



McKenney bids us farewell, and offers up some Hop-pin' John Risotto, Molasses Cookies, and, um, Reindeer Stew. Happy New Year!

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Prospectus News

A student produced publication since 1969

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Vol. 02 No. 14

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Prospectus

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Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

LEAD STORY

Commercial test-preparation courses are already popular for applicants to top colleges and graduate schools, and recently also for admission to prestigious private high schools and grade schools. Now, according to a November New York Times report, such courses and private coaching are increasingly important for admission to New York City's high-achiever public kindergartens, even though the applicants are just 3 and 4 years old. Basic coaching, which may cost more than \$1,000, includes training a child to listen to an adult's questions and to sit still for testing. Minimum qualification for top-shelf kindergartens are scores at the 90th percentile on the Olsat reasoning test and the Bracken School Readiness knowledge test.

Police Report

—In the past three years, at least 39 drivers in Dallas have been ticketed by police officers for the "offense" of being "a non-English speaking driver," according to a Dallas Morning News investigation in October. The software for officers' in-car computers features a check-off box with the phrase, perhaps leading officers (and their sergeants) to believe it constituted a separate traffic offense rather than merely an indication that the motorist might not have understood an officer's instructions. The police chief expressed shock at the report and promised to end the practice.

—The Public Record: (1) From the Findlay, Ohio, police: "A woman called the police early Saturday morning (Oct. 31) during an argument with her husband after he claimed that the woman's daughter performed oral sex on him, and the daughter was better at it." (2) From the Steamboat Pilot (Steamboat Springs, Colo.), Nov. 4: "Police were called to a report of a suspicious incident in the 2900 block of West Acres Drive where a woman reported that she found feces in her toilet that she did not think she put there."

—Justifiable Felonies? (1) Five people were arrested in Los Angeles in October and charged with kidnapping and "torturing" two "loan modification" agents who had taken fees while promising to save their home from foreclosure but had allegedly failed to help. (2) Daniel Adler, 61, was arrested in October in Stony Point, N.Y., and charged with assault. Police said Adler had been solicited by a Sears Home Improvement telemarketer and had agreed to an appointment but that when the employee arrived, Adler allegedly punched him in the face. Adler said he had scheduled the appointment only to "advise" Sears, in person, to

stop calling him.

—Oops! In an October incident, an off-duty Jacksonville, Fla., sheriff's deputy forgot to leave her service weapon outside when accompanying her mother to Shands Jacksonville hospital for an MRI. The powerful magnet sucked her Glock away in a flash, trapping the deputy's hand between the machine and the gun. Repairs, plus the lengthy powering-down and re-powering of the machine, was said to have cost the hospital \$150,000.

Government In Action

—Google 1, FBI 0: In September, Nebraska prison guard Michal Preclik, 32 (who had been on the job for a year and had just been promoted), was discovered to be on the lam from Interpol for drug and fraud crimes in the Czech Republic. The Corrections Department's background check, on the FBI's National Criminal Information Center database, had turned up nothing, but when officials subsequently Googled Preclik, the Interpol wanted poster was one of the top results.

—Promoting the General Welfare in Malaysia: (1) The government of the state of Terengganu initiated a campaign in November to halt the growing divorce rate by offering pre-marital classes in sensuality. Also, because newlyweds have identified spousal body odor and ugly pajamas as turn-offs, the government invited cosmetics firms and lingerie sellers to improve their offerings. (2) The chairwoman of the family and health committee of Malaysia's Kelantan state suggested in October that male legislators should take, as additional wives (permitted under Islam), some of the 16,000 unmarried mothers now dependent on state support.

—U.S. Homeland Security officials confirmed in October that an estimated 200,000 temporarily admitted foreign visitors to the U.S., since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks are still in the country illegally, with overstayed visas, and that there is still no system in place to catch them. The problem had surfaced in September when a 19-year-old Jordanian man (legally admitted on a since-expired tourist visa) was arrested and accused of plotting to blow up a Dallas skyscraper. He had been arrested two weeks before that on a traffic violation, and even though he was on an FBI watch list because of visits to a jihadist Web site, he had no immigration "record" and thus was released after paying the traffic fine.

Democracy in Action

—When the DRP party candidate for president of Mexico City's most populous bor-

Christmas Vacation

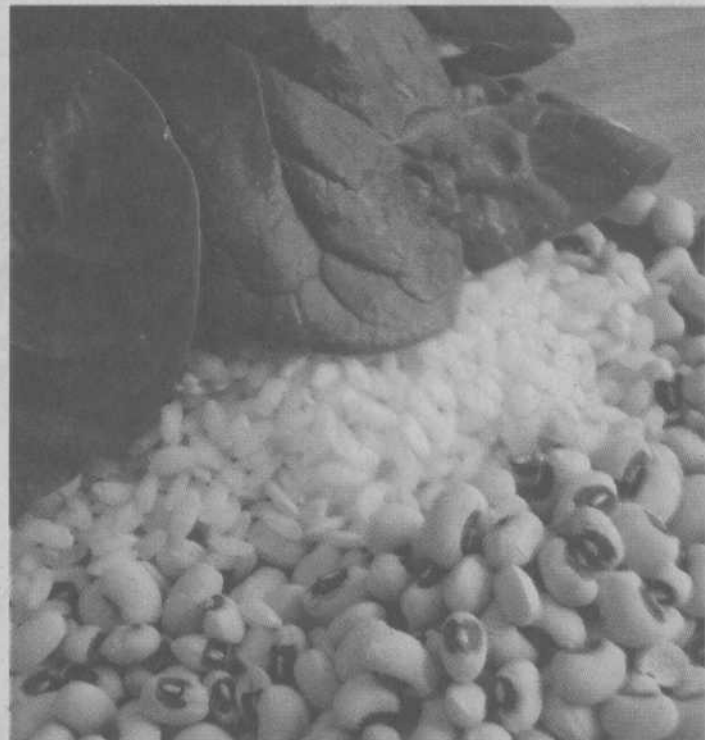
Chrissie MCKENNEY,
Nutrition Columnist

December is barely under way, and I'm already sick of Christmas. I always thought twelve days were a few too many, but now the holiday has been allowed to take over the entire fall season. I can't take it. I have never been that into Christmas, anyway, and after spending several years serving coffee to hoards of frantic shoppers in a busy mall, I decided to give up the holiday all together. (I prefer goodwill towards everybody all year, anyway.) Since then, all I want to do between Thanksgiving and New Year's is find a safe place to hide. Well, I have finally found my sanctuary.

Perhaps you remember my primatologist husband. Most

return. This has dramatically improved my holiday spirits. There is one drawback, however. I am avoiding more than just the Christmas season by hiding out in the rainforest: I miss New Year's Eve, too. I like celebrating New Year's. I could feel good about extending New Year's celebrations over a few more days or weeks. It could be part of an important advocacy campaign. Champagne is an extremely underrated beverage here in the U.S., and it is one of the few occasions when we drink it in abundance. It is not the champagne that I miss, however.

In the Southeast, where I grew up, it is traditional to eat a meal of black-eyed peas and rice along with collard greens on New Year's Day. We call this dish Hoppin' John. It is



Forget champagne, black eyed-peas and rice are our columnist's favorite New Year's treat. Check out page three for the risotto recipe!

winters, he teaches a study-abroad-type monkey class in Costa Rica. It runs from late December through mid-January. He can't teach it here in central Illinois, you see, because there are no wild monkeys living out on the prairie. Thanks to my past life as a graduate student in botany, I tag along and harass the students into learning a few things about plant identification. (It's nice to know that the monkeys were eating fruit in a tree. It is even nicer if you know what kind of tree.) The students arrive the day after Christmas, but we get there a week or two early to set things up. I may not miss the entire season, but I do escape in time to avoid the awkwardness of receiving cheap, useless presents from random people and having nothing to give them in

most closely associated with the low-country cuisine of coastal South Carolina and Georgia, but on New Year's Day, it can be found on dinner tables throughout the South, as well as on the tables of displaced Southerners (like me) around the country. Southern folklore contends that starting the year with a dish of peas and rice will bring good luck and prosperity. The peas represent coins, and the rice represents abundance. They are often accompanied by collard greens representing dollar bills. This is something that I eat throughout the year, but I especially enjoy the tradition of having it on New Year's Day. Since I have been ringing in the New Year in Costa Rica, however, I haven't been eating my peas and rice. Beans

Update

Franciscan monk Cesare Bonizzi, 63, who 15 years ago turned from spiritual new age music to heavy metal (inspired, he said, by the groups Metallica and Megadeth) and who has spent the last several years as the robe-clad lead singer of his own band, Fratello Metallo, announced his retirement in November after realizing, he said, that the devil had tempted him too much with celebrity and turned him away from his brothers.

Undignified Deaths

(1) William Evans, 57, on trial in St. Augustine, Fla., in August for a sex crime that occurred nearly 30 years ago (but not erased by the statute of limitations), committed suicide while away from the courthouse, awaiting the jury's decision. Without knowing that, the jury came back and declared him not guilty. (2) Engineer-

See **Weird** on page 4

See **Food** on page 4

roommate hasn't paid up? no worries!

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How to bomb your final

Merry THOMAS
Staff Writer

Finals. The end. Start saying your prayers, because there's no going back now. This is moment of the semester that every student dreads. After all of the preparation for this final (or lack thereof), a final can often either make or break your grade. You can do all sorts of things to prepare for your final, such as organizing your schedule and planning ahead, but come on, everyone knows about the things they're supposed to do. Does that mean that everyone actually does those things? Of course not! Many students are guilty of doing unproductive tasks instead of studying for finals, so why not call out some of those deeds to remind everyone not to do them? Now there's an idea! Here are some ways to ensure that you fail your final.

Prioritizing. Everyone has problems with it. Whether it's putting off your paper so you and your girls can totally go shopping, or playing on X-BOX live until three in the morning instead of doing your French homework, it can lead to a problematic outcome. Putting your final low on the priority scale, especially in comparison to video games or hanging out with friends, is a great way to bomb your final. It's finals week. People expect that you're going to put your finals first. But hey, what does that matter? You got a high score



Reese Martin, pictured above, is playing *Left 4 Dead 2* instead of studying for finals.

on *Modern Combat 2!* Wicked awesome!

Not organizing your schedule can also mean failing your final. That's a big problem for college students, especially with big time fillers such as work and social lives. However, not doing being on top of your organization for a final can lead to absolute failure and

many tears. When you don't organize the days that you have before your finals, like figuring out what responsibilities you have those days, you leave a lot of things up to chance. What if you forget that you have to work that day, or that you have two finals the same day instead of one? When you make mistakes like that, it makes you

want to rip your hair out. But if you're looking to stress yourself out completely, this is the way to go.

Staying up all-night and studying for a final is another really remarkable way to completely bomb it. It doesn't matter if you're one of those people who run on two hours of sleep, everyone does better when he

Levi NORMAN/Prospectus

or she get a full night's rest. But you're in college and you're young! You can do whatever you want. So go ahead, binge on a six-pack of Red Bull and study to your hearts content (though it's doubtful that your heart would be very happy, it'd probably be dying). It's only your body—who wants to live forever, anyway?

Completely ignoring your instructor's pleas before the exam is another grand way to go down in a blaze of glory. Assuming that the final is going to be a breeze is a sure fire way towards disaster. Who needs to study if you know the material, right? Just because you know the material well doesn't necessarily mean that you'll do well in the final. But why don't you leave it to chance? When has that ever failed anyone? Oh wait...

Coming to the final completely unprepared most definitely will cause you to bomb your exam. Don't bring the necessary materials to take a test, like a calculator or a pencil. Instead, why not use whatever you have, whether it's those glitter pens that your grandmother gave you, or an orange highlighter that just so happened to be at the bottom of your bag. It doesn't matter that no one can read what you've written. Oh, and your instructor's sure to really appreciate you taking the exam seriously, too.

Don't think that you're the exception to some of these situations. Sure, maybe you can stay up all night, cram for a test, or maybe not even study at all, and still do fine on your final. But if you actually want to do well and not stress out your final it might be a good idea to not do these things—chances are you're not the exception.

On the twelve days of Christmas I bring this gift to thee, twelve horrid songs all Christmas themed

Tara MOON CHRISTOPHER
Music Columnist

"Dominick the Italian Christmas Donkey" by Lou Monte

No words can express this song. Originating in the 60's this is a Christmas song about an Italian reindeer that replaces Santa's reindeer as apparently they "cannot climb the hills of Italy". I could be mistaken but I'm pretty sure that reindeer fly. They manage the feat of the Rocky Mountains, but some puny hills in Italy they cannot? This song makes no logical sense, at least according to all we've been led to believe about the magic of Santa and his reindeer. With lyrics along the lines of "Hey! Chingedy Ching, It's

Dominick the Donkey" this is one of the worst Christmas songs ever created. I will admit that the first time I heard this song I was sent into a fit of hysteria along with utter disbelief that this could ever pass as a holiday tune. So if you want some simple amusement and a song that goes against Christmas Tradition, Dominick the Christmas Donkey is perfect for you.

"Santa Looked a Lot Like Daddy" by Buck Owens

Santa Looked a Lot Like Daddy is a horrible Christmas song that crushes little kids dreams when they realize that Santa is not real and is in fact, their father. Buck Owens sings about how disappointed he is when he sees Santa one Christ-

mas when he sneaks out of bed. And if indeed this man he sees is Santa, the Buck Owens is going to have to tell his father on him as he witnessed Santa putting his arms around his mother. What is it about non-traditional Christmas songs that has to be so disappointing? After writing out this list I'm starting to lose faith in this holiday.

"Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer" by Dr. Elmo

In this cheerful tuned Christmas song Grandma gets trashed off eggnog and dies on Christmas Eve. The family discovers her body on Christmas morning, the most epic time to discover your loved one is dead. However, Grandpa doesn't seem to care. After

some investigation they discover "hoof prints on her forehead and incriminatin' Claus marks on her back". Basically Grandma is dead due to a lose reindeer and no one really cares. This song screams Christmas spirit.

"I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Clause" by Rightson Five

No one in their right mind wants to see their mother cheating on their father with a fictional character. Especially a prepubescent Michael Jackson. This song is about a mother cheating on her husband with a large fat man who lives off a diet of cookies and milk and enslaves little men. Really? Mother, if you ever cheat on father with Santa, I'm getting emancipated.

"All I Want For Christmas is My Two Front Teeth" by Alvin and The Chipmunks

Anything by Alvin and The Chipmunks is enough to prompt one into an early grave but a Chipmunk's Christmas song? This is even more devastating. I don't like chipmunks to begin with, as they are too similar to squirrels (I have an on going battle with their species) and then you make them sing? How dare society torture me so?

"Have A Cheeky Christmas" by The Cheeky Girls

What is it about two scantily clothed European sisters singing about hot Christmas nights that makes for such horrid music? The Cheeky Girls apparently have released

more than one mediocre pop single and it comes in the form of a Christmas song. These girls are worthless in today's music industry and their lack of musical talent leaves me completely speechless. Just save yourselves and avoid this musical car wreck at all possible costs.

"Christmas Conga" by Cyndi Lauper

Although Christmas Conga is one of the few horrible songs on my list that actually seems joyful, it's overly so. With lyrics like "Bonga, bonga, bonga! Do the Christmas Conga!" Cyndi Lauper sets herself up for disaster. No one wants to do a conga line on Christmas

See **Songs** on page 12

Hoppin John Risotto

Chrissie MCKENNEY

10 ounce package frozen black-eyed peas
1-2 cloves garlic, smashed
1 tablespoon butter

10 ounce package frozen spinach, thawed, drained, and chopped

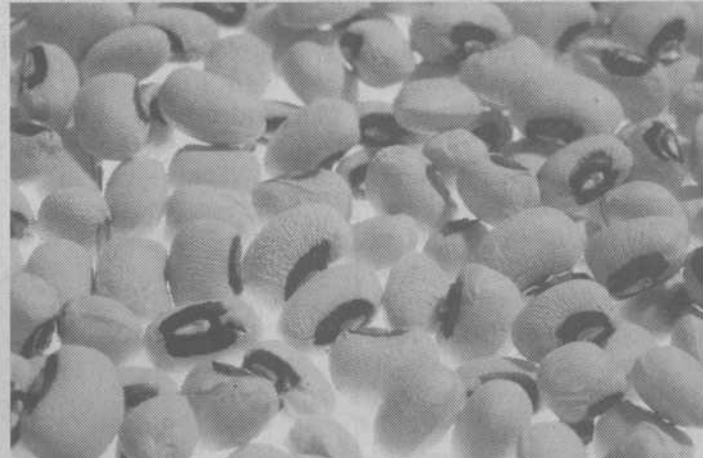
2 tablespoons butter or oil
1 small onion, minced
1 clove garlic, minced
1 ½ cups Arborio rice
1 ¼ cups white wine (optional)
5 cups chicken or vegetable stock/broth
½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated

Pepper sauce or cayenne pepper
Salt and pepper

Put the peas, garlic, and butter in a small pot and add enough water to cover. Bring to a boil and reduce to a simmer. Continue to

simmer until the peas are tender, about 25 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper and set aside.

While the peas are cooking, bring the stock/broth to a simmer. Heat the butter or oil in a medium-sized saucepan over low to medium heat and sauté the onion and garlic, without browning, until soft and translucent. Add the rice and stir to coat with the oil/butter. Continue to stir for about two minutes or until the rice becomes opaque. Add the wine and



cook, stirring until it has been absorbed. Continue to stir the rice, while adding the stock ½ cup at a time. Wait until each ½ cup has been absorbed before adding more. Keep adding stock and stirring until the rice is tender, about 25-30 minutes, adding the spinach towards the end of cooking. (You may not use all of the stock, or you may need to add additional stock or water.) Stir in the cheese and black-eyed peas. Season to taste with salt, pepper, and pepper sauce. Enjoy luck and



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Real scientists explain Santa's job demands

Sean HERMANN
Assistant to the editor

We all love Santa Claus. We take pictures with him; we see him in advertisements; we watch him in movies and we even keep him in our homes, whether it is an image of Santa on our stockings or he just happens to still be stuck in your chimney from last year. But how can one man, so universally well known and so uni-

stop at the South pole, turn around, and head up longitudinally (slightly off of the International Date Line). If he keeps zigzagging like this, he'll cover the entire surface of the Earth in 24 hours and arrive at each house at midnight, as tradition demands (though this is overkill; not every place is inhabited)," he said.

While this explains the most efficient route for Santa to take in order to reach every home, there are many more aspects

incredible task.

"Santa has 31 hours of Christmas to work with, (thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth) assuming he travels east to west. This works out to 822.6 visits per second. That is to say that for each Christmas household with good children, Santa has 1/1000th of a second to park, hop out of the sleigh, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat what-

Our third question: How many reindeer would it actually take to pull the weight of Santa's sleigh?

"Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized Lego set (2 lbs), the sleigh is carrying 321,300 tons, not counting Santa, who is invariably described as overweight. On land, conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. Even granting that "flying reindeer" could pull TEN TIMES



Media credit: Isaac Mitchell

versally round be able to travel around the world, while stopping at every single house in one night? How can one man and his wife and an entire operation of elves and reindeer survive on the North Pole? How could he possibly afford presents for every single person in every single family on earth? These questions and more have been answered by real people in the real world.

Our first question: how does Santa make it around the globe in one night?

Parkland physics professor Jeremy Jang took the challenge and came up with some quick statistics on the incredible feat.

"Hypothetically speaking, he should start at the North Pole and fly longitudinally down the International Date Line. Assuming he wants to be at each house around midnight local time, he'll need to

that will have an effect on his trip.

This brings us to our second question: How fast would Santa have to travel to make it to each house on time?

"Speed is tricky, though. Assume we ignore the time spent at each house (to eat cookies and milk). Each longitude he travels is AT LEAST 20,000 km, and lets say he shifts over 0.01 degree each leg (means his sweep is 1km wide at the equator...). Based on that he will need to travel 720 million km in 24 hrs, which is only about 20 million mph. Not too bad as the speed of light is 671 million mph. This isn't really optimal, and each leg should be more than 20,000 km if he wants to sweep, but oh well," said Jang.

Parkland physics professor Dave Leake considered a different approach to Santa's

ever snacks have been left, get back up the chimney, get back into the sleigh and move on to the next house. Assuming that each of these 91.8 million stops are evenly distributed around the earth (which, of course, we know to be false but for the purposes of our calculations we will accept), we are now talking about 0.78 miles per household, a total trip of 75 1/2 million miles, not counting stops to do what most of us must do at least once every 31 hours, plus feeding and etc. This means that Santa's sleigh is moving at 650 miles per second, and 3,000 times the speed of sound," said Leake.

Based on the laws of physics and the clever calculations by Parkland's professors, there is in fact a way for Santa to make it around the world and bring children their gifts on time, but we cannot forget an important aspect of his flight: weight.

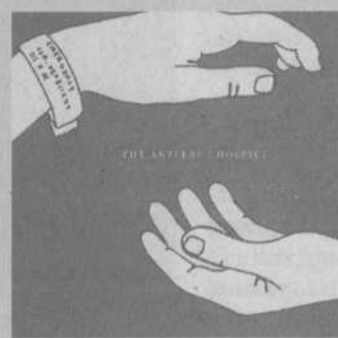
the normal amount, we cannot do the job with eight, or even nine reindeer. We would need 214,200 reindeer to do the job. This increases the payload - not even counting the weight of the sleigh - to 353,430 tons. For comparison - this is four times the weight of the Queen Elizabeth (I mean the ship, not the person)," said Leake.

Putting the two together, Leake explains that this feat would almost be near impossible.

"353,000 tons traveling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance - this will heat the reindeer up in the same fashion as spacecrafts re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer will absorb 14.3 QUIN-TILLION joules of energy. Per second. Each. In short, they will burst into flame almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them, and create deafening sonic booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team will be vaporized within 4.26 thousandths of a second. Santa, meanwhile, will be subjected to centrifugal forces 17,500.06 times greater than gravity. A 250-pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force. In conclusion - If Santa ever DID deliver pres-

Best Albums of 2009 According to Tara Moon

- 5) Yeah Yeah Yeahs - It's Blitz
Recommended track: Heads Will Roll
- 4) Decemberists - Hazards of Love
Recommended track: The Abduction of Margaret
- 3) Animal Collective - Merriweather Post Pavillion
Recommended track: Summertime Clothes
- 2.5) Metric - Fantasies
Recommended track: Sick Muse
- 2) Karen O and The Kids - Where The Wild Things Are (Soundtrack)
Recommended track: All is Love
- 1) The Antlers - Hospice
Recommended track: Two



FOOD

continued from page 2

and rice, yes. Peas and rice, no. (Perhaps this could explain my less-than-stellar luck in recent years.)

I wish I could say that this dish had a lucky and prosperous history in our country, but hoppin' John was introduced to the United States on the rice plantations of South Carolina. Slaves who were forced to go there from West Africa often cooked dishes combining peas and rice to feed themselves and their families. Many of these dishes, including hoppin' John, made their way onto the dining tables of plantation homes and ultimately became common in homes throughout the region, whether black, white, rich, or poor.

Early this year, when I returned to Illinois from the tropics, the year was still new, and I was exploring my newly empty kitchen, hoping to avoid a trip to the grocery store. Remarkably, I found black-eyed peas and spinach in the freezer and some Arborio rice in the fridge. Not exactly traditional, but just right for an almost-New Year's spinach and black-eyed pea risotto. I don't know if I have been any luckier this year because of it, although now that I think about it, I did finish my coursework at Parkland and at culinary school. I also made a cooking show and got to write for the *Prospectus*. That settles it. Who says I have to be at home to eat peas and rice? This winter, I am taking my black-eyed peas with me to Costa Rica. They have plenty of rice already.

WEIRD

continued from page 2

ing student Ken Kitamura, 19, drowned in the Yodogawa River in Osaka, Japan, in August. He and several colleagues had constructed a prototype canoe made of concrete, and Kitamura was the first to try it out.

A News of the Weird Classic (April 1999)

News of the Weird reported in October 1998 the on-the-job death by snake bite of serpent-handling preacher John W. (Punkin) Brown Jr. (In a landmark book on Southern snake-handling preachers, "Salvation

on Sand Mountain," Brown was called the "mad monk," the one most "mired" in the "blood lust of the patriarchs.") Because three years earlier (of a snake bite during services in Kentucky), the Browns' three orphans were objects of a custody fight between the two sets of grandparents. In February 1999, the wife's parents won primary custody, in a new report, Tenn., hearing, largely because Mr. Brown's parents were not able to refrain (despite a judge's orders) from taking the grandkids to snake-handling services.

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Molasses Cookies

Chrissie MCKENNEY

These are my absolute, most favorite cookies of all-time. There's no way Santa can resist.

- 3/4 cup Solid Shortening (preferably the non-hydrogenated vegetable variety)
- 1 cup Sugar
- 1/4 cup Molasses
- 1 Egg
- 2 tsp. Baking Soda
- 2 cup Flour
- 1/2 tsp. Ground Cloves
- 1/2 tsp. Ground Ginger
- 1 tsp. Ground Cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. Salt

Melt shortening, and

allow it to cool. Combine sugar, molasses (if you have plans to incapacitate Santa, add your sedative of choice to the molasses before combining with the other ingredients.), egg, soda, cloves, ginger, cinnamon and salt in a large bowl. Stir in the cooled shortening, followed by the flour. Mix thoroughly. Chill for at least one hour. Form the dough into one inch balls and roll them in granulated sugar. (Can be frozen at this stage.) Remove from freezer and continue with directions.) Place on greased cookie sheet and bake at 350°F until they crack down the middle. Cool on a wire rack.



See Santa on page 12

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Unique winter activities and gifts

Cassandra CUNNINGHAM
Social Editor

During the holiday season it is easy to go with trends and do what everyone else is doing, and buy what everyone else is buying. While everyone else is rushing out trying to get the best deal on PS3's, iPods, and televisions, why not go for something more unique? What about things to do during the

winter? Champaign-Urbana has many little locally owned shops and activities in its nooks and crannies that many people don't know about. This Christmas the Prospectus has come up with a list of these places. So, don't do the same thing everyone else is doing for Christmas. Head out for something more unique!
What: Sledding at Orchard Downs

Where: Near the edge of campus are some University of Illinois student apartments. Near these is a large hill where everyone in town has deemed the perfect sledding spot. Families, students and pretty much anyone seeking a great sledding spot can be found here when the first full snowfall of the year hits.
What: Shopping at Walnut Street Tea Co.

Why: They offer a variety of teas, jams, pastries, and assorted gifts such as mugs and cup holders for anyone who would enjoy a unique gift for Christmas. It's perfect for a mom, grandma or aunt.
What: Shopping at Ten Thousand Villages
Why: Ten Thousand Villages is a small shop located in downtown Champaign where each customer is greeted with a

smile and proceeds go to assist the artisans, who are usually located in developing countries. Ten Thousand Villages offers an array of crafts that serve as a unique gift for who appreciates the arts. This little shop has everything from handmade plates to stained glass to brighten up any window. Each purchase helps another person make a living!
What: Gift hunting at Art Mart

(Lincoln Square Mall)
Why: Art Mart has jewelry, paintings, bowls, bathroom accessories and much more. They even have a small grocery store with coffees, cheeses, olives and candies. It's reasonably priced and they even offer gift certificates so the recipient can go in and get exactly what they are looking for. You can even find hand-crafted cards

See **Winter** on page 12

Handwashing Awareness Week

Grant GARLAND,
Arielle VINEGAR,
Ben WILSON

Something so simple. Something second nature. Something often overlooked.

Washing your hands is not rocket science, but it may be the most important part of your daily routine. So the next time you are in a public bathroom, you might want to take a closer look at the diagrams on the wall. And with Handwashing Awareness Week coming up (Dec. 6-12), you'll have a wealth of helpful information at your fingertips.

"I wash my hands at least three times before I leave for class in the morning," said Lauryn Charles, a student at Parkland College. According to a study done last year by the Soap and Detergent Association, 37 percent of Americans wash their hands less than seven times a day. Experts say that there is no particular number of times that a person should wash his or her hands, but that it depends on your daily routine. A nurse, for instance, may wash her hands 12 times before lunchtime.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that the most common way to catch a cold is by rubbing your nose or eyes after a cold virus has gotten on your hands. With the H1N1 virus on the rise this year, handwashing awareness is becoming a hot topic.

Created in 1999, National Handwashing Awareness Week is meant to draw attention to the importance of keeping one's hands clean to prevent the spread of illness. The mascot and representative of the annual event, Henry the Hand, teaches the Four Principles of Handwashing Awareness. These principles include: wash your hands when they are dirty and before eating; do

not cough into your hands; do not sneeze into your hands; and above all, don't put your fingers in your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Henry the Hand also stresses the importance of the T zone, which consists of the mucous membranes of your eyes, nose, and mouth. The T zone should never be touched with a contaminated hand.

"Frequent handwashing is an important way to kill germs and limit the spread of viruses," says John Fox, M.D., associate vice president of Medical Affairs at Priority Health, in an article on priorityhealth.com. "In addition, remember to sneeze or cough into your elbow or a tissue."

For more information on how to stay healthy, go to henrythehand.com.

Effective hand-washing

How to wash away flu viruses, bacteria and other microbes:



- Use soap and warm running water; lather well



- Rub soapy hands together vigorously at least 20 seconds; scrub back of hands, wrists, fingers, under nails; rinse well



- Dry hands with clean towel; use towel to turn off faucet and grab bathroom doorknob on exiting to avoid recontamination

Hand sanitizer

Use when soap and water is not available; must be at least 60% alcohol to be effective

- Use at least a half teaspoon to coat hands
- Rub hands vigorously at least 30 seconds; if sanitizer dries before then, use more and repeat
- Not effective if hands are visibly dirty; use soap and water

© 2009 MCT
Source: Mayo Clinic, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Wisconsin
Graphic: Judy Treitle, Lee Hulleng



Ben Percy

I wanted to learn how to play Guitar Hero, I failed.



Amy Randall

To lose weight. Yes I lost 10lbs.



Lincoln Scheiding

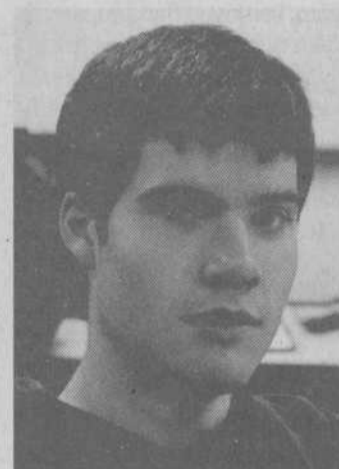
To get the f**k out of the army. Hell yes!

What was your New Year's Resolution Last Year



Carter Newnam

To never regret anything in life, and so far it's working.



Kerry Jannusch

I tried to give up sobriety. It didn't work out.



Jeremy Wurl

I wanted to build a ray gun, and I failed.



Josh Doniek

I was trying not to curse as much, it only lasted half a day.

Levi NORMAN/Prospectus

Chrissie MCKENNEY

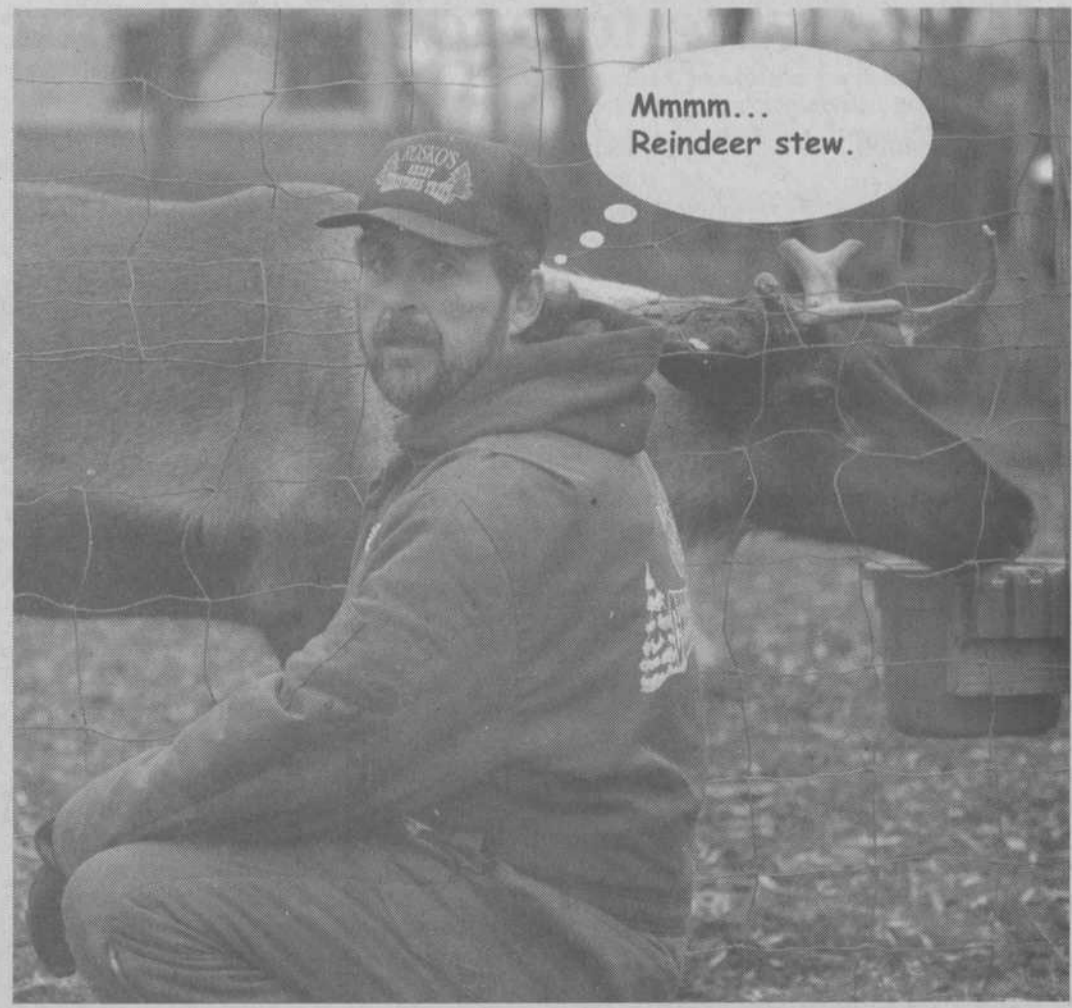
Even though I grew up in a place where hunting is a regional pastime, everyone owns a gun and makes a pilgrimage to deer camp in the fall. I have never actually been hunting. I have eaten venison, but not often, and I have only cooked it once. Some deer hunters don't cook and eat the deer, either, though. These are the ones who are into interior decorating. They take the head to the taxidermist and leave the body at the processing facility. For the cost of processing, you can often buy the meat from someone else's deer. Once upon a time, several friends (many of whom brew their own beer) and I pitched in to pay the processing fee. We split up the meat, cooked it, each in our own way, and came back together to wash it all down with home-brewed beer. Our first

"Deer and Beer" party. (If you are at a loss for holiday potluck/party ideas, allow me to recommend this as an option.) We had deer sausage and biscuits, venison stew, curried venison, deer kebabs, anything you can imagine. (My personal favorite was the sausage biscuits. They had maple syrup cooked into them. I would have been happy to live on them for the rest of my life. I am afraid that I forgot to get the recipe, though, so you're just going to have to make do with this one.) I took a package of stew meat, which was a perfect fit for my mom's beef stew recipe. So if Santa is a little distracted while the reindeer are pausing up on your housetop this year...

1 pound of venison stew meat, cut in 1" cubes
3 med or 2 large potatoes, cut in 1" cubes
2 carrots, sliced 1/4" thick
2 stalks celery, sliced

1/4" thick
1 large onion, sliced
1 bay leaf
28oz can stewed tomatoes with their juice or 12oz can spicy vegetable juice cocktail plus 15oz can tomatoeats
1 1/2 teaspoon salt
Pepper
Worcestershire sauce

Place stew meat in a heavy pot with the bay leaf, and cover with cold water. Slowly bring to a boil, and reduce to a simmer. Continue to simmer the meat for about 2 hours, skimming any foam that rises to the surface. Add the canned tomatoes and vegetable juice (if using). Add salt, pepper, Worcestershire, and cayenne (if using), and vegetables. Continue to simmer for another hour until meat and vegetables are tender. Season to taste with additional salt and pepper.



OPINIONS

One last “opinion” that you should read

Aaron GEIGER
Publications Manager

In many collegiate publications, editors usually like to leave some sort of manifesto when they depart, often in the opinions section. It is there they impart some grand oratory to the masses, hopefully ensuring that future employers will take note.

But I won't do that to you. What I can do is promise you that if you can follow me to the very end of this “opinion,” I will reward you. But you have to read carefully...if you skip to the end, the point will be lost.

When I first arrived at Parkland (and Illinois) five years ago, I was fresh out of the Navy, and had never before lived in the Midwest. A gentleman named John Eby let me jump in as a student writer at the Prospectus. The next year I added some classes at the University of Illinois, and Eby offered me a job as the editor of the paper.

At the time the paper was in tabloid format, using a black and white scheme, and over the summer there were two students working on it. Although I had a love for writing and design, I had to completely acquaint myself with all of the equipment, programs, and ethics of working with a newspaper.

After editing for two years, I started using other student editors, and I was promoted to the new oversight position as publications manager.

I also completed my undergraduate degree.

It must be said, for the purposes this essay's message, that during this time I experienced some of the roughest days of my personal life, and lately, some of my greatest joys. And although I didn't bring my problems to work, I had the great privilege of working with John Eby, my staff, and some fantastic people at Parkland—and I can honestly say that without these

wonderful personalities I can hardly imagine being in a better position than I am in today.

To you, dear reader, I can only open the index page to the serialized, unabridged texts that would take years to read in full.

As a staff, and as a college, we witnessed tragedies, we saw former president Exley have a heart attack during the staff vs. students charity basketball game; we covered the murder of Parkland policeman McLaughlin, who was killed by his own son and son's friends; we gave eulogies to faculty members who passed away.

We also helped celebrate triumphs of the spirit, such as following our Parkland veterans as they left, served abroad, and returned home; we witnessed Obama give his victory speech in Grant Park; we talked with Parkland's student, staff, and faculty award winners; we celebrated the coming and going of some of Parkland's best and brightest minds; we watched student athletes win championships.

We saw thousands of students graduate, and we followed the plight of those who failed along the way. We interviewed students who overcame all obstacles. We offered financial advice from Donna Mayer, and we covered Mayer and Pam Lytel when they won the lottery.

We had columnists that wrote about music, technology, nutrition, and comedy. We had a cartoonist, Judy Seyb, who has given us at least fifty cartoons, by my estimates. I consider her a friend by any measure.

We worked with three successive production managers—Travis Shoemaker, Mark Shirley, and Isaac Mitchell, and each and every one of them brought something new and exciting to the paper. Travis was meticulous and detail-oriented; Mark worked at any hour, any time of the day, and brought his delightfully



grumpy personality into the limelight of the office; and Isaac has instilled a new level of creativity that I can say should make him very successful in the future.

I have employed at the paper some grand diversity that has truly reflected Parkland's spectrum. I enjoyed the company of Ellen Schmidt, who has grown children, yet treated me like a peer; Erik Pfeifer, who really showed me how to network; siblings Andrew and Kathleen Serino, masters of ingenuity and thoughtfulness; Briana Stodden, a photographer and eternal friend that was so good at what she did, I hired her to document my wedding; Takamichi Kono, a Japanese exchange student that spent hours upon hours in the writ-

ing lab; Jonas Dees, a bright mind and delightful soul who now works for Parkland in a professional capacity; Beth Voigt, a witty and wonderfully surly femme that left us to be successful in Chicago; Jesse Woodrum, former editor and snappy dresser; and those who deserve so many comments, yet can only be mentioned briefly: Shane Swearingen, Nada Youssef, Gavin Dow, Mandy Robinson, and the list goes on for dozens and dozens more.

At the moment, I work with a core group of students who have helped me shape the paper into a format that will hopefully carry on long after I have left Illinois. I owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to the following people: Matt

Findlay, who is very new, but is a great guy willing to work, and even wore a dress for a photo shoot; Tara Moon Christopher, our European friend and music columnist who writes extremely well; Shagun Pradhan, a great and lively personality that brings joy with him wherever he goes; Cassandra Cunningham, a woman who continually works insane amounts of hours outside the college, and still shows up for staff meetings in her work uniform after rushing over to help us plan a paper; Alishia Reynolds, a photographer that dutifully endured a camping trip, and still travels a long distance just to photograph events; Merry Thomas, always thoughtful, always working, always endearing, always a delight; Levi Norman, eternally patient and kind—I have watched him develop from a timid photographer into our latest successful photo editor; Chrissie McKenney, who not only fit right in with our staff, she became, in a semester, someone who seemed like she had been along for the past four years; Patrick Wood, whom I consider a right hand compatriot, should be relieved to know that we can finally be just friends, and I don't have to flog him for his impertinence—I have always expected a lot from him simply because he's a good person with a lot of talent and too much energy; and Sean Hermann, who is going to take over the reigns of the paper next semester—he has always fulfilled my expectations, and is probably the one person and friend who has followed through with every task and assignment, no matter what.

Additionally, I must give credit to some of the people at Parkland (current and past) who have inspired me to be and do my very best: Matt Kopmann, Von Young, Jr., Yvonne Meyer, Dave Leake, Hilary Valentine, Lisa Costello, Tom Ramage, Linda Moore,

Tom Caulfield, Linda Tichenor, Jake Brand, Jerry Gabel, Kate Burner, Adam Meade, Dong Tang, Kevin Hales, Tom Barnard, Richard Morris, Kaizad Irani, Sarah Minyard, Boris, Simeon, Fay Rouseff-Baker, Gail Anderson, Lester Hall, Minor Jackson, Matt Hurt, Ryan Robb, and the list could carry on for an inappropriate length of paper.

I would also like to thank my advisor, mentor, and friend John Eby for giving me a chance to do something wonderful and meaningful. He believed in me, and entrusted me with great responsibility. I am forever grateful.

Lastly, my thanks and love to my wife, Sarah, who reads the paper constantly, offers advice, proofs my work, and deals with my odd hours. At times I've worked until three in the morning.

And if you are still following me to the very end of this story, you might be asking what I'm going to reward you with that you don't already know.

Ready for it?

You picked up this paper, or opened it online. You read it. You empowered your own college, and in the process you offered a little piece of connectivity with your community. It is because of people like you that students are still able to write on scholarship. It is because of your involvement that our newspaper has been successful in an age where many community colleges can barely afford to crank out one paper a month.

In short, I am thankful for you. You helped me achieve the goal of moving on past my undergraduate studies. You gave me memories to take with me. You gave me the chance to make a difference in the lives of others. You allowed me to serve you.

Thank you, Parkland. I will never forget my roots.

Christmas gift revenge

■ Annoying toys to buy for your friends' kids

Patrick WOOD
Editor

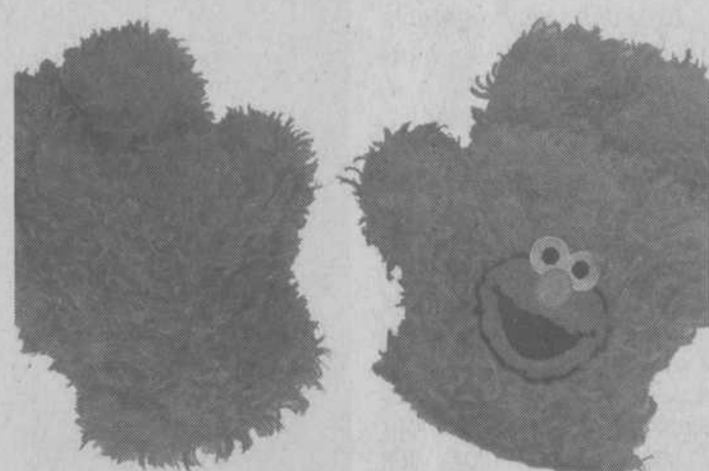
Do you have friends or family member that have children? Do you want to exact revenge? Not sure how? The Prospectus is. Through meticulous research and personal experience we've come up with ten of the most annoying things you can buy for someone else's brats.

10. The Power Wheels Series – Most parents can't stomach their kids driving in their teenage years, so why not let them get some early practice? Fisher Price is giving children between the ages of twelve months and six years the chance to drive with its Power Wheels series. The series name may not sound familiar, but you know what we're talking about. It's those plastic toy cars that kids can motor around in at a blazing 5 mph. There are 45 vehicles including a Barbie

Ford Mustang, a Jeep Wrangler Rubicon, and a Cadillac Escalade. Seriously, the only thing more terrifying than a 16-year-old behind the wheel of a car is a 6-year-old running the family cat down with a plastic Hummer. You have to really hate someone to buy one of these puppies though—prices range from \$76 to \$436.

9. Floam – It's like Playdough only it smells twice as bad. Aside for its chemical-like stink, Floam will take on the consistency of warm eggnog if it gets wet. And also like warm eggnog, it will eventually grow mold. Places Floam will go that it shouldn't—hair, carpet, mouth, and microwave. Places that Floam will eventually end up—the toilet, garbage, or pet feces. Substitutes for Floam? Warm eggnog.

8. Tickle Me Elmo Hands – Yeah, basically it's exactly what it sounds like. Someone had the bright idea to cut



off Elmo's hands and make them into gloves for children. There's a reason behind their name too. They recreate that same creepy laughter that made the original Tickle Me Elmo so unbearable, plus a little more. They also play “The Tickle Hand Groove” song. Turn someone's little one into a red, fuzzy-handed annoyance for only \$30.

7. The Xylophone – Fisher Price makes several of these noise-

makers, one being shaped like an alligator, another like a dog. The best one to make parents want to rip their ears off however, is the classic xylophone on wheels. Let's break this down—a loud musical instrument, on wheels, with a plastic mallet attached by a rope. That's a no brainer.

6. The Red Ryder BB Gun – Watch holes appear in everything. Watch parents faces contort in anger and dismay.

Laugh from afar.

5. Heelies – These shoes with wheels in the heels. No, this isn't a joke. Heelies give kids the ability to roll in every place that they shouldn't, like churches, school halls, and expensive hardwood floors. (Note—Be ready to take an ear full, as Heelies have been known to cause broken bones and parents have been known to blame everyone but themselves.)

4. The Pet Rock – So how does buying someone else's kid a lame gift annoy anyone but the kid? Simple. Psychological warfare. Give child a Pet Rock, then observe as they complain relentlessly to their parents about the gift. Regardless of what any parent in the history of parents says, a kid complaining is super, fantastically aggravating.

3. Fisher Price's Corn Popper – You have to know what we're talking about. Remember the

two-wheeled contraption that kids push, making little balls with primary colors “pop” into a plastic dome? These bad boys have been around since 1957, making us think it was actually the best birth control method of the time.

2. Weebles Treehouse – It sings the same song over and over, and there is no switch to turn it on or off. Once it's wired to go with batteries, it will keep going until you either destroy it or someone carts you away to the mental ward.

1. Hungry Hungry Hippos – If you don't know what this game is, just imagine four kids slapping the levers to their “hippos” as fast as possible, while dozens of marbles clank and bang around the board. The best part? Once the kids start counting how many marbles they got, someone always gets angry that they lost.

Stress season

How to untangle family conflicts that tie you in knots during the holidays

BY JOE MILLER
McClatchy Newspapers



So, how did your introduction to the holiday season go? Was yours a Norman Rockwell Thanksgiving? Did everyone gather at Grandma's and swap cheerful memories of days past? Compliment one another on how good the passing years have been to you all? Demur from mentioning any promotions and raises or killings in the stock market?

Or was it a bit more ... challenging? Did the folks make not-so-subtle comments about grandkids and the lack thereof? Did Aunt Marian and Uncle Jack snipe at each other continuously? Did you envy the turkey going into the oven?

We chatted with three folks who help others get through stressful situations to get their thoughts on surviving the holidays:

■ Jessica Katz Jameson is a professor in the Department of Communication at N.C. State University. She specializes in "the role of emotion in conflict management and the dialectical tension of autonomy and connection in conflict processes." Just the person to have moderating your next family get-together.

■ Dr. Robert Bashford is a psychiatrist at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, N.C. A practitioner of what he preaches, he and his wife decided a few years ago to avoid the stress of holiday shopping by going before Thanksgiving day. "We planned a dinner around it, hit it pretty hard and got 80 percent of our shopping done. And it was fun."

■ Susan Orenstein is a Cary, N.C., psychologist whose focus is on the relationship between college kids and parents.

We presented them with stressful situations that might have arisen over Thanksgiving. They offered their thoughts on avoiding repeats for the remainder of the holidays.



Q: Dinner was disappointing. My family always does the traditional turkey with dressing, gravy and mashed potatoes and eats in the formal dining room. Bob's family smoked a pig and ate in the back yard. It just didn't seem like Thanksgiving.

A: "We all have pictures of the perfect holiday based on what we grew up with," says Jameson. "As we get older and have emerging relationships, those visions collide. We need to talk about our expectations beforehand" to avoid conflict.

Q: When is a good time to have that conversation?

A: "Probably a month ago," says Jameson. Sooner, that is, rather than later.

Q: I'm not good at confrontation.

A: "It's tricky ground," acknowledges Jameson. "Especially this time of year." Start the conversation with positive assumptions, she says. "You want to make sure this is a great holiday for everyone." To do that everyone needs to list what's most important to them. They also need to accept that the stuff on down the list may not happen. Acknowledge the limited time and resources, agree to your priorities and proceed. Understand you'll need to make sacrifices.

Q: Where's a good place to start?

A: "I think you look first at what went wrong last year," Bashford says. "Look for different ways to do things. I had some successful friends tell me, 'To (heck) with this, we're going to the beach.'"

Q: Since we're in a confrontational mood, is this a good time to tell my sister how she's messing up her life?

A: No. "Now isn't the time to confront people and have big conversations," advises Orenstein. There's already stress, people drink too much. "Sometimes people want to say something and it comes out as sarcasm. People aren't comfortable being direct. Being indirect and sarcastic makes it more painful." Plan a heartfelt conversation when you have time to focus on just that conversation.

Q: Mom was especially edgy on Thanksgiving. I think it was because she cooked the entire dinner.

A: "Women sometimes get stuck cooking and cleaning," Orenstein says. "It's nice to get everyone to help. Delegate ahead of time. Have different family members bring a dish." That delegation thing, by the way, goes for everything — from planning parties to buying gifts to keeping the house tidy — this holiday season.

Q: I don't know. Mom is pretty territorial about her kitchen.

A: "If someone wants to be a martyr, it's that person's house, it's that person's kitchen," Orenstein says. There's not much you can do about it.

Q: I got the turkey in late because I had to go to three stores for same-day-picked green beans, my cornbread didn't rise, everyone wanted to know why there wasn't pumpkin pie and pecan pie, and the wine I chose apparently was the wrong vintage. Then I had to run out and get full-fledged mayo because — again, apparently — Miracle Whip is a poor substitute on a leftover turkey sandwich. I wanted to scream!

A: What you experienced, Jameson says, is a phenomenon called "emotional flooding." "The more running around, the more racing to get menus prepared, to buy gifts — that's the time you're most likely to get flooded if someone calls to change plans or add to your list of things to do." (You'll know when it's happening, she says, in part because your heart will race and you'll start sweating.) "Give yourself permission to not answer right away. Tell them that you need to consult your spouse, check the calendar and you'll get back to them. We tend to overcommit during the holidays." Be aware of this and don't be afraid to take an adult time-out.

Q: Adult time-out? Like go for a walk or take a bike ride?

A: Exercise is generally good stress relief, Jameson says, though some studies have shown it can actually heighten emotions. "Do whatever you do to work off steam: Close the door, turn off the phone, listen to music. Different things work for different people."

Q: It was Thanksgiving Day, for Pete's sake, a day to be thankful. Yet I kept having periods of feeling blue.

A: "The holidays increase and exaggerate whatever negative emotions we're having," Bashford says. "Loss, loneliness, divorce, our children are away. On the whole, it's not a good time for people who are not doing well, the walking wounded, like most of us. Then you've got the TV blasting away, telling us to spend money. This is so corny but it's so true that we've been driven away by TV and its expectations of the true value and meaning of the holiday season."

Q: What can I do that will ease these feelings?

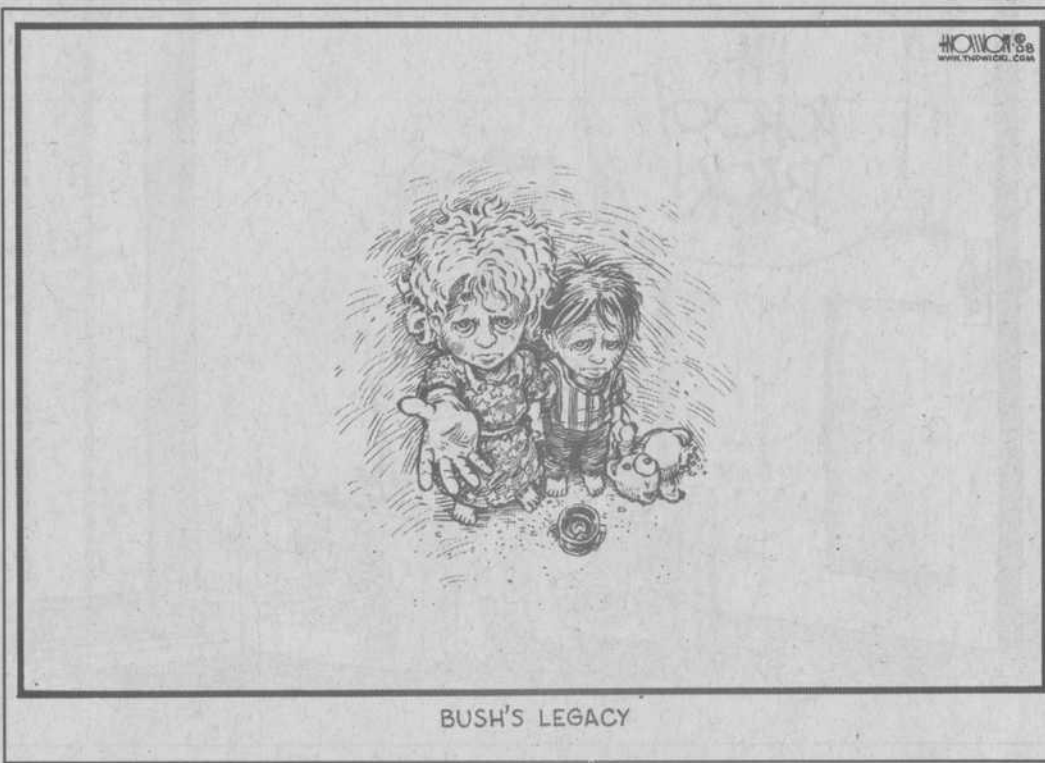
A: "Simplify," Bashford says. "Slow down. Assign gifts, pull numbers and buy for just one person (in the family). Do easy things, see a movie." Don't overeat, don't drink so much. "Don't watch television."

Q: It's a good time not to watch TV? Not even the annual 24-hour marathon showing of "A Christmas Story"?

A: "There is never not a good time to abandon television," Bashford says.



"Now that the economy is bad, they throw us a bit of cash and say goodbye."
—Wellington Shibuya, a Latin American worker in Japan, one of hundreds of thousands of blue-collar immigrants whom the government is offering money to leave the country and never return



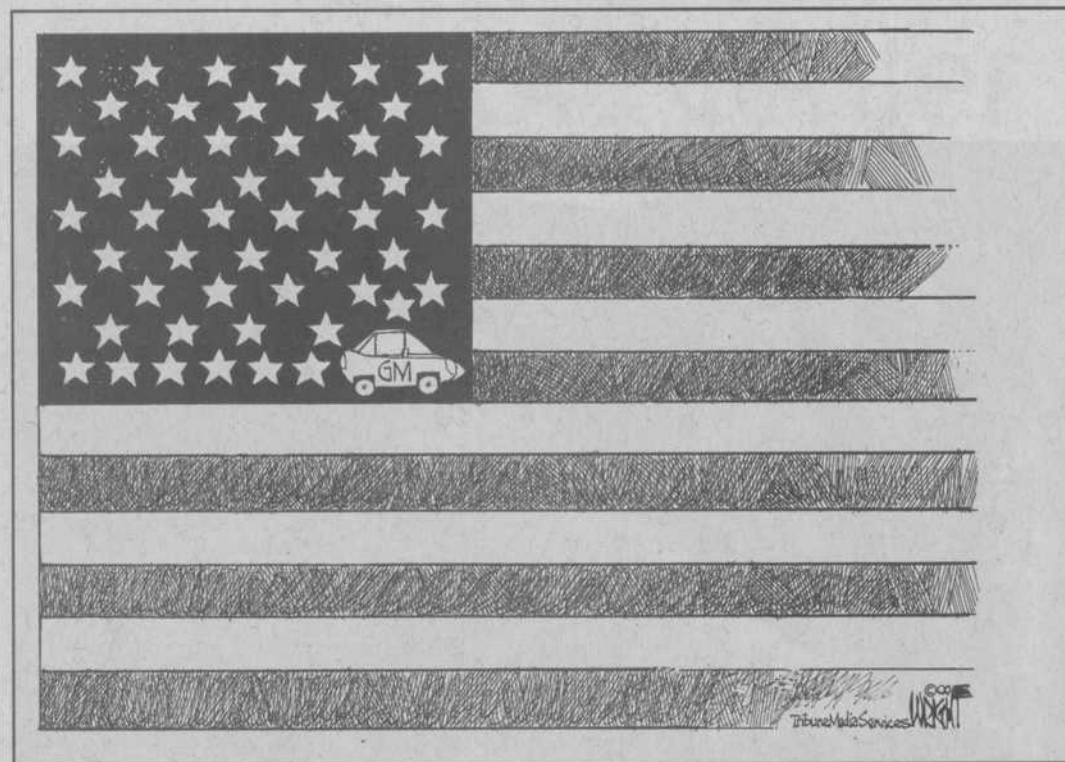
"Start by listening, because all too often the United States starts by dictating." —U.S. President Barack Obama, speaking to Al Arabiya news channel in his first interview with a foreign news outlet, on his instructions to his new Middle East envoy



"I'd be happy to go and deny it, because I'm not. But by denying it, I'm saying there is something shameful about it, and there isn't anything shameful." —Hugh Jackman said this when he was questioned about his sexual orientation,



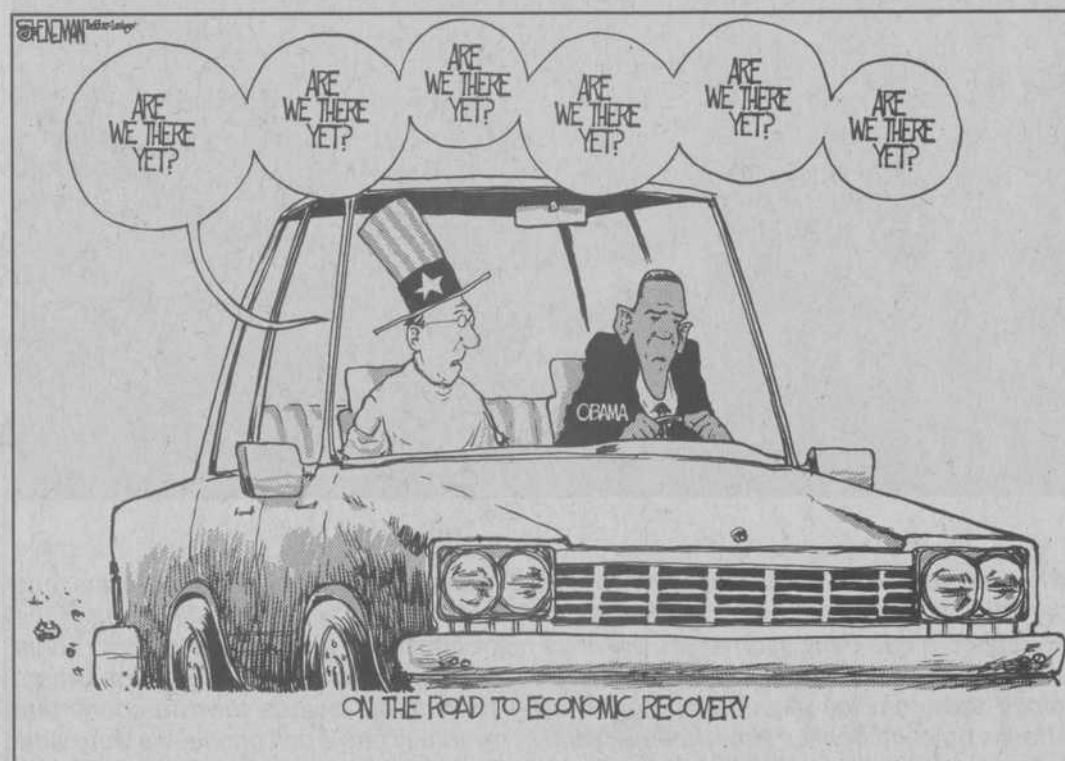
"I felt like I had all the weight of the world on top of me." —U.S. baseball megastar Alex Rodriguez, admitting that he used steroids from 2001 to 2003 while playing for the Texas Rangers



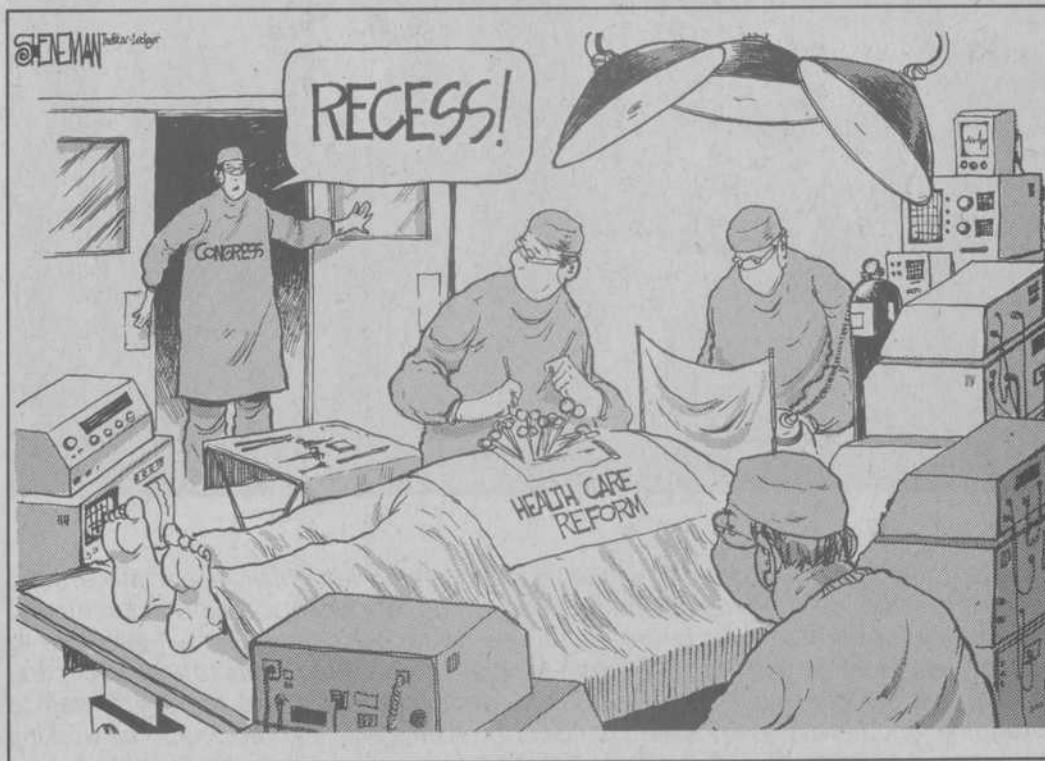
"Every now and then I look at my friends and say, 'Ooh, I wouldn't mind having that iPhone.'" —Melinda Gates, wife of Microsoft mogul Bill, discussing the fact that Apple gadgets are banned from the couple's mansion



"Girls need to imagine and picture their life with a screaming newborn baby and then think before they have sex." —Bristol Palin, daughter of Sarah Palin.



"Maybe I'll contact one of the contenders for the real White House, maybe John McCain or Ross Perot." —Fred Milani, an Iranian-American developer who has been forced to put his Atlanta mansion—an exact replica of the White House—up for sale because of the housing crunch.



"Are there other worlds like ours? This question has come down to us from 100 generations. We get to answer it." —NASA scientist James Fanson, project manager of the new Kepler telescope project, which will spend the next three years looking for Earth-like planets deep in the cosmos



"The snake that tried to eat Jennifer Lopez in the movie 'Anaconda' is not as big as the one we found." —Jonathan Bloch, a U.S. researcher whose team analyzed the remains of a 60 million-year-old, 13-meter-long boa, the largest snake that ever lived. The beast subsisted on a diet of crocodiles.

"I am not a fan of books. I would never want a book's autograph. I am a proud non-reader of books." —This was all the explanation the world needed from Kanye West, who uttered this profound statement well before the "Imma letcha finish..." gaffe in front of Taylor Swift. Oh, and Kanye released a book this year, too. Hmmm...

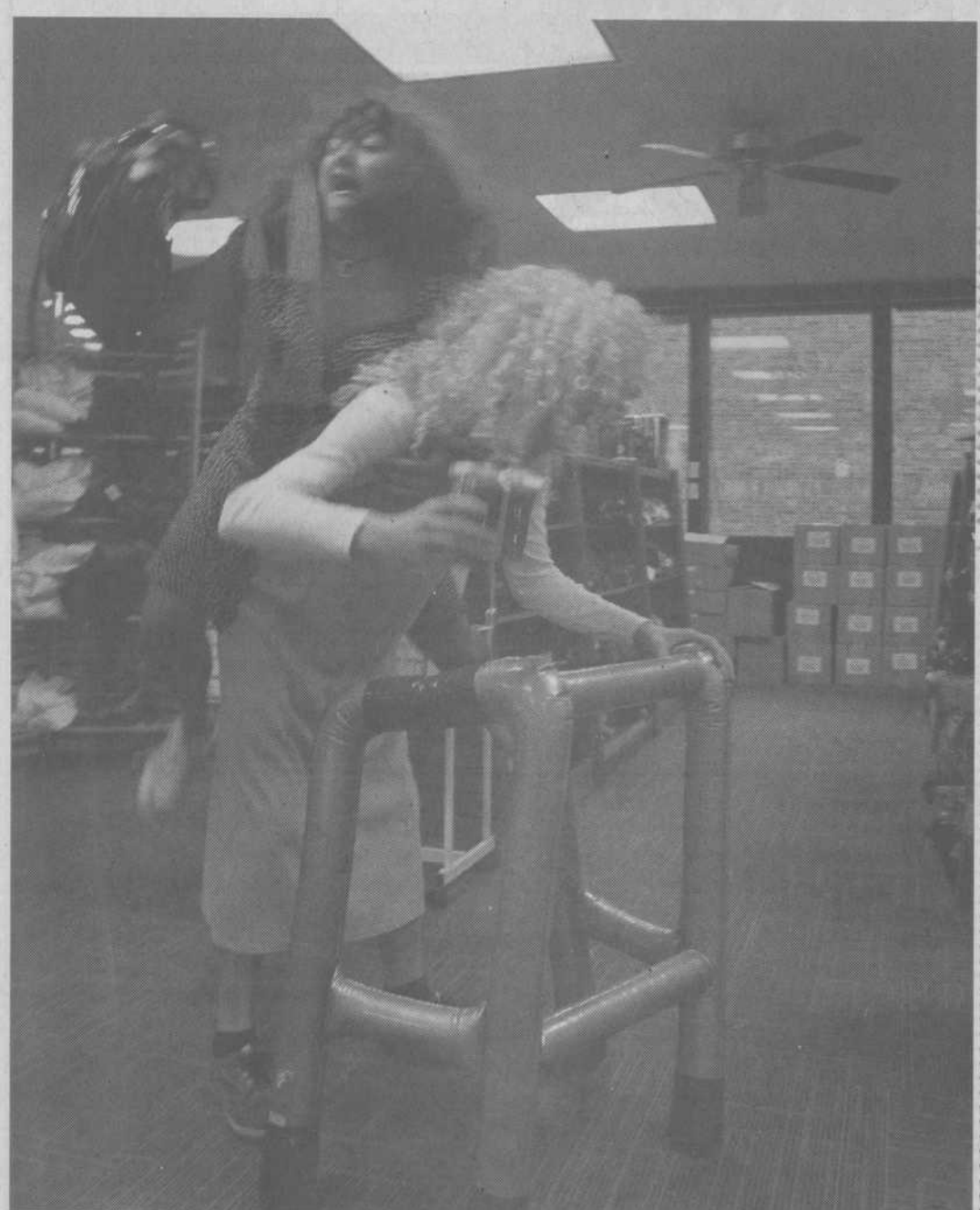
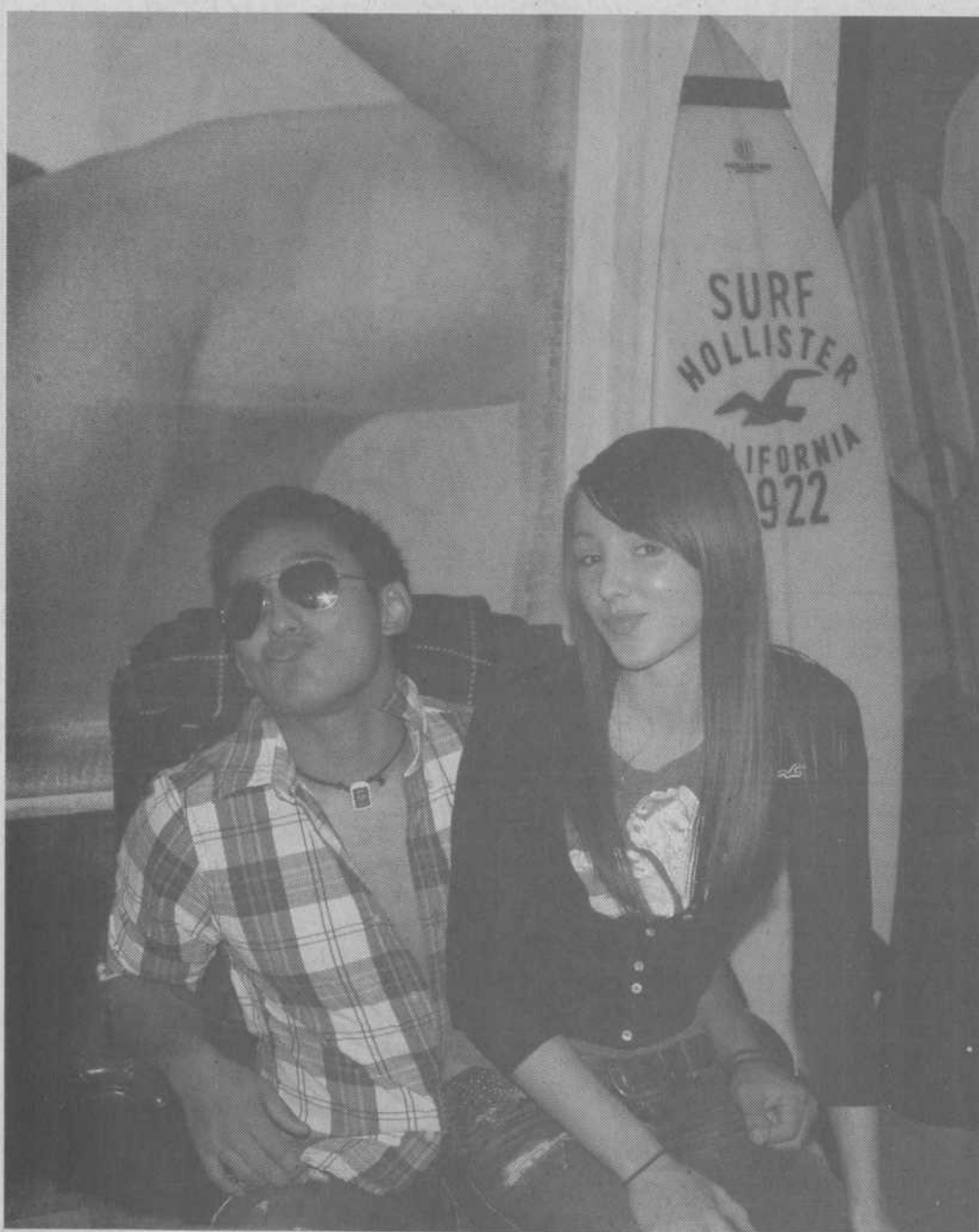
THE LIFESAVING PRESCRIPTION* FOR BIPARTISAN HEALTH CARE REFORM...

* WARNING: MAY CAUSE NAUSEA, HEADACHES, FEVER, INDIGESTION, DIZZINESS OR OTHER SIDE EFFECTS.



"I'm running on the gay marriage, no religion, legalization and taxation of marijuana platform. I don't have a chance." —Brad Pitt explains his political agenda, should he ever have a political agenda.

"Atonement is a process that never ends." —Ted Kennedy speaks from beyond the grave in his posthumous memoir. He was referring to the infamous accident that almost wrecked his political career in Chappaquiddick, 1969.



What is it like being a Hollister's model at the Market Place Mall, especially around the holidays? We decided to ask one of them: "Dude, it's sweet," said Shogun Kiedis. "When they turn up the heat in the mall I have to rip extra holes in my jeans just to keep my legs from getting too hot!" When the mall is slow, Kiedis has to walk in circles, spraying cologne every five minutes. But his problems don't end there—he has to determine whether to spray "Jake" or "SoCal." Kiedis stays in top shape by working out, watching "The Hills," and drinking protein shakes on a daily basis. "My mortal enemies are trans-fats," he said. You can find Kiedis at the mall simply by looking for the guy with his shirt off and a perplexed look on his face.

What did you do on Black Friday? Two of our newer staff members recreate a scene depicting two old ladies brawling for deals. Our team observed people lining up in the 35 degree air as early as 9pm the previous night outside of spots like Best Buy. Some students simply stayed home to watch games television or played video games. Others joined their families in a multi-prong attack—fanning out across town to coordinate attacks on good deals. "Now that everyone in my family has a cell phone, we were able to tell each other what we needed," said Jake Watkins. "I would call my grandmother, and tell her what deal I could get, and then tell her what I needed." According to fiscal pundits, Black Friday seemed to have been on the rebound compared to last year.

Shagun Pradhan/Prospectus

Alisha Reynolds/Prospectus



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SONGS

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nor does anyone want to listen to overly generic music with horribly composed lyrics. And even this happy song has its down turn. At one point Cyndi Lauper expresses distaste for someone with the venomous lyrics "and by the way... have a nice life". What is the purpose?

"Please Daddy (Don't Get Drunk This Christmas)" by John Denver

This song is undeniably the most depressing Christmas song imaginable. John Denver, a 40 something year old man, sings about a seven year old boy asking his father not to get drunk and pass out under the Christmas tree. Apparently this little boy's father has a

track record of getting trashed and ruining Christmas. It just radiates positive holiday spirit, does it not?

"Oi to the World" by The Vandals

The Vandals ruin the idea of Christmas with their song Oi to the World. Christmas is supposed to be about joy and peace, not punks and skins beating each other into bloody pulps. In Oi to the World The Vandals sing about an on going battle between the punks and the skins. The main character in the song gets beaten on Christmas Eve which prompts him to schedule a rematch with the skins on Christmas Day. With nun chucks and bourbon this is a holiday song full of hate and contempt. However, The Vandals do take the time to men-

tion God in this piece saying that if he were to come down on Christmas Day he would say "Oi to the punks and Oi to the skins- but Oi to the world and everybody wins!" The moral? Who knows. No Doubt also covers this song, but I am far too angry to go into that.

"The Christmas Shoes" by NewSong

Sounding like something right out of a Hallmark movie NewSong's The Christmas Shoes is just flat out horrible. The instrumental tones of this piece sound like every other sentimental tragedy that made for TV movies produce. This is also another song that takes away all the joy from Christmas. It is about a little boy who wants to buy his mother shoes as it is Christmas Eve and his

mother is on her deathbed. Can't you feel the Holiday joy? Also, who names their band NewSong? Even their name sucks.

"Jingle Cats"

There are no words to describe the horridness that is Jingle Cats. It is exactly how it sounds, cats meowing out all the Christmas Classics. As a kid I was gifted a Jingle Cats cassette tape, this did not sit well with my mother. Every Christmas I would insist I played Jingle cats over and over and over again which caused my mother to spend the Christmas holidays in bed with the worst migraines known to mankind. I warn you to not gift this to children, it may be exciting for them, but deathly to you. The fun doesn't stop with Jingle

cats either, there is also Jingle Dogs (one and two), just incase you feel like drinking yourself into a coma over the holidays.

"Last Christmas" by George Michael

George Michael's Last Christmas wins the award for worst Christmas song ever. I resent this song with every fiber of my being. Not only is it 4 minutes and 38 seconds of wanting to throw yourself off a bridge but it is also a horrible tragedy to the music industry. George sings about how he gave his heart to a woman last Christmas and how "the very next day [she] gave it away". This Christmas of course, he plans to give it to someone who won't tear out his heart and spit on it. George then continues on to sing that he would in

fact, take her back if she would only kiss him. This Christmas song is one of those few break up songs where the musician admits that he is ok with having his emotions toyed with, leaving the listener trapped in a hopeless cycle of how tragic holiday breakups really are. Sadly, most music channels know that this song is undeniably catchy and play it in their constant loop of Christmas obsession. Due to the music industries want to torture you during the holiday season, this song will haunt you all throughout Christmas to the point of suicidal tendencies.

SANTA

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ents on Christmas Eve, he's probably dead now. STILL, given all these obstacles, Santa still delivers, doesn't he! Sometimes the most improbable things DO happen! Isn't life grand," said Leake.

Another aspect Leake pointed out was that while there are a ton of homes around the world, many actually do not celebrate Christmas.

"There are 2 billion children (persons under 18) in the world BUT since Santa doesn't (appear to) handle the Muslim, Hindu, Jewish and Buddhist children, that reduces the workload to 15% of the total - 378 million according to Population Reference Bureau. At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, that's

91.8 million homes. One presumes there's at least one good child in each. They obviously haven't visited my house," said Leake.

Professors Jang and Leake have come up with a few routes and speeds that Santa would need to travel in order to make it around the world in a timely fashion, but would altitude matter in his flight?

Our fourth question: at what altitude would he need to fly at? Associate Aviation Education Specialist John Suppok put Santa's flight to the test.

"Altitude over the oceans is not a factor. Over the mountains on continents, it is possible to fly as low as 12,000 feet and clear by using passes in the mountains," said Suppok.

"The current means of achieving the necessary speed is via military aircraft to res-

urrect the SST (Concorde). His best bet, however, will be the SR 71 Blackbird (which can be re-fueled in flight.) Santa's arrival will be announced by a sonic boom as he flies over, making for a dramatic arrival notification," he said.

Now that Santa's flight pattern has been determined, lets look at his survival skills.

Our fifth question: how is Santa able to survive the harsh weather of the North Pole?

"Santa slays about 50 of his elves right after Christmas and uses their magical Elven skin to knit an amazingly warm blanket," said Parkland student, Derrin Coad.

Maybe some stories are better left to our own imagination. Be on the lookout for a speedy Santa and watch out for any crispy reindeer leftovers.

WINTER

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and specialty spices under the same roof.

Where: Green gifts at B. Lime Why: B.Lime is the perfect store for people shopping for an environmentally conscious person. Located on Washington street in downtown Champaign, locally owned B.Lime features "green" items like organic sheets and pillowcases, wooden toys, iPod docks and cases made from wood, organic cotton scarves and socks, shoes and slippers and organic cotton t-shirts. They even have everyday items like cleaners, baby wipes and towels. Anything from B.Lime will help the environment and serve as a perfect Christmas gift.



Levi NORMAN/Prospectus

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