



Ed McMahon, Farrah Fawcett, MJ, Billy Mays, oh my!

...tribute to MJ on page 7



Taste of C-U in review: Layman's Awards page 6
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Heartwarming G.E.D. story page 3



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Prospectus News

A student produced publication since 1969

Wednesday, July 01, 2009

Vol. 01 No. 32



Entertainment by explosion

■ A look at Fourth of July celebrations in the surrounding areas

By AARON GEIGER
Editor

Independence Day has a special place in the Midwest, and especially so in Champaign-Urbana and the surrounding townships. The farming communities have long been a source of patriotic pride, churning out soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and coasties to serve our country. The hard-working men and women of the Midwest have kept a lot of American products, well, American. And during the Fourth of July celebrations, it's apparent that people here love their freedom and way of life.

One of the wonderful perks of living in the area is having the choice of visiting a number of cities, towns, and villages for a hometown holiday feel worthy of a feature movie. From fireworks to fresh produce, tea parties, peace parties, service member celebrations, parades, music, and home cooking, east central Illinois is a magnificent place to experience something new or traditional this holiday.

Here are just a few highlights that occur on or around Independence Day. Enjoy your holiday, and be safe!

—Eat to the Beat at West Side Park (July 3, 12 p.m.) featuring Nathaniel Seer (acoustic). Come to the West Side Park Bandshell with a sack lunch and sit in the shade under the gazebo.

—The Champaign Park District's historic theatre, the Virginia, will feature Ice Cream

and Independence: A Live Radio Show (4 p.m.-7 p.m., 7 p.m.-10 p.m., Friday, July 3, \$16 adult, \$14 student/senior, \$8 child) – celebrating Abraham Lincoln and featuring pre-show Civil War Re-Enactors and displays, the Concert Band of Illinois, Civil War Band instruments, and free Cold Stone ice cream.

—Tired of the war? Go to West Side Park on the Fourth of July to eat some free vegan/vegetarian food, which is actually served every Saturday by Food Not Bombs. West Side Park is located at the corner of State and University.

—Tired of taxes and the economy? Go back to West Side Park the day on the 5th of July for an all-volunteer resurgence of the Tax Tea Party that we last saw on April 15. Bring your patriot gear, signs, and tea, and visit between noon and 2 p.m.

—Always a small town staple with big festivities (and get away from that Champaign fireworks traffic!), Rantoul's Fourth of July celebration starts at 8 a.m. with a 5K Freedom Run/Walk at the aquatics center. At 10 a.m. the Freedom Parade starts, going from Maplewood Drive to Route 136 to Fredrick Street and ends at Wabash Avenue. At high noon go to Wabash Park for "Day in the Park" and enjoy baseball games, bandstand entertainment, and food. At 7 p.m., go back to the aquatics center for a live concert and food, and pick your seat for the fire-



works display, which will get underway as soon as the darkness settles in.

—Beautiful little Paxton is celebrating Ford County's Sesquicentennial at Pell's Park. Admission is free, and there will be a lot to do for the family. Eat in the shade under the pavilions, and let the kids run wild at the playground. Take a walk through the scenic downtown area, and experience a throwback to an era that is disappearing in the modern world.

—For only \$1, go to the Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve just north of I-74 in Mahomet for "Light Up the Lake." Boating opens at 1 p.m., food concessions and children's events start at 3 p.m. Music in Motion has performances at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. The park service will pay tribute to service men and women, after which they "light up the lake." Donations will be accepted.

—Monticello has a wonderful accent to the holiday...take the train from the Monticello Wabash Depot in the historic downtown district and ride it into the park for the fireworks show! Concessions will be served to the hungry. The cost is \$10 for adults and seniors, \$8 for kids, and tots under two are free. Please take note that train tickets go fast, and reservations are usually the only way to get on board.

—Guess what? There's something on the fourth for the punk rockers, too. Head to 700 W. Illi-

See **Fireworks** on page 3

It's time to blow \$%#!# up!

■ But first a word from a pyrotechnics expert...

By PATRICK WOOD
Assistant Editor

It is now fast approaching the time of year that many Illinoisans make the journey to the closest neighboring state for one of the most popular entertainment devices of the summer—fireworks. But even as throngs of people scramble to get their hands on their favorite colored Roman Candles, the longest roll of firecrackers they can find, and those forever-classic sparklers, they forget one very important thing: fireworks are not toys and treating them as such can wield severe consequences.

According to the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC) Web site, "typically 60% of injuries from fireworks in the United States occur in the months surrounding the July 4th holiday" and results from a study conducted between June 18 and July 18, 2005 showed that firecrackers (26%), sparklers (17%), and rockets (17%) accounted for most of the injuries seen in emergency departments.

Texas native Lewis Hunnicutt has been a professional pyrotechnician for almost 10 years, having worked in his home state under Pepper-Head Pyrotechnics, Inc. until this year. In 2008, Hunnicutt worked for Walt Disney World

as an Entertainment Technician, which involved working on the Wishes fireworks display at Disney's Magic King-

dom. This year he is shooting position from an assistant to the being the person in charge

tor. He has designed, directed, and help set up pyrotechnic shows, and has worked every on site. "Yes," he said, "I've almost been killed several times...it's very dangerous."

nicutt so that he could elaborate.

Prospectus: Where did you grow up and how did you get

Hunnicutt: Well, I grew up in Royse City, Texas which is a small town about 30 miles east of Dallas. I'm a naturally creative person. I play in my own Metal band, Coilback where I do vocals and guitar (and the songwriting), I'm an artist, and I've even worked in some filmmaking. I've always loved the way you could "perform" with fireworks and loved putting on a show. My first experience "putting on a display" was at a local marina where they had bought a bunch of stuff from a stand and wanted to put on a display of their own (the owners). I helped and coordinated the fireworks. Everyone loved it. It was a great feeling knowing that all these people were watching your performance and enjoying the experience.

Prospectus: So what kind of license do you have to have to do the work that you do?

Hunnicutt: I'm licensed in Texas under two different licenses: Pyrotechnics Operator, which allows me to do the larger "4th of July" style aerial displays and Special Effects Operator, which allows me to do smaller up-close stuff like concerts, movie effects, and closer 4th of July type stuff (like things that are shot inside stadiums and such).

Prospectus: What did you have to do/go through to get your license(s)?



Pyrotechnics expert Lewis Hunnicutt rigs some fireworks for an event.

Photo courtesy of Lewis Hunnicutt

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See **Safety** on page 3

Prospectus

The Prospectus is a student publication, and is published weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters, intermittently in summer. To contact the Parkland Prospectus:
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 U.S. mail: Parkland College, Room X-155, 2400 W. Bradley Ave., Champaign, IL 61821.
 URL: <http://www.prospectus-news.com>

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Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

LEAD STORY

Terrorism Gets Pizzazz: A physical fitness video, purportedly made in April by a U.S.-based al-Qaida operative, gives workout tips to jihadists, urging that they "train as hard as possible" to inflict maximum damage on "the enemies of Allah," according to an ABC News report. Exercises such as crawling long distances on hands and knees are demonstrated by people in flowing robes. The narrator discourages using gyms and fitness centers because of the "un-Islamic" music and "semi-naked" women. And a video released in May, purportedly from al-Qaida in Somalia, features an English-speaking rap singer making a recruitment pitch to U.S. and European youth, including such verses as: "Mortar by mortar / Shell by shell / Only going to stop / When I send them to hell."

Can't Possibly Be True

—When a son, angry that his father had ordered him to clean up his room, screamed at Dad and threw a plate of food across the dinner table, Dad called 911. The son is 28-year-old Andrew Mizsak, who lives rent-free with his parents in the Cleveland suburb of Bedford, Ohio, and is a member of the Bedford School Board (and whose mom is a city councilwoman). After police arrived, the habitually untidy son apologized and, according to their report, "was sent to his room to clean it. He was crying uncontrollably." Subsequently, the school board punished Andrew by removing two of his duties.

—When courts in Nashville, Tenn., get too backed up, a local tradition allows judges to appoint well-known local attorneys to act as "special judges" to help clear dockets. According to a month-long investigation by WTVF-TV, broadcast in April, it appears that at least some of the "special judges" used their power largely to dismiss speeding tickets, including at least one instance of a lawyer's dismissing his own client's ticket. The station found that of almost 1,800 speeding tickets dismissed by courts during the time investigated, 1,300 were by the "special judges."

—The U.S. Air Force has spent an estimated \$25 million training combat pilot Lt. Col. Victor Fehrenbach but is about to discharge him involuntarily because he is gay. Born of military-officer parents, Fehrenbach has earned 30 awards and decorations, with tours flying F-15Es in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, and was one of the elite fighters called on to patrol the air space over Washington, D.C., on Sept. 11, 2001. Also about to be discharged solely for being gay is Army infantry officer Daniel Choi, a West Point graduate and Arabic speaker, who would be (based on a 2005 Government Accounting Office report) at least the 56th gay Arab linguist to be dismissed from the U.S. military since the first terrorist attack on the World

Trade Center in 1993.

—In September 2003, Lisa Strong was hospitalized for a kidney stone, which was not treated properly, and by the time the result, massive, life-threatening infections had been dealt with, both her arms and both her legs had been amputated. She filed a lawsuit against the doctors in 2005, but in May 2009, a jury in Broward County, Fla., somehow could not find any fault at all by doctors. (An incredulous Judge Charles Greene reversed the verdict, dismissed the jury and ordered a new trial.)

Unclear on the Concept

London's celebrated high-end restaurant Nobu still serves a bluefin tuna entree for the equivalent of about \$51 but is apparently ashamed that it has a fresh inventory ready to carve, according to a May report in the Daily Telegraph. Printed on the menu is this advisory: "Bluefin tuna is an environmentally threatened species—please ask your server for an alternative."

Inexplicable

—They're Studying What? Where? (1) Doctors and specialists from the New York Psychiatric Institute are in the middle of a two-year investigation, on a \$400,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), on why gay men have risky sex in Argentina. Researchers visit gay bars nightly in Buenos Aires and question men about their behavior and substance abuse. (2) Wayne State University (Detroit) researchers, operating on a \$2.6 million NIH grant, are now "training" prostitutes, to reduce the women's willingness to engage in risky sex. However, the training is taking place in Guangxi province, China.

—Challenges of Geography: (1) In March, China's Minister of Railways, Liu Zhijun, acknowledged that the government has plans for a rail line connecting Beijing and Taipei, Taiwan (which would involve traversing the Taiwan Strait, which is 108 miles across at its narrowest point). (2) The Czech Republic newspaper Lidove Noviny reported in May that, as late as 1975, the communist government of Czechoslovakia was actively planning to dig a tunnel from that landlocked country underneath Austria and the part of Yugoslavia that is now Slovenia, to give it rail access to the Adriatic Sea, 250 miles away. It is not known what the Austrians and the Yugoslavs thought of the idea.

Fine Points of the Law

Kerry Fenton's pub, The Cutting Edge, in Worsbrough, England, initially complied with the 2007 Smoking Act, which prohibits lighting up inside. However, since smoking research is generally carried on indoors, "research" was exempt from the law. Fenton ultimately renamed part of the bar the

Smoking Research Centre and allows patrons to smoke provided they fill out questionnaires about their habit. So far, according to a May BBC News report, neither Britain's Home Office nor the local Barnsley council has intervened.

The Aristocrats!

(1) Timothy Martin, 44, was arrested in Federal Way, Wash., in May for felony indecent exposure after he was spotted standing partially nude with a string attached to his penis and, according to police, apparently "manipulating it with the string like a puppet." (2) Two workers at Yellowstone National Park were fired in May after being caught on surveillance video urinating into the Old Faithful geyser.

Least Competent Criminals

—Police in Indianapolis charged Fifth Third Bank manager Dwayne Roberts, 31, with arson and theft after the failure of his scheme to cover up embezzlement. Police said that Roberts elaborately staged a fire inside a locked vault so that an undeterminable amount of money would burn up, thus perhaps covering his cash shortage. However, after Roberts had set the fire and locked the vault, he realized he had left his keys inside and could not re-open the vault or lock the bank's doors or drive home.

—Donny Guy, 31, was arrested in Hickory, N.C., in May and charged with burglary of the Captain's Galley Seafood restaurant in a caper caught on surveillance video. Guy was immediately a suspect because he lives in an apartment about 50 yards from the restaurant, and there were two paper trails from the restaurant almost to his front door. The video revealed that, in carrying away the two cash registers in the dark, the burglar failed to notice that the spools of paper in each machine had snagger on something in the restaurant and were unraveling with each step he took.

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Picnics on Ice

By **CHRISSE MCKENNEY**
Nutrition Columnist

The summer picnicking season is upon us. With the Fourth of July fast approaching after a series of salmonella scares, I think it is a good idea to review some of the basics of safe food preparation and storage. Reducing the risk of foodborne illness at a picnic is simple, just remember the USDA's four essential elements of food safety: clean, separate, cook, and chill.

Clean: Always wash your

kept cold in a cooler with ice. And speaking of ice...

Chill: Sue Summerville, a Food Safety instructor in the Business and Agri-industries Department at Parkland College has some great ideas to make keeping your picnic on ice simple and convenient. She recommends chilling your cooler before you load it up for the big event. Smaller coolers can be placed in the refrigerator overnight, and larger coolers can be filled with ice several hours in advance. You should drain any melted ice before filling the cooler with food. She also suggests putting



Anthony Burkert/Prospectus

hands before handling food, both during cooking and after food has been prepared. If you don't have access to soap and running water, liquid hand sanitizer is a great alternative. It is also important to wash fruits and vegetables, especially ones that have been in contact with soil, like melons. Slicing an unwashed melon can contaminate the fruit by transferring bacteria from the outer surface to the inside.

Separate: Keep raw meat separate from vegetables and prepared, ready-to-eat foods. If you are storing raw meat with other foods, be sure to keep the meat enclosed in separate containers or re-sealable plastic bags. Store the containers with the meat beneath other food to reduce the risk of contamination.

Cook: Cook food thoroughly to the correct temperature. A hamburger is done when the internal temperature reaches 160°F, or it is no longer pink in the middle. Chicken is done at 165°F, or when the meat is white all the way through and the juices run clear. Cook steaks to an internal temperature of 145°F, or until medium rare. If cooked food will be eaten hot, keep it hot (above 135°F). If the food will be eaten cold, chill it quickly and keep it cold. If food will be eaten within four hours of being heated to 135°F or within four hours of being cooled to 41°F (your fridge should be somewhere between 30-40°F), you don't need to worry about the temperature. (Take-out food should be eaten within two hours of purchase or chilled as soon as possible.) If all of the hot food won't be eaten within four hours, or you just want to be extra careful, food can be kept hot on the grill away from the direct heat of the coals. Cold food can be

your ice in re-sealable bags before placing it in the cooler. This allows the ice to lay flat on the bottom and keeps your food from going swimming in the melted ice water. Reusable gel ice packs are also a good option. My personal favorite, though, is her recommendation to freeze plastic bottles of water or other beverages before adding them to the cooler, being sure to leave enough room in the bottle for the frozen liquid to expand. That way your food stays cold, and you have a refreshingly cold beverage to enjoy with your meal.

Perhaps you are thinking, "But, all I want to do is take a sandwich and eat in the park!" Angela Fraser from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at North Carolina State University has some suggestions for food that doesn't need to be kept hot or cold to take along for an outdoor snack. She recommends taking peanut butter and jelly sandwiches; dried fruit and nuts or fresh fruit; unopened cans of fish, meat, or fruit; cakes; cookies; or crackers for a worry-free picnic.

Perhaps you are thinking instead that people lived without refrigeration and ice for thousands of years and ate food and were, usually, just fine. I have spent many summers working as a field biologist, carrying my lunch (which could range from a safe peanut butter sandwich to a potentially dangerous fried egg with rice and beans) with me in intense heat for 6-8 hours before sitting down to eat. I have always been just fine, too. Even so, it is better to be safe than sorry. Use the simple guidelines above, and you will only have to worry about protecting your food from the ants.

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“No matter what they say you can’t do, just try it” FIREWORKS

continued from page 1

By **PATRICK WOOD**
Assistant Editor

For Jodi Campbell-Hardwick, the choice to drop out of Atwood-Hammond High School was made after discovering that she was pregnant with twins at the age of 17. The year was 1998.

After putting her high school career on hold for her children, Jodi did attempt to go back to high school, but it just didn't work out. Then a decade later, her life dramatically changed.

On February 10, 2008 Jodi was involved in a car wreck that left her severely injured. She underwent numerous surgeries for her many injuries, and was hospitalized for a total of thirty-two days. When she was finally released, Jodi had two rods, eight pins, twelve screws, and a cross joint in her back. She was also now a partial paraplegic.

Jodi didn't let this discourage her however. She instead decided to earn her GED.

On June 10, Parkland honored 62 students with their earned Graduate Equivalency Diplomas, or GEDs. Campbell-Hardwick was one of them.

For some the GED is a chance to earn the opportunity to continue on to a collegiate level of learning. Those who have yet to attain a high school diploma

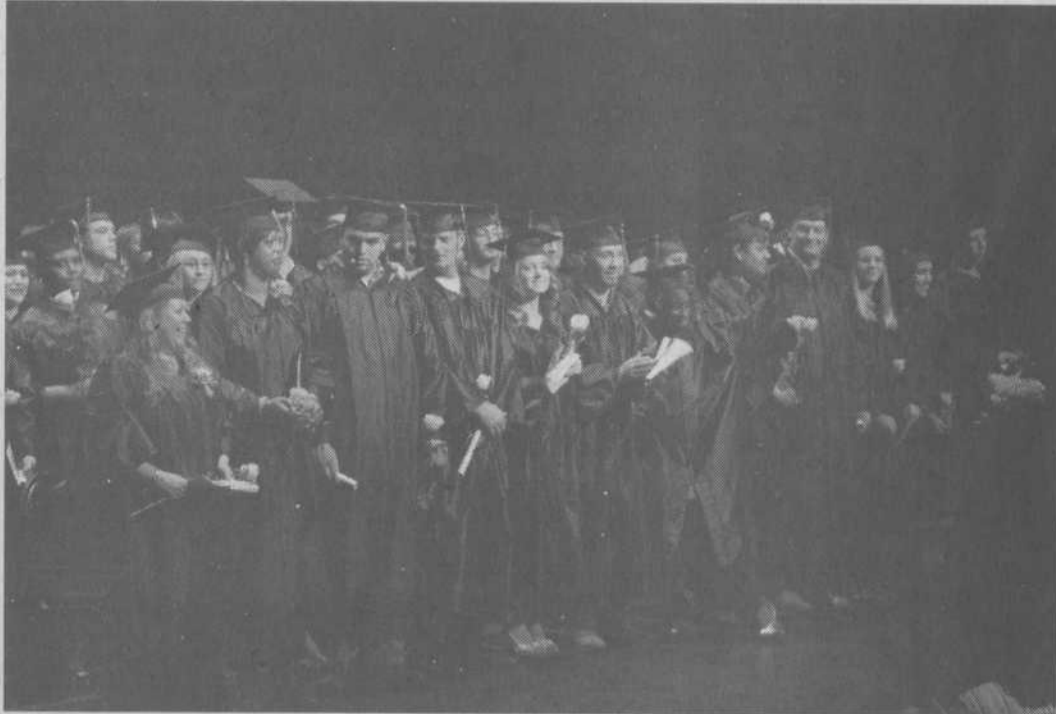
can take the GED to gain high school-level educational skills. Individuals that would benefit from taking the GED would

of my brain injuries, I wouldn't be able to pass the GED,” said Campbell-Hardwick.

With help from Tamara

Even with help from Covert, Campbell-Hardwick still faced many difficulties.

“Many times I would fail



On June 10, 2009, sixty-two students were honored by Parkland College for earning their Graduate Equivalency Diplomas.

Anthony Burkert/Prospectus

be anyone who was unable to complete their high school education, for whatever reason. Disinterest, poor grades, health issues, and a wide range of other personal problems are just some of the reasons that a person might drop out of school early on.

“Doctors said that because

Covert, an instructor and GED advisor for Adult Education at Parkland College, Jodi Campbell-Hardwick began to study for her GED pre-test and eventually, the test itself. Because she is still unable to operate a motor vehicle, Campbell-Hardwick had to do all of her GED work online from her home.

tests at the end of the lesson and I would cry,” she said.

But when Campbell-Hardwick took the GED pre-test, she passed with a 28/10 which was against the doctors' odds. With a score this impressive on a pre-test, Tamara Covert encouraged her to take the GED as soon as possible.

“What really stood out with Jodi is that she was so self motivated,” said Covert. “She has really impressed me because she was able to retain a lot of skills to work online that many students don't. She worked hard, and you can really tell that she wants to live, that she wants to work for things.”

Campbell-Hardwick did work very hard, passing the GED with 500 extra points. She has no intention of stopping there however.

“I'm going to try to take classes on campus, but if not I'll be doing it from home. It gets better as time goes by.” she added referring to her memory problems. “But it's still something that I struggle with daily.”

Hardwick-Campbell, who just turned 28, currently lives in Gibson city with her three children, twin 11-year-olds and a 5-year-old. She plans on attending classes at Parkland College during the fall semester for criminal justice. She hopes to eventually become a parole or probation officer after she finishes her college education.

She stresses to anyone that may be in a situation similar to hers to not give up so easily.

“No matter how hard it is in life, no matter what they say you can't do, just try it.”

nois St., Urbana, and watch the likes of Atrocity Solution, We Must Dismantle This!, Burninators, Van Buren Boys, and Kid Tim. The music kicks off at 9 p.m. and ends well after midnight. The show is billed as an Independence Day all-ages punk show. You should have time to play with the bottle rockets and have some great food before you blow your eardrums. Explosives and punk rock go hand in hand.

—And last, but certainly one of the best venues, come to Parkland's very own Dodds Field for a Fourth of July celebration! There's tons o' parking at Parkland, but here's a little hint: the traffic can be brutal getting out. The Prospectus News staff recommends that you a) carpool, b) park in the adjacent neighborhoods (respectfully, of course), or c) ride your bikes! There are no restrictions on ages, and the show is free. Vending and bathrooms are provided, as is entertainment. Come a little early — before 7 p.m. — and get a good spot on the lawn with a nice blanket or folding chair. And you've been warned about the traffic getting out of there. But we think it's worth it!



John Eby/Prospectus

Representatives of Community Colleges for International Development, Inc. (CCID) visited Parkland College on May 28. Executive Director, John Halder, and Dr. Patricia Keir who is a member of the CCID's board of directors, began their day meeting with international students, who are participating in the CCID exchange program. Currently, Parkland is hosting sixteen students from five countries — Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Turkey, and South Africa.

Included in the site visit was a tour of each department and a meeting with each department chair, a visit with International Admissions, the Parkland Library, lunch and afternoon discussions with the directors and staffs of participating Parkland programs. The idea of, and plans for,

an international exchange between community colleges were first developed in 1976. Information from the CCID web site indicates that approximately 170 community colleges are association members — 80% from the United States. Twenty percent of the membership is schools throughout Australia, Africa, Asia, Central America, and South America.

The organization's founding principles include: Responsibility to the student. Students need to know about other countries and cultures in order to make informed judgments about world events and their impact on their lives. Responsibility to the faculty. In order to teach students an international perspective, faculty must be knowledgeable and willing to incorporate this perspective in their teaching.

Community colleges should seek opportunities for faculty professional development through international education. Responsibility to the community. Community colleges seek to promote economic development within their districts. International trade offers this possibility. Community colleges can participate effectively in international development. Community colleges offer training in the skills that developing countries need to build an effective work force. This offers the college the opportunity for training contracts at home and in the client country. (from the CCID web site: www.ccid.cc/index.html)

SAFETY

continued from page 1

Hunnicut: Well, it's different from state to state, but in Texas, there's an apprenticeship type system. You have to work as an assistant on five, 1.3G (it's a classification of pyro, it's the “bigger” aerial stuff) before you qualify to test. Then, you need to study all the laws and regulations regarding the use, handling, and storage of explosives. After that, it's a written test (a different test for each license). If you pass, you get your license. Fail, and you have to come back and try again. And everyone has to go through a federal background screening through the ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, & Fire-

arms).

Prospectus: You said that you've almost been killed several times. Can you elaborate?

Hunnicut: Well, there were quite a few instances. One that stands out the most was when we were firing a show for a local marina for the 4th of July. We didn't have as much “escape room” behind us as I'd usually like because we were shooting off the shore of the lake. I positioned our shoot table (where we fire the stuff electronically) near where the bank of the lake sloped off. About halfway into the show, a five-inch shell (that's diameter measurement), which has enough explosive force to blow the axle off your car, lobbed out of the tube and arced right at us. I grabbed my shooter and threw him to the ground on the slope. I ducked and the explosive force blew over us. When we measured the impact after the show (yes, we got up and finished the show), it had landed about 15 feet from

where we were.

Prospectus: Can you tell us about some of the shows, concerts, and special occasions that you've worked on during your career?

Hunnicut: Well, my “bread and butter” so to speak are 4th of July displays. I've done them for various cities in the Dallas area. The highlight was the last year they had a 4th of July at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. We got to have a full light show on the field, had the whole second deck with a bunch of effects and fired two full trailers (normally we use one) worth of fireworks. It was one of our biggest displays. Concert wise, the best production we've done was for the Heartbreakers tour which was an Indian music concert. They had LOTS of effects and production. Of course, it was nice to be a part of the Wishes fireworks display at the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World, but that show is pretty basic, setup wise, so once you done it once, it's just repetition after that. The most fun I had getting to go somewhere to shoot fireworks was two weeks in England for Guy Fawkes Night.

Prospectus: Have you had a favorite or least favorite performance that you've done?

Hunnicut: My favorite job, just for the show content was the Cotton Bowl show I mentioned. Just because we

had enough budget, distance (important when plotting the size of shells and effects you can use), and freedom to create a really cool show. I got to design the whole stadium interior effects and edit the entire soundtrack for the show. Now, location wise, I loved working for Disney just because the Disney fireworks shows are such a big deal and you get a lot of recognition by the general public for it, but it's not as gratifying because you are just loading and spotting for it, really. You don't get any say in the creative end of it. Worse job would have to be the few hand-lit shows we've done. We normally fire electrically, but a couple of times we fired some small hand-lit shows to help fit it into the budget for an event. We hand light the fireworks by using a “fusee” (aka road flare) attached to a long stick. The reason for this is because with professional fireworks, there is NO delay on the fuses. As soon as they are lit, they fire. The fuse we use on them burns at approx 45 feet per second. Being most of the fuses aren't much longer than 2 feet—you can do the math. The reason it's the “worst” was because it's extremely dangerous and not very appreciated (since it's such a small show). We had a “cake” (firework device that has a lot of shots in one box) in one show that blew

in half and started firing at us. That was another time I almost got killed. Needless to say, we broke some land speed records that night.

Prospectus: Had any injuries from doing this kind of work?

Hunnicut: Knock on wood, not me. Most of our crew hasn't really gotten hurt at all. One of our guys in England suffered some minor burns and a broken hand (from landing on it when he was running away) when a device he was about to collect that didn't fire, fired late. The worst I've gotten is heat stroke one year from pushing myself too hard all day. The funny part was, despite it all, I went to Ozzfest the next day.

Prospectus: Around the 4th of July, a lot of people end up hurting themselves with fireworks. Is there any advice that you could give people about handling such things during the upcoming holiday?

Hunnicut: Don't do anything stupid would be the basic statement. Be aware of what you are firing and what is around you. Most fireworks these days have a description of what they do. Make sure if it fires in the air, that you have it on a level piece of ground and that the wind won't blow it somewhere dangerous. Most people get injured from doing something stupid like holding fireworks in the same hand they have their lighting device in,

or pointing fireworks at someone as a “joke.” Some of you might not be afraid to die, but you have to think of the fact that you might not die but get injured and lose a limb, vision, hearing or something else. Living with that would NOT be fun and isn't worth it. Don't try to take apart fireworks or “rig” them to do something they aren't supposed to. If you want to learn how to put on a display on an amateur level, contact one of your local pyro guys. If you want to help out with a professional 4th of July display, contact a company. Most places will require you to be 18 and be willing to undergo a background check by the ATF. It's a LOT of hard work and usually doesn't pay very good (until you get a license) at first, but if you really enjoy it, it will be worth it when you are right there as the fireworks shoot into the air. If that doesn't do the trick, just wait until you hear the crowd cheering at the end for a display you helped create. There's something about creating an event that creates such a great memory and impression for so many people. I guess that's why I keep coming back every year despite my best efforts.

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Obama uses two-pronged strategy in health care debate

By **NOAM N. LEVEY AND PETER NICHOLAS**
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama extended both a sharp stick and an olive branch to critics of his far-reaching plan to overhaul the nation's health care system Tuesday, openly ridiculing those who attacked his proposal for an optional government insurance plan but also leaving the door open to compromise.

The two-pronged strategy reflected the unique challenge Obama faces at this stage of the game as Congress begins the long, murky process of tackling one of the most complex and politically sensitive issues on the national agenda.

On the one hand, the president is working to keep his opponents from seizing control of the debate and throttling his initiative before it is fully formed. On the other hand, Obama is trying to keep his adversaries at the negotiating table in hopes of reaching a broad agreement.

In his news conference Tuesday, Obama threw the political equivalent of a brush-back pitch, all but jeering at critics who say his plan for a government insurance option would kill off the private companies that now supply coverage for a majority of consumers.

"If private insurers say that the marketplace provides the best quality health care, if they tell us that they're offering a good deal, then why is it that the government, which they say can't run anything, suddenly is going to drive them out of business?" Obama asked. "That's not logical."

So long as a public plan is not subsidized by tax dollars, he said, private insurers should be able to compete by making their programs more efficient and consumer-friendly.

And, in an effort to underline what's at stake for ordinary Americans in the often-arcaic and confusing battle over health care policy, Obama framed his proposal as the only way to break the cycle of ever-higher medical costs that is sapping the financial stability of families and the government.

But Obama coupled his aggressive counterattack with

a signal that he may be open to compromise. Twice side-stepping questions about his intentions, the president refused to rule out the possibility that he might sign a health care bill that did not include a public plan option.

"We are still early in this process," he told reporters at a midday news conference at the White House. "We have not drawn lines in the sand."

Obama's approach—reassuring his partisans while

around the country on Saturday aimed at building a political consensus behind a health care bill. The events will include blood drives, medical exams and sessions on nutrition.

Drawing lessons from the defeat of President Bill Clinton's health care push in the early '90s, when many believe opponents did a better job of mobilizing grass-roots activism, political operatives within the DNC are trying to personalize the health care issue by

sonalize a complex issue with Harry and Louise. We think there are powerful stories to be told that argue for health care reform," said Hari Sevugan, national press spokesman for the DNC. "Once you hear those stories, it demands reform this year."

The Obama initiative comes amid more signs of delays on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers continue to wrangle over the shape of gargantuan health care legislation being written

preliminary work on the legislation likely won't be completed before Congress leaves town this week for its 10-day July 4 recess.

Lawmakers, who had hoped to send Obama health care legislation by October, are still working to figure out ways to pay for legislation that is expected to cost at least \$1 trillion over the next decade.

There is also heated debate about whether to charge employers who do not to pro-

insurance market. Liberal Democrats are stepping up their efforts to ensure that the public plan is included in the legislation being developed on Capitol Hill.

This week, a coalition of progressive groups is rallying in Washington for the public plan, as are a liberal members of the House of Representatives in black, Hispanic and Asian caucuses.

Several centrist Democrats have indicated interest in pursuing alternatives to a government plan, including North Dakota Sen. Kent Conrad, who is working closely with senior Senate Democrats and Republicans on health care legislation.

"You can have the greatest plan in the world on paper. If it does not pass, nothing changes," said Conrad, who has championed the creation of health insurance cooperatives to compete with private insurers, rather than a government plan.

Durbin, who is closer to liberal Democrats in the Senate, also acknowledged the importance of GOP support for health care legislation.

"I still need some Republicans," he said, noting that Democrats had needed three Republican votes to pass the massive stimulus bill earlier this year. He said he was not sure that Democrats currently had the votes to pass a government health insurance plan.

Senate Finance Committee Max Baucus, who is leading one of the two Democratic health care efforts in the Senate, sounded a sanguine note Tuesday. "I feel much more hopeful and encouraged," he said.

And Conrad noted that lawmakers were making progress in containing costs by reducing the size of the subsidy that the government would give people to help them buy insurance.

But neither man would say when the negotiating would yield a bill.

(c) 2009, Tribune Co.



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks during a press conference June 23, 2009 in the Brady Briefing Room of the White House in Washington, DC.

Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press/(MCT)

still hinting at compromise—comes as he intensifies efforts to shape the escalating national health care debate.

The president, who last week both challenged and sought to appease doctors in a speech to the American Medical Association, will host a health care town hall meeting at the White House Wednesday evening, the second such event in the last two weeks.

He is also increasingly looking to mobilize his campaign army.

With organizational support from the Democratic National Committee, the president's supporters are holding events

highlighting stories of ordinary Americans frustrated with the health care system.

Fifteen years ago, the insurance industry was able to play on public fears about change with its famous "Harry and Louise" ads featuring a couple fretting about the government making their health care choices.

Now, Obama's campaign Web site urges people to share stories about their battles with the health care system. Supporters are also being encouraged to send letters to members of Congress.

"What opponents of health care did very well was per-

sonalize the health care issue by

That is feeding concerns in some quarters that the health care drive may bog down. It has also highlighted potential divisions within Democratic ranks.

In recent days, Democratic proposals have drawn fire not only from Republicans and industry critics but also from some moderate Democrats who are concerned about the cost of the overhaul and its potential to disrupt the current health system.

Tuesday, several leaders, including Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate, acknowledged that

vide health insurance to their employees and about how to structure a new government health insurance program.

On Tuesday, the insurance industry's two primary trade associations launched a new attack on the public plan proposal, saying in a letter to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., that it would have "devastating consequences on the health insurance coverage that employers and individuals have."

The charge marked the most direct attack from an industry that has tried thus far to appear supportive of the Democratic drive to reshape the nation's

Obama signs tobacco bill into law amid personal struggle

By **CHRISTI PARSONS**
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—Citing his own experience as a teenage smoker, President Obama on Monday predicted a tough new law giving the government expanded authority to crack down on cigarette marketers will help young people make the choice not to take up the habit he has struggled with for years.

As he signed the measure into law in a Rose Garden ceremony this afternoon, Obama said it would help stem the "constant and insidious barrage of advertising" that every year draws millions of teenagers into a lifelong struggle to quit.

"I know," Obama said. "I was one of those teenagers, and so I know how difficult it can be to break this habit when it's been with you for a long time." The new law gives sweeping power to the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco products. And it directly bans tobacco companies from using youth-oriented gimmicks like adding candy, fruit and spice flavors to cigarettes or using tobacco product logos and brand names in sponsoring athletic and entertainment events.

Nearly a quarter of high

school students in the U.S. smoke cigarettes, according to the National Institutes of Health. And people who start smoking before the age of 21 have the hardest time quitting, the agency reports. About 30 percent of youth smokers will die early from a smoking-related disease.

Flanked by lawmakers who have fought tobacco companies for years, Obama declared his signature on the bill represented a significant defeat for those who tried to hook young customers.

"Kids today don't just start smoking for no reason," Obama said. "They're aggressively targeted as customers by the tobacco industry. They're exposed to a constant and insidious barrage of advertising where they live, where they learn and where they play." Fifteen years after tobacco CEOs denied before Congress that nicotine was addictive or that they marketed to children, Obama said, "Their campaign has finally failed." Standing behind the president for the signing was Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who first summoned those CEOs to testify.

"Today," said Obama, "change has come to Washington."

For Obama personally, change is more elusive. He gave

up cigarettes as part of a deal with his wife, Michelle Obama, who wanted him to quit before he took on the rigors of a presidential campaign. He swore off cigarettes and started chewing Nicorette gum.

In recent weeks, though, aides to the president have tacitly acknowledged the president's nicotine habit isn't a thing of the past.

On Monday, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said he hasn't "probed" the president on the question.

"As he has told me," Gibbs said, "it's something that he continues to struggle with... like millions of Americans have." The new law creates a Center for Tobacco Products to oversee the science-based regulation in the United States. By October 2009, it will completely prohibit cigarettes that have candy, fruit, and spice flavors as their main flavors.

The bill also requires that tobacco companies:

—Fully disclose ingredients and additives. They will also have to send information to the FDA about the nicotine content of their products and the health consequences of using them.

—Stop targeting youth with their marketing campaigns. They won't be able to sell or give away clothing and other items with their logos, or dis-

tribute free samples of cigarettes.

—Quit using terms such as "light," "low" and "mild" to market their products, labels that may suggest the individual product carries lower health risks.

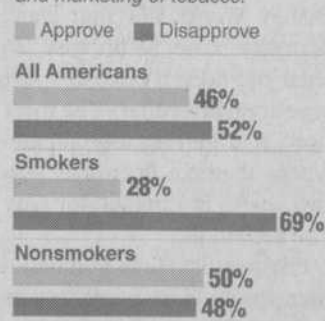
—Include warning labels that dominate the front and rear panels of their packaging. The FDA will develop regulations requiring particular graphics on labels to warn of the health risks of smoking.

(c) 2009

Tribune Washington Bureau.

Most don't like new tobacco law

Opinion of the new law expanding the U.S. government's power to regulate the manufacture and marketing of tobacco.



* 20% of U.S. adults say they smoked cigarettes in the past week, down from 45% in 1954

Source: Gallup poll of 1,011 adults, June 14-17, 2009; margin of error: +/- 3 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2009 MCT

Ex-Wilco member overdosed on painkiller, coroner says

By **GREG KOT**
Chicago Tribune/(MCT)

CHICAGO—Former Wilco member Jay Bennett died of an overdose of a painkiller, the Champaign County, Ill., coroner said Tuesday, and his office is investigating Bennett's death as an accident.

Tests showed Bennett died from fentanyl, often prescribed to treat chronic pain, said the coroner, Duane Northrup.

Bennett, who died May 24 at his home in Urbana, Ill., had posted a few weeks earlier on his MySpace site that he would need hip replacement surgery.

"A decade plus of multiple

nightly stage jumps and various other rock and roll theatrics had finally taken a toll that I could no longer merely deal with or ignore," he wrote, but added that he did not have health insurance to cover costs of the surgery.

Bennett was a multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and engineer in Wilco from 1994 to 2001, when he departed the band acrimoniously.

Bennett sued Wilco lead singer Jeff Tweedy in early May, claiming he was owed royalties for songs during his seven years with the group.

(c) 2009, Chicago Tribune.



Facebook: phenom or fad?

By SCOTT DUKE HARRIS

San Jose Mercury News

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Is Facebook a phenomenon—or a fad? Even as it has grown to more than 200 million users and become the global leader in social-networking Web sites, many people see it as just a nifty way for people to share information and images among far-flung friends and acquaintances.

But admirers say Mark Zuckerberg's 5-year-old startup is poised to fulfill hype as the next big thing—that it will power online social interaction the way Google drives online search. Facebook is aggressively moving beyond the home page to pursue its mission to become a "social utility" that helps people "connect and share."

To typical users, Facebook may seem a stand-alone Web site—a vehicle for people to renew and revitalize personal relationships, to post comments and photos, and perhaps play games. But more than 10,000 Web sites now recognize a service called Facebook Connect, which enables users to use their Facebook ID and password to move fluidly between sites where registration is required.

The service also adds new social functions to those other sites. For example, a YouTube who posts a video on YouTube can also share it via Facebook with a single click. And Facebook has global reach, having been translated into 50 languages, with 40 more in development, the company says.

Every new Facebook user, every "friend" added, every business that starts a page, every Web entity that recognizes Facebook Connect—all add to the critical mass behind Facebook's momentum. From a business perspective, the connections enhance the value of what Facebook calls the "social graph"—its ever-expanding map of human relationships—even while skeptics wonder about its ability to turn its popularity into profit.

How important is Facebook? Shouting over live rock at a recent Facebook party at a San Francisco nightclub, Mark Pincus, founder and CEO of fast-growing online game maker Zynga, likened it to Netscape, the browser startup that launched the dot-com boom in 1995.

Separately, Joe Greenstein, co-founder of Flixster, a site that lets film buffs share reviews and comments, suggested that Facebook Connect represents the 21st-century

upgrade of e-mail. If Google ignited the so-called Web 2.0 business era, Facebook may be ushering in Web 3.0, he said. The opportunity, Greenstein said, "is theirs to lose."

Those assessments attract sharply to some other notable perspectives. A year ago, Internet mogul Barry Diller elicited laughter at a business conference by dismissing Facebook as "a Princess phone"—a communications fad. Similarly, Rupert Murdoch, whose News Corp. empire includes Facebook rival MySpace, was once quoted as calling Facebook "the flavor of the month."

But while Facebook doubled its user base in the past year, MySpace has been slipping. While Facebook only recently surpassed MySpace in U.S. users—both have about 70 million each, according to comScore—Facebook appears far more successful in holding users' attention. A recent study by Nielsen Online found that the total amount of time Americans spent on Facebook in April increased to more than 233 million hours, a nearly 700 percent increase over April 2008. MySpace, meanwhile, endured a 30 percent decline.

In April, News Corp. hired former Facebook executive Owen Van Natta to take over as CEO of MySpace. This week,

Van Natta announced plans to cut about 400 jobs from MySpace's "bloated" work force.

Facebook's own lofty aims were underscored during a spring news conference where Christopher Cox, vice president of product, delivered a presentation that included a portrait of the communications theorist Marshall McLuhan, known for saying, "The medium is the message."

Cox said he thought of Facebook as simply a Web site for college students in October 2005, when he first bicycled from Stanford University to visit the startup's modest office in downtown Palo Alto. Facebook, which Zuckerberg famously founded at age 19 in his Harvard University dorm, was 20 months old then and lacked many features it has today. The startup had about 40 employees, including perhaps a dozen engineers. Cox, then 22 and about to start graduate studies in Stanford's artificial intelligence program, said he didn't consider himself a serious job candidate.

But as one of Facebook's top technologists started drawing dots and lines on a white board and talking about "the social graph"—the first time Cox had heard the term—he found himself transfixed by Facebook's ambitious vision. "Who do we

communicate with?" Cox said. "Who do we trust? This is the value Facebook is creating for people."

Cox soon withdrew from Stanford and joined the year-long project building Facebook's "news feed" that streams comments among Facebook "friends." Initially controversial, it's now a signature feature.

Facebook has grown to more than 800 employees and about 200 engineers, attracting a recent investment that valued the company at \$10 billion. In May, the operation vacated 10 offices in downtown Palo Alto to consolidate in a spacious building vacated years ago by Agilent Technologies. Other employees are scattered around the world.

Even as the globe has lurched into recession, the Facebook economy seems to be booming. In the two years since Facebook opened its platform to outside developers, more than 300,000 Facebook applications, or "apps," have been created—games, quizzes, digital gifts and more. The successful apps boost users' engagement with Facebook—sometimes called "stickiness"—but do not directly provide revenue.

Piggybacking on Facebook has been profitable for several startups. Zynga, which accord-

ing to some reports is raking in annual revenues of \$100 million with the poker game Texas Hold 'Em and other games, has grown from 45 employees to more than 250 in the past year, Pincus said. About "70 percent, perhaps 80 percent" of Zynga's growth, he said, could be attributed to Facebook.

Flixster's growth also illustrates Facebook's role as a driver of Web innovation. Founded in January 2006, Flixster.com? was attracting about 4 million monthly unique visitors when Facebook opened its development platform. Fearing competition, Flixster quickly built its own Facebook app. That app's traffic quickly surpassed visitors to Flixster.com.

More recently, Flixster built an app for Apple's iPhone—and it's activated via Facebook Connect. "It's the glue," Greenstein said.

The success of Facebook's development platform has inspired a trend: Google, MySpace, Twitter, Bebo, Yahoo and the Apple iPhone have all opened up to outside developers.

(c) 2009, San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)

Colleges expand summer sessions

By PATRICIA ALEX

The Record/(MCT)

HACKENSACK, N.J.—Summer session—once a relatively small piece of the academic calendar—is now a full-blown term for most colleges and universities, with more offerings, more students and more of an expectation that you can't graduate in a timely manner without it.

At Rutgers University's flagship campus in New Brunswick/Piscataway, N.J., there are more than 13,500 students signed up for 1,315 courses that run over three summer sessions from late May to the middle of August, said Liz Hough, director of the summer sessions.

The state university has one of the biggest summer schedules in the country and it has many permutations—three-week, four-week, six-week and 12-week courses. Some classes meet every weekday for three weeks; others meet every Saturday for 12 weeks. There are hybrid classes—a mix of online and traditional teaching.

About two-thirds of Rutgers students will take at least one summer course by the time they graduate, said Hough. "A lot of our students are working at least part time. So taking courses in the summer and winter help them keep on track," Hough said.

The summer and, to a lesser extent, winter sessions also

help schools keep up with the demands of a population bulge that has swelled enrollment and often made it difficult for students to register for the courses they need. New Jersey schools, for example, mostly enroll their own students at summer break, but also host some state residents who attend school out of state and want to catch up while home.

Even with the summer sessions, a minority of students are able to graduate in four years—only about a third nationally.

This year—with joblessness running high—more students have opted to stay in school over the summer break.

At Montclair State University, enrollment in graduate courses is up 8 percent—usually a sign of a bad economy that either has people retraining or unable to enter the job market. Rutgers has seen a jump this summer in the number of business professionals signing up for its mini-MBA programs, said Sandy Lanman, spokeswoman for the school. The students earn graduate certificates in areas such as bio-pharma.

"Any time you have people unemployed, it's almost inevitable, for public universities anyway, that you have more enrollment," said Stephen Hahn, associate provost at William Paterson University in Wayne.

He said that teacher training



Rafael Juliano, pictured June 6, 2009, is taking a summer class to finish his associate's degree at Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey. He's going to Brown in the fall.

Don Smith/The Record/(MCT)

and online courses at William Paterson are in heavy demand. The university is offering air-conditioned dormitory space

and has also discounted summer-session tuition and fees—\$275 per credit as opposed to the \$353 students will pay in

fall.

For the first time this year, Rutgers has allowed students to pay for summer classes on an installment plan. The school also offered a hundred \$500 scholarships for summer sessions.

As summer sessions have ramped up over the last decade, campuses have become way less sleepy, the dog days, with dormitories, dining halls and recreation centers generally running on a 12-month schedule.

"We're looking to build a sense of community," said Jamieson Bilella, director of the summer sessions at Montclair State. And, he said, flexibility is key. Like Rutgers, Montclair State is running a number of sessions of varying duration over the summer, and students can often register right up until the first day of classes.

The courses can be intense—the coursework that would be spread out over 15 or 16 weeks in a regular semester is compressed into six or even three weeks. "There's a lot more focus and more immersion," Hough said.

"There's a lot of studying, we cover four chapters in a day," said Eric Wahad, who is taking a three-week biology class in animal behavior at MSU. "We have an exam every week!"

But Wahad, a sophomore from Clifton, N.J., says he's happy for the chance to get

ahead on the credits he needs for graduation.

Many students use the session to finish off requirements at the end of their college careers. Even the best students can get caught short of credits as they eye the finish line.

Rafael Juliano of Hackensack, N.J., is making an incredible leap this fall—from Bergen Community College to Brown University. Juliano, who has worked while attending school, has always taken summer courses to make his credit load during the regular school year more manageable. (Bergen's summer session is at least 5.6 percent this year.)

Juliano has a 4.0 average, and a generous scholarship package awaits him at Brown. But he doesn't want to head off to the prestigious private school without that associate's degree from Bergen. So he is taking that one last class in statistics this summer.

"I'm having a bit of trouble getting too focused on it," he said. "It's summer and you tend to be more relaxed. But it's interesting and I think I can do well and keep my average."

(c) 2009

North Jersey Media Group Inc.

New program allows college graduates to cap loan repayments

By NICK PERRY

The Seattle Times

SEATTLE—Thousands of college graduates across the country will be able to get some relief from their student loan bills under a new federal program that goes into effect July 1.

The Income Based Repayment program allows graduates to cap their monthly loan repayments at 15 percent of their total income. The program will be particularly helpful to new graduates who have big loans and are enter-

ing a tough job market. For those with low incomes or children, required repayments are less—and in some cases, nothing at all.

The program encompasses federal loans that account for about two-thirds of all student debt. Private loans taken out by students and federal loans taken out by parents do not qualify. If students are already in default on their loans, they won't qualify for the program, either.

Nationally, about 60 percent of students who earn a bachelor's degree borrow at least some money, according to the

College Board. They graduate with an average \$23,000 in loans. On a 10-year loan, that equates to monthly payments of about \$260. For graduate students, the loans are much bigger—at the University of Washington, for instance, medical students who borrow end up owing an average of \$106,000.

Under the new program, a graduate earning \$30,000 a year would be required to pay a maximum of \$172 a month toward student loans. For someone earning \$40,000 a year, the payment would rise to \$297 a month. For someone

earning \$50,000, it would be \$422 a month.

One significant downside of the new program is that some students may end up paying more over time. That's because by paying less each month, they will extend the life of their loan, adding to the total interest payments. And while unpaid interest is written off for the first three years, after that, in many cases, it's added to the loan balance.

The good news is that, under the new program, anyone who makes their required minimum payments for 25 years will have any remaining loan

balance written off. That can be reduced to 10 years for those working in public service jobs—including state or federal employees, nonprofit workers and public health workers.

The program is open to people who have existing loans as well as new graduates. To apply, people need to contact the lender who holds their student loan.

"Especially in this economy, we need to give students options to repay their loans that don't break the bank," said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who supported the provision as part of the 2007 College Cost Reduc-

tion and Access Act. "By allowing income-based loan repayments we will give students a pathway to success before they are buried in debt."

ON THE WEB

Federal student aid:
www.studentaid.ed.gov

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The Seattle Times.

Taste of C-U layman's awards

By SEAN HERMANN
Staff Writer

The Taste of C-U, one of Champaign's biggest annual events, was back again for its 39th year and had the Champaign Park District hard at work, but not for what you would originally think. As severe weather blew through Champaign, cancelling the Taste Friday night, crews were hard at work early in the morning and steady into the afternoon to help clear out debris and get the Taste up and running once again on Saturday. They did a very good job and did indeed get the taste up and running once again for another successful year.

The Taste featured 27 different restaurant vendors, all of which were reviewed by a committee beforehand to ensure it was the best of its kind. Also featured were local bands as well as bands from around the Midwest who played on one of the two stages set up in the park. Another big attraction this year was the celebration of the Lincoln Bicentennial, which featured storytellers and music from the time period with Mr. Lincoln himself even making an appearance. More fun was added to the mix with new trivia games, inflatable castles, pony rides, and the sports zone, which left the kids occupied for hours. The arts section thrived this year as over 40 artists



Jon Bouvet/Prospectus

displayed their works for a crowd of all ages.

The proceeds from this year's taste went to benefit the Champaign Park District's Youth Scholarship Fund, which provides opportunities for youth who are unable to participate in recreational programs because of economic hardship. This all sounds great right?

But really, how good was the Taste of C-U this year? I created awards for both the good and the bad at the Taste this year and handed them out from either what I saw or heard from others about the taste this year. The awards are as follows:

Most Prepared Tent: Coldstone/Zelma's - Each of these vendors had a whopping number

of workers helping around the tent and had a plan for when that big rush came.

Fan Favorite: Junior's Burgers - Juniors had the biggest line for the most amount of time by far and had the best customer satisfaction from the looks on Taste goer's faces after eating a delicious slider.

Best Deal: Garcia's Pizza -

You could get a decent sized pizza and a nice cold drink for only four tickets while four tickets could get you just one item at most vendors tents.

Most Refreshing: Mahomet area Youth Club (sno-cone tent)/ Smoothie King - These tents provided a much needed frozen drink to cool off Taste goers in the ninety degree heat

and did the job while tasting great.

Scariest Attraction: Adrenaline Rush - This inflatable soared up over kids heads and featured a very large, high-speed slide to keep the kids on the edge of their seat and help wear them out by nap time.

Felt most sorry for: Guy that sells popcorn and other snacks out of his old-school maroon vehicle - This guy was just begging for customers and I think I only saw one person come up to him for the whole duration that I was there.

For Family: Junior's Burgers - Once again, Juniors claims an award as they had the widest variety of age groups waiting in line for a delicious slider.

For Adults: The arts corner - The arts corner featured over 40 artists works and were a home decorators dream come true. Sorry, to bore you, kids.

For Kids: Kid Zone/Dippin Dots - The kid zone featured numerous inflatable's, game shows, and anything else a kid could dream of while a nice cup of dippin dots helped cool them off after a rough day of playing.

The taste was definitely a success this year and kudos to the park district for putting everything back together after being rained out Friday night. Only one complaint though, could someone turn on the air conditioner next year?

The sun is melting my soul...

By CASSANDRA J. CUNNINGHAM
Staff Writer

Summer is here, and though that brings many blessings, it brings a curse, and that curse is called heat! With heat indexes reaching nearly 112 degrees in the last few weeks comes sunburn, dehydration, heat exhaustion and sometimes heat stroke. Though these things can be terrible, they are 100% preventable. Staying cool and keeping safe in the summer heat doesn't mean having to stay inside all day. There are

creative and fun ways to keep safe in the heat.

For the average Jane and Joe, follow the basic guidelines for summer heat: drink plenty of water, apply sunscreen throughout the day, and head inside when it gets to be too hot. But what about rules for diehard summer people? There are alternative ways to stay safe and have fun without having to head inside.

Water baseball is a fun way to beat the heat. Head to the backyard and make a baseball field with three bases and home plate. Get some Splash

water balls which are made of cloth and are made to absorb and hold water when dipped in a sink or a bucket, a bucket of water or pick an area near a water faucet, a plastic bat and a group of friends split into two teams. Dip the balls into the bucket or under the faucet and play a regular game of baseball with an added twist. The batter is sure to get soaked if the ball comes into contact with the bat and anyone who catches it will too. Before the end of the game everyone will be dripping with water instead of sweat!

Having a water war is another

great way to stay cool. Gather everything possible that holds water, balloons, buckets, water guns, splash balls, etc, pick a place where hiding spots are prominent such as the woods, a big backyard, or an empty park (bystanders not in the water war may not appreciate getting soaked), and play by teams or every man/woman for themselves. Have everyone break apart with their water device and go at it! There is no real ending or point, just get everyone or the other team as soaked as possible. It is a sure fire way to have a couple hours of fun

and keep everyone safe and cool.

Plan a water park day in the backyard. Grab some friends and have everyone chip in on a couple of cheap plastic kiddie pools and a Slip-N-Slide. (Slip-N-Slides and kiddie pools aren't just for little kids, they can be for grown-ups too). Everyone can relax with their feet in the pool and sliding down a Slip-N-Slide all afternoon.

And to make sure you stay completely safe in the heat, always make sure to follow the basic guidelines when conducting any of these activities

and anything else that requires being outside. Drink as much water as possible. Keeping the body hydrated is very important, especially if sweating. Apply the strongest sun block possible. The sun damages skin and can increase the risk of skin cancer upon excessive exposure. Sun block decreases the damage and keeps from getting a sun burn which can lead to sun poisoning and serious skin damage. And if it gets too hot, give it up and head inside until it starts to get cool again.

This recession is so bad not even sex sells

By JOHN BOUDREAU
San Jose Mercury News

SAN FRANCISCO—How bad is this recession? Even sex doesn't sell.

That's the glum assessment of those in the adult entertainment industry, hundreds of whom gathered last week for the annual Cybernet Expo conference in San Francisco. The industry, now a multibillion-dollar online business, has discovered that people just aren't willing to click-to-pay for vice the way they once did.

"Times are tough," Jay Kopita, director of operations for the expo, said with a sigh. "You'd think this would be recession-proof."

Turns out pay-per-view sex is just another sector struggling in the downturn.

In many ways, the three-day gathering that ended Saturday was like any other Silicon Valley conference. It was held at the Holiday Inn and featured sessions on contracts and social media, speed networking and lots of late-afternoon schmoozing over drinks. "Sometimes these can be boring," conceded Ella Black, a performer with girl-next-door looks who just launched her own "solo girl" site.

On the other hand, shop-

talk overheard in a hallway included the challenges of performing certain sex scenes. One popular seminar on shooting adult film featured a disrobing model. An after-hours party was held at fetish company Kink.com.

During day hours, at least, the focus was clearly on business. Indeed, attendees said the mood was more somber than the go-go pre-recession days.

"A lot of companies have cut back shooting. There are a lot of girls who have not worked in a month."

Cruz has seen her work schedule drop from 25 days a month to as few as five. "You would think porn would do better in times like this," the exas-

perated 24-year-old San Franciscan said.

Piracy is also cutting into profits with the proliferation

"The Internet is both a help and a hindrance," said longtime porn performer and producer Dave Cummings, who

as live Webcams, that can't be ripped off. "There is no incentive for a surfer to subscribe to a site unless you have some offering that is unique and can't be replicated on a tube site," Webber said.

More than anything, the Internet has made the adult industry more mainstream. Adult videos are still vilified by critics, but their stars are adored by autograph-seeking fans. Upon checking in at the expo, attendees, many of whom are eager to cloak their real identities, are asked what they want to be called on their name tags.

Some were soccer moms and dads. Model Black said she is a pastor's daughter. Cruz, who has a thing for whips and ropes, admits to being an inner geek—she designs Web sites

at night—and is a comic book fanatic. "I'm a dork," said the performer in short shorts.

Cummings, who at 69 is the oldest active performer in the industry, said he is a retired Army lieutenant colonel and once taught at West Point. He has since performed in more than 600 scenes.

"That's a lot of sex," he said.

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San Jose Mercury News
(San Jose, Calif.)



of "tube sites"—the YouTubes of porn where copyrighted video clips are frequently illegally uploaded. "We are being devastated by this," said Dick Webber, who operates a Silicon Valley-based Web site and who, like the actors, goes by a stage name.

expects his next movie, "Knee Pad Nymphs Volume 10," to fall victim to online thieves. "I'm convinced the first day it's out it will be a popular video to be stolen."

Many at the conference talked of altering business plans to provide content, such

ties, are asked what they want to be called on their name tags.

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Michael Jackson



The Jackson Family members from left, Randy, Tito, Jackie, Michael and Marlon.



1977



1993



2004

Below, from the original album cover to 1982's Thriller.

Michael Jackson

1958-2009

By PRESTON JONES
McClatchy Newspapers

*i*n the days, weeks and months ahead, Michael Jackson will be eulogized by an array of pop culture thinkers, talking heads, music writers, hangers-on, family and fans. There won't be a single moment, song or utterance of Jackson's that won't be turned inside out, scraped clean and picked apart for some hidden meaning. It's the sort of unifying cultural moment that happens once a generation and, certainly, will dominate discussions for some time to come.

While Jackson's ultimate legacy will be a musical one (750 million albums sold worldwide, 13 number one hits in America alone), his was a career that devolved into tabloid spectacle near its conclusion, tarnished by legal entanglements and eccentric behavior. But there was just as much speculation that his impending 50-show run at London's O2 Arena could prove an ideal springboard for a comeback. Sadly, we'll never know.

Following this developing story on Twitter and watching the outpouring of reaction has been truly moving — it's clear Jackson played a key role in many people's lives, often forming some of their first musical memories. As MTV is also acknowledging, he played a crucial role in launching the then-nascent video music network into the stratosphere. (In a fitting tribute, the channel was playing Jackson videos more or less on a loop Thursday evening.) He was the first black artist to enjoy breakout success on the channel; Jackson is just as well-known for the "Thriller," "Bad" and "Black or White" clips as he is any of his concerts or charity work.

Jackson was an icon, a word that's all too readily thrown around in an era dominated by an ADD-afflicted populace and media. In recent weeks, I've had discussion with colleagues about which artists could still tour and fill giant arenas to the roof. It's been said countless times already today and it will doubtless be said many, many more: Jackson was one of a kind and we'll likely never see his sort of effortless, charismatic brilliance again.



Jackson during a concert on Oct. 24, 1988.

TOP HITS

"Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" and "Rock With You" ("Off the Wall")

"Beat It," "Billie Jean" and "Thriller" ("Thriller")

"Bad," "Dirty Diana," "I Just Can't Stop Loving You," "Man In The Mirror," "Smooth Criminal" and "The Way You Make Me Feel" ("Bad")

"Black Or White" ("Black or White")

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

"Thriller" (25th Anniversary Edition CD/DVD), 2009

"Smooth Criminal REMIXES," 2008

"Gold," 2008

"Thriller 25 Deluxe Edition," 2008

"Essential Michael Jackson," 2005

"Michael Jackson: The Ultimate Collection," 2004

"Number Ones," 2003

"The Best of Michael Jackson — The Millennium Collection," 2002

"A Tribute to Michael Jackson," 2002

"Love Songs," 2002



"Invincible," 2001

"Blood On The Dance Floor: HIStory...," 1997

"HIStory: Past, Present and Future, Book 1," 1995

"You Are Not Alone," 1995

"Motown Legends," 1993

"Who Is It?" 1993

"Black or White," 1992

"Jam," 1992

"Dangerous," 1991

"Anthology," 1990

"Bad," 1987

"Thriller," 1982

"One Day in Your Life," 1981



"Off The Wall," 1979

"Got to Be There," 1972

CELEBRITIES MOURN MICHAEL VIA TWITTER

Michael Jackson influenced celebrities from all corners of the entertainment world: television, movies and music. After his death, many hit the Internet and communicated their thoughts (in 140 characters or less) on Twitter. (Note: The following are written exactly as they appeared on the celebrity's Twitter page.)

Ashton Kutcher:

"I plea to the public to refuse to consume media that does not respect the anonymity of Michaels children." "Now the ap confirms aswell. Rip Sending love and light to family and friend but especially his kids."

MC Hammer:

"I will be mourning my friend, brother, mentor and inspiration. He gave me and my family hope. I would never have been me without him."

Weird Al Yankovic:

"Oh man. Can't believe it. RIP Michael Jackson."

Pete Wentz:

"I have never felt this before in my life. I could measure my childhood 2 now on an mj growth chart. if this is true. Rip. The last legend."

Miley Cyrus:

"michael jackson was my inspira-

tion. love and blessings"

John Legend:

"Terrible news about Michael Jackson"

Ryan Seacrest:

"Very sad news. multiple sources reporting michael jackson has died"

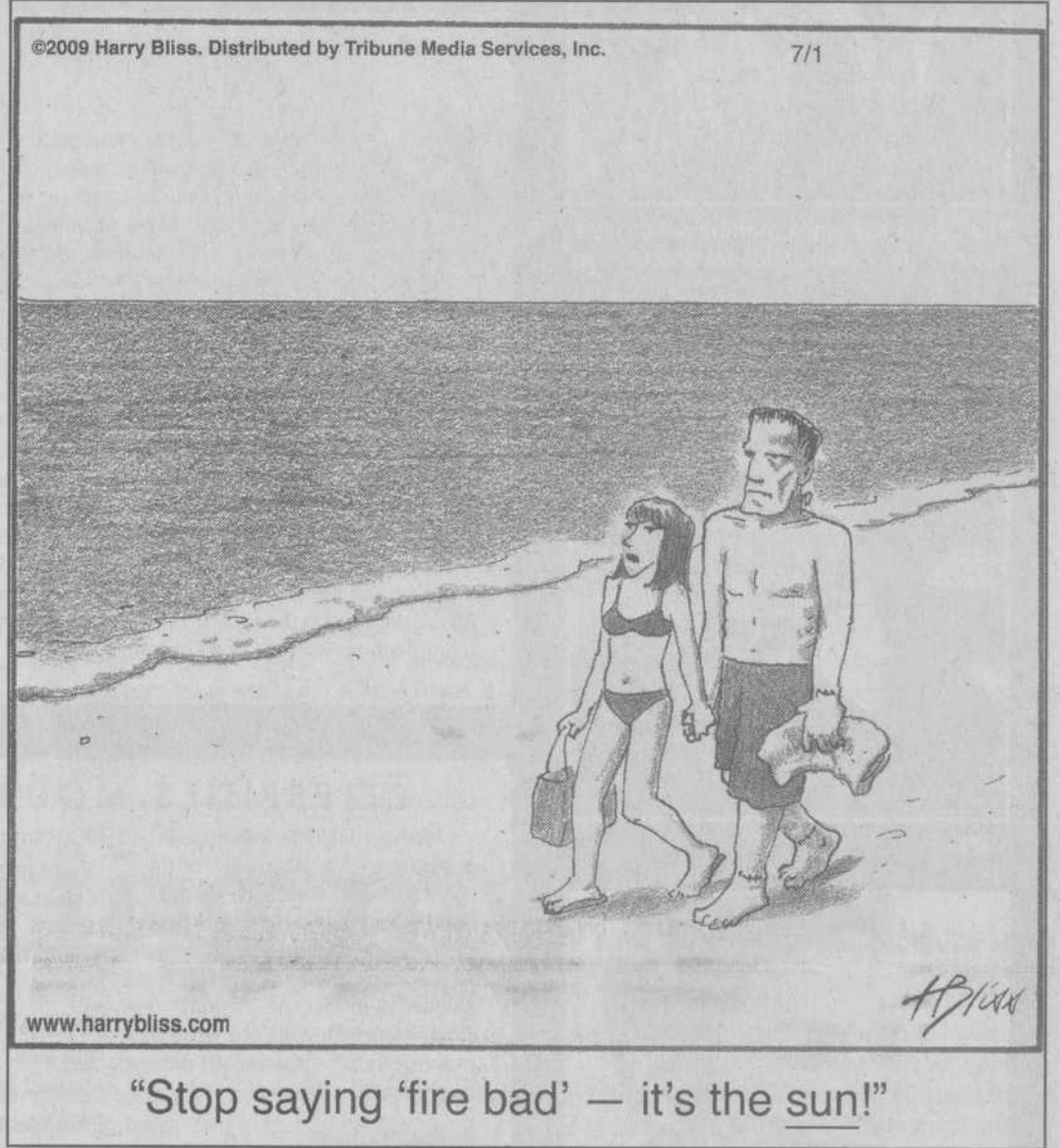
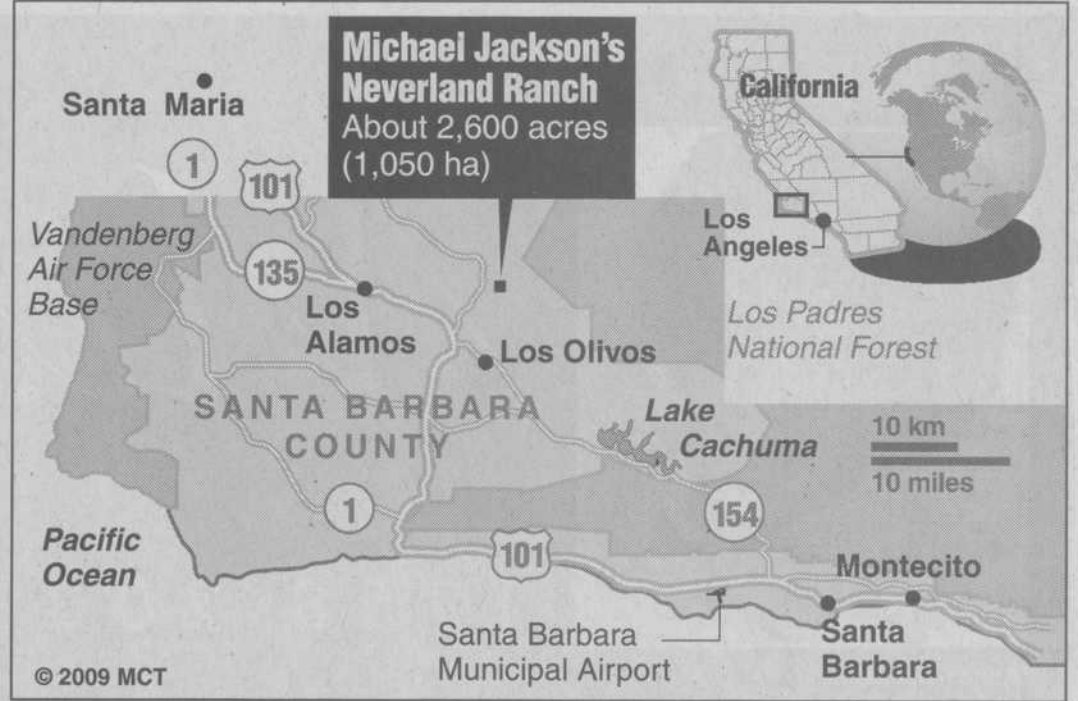
Katie Couric:

"What a day...farrah then michael...complete bedlam until latimes confirmed. An obit was done when he was sick. A strange, sad life."

Alyssa Milano:

"Remember the first time you saw him moonwalk? RIP"





88.7 THE WAVE
REINVENTING ALTERNATIVE

		2		8		5	2	3			
	7			6		2	9				
2			1	7		6		4		8	
	4	9		6		8	8		3	5	4
3				5							
6		7		9	2		2	1	6		3
	7	9			3	4	3			1	
		8		4					7		5
	5		8				6	4	2		
					1	8	4	5			7
	7		1		9	6	7	4			
4			5	3	6					4	8
7	4			5					1		3
		7	6				7	6			
		9		4	2	7	3				
	6	8	9		4	2	8				
	2		5		1			9	6	1	
9					3				2	8	9

ACROSS

- World-weary
- After a short time
- Feature of a bad air day
- Bay Area county
- Fairy tale opener
- Heart
- Paintings and such
- Ship of Greek mythology
- Offended
- House party convenience
- Roll of dough
- Causing heads to turn
- Alimony recipients
- Negatives
- Watch readouts, briefly
- Lament
- Soup bean
- Releasing stress, in a way
- Kinfolk: Abbr.
- A flat counterpart
- Ending letters, in Leeds
- Suffix with expert
- Sicilian spouter
- Gungan general of "Star Wars" films
- Sargasso, for one
- Kilimanjaro locale
- River islets
- "Put ___ writing"
- Very hard candy
- Its state bird is the common loon: Abbr.
- Fourth person
- Wishful words
- Early birds?
- Hydrant attachment
- Dinnerware item that can precede the start of 17-, 26-, 38-, 52- or 61-Across

DOWN

- Munich-based automaker
- ___-tzu
- Bus depot posting: Abbr.
- Punjab sect member
- Happen next
- Ease
- "___ clear day ..."
- Text-scanning technology, briefly
- Contents meas.
- Verbal attack
- Like fascination with the dark side
- Instruments with stops
- Conductor Szell
- Direct ending?
- Mercedes sedan category
- LPGA star Karrie
- Skating maneuver
- Part of a rep's spiel
- Gigantic statues
- "Like, no way!"
- Piglet's mother
- Respiratory cavity
- Dir. from Wichita to Omaha
- Factory work: Abbr.
- Smooth-talking
- First word of many titles
- Cassis cocktail
- "Shrek!" author William
- Humorist Mort
- Blood-typing system
- Unself of the NBA
- Campground org.
- Mini-albums, briefly
- Legal thing

By Jack McInturff 7/1/09

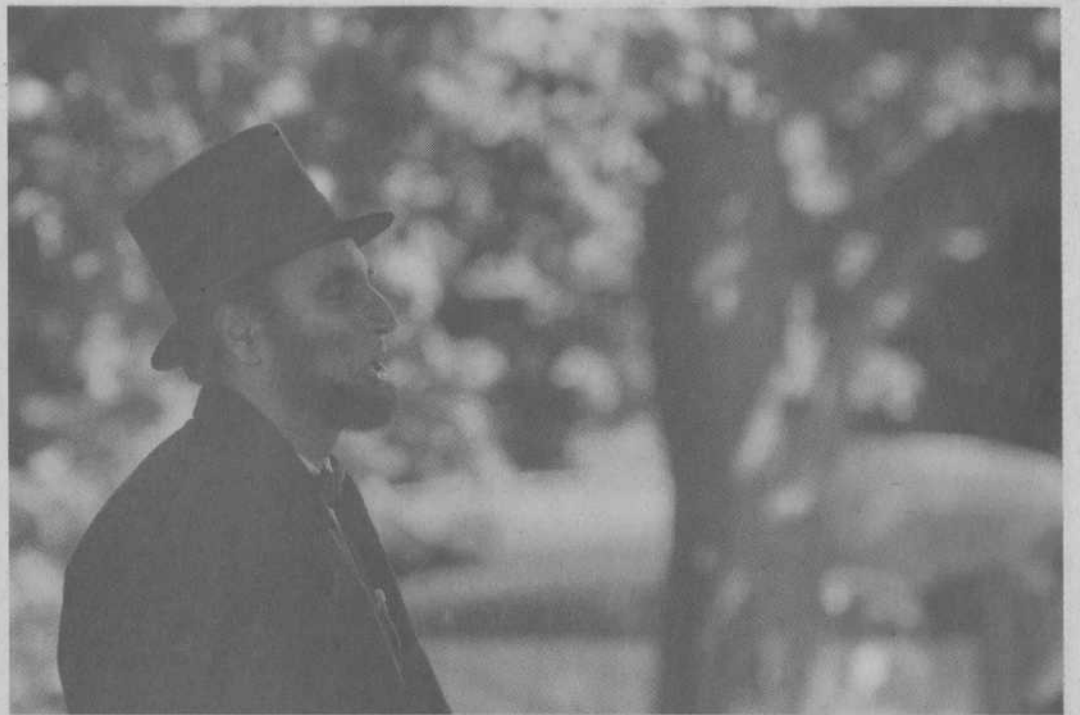
Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

ODDS	ASCOT	ROSE
HOOT	BERRY	EBON
MSGR	BREAK	SLOT
B	EMYVALENTINE	
ANITA	EMS	EIGER
BETCHA	LAVER	
BEEHIVESTATE		
ADS	IBSEN	ORE
B	ABENADERET	
CRASS	SENDIN	
CHEFS	ARG	ARENA
BISFORBURGLAR		
EVEL	OHBOY	GOES
RENE	NOLAN	EURO
SSTS	ARENT	STAY

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Taste of C-U



Anthony Burkert/Prospectus

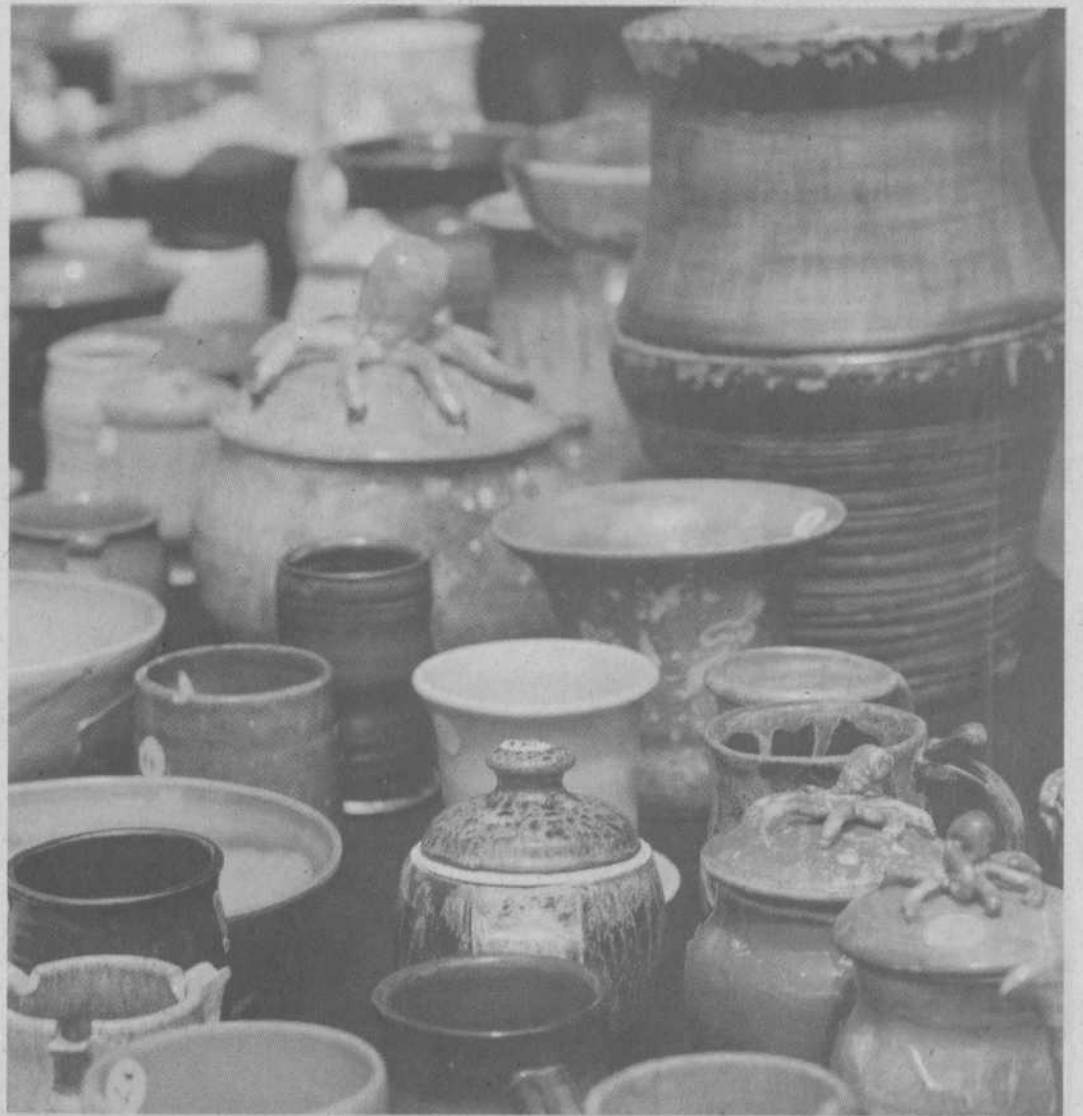


Anthony Burkert/Prospectus

Taste



Alishia Reynolds/Prospectus



Samantha Hylla/Prospectus

of



Alishia Reynolds/Prospectus



Jon Bouvet/Prospectus



Anthony Burkert/Prospectus



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C-U

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