaster, but a Tate curator pointed out the irrelevance of the physical content of art.

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CHUCK SHEPHERD

You are what you should eat

By **CHRISSE MCKENNEY**
Nutrition Columnist

March is National Nutrition Month. This is a national campaign sponsored by the American Dietetic Association (ADA) to promote nutrition awareness and healthy eating

sen for their "Go Green" campaign. The Task Force wants to emphasize that it takes more energy to raise animals for food than it does to grow vegetables. (The Environmental Defense Fund in New York (www.edf.org) estimates that if everyone in America had



Curried chickpeas pack a lot of flavor and add "a lot of color" to the plate, which is a great visual guideline to eating whole foods. Tune in to PCTV to catch how to cook up this easy recipe (and many more). The Prospectus will feature the recipes after the programs air, so stay tuned!

Chrissie McKenney/Prospectus

habits. The timing couldn't be more perfect; it arrives just as your enthusiasm for those diet-and-lifestyle-improving New Year's resolutions starts to fade, but before you start worrying about what you are going to look like at the beach this summer.

This year's theme is "Eat Right," and to celebrate National Nutrition Month (NNM), students in the Dietary Management and Dietetic Technician programs here at Parkland (this writer included) will be presenting a few healthy, meatless meal ideas on PCTV (Tequila Fettuccine Pasta, Asparagus-Spinach Pasta, Portobello Mushroom Burgers with Sweet Potato Fries, and Curried Chickpeas). The meals are meatless for two reasons: 1) A plant-based diet lowers your risk for chronic disease, and 2) It is good for the environment.

This year, in addition to being NNM, March is also the month that The Parkland College Wellness Task Force has cho-

one meat-free meal each week, it would be like taking 5 million cars off the road. One meat-free day per American would be like taking 8 million cars off the road.) This means that reducing the amount of meat you eat each day is an easy way to "Go Green."

The Parkland College Wellness Task Force, according to Lori Wendt, an online support specialist in the Department of Distance and Virtual Learning and a Task Force member, "was initiated in 2008 by Parkland's Human Resources Department, the Center for Excellence and the Wellness Center in order to develop and maintain year round wellness programs/events/seminars in order to promote emotional, physical, social/environmental and financial well-being of all of Parkland's faculty, staff, and students."

But back to this business of "eating right," it sounds easy enough—but what does it really mean? We are inundated with

See **Nutrition** on page 3

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WOMEN

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that I was grown up and that I could make my own decisions when in retrospect I was not," Meyer said. "I think these young teenagers want to grow up fast. And there is nothing that will make you more grown up than a baby. It's not about being a strong woman. It is about being able to provide for your baby."

Meyer didn't originally intend on being a police officer.

"I graduated from Parkland as a surgical tech. I had a lot of shift work. They had a lot of layoffs. I loved it but I had to get out of it. I worked at a clinic for a year and there was a police dispatcher position available. It looked good and paid well. So, I took it," said Meyer.

Eleni Kametas, general manager for 88.7 "The Wave"

Eleni Kametas is the General Manager for 88.7 the

wave, WPCD-FM here at Parkland and she teaches COM 141 and COM 142 courses at Parkland. She has a passion for horseback riding, baking cupcakes, and attending music events. While walking down the hall, her young, refreshing looks and calm, cool, and collected demeanor can easily trick someone into thinking she's a student. This young, intelligent teacher has a bundle of things to offer her students here at Parkland. As general manager of the radio station she is involved in choosing music for listeners, coordinating promotional events, and programming the station.

Make no mistake, she knows she is a strong woman and she knows exactly how she got to be one.

"I believe I am a strong individual who has worked very hard to achieve my goals," said Kametas.

She also believes it's important to look up to strong women.

"When I reflect on the influential women in my life, I am grateful for having the opportunity to work with Amy Pilewski, my supervisor at Radio Disney. Amy offered me my first full-time position in media and taught me how to be a skillful, confident female in the workplace. Amy was smart, hardworking and goal-seeking. She understood the importance of education and pursued a graduate degree while managing a major corporation. Amy was a credible leader with tremendous management skills. As a manager and an instructor, I hope I display similar leadership traits," said Kametas.

Kametas, a self-proclaimed feminist, loves being a woman.

"Women are talented, beautiful creatures. I enjoy being part of a phenomenal, versatile gender, but as a true feminist, I believe in promoting equality between men and women," said Kametas.

She also has a strong opin-

ion on the 'traditional' role of women that she developed from her own personal experience.

"My grandmother immigrated to the United States from Greece. She was a very traditional woman who always kept her hair pulled back, never wore pants and refused to learn how to drive a car. My grandmother did not speak English, and the only work she did was in her kitchen. She was an amazing woman with simple needs and a loving soul. I have always respected her for being her true self. Traditional or liberal, I admire any woman who is happy with the way she lives her life. I believe my grandmother's calling was to stay at home and serve as the matriarch to her family, while I know my calling is found in the workplace."

Cat Calcagno, student and volunteer

Italian born feminist Cat Calcagno is an English Litera-

ture major and Women's Studies minor. You can find her at Parkland day and night—perpetually working.

She is part of the Roto-ract club, Phi Theta Kappa, and works as a part-time student librarian at the Parkland library. Cat is also active in volunteering outside of Parkland.

"I volunteer at the Campaign Public Library from time to time. I'm part of the Campaign County Democrats. And I'm volunteering on Stephanie Yousef's (president of Roto-ract and Student Government) campaign for Student Board," said Calcagno.

Calcagno carries an air of respect and confidence beyond her years.

"A strong woman is independent, intellectual, and active in a broad range of social spheres. She doesn't adhere to social standards for women. She doesn't dress a certain way, act a certain way, or have a certain job. She is comfortable in her

own skin and doesn't have to act stereotypically feminine," said Calcagno.

Part of Calcagno's strength originated in high school, when she was forced to confront stereotypes.

"I noticed sexism a lot in high school. I used to dress boyish, with like loose pants. Some people thought I was lesbian because of this. Now I wear more feminine cloths and guys hit on me all the time. It's a shame that women are portrayed so poorly in pop media. For instance, the Pussycat Dolls are slutty pop singers. That's what people think is the definition of independence. But if you really are independent, then you must be lesbian," said Calcagno.

What does Women's History Month mean to Calcagno?

"It reminds women how much we've fought for and gained," she said.

Women's History Month facts:

During the 2006-2007 school year 61% of master's degrees were awarded to women

In 2002, there were 116,985 women-owned businesses with receipts of \$1 million or more, a 15% increase from 1997.

Women vote more than men

In 2007, 15% of all military armed U.S. forces were women

In 1950, 2% of all military armed U.S. forces were women

There are now 1.7 million women veterans

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There is no longer a computer "gender gap"—women now use computers more than men.

In the 2004-2005 school year, number of women in high school athletic programs: 2.9 million

In the 1973-1974 school year, number of women in high school athletic programs: 1.3 million

There were 5.6 million stay-at-home moms in 2005, up from 4.4 million in 1995.



Prospectus' views limited in scope

I've been a Parkland student for a little while now and have tried to check out the paper as much as possible. Unfortunately, a lot of the content seems to be repetitive. The subject of Muslims comes to mind right away. Why are there so many articles on Muslims? I realize that there are a significant number of Muslim students currently attending Parkland, but there are a lot of other people as well. The Asian/Southern Pacific percentage of students is huge compared to that of the Muslim population, and there are other ethnicities that should be recognized as well.

I'm not bashing Muslims by any means, but I think it's unfair to the readers when at least once a month there is a big headline involving the Muslim culture when Parkland represents so many other beautiful cultures as well.

That being said, I think it's important that other writers from other cultures that are attending Parkland be encouraged to write for the Prospectus so that the students and faculty that read this paper can be exposed to other interesting and positive cultures and not just that of the Muslim culture.

David Crabill, Parkland student

NUTRITION

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confusing and seemingly conflicting messages in the popular media:

—"All carbs are bad...no wait, some carbs are bad."

—"Eggs will give you a heart attack...no, eggs are great for you...eggs are great for you in moderation."

—"High fructose corn syrup is responsible for the obesity epidemic in America...wait, high fructose corn syrup is OK in moderation."

—"Alcohol is bad for you...alcohol can prevent heart disease."

—"Genetically modified foods are a disaster waiting to happen...genetically modified foods are no different from conventional crops."

It is easy to see how people might get confused. There seems to be a lot of information floating around about what kinds of foods are bad for us, but how are we supposed to know which ones are good for us? How can we tell if we're eating right?

To find out I contacted Jane Valentine and Kristen Faust, both Registered Dietitians and instructors in the Department of Natural Sciences here at Parkland. I didn't get identical answers, but both of their answers had something very important in common: they both put more emphasis on what you should eat rather than on what you shouldn't. In fact, neither of them directly mentioned foods to avoid. That isn't the same as a license to eat indiscriminately, however. This is how Jane Valentine describes eating right:

"[Eating right is] making sure you are getting a variety of foods in your daily diet. By this, I mean, having lots of color on your plate. Eating fruits daily. Making sure your portions are moderate in size and not heaping over the plate. Taking time to enjoy your meals and not rushing through the meal. Always start the day with breakfast, it doesn't have

to be a big meal but it is important to recharge your brain with energy for the day."

Here's what Kristin Faust suggests:

"Follow the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (<http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines>), which are based on scientific evidence to reduce the risk of chronic disease. The Dietary Guidelines suggest maintaining a healthy weight by being physically active daily and choosing foods naturally high fiber like fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Their recommendations also include choosing foods low in sodium and saturated and trans-fat which will cut out many of the processed foods. By including more foods with the characteristics outlined by the Dietary Guidelines in our diet, we will "eat right" and fight our battles [with the risk of chronic disease] while still consuming yummy foods."

Eating right doesn't mean living on salads and steamed chicken breasts, avoiding sweets, and giving up bacon. It means eating regular meals and choosing nutritious foods that are high in vitamins, minerals, and fiber—foods that provide the energy you need to get through the day and the nutrients you need to stay healthy.

That does sound easy enough.

Look for our meatless meals on PCTV this month (with more to come this fall), and join us as we try to eat right and go green.

Are you eating right? Take this quiz on the ADA website to find out:

www.eatright.org/nmm/2009%20quiz/index3.swf

[Editor's note: This marks the beginning of our new columnist, who studies nutrition at Parkland, and also attends a culinary school in Chicago; Chrissie McKenney will be presenting topics on issues relating to cooking and health. You can catch her on PCTV, or write to her at prospectus@parkland.edu with questions or suggestions for future topics.]

Spring Break Playlists

By CASSANDRA CUNNINGHAM
Staff writer

It's seen everywhere nowadays: everyone walking around with their headphones in their ears, bobbing to their favorite tune. Whether it's an iPod, a Zune or on a phone, music is streaming through the sidewalks, hallways and aisles anywhere and everywhere. So this spring break don't miss out

on good tunes. Whether it's on the plane to New York, on the beach in Florida, or soaking up the sun in good old Champaign, here are some good playlists for spring break!

Rockers

The All American Rejects – Gives You Hell; Nickleback – Gotta Be Somebody; Shine-down – Second Chance; Plain White T's – 1,2,3,4; The Veronicas – Untouched; Incubus – Love Hurts; Papa Roach – Lifeline

Countrified

Taylor Swift – White Horse; Keith Urban – Sweet Thing; Toby Keith – God Love Her; Jason Aldean – Dune's Country; Brooks and Dunn – Cowgirls Don't Cry; George Strait – River of Love; Tim McGraw – Nothin to Die For

Hip Hoppers



TI ft. Justin Timberlake – Dead and Gone; The Dream – Rock That Thing; Jamie Foxx ft. T-Pain – Blame; Beyonce –

Halo; Ciara ft Justin Timberlake – Sex, Love and Magic; Miguel – Sure Thing; Chris Brown – I Wanna Be; Keri Hilson ft. Lil Wayne – Turnin Me On

A Little Bit of Everything

Flo Rida – Right Round; Miley Cyrus – The Climb; Lady Gaga – Just Dance; Kelly Clarkson – Without You; Britney Spears – Womanizer; Jason Mraz – I'm Yours; Katy Perry – Hot N Cold; Kid Cudi – Day n Night; The Fray – You Found Me

Jonathan Bouvet/Prospectus

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Cobras are National Bound!

■ Women's basketball joins other champion Parkland College teams

By SEAN HERMANN AND AARON PARTRIDGE
Staff Writers

This week, Parkland College will once again be recognized on a national level. The Cobra women's basketball team will be one of twelve teams competing for the Division II NJCAA championship, making their first appearance in the tournament since 2004.

"Getting to nationals has been one of our goals all year," said women's basketball head coach Karrie Redeker.

"One of the sayings we have for our team is 'make the big time where you are,' and going to nationals is as big as it gets for junior college. We are going to enjoy it but also be ready to take advantage of this amazing opportunity," she said.

The Cobras finished the season with a 28-4 (13-1) record and won 16 of their last 17 games going into the tournament.

"Our sophomores did a great job of leading down the stretch and our freshman followed their lead and made their own contributions. Our team came together as a unit and have developed a 'refuse to lose' attitude," Redeker said.

Parkland students are also excited about the team's accomplishments this year.

"That's fantastic that our girls made it to nationals, it really shows their dedication and hard work. Go Parkland!" said freshman Kirby Toalson.

The Cobra's basketball team is the third Parkland athletic squad to reach nationals so far this year, sharing the experience with the dance and vol-



The women's basketball team drops some sweat onto the wood during a scrimmage. They have a tough schedule coming up at nationals, but are ranked high enough to receive a bye on the first round of tournament play, which will be held in Peoria, Ill.

Levi Norman/Prospectus

leyball teams.

"Hard work and dedication can go along way this far in the season, great job this year, keep up the hustle!" said Zach Streff, sophomore in kinesiology.

The tournament will be held in Peoria, Illinois and consists of top eight seeds:

- #1 Kirkwood Community College, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, (32-1)
- #2 Schoolcraft College, Livonia, Mich. (30-2)
- #3 Pima Community College, Tucson, Ariz. (26-5)
- #4 Parkland College, Champaign, Ill. (28-4)
- #5 Kalamazoo Valley Com-

munity College, Kalamazoo, Mich. (25-6)

#6 Kankakee Community College, Kankakee, Ill. (26-5)

#7 Louisburg College, Louisburg, NC (27-3)

#8 Allegany College of Maryland, Cumberland, MD. (28-0)

Also, four of the remaining teams include the Community College of Rhode Island, Genesee Community College, Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley and North Arkansas College.

"We are excited to be playing so close to home and hope a lot of our fans will come over to Peoria and support our team like they have all season...if

we continue to work hard and work together, anything is possible," said Redeker.

The top four seeded teams, which include Parkland, will receive a first round bye. The first round will begin March 18 at noon with the CC of Rhode Island taking on Allegany College of Maryland. Parkland will play their first game on Thursday against the winner of Kalamazoo Valley CC vs. Genesee CC.

Depending on the outcome of that game, Parkland will play at either noon, or 6 p.m. on Friday and by winning at least two games, will potentially play Saturday for a top eight finish

in the nation. If the Cobras play with the intensity and passion they have throughout the regular season, they could definitely make a final four appearance, if not a national championship.

The Cobra volleyball team, one of the three parkland teams to make it to nationals so far this year, made it to the final four and came home with a third place finish while finishing the season as M-WAC champions with a 36-13 (6-0) record.

The Parkland Charmers dance team came home with 15th place finish out of 24 teams at nationals.

"Nationals was awesome,

competing against those teams was such an awesome experience," said freshman dance team member Sierra Smith.

They certainly didn't go up against easy competition either.

"Some of those teams we competed against were so amazing. We didn't do as well as we would've hoped but all around it was still an awesome experience and we felt like it was worth all the hard work we put into it," she said.

We hope the basketball team will feel the same when they arrive back in town next week.

The dance team would like to let interested persons know that they will also be holding tryouts for the upcoming 2009-10 season. According to the flyer, tryouts will be held on Saturday, April 4 from 12:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 5 from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. in the dance studio under the gym (P105).

For more information, check out the Athletics portion of the Parkland Web page under the Cheerleading/Dance portion, the Facebook page titled Parkland College Cobra Charmer Dance Team Tryouts, or you can also e-mail coach Englehardt at kenglehardt@parkland.edu.

Congrats to the women's basketball team on making it to nationals and we hope that they can come back home with some hardware—good job ladies!

If you have any questions or comments, please e-mail Sean Herimann at shermann1@stu.parkland.edu.

GROCERY

continued from page 1

jobs and stronger families, schools and neighborhoods, the Andersons and other advocates said.

"When a thriving African-American or urban community is realized, certainly as a society as a whole, we all win," John Anderson said.

They are using a public relations firm, have created a slick Web site—www.ebonyexperiment.com—have been laying the groundwork for nearly two years and have enlisted researchers from Northwestern University to detail and extrapolate the impact of their

spending. Still, the first two months posed challenges in finding stores that meet what Maggie Anderson called her "exacting standards." Her latest crisis is finding shoes and clothes for the couple's toddler daughters.

The Andersons buy gasoline cards from black-owned stations in Phoenix and Rockford and use the cards elsewhere. After several weeks of searching, Maggie Anderson found Farmers Best Market, a black-owned grocer in Chicago 14 miles from their home, and God First, God Last, God Always Dollar and Up General Store, a black-owned general merchandise establishment 18

miles from their house.

They moved their personal accounts to Covenant Bank in Chicago, but have been unable to switch their mortgage and student loans to black-owned financial institutions. Their utilities payments will continue going to the companies collecting those now. Maggie Anderson said she has struggled to find financial support for the Ebony Experiment's grander plans, and she lamented the campaign's low national prominence.

Lawrence Hamer, associate professor of marketing at DePaul University, called the Andersons' project "brave and courageous," and said its logic

was "exactly right." But it probably will be futile in achieving meaningful impact in the black economy, he added.

"It's just so hard for a small group of individuals to have an impact on something that's so huge," said Hamer, an African-American. "It's almost like a viral marketing campaign. It only works if enough people catch the virus."

Even if they do catch the virus, Hamer said, it is extremely difficult "to get people's attention to change their behavior in any significant way."

Maggie Anderson conceded that "it's still little by little and it's still a lot of work, but I'm still very committed to this."

Although it may be one of the more well-organized and monitored projects of its kind, the Ebony Experiment is not the only buying black venture, said James E. Clingman, a prolific writer on African-American economic empowerment who teaches a class on black entrepreneurship at the University of Cincinnati.

African-Americans have been buying black for more than a century, Clingman noted. Booker T. Washington, long an advocate for African-American economic power, was an early proponent, and African-Americans have been forming black-buying cooperatives for decades, Clingman added.

But thriving black businesses began dissolving in the mid-1960s, when African-Americans focused on political power and civil rights and began patronizing white-owned businesses under the misconception that buying white signified blacks' upward socioeconomic mobility, Clingman said.

"Unfortunately, many black people abandoned their own businesses and supported others, thinking that politics was the way out," he said. "Politics still will not get you anywhere unless you have an economic base. Quite frankly, I'd rather have more black businesses than black politicians."

Spring Break is just around the corner!

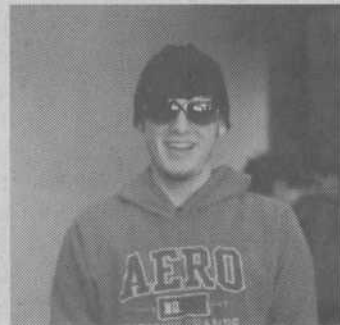
The Prospectus asked students the following questions:

- "What's the best place to go for Spring Break?"
- "What's the worst place to go?"
- "Where are you actually going?"

Photos by Samantha Hylla/Prospectus



Tia Ebert
Best place to go: "Cancun."
Worst place to go: "Somewhere cold."
Actually going: "Nowhere."



Ethan Payne
Best place to go: "Moses Lake, Washington."
Worst place to go: "Chile."
Actually going: "Nowhere."



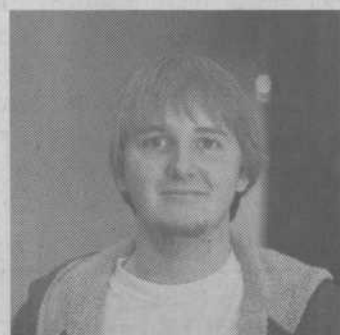
Andrew Pritchard
Best place to go: "Out west."
Worst place to go: "Rantoul."
Actually going: "Staying here."



Cody Schweighart
Best place to go: "Mexico, because you can get kidnapped."
Worst place to go: "Illinois/Rantoul."
Actually going: "Working."



Jake Mott
Best place to go: "Riding unicorns in the meadowlands."
Worst place to go: "Siberia."
Actually going: "Gotham City to fight crime."



Kerry Jannusch
Best place to go: "Lake Shelbyville."
Worst place to go: "Michigan."
Actually going: "Nowhere."



Michael Benson
Best place to go: "Hawaii"
Worst place to go: "Illinois"
Actually going: "Picking daisies."



Natalie Goslin
Best place to go: "Anywhere but Illinois."
Worst place to go: "Illinois."
Actually going: "Staying in Illinois and working."

Treasury Dept. to dock AIG executive bonuses

By GREG GORDON AND KEVIN G. HALL

WASHINGTON — In an effort to quell a mounting furor, the Treasury Department said late Tuesday that it would require American International Group to repay the government more than \$165 million in bonuses doled out last week to the executives blamed for driving the firm to insolvency.

In a letter to congressional leaders, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said the money would be deducted from the government's latest \$30 billion infusion of bailout funds to the insurance giant at the center of the nation's deepening financial crisis.

Geithner also said future bonuses would be subject to tough new limits now being developed for crippled companies getting rescued with taxpayers' money.

The bonus payments, which came to light over the weekend, have provoked nationwide dis-

belief and touched off finger-pointing from the White House to Wall Street. New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo disclosed on Tuesday that 73 present and former employees received at least \$1 million each in bonuses.

In his letter to Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress, Geithner said he called AIG Chairman and Chief Executive Edward Liddy and "registered my strong objections" after first learning of the planned bonuses.

Citing legal opinions that it was required to honor the bonuses, AIG made the payments last week.

In his disclosure Tuesday, Cuomo said individual bonuses were as high as \$6.4 million. AIG even gave \$4.6 million to an unidentified official who has left the company and at least \$1 million to 10 other former employees, Cuomo said in a separate letter to Congress.

AIG, however, has continued to shield the names of the recipients.

In his letter to Rep. Barney

Frank, D-Mass., the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, Cuomo also said that seven people were paid more than \$4 million each and 22 got at least \$2 million each.

Cuomo said that his office obtained copies of contracts providing for the bonuses, and they "shockingly" required most of the awards to match what the employees got in 2007, "despite obvious signs that 2008 performance would be disastrous in comparison to the year before."

AIG attorneys apparently failed to consider the argument that contracts committing the company to pay bonuses exceeding \$165 million might be invalid because the firm would be bankrupt were it not for a taxpayer bailout that's now approaching \$182 billion, Cuomo wrote Frank.

The disclosures put Liddy under mounting pressure as he prepared to testify on Wednesday before a House Financial Services subcommittee examining the firm's impact on the

global economy.

Treasury Department officials have said that September's federal bailout and takeover of AIG were necessary because an AIG collapse and default on tens of billions of dollars in insurancelike contracts with banks would have triggered a chain reaction that would've toppled the U.S. and global financial systems.

In an appearance on CBS on Sunday, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said that he had gotten so irate over the bailout of AIG, a company that had made "all kinds of unconscionable bets," that he'd "slammed the phone more than a few times ... I understand why the American people are angry."

Cuomo, in his letter to Frank, said that "AIG made more than 73 millionaires in the unit which lost so much money that it brought the firm to its knees, forcing a taxpayer bailout. Something is deeply wrong with this outcome. I hope the committee will address it head on."

Cuomo's office subpoenaed AIG Monday night, demanding the names of those receiving bonuses. The attorney general complained in the letter that the company had failed to deliver the names, making it impossible to test AIG's assertion that these workers are vital to "unwinding" its risky involvement in exotic, insurancelike trades that fueled the Wall Street meltdown.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the company provided the contracts and summary information about bonuses for employees of its Financial Products subsidiary, or whether Cuomo's investigators obtained the material independently.

Joseph Norton, a spokesman for AIG, said only that the insurer is "in ongoing contact with the attorney general and will respond appropriately to the subpoena."

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AIG Details

According to New York's attorney general, 73 A.I.G. employees were paid bonuses of \$1 million or more last week, when the firm rewarded workers in its financial products unit that nearly sank the company.

	In millions
Highest bonus (one person)	\$6.4
Six people	\$4+
Fifteen people	\$2-4
Fifty-one people	\$1-2

So-called 'retention' payments

- A.I.G. says it pays bonuses to keep people from leaving
- But 11 people who got bonuses, including the top recipient, have already left

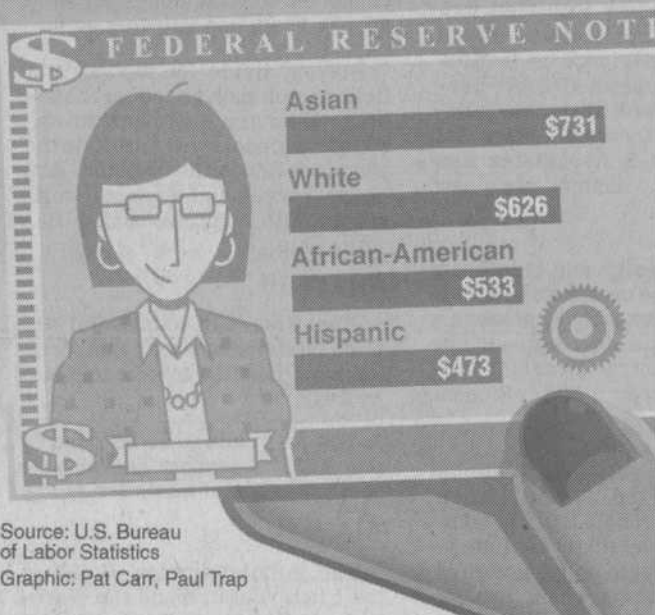
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Source: N.Y. Attorney General's Office
Graphic: Pat Carr

BizFact

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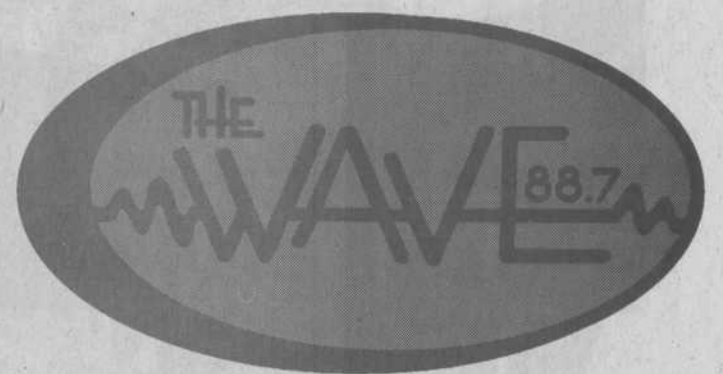
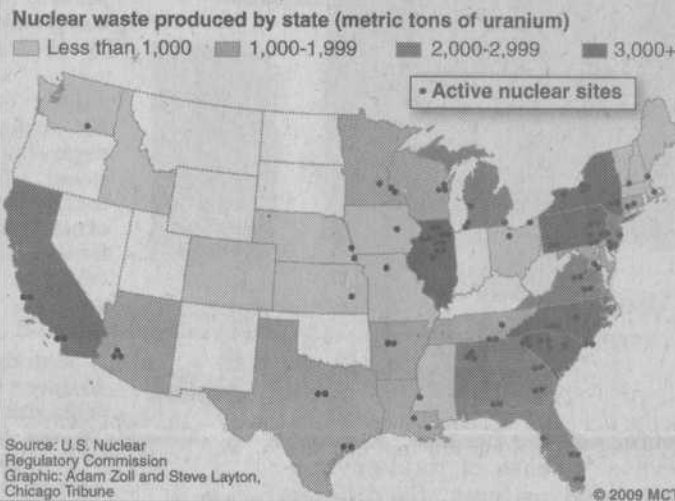
Women's wages

Average weekly wages for full-time working women in the U.S., by race or ethnic group, 2007:



Waste watchers

President Barack Obama's decision not to fund the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste storage site has left more than 100 U.S. reactors without a place to send their spent nuclear fuel.



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- Winners announced Earth Day, April 22

Contest sponsored by Parkland College Sustainable Campus Committee



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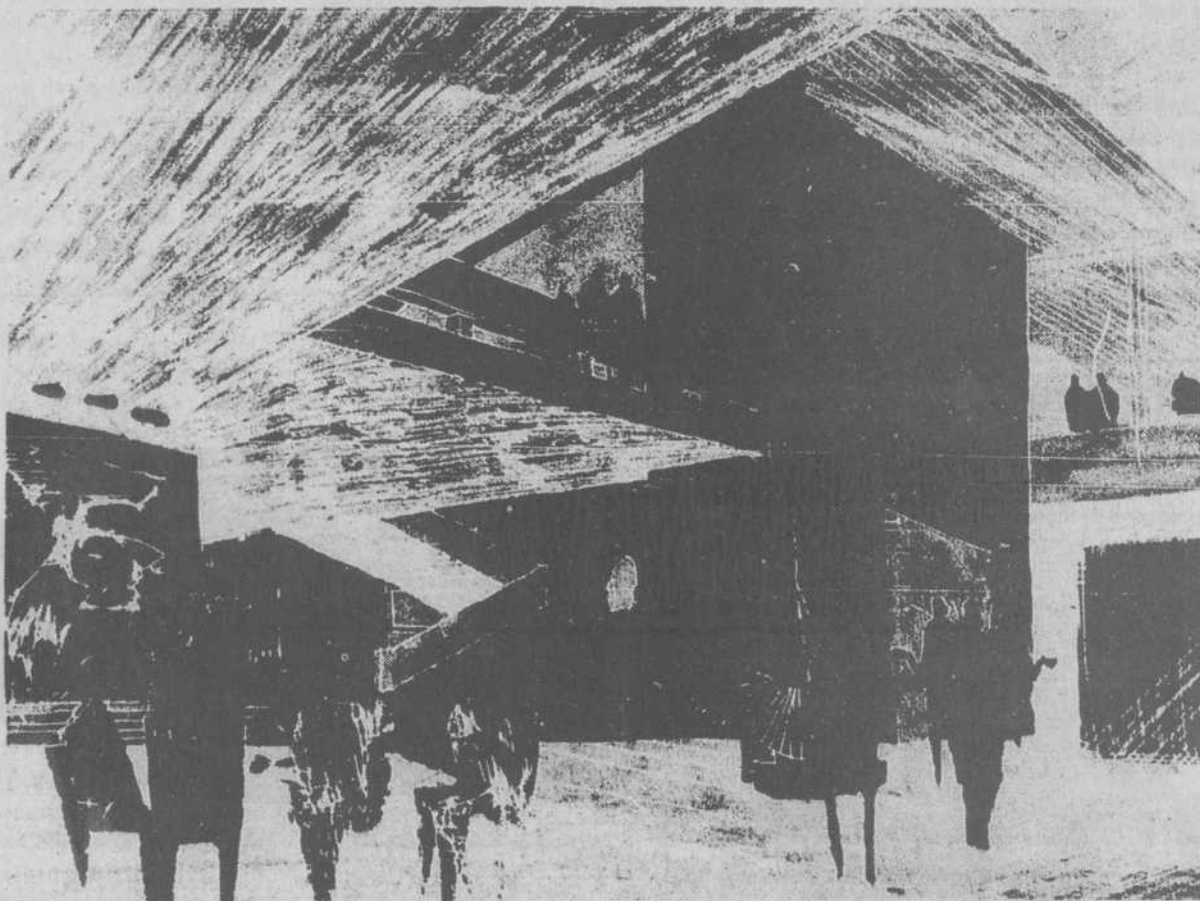
PROSPECTUS

1969

Campus Has Natural Look--

Will Be Completed By 1975

Students Move In By 1971



The "hub" of the campus is the Student Center and the Learning Resource Center. Here the architects attempt to achieve a "sense of total environment." Characteristic of this idea is the split-level patterns, the different roof heights, the immense open spaces and the stairways and ramps joining the levels.



The new campus, "environment built into nature", is achieved through the use of colored brick, textured woods and sandy tones complimented by scattered evergreens and hardwoods. The design provides a "variety of character and change" but is still unified with the natural elements.

by Cheryl Cramer
Students enrolled at Parkland College in 1975 can expect to attend classes in an environment designed to blend with nature at the permanent campus located at the intersection of Interstate 57 and 74 at Bradley and Mattis Avenue.

This site was chosen for its central location in District #505. The \$6 million campus is being designed and constructed in four phases, the first two to reach completion by 1971, Phase III by 1973 and Phase IV by 1975.

After extensive inquiries into 30 leading architectural firms regarding experience in institutional architecture and professional capabilities, the California architectural firm of Ernest Kump & Associates was selected to design the new campus.

With the design and significant features of the campus, the architects are attempting to achieve a "sense of total environment" by use of a central Learning Resource Center and Student Center.

The design will be a "natural look" expressed in the choice of different woods, buff bricks, sandy tones and textured materials. In the basic construction of the buildings this effect can be achieved by the use of sloping roofs and a rustic appearance.

PHASE I

Construction of Phase I of the campus will begin this summer. It will include Life Science Division, 75,950 square feet; Communications Division, 37,670 square feet; Math and Physical Science Division, 71,335 square feet and Business Division, 28,045 square feet. These divisions will have classrooms and laboratory facilities.

The buildings will all be interlocking to a certain extent to provide a unified environment. Students will be able to walk from one building to another through inside or outside passageways protected from the elements.

PHASE II

Included in Phase II is Learning Resource Center, 80,940 square feet; Division Student Center, 63,240 square feet; Physical Education Division, 76,300 square feet and maintenance facilities, 13,100 square feet.

This particular group of buildings will be the center of the campus. The Business Division is planned as a cross-section with the center containing a student-faculty module (a small student center), labs and classrooms at the right and teaching areas to the left. Dale Sprankle, associated with Ernest Kump & Associates, pointed out the "pinwheel effect" in this design.

Facilities in the four level student-faculty module will include meeting rooms for student clubs and organizations, offices

for the dean of students and the dean of student activities, individual study booths and organizational areas to be used by student government. Student lounges and food services will be available.

The bookstore complex is easily accessible to the Student Center with card rooms, ping pong tables, and various rooms available for social functions such as dances. The college newspaper printing office is included in this module.

Each division will have two floors; the top levels will be connected to first floors for easy access from one unit to another.

Playing fields for football and field games such as soccer, baseball and tennis, a gymnasium and swimming pools will facilitate the Physical Education Division. Archery ranges and a quarter mile track mile may be added at a later date.

PHASE III

The Vivarium and Social Science Division will be constructed during Phase III to be completed by 1973.

The vivarium will be used by the Life Sciences Division to house various animals for study.

PHASE IV

The Administration Building, the Little Theatre and the Warehouse will be constructed during this phase. This phase is the final phase with projected completion in 1975.

Various trees will be planted close to the buildings with hardwoods shielding them. Hardwoods will also decorate the parking lots around the campus. Ramps will lead to the buildings for the convenience of handicapped persons. Evergreens will be scattered about the landscape to provide a buffer effect.

The exterior design of the buildings will be buff-colored brick, textured woods and sandy tones to achieve the looks of an "environment built into nature." To give a comfortable rustic effect, the roofs are shingled in natural colored fibers and slope gradually downward. The exterior view is designed to give a "variety of character and change through the use of repetitive modular elements."

According to Henry Green, Parkland director of development, the campus will be a "tightly knit set of buildings that relate closely to each other." This is considered important for unity of activities.

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT

Parkland is constantly growing and will continue to grow rapidly after the new campus is completed. Projected enrollment figures for the temporary and permanent campuses are:

Temporary campus enrollment: September, 1969, 2743. September 1970, 3,381. Permanent campus enrollment: September, 1973, 4,769. September 1978, 6,477.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



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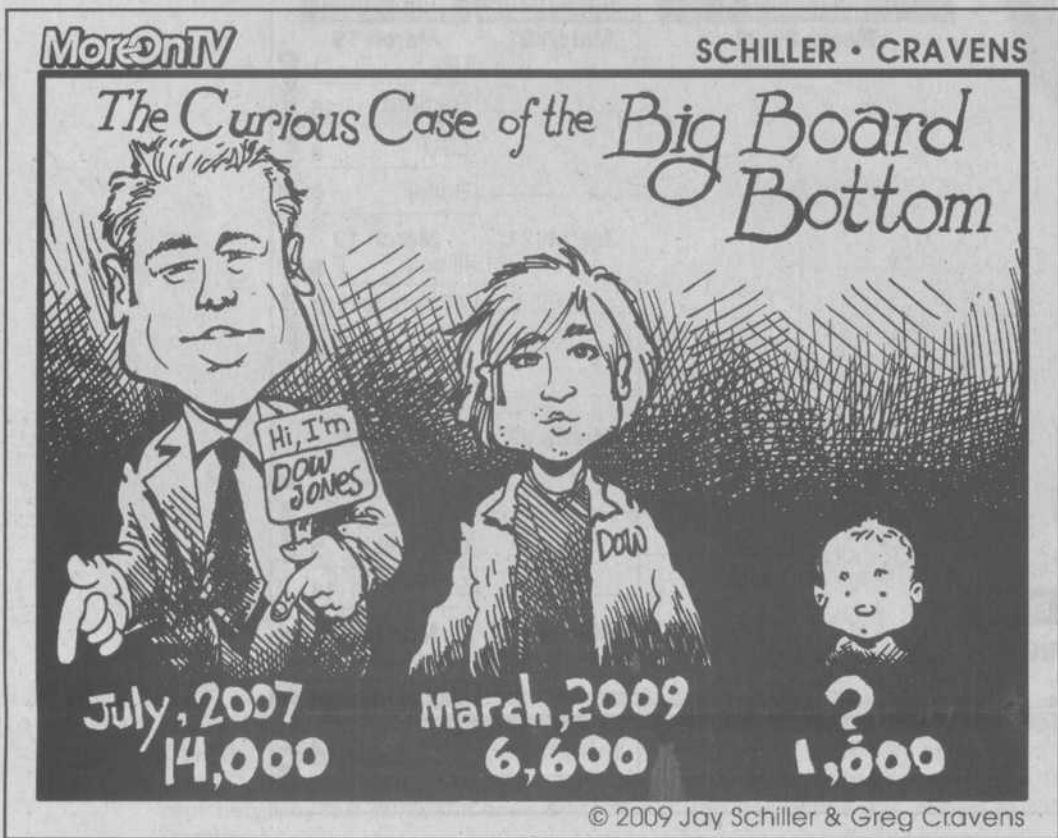
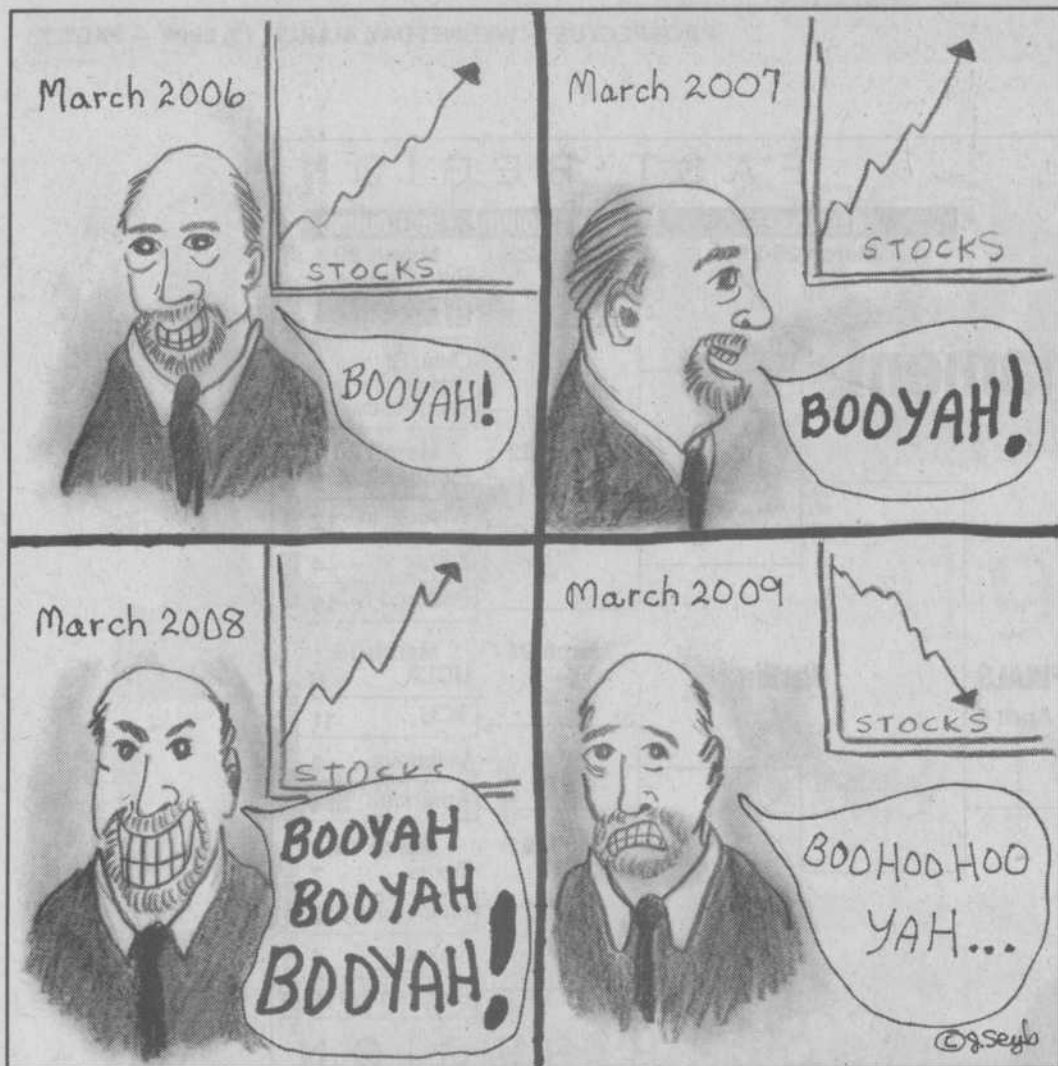


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Weather Forecast

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. NNW wind between 9 and 14 mph.
 Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. NNW wind between 9 and 14 mph.
 Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 29. North wind 6 to 9 mph becoming east.
 Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.
 Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35.
 Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.
 Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40.
 Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 56.
 Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44.
 Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 63.
 Monday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48.
 Tuesday: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 61.

Safety is Everyone's Business



Just so you know, you need to remember to look out and think when riding your bike!

Many do not realize that bicycles are actually considered legal vehicles on the road. This means that bicyclists actually by law have to drive on the street just like cars and obey all the same traffic laws that a car does.

This means if you are on your bicycle and you have come to an intersection with a red light, you have to stop just like everyone else. Also, if you have to make a turn, instead of using your turn signals you must use hand signals like you were taught in Drivers Ed.

Most accidents involving bicycles and cars can usually be attributed to the cyclist. Usually because riders are going against the flow of traffic, failing to stop at stop signs and traffic lights. Bicyclists, just like motorists, have fewer crashes when they stay alert and obey traffic laws. Also, when you're on our campus, remember to lock your bike to an actual bike rack located at the A-, C-, and M-wing entrances. Just remember, wearing a helmet can save your life, but so can obeying the traffic laws.



Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Edible submarines
 - 7 Periphery
 - 10 Tibetan VIP
 - 14 Noah's peak
 - 15 Lennon's widow
 - 16 Son of Judah
 - 17 Papeete's location
 - 18 Standing against
 - 20 Container
 - 21 Pooch pest
 - 22 Dead heat
 - 23 Quick beginning
 - 27 Entire amount
 - 28 CBS logo
 - 29 Trifle (with)
 - 30 Tijuana residences
 - 32 Import-export difference
 - 36 Actor Jude
 - 37 Turf ventilating device
 - 38 Badlands states
 - 42 Turner or Kennedy
 - 43 Body of a plane
 - 44 More secure
 - 47 -de-lance
 - 48 Part of NYC
 - 49 Botch
 - 50 Smaller distance between rails
 - 55 Ring king
 - 56 Uh...pardon me
 - 57 Samuel's mentor
 - 58 Attorneys' jargon
 - 60 Thrash
 - 64 Arthurian lady
 - 65 Cape __, MA
 - 66 Trouser fold
 - 67 Newly decorate
 - 68 E-mail period
 - 69 Cautious bettor

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3/18/09

Solutions

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- DOWN
- 1 Boater or bowler
 - 2 Period
 - 3 Cheer
 - 4 Small antelope
 - 5 Dine at home
 - 6 Wasp's defense
 - 7 Santa's landing strip
 - 8 Not out-of-bounds
 - 9 Gloomy Gus
 - 10 __ Gatos, CA
 - 11 Brookner and Loos
 - 12 Philippines city
 - 13 Anaheim nine
 - 19 Breakfast patty
 - 23 Greek cheese
 - 24 Lute's cousin
 - 25 Calendar length
 - 26 Lead actor
 - 31 Mil. infraction
 - 33 Appointment
 - 34 Everlasting
 - 35 Mars or Mercury
 - 36 Spanish article
 - 38 Old Spanish coin
 - 39 Prohibited
 - 40 All aflutter
 - 41 Desiccated
 - 43 Make turbulent
 - 44 Envelope closer
 - 45 Golonka or Dahl
 - 46 Ice-cold
 - 47 California city
 - 51 In advance
 - 52 Raquel of "One Million Years B.C."
 - 53 Harsh light
 - 54 Made public
 - 59 Big fuss
 - 61 Old cloth
 - 62 Employ
 - 63 MPH word

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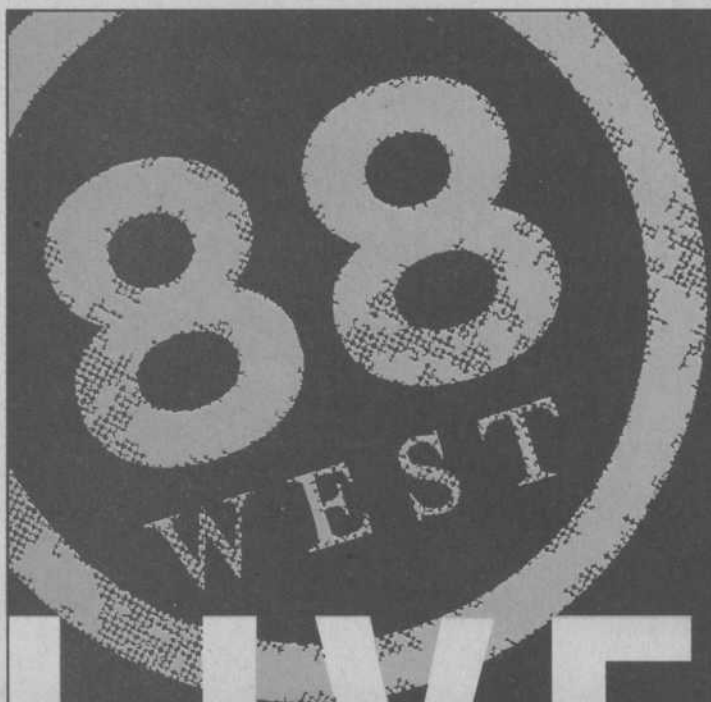
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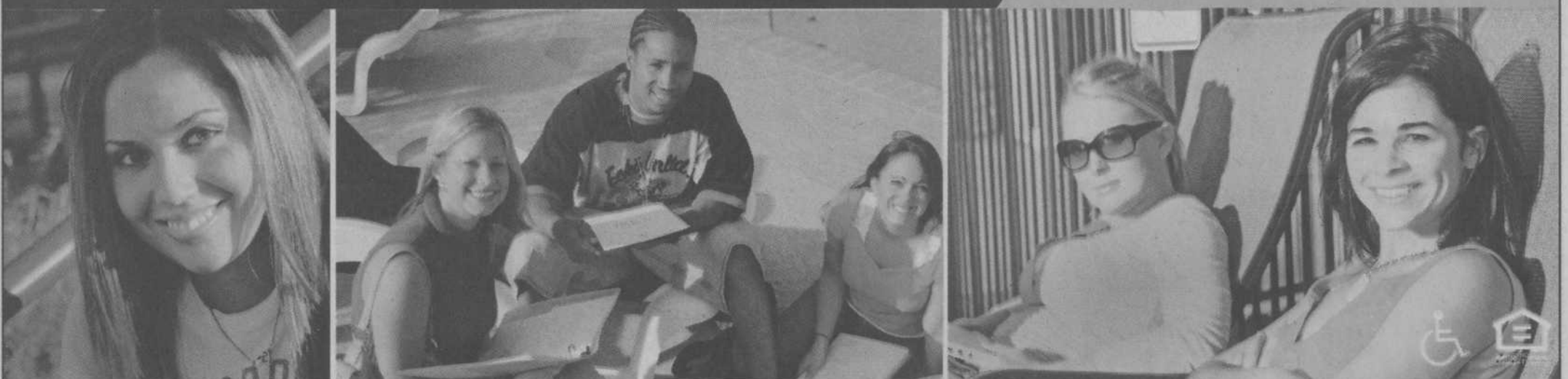


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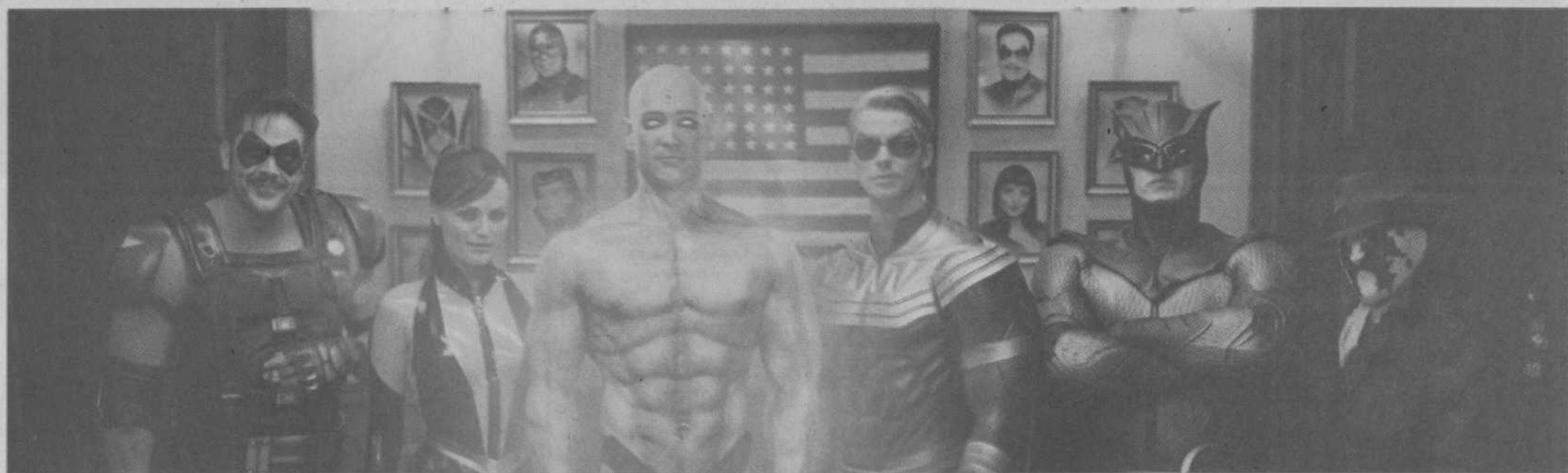
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'Watchmen' challenges ratings' value



By **MICHAEL PHILLIPS**
Chicago Tribune

It's the one point on which "Watchmen" audiences can agree: Director Zack Snyder's slavishly faithful adaptation of the graphic novel is not best experienced in an auditorium filled with the cries of pre-teen children whose alleged adult guardians think it's fine to bring their kids to any old R-rated film they themselves want to see, let alone this particular R-rated film.

"Watchmen" offers splatter-movie violence and dogs chewing on the severed leg of a victim of child molestation and the specter of sexual assault and—least offensively; 9 out of 10 child psychologists would surely agree—Dr. Manhattan's cobalt genitalia. Regarding that last one, the sight of a radioactive superman's gents is bound to cause fewer psychic scars and nightmare-related trauma than any of "Watchmen's" 10 most "coolest" nasty images (that's how Snyder works as a director), including the sight

of a man's arms being sawed in half by a buzz-saw-wielding fellow prisoner.

I suspect some of these kids feel like prisoners themselves, stuck in a multiplex with their folks, cringing through "Watchmen" at age 6. Or worse: not cringing.

This bizarrely widespread notion that something like "Watchmen" would, in any respect, be OK for kids because, well, little Billy has already seen "Saw V" over at little Jimmy's house on DVD, and who can police any of this stuff, really, and—stop.

Think. Don't be an idiot. It's not for kids.

I say this as someone who made it his business as a kid to see movies a couple of years ahead of schedule, without a parent or an adult guardian. Some were good: "The Long Goodbye," "Chinatown," "Harry and Tonto." "Harry and Tonto" got an R rating. And "Billy Jack," made three years earlier, didn't; it was a mere PG. The Motion Picture Association of America made it easy

to see the wrong things at the wrong age, then and now. "Billy Jack," with its protracted rape sequence and gleeful, vengeful brutality cloaked in a message of peace and harmony, getting by with a PG?

The ratings priorities in this country, skewing toward brainless leniency for violence and puritanical nervousness for nudity and language, continue to this day. My favorite recent example: The Irish film "Once" got an R for language. The notion of "Once" being confined to the same ratings classification as "Watchmen" boggles the mind. But then, I can't understand parents who would rather their kids see an ax blade jammed into someone's skull than hear some charming Irish characters deploy the occasional f-word, with that lovely brogue.

The controversy over "Watchmen" and its various talking points—the splatter-movie violence, a superhero-on-superhero sexual assault, a separate, consensual tryst between Nite Owl II and Silk

Spectre II—has kicked up the most intense debate of the new movie year. Scan the 350-plus comments under "Who Watches Who Walks Out of 'Watchmen?'" at chicagotribune.com/talkingpictures, and you'll see what I mean. Love it, hate it, in-between it, the book written by Alan Moore (whose name, conspicuously, can't be found on the credits) and illustrated by Dave Gibbons, brings up questions about nearly everything.

Was the big-budget project guided into the marketplace under false advertising? Are some people taking their pre-teens to it because the superhero costumes and "X-Men"-style ensemble pose lead them to believe they're in for a rollicking good time that has ended up, simply by chance, with an R rating?

If "Watchmen" is instructive in any way, it's probably as a Rorschach test—fitting, because Jackie Earle Haley's Rorschach is one of its few vivid characters, along with Carla Gugino's Silk Spectre.

Various contributors to the blog have noted, in the freaked-out-preteens department, that parents often let their children witness an act of brutality on screen, dozens of them, hundreds—but along comes a consensual sex scene, and it's "Cover your eyes! I said cover your eyes, Melissa!"

Everyone draws their own line on these things, and I am certainly in for a few debates of my own, as our son grows up and—with luck—begins to see things on screen that he doesn't instantly fold into his own playtime behavior, complete with startlingly realistic laser and rifle sound effects.

Some movies make it very easy for moviegoers to draw a line, though you never know until you actually see the results. As "Watchmen" swaggers out of its second weekend, there's a blatantly disreputable piece of junk staking out its own corner of the marketplace. The remake of "The Last House on the Left," amazingly, is a more restrained and effective version of Wes Craven's

1972 original. Yes, that's right: I used the word "restrained" to describe "The Last House on the Left."

It makes no apologies for what it is: a sadistic rape-revenge thriller, which is my least favorite subgenre in cinema. The surprise, to me, other than it being any good in any way, had to do with its tone. This movie is the lowest sort of pulp, but director Dennis Iliadis doesn't treat any of it as a joke or a lark (at least until the conventionally gory climax). What some of us, at least, resent most about the film versions of "Sin City" and "Watchmen" is their moral weightlessness, despite all the heavy, oppressively evil doings. The violence is never not "fun" or "cool." And I think it's a mistake to look the other way when kids, sponges that they are, absorb enough of that kind of entertainment at too young an age.

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