

Have your fruit and eat it, too: Chrissie McKenney explores our sweet harvest



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Inside:

Hookah bar a different kind of respite?

By AARON PARTRIDGE

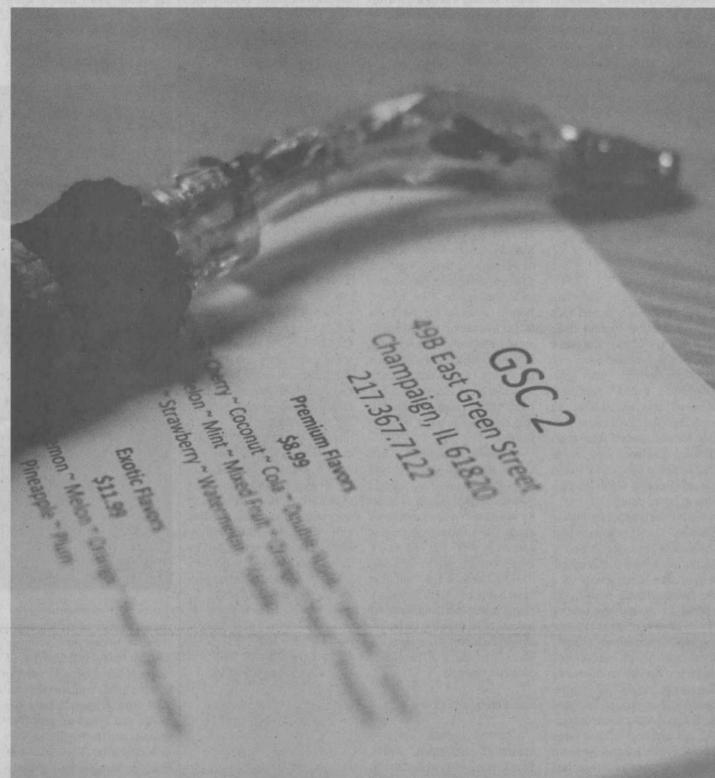
As summer slowly fades into the fall semester there usually comes a time ,when there is a lack of activities for you and your friends to do. However, there is one place in particular that has been a well-kept secret for many years — hookah at Green St. Café (GSC2).

Having been in business for around five years, this hot spot for sober and engaging conversation has gone unnoticed amongst most college students here in Champaign-Urbana. The main reason for this is because of the lack of news generated by hookah unlike its inebriated counterpart—alcohol.

Parkland College is located in a very big campus town, and the only thing that comes to students minds is going out to the bars, and forgetting what happened the night before. If you are part of the minority that wants something new, and something engaging, Green St. Café might be a good place to turn to.

"It is an alternative to going out and drinking. People come here to engage in conversation, and enjoy time with their friends as well as for college students who are not old enough to go out and drink,"said Green St. Café employee Mike Laurent.

For those who don't know the exact definition of a hookah it is a single or multi-hosed or stemmed pipe used for smoking herbal fruits and tobacco.



Not that anyone should condone smoking, but if you *are* going to smoke, here's how to get the best out of your experience.

Now that you have been eased into the culture of hookah you may want to know what to expect when visiting.

Once you enter the café you will have to show your state ID, you are required to be at the age of 18 and above to not just smoke but to enter. After that is taken care of you will be able to choose where you want to sit. There are three comfortable futons to choose from as well as your everyday tables and chairs.

After you pick your flavor they will bring you out a hookah with the flavor you picked in the head as well as a free bottle of water which comes with every hookah purchase.

Finally, once the hookah is all set up, they will bring out coals, and you will have to suck in through the hose much like smoking anything—except hookah is very smooth. It may take five to ten minutes before it is smoking well, but once it does you will start tasting the flavor you chose.

"What do I get from doing this?" Most of the time you will get a buzz from smoking hookah—much like a buzz from cigarettes or chewing tobacco.

With the economic situation the way it is most college students these days don't have a ton of money to be throwing around on campus so if you are worried about the cost (which ranges anywhere from \$8.99

There are a wide-variety of tobacco and these flavors range from vanilla to pina colada anything your lungs desire.

That being said, there are many rumors that have surfaced that smoking a hookah is bad for your health—possibly worse than cigarettes.

Hold the bus?

"You are really only smoking the syrup in the shisha, not the tar that is in the tobacco," said Green Street Café employee Mike Laurent. Not that anyone advises that you smoke, but going to a hookah bar, such as Green Street Café, can be a safer environment compared to a wild night of binge drinking. Some students believe that the experience is cheaper, too. They are tired of trying to compete with shouts and blasting jukeboxes, figuring out how to get a ride home, and having to worry about waiting until turning 21.

Samantha Hylla/Prospectus

to \$15.99 for iced hookah) no need to worry. There is happy hour. Happy hour is during the time frame of 6-8pm. During this time all hookahs are half price.

If you still aren't sold, for those who love going to cafes to get coffee, this is right up your alley. It is almost identical except for the fact that you are smoking hookah, and not drinking a cup of coffee.

The conversations and

See Hookah on page 4

Summer (entertainment) ain't over yet!

By PATRICK WOOD

If you're a student, you may be feeling impending dread at the thought of summer ending and the fall semester beginning. Moving in, signing up for classes, and waking up before noon may even lead you to believe that there will be nothing fun left to do in the upcoming months. Luckily, when summer ends, CU entertainment doesn't.

Before you can read about things to look forward to, you have to read about the things that you missed, one of them being the Dubstep Massacre at Cowboy Monkey. If you weren't there for it, don't worry. That was actually Dubstep Massacre 6. More massacres are coming - would you ever think we could look forward to such a thing? - the next scheduled one being Dubstep Massacre 8 which will feature UK DJ Skream and will take place during the Pygmalion Music Festival.

So you missed Dubstep Massacre 6, but that's ok because there will be more. Now what



Local hip hop artist lan Winston (center) shows his enthusiasm for Dubstep music at the 6th Dubstep Massacre show at the Cowboy Monkey.

about Pitchfork Music Festival in Chicago? Unfortunately, Pitchfork isn't coming to Champaign-Urbana, but an act from this year's festival is— The National will be performing in the Ellnora Guitar Festival at the Krannert Center for

the Performing Arts, September 10-12. The Brazilian Guitar Quartet, The Derek Trucks Band, Ani DiFranco, and Keb' Mo' are some of the bands and artists that will also be on the bill this year.

Another act from Pitchfork

is also coming to Champaign-Urbana, more specifically, to Parkland Community College. Matt & Kim will be putting on a FREE show at Parkland on Sunday, September 13. And not only is it free, but everyone is welcome.

Isaac Mitchell/Prospectus

The area's biggest music fest is also coming up in mid-September. Pygmalion will be in full swing September 16-19 boasting big acts like Iron and Wine, Ra Ra Riot, Margot and The Nuclear So and So's, and Joe Pug, as well as local artists like Common Loon, The Headlights, and Elsinore. Passes are \$60 but are well worth the cost with over 80 bands and artists performing.

If you're more privy to the dance scene, you might try Chester Street Dance Club on 63 E. Chester St. in Champaign. Affectionately known as "C-Street" and one of the only gay bars in the CU area, it's also known by many for its diversity...and drag shows. The drag shows happen on Sunday nights, and throughout the week 70s and 80s Retro, Electro-House, and Dance Pop nights can be attended too. Ages are usually 19+. More details can be found at chesterstreetbar.com.

Try not to get down when you start attending classes this fall because there's still plenty to do. Ellnora, Pygmalion, Dubstep, Matt & Kim and the C-Street Dance Club are just a fraction of things to come. As the year begins to draw to a close, take comfort in knowing that even though you have to go back to school, you never have to leave the local entertainment behind.

Prospectus

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Letters and Editorial Policy Views expressed are opin-ions of staff and contributors and not necessarily that of the Prospectus or Parkland College.

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

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

Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

LEAD STORY

Apparently believing that religious competition in the Middle East is not exciting enough already, the television station Kanal T in Istanbul, Turkey, is preparing a reality game show for September release in which 10 certified atheists try to resist conversion by a priest, a rabbi, a Muslim imam and a Buddhist monk. The exact rules have not been disclosed, but the "winning" convert will receive an expense-paid trip to the holy land of the most persuasive religion (the Vatican, Jerusalem, Mecca or Tibet). According to a July Reuters report, Turkey's Islamic Religious Affairs Directorate, not surprisingly, had vowed never to co-operate.

Bright Ideas

-By early July, Jonathan Baltesz and his wife and kids were desperate to find their 10-year-old black Labrador mix, Simon, who had run away. They had one more plan, however. The family members urinated into containers and sprinkled the contents at various locales around their town (Bristol, England), laid out so that Simon could follow a trail home. (Results were unavailable at press time.)

-The British charter airline Thomas Cook announced at the gate in the resort island of Mallorca in June that, regardless of seat assignments on a departing flight, passengers should sit toward the rear of the aircraft in order to balance the load (since it was already front-heavy with cargo and therefore harder on the pilot). Not surprisingly, 71 apprehensive passengers refused to board. (Also, some incoming passengers on that same aircraft, which experienced a similar balance problem, had dramatically dropped to their knees in the terminal, kissing the ground, calling the flight their worst ever.)

which are her everyday school attire. The photos also reveal that she has close-cropped hair. One assumption led to another, and soon Patel was accused of being a man who dresses as a woman in order to mingle with females. Patel went to the trouble of getting a doctor's certificate of her gender, but the parents refused to accept it, and in June, Patel (and the school's headmistress) resigned in despair.

-A young copperhead snake trespassed into a building near Poolesville, Md., in June and delivered several venomous nips to the hand of Sam Pettengill. Often snakes do not survive such encounters because the victim's first impulse is to kill the attacker. Fortunately for this snake, it had wandered into a Buddhist temple, and Pettengill had an obligation, according to a Washington Post report. Before he set out for the hospital for treatment (which turned out to be four antivenin cycles), Pettengill took the snake in his throbbing, increasingly painwracked hand, circled a prayer room three times to bless it, and released it back into the woods.

-World's Toughest Job: Farah Ahmed Omar was appointed recently as chief of Somalia's navy, which ordinarily would be on the front lines against the throng of pirates operating off the country's coast. Omar's job is difficult, though, because the Somalian navy has not a single boat nor a single sailor, and Omar himself has not been to sea in 23 years. However, he told a reporter he was optimistic that the piracy could be stopped.

Fine Points of the Law

-An 18-year-old, severely mentally challenged, Paris,

Palm Beach Post story, Robb said later that he has a renewed enthusiasm for the shoes.

People With Issues

(1) Todd Hall, 36, was sentenced to a year in prison after his conviction in Bentonville, Ark., in June for habitually biting the toes of his son, which Hall said he did up to age 6 as routine discipline. (He had earlier been on probation for the disciplinary biting of his 10-month-old daughter.) (2) In June in Muncie, Ind., in his second such conviction in seven months, Robert Stahl, 64, was found guilty of resolving disputes with men in their 50s by reaching into their mouths and yanking out their dentures.

Least Competent Criminals

(1) A Polynesian man in his 20s was being sought as the robber of the Black Diamond Equipment store in Salt Lake City in June. He made off with some gear from the ski and climbing accessory store, but had originally demanded jewelry, as he apparently thought he was knocking off a "diamond" store. (2) Motorist Zackary Johnson was arrested in Athens, Ga., in June after pulling over a passing police car to inquire whether he had any warrants outstanding against him. No, answered the officer after a computer check, but he noted that Johnson's driver's license is under suspension, and he was arrested.

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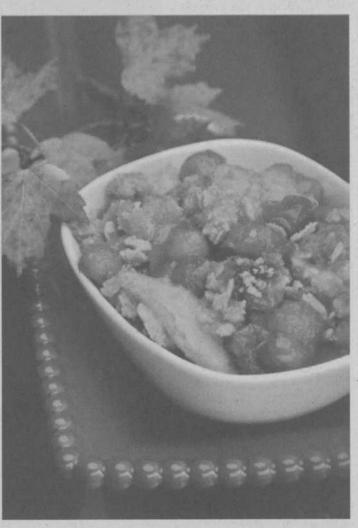
Have your fruit and eat it, too By CHRISSIE hand, my favorite way to use fresh fruit is in a cobbler. You can make a cobbler with a bis-Nutrition Colonist cuit or pastry crust on top, and that's wonderful, but it is so

There is such a great variety of inexpensive fresh fruit available in the summer, like peaches, plums, and berries that I find it hard to resist bringing home more than I know what to do with every time I go to the store. Unfortunately, this habit occasionally leads to a fruit fly breeding colony in a flour and sugar (white, brown

MCKENNEY

Int

much easier (and just as tasty) to make it with what my grandmother called a magic crust. As with all good things, you start by melting a stick of butter in an 8-inch square baking pan while the oven preheats to 350°F. Combine one cup each of



remote corner of my kitchen.

bad, so this year, instead of 1/4 teaspoon of salt, and 1 teacutting back, I have decided to spoon of cinnamon. Whisk in buy too much fruit on purpose. 1 cup of milk. Pour this bat-That way, I know I have too ter over the melted butter and much, and I make myself put scatter 2 cups of fruit (I am some of it in the freezer as soon partial to a mixture of peaches as I get home. (Fruit that is at and blueberries, but any comrisk for turning into a slimy lump at the bottom of the fruit bowl or the refrigerator bin can be cleaned, sliced, and frozen in re-sealable freezer bags for several months and can be used in any of the following recipes.) With my clever new fruit-storage system, I get to indulge in all the wonderful fruit that is available in the summer right now, plus I can look forward to having plenty more after the season is over, when prices go up and the fruit starts tasting like cardboard.

Aside from eating it out of

or a combination) along with I hate to see good fruit go 2 teaspoons of baking powder, bination of soft fruits or berries will work) over the top of the batter. As the cobbler bakes (for about 30 minutes), the batter will magically rise to the top and bake into a chewy, buttery crust. It is even better topped with ice cream or fresh whipped cream.



Staff Editor: Aaron Gelger Assistant Editor: Patrick Wood

Production Manager: Mark Shirley, Isaac Mithell

Advisor: John Eby Columnist: Chrissie McKenney

Writers: Aaron Geiger, Sean Hermann, Cassandra Jo Cunningham, Aaron Partridge

Photographers: Anthony Burkert, Levi Norman, Alishia Reynolds Publication Manager: Aaron Geiger Web Design: Aaron Geiger Advertising: Linda Tichenor

Graphic Design: Mark Shirley, Chris Fudala, Isaac Mitchell

The Continuing Crisis

The New Age movement might be growing too inclusive, according to a July report in the St. Paul Pioneer Press (published in a city where the concept of "New Age" is already highly nuanced). "(P)agans feel jilted," wrote the reporter. "Chiropractors want out (of consideration)," "channelers wonder if they belong," and "organic farmers don't want to be near pet psychics." Said one St. Paul merchant, "I have customers who completely believe in fairies and will laugh at you if you believe in Bigfoot." But, said one New Age magazine editor, the movement should "encompass anything on a spiritual path -Bigfoot, Jesus, Buddha. Even worshipping a frog is sort of OK."

-Some parents of students at the Al-Islah Muslim girls' school in Blackburn, England, discovered that a staff secretary, Shifa Patel, 28, had a Facebook page, featuring innocuous photos of herself but dressed in other than her full-body robe and headscarf,

Texas, man was sentenced in February to 100 years in prison for a single act of what might amount to the childhood sex game of "doctor" with a 6-yearold neighbor. The man has an IQ of 47, and no coercion or violence was involved, but the jury was not given the option to send the man to a care facility in lieu of prison. In fact, his original lawyer failed even to argue his client's incompetency as a defense because, he said, he thought the man obviously would get probation. In a final touch, Lamar County judge Eric Clifford, able to punish the man on just one count with four other counts running concurrently, instead chose to stack the five counts to total 100 years, and in April, after listening to a parade of witnesses beg him to reconsider the sentence, he refused.

-It's the Shoes: Palm Beach County, Fla., defense lawyer Michael Robb resisted a courtroom motion in June to force him to discard his well-worn Cole Haan loafers and go buy a new pair. The plaintiff's lawyer Bill Bone had complained that jurors would see the holes in the bottoms of Robb's shoes and be unfairly sympathetic to Robb's clients as humble and frugal and therefore more deserving to win. The motion was denied. According to a



An equally simple alternative to a cobbler is a crumble, or crisp. Combine 1/2 cup of quickcooking or rolled oats, 6 tablespoons of flour, 1/2 cup of brown sugar, and 4 tablespoons of soft-

See Fruit on page 3

"Illini Towe

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A roof over your head...that doesn't leak

By CASSANDRA CUNNINGHAM Social Media Editor

As the launch of the fall 2009 semester draws near, many students are in a race with time to find a suitable living arrangement. And for those new to the area, or looking for a better place to live, some students have recommendations for you-some good, and some horror stories. Also note that there are many other options out there, including housing and condo rentals. The apartment complexes that we are listing are just a few places that students wanted to talk about.

88 West (4.5/5)

88 West is one of the most well-known apartment complexes in the Champaign-Urbana area. Located right next to Market Place Mall and behind Target, it is within walking distance to all the major shopping facilities, chain restaurants and a movie theater. 88 offers two-, three- and fourbedroom apartments. Each apartment features large, spacious bedrooms with their own bathroom, a large kitchen with a dishwasher, washers and dryers in each unit, flat screen televisions and a large balcony. The apartment complex has a huge pool, an arcade, an indoor basketball court; a fitness center, a

dog park, a free tanning salon The only thing you might need lying on the floor by my PC. In water heater bust and water and a recreation room with televisions. Each apartment is leased by bedroom, so roommates are not responsible for each other (and the mistakes they so often make!). 88 West also offers roommate matching to better connect individual living habits and lifestyles. The best part is rent includes all utilities (the electricity is capped) and residents pay one set fee each month. This month's special includes a look and lease option that gives anyone who takes a tour and leases the same day one month of free rent. There is also an option that allows people to tour and get \$150 off one month's rent if a lease is signed within 48 hours.

88 is home to a large group of Parkland College students and many of Parkland's athletes. Though it has a reputation of being party central, many residents, including yearlong resident Janvier Jordan, recommend it to anyone looking for an apartment.

"I would recommend 88 to anyone. I know people have heard horror stories about the apartment complex but a lot has changed in a year. They got new management that actually manages. They added new security in the front around the apartment complex and on top of that the rent has gone down.

to worry about is the credit check. If you are 18 with no credit, make sure you have someone to co-sign for you!"

Indigo Place (2/5) This is an apartment com-

plex located in Savoy, IL just south of the University of Illinois campus on Curtis road. Very similar to 88 West, it offers two-, three- and fourbedroom apartments to fit one person's needs or a group of friends. It offers a pool, a tanning salon, a sand volleyball court, a game room with pool tables and foosball, a basketball court, a fitness center and a computer center with printers. Each unit features basic furnishings, a television and a balcony, and most bedrooms feature a private bathroom. Rent is one flat fee and leases are done by bedroom. Indigo's current offer is two months free with a signed lease.

Indigo Place has some beautiful perks, but some of their residents have issues with the complex. Jaiona Parker has had a rough time: "When I first moved here a mouse jumped out on my cousin Jaraia. Then, as the day went on I opened my dresser drawer...a mouse was in my dresser. I screamed and ran in the bathroom. A couple days later I had bought a Twix and didn't open it. I put it in my purse and my purse was

the middle of the night I heard this crunching sound and the mouse was in my purse eating my Twix and jumped out on me when I picked the purse up. Then I threw the Twix out and switched purses and put that purse in my closet. I looked at it a couple days later and the mouse bit a hole through my purse. After that our whole house got flooded because the people upstairs decided to get drunk and leave the water on, so they had to tear down [my roommate] Diamond's room and rebuild it because water was coming through our outlets and ceiling. Before we moved in it was advertised that we got new carpet, new everything. We got no new carpet and the carpet we had was old and had a big pink and black stain on it. Our walls weren't painted until February when they were supposed to be done before we moved in August. We had no new kitchen table or night stands until December. There was also an ant problem, millions of them. I would never advise anyone to live there. They have terrible maintenance and management."

Tiffany Ortiz agrees with Jaiona. "I lived there for over a year and every month my rent was a different price. Then I had a water leak because the apartment above me had their was seeping through the ceiling where the washer and drver was. They didn't even fix it for a month! I refused to pay rent because my hallway was flooded every day and they still charged me late fees. Their management is the worst!"

Andrea, a leasing agent at Indigo Place, has a different outlook: "We have a lot of students living here. We have all of the amenities to accommodate them, a pool, a fitness center, and a hot tub. Compared to everywhere else we have very reasonable prices, very cheap actually. I'm not sure about the maintenanceproblemsbecause we have work requests submitted every day. We have tons and we get to them as soon as we can, it is usually always within 24 to 48 hours."

Town and Country (3.5/5)

Town and Country apartments in Urbana is a large 30-acre apartment community right off of Interstate-74. With brand new buildings built in fall 2008, Town and Country offer two different architectural styles for potential residents to choose from. The complex has 4 pools, a fitness center, a computer room with a coffee machine, tennis courts and a new 5,600 square foot dog park to accommodate every dogs needs. Each building has a laundry room and portable dishwashers are in most apartments. Leases are done by apartment and short-term leases are available. Their current offer gives residents an entire month of rent for free and an additional amount off of each month's rent on certain floor plans.

New resident Danielle Coleman is enjoying her new place. "I like the environment. I just don't like the fact that I have no dish washer and I have to pay to wash clothes." (Though each apartment has a portable dishwasher, it is hooked up to the faucet in the sink and runs the water for a long amount of time, which can potentially result in a high water bill for residents. The dishwasher can be returned to the company if it is not wanted.)

Other complexes worth looking at:

One North One South The Village at Colbert Park 310 Burnham 309 Green Champaign House Twin Oaks Town Center



By SEAN HERMANN Assistant Editor

So you have finally saved up enough money to buy a car, or you have had a car for a while and are unsure how to take care of it. Here are a few tips and tricks on taking good care of your vehicle, which in return will potentially save you money from repairs and breakdowns and keep your car long lasting and good looking, for

sure your car uses a consistent amount of oil as a major change in consumption means

car. Under the hood checks. (Make sure engine is off before checking!) Automatic/manyou should take your car in to ual transmission fluid, brake



fluid can help wash off debris from the windshield however, be sure not to fill the reservoir with engine antifreeze or a vinegar/water solution as they can both damage your car.

Every six months be sure to: Get your oil changed and oil filter replaced (every 4,000-6,000 miles, generally). Also, rotate your tires to reduce wear and tear for longer tire life.

Every year you should: Inspect front and rear brakes, inspect all hoses and lines check all fluid levels, and inspect the exhaust system. Checking these regularly each year could help you save a bunch of money down the road and save your car from a disastrous repair job. Long term care: replace the air cleaner element, replace the spark plugs, replace the air conditioning filter, replace the brake fluid, and lubricate all door hinges, locks and latches. Doing all these things at proper times will ensure a long lasting, good looking vehicle and will help you save money down the road from costly repairs and gas mileage. Be sure to check your vehicle owner's manual to ensure you are using proper tools, fluids and properly maintaining your vehicle so that you know which goes in what. Pouring engine oil in your brake fluid reservoir could lead to disaster after all, but isn't that what we are trying to avoid?

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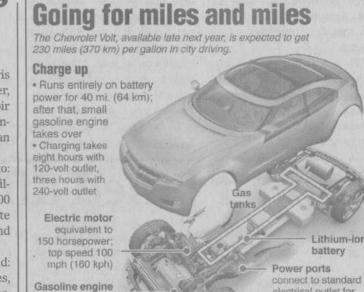
Garbage Disposal

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Fitness Center

Fireplace



the non-auto savvy people.

Here are some things you should keep an eye on while driving. First of all, never let you gas tank fall below 1/8 of a tank, if possible. Tiny bits of sediment at the bottom of your tank will run through the fuel lines along with the last gulps of gas' and will clog up the fuel filter and potentially damage the carburetor, which is not a cheap fix. There is also good chance that your gas line will freeze up in colder weather, so always keep more than 1/8 a tank of gas in your vehicle. Second, for every 5 mph you drive over 60mph, you pay approximately \$.10 more per gallon, and do you ever really get anywhere faster by speeding? Third, using cruise control for long distance driving on level roads will generally save you gas mileage, however using cruise control in the mountains could have the opposite effect.

Things to check for every week or every fuel stop: your engine's oil, and coolant. Make

Things to do each month: Wash your car. Cleaning your car will make for a better appearance and potentially increase the life of your smooth. Windshield washer

windshield washer fluid and the lights. Making sure these fluids are at proper levels can help keep your car running



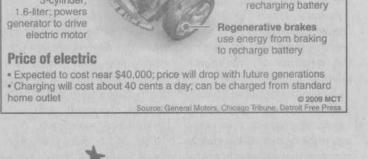
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continued from page 2

3-cylinder

ened butter in a bowl, and cut the butter into the dry ingredients with your fingers until the mixture resembles coarse meal. Sprinkle this over 3 cups of fruit that has been tossed with a mixture of 2 tablespoons of sugar and 1 tablespoon of flour and then placed in the bottom of an oiled, 8-inch square baking pan. Bake for about 40 minutes at 350°F until the top is crispy and golden. (Also nice with whipped cream or ice cream-vanilla yogurt's not bad, either.)

If you don't want to heat up the kitchen, you can always make popsicles. Just puree 21/2 cups of fruit with 1/2 cup of apple juice or 11/2 cups fruit



with 11/2 cups vanilla yogurt, pour into a popsicle mold and freeze. You can blend different fruits together, add different flavors of juice and yogurt, or even add spices like ginger or cinnamon, whatever sounds good to you and is available in your kitchen. (If you don't have a popsicle mold, you can use paper cups and popsicle sticks or even ice cube trays with toothpicks for mini-pops.)

Fruit is best when it is picked at its peak, just as it ripens. If it has to be shipped hundreds or thousands of miles, the fruit must be picked too early and allowed to ripen in storage. This does nothing good for its flavor (or its nutritive value). If you don't have your own personal orchard or berry patch, the healthiest, best-tasting fruit comes from local farms and orchards, where they can get it to you soon after it is picked. Head over to the farmer's market or look for signs advertising locally grown produce in the grocery store and take advantage of the abundance of fresh, ripe fruit-but before you go, make sure you have some room in the freezer.

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Lawsuit alleges teen died from hazing injuries

By ERIC FERRERI MCT

DURHAM, N.C.-A 19-yearold sophomore at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, N.C., died of head injuries after he was tackled repeatedly during a fraternity initiation ceremony last fall, a lawsuit claims.

Harrison Kowiak, of Tampa, Fla., was blindfolded, released into a dark field last Nov. 17,

and told to run to the other side and find a rock with his name . accuses the fraternity of a long on it, according to the suit, filed by Kowiak's parents Friday in Durham County Superior Court.

As he ran, he was repeatedly pushed and tackled by the fraternity members he hoped to soon claim as brothers, the lawsuit claims. Instead, he suffered a severe brain hemorrhage and died hours later.

The 27-page complaint history of hazing and contends the university didn't do enough to enforce anti-hazing policies. University officials declined to comment today.

Kowiak's parents are seeking more than \$10,000 in damages and have named the Theta Chi fraternity, the university, two Lenoir-Rhyne administrators and 21 fraternity mem-

bers in the lawsuit.

The suit was filed in Durham partly because a Durham resident, Guy Crabtree, is the administrator of Kowiak's estate.

"Once you ran the gauntlet ... once you picked up your rock, you were a member of the fraternity," said David Kirby, a Raleigh attorney representing Kowiak's family. "This was supposed to be a fun evening

and an evening of accomplish- member who weighed 160 ment. But it turned into an evening of complete tragedy."

The student was one of two pledges involved in the event, which capped off "Hell Week" initiation, according to the lawsuit. Dale Thomas, executive director of the national Theta Chi organization, said Friday he had not seen the lawsuit and could not comment on it.

pounds; some of the fraternity members who engaged in the event, known as "bulldogging," were football players weighing more than 250 pounds, according to the lawsuit.

(c) 2009 The News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.).

Kowiak was a golf team

How to dress for a successful job interview

By NIRVI SHAH MCT

In an ultra-competitive job market, every detail counts on a job interview.

The wrong look, the wrong attitude or both can sink an interview fast. A survey by CareerBuilder.com showed that 46 percent of 3,200 hiring managers reported job candidates were dressed inappropriately.

But with the right look, lots of research and the right attitude, image experts and career advisors say you can get yourself remembered for all the right reasons and, ultimately, hired.

"People say appearance shouldn't matter, that it's what's on the inside that counts," said Kelly Machbitz, a Clearwater, Fla., image consultant, "but it's that first impression that counts."

When deciding what to wear, think conservatively, said Frank Kelly, who was named Esquire Magazine's "Best Dressed Real Man" in 2007. He works with clients at the Com-

munity Partnership for the ist or operator at the company Blunt, 21, showed up at an inter-Homeless in Miami, prepping them for job interviews and building their self-confidence.

Kelly said to try on what vou plan to wear for a friend or family member before the interview and ask them what stands out.

"If they name an item, take it off," he said. "You're not here to make an impression with your clothes."

Here are other tips from Machbitz, Kelly and Michael Erwin, a senior career adviser for CareerBuilder.com.

-Research the company that you're interviewing with to craft the best look, Erwin said. Not every job interview requires the formality of a three-piece suit, but a collared shirt is always a good bet, for men and women. "Work culture is more relaxed than it was years ago, but you still want to take it one step up" for the interview, he said. "You don't want to show up not wearing a suit and the person who's interviewing you is in a suit."

Kelly said to call a reception- One of his clients, Herbert

where you are interviewing



and ask what managers wear to a meeting.

"The manager wants to see To be sure what to wear, a future manager," Kelly said.

view for a job at Target wearing a dress shirt, tie and belted slacks more formal than what most employees at the store wear every day. A jacket would have been overkill. Blunt was offered a job on the spot and started this month.

-A job interview is no place to be casual or provocative, or wear open-toed shoes, or forgo stockings.

Machbitz calls it the no-crack rule: no cleavage, no backsides or toes should be showing at the interview.

"If you're on the job for a month or two and all the women in the office are wearing opentoed shoes, go for it," she said. "But you don't know that when you're on the job interview." And men, she said, should wear socks.

If you simply can't bear stockings, "this is why, for women, pants are a great option," Kelly said. "There's a lot of light, layered clothing you can wear."

One of his clients, Matt Fischer, has been working at a Miami hotel for about 18 months. He has no sympathy

for people wanting to avoid hair. some business-wear formalities because of the heat.

"Hey, I walk to work in a suit every day," Fischer said.

-Think neutral. Stay away from hot pink and fluorescent colors, Machbitz said. The neutral tones should apply to your elry in piercings aside from clothes and your fingernail polish, too. For nails, stick with warm or nude colors and don't go for anything too dark, Machbitz said.

"Be remembered," Machbitz said. "not ostentatious."

-Concentrate on looking energized and healthy, not necessarily young, she said. You don't have to dye your gray hair. But make sure you have a modern hair cut, that your nails are trimmed and cleaned and that your facial hair is trimmed and neat.

Kelly, who wears a full beard and mustache, said to be on the safe side, shave all your facial hair off and go in clean shaven.

"It's better to be safe than sorry," he said, because many companies in the service industry have rules about facial

Machbitz said whitening your teeth with a kit from the drugstore is a must, as it contributes to energizing your appearance and is a quick, inexpensive transformation.

-Women, if you have jewone in each ear, take them out. And men should take out any ear piercings, too. Blunt took out the small diamond stud in his left ear before his Target interview.

"When you get hired, ask the human resources department what's acceptable," Machbitz said.

-If your hair is dyed an unnatural color, go really neutral with everything else. You don't have to dye it if that's how you're going to show up at work every day, she said, but during the interview, everything else you wear should be conservative. .

Kelly was more extreme. "If it stands out, take it off."

> (c) 2009 The Miami Herald.

Rapper jailed after cops see threats in his lyrics

By BIANCA PRIETO MCT

LAKELAND, Fla.-Hardly

meant only as a creative outpublic or acted out. "We don't punish for bad

The song, "Kill Me A Cop" they come about through situa- hours were not successful. let and not intended to be made was posted on the Myspace. tions that occur to him personlabel in February. It was online are not advocating the song involved in the case, doesn't itself-he is not advocating the song. It was never supposed to have been distributed; it was never supposed to be public."

Entertainment, said he has First Amendment law- since pulled the song off his compage of an unofficial record ally," Gerald Johnson said. "We yer Larry Walters, who is not Web site and is waiting to hear from Johnson's lawyer for the

anyone had heard Antavio Johnson's lyrics until they landed him in prison.

Now his words are getting the attention of free-speech advocates across the nation.

Johnson's friends and family say he was frustrated with the Lakeland police a few years ago when he recorded a violent rap song that called officers by name and threatened to shoot them.

Those words, they say, were

HOOKAH continued from page 1

friends that are made at GSC2 are a main staple for why people keep coming back.

"It's a safe way to socialize, you can smoke hookah, go home, and not be inebriated." said Parkland student Sean Whitsitt

Adding to the atmosphere are amenities like the jukebox, and the food.

"The music brings everybody together, and they all sing-along from the metal, rap, and alternative. You never know what kind of music you will hear. I love the randomness that it brings out in people in the sense of music choices," said Parkland student Nick Ward.

As for the food, you may be surprised that a hookah café would offer a wide variety of food but they do.

"The most commonly ordered food here are the chicken tenders as well as the burgers which are a golden decision", said Eric Greenstein, an employee of Green Street Café.

This combination of a great atmosphere, good music, and great food adds up to a feeling of being at home almost.

"Even though I work here I still go here to smoke hookah thoughts in America," said Howard Simon, executive director of the Florida Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. "Our constitution forces us to make a distinction between ugly and hostile thoughts and words, and credible threats of violence."

The ACLU has not intervened in the case, but is keeping a close eye on it until officials can speak to Johnson's lawyer, Simon said.

How To Get

a Hookah

for about two weeks before a Polk County gang detective discovered it and began investigating, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Johnson was in jail at the time for an unrelated violation of probation charge.

Gerald Johnson, 40, said his little brother composed the song several vears ago as a teenager after feeling that the police harassed him.

"His songs are life-based, so

Gerald Johnson has not heard the song, but only read the lyrics provided by the Sheriff's Office.

Last month Antavio Johnson pleaded no contest to two counts of corruption by threat of public servant in exchange for two years in prison. Efforts to reach his attorney after think the lyrics were reason enough to charge and convict Johnson.

"Wanting to kill cops is not a prosecutable offense," Walters said, adding that the lyrics made conditional threats and were not made directly to the officers named. "Even if this would cross the line, this is a song. We live in a free country."

Daniel Barajas, owner of record label Hood Certified

next step. Johnson, he said, is not a violent person and has labeled himself a Christian rapper.

"If someone wants to destress they go out for a run. they paint a picture, they write in a journal," Barajas said. "He de-stressed with music."

(c) 2009 The Orlando Sentinel (Fla.).

Google offers look at new search engine

Googling

Google maintained its dominance in

July, capturing almost two-thirds of the

11.8 billion searches Americans

conducted at the top search engines.

Google sites

62%



SAN JOSE, Calif.-Google lifted the lid a bit Tuesday on a once-secret project-called "Caffeine"-to improve its search engine.

Caffeine doesn't look any different from the old Google search engine, but it ranks results differently.

The search giant says the new architecture, which isn't finished yet, will "push the envelope on size, indexing speed, accuracy, comprehensiveness and other dimensions."

Most users won't notice a difference, but developers and power searchers were invited to give it a spin and provide Google with some feedback. The new engine is at http:// www2.sandbox.google.com/ and anyone can give it a try.

A search for "Bing" with Google's current search engine produced a full page of results about Microsoft's search engine, while a search with Caffeine produced more of a mix-mostly about Microsoft's Bing, but with results for Bing Crosby and Bing Nursery School at Stanford.

However, searches with the current engine and with Caf-

feine for the word "caffeine" produced similar results-a mix of items about the kind of caffeine found in coffee beans and other items about the new search architecture.

Microsoft sites

Yahool sites

9%

21%

Only the super searchers will notice a big difference, though based on this sample of two searches, Caffeine may produce results that are more diverse.

The real challenge will be to companies that have "optimized" themselves on the Web

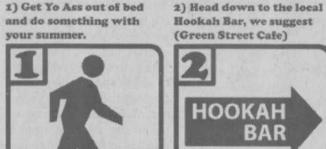
so that they will rank high in Google's current results. It's still too soon to say whether they'll have to re-optimize for Caffeine, but Google said in its blog posting that Caffeine will change search results.

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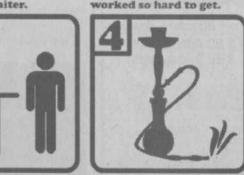
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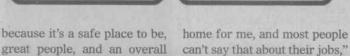
Analyst Trip Chowdhry of Global Equities Research said Google is "pushing the envelope farther" on search than Microsoft, which has a big job persuading people to change from a search engine they've grown accustomed to.



3) Order your favorite flavor from the bartender/waiter.

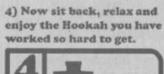


great people, and an overall amazing time. It's almost like





said Greenstein.



HOOKAH

BAR

Gov. Pat Quinn urges all University of Illinois trustees to resign

By STACY ST. CLAIR Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO-Gov. Pat Quinn asked all University of Illinois trustees for resignation letters Friday in the wake of a scathing report about the school's admissions scandal, but at least two members of the appointed body are prepared to ignore his call.

Kenneth Schmidt and James Montgomery pushed back, saying that complying with the governor's directive would be tantamount to admitting guilt. Both men deny any ethical lapses in connection with revelations that the university gave special consideration to applicants with powerful patrons, including university trustees.

Illinois Admissions The Review Commission recommended Thursday that all trustees offer to step down so the governor can decide who should stay. In its 45-page report, the blue-ribbon panel blasted the board for leadership failures and for contributing to a university culture "that too easily tolerated undue influence.'

"If I jump to submit a letter of resignation now, it would say I was agreeing with the panel's recommendations. I do not agree with all the panel's recommendations and therefore, I will not do that," said Schmidt, longest-serving board the member.

The governor would not speculate Friday what would happen if any trustees refused his request. None submitted resignations Friday.

"I hope the remaining trustees see the wisdom of this report ... and step aside," he said. "Sometimes in life you think about things bigger than yourself."

Three trustees-Chairman Niranjan Shah and board members Lawrence Eppley and Edward McMillan-already offered to step down. Quinn has accepted Eppley's and Shah's resignations, saying the search for their replacements

was appointed by Quinn in May, state panel.

McMillan, a Republican who Bernard Judge, who sat on the cation process nearly 100 times

A resignation letter-even Rep. Aaron Schock, R-III., and in the last three years. Some one that was rejected by the



Lisa Madigan, left, shakes hands with Illinois Governor Pat Quinn after a press conference at the Thompson Center in downtown Chicago, Illinois, on Friday, January 30, 2009.

Terrence Antonio James/Chicago Tribune/MCT

submitted his letter within 15 minutes of the report's release and is expected to be retained. He was the only trustee on the nine-member board who wasn't involved in the admissions scandal.

Quinn called McMillan "a very good man" and said he has received the names of "scores" of people interested in serving on the U. of I. board. He hopes to have the new members appointed by the trustee's next meeting in September, an ambitious timetable by any measure.

the governor can remove trustees for "incompetence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance.'

"If people refuse to resign, they open themselves up to the

The commission's recommendation came after an eightweek investigation in which nearly 40 witnesses and more than 9,000 pages of documents outlined how the Urbana-Champaign campus gave preferential treatment to well-connected students.

Quinn appointed the panel after a Chicago Tribune series revealed that more than 800 undergraduate applicants over five years were tagged "Category I," meaning they received special consideration because of their connections to elected The Illinois Constitution says officials, generous donors or university trustees. Dozens more benefited from undue attention at the law school and other programs.

The Tribune has found that

applicants, including trustees' relatives and friends, were admitted over the objections of admissions staff.

Trustee James Montgomery, for example, is singled out in the report for inquiring about the 2009 rejection of an applicant related to his daughter's boyfriend. The denial was not overturned, and Montgomery does not believe he crossed any ethical lines when he asked if it was "too late" for the applicant.

Likewise, Schmidt said he broke no rules when he forwarded the names of six students in the last three years. One of his relatives also was admitted to the law school after his application was flagged with a directive to handle with

governor-would seem an acknowledgment of impropriety, Montgomery said.

"To me, it would be equivalent to a personal admission of attempting to interfere with the process of admission, and I have not. Therefore, I don't plan to resign," Montgomery said. "I enjoy my service as a 1994. trustee and plan to continue to do so."

Trustees Frances Carroll and Robert Vickrey did not return calls. Both have questioned the wisdom of a group resignation.

Any board member's refusals would flout a growing chorus of public officials and educators demanding the removal of trustees who placed students on the clout list. Two former U. of I. presidents, as well as U.S.

state Rep. Mike Boland, D-East Moline, chairman of the House Higher Education Committee, have called for members to step down. A bill pending in the General Assembly would remove the entire board.

Trustee David Dorris, an attorney, has signaled he would resign if asked. He has encouraged his fellow board members to join him, but he has not been able to muster enough support. Dorris was out of the country Friday and could not be reached for comment.

Board member Devon Bruce, who is also out of the country, said in an e-mail that he could not comment. A U. of I. graduate who was not implicated in the commission's report, Bruce previously supported Dorris' efforts for a mass resignation, other trustees said.

One complication for Quinn as he decides Bruce's fate is that he recently received a large campaign donation from the law firm where Bruce works. The commission criticized former Gov. Rod Blagojevich's penchant for appointing and re-appointing political donors to the board.

Power Rogers & Smith donated \$25,000 to Quinn's campaign fund in June just weeks after the governor appointed the commission to investigate admissions abuses. One of the firm's named partners, Joseph Power, gave a \$2,000 contribution in February. On that same day, Bruce gave \$500 to Quinn. The last time the firm had contributed to Quinn was when it gave a series of donations in

Bruce told the Tribune in June, before the Quinn donations, that he was not involved in his firm's political activities.

"I have no role in my firm's contributions to political candidates and do not participate in that process," he said.

(c) 2009, Chicago Tribune

Obama honors achievers, and shapes America's self-image

By MARGARET TALEV MCT WASHINGTON-Every

president has his rough-andtumble or mundane days, but also some that float above the norm and compel him to take stock of society's changes.

Deep in summer's doldrums, Wednesday was one of those days for President Barack Obama.

America's first black president took a breather from the health care fight to honor the first Hispanic to be confirmed to the Supreme Court.

In an eloquent midmorning tribute to Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Obama said that the rise of a Puerto Rican girl from the Bronx, raised by a widowed single mom struggling to make ends meet, is "one of those only-in-America stories." Her Senate confirmation, he said, "is not just about her. It's about every child who will grow up thinking to him or herself, 'If Sonia Sotomayor can make it, then maybe I can, too.'"



President Obama presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom to physicist Stephen Hawking during a ceremony at the White House in Washington D.C., on Wednesday, August 12, 2009.

Olivier Douliery/Albaca Press/MCT

serves to inspire parents to enough, maybe my kids can

He said that the story also believe that "if I work hard have more."

He concluded by noting that



this great nation, all things are her father's behalf and strugstill possible for all people. This is a great day for America."

Later, in the afternoon, dom.

privileges bestowed on the through Congress. Now the occupants of this house," the decline of JFK's last brother president said. "But few mean foreshadows the end of an era. as much to me as the chance to award America's highest civilian medal to the recipients that are here today."

The honorees, some American and some not, represent "what we consider to be that most American of beliefs," Obama said, "that our lives are what we make of them, that no barriers of race, gender or physical infirmity can restrain the human spirit, and that the truest test of a person's life is what we do for one another."

White House aides said the recipients had effected or embodied noteworthy changes Muhammad Yunus of Banglain society.

touched Obama on a deeply personal level:

breaking of race barriers on film began preparing America years ago for Obama. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the South African opponent of apartheid. American civil rights leader the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Also, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who was too debilitated from brain cancer to accept the award in person. Obama was tender with Kara

her rise renews "faith that in Kennedy, who accepted on gled to keep her composure. Kennedy passed the Camelot torch to Obama last year Obama honored his 16 picks with his endorsement, and for for this year's Medal of Free- decades the liberal icon championed the health care overhaul "There are many honors and , that Obama is trying to push

Other honorees included breast cancer activist Nancy G. Brinker; women's tennis pioneer Billie Jean King; South Florida physician and homeless advocate Pedro Jose Greer Jr.; Native American war veteran and historian Joe Medicine Crow; Broadway star Chita Rivera; Mary Robinson, Ireland's first female president, for her advocacy of women's and human rights; paralyzed British theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking; cancer researcher Janet Davison Rowley; and economist desh, who created the concept Some of the honorees also of microcredit to extend loans to poor entrepreneurs.

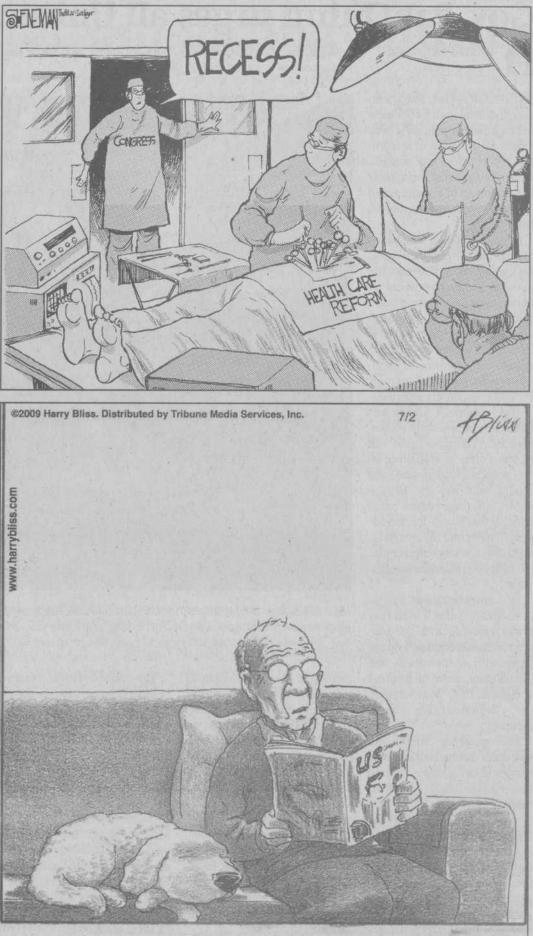
Another recipient was Actor Sidney Poitier, whose retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who as the first woman to serve on the high court helped pave the way for Sotomayor.

> Honored posthumously were gay activist Harvey Milk and Jack Kemp, the football-proturned-Republican-politician known ·for working passionately across party lines.

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"I really think it's time for Madonna to let the dream die."

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Backlash on the new Web site makeover? Adapting to the new design without going into a panic

By AARON GEIGER Publications Manager

[Jonas Dees contributed to this report. Dees was a technology columnist at the Prospectus, and currently works at Parkland as the CSIT Program Manager.]

The new Parkland Web site was recently unveiled this summer to the general community, causing a bit of a stir and prompting mixed reactions. Designed to reach out to the prospective student population, the new Web site not only changed appearance, it altered the manner in which users normally approached it.

"In the past our navigation has been driven by our organizational structure," said Drew Rennick, a Web technical support specialist for Parkland's Campus Technologies department. "Web users don't think in those terms...now we will sort information based upon the visitor's role."

In short, when Web users visit the Parkland domain, they will now experience a site that caters to the new and prospective student. Since the past Web site was compartmentalized according to the various departments of Parkland, staff, faculty, and current students needed to adjust to a large shift in how they viewed the Web site.

"I was initially frustrated because I was receiving a lot of complaints in my office that people didn't know where to look, and that included students," said a Parkland administrator, who asked to not be named in this article. "But if people just approach the new Web site like they were trying it for the first time, all of the resources are there if you explore."

Kate Burner, a graphic my.parkland, for current studesigner for Parkland, recognized that the Web site was a community effort. "The whole college made this decision," she said.

And in spite of some of the initial concerns and negative feedback, Jonas Dees noted that a student focus group was recently conducted on the new Web site and the reviews were overwhelmingly positive.

Dees also pointed out that it does not mean that the new Web site was built without current students and employees in mind. The new Web site will feature the familiar "Current Students" link, which will house all of the same information students are accustomed to until a new Datatel-powered system called Colleague goes live.

Parkland faculty and staff have just begun to use an intranet called my.parkland. The student equivalent of

dents, will be available in 2010. The link my.parkland will be main hub for all Parkland College related news and updates. Students will have a news

aggregate feature and can customize their my.parkland site so they only see the information as it pertains to them. The faculty and staff intranet has the same features, but my.parkland also serves as an employee resource page with the ability to download forms, share documents, and collaborate on projects.

Hilary Valentine, director of Marketing and Creative Services, said that informing incoming faculty and students about the new Web site is one of their goals.

"New hires will receive orientation...and students [will] get it through their orientation," said Valentine.

Why did the change take place, anyway?

"There's a shift in our culture, for sure," said Valentine, who has been one of the implementers of the new look online. "The questions are, 'who is using it, how to they find it, and what are they looking for?""

The previous Web site was forced to grow in segments, as each department needed new specifications, links, and areas to disseminate information, until the overall structure of the old site was labyrinthine and not easily manageable.

"Our Web site has been a catchall for information," said Rennick. "Much of the information was geared toward employees and not really necessary for public consumption. With the change in data information systems, we ... [can now] separate out information based upon audiences."

It seems that an initial frustration over a change in how the Web site looked and operated actually made overall function more readily manageable and customizable. The issue seemed to be a question of adaptation.

"I'm not sure what we could have done differently," said Burner. "We invited people to take a look at it, and we let people make comments and suggestions."

Valentine did find one way she thought she could have improved the overall transition.

"We should have emailed current students that there was going to be a change," she said.

If you have any questions or concerns with the new Web site. please send an email to webteam@parkland.edu, and someone will address your issue.

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Graphic Design by Kate Burner

Rove deeply involved in attorney firings?

By MARISA TAYLOR MCT

WASHINGTON-Karl Rove and other top officials in George W. Bush's White House were deeply involved in pushing for the ouster of several U.S. attorneys, notably including one in New Mexico, according to testimony and e-mails that the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee released Tuesday.

Sworn testimony from former White House Counsel Harriet Miers revealed that Rove considered former U.S. Attorney David Iglesias of New Mexico a "serious problem" and "wanted something done about it" because of complaints about politically sensitive investigations that Iglesias had mounted. Miers said she couldn't recall whether Rove specifically demanded Iglesias' firing during a 2006 conversation, but Iglesias was fired later that year.

Miers' testimony and e-mails between White House officials contradict Rove's assertion that he was merely a passive "conduit" to the Justice Department for complaints from Republican operatives and wasn't himself an advocate for the administration's eventual ouster of nine U.S. attorneys.

In sworn closed-door testimony to the House Judiciary Committee in July, Rove continued to distance himself from

prosecutors. He recalled a proposal to fire some or all of them in late 2004, but denied that he'd come up with a plan to have it done and rejected the suggestion that he had a direct role.

"My view was this is a decision that had to be made at the Justice Department," Rove said, according to a transcript of his sworn testimony.

House Judiciary Chairman John Conyers, D-Mich., issued a statement that said: "After all the delay and despite all the obfuscation; lies and spin, this basic truth can no longer be denied: Karl Rove and his cohorts at the Bush White House were the driving force behind several of these firings,

the decision to push out certain which were done for improper reasons."

> Iglesias, too, said Tuesday that the e-mails confirmed his suspicions that Rove was more directly involved in his December 2006 firing than he'd acknowledged.

In a statement released Tuesday afternoon, Rove again denied that he'd sought to influence any of the prosecutors' investigations.

"I played no role in deciding which U.S. attorneys were retained and which (were) replaced," his statement said.

Rove, who said the documents' release showed that allegations against him "have proved utterly groundless," urged the public to read the

documents rather than rely on told former Bush campaign "partisans selectively quoting testimony or excerpting e-mail messages."

The committee's release of more than 700 pages of transcripts and 5,000 pages of White House and Republican National Committee e-mails on these subjects marks the end of the House investigation into the U.S. attorneys' firings.

The e-mails reveal more details about the political sources of the White House's dissatisfaction with Iglesias and other prosecutors.

In e-mails, Rove's then-aide Scott Jennings repeatedly pressed the issue with his boss and other White House officials. In a June 2005 e-mail, he operative Tim Griffin that he'd "really like to move forward with getting rid" of Iglesias because of the New Mexico prosecutor's handling of allegations about Democratic voter fraud. Griffin, who later replaced ousted Arkansas U.S. Attorney Bud Cummins, was favored for the job by Rove and other White House officials.

In a 2005 e-mail, Rove urged another White House official to "keep pushing" for Griffin. "I want him on the team," Rove wrote.

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Intramural sports

If you love sports, but you are not exactly a Division I (or II or III) athlete, that's no reason to give up your athletic lifestyle. Intramural sports programs offer a terrific way to meet people, stay in shape and have a great

And even though fun is the first reason to join an intramural sports team, being involved in one also can provide broader benefits, even helping to improve your overall satisfaction with college life. According to "The Value of Recreational Sports in Higher Education," a study conducted by the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA), involvement in recreational sports provides a wide range of benefits for students, such as: Improving emotional wellbeing

Reducting stress

time all in one.

Improving happiness

Improving self-confidence

Building character

Aiding in time management skills

Improving leadership skills

. just to name a few.

Katherine Often, editor and assistant director of marketing for the NIRSA, said most schools will have a main recreational facility with information on recreational sports.

"Stopping by this facility and talking with staff there is the best way of getting to know what a school offers," Otten said. "Many have a staff member dedicated to intramural programming."

Otten said the most popular intramural sports are typically flag football, basketball, soccer and volleyball, though these are certainly not the only sports offered at most ILLUSTRATIONS BY ERIC GOODWIN/MCT

Student groups are a good way

large school may spend 40 hours per week on the position and may receive monetary compensation. Meanwhile, senators can put in just a few hours a week. The makeup of student government is different from school to

Oxendine said.

school.

Governments at large state schools may be full of political science majors prepping for a career in politics, while at smaller schools they might be made up of nursing majors just looking to improve the campus, he said.

Clubs and special interest groups

If Greek life is not for you, you don't like sports or have no big dreams for your student political career, don't worry — you have not exhausted all your options.

Special interest groups and student clubs are a great way to meet people that share your interests that you might not otherwise run into.

"The best thing to do is to go to a student org fair at the beginning of the year," said Tatum Enslin, a junior at the George Washington University and student employee for undergraduate admissions.

There you can find anything from chess club to various religious groups to ballroom dancing societies—the bigger the school, the more groups they are likely to have.

"The first week or two of freshman year just go to the first meeting of any and all clubs that you might be interested in, then choose the ones you really

want once you experience it all," Enslin said. And what if you can't find a group that fits your niche?

If somehow you are the only one brilliant enough to realize that what your school really needs is a cheese tasting club or a bird watching group, then you can always take control

schools.

If you want to scope out the intramural scene at your school before you arrive on campus, Otten suggests checking out your school's Web site and searching under recreational sports.

Greek life

Greek life carries a certain stigma with it, yes — but skeptics, don't count it out just yet. If you aren't part of or planning to be part of any other groups, Greek life can be a great way to get involved in a group at school.

"It is a wonderful way to meet people," said Kris Bridges, a member of the National Panhellenic **Conference** Executive Committee and chairman of the College Panhellenics. "It makes the college campus seem a lot smaller to make those connections and get to know people." The thing to keep in mind is that the experience differs greatly depending on the school. Greek life certainly may not be for everyone. If you detest being surrounded by large groups of girls on a regular basis, for example, joining a sorority might not be your first choice. If you love being involved and active and working in groups, maybe it's just for you.

Here are a few general recruitment tips for incoming freshmen from **thesororitylife**. **com**, a Web site powered by the NPC, though these tips also apply to guys and fraternities as well:

Be yourself.

Have genuine and honest conversations.

Spend time really getting to know the members.

Expose yourself to the chapter experience.
 Seek accurate information from the college or university.

Look for the group where you feel the most comfortable.

Keep an open mind.

Trust the process.

Have fun.

To learn more about whether Greek life is for you, you can visit **www.thesororitylife**. **com** or **www.fraternityinfo.com** for general information on sororities and fraternities, respectively.

Student government

For aspiring politicos, student government is a logical choice, and chances are there's

for college freshmen to meet people, adapt to collegiate life

By Derby Cox and Dagny Leonard, McClatchy-Tribune

reshman year: a time for new beginnings, personal growth and awkward social situations.

If you're like most freshmen, finding yourself in a sea of strangers can be jarring, and making friends is one of the most important things on your mind.

Parties are fun, but it's hard enough to hear yourself think, let alone get to know anyone else with the music thumping. One of the surest ways to find friends who share your interests is to join student groups.

At many schools, there's a group for nearly every interest from government to gardening. Keep reading to learn about some of the most popular choices, as well as how to find more offbeat options or start your own club.

one at your school. Butch Oxendine, executive director of the American Student Government Association, said his organization tracks about 5,000 institutions — about 4,500 of which have student governments. College students often complain that student government has little ability to change the school, but Oxendine says the key is to have realistic goals.

"Can they build a new parking garage tomorrow? No," he said. But the government might be able to make smaller changes like adding a copying machine or extending library hours, he said.

"Stuff like that, it sounds silly, but for a lot of students, it really matters for their lives." Although officer elections are typically held in the spring, many schools elect sena-

tors in the fall, he said. The difficulty of winning an election depends on the school.

"Some schools go begging for candidates, and you can get elected by being alive," he said. "But at other schools, it's much harder and you have to campaign aggressively."

If you want to get a taste of student government before running for office, you may be able to fill an unelected position — as a committee or cabinet member, for example.

Time commitments vary widely, Oxendine said. A student government president at a

and start your own.

The process will not be exactly the same at each school. Enslin suggests that those interested in starting their own group visit their school's student activities center to learn about the proper steps.

Most importantly, don't be afraid to branch out. Let's face it, college might be your only chance to assemble your own personal army of cheese-tasters — so take advantage of it while you can!

Campus media

For motivated students, working for campus media can provide a unique thrill.

"Breaking a story or turning around a great newspaper creates a feeling that does not compare to anything else," Emily Glazer, editor in chief of The Daily Northwestern at Northwestern University, wrote in an e-mail.

Whether you're interested in standing in front of a television camera, sitting behind a microphone at the radio station or grilling sources for the newspaper, campus media give you the chance to develop your communication skills and pick up some valuable professional experience.

Campus media come in a variety of flavors. Some college newspapers print daily; others print weekly or

monthly. Some media organizations receive school funds and oversight, while others are completely independent.

One of the benefits — and one of the challenges — of working for campus media is a learning experience that can't be replicated in the classroom.

"No amount of classroom instruction can truly prepare someone for the experience of being on the mic and 'on the air,'" Scott Maxwell, general manager of the University of Maryland's radio station, wrote in an email. "It's trial by fire — you have to sit down and simply do it — and that's how you learn."

The work can be time-consuming. Allie Grasgreen, editor in chief of the Oregon Daily Emerald at the University of Oregon, estimated the average staff time commitment is about 25 hours per week. Some media organizations pay their staff, but don't expect to rake in the cash — most students do it for the love of the job.

"I wouldn't be doing it — especially to this extent — if I didn't love it," Northwestern's Glazer wrote.