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Prospectus News

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Crazy weather can't stop the celebration

By **PATRICK WOOD**
Assistant Editor

For 797 students, May 15, 2009 marked the end of their stay at Parkland Community College. Parkland's forty-second Commencement, which was scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m. at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Urbana, got off to a somewhat bumpy start as severe weather made its way through the area.

At around 6:40 p.m., dangerous cloud-to-ground lightning, hail, and heavy cloud rotation prompted the National Weather Service to issue a tornado warning for Southwestern Champaign County until 7:30 p.m. The over 1,000 guests present for Commencement were ushered away from Krannert's windows and towards tornado safe areas, which included Gray Hall, the theater, and the lower levels of the building, where graduates were readying themselves for the evening's ceremony.

For the most part, the atmosphere remained calm. "The theater and Krannert in general is about the safest place you can be during this kind of situation," said John Hazelbaker, Krannert's facility manager. "It's a fortress."

Graduates and guests alike passed the thirty minutes chatting among themselves and calling family and friends in the surrounding area, and even Krannert. Commencement spectator, Lindsay Gross passed the time in a chair by Krannert's loading dock door, monitoring the weather via her laptop with friend, Nick



Schroeder. Schroeder acted as a temporary doorman for a devoted Jimmy Johns delivery person until dime sized hail began to fall. Everyone was eventually forced to leave the loading dock area when it began to flood with over a foot of water. The severe weather soon passed however and the tornado warning was lifted at 7:30 p.m.

After that, the mood summed all too well up as a graduate yelled, "Let's get this show on the road!"

Everyone was eventually reseated in Krannert's Great Hall and Commencement

finally resumed at around 8:15 p.m., almost still on schedule. The Parkland College Wind Ensemble signaled the beginning of the processions as music, guest speakers, and the Parkland Board of Trustees made their way across the Great Hall stage to their seats.

After the Invocation, which was given by Randall Boltinghouse of the Windsor Road Christian Church, Stephanie Yousef took to the podium with a greeting to the graduates and Commencement guests.

"When I first got to Parkland College, I looked at it as nothing big, because any-

one can get in." said Yousef. "However, as I reflect upon my last two years I realize that is exactly what makes Parkland so great - the fact that everyone can get in."

She ended her greeting with some words about her and her fellow graduates' futures, which was met with a sea of applause.

"So after Parkland, the road is not over, regardless of your next step. Whether it be furthering your education, entering the work force, or joining the armed services, you can make a difference and I hope you will."

As the applause died down, Board Chairman, James Ayers extended greetings from the Parkland College Board of Trustees. Student Representative, Morgan Forrest then introduced Parkland College's President, Thomas Ramage, who in turn introduced the guest Commencement speaker, Jimmy John Liautaud.

Liautaud, the CEO and founder of Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwich Shops went on to give the Commencement speech, which included some of his own "life lessons."

"Lead by example, take the toughest jobs for yourself,

help your neighbors, help your communities," he said. "If you can't give financially, you can give emotionally or physically, both more difficult to do than writing a check. But help your communities, they need it."

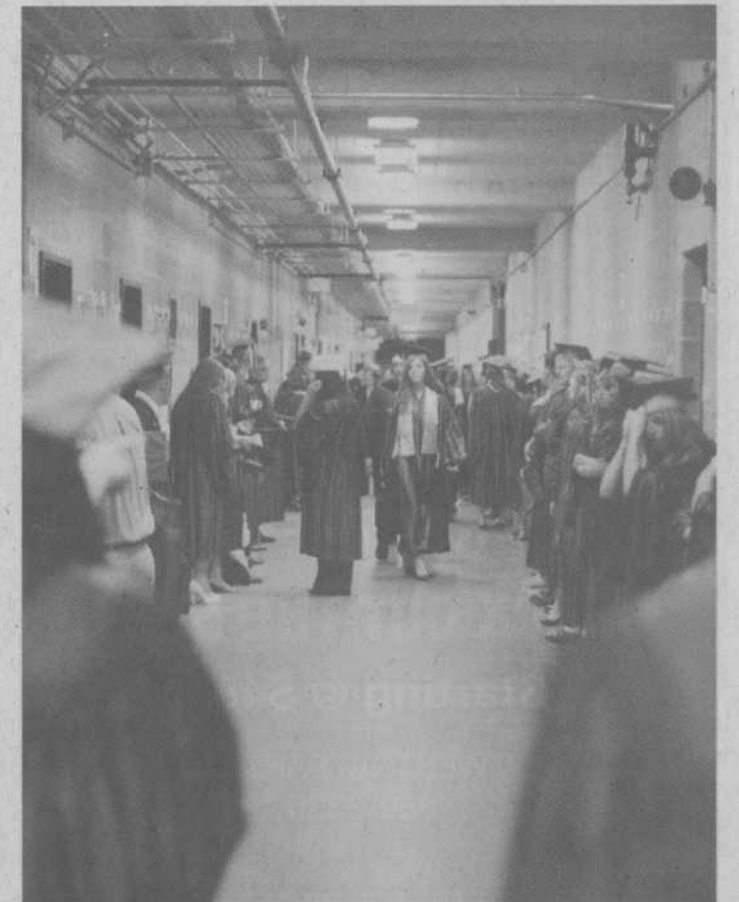
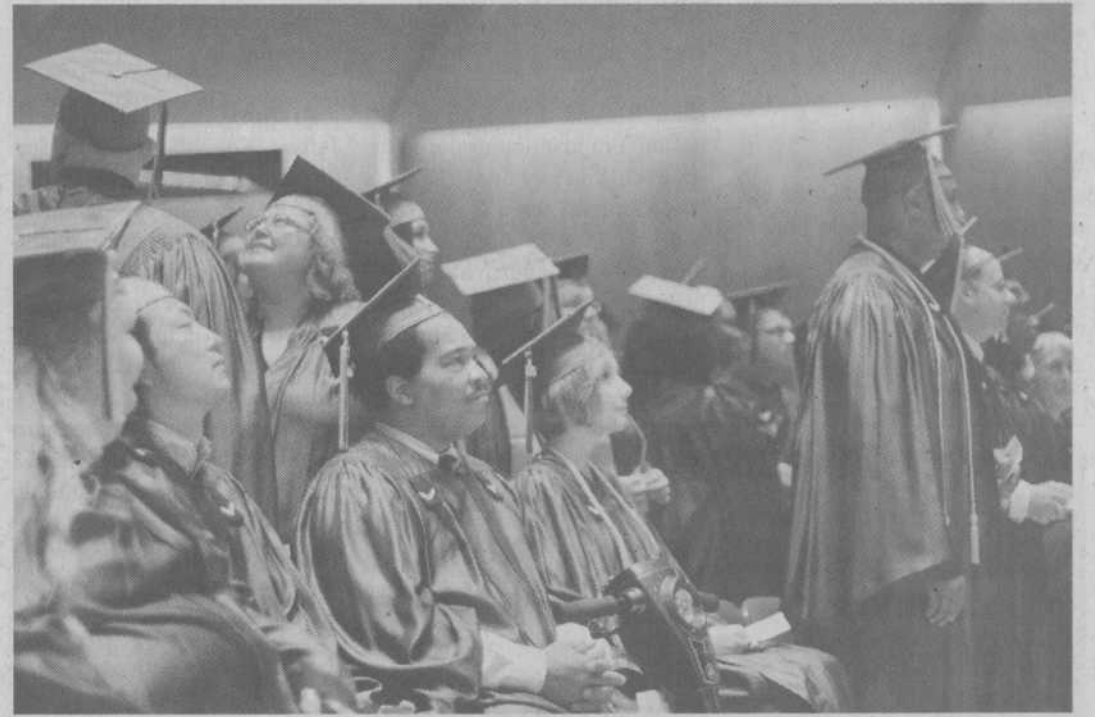
"There are no shortcuts," said Liautaud. "So go get out there, kick some ass, have some fun, enjoy the gift of freedom and family, and help build America."

Following the Commencement address were the introductions of Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient, Sandra Reistek, and Honary Degree Recipient, Michael E. Vitoux.

The Vice President for Parkland College's Academic Services, Kristine Young, then began the presentation of the almost 800 Parkland graduates. Proud friends and family looked on, as row upon row of graduates made their way to the stage to receive their certificates and associates degrees.

Finally, tassels were turned, the Benediction was presented, and the Parkland College Wind Ensemble ended the Reception with the traditional playing of William Walton's *Crown Imperial*.

Several hundred individuals entered Krannert as Parkland students that night and emerged as Parkland graduates, ready to move on to the next chapter of their lives. Nothing, not even weather could stop that.



Prospectus

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Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

LEAD STORY

The New Waterboarding: In April, the district attorney in Vilas County, Wis., announced that he was seeking volunteers for a forensic test to help his case against Douglas Plude, 42, who is scheduled to stand trial soon for the second time in the death of his wife. The volunteers must be female, about 5-foot-8 and 140 pounds, and will have to stick their heads into a toilet bowl and flush. Plude is charged with drowning his wife in a commode, but his version (which the prosecutor will try to show is improbable) is that his wife committed suicide by flushing herself.

Compelling Explanations

—Neal Horsley, running for governor of Georgia in the 2010 election on a platform encouraging the quaint Peach State legal theory of "nullification" (i.e., that the state can override the U.S. Constitution in certain instances), is principally known as a staunch foe of abortion who once posted a "hit list" of doctors. However, Horsley is also celebrated for a 2005 television interview with Fox News' Alan Colmes, in which Horsley described his childhood: "When you grow up on a farm in Georgia, your first girlfriend is a mule." To a skeptical Colmes, Horsley added, "(Y)ou (city) people are so far removed from reality. ... Welcome to domestic life on the farm."

—A month after her client was accused of a March attempted murder, attorney Frances Hartman spoke up for him to a reporter. "(My client) is an exemplary young man," said Hartman, describing fourth-year Camden, N.J., medical student Brett Picciotti, 26, who was charged with shoving his girlfriend off a second-story balcony, but who denied that he pushed her. "This is an aberrational charge," Hartman said. "I think there's an explanation. I'm just not prepared to give it to you right now."

—Rammed for a Good Reason: (1) Lorena Alvarez was charged with aggravated battery in April in Lake Worth, Fla., after allegedly, angrily crashing her car into her boyfriend's pickup truck, thus endangering her two kids, ages 7 and 1, who were with her. She explained to police that her boyfriend was about to drive off drunk and hitting him was the best way to prevent danger to other motorists. (2) John Angeline was charged with fatally running over gas station attendant Haeng Soon Yang in Mossy Rock, Wash., in April after she tried to stop him from leaving without paying for \$34 in fuel. Angeline, captured nearby, explained to police that he had run over the woman because she looked like she was about to "cast a spell" on him.

Ironies

—On April 8, the New Hampshire House of Representatives debated a controversial

bill to outlaw discrimination against "transgenders" (those born of one sex but who identify as the other), and the legislation passed by one vote. Coincidentally, April 8 was the state's Tartan Day, and by tradition, male lawmakers of Scottish ancestry wore kilts to work. Thus, some opponents of giving greater protection to "men" who wear skirts were men who were that day wearing "skirts." (In any event, the state Senate subsequently rejected the bill.)

—Environmental activists Raoul Surcouf and Richard Spink set sail from Bristol, England, in May on a 40-foot boat outfitted with solar panels and a wind turbine to attempt the first carbon-neutral crossing of Greenland's polar ice cap (a journey being monitored eagerly online in Bristol by 25,000 schoolchildren). However, 400 miles off the coast of Ireland, hurricane-force winds destroyed the boat, and the crew was lucky to be rescued by a nearby ship, which was a tanker carrying 680,000 barrels of crude oil.

—Almost No Longer Weird: (1) In Los Angeles on March 29, hit-and-run drivers killed two pedestrians: an 18-year-old female college student and, hours later, a 55-year-old Guatemalan-American construction worker. As is not unusual, according to the Los Angeles Times, the LAPD went into massive "overdrive" to find the woman's killer but handed the other homicide off to "a lone detective with little more to go on than hope." (2) On April 25, in Washington, D.C., the murder of a black teenager was reported in two sentences of that day's Washington Post while nearly 10 times the space was devoted to the colonoscopy of a panda at the city's National Zoo.

Why Government Workers Get a Reputation

In April, accounting clerk James Kauchis made a formal complaint to the personnel office of the county Department of Social Services in Binghamton, N.Y., demanding that he be compensated for a recent interrupted lunch hour. Kauchis had missed lunch when DSS offices were locked down as police secured the neighborhood surrounding the site of the April 3 massacre in which a gunman killed 13 people and then himself. Although DSS had pizza and beverages brought in during the siege, Kauchis felt that wasn't as good as a regular lunch hour.

Fetishes on Parade

Perverts Giving 110 Percent Effort: (1) Allan Mailloux, 45, was arrested for flashing motorists as he walked among rush-hour traffic in Madison, Wis., in January, on a day when the high temperature was minus-2 (F). (2) Police in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, investigated reports in February from "several" people that a man was driving up alongside motorists on Highway 78, and if the motorist was a lone female, he would

speed on ahead, pull over to the shoulder, get out, and flash the motorist as she drove by.

Least Competent Criminals: Questionable Judgments: (1) In Question in Arnold, Mo., police arrested a suspected shoplifter trying to leave a Schnucks store with unpaid-for merchandise. She aroused suspicion from security personnel only because she was attempting to exit through an automatic "enter" door and was slow to figure out the problem and loud in expressing her frustration. (2) Nathaniel Johnson, 19, was arrested in March in Tampa on burglary charges when police produced solid evidence of his presence in a neighborhood that had reported several break-ins. Johnson was revealed to be at each crime scene because he was traced by the ankle monitor he was wearing from a previous court appearance.

Recurring Themes

Public urination continues to be dangerous, as News of the Weird has reported periodically. In April, a 23-year-old man tumbled off a bridge over the Minnesota River in Bloomington, Minn., just before 5 a.m. while attempting to urinate. He fell 30 feet but survived. And in March, tugboat captain Kevin McGonigle fell off his boat into the Campbell River near Victoria, British Columbia, while attempting to urinate. He was rescued after 70 minutes, clad only in T-shirt and pajama bottoms, and could not have survived much longer in the frigid waters.

The Classic Middle Name (All-New!)

Arrested recently and awaiting trial for murder: Codey Wayne Miller, Johnson City, Tenn. (May). Darcia Wayne Banaszek, Skamania County, Wash. (May). Dale Wayne Baylis, Denver (May). Benjamin Wayne Shorter, Catonsville, Md. (April). Timothy Wayne Fletcher, Welaka, Fla. (April). Paul Wayne Stark, Pueblo, Colo. (March). Abrey Wayne Fortner, Blountsville, Tenn. (January). On trial for murder at press time: Geoffrey Wayne Freeman, Brisbane, Australia. Arrested in Nevada, at press time fighting extradition to Roseburg, Ore., to face a murder charge: Dale Wayne Hill (April). Committed suicide after (according to police) murdering his wife: Terry Wayne Scott, Dade City, Fla. (May).

A News of the Weird Classic (May 1998)

On the day before Good Friday in 1998, reported the Los Angeles Times, Dr. Ernesto A. Moshe Montgomery consecrated the Shrine of the Weeping Shirley MacLaine at the Beta Israel Temple in Los Angeles. Inspired by an image he said he had while riding in the actress's private jet, Montgomery said a subsequent, large photograph of him with MacLaine was "observed shedding tears," which had inspired congregants' prayers and testimony of miraculous healings.

Dining on Autopilot

By **CHRISSE MCKENNEY**
Nutrition Columnist

I cook a lot of bacon in culinary school. I eat a lot of it, too. During class there is often a pan of nice, crisp bacon somewhere in the kitchen. I may not walk over to another station to steal a bite, but if there is a pan of bacon by my stove, I grab a piece nearly every time I see it. As a result of this unconscious snacking, I gained ten pounds in ten weeks. Before I started culinary school, my weight had always been stable, and this "sudden" weight gain surprised me.

However, it wouldn't have surprised Brian Wansink, Ph.D., Director of the Cornell University Food and Brand Lab and author of "Mindless Eating: Why We Eat More Than We Think." By observing how people eat under different conditions, Wansink and his colleagues have uncovered some very interesting factors behind the way we eat.

To better understand sit-

as you would be after eating a large scoop of ice cream from a large bowl. Additionally, you will eat fewer chicken wings if the bones were allowed to pile up on your table than you would if someone kept clearing them away? And, you will eat more popcorn from a large bucket than a small bucket, even if you couldn't possibly eat all of the popcorn in either bucket? Do you believe that you might enjoy your dinner more if you were eating Classic Tuscan Bean Soup rather than plain old White Bean Soup? Believe it or not, all of these statements are supported by Wansink's research.

Maybe you're thinking, "Well that may be true for people like you and those secretaries, but it would never happen to me." Think again. Many people believe that someone who is clever and well-informed (like they are) is also firmly in control when it comes to deciding what to eat. To test this hypothesis, Wansink gave a group of graduate students a 90-minute lecture. He explained, in

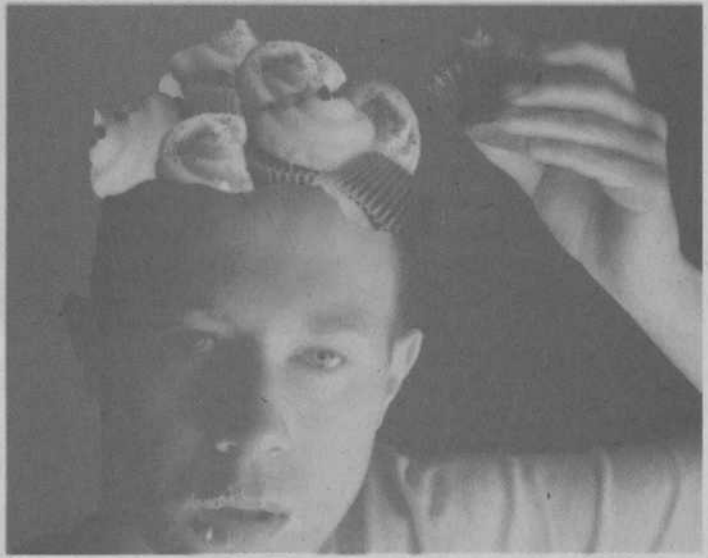


Photo Illustration by Anthony Burkert/Prospectus

uations like my classroom snacking, Wansink and his colleagues set up a very simple (but extremely clever) experiment involving secretaries and chocolate. Every day each secretary received a candy dish filled with 30 chocolate Kisses. On some days the candy dish was right in front of a secretary on her desk. On other days it was in a desk drawer or on top of a filing cabinet across the room. The secretaries ate the most chocolate on days when the dish was right in front of them and the least on days when it was across the room - just like myself and the bacon. When it was convenient to eat the chocolate or the bacon, we did. When we had to go out of our way for it, we ate less. Interestingly, this works for healthier snacks, too. When carrot sticks replaced the chocolates, the secretaries continued to eat more from the bowls on their desks than the bowls across the room.

It seems that how much we eat has less to do with how hungry we are and more to do with how food is presented to us. Not only do you snack more on food that is sitting right in front of you than food you have to walk across the room for, but that you will be equally satisfied after eating a small scoop of ice cream from a small bowl

excruciating detail, that people unconsciously take larger portions of food from larger serving bowls than they would from smaller serving bowls. Six weeks later these same students were invited to a party. Upon arrival, each student went into one of two separate rooms where they served themselves snack mix. In one room the snack mix was divided between two gallon-size bowls. In the other room the same amount of snack mix was divided between four half-gallon sized bowls. Students in the room with the larger bowls took 53% more snack mix than the ones in the room with the smaller bowls did. They ate more, too.

What does this mean? If the size or location of a bowl can lead you to snack too often or eat too much, move it to an inconvenient location or replace them with something healthy. If having larger plates and serving bowls means that you take too much food at meals, use smaller plates and serving bowls. Manipulating plate size is also a neat trick if you don't have quite enough food to go around. Whoever you're feeding will be just as content with a full, small plate as a full, large plate. Name your food something exciting, and everyone will feel full and satisfied.

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Bored out of your mind?

■ Summer options for the sun-loving soul

Man, you (road) trippin!

By **CASSANDRA J. CUNNINGHAM**
Staff Writer

During the summer, it's easy to get struck by summeritis. Everybody is gone until fall, there's nothing on television, nothing going on in town, and anywhere but here looks better. So what is one to do? Road trip of course!!!

With Whom: The Besties
Where: Holiday World
Mileage: 233 Miles
Estimated Time: 4 Hours
While gas is creeping back up into anger zones, splitting a tank three or four ways can make this trip easy! Holiday World is a holiday themed amusement park in Santa Claus, IN. It has four different sections themed like various holidays: Thanksgiving, Fourth of July, Halloween and of course, Christmas! It has various roller coasters, spinning rides, and a kid park for the little ones. It also had a huge water park attached to it, with some sort of African theme, which has nothing to do with holidays, but it adds to the fun.
Holiday World has been

voted the cleanest fun park in America, and get this, FREE DRINKS! (Not that kind of free drinks...) The park features a number of stands called the Pepsi Oasis, where guests can get free Pepsi products all day! The price of admission is \$39.95 for one day and \$59.95 for a two consecutive day pass. There are various holiday themed hotels around the park and a camp ground outside the park that features five pools, a putt putt golf course, paddle boat rides and basketball courts. With cheap prices, free drinks, and a ton to do, this is one road trip that everyone has got to try!

With Whom: The Significant Other
Where: Key Lime Cove
Mileage: 177 Miles
Estimated Time: 3 Hours 30 Minutes
Key Lime Cove is located in Gurnee, Ill., right outside of Chicago. Key Lime Cove is a hotel with an indoor water park and arcade. It's located right next to Six Flags and Gurnee Mills Mall. Price for a normal hotel room with two Queen beds, a pull out couch, and flat screen television is \$165.00 for

a night, which includes bracelets for unlimited access into the water park throughout guests stay. The extravagant hotel also has a giant arcade, and several restaurants including an old fashioned ice cream shop that builds ice cream sundaes as big as the full size sink they bring them to the table in! Key Lime Cove is a mix between a carnival and an outdoor water park all under one roof. It's the perfect mix of fun and romance for any couple to enjoy.

With Whom: The Fam
Where: King's Island
Mileage: 237 Miles
Estimated Time: 4 Hours
King's Island is the notorious amusement park in Cincinnati, OH that features the world's scariest and longest wooden roller coasters. With a big water park attached, it's a great way to keep the family occupied for a day or two. General admission tickets for one day cost \$32.99 and a two consecutive day pass costs \$47.99. King's Island also features the Firehawk, a roller coaster that gives people the only flying experience Ohio offers.

Summer dining: good food in the sun

By **SEAN HERMANN**
Staff Writer

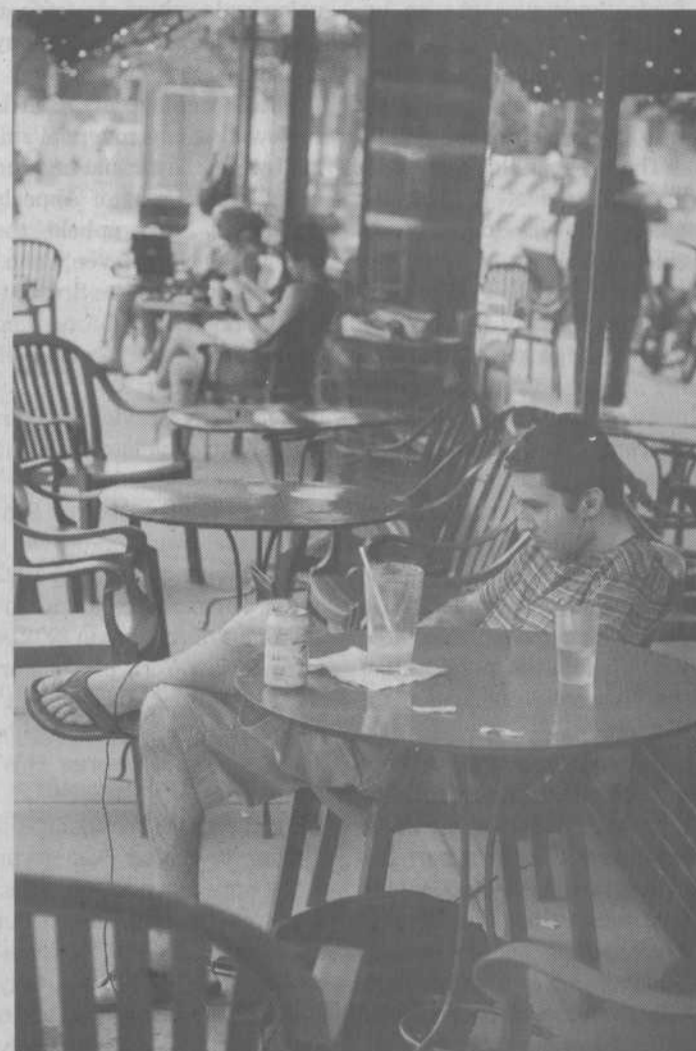
So you are out of school for the summer and are wondering what there is to do besides sit at home and play World of Warcraft or play with your grandmother's cat while she is out in the garden? There are plenty of things to do around town this fine summer including devouring a scrumptious sandwich or enjoy a refreshing beverage on the patio of one of these four local hotspots.

To start off your day, visit Pekara Bakery and Bistro, 116 N. Neil St., in downtown Champaign. Pekara, which makes all edible goods from scratch and without any artificial ingredients or preservatives, offers a wide variety of European based baked goods including scones, muffins, croissants and much more and is also a great stop for lunch or even a good cup of Joe. Many of the baked goods are also featured at numerous Espresso Royales around C-U.

The bistro portion of the store features delicious foods such as pizza, salads, sandwiches and soup. As far as crowd favorites go, the dessert crepes are a must. The bakery/bistro is open from 7am to 10pm every day and was voted best bakery in the best of C-U awards in 2008, a must for brunch and baked goods enthusiasts.

After having a mouth-watering morning, take a walk over to Aroma Café, which is literally steps from Pekara, at 118 N. Neil St. Aroma Café, an ever so peaceful and cozy coffee shop, is the perfect place to sit back and relax while sipping on a nice warm latte, reading a book, or devouring a delicious wrap along with many other items on the Latin inspired menu. Also featured on the menu are many chai drinks, fruit tea smoothies, and other delectable coffee shop drinks. As far as lunch goes, Cuban Sandwiches, quesadillas or salads are great for the taste buds and the wallet, all of which are under \$7. You can enjoy your drink or entrée either inside in the bright and warm atmosphere, or outside in the back and soak in the sunrays until dinnertime nears.

If you would like something a bit more sophisticated or elo-



Taking some time out to enjoy the fantastic weather, a patron sits outside of Café Kopi, Pekara Bakery, and Aroma Café, all located very close to one another, and on the Greenhopper bus route, offer small town charm, real interactions with the business owners and bakers, and have the best outdoor seats downtown.

Samantha Hylla/Prospectus

quent for lunch, try Café Kopi, located just a minutes walk away from Pekara at 109 N. Walnut. Café Kopi "has become the spot where the creative and enterprising minds of the city convene," according to their Web site. Kopi features fresh gourmet, single-origin or fair trade coffees, a number of loose teas, freshly squeezed lemonade, Italian sodas and much more. Kopi also carries a full liquor menu for those who need a little excitement with their coffee.

The food menu has something that will catch the eye of every customer, including salads, sandwiches, pitas, and cheese plates and also has a number of vegetarian offerings like the hummus and eggplant experience sandwich, and the matty pooh pita. There is a large seating area inside which features work from local artists, as well as tables outside for all you people watchers out

there, as downtown features a diversity of people. Kopi is also one of the venues served by the GREENhopper service and is a great stop for anyone into artsy shops.

So you have no indulged yourself with coffee, baked goods, and a sandwich and are now ready to see the night-life in action. The next stop on the GREENhopper line is the Esquire Lounge. Located two doors down from Kopi at 109 N. Walnut St., the Esquire is "a cold beer, good food, throw your peanut shells on the floor kind of place. Enjoy a burger or a pizza, kick back, shoot pool, or take in a ballgame," according to their Web site.

Stone baked pizzas and hearty sandwiches will be sure to fill your belly and give you the strength to enjoy the rest of the night and, for those of you old enough, hit the bar to let

See Food on page 6

Use downtime to reconnect with art!

By **SAMANTHA HYLLE**
Staff Writer

Krannert Art Museum

In the heart of the University campus stands the Krannert Art Museum. It's a hidden gem of sorts to the C-U area (unless you're a student that's in tune with the art scene). The Krannert Art Museum not only houses an entire gallery of contemporary works, but is also the home to many older and cultural pieces. The museum's Gelvin Noel gallery features Andy Warhol's "Marilyn" and many other impressive pieces that are part of the "Vivid Lines in Graphic Times" exhibit.

Megan Kwasny, an employee of the museum, said her favorite gallery is the classics because of the 15th and 16th century original oil paintings that can be seen there. Visiting the Krannert Art Museum is a must-see for anyone interested in art from any time period and genre.

Currently the museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is free to everyone, although donations are greatly appreciated. The summer months are slower for the museum and they tend to see less people which means it's open until the end of July and will re-open in August when school starts back up. Plenty of parking is available, but before 5 p.m. on weekdays you'll have to pay the meter.

More information on the museum can be found at www.kam.uiuc.edu.

Parkland Art Gallery



The Art Theatre marquee displays last week's film, "Goodbye Solo." Boardman's has the feel of a classic movie theatre, and features movies that appeal to the culturally enlightened.

Samantha Hylla/Prospectus

When looking for art this summer, don't forget about the Parkland Art Gallery. The Media Arts Student Juried Exhibition is going on until June 18, so be sure to stop by and take a look at what Parkland students are up to.

The Parkland Art Gallery website sums up the exhibit, saying, "The media arts exhibit allows students taking Graphic Design, Web Design, and Illustration courses the chance to present their best work to the community and to industry professionals in marketing communication, advertising, and design."

Over the summer, the art gallery will be open Monday

through Thursday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Gallery is closest to the M parking lot which is free to the public.

MELD

Monday Evening Life Drawing group is run by RJ Karlstrom, a former Parkland student and the first editor of Prospectus. The group is a great place for students, retirees, teachers, and all others who want to relax and practice their drawing skills.

According to RJ, they like to keep things "as loose and casual as possible." There is no membership or obligation besides a small fee of \$7 dollars every time you come. Artists are responsible for bringing their supplies and MELD provides table space, trays, lighting, chairs, props, and the model.

RJ likes to keep things fresh and often rotates the models as well as their poses. The ses-

See Art on page 6

Skaters love the summer

By **PATRICK WOOD**
Assistant Editor

Are you a serious boarder? Do you kick-flip over park benches on a skateboard? Do you shred down hilly streets at night on a long board? Have you needed new bearings for your Toy Machine deck? Are your Etnies in need of a replacement? This summer your salvation could be the Board Boutique.

The Board Boutique, located at 702 S. Neil Street, is the only skater owned and operated skate shop in Champaign-Urbana. They sell professional skateboard merchandise like decks from like Element, Girl, Habitat, Element, and Toy Machine, as well as shoes, denim, shirts, trucks, risers, bearings, wheels, and tools.

After a trip to Board Boutique, are you stumped as to where you can find a suitable place to skate? Luckily, the Champaign Park District can help. Spalding Skate Park can be found at 900 Harris St., near Spalding Park. It offers a number of vert and street structures to skaters, including several bowls, rails, and half pipes. If you get tired of being chased



Skater Rory Brook performs a "crooked grind" on a mini half pipe at the Spalding skate park in Champaign. The park is free, open to the public, and closes at dusk.

Levi Norman/Prospectus

See Skate on page 6

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Supreme Court pick gets mixed reactions from lawyers

By MICHAEL DOYLE
MCT

WASHINGTON—Judge Sonia Sotomayor has an up-by-the-bootstraps background, an elite education and a mixed reputation among the lawyers who appear before her.

The 54-year-old New York native, a graduate of Princeton and of Yale Law School, is considered brilliant by some and combative by others. Her decisions over nearly 17 years as a federal judge generally define her as an unabashed liberal, more pronouncedly so than the Supreme Court justice she now hopes to replace.

"President Obama said he wanted a justice with 'towering intellect' and a 'common touch' and he found both in Judge Sotomayor," declared Kim Gandy, the president of the National Organization for Women.

Raised largely by her mother in a Bronx housing project after her father died when she was 9, Sotomayor went on to earn her undergraduate degree summa cum laude. Her life story is a compelling one of upward achievement, even as her legal rulings and occasional rhetoric will subject her to strict scrutiny from conservatives.

In particular, conservatives question whether Sotomayor's assertion at Duke University School of Law in 2005 that the court of appeals "is where policy is made" could be the con-

fession of a judicial activist.

Avid baseball fans may recall Sotomayor from 1995, when she blocked team owners from using replacement players and thereby helped end a 232-day strike.

The Supreme Court itself is reviewing a controversial ruling by Sotomayor and her 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals colleagues, who upheld the decision by New Haven, Conn., not to promote white firefighters because African-American candidates hadn't qualified. The high court's conservative majority previously overturned two appellate decisions that Sotomayor authored.

Sotomayor has cleared Senate hurdles twice before, as a district court nominee in 1992 and as a nominee to the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in 1998. A former New York prosecutor, she secured her first judicial nomination through a Republican president, George H.W. Bush.

By the time President Bill Clinton promoted Sotomayor to the appeals court, however, she was drawing fire from the right. Her 67-29 confirmation vote in 1998 came only after Republicans, who even then considered her a likely Supreme Court prospect, imposed a lengthy procedural delay.

"Judge Sotomayor was being held up on the Republican side of the aisle because of speculation that she might one day be

considered ... for nomination to the United States Supreme Court," Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said on the Senate floor at the time. He's now the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Since Sotomayor joined the New York-based 2nd Circuit, a study by Akin Gump lawyers found, she's authored more than 150 opinions on issues ranging from free speech to race, sex and age discrimination.

As with every other federal judge, the attorneys who appear before Sotomayor have evaluated her regularly. Compiled in the well-respected Almanac of the Federal Judiciary, Sotomayor's evaluations run a wide gamut. Many are positive.

"She is extremely hardworking and always prepared," one attorney wrote. Another called her "a very good writer," while a third said she was "frighteningly smart (and) intellectually tough."

Sotomayor also has her share of detractors, however.

"She is temperamental and excitable; she seems angry," one attorney complained. Another called her "overly aggressive, not very judicial" and a third said she was "nasty to lawyers."

Lauren Goldman, an appellate practice partner with the firm Mayer Brown, said Sotomayor had impressed her when Goldman argued a busi-

ness case before the 2nd Circuit.

"She was very prepared, and she has researched the case," Goldman said in an interview Tuesday. "She is a very active questioner, and she wants to get to the bottom of things."

Sotomayor's work as a prosecutor from 1979 to 1984 typically involved what she called in one Senate questionnaire "street crimes" as well as "child pornography, police misconduct and fraud."

While Sotomayor was in private practice with the firm Pavia & Harcourt from 1984 to 1992, she represented foreign as well as domestic clients. For the Italian car company Ferrari, she challenged a former car dealer in the Sacramento, Calif., area. For another Italian firm, the fashion house Fendi, she pursued anti-counterfeiting cases against companies with names such as Dapper Dan's Boutique.

Like many, if not most, other appellate judges, Sotomayor has been second-guessed by the Supreme Court. In 2000, for instance, Sotomayor sided with former federal inmate John E. Malesko. Malesko was in his late 50s and serving a sentence for securities fraud when he suffered a heart attack after being ordered to climb five flights of stairs back to his cell quickly. Sotomayor agreed that Malesko should be permitted to sue the private corporation that ran the facility.

"An employer facing exposure to such liability would be motivated to prevent unlawful acts by its employees," Sotomayor reasoned.

By 5-4, the Supreme Court disagreed, with then-Chief Justice William Rehnquist declaring that Sotomayor's reasoning would lead to a "marked extension" of the ability to file lawsuits against government contractors.

Judging from oral arguments earlier this year, the Supreme Court appears poised to reverse another Sotomayor case. Sotomayor was among the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court judges who sided with New Haven in its decision not to promote Frank Ricci and 17 other white firefighters despite their high test scores.

The Ricci case will loom large in Sotomayor's coming confirmation hearings in part because of the internal court strife that's accompanied it. Another Clinton appointee to the 2nd Circuit, Jose Cabranes, criticized as sloppy, speedy and unclear the manner in which Sotomayor and other judges quickly dismissed the firefighters' arguments.

"This perfunctory disposition rests uneasily with the weighty issues presented by this appeal," Cabranes wrote.

Sotomayor has been single since a brief marriage ended in divorce in October 1983. She has diabetes, though otherwise she's described her health on

confirmation questionnaires as "good."

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McClatchy-Tribune
Information Services.



U.S. Supreme Court Justice nominee
Sonia Sotomayor

Early years
Born 1954, The Bronx, N.Y., to Puerto Rican immigrants; raised by mother in housing project after father died in 1963

At age 10 knew she wanted to be a judge after watching hours of the TV show "Perry Mason"

Education History degree summa cum laude, Princeton University, 1976; law degree, Yale University, 1979; editor, Yale Law Journal

Legal career
1979 Assistant district attorney, New York County; handled street crimes, child pornography, police misconduct, fraud cases

1984 Associate, then partner with Pavia & Harcourt law firm; focus on intellectual property, international litigation

1992 Nominated by President George H.W. Bush to serve as U.S. district court judge

1998 Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

2009 Nominated by President Barack Obama as nation's first Hispanic Supreme Court justice

Source: MCT Photo Service, McClatchy Washington Bureau, AP, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
Graphic: Judy Treble © 2009 MCT

Tirades show cursing is everywhere these days

By DIANE STAFFORD
MCT

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Explosive excess in public venues and workplaces is an ever-rising tide.

From White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel to disgraced former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich to actor Christopher Bale—who infamously spewed a three-and-a-half-minute F-bomb rant on the set of the latest "Terminator" film—the air brims with the cussing of the famous and the rest of us.

Emanuel's propensity for profanity even caused President Barack Obama to joke at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner on Mother's Day weekend that Rahm is "not used to saying the word 'day' after 'mother.'"

Indeed, four-letter words pepper music and scripts—can Jon Stewart go a night without being bleeped?—and some people find it hard to express a thought without Anglo-Saxon earthiness that once would have made a tavern wench blush.

A study published two years ago in the Leadership and Organization Development Journal suggested that swearing can be a healthy stress release, something needed in high-pressure workplaces.

Even though 40 percent of business owners in a SurePayroll.com survey this spring admitted swearing on the job, 80 percent said bad words are out of place at work and give the wrong impression about professionalism.

Only 1 in 10 of the survey respondents thought cursing was a justified pressure valve or morale booster.

Now it's so common, there's even a science of swearing.

One expert, Harvard University professor and author Steven Pinker, has written about five distinct types: abusive (used to be hurtful); idiomatic (to be macho or cool); emphatic (to stress a point); cathartic (to release pain or emotion, as when you spill hot coffee in your lap); and dysphemistic (to substitute a distaste-

ful term for a milder one).

While about three-fourths of Americans admit to swearing some time, just about everyone says they've heard it in public.

Studies indicate that once the cursing habit is acquired, it tends to grow. One reported field study found that swearers say 80 to 90 cuss words a day, out of an average of 15,000 to 16,000 words spoken.

The profanity profusion doesn't mean society has waved a white flag.

Reinforcing the intent to protect some form of public decency standards, the U.S. Supreme Court last month upheld the federal crackdown on televised profanity which levies fines on broadcasters that air words deemed to be obscene or profane.

"Even isolated utterances can be made in ... vulgar and shocking manner, and can constitute harmful first blows to children," Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in the opinion.

Jim O'Connor, spurred by the ubiquity of foul speech, founded the Cuss Control Academy, based in Lake Forest, Ill.

He'll do "interventions" and give workshops on job sites, often at the invitation of human resource officers who don't know how to control their bosses' language.

"A foul mouth at the top sets the tone and make it harder to control," said O'Connor, who wrote a book, "Cuss Control: The Complete Book on How to Curb Your Cursing."

O'Connor acknowledged that the days are long gone when cursing marked someone as low-class or unintelligent. But, he said in an interview, swearing still marks people as insufficiently in command of their emotions or their vocabulary.

"Instead of using those foul words, we need to ask ourselves why we're swearing," he said. "We need to understand the negativity, the laziness, or whatever is the root cause and address that."

But when profanity is so profuse in pop culture, and has infiltrated instant message shorthand—witness WTF—some bosses say it's hard to put limits on such "free speech" on

the job or anywhere else, for that matter.

Recognizing that slipups happen among most of us, SurePayroll president Michael Alter, who publicized the problem with the survey, also offered solutions to limit swearing (in lieu of soap):

— Take repeat offenders aside, privately, and remind them of no-profanity expectations in the office.

— Make it clear that profanity offends many co-workers and customers and that everyone should make every attempt to quash it on the job.

— Make up some "code" cuss words for co-workers. He said one company decided on "brother trucker" and "what the French toast."

— Start an office "swearing fund" and build up an office party kitty that people must contribute to when they let the expletives fly.

This last one can backfire, as anyone who's seen the hilarious Budweiser "swear jar" ad knows.

(c) 2009

The Kansas City Star.



Before enrolling in a career school, do your homework

By GENE TRAINOR
MCT

FORT WORTH, Texas—They offer the dream of a good-paying job in a high-demand field, easy admission, flexible hours and help with the thicket of paperwork to obtain federal financial aid.

For students who work full time, prefer hands-on training and want a degree or certification quickly, private, for-profit schools seem like an ideal solution. And some graduates have found career success.

But others may leave saddled with debt and little else. Many graduates find that public and selective private colleges won't accept transfer credits, or that the degrees or certificates won't land them a job. Ultimately, taxpayers foot the bill when students default on their federally insured loans.

It's largely left up to students to determine the quality of the education—and they may find little to help them.

Few of its independent published guides exist. Getting information from state agencies often takes written or e-mailed requests and patience, whether it be information about complaints or job placement rates.

A telling indication of student success after graduation is the loan default rate, but that figure is difficult to obtain. Before the U.S. Department of Education would research the rates, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram had to find federal identification numbers for local colleges.

"The students can also do other investigating, such as visiting with employers who have hired graduates of the schools, as well as visiting with the students themselves," said Ann Hatchitt with the Texas Workforce Commission, which oversees many career schools and colleges.

Lacking such know-how, students often rely on the schools' advertisements.

"It's much more direct sales," said Barmak Nassirian of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers. "Many of their targets are people who act on impulse. They see an ad."

Among the career schools are relatively new national chains such as Everest College, local institutions such as Iverson Business School, and long-established national ones, such as DeVry University.

The vast majority operate for profit.

They may offer degrees and certificates in paralegal studies, hotel and restaurant management, construction management, and medical insurance coding and billing, among other areas. Typically, they don't have the leafy campuses seen at nonprofit colleges and state universities. Home is a single building or part of a building that resembles a corporate center.

Most tend to attract low-income, often minority students, experts say.

By offering practical, hands-on training and education in high-demand fields, they have

grown fast. At Everest College in Fort Worth, enrollment has more than doubled to 546 students, up from 250 after the first 11 months of operation in 2004. Westwood College says its Fort Worth campus has 445 students, up 31 percent from 339 in 2006.

To get accepted, students often need a high school diploma or GED. College entrance exams, letters of recommenda-

tions were not accepted by Tarrant County College when she enrolled. She had to start all over. "I'm still a little bitter," she said. "It just really felt like they did it for the money."

Vanessa said she was told she would earn \$30,000 a year with a medical assisting diploma. Instead the jobs she was offered paid about \$17,000. The single mother defaulted on

"I was making more when I was working at Albertsons," she said.

Everest public relations consultant Emily Buenzow wrote in an e-mail that the school tells students "that acceptance of credits is at the sole discretion of the receiving institution."

Many nonprofit and public colleges refuse to accept credits from schools not accredited by one of the nation's six

More than 95 percent of Westwood students receive federal financial aid, chief marketing officer Russ Natochev wrote in an e-mail.

At DeVry University, 70 percent of undergraduates nationally have received federal financial aid, according to DeVry's 2008 report to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

With taxpayer money at stake, the ability of graduates to find jobs and repay loans is an issue that in years past has caught Congress' attention. The default rate has been improving, but a gap remains.

The rate was 9.7 percent at for-profit schools for the federal Direct Loans and Family Education Loan programs in fiscal 2006, the most recent federal data available. In comparison, rates were 2.5 percent for nonprofit private schools and 4.7 percent for public schools.

Johnston says she understands why proprietary students struggle to repay loans.

"They end up without a job, without a career, in \$30,000 in debt and they're working at the checkout in a Wal-Mart," she said. "Their lives haven't changed at all."

Everest's Fort Worth campus had a default rate of 11.9 percent for 2006, down from 16.3 percent in 2004. "It is a fact that students seeking entry-level skills training default at a higher rate than students attending a traditional college or university," Buenzow wrote.

Westwood's Fort Worth campus had a default rate of 17.9 percent during the 2006 fiscal year, up from 12.6 percent in 2004. Westwood officials said the rate lumped the Fort Worth campus in with campuses in Chicago and Atlanta. They also said the default rate was reduced by 20 percent this year.

The data may understate the default problem, critics say. By law schools collect default rates only for two years after students graduate, and students often don't have to pay back their loans until nine months after they leave school. That means colleges have only a 15-month window to have default rates count against them.

"This is what the industry has by way of power in Washington," said Nassirian, of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers.

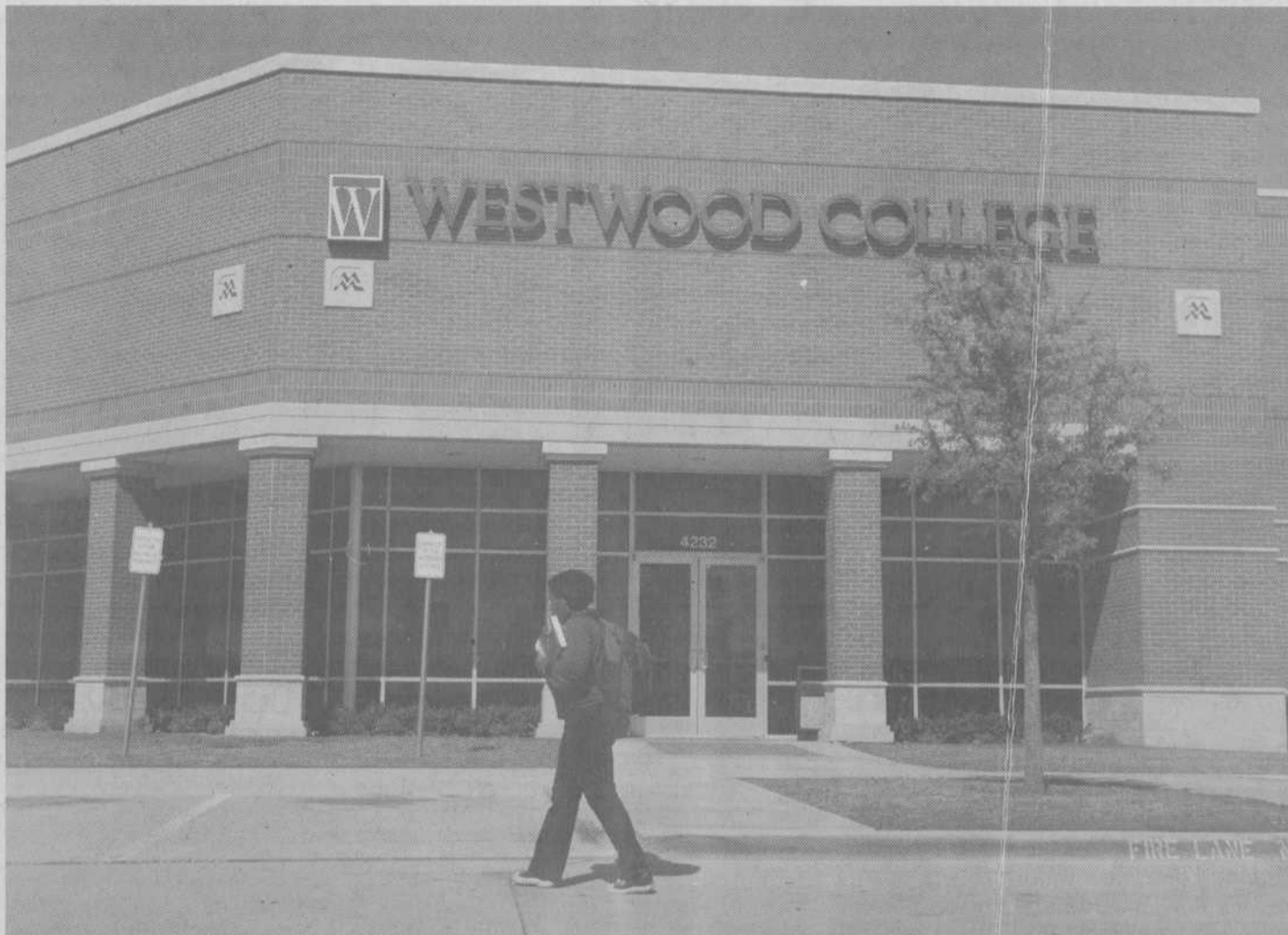
It's up to the student to find success, said recent Westwood graduate Florencia Chairez.

Chairez said she opted against TCC because Westwood's program would be quicker. She said she now works as a lead medical assistant at Clinica Mi Doctor in Fort Worth.

"They're not going to say, 'Here, you have a job,'" she said. "We have to go out and get that job."

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Fort Worth Star-Telegram.



Westwood College in Fort Worth, Texas, and two other Texas campuses must pay \$7 million to resolve False Claims Act allegations.

Joyce Marshall/Fort Worth Star-Telegram/(MCT)

tion and a record of extracurricular activities are usually not required, though students sometimes take exams to help with career placement and determine college readiness. Students and former students said they were attracted to the schools by a great sales pitch and extensive advertising on TV and radio and in newspapers.

Cost doesn't seem to discourage students. Tarrant County College, which has many of the same programs, charges about \$1,500 a year in tuition and fees, compared with \$19,375 to \$24,025 for the first year at Westwood and \$8,856 to \$14,415 for the second. Everest's offerings include eight-to-nine-month diploma programs that officials say prepare students for careers in high-demand fields. Tuition is about \$13,000.

Students say they're willing to pay more for the convenience, flexibility and career-focused education.

Westwood student Susan Morgan said the Fort Worth campus was just a five-minute drive from her home when she first enrolled. "An associate's degree in 20 months—you can't beat it," she said.

And Westwood provides free lifetime retraining to any of its alumni, said Rick Skinner, Westwood Texas vice president.

Marsci Osowski of Arlington said she went to DeVry in

Management.

Everest Campus President Marilyn Long said her staff takes a special interest in its students. "If they miss school, we call them and find out what's going on," she said.

But some for-profit colleges have come under fire for what government officials call unethical practices. The U.S. Justice Department announced April 20 that Westwood Colleges in Texas and parent company Alta Colleges of Denver agreed to pay \$7 million to settle a lawsuit, though the company said it believed it "always acted lawfully and ethically." Texas Westwood officials were accused of falsifying financial aid forms, encouraging students to cheat on placement exams, and lying about job placement rates.

Recruiters were told that if a prospective student asked whether credits would transfer, they were to say yes or that transferability was "up to the receiving school." But the suit states Alta Colleges "failed to identify any school that did accept its credits."

Some alumni said they saw Kris, a 22-year-old who spoke on the condition she not be fully identified, said that when she enrolled, officials said credits would transfer. She spent \$38,000 for her associate's degree in graphic design and multimedia. But her cred-

her \$25,000 student loan last year. Debt collectors call about every other day.

"Now I'm in debt over \$25,000 with no medical assisting job," said Vanessa, who did not want her last name published because she is embarrassed about her situation.

Other colleges are also the target of complaints.

Last year, Dallas attorney Julie Johnson filed suit on behalf of 46 former students against Iverson Business School in Arlington. The claims were similar to some of those against Westwood College. Iverson's attorneys denied the accusations. The two sides are trying to negotiate a settlement, Johnson said.

Everest College graduates Kimberly Newton and Shannon Huddleston call their college experiences a waste of time and money. Huddleston, 27, said she has about \$25,000 in student loan debts after getting an associate's degree in medical assisting from the Dallas campus but couldn't get a job in the field because some employers didn't know anything about Everest.

Newton said she has \$8,000 in student loan debts after enrolling in the medical billing and coding program at the Fort Worth campus. She said she learned her trade primarily from reading her books and that her first job after graduating paid \$10.50 an hour.

regional agencies. Proprietary colleges tend to be accredited by national agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, but some critics say the accreditation doesn't focus on student outcomes.

The University of North Texas and Tarrant County College will accept credits from DeVry because it is accredited by the regional Chicago-based Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

Officials at the more selective private schools, including Rice, Texas Christian and Southern Methodist universities, either said they don't accept proprietary school credits or called the chances remote. Ray Brown, TCU dean of admissions, said he has a general concern about the rigor of courses at proprietary schools. He said so many standards in academia have been watered down.

"I'm just not interested in adding another one to the list," Brown said.

Students at for-profit schools depend heavily on federal loans and grants. About 80 to 85 percent of Everest College's revenue comes from federal sources, Buenzow wrote in an e-mail. "This figure is not surprising, as most of our students are pursuing entry-level skills training programs and thus qualify for more federal aid than a more affluent demographic," she wrote.

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Chicago Tribune.

Musician Jay Bennett dies

By ROBERT MITCHUM
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO—Jay Bennett, a former member of Chicago-based rock band Wilco, died Sunday, according to a posting on the Web site of his record label. He was 45.

Bennett, a multi-instrumentalist who was a member of Wilco from 1994 to 2001, was a creative foil to bandleader Jeff Tweedy on the band's highly acclaimed albums Summer-teeth and Yankee Hotel Fox-

trot. Bennett's acrimonious split from the band after the recording of the latter album was chronicled in the 2002 documentary "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart."

Earlier this month, Bennett sued Tweedy in Cook County Circuit Court claiming that he was owed royalties on Wilco songs and compensation for his appearance in the documentary.

Bennett joined the band as a lead guitarist in 1994 shortly after the release of their debut

album "A.M." He gradually assumed a larger role over the band's next three albums, eventually taking credits as a songwriter and arranger in addition to work on guitar, keyboards and other instruments.

But the sometimes tumultuous partnership between Bennett and Tweedy reached an impasse during the recording of "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot," and Bennett left the band shortly after the record was finished.

"I was starting to feel more and more limited, and Jeff recognized that," Bennett told Chicago Tribune critic Greg

Kot in 2002. "It's like breaking up with a girlfriend. At first it really hurt, but you realize once your ego heals that it was the right thing to do. We're both better off that it happened."

After his split with Wilco, Bennett released four albums solo and with collaborator Edward Burch and has done production work for other artists, including a 2005 album by Blues Traveler.

"We are profoundly saddened to report that our friend died in his sleep last night," read a posting on the Web site of Undertow Music Collective,

which released Bennett's first three albums. "Jay was a beautiful human being who will be missed."

PARKLAND
THEATER

Couples look back on when interracial love defied laws

By MATT O'BRIEN
Contra Costa Times

OAKLAND, Calif.—It was the kind of kiss that could change the world.

More than 60 years later, sitting on a couch in her Hercules home, her eyes still sparkle when she thinks about it.

"With that kiss, we both knew, 'Oh boy, this is big.' I knew that my whole life was going to change because I knew I was in love with him."

Jeanne Tobey was white. Bill Lowe was black. Getting married was illegal.

So in May 1948, the couple defied California's ban on interracial marriage by leaving the state.

Boarding a train at the West Oakland station, they headed north through Oregon and across the Columbia River to Vancouver, Wash., where a friend had helped arrange a visit to the county clerk's office.

They avoided the stares.

"The justice of the peace was just as nice as he could be," said Jeanne Lowe, who turned 80 this year. "He didn't say a word."

Apart from a shared passion for social justice causes, there was little that set apart the Lowes from other young couples of their generation.

They met at a club gathering in Oakland's Redwood Regional Park in 1947 and became fast friends. Bill Lowe, who had served as a submarine repairman during World War II, would pick up his new girlfriend for dates in his 1937 Chevy coupe.

He grew up as a foster child in a predominantly African-American neighborhood of South Berkeley. She grew up on an all-white street in East Oakland. Her parents and grandparents were devoted to communist and progressive causes, including racial equality, but were still stunned to learn that Jeanne Tobey's sweetheart was a black man.

"My parents didn't consider themselves prejudiced, but they had an only child who was stepping into the unknown," she said.

The first time Bill Lowe proposed, Jeanne Tobey declined. Two weekends later, while alone and cleaning her family's house, she broke down in tears. She had changed her mind.

Mixed marriages had been banned in California for almost as long as it was a state, so the couple could not have expected that before the year was over, a landmark court ruling would have allowed them to marry in Oakland, Washington, at the time, was the closest place to go. New Mexico was the second.

And unlike many other states, California would not prosecute the returning newlyweds under anti-miscegenation laws that governed what race could mix with another—just as long as they got married someplace else.

Feeling unwelcome, and far

from their comfortable East Bay network of family and friends, the Lowes did not linger in the Pacific Northwest. They spent less than a day there, taking a sleeping car back to Oakland.

At a wedding celebration back home, Bill's family, who hosted, was welcoming. Hers was polite. Their gifts were those of modest households living in a difficult time: an alarm clock and handmade ashtrays,

underlying the state's rigid race classifications, rejected long-held claims that the mixing of races was bad for the public welfare and declared "the right to marry (was) as fundamental as the right to send one's child to a particular school or the right to have offspring." Prejudice, he wrote, could not be used to infringe on such an important right.

"He was willing to change the law in response to social condi-

"The California Legislature didn't vacate the statute until 10 years later. That says a lot. No one really touched it. The court was ahead of its time."

The opinion did pave the way for longtime unions like that of Rosina and Leon Watson, who in 1950, after a long courtship, were married in the Fruitvale district of Oakland at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church.

"I remember them coming out of the church," said Jeanne

ter first impression. The Watsons watched as whites suddenly moved from their 77th Avenue neighborhood after the couple moved in, and were later snubbed while house-hunting in the white suburb of San Leandro.

Today, the number of interracial couples who can remember such experiences from that era is dwindling. Bill Lowe died in 1995, as have friends from their circle of East Bay interra-

Lowes said she was also moved by the election of President Barack Obama, who is younger than her three children but, like them, was born to a white woman and a black man at a time when such unions were less common—and still banned in many states.

"My oldest daughter called at the time (his win) was announced. She couldn't speak," Jeanne Lowe said. "It was a feeling that this was my son. That's how it felt. '... It was a feeling that can't be described.'"

She wished, she said, that her husband was alive to see it.

"We worked so hard to create a community where we were accepted, where my children would be accepted," she said.

SOME MARRIAGE LAW MILESTONES IN CALIFORNIA AND THE U.S.

1661: Maryland enacts the first anti-miscegenation law in what would later become the United States.

1850: Soon after California becomes a state, legislators follow other states by banning marriage between whites and "negroes or mulattoes."

1880: California Legislature adds "Mongolians" into the ban in an effort to exclude Asians from marrying whites.

1933: California Legislature adds "members of the Malay race" into the ban, rejecting years of advocacy by Filipino leaders seeking equal marriage rights.

1947: Andrea Perez and Sylvester Davis try getting married in Los Angeles. County clerk refuses because she is white and he is black. Later, a lawyer, Dan Marshall, will help the Catholic couple sue to marry on the basis of religious liberty.

1948: In Perez v. Sharp, California Supreme Court sides with Los Angeles couple in a 4-3 ruling. Justice Roger Traynor, author of the majority opinion, goes beyond freedom of religion argument in calling marriage to the person of one's choice a "fundamental right."

1967: In Loving v. Virginia, the U.S. Supreme Court, under Chief Justice Earl Warren, unanimously declared anti-miscegenation laws unconstitutional nationwide.

1977: California Legislature enacts law that rules marriage must be between "a man and a woman." In 2000, a voter-approved initiative strengthens the ban on same-sex marriage.

2008: Drawing on the Perez v. Sharp case, California Supreme Court rules 4-3 in May that same-sex marriage should also be a fundamental right. In November, voter-approved Proposition 8 overrides the court by eliminating the right of same-sex couples to marry.

(c) 2009, Contra Costa Times (Walnut Creek, Calif.).



Jeanne Lowe, now widowed, sits beside a family portrait, May 7, 2009, in her Hercules, California home, as she recalls how in 1948 she couldn't marry Bill Lowe, the man she loved. California wouldn't let her. She was white. Bill Lowe was black. So as a young Oakland couple, they took the train to Washington State and got married there. A year later, the California Supreme Court became the first in the nation to strike down interracial marriage bans.

Karl Mondon/Contra Costa Times/(MCT)

a blanket from her parents, a used toaster.

In October 1948, six months after the Lowes obtained their Washington marriage license, the California Supreme Court in a divisive 4-3 ruling became the first in the 20th century to strike down a state ban on interracial marriage.

Los Angeles couple Andrea Perez and Sylvester Davis had filed the suit. They were devout Catholics who met on a workplace assembly line. Davis was black and Perez, from a Spanish-speaking family of Mexican descent, was regarded by state law as white. The county clerk refused to give them a marriage license when they went to pick one up in 1947.

What happened next, in some ways, was a fluke, say scholars who have studied the decision. The couple stumbled into the hands of an acquaintance, lawyer Dan Marshall, who vigorously sued Los Angeles County, first casting the claim as one based on freedom of religion because the Catholic Church supported their desire to marry.

And Marshall, in turn, stumbled into the hands of Roger Traynor, a supreme court judge whose majority opinion in the case went beyond arguments for religious freedom. He discredited the old eugenic tracts

"California was becoming the great state, the powerhouse it would become after World War II. The need to be responsive to change was really considerable."

The opinion was stunning, scholars said. And once it was over, the newlywed couple forever disappeared from public light.

"Neither of them wanted to be a leader or highly prominent activist," Moran said. "They just wanted to marry and live like everybody else. They really didn't see themselves as political people. It might be that they didn't want to be standard-bearers for a movement."

No social movements propelled most of California's interracial marriage pioneers, at least not directly. Miscegenation was a politically and socially volatile issue, and most civil rights organizations were focused on dismantling laws segregating public places, Moran said.

"The civil rights organizations that normally would have made those headlines tactically decided to remain quiet," said Dara Orenstein, who researched the case as a graduate student at Yale University.

Lowe, who befriended the Watsons and a few other interracial couples through the left-wing political group American Youth for Democracy. "They were so happy."

On a recent afternoon, Leon, 81, was listening to a zydeco CD in their cozy East Oakland bungalow while Rosina, 80, knitted. They have lived in the same house since 1959, raising three children there.

"He was tall, for one," said Rosina Watson, recalling what attracted her to her husband. "The boyfriend I had before was short. And he was a good dancer and I liked to dance."

Growing up in a Spanish-speaking family that had lived in New Mexico for generations, Rosina Watson said her father was initially furious that she was dating a black man from Mississippi. He later came to accept it, she said.

Although more tolerant than other places, not all of California was ready to accept the state's newly sanctioned interracial couples.

The Lowes were pulled over several times by Oakland police who suspected Bill Lowe might be a pimp and his wife a prostitute. When Jeanne Lowe went to job interviews, her husband would sometimes, instinctively, drop her off two blocks away so she could make a bet-

cial couples who married just before and after 1948. Andrea Perez died in 2000.

Orenstein spoke with Sylvester Davis in 2003, in the last interview he was known to have given. A private man, Orenstein said he cut off the discussions because he loved his wife deeply, missed her, and it pained him to talk so much about the case.

Memories of the Perez case were suddenly revived last May when the California Supreme Court overturned the state's same-sex marriage ban, using the Perez decision as a key precedent. Voters later overrode much of that decision with November's Proposition 8 by eliminating the right of same-sex couples to marry.

The state's midcentury interracial marriage pioneers, including Jeanne Lowe and the Watsons, have been largely absent from the debate, though they do have opinions about it.

Leon Watson said he "couldn't care less" who married whom, and, playfully conversing with his wife, wondered why the Catholic Church that went out on a limb to marry them couldn't marry same-sex couples. Jeanne Lowe, who has three children, one of them a lesbian, said she feels that adults have the right to marry whomever they choose.

ART

continued from page 3

sion is 2 hours long, begins at 7 p.m. on Monday nights, and is held at Boneyard Pottery. The best way to improve your skills and keep them fresh over the summer is to practice, so what better place to do that than MELD?

The Art Theatre

Instead of going to the big box offices this summer, stop by the independently and locally owned Art Theatre. The Art is well known for showing award winning indie films you won't see anywhere else, which is exactly what they'll be doing this summer.

Currently showing is Goodbye Solo, award winner of the Venice Film Festival. The Goodbye Solo official site states in the synopsis, "Through this unlikely but unforgettable friendship, Goodbye Solo deftly explores the passing of a generation as well as the rapidly changing face of America." For more information on the film you can visit www.goodbyesolomovie.com.

Sin Nombre and Every Little Step will be the next two films to follow, both receiving nothing less than true praise and rave reviews. The Art Theatre is located at 126 W. Church Street in Champaign and plenty of parking is available in the surrounding area. If you're worried about a movie selling

out before you get there to buy tickets, no worries because you can buy them online from the website at www.boardmanstheatres.com.

Whether it's a dinner and a movie this summer or a relaxed hang out with your friends, The Art Theatre is the place to go for intelligent, independent films.

FOOD

continued from page 3

the good times roll. With prices ranging from \$4-\$8 for menu items, it cannot be passed up.

So there you have it. A full day planned, and all of which is within walking distance of each other. Bring a friend along or check out the small shops around the area like Ten Thousand Villages, Exile on Main St. or C.V. Lloyd Music Center for an even better day. Remember to relax and explore your local hotspots this summer and stay out of trouble!

SKATE

continued from page 3

by campus police, this may not be a bad place to check out.

Spalding Skate Park is open until dusk and is free of charge. Protective gear is not required, but is strongly encouraged. The park is open to both skateboarders and inline skaters.



88.7 THE WAVE
REINVENTING ALTERNATIVE

The new Conan time slot

By JULIE HINDS
Detroit Free Press

The first episode of "Late Night With Conan O'Brien" in 1993 opened with a skit where the relatively unknown host strolls to work as people he encounters keep reminding him "Better be good!" and "Lot of pressure!"

Alone in his dressing room, a whistling O'Brien grabs a rope and prepares to hang himself until there's a knock at his door to tell him it's show time. Then he bounces out of the room, ready to go on the air.

It was a sly, self-aware beginning for a man who seemed an unlikely replacement for David Letterman, but who went on to defy the naysayers and win over a devoted audience with his unique brand of comedy.

Now comes the biggest step in O'Brien's television career. On June 1, he'll become the new host of NBC's "The Tonight Show," the job once held by Steve Allen, Jack Paar, Johnny Carson and, until Friday, Jay Leno.

His first guest is Will Ferrell. His old sidekick, Andy Richter, will be his announcer.

As the tall, lanky host—O'Brien's legs stretch like Mr. Fantastic in the promo of him running on the beach to "Eye of the Tiger"—prepares for the move, the questions are mounting.

Will Leno's move to a five-nights-a-week show at 10 p.m. in the fall eat into O'Brien's ratings? Can "The Tonight Show" retain its stature in the fragmented media age? How will O'Brien's post-midnight humor be received by a more mainstream audience that wants to hear a few jokes about politicians before going to sleep?

Talk about pressure. Lot of pressure.

In January, when O'Brien was in Detroit to visit the NBC affiliate, WDIV-TV, he sounded calm and confident.

"I don't want to overthink," he said. "I don't want to say, well, this is 11:30, so I better button up and maybe try and have a little less fun and be a little more serious. ... When I'm having a good time and enjoying myself and doing things I think are funny, it tends to work. I think that's what I have to continue to do at 11:30."

That same month, at the annual conference in Los Angeles for TV journalists, he resorted to his usual self-deprecation when fielding a question about taking over the "The

Tonight Show" with Leno casting a prime-time shadow.

"Since—what is it?—1949, 1950, 'The Tonight Show' has been 11:30 on NBC. And, to me, that is sacred territory. ... A few people asked me, 'Does this, you know, in any way diminish 'The Tonight Show'?' And my response is I don't need any help diminishing 'The Tonight Show.' I've got that covered," he kidded.

Don't be fooled into under-

estimating him. The O'Brien charm has worked for him as an Emmy host and it's also a powerful force in person.

At his Motor City stop this winter, "from the moment he walked in, he captivated these people," recalls Marla Drutz, WDIV's general manager.

Mary Ann Watson, a professor of electronic media at Eastern Michigan University, counts herself among O'Brien's

fans. "He's like the smart kid in the class who'd make sardonic comments, the kid in AP English who would make wisecracks," she says. "You just know he's a really smart guy."

A brief history of O'Brien goes like this. The third of six children, he grew up in Brookline, Mass. A graduate of the Ivy League, he was president of the famous breeding ground for humorists, the Harvard Lampoon. A writer for

ability to be uninhibited and goofy and yet step back and analyze his own weird foolishness clicked with younger viewers.

He took Letterman's post-modern attitude to new levels with bits like Triumph the Insult Comic Dog, the puppet that spews harshly accurate insults, and In the Year 2000, where flashlights held underneath the chin and clip-on space collars set the low-budget tone

2009, it must have seemed like an easy way to lock in a rising star and guarantee the stability of the network's late-night future. But O'Brien is entering a fray he might not have anticipated then.

Leno's switch to prime-time, of course, has changed the equation—and irked Conan followers who see the older comedian as stealing their guy's thunder. There's also the competition from Comedy Central's 11 p.m. block of "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report," two shows that have evolved into political and social forces.

The most intriguing prospect, however, is that the late-night arena soon will symbolize a triumph of the Letterman comic sensibility. Both ABC's late-night host Jimmy Kimmel and NBC's O'Brien border on reverence in their appreciation for Letterman as the senior statesman of ironic humor. Can Letterman, who was denied "The Tonight Show" job long ago, now replace Leno as the ratings king? Or will O'Brien keep Leno's fans, even though his style is closer to Letterman's?

Drutz thinks O'Brien's June launch is a plus. Because shows typically debut in the fall—and because late-night viewing tends to go up a bit in the summer—it's a good time for him to get maximum exposure.

She's convinced his style will fit nicely into his new time slot. "His humor is such that it's going to translate easily to an earlier crowd," she says. "What he's going to end up doing is expanding his base, so that instead of it maybe being more of a 24-to-35 crowd, it's going to end up being more like a 25-to-54 kind of crowd."

Watson thinks O'Brien will succeed on some level, but she doubts he or anyone else will ever dominate the late-night landscape again. "I think the days are gone of a Johnny Carson, someone who's the king of late night. That's ancient history," she says.

Maybe O'Brien doesn't need to worry about competitors to Carson, Leno or Letterman. Maybe his biggest competition is himself.

"In a way, I feel like Conan's challenge is to adjust himself for the kind of mass audience that Jay Leno built up. ... It's whether or not Conan can become, in a sense, more mainstream without either alienating his core audience or watering down what he does best,"

says Tucker.

Back in January, O'Brien talked fondly about watching "The Tonight Show" with his father as a kid. "I have an emotional attachment to the show and I think a lot of Americans do," he said. "To me, it's a huge responsibility, so my job is to go in there and do the best 'Tonight Show' I can do, and every 'Tonight Show' host has put their own spin on it."

The smart guy from Harvard knows he'd better be good.

CLASSIC CONAN

We'll have to wait and see if these classic Conan skits pop up on "The Tonight Show," but reviewing them gives a clear sense of the comic sensibility he'll bring to his new time slot.

•SAT analogies. You can tell O'Brien went to Harvard when he offers comparisons like, "Arlen Specter: Good friend of Alito's. Kirstie Alley: Good friend of Doritos."

•New state quarters: The slogan for poor isolated Montana's coin is "Just Now Hearing About the Rubik's Cube."

•Fake celebrity interviews. Thanks to the old "Clutch Cargo" trick of still images with moving mouths, Conan talks to bigwigs like President Bill Clinton and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (who always manages to bring up "Jingle All the Way").

•If they mated. Photos of two celebrities are Photoshopped together to create potential offspring—the uglier and more disturbing, the better.

•Actual items: By reading the supposed fine print in ads, you'll find out that Kraft Supermac & Cheese still comes in the regular kind for stepchildren.

•Pierre Bernard recliner of rage. The "Late Night" staffer rails about something that makes him angry, usually on a sci-fi or comic book theme.

•Walker, Texas Ranger lever. Conan used this device to activate video clips of Chuck Norris unleashing his fists and feet of fury.

(c) 2009

Detroit Free Press.



estimating him. The O'Brien charm has worked for him as an Emmy host and it's also a powerful force in person.

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Mary Ann Watson, a professor of electronic media at Eastern Michigan University, counts herself among O'Brien's

"The Simpsons" and "Saturday Night Live," he was plucked from obscurity by Lorne Michaels to fill the NBC spot left vacant by Letterman, who landed at CBS.

O'Brien endured some early bad reviews (years later, at a commencement address at Harvard, he remembered how the Washington Post's Tom Shales said he should return to "Conan O'Blivion"). But his

for strange predictions.

"He added a real element of irony and absurdism that hadn't been in late-night before," says Ken Tucker, TV critic for Entertainment Weekly, who notes that O'Brien's strength is "in that space between the monologue and when the guests come on."

When NBC announced in 2004 that Leno would hand over the "Tonight" throne to O'Brien in

Poor are the most charitable

Those in the lowest U.S. income group give the largest percentage of their incomes to charity. Figures for 2007.

Income groups	Lowest	Second	Third	Fourth	Highest	All
Average income*	\$10,531	\$27,674	\$46,213	\$73,460	\$158,388	\$63,091
Income group limit	\$19,301	\$36,070	\$57,944	\$91,297	N.A.	N.A.
Giving as percent of income	4.3%	2.5%	2.7%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%

*Pretax
© 2009 MCT
Source: McClatchy analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data
Graphic: Judy Treble



Memorial Day Letter



May 25, 2009
On this Memorial Day,

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Coalition partners from Italy and Slovenia stood at attention while a quartet comprised of the armed forces sang the National Anthem. Silence fell on the camp as the ARSIC WEST Commander, Colonel John Bessler spoke of the camps and facilities that are named after our fallen Heroes and the sacrifice they have made for the people of Afghanistan and the United States. They are not heroes because they died but, because they were willing to put their selves in harm's way to help another human being and to do what is right.

The role was called for the service members who had fallen since the last Memorial Day service. As each name was read the impact of their sacrifice is felt by those they left behind and those who must

continue the mission so they will not have died in vain.

When I awaken each morning until I retire, my first and last thoughts are of the young soldiers that I lead and of my responsibility to make sure they are prepared and vigilant as they go on each mission and to do what I am able to ensure their names are not read at the next Memorial Day service.

I also am reminded of the sacrifices of the many people back home who continue the mission while we do our duty. Deployments are not just endured by members of the Armed Forces serving in foreign lands. Family, friends and co-workers must experience the absence and hardships of deployment. Although not conveyed as often or with as much compassion, the many voids that are filled by our families, friends and co-workers are an invaluable blessing and should be recognized.

I myself must give thanks to GOD first for granting me courage and guiding me as I

lead my soldiers through this deployment.

My wife Cassandra and son Nick who bless me every day and inspire me to be a better person, my Parents Lee and Sharon for their undying support, my family and friends who make the everyday happen for my wife and son, The Parkland College family for their patriotism, My fellow officers for fighting the good fight and putting their selves in harm's way, the blessed people of St. Peter's United Church of Christ and Long's Chapel Church for the inspiration to keep going, Last but not least the children of Middletown Early Childhood Center, you are why we do this.

You are all the cornerstone of strength that keeps to me strong until my mission is complete.

This Memorial Day and every-day you are not forgotten. SSG David B. Wentz NCOIC LTF ARSIC WEST Herat, Afghanistan

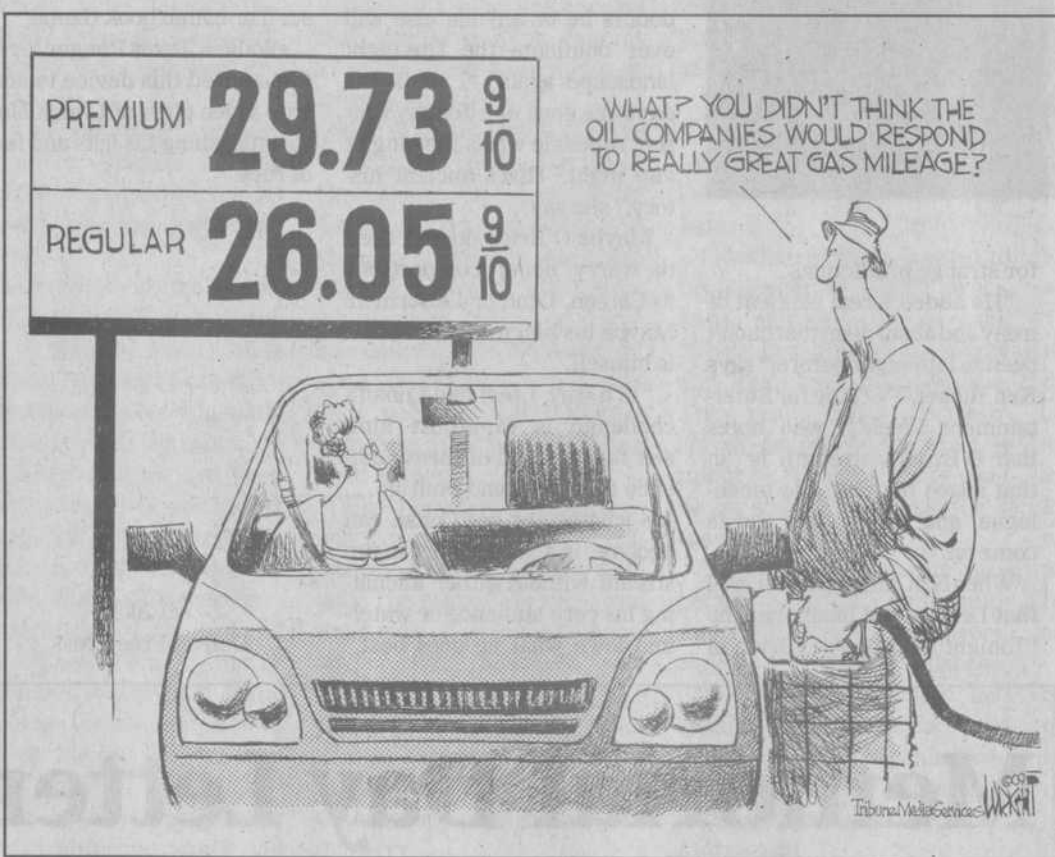
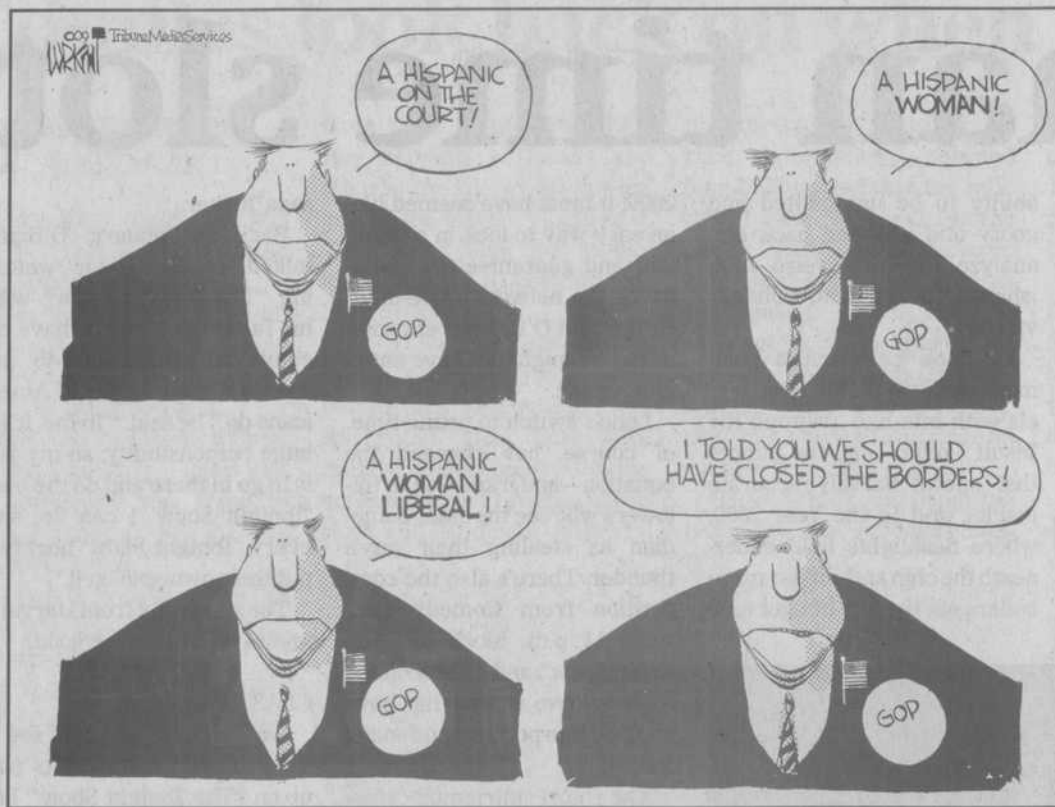


No matter what your personal and professional goals are, the School of Continuing Education at Eastern Illinois University can help you reach them.

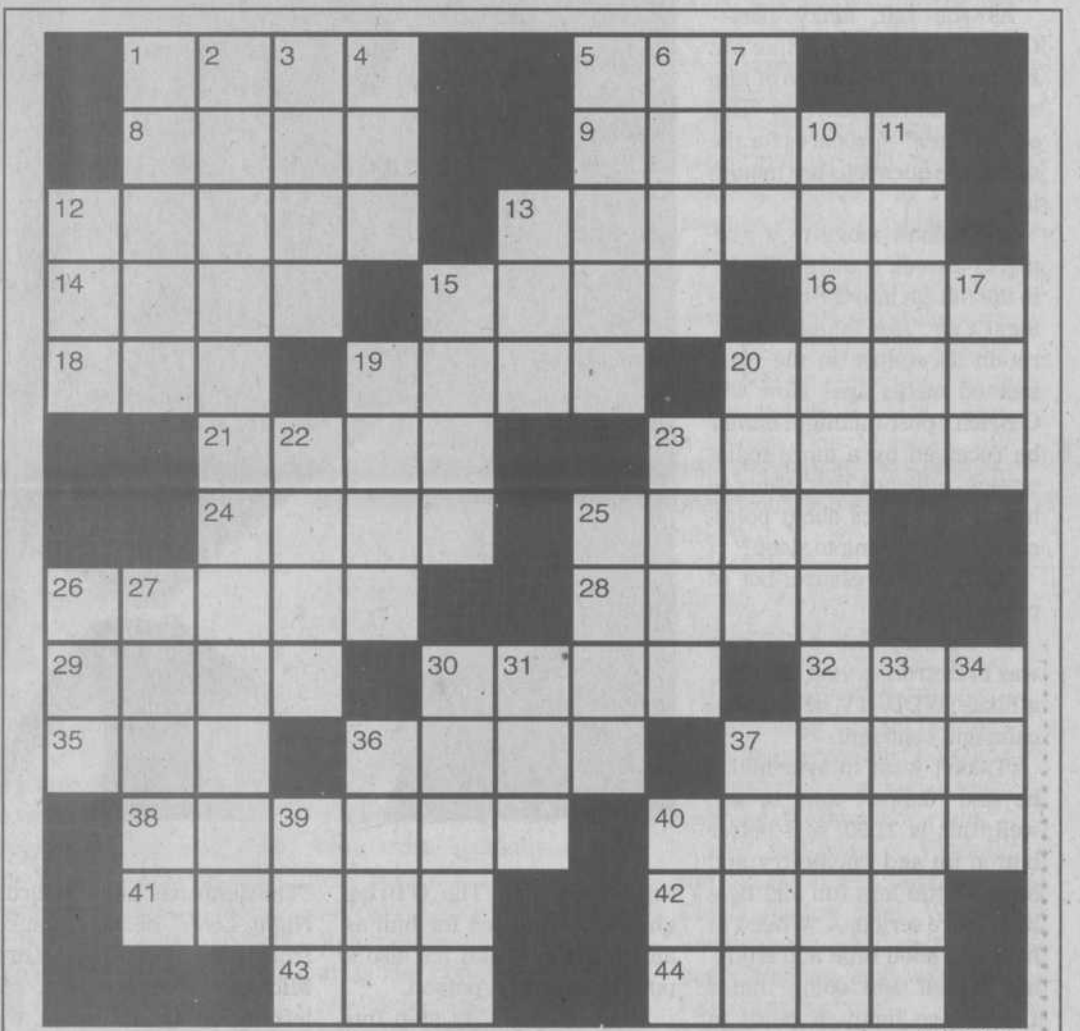
Summer classes are available in May at Parkland College and online. Call the EIU Center at Parkland at 217-351-2543 for more information about this exciting next phase of your life, or e-mail us at eiuparkland.edu.



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- 5/31/09
- ACROSS**
- 1 Adams or Falco
 - 5 "CSI: NY" role
 - 8 Cabin pieces
 - 9 1996 role for Madonna
 - 12 Jay's family
 - 13 Word with card or report
 - 14 Med. school course
 - 15 "___ Wide World of Entertainment" (1973-76)
 - 16 Actor on "The A-Team"
 - 18 "The Sleepy Time ___"; 2001 Jacqueline Bisset movie
 - 19 "The ___ Body"; 1967 Sid Caesar/Robert Ryan film
 - 20 Ending for party or movie
 - 21 Martin, for one
 - 23 Actress Sagal
 - 24 Small oin
 - 25 "I'm ___ Her"
 - 26 Character on "The Simpsons"
 - 28 "The Big ___" (1996-97)
 - 29 Word of lament
 - 30 Entertainer/composer Rick ___
 - 32 "The 5 ___ Buchanans"
 - 35 Like, Maynard G. Krebs-style
 - 36 Columbo's portrayer
 - 37 Actor on "Law & Order: SVU"
 - 38 2009's "True ___"
 - 40 1999-2004 fantasy drama series
 - 41 Ridiculous
 - 42 West and others
 - 43 Wall and Sesame: abbr.
 - 44 "If Ever ___ You Again"; 1978 Jimmy Breslin movie
- DOWN**
- 1 Actress Verdugo
 - 2 Role on "Law & Order: SVU"
 - 3 "___ You Babe"; 1965 hit song
 - 4 Suffix for host or count
 - 5 "___ Point" (1998-99)
 - 6 Pennsylvania and 5th: abbr.
 - 7 1961 Charlton Heston role
 - 10 Role on "NCIS"
 - 11 "___ Grows in Brooklyn"; 1945 Dorothy McGuire movie
 - 12 Fail to keep up
 - 13 Lesley Stahl's employer
 - 15 Em or Bee
 - 17 "___ Seventeen"; 2002 Elijah Wood movie
 - 19 Cause of misery
 - 20 Gangsters' pistols
 - 22 Neurological tests, for short
 - 23 Optima and Spectra
 - 25 "Worst ___"
 - 26 "___ About You" (1992-99)
 - 27 "Her ___"; 1989 Tom Selleck movie
 - 30 Social appointments
 - 31 Actor Ron
 - 33 Actress on "Touched by an Angel"
 - 34 Missouri airport letters
 - 36 "Mr. Candid Camera"
 - 37 Claire and others
 - 39 Digital camera batteries, usually
 - 40 "Who ___ This Time?"; 1982 Susan Sarandon movie
- Solution to Last Week's Puzzle**
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After a few dry days in a row, the Agriculture program's student workers were able to begin planting a very special plot located on the west side of Parkland's campus. Jonah Cooley, Andrew Harrison, Tina Mink, Danny Pfoff, and Kirsten Spitzner spent the day planting corn, the old-fashioned way – by hand. They are being supervised by Professor of Agriculture, Larry Thurow.

For the second year, the Agriculture Program is partnering with Monsanto to establish demonstration plots for several of their corn and soybean seeds.

The plot, which is slightly smaller than 1/10th of an acre, will be more than a garden full of corn and soybeans. It will be a plot with an international scope. The 2009 History of Corn Demonstration will include Columbia Narino, Peru Amazonas, Temperate Mexican Dent, Brazilian Early, and Brazilian Second Season. They will share space with American historic corns – Hickory King, Longfellow and Lancaster Surecrop. All are varieties considered to be Heirloom corns.

Along with the 2009 History of Corn demo plot, a History of Soybeans plot is being plowed and planted this week. It will highlight a variety of soybeans that are processed into widely used products throughout the world. Although soybeans are a crop that has been grown for centuries, and were introduced into the United States as feed in the mid-Nineteenth Century, it wasn't until 1911 that they began to be processed for human use. This plot will showcase twentieth century varieties.

A third plot will be a Monsanto Corn Genetics Demonstration. A select number of the company's current hybrids will be grown, along with each hybrid's "parents" and "grandparents", showing the three-way cross method of producing hybrids.

The Monsanto Technology Showcase will run throughout the summer. The plots will be a highlight of the event. Thurow predicts that Parkland will host 400 – 500 farmers, retail agriculture seed salespeople, and Monsanto executives on campus.

Credit reform

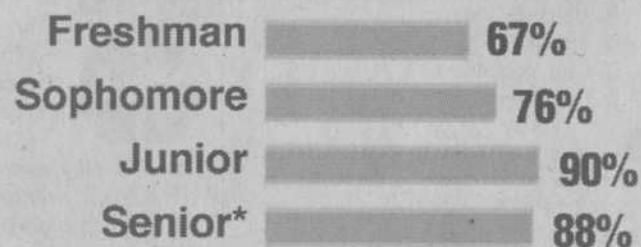
New legislation that awaits President Barack Obama's signature will make it harder for college-aged students to get credit cards.

Too young for a card

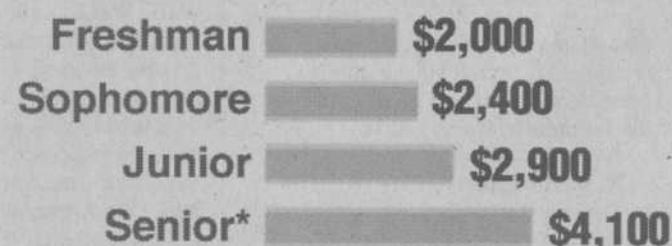
- People under the age of 21 will have to get an adult's signature or prove they can pay off debt

Card ownership

Percentage of students with credit cards, 2008



Average credit card debt 2008



Other restrictions

- Customers must receive 45 days notice of higher rates
- Accounts must be at least 60 days late before raising rates on existing balances

*Includes 5th years © 2009 MCT
Source: Sallie Mae Graphic: Melina Yingling

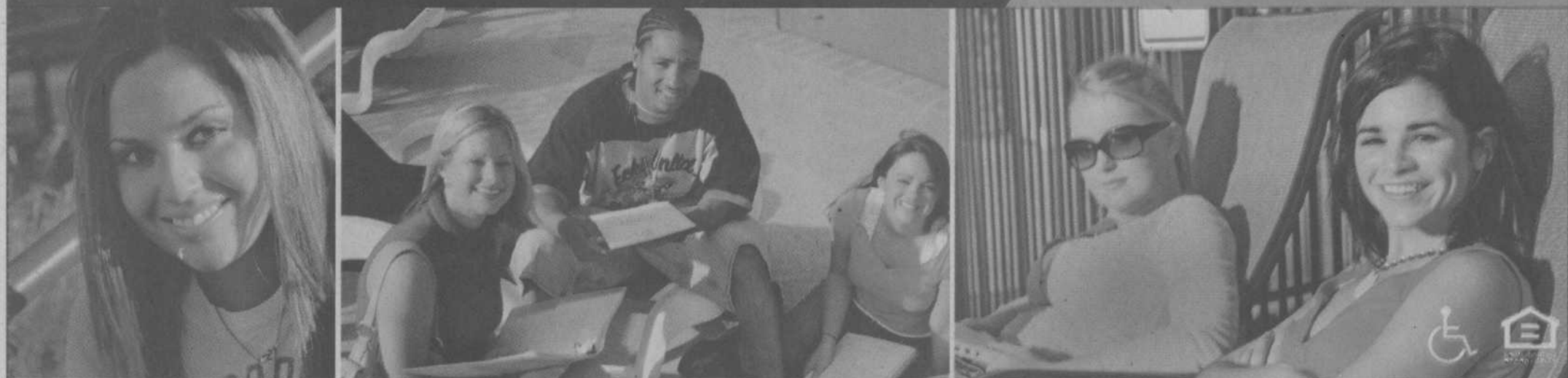


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HOLLYWOOD HEROES

How much do you know about these military celebrities?

1. Which star of the World War II movie classic, "The Great Escape," served in the military security detail as a Marine who guarded President Harry S. Truman's yacht named "Sequoia"?

- A. James Garner
- B. Charles Bronson
- C. Steve McQueen
- D. James Coburn

2. What pioneering black actor joined the U.S. Army during World War II, then faked insanity to get out of it when he became disillusioned after working as a psychotherapy aide at a military hospital?

- A. Harry Belafonte
- B. Sidney Poitier
- C. Paul Robeson
- D. Bill Cosby

3. Name the Academy Award-winning actor who, when serving in the Army Air Corps, flew more than 20 missions over Germany as a bomber pilot.

- A. Bob Hope
- B. Charles Durning
- C. Lee Marvin
- D. James Stewart

4. Name the "tough-guy" actor who served as an aircraft gunner during more than 25 bombing missions against the Japanese in World War II.

- A. Charles Bronson
- B. John Wayne
- C. Clint Walker
- D. Donald Sutherland

5. What leading man of a legendary western television series landed in Casablanca as an Army soldier during World War II?

- A. Gene Barry
- B. Hugh O'Brian
- C. John Wayne
- D. James Arness

6. Which movie director earned honors while serving in the Vietnam War before winning three Academy Awards?



The director in Vietnam.

- A. Francis Ford Coppola
- B. Oliver Stone
- C. Steven Spielberg
- D. Mike Nichols

7. What seductive actress helped invent the communications technology used in radio-guided torpedoes that aided the U.S. combat effort during World War II?

- A. Lana Turner
- B. Hedy Lamarr
- C. Veronica Lake
- D. Rita Hayworth

8. What former Navy veteran-turned-actor used the GI bill to attend acting school after his honorable discharge? (Hint: His real name is Bernard Schwartz.)

- A. Larry King
- B. Clark Gable
- C. Tony Curtis
- D. Montgomery Clift

9. Name the iconic entertainer who helped liberate a Nazi concentration camp near Landsberg, Germany, during World War II, and later received encouragement regarding his singing ability from an Army officer who heard him sing in the shower.

- A. Tony Bennett
- B. Perry Como
- C. Bing Crosby
- D. Mel Tormé

SOURCES: MILITARY CHANNEL; MSNBC; HISTORY CHANNEL; IMDB.COM; FOX NEWS CHANNEL; AFRICANAMERICANS.COM; CNN; HISTORY INTERNATIONAL CHANNEL; "DUTY, HONOR, APPLAUSE: AMERICA'S ENTERTAINERS IN WORLD WAR II" BY GARY L. BLOOMFIELD; STAGIE L. SHAIN AND ARLEN C. DAVIDSON; "STARS IN KHAKI: MOVIE ACTORS IN THE ARMY AND THE AIR SERVICES" BY JAMES E. WISE JR. AND PAUL W. WILDERSON III; "STARS IN THE CORPS: MOVIE ACTORS IN THE UNITED STATES MARINES" BY JAMES E. WISE JR. AND ANNE COLLIER REHILL; "BLUE ANGEL: THE LIFE OF MARLENE DIETRICH" BY DONALD SPOTO

\$ome of them have won Academy Awards, Grammys and Emmys. Some served in combat; others simply served. They are entertainers and celebrity types who heeded the call from a democratic nation, and didn't need a red carpet to do so.

Can you believe iconic singer Elvis Presley was drafted into the Army, survived basic training in Texas, then served with the 3rd Armored Division in West Germany in 1958 during the Cold War?

Spencer Tracy, who became the first actor to win back-to-back Academy Awards (1937-38), left high school early to join the Navy during World War I. Stationed in Norfolk, Va., the entire time, he didn't experience combat.

And the irrepressible Desi Arnaz — who was born in Santiago, Cuba, and later moved to Miami as a teenager — was drafted by the U.S. Army in 1943 during World War II, completed boot camp but was barred from combat because of a knee injury. So Arnaz, an actor and musician before the war and later Ricky Ricardo on "I Love Lucy," instead worked with the USO (United Service Organization) in an effort to maintain troop morale and boost the spirits of the wounded. His signature moment during the war: having beautiful women deliver much-wanted glasses of milk to soldiers as they returned to the United States.

The following celebrity-military trivia quiz explores other entertainment personalities who served a greater cause in a variety of ways — often in the absence of applause, the absence of adulation and then the absence of the red carpet.

10. German-born actress Marlene Dietrich was said to have had an affair with which well-known general?

- A. Gen. George S. Patton
- B. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- C. Gen. Douglas MacArthur
- D. Gen. Erwin Rommel

11. What 5-foot-4 star served as a decorated paratrooper in the Pacific theater during the twilight of World War II?

- A. Martin Scorsese
- B. Mickey Rooney
- C. Edward G. Robinson
- D. Rod Serling

12. What well-known actor played the role of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in the made-for-television movie, "Ike: Countdown to D-Day," which aired during the 60th anniversary of the pivotal Normandy invasion?

- A. Telly Savalas
- B. Ben Kingsley
- C. Tom Selleck
- D. Ed Harris

13. What famous composer wrote patriotic songs while serving in the U.S. Army during World War I?

- A. George M. Cohan
- B. Andrew Lloyd Webber
- C. Irving Berlin
- D. Richard Rodgers

14. Legendary showman Bob Hope entertained U.S. troops abroad in every war from World War II to the Korean War to the first Persian Gulf War. What is Hope's real first name?

- A. Clark
- B. Robert
- C. Bernard
- D. Leslie

15. What Rhodes scholar-turned-singer-musician was an Army Ranger captain who volunteered to serve as a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War but was denied, and instead was offered a professorship at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point?

- A. James Taylor
- B. Jim Croce
- C. Dan Fogelberg
- D. Kris Kristofferson

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Elvis Presley at Ft. Chaffee, Ark.

Answers

1. C — The sometimes rebellious Steve McQueen, who served in the Marine Corps from 1947 to 1950, trained as an amphibious tractor driver in the frigid climate of Canada before being reassigned to Washington, D.C., in 1948. There, he was said to take pride in serving with the Honor Guard, whose duty was to provide security for President Truman's yacht.

2. B — According to his 1980 autobiography, "This Life," the Bahamian-raised Poitier, at 16, swore he was 18 to join the U.S. Army to escape the cold winters and his job as a New York City dishwasher. But his quest for a warmer climate as an Army serviceman didn't happen as he was relegated to a Long Island, N.Y.-based military mental hospital, where he felt soldiers were mistreated by the medical staff. Poitier later became the first black actor to win an Academy Award for a leading role ("Lilies of the Field" in 1963).

3. D — Col. Colonel James Stewart earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Croix de Guerre, the Air Medal and seven battle stars during World War II. All of this before he became George Bailey in the Christmas movie classic "It's a Wonderful Life."

4. A — Karolis Bucinskis, the Lithuanian name that later evolved into "Charles Bronson" on the silver screen, received a Purple Heart while serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II from 1943 to 1945. He served with a B-29 squadron based in Guam. Remember him in the "Death Wish" vigilante series and the war classics "The Dirty Dozen," "The Great Escape" and the "Battle of the Bulge."

5. D — James Arness, aka Marshal Matt Dillon of "Gunsmoke" fame, left Casablanca to join the 3rd Infantry for the invasion of Anzio in Italy. There, the 6-foot-6 Arness suffered leg and foot wounds from machine-gun fire, which affected his walking ability throughout his acting career.

6. B — Oliver Stone ("Midnight Express," "Platoon," "Born on the Fourth of July") received a Purple Heart after being wounded twice, and a Bronze Star for valor while serving in the Vietnam War from 1967-68.

7. B — Hedy Lamarr, an Austrian-born mathematician whose real name was Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler, learned military technology when accompanying her husband, an arms manufacturer, to business meetings. Lamarr, who starred in such films as "Boom Town" and "Tortilla Flat," migrated to Hollywood in 1938. She received an award from the Electronic Frontier Foundation for her high-tech efforts, which were a precursor to today's WiFi network.



In 1942, a U.S. patent was awarded to Hedy Kiesler Markey for a "Secret Communications System."

8. C — Tony Curtis served on a submarine from 1942 to 1945, and witnessed, through a pair of binoculars from the signal bridge aboard the USS Proteus, Japan's surrender in Tokyo Bay in '45. In 1958, Curtis was nominated for an Academy Award for "The Defiant Ones," a seminal socio-cultural movie in which Curtis demanded black co-star Sidney Poitier garner equal billing as himself on the marquee.

9. A — The Grammy- and Emmy-award winning Antonio Dominick Benedetto, who also is an accomplished painter, has been recognized for his duets with such eclectic stars as Stevie Wonder, k.d. lang, Plácido Domingo and Celine Dion.

10. A — Gen. George S. Patton, old "Blood and Guts" himself, reportedly even gave Marlene Dietrich a pair of pearl-handled pistols as a gift. According to her biography, "Blue Angel: The Life of Marlene Dietrich," "... members of Patton's staff — like his aide, Frank McCarthy, who produced the film 'Patton' — later confirmed that there was an intense affair between Dietrich and the general..."

11. D — Rod Serling, who also was a boxer, received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star during combat while serving from 1943 to 1945. He also received the World War II Victory Medal and American Campaign Service Medal, among others. And, remember, you are entering "The Twilight Zone."

12. C — Tom Selleck was stellar in his role as Gen. Eisenhower in 2004. Selleck, the 64-year-old Emmy-award winning actor, recently has been a spokesman for a traveling museum honoring Vietnam War veterans. Selleck was quoted as saying, "That war taught the American people a lesson that we can and we must honor our warriors, no matter what our feelings about the war."

13. C — The incomparable Irving Berlin (birth name Israel Isidor Baline), who was born in what is now Belarus, initially wrote "God Bless America" during World War I while stationed at Camp Upton in Yaphank, N.Y. Most of us remember him for the yuletide classic, "White Christmas."

14. D — Bob Hope's real name is Leslie Townes Hope. He died in 2003. President Franklin Roosevelt would not allow either Hope or Bing Crosby to actively serve in the military because he wanted them to entertain U.S. troops. Thanks for the memories.

15. D — Kris Kristofferson, who completed Ranger School, Airborne School and Flight School, wanted so badly to serve as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam he resigned from his position as an English literature professor at West Point. Kristofferson, whose father was an Air Force general, was named Veteran of the Year in 2002 by the American Veteran Awards.



Clockwise from left: Dorothy Lamour and Bob Hope in "Caught in the Draft," Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh in "The Perfect Furlough," Air Force Col. James Stewart and Irving Berlin.