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# Prospectus News

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## Making movies the Pixar way

**Sean WHITSITT**  
Staff writer

"Ants don't talk!" said Michael B. Johnson of the Moving Pictures Group at Pixar Animation Studios, referring to the ant creations that roamed the silver screen in the motion picture "A Bug's Life."

Johnson, a University of Illinois alumnus, returned to his alma mater last Tuesday as a part of the University's Designmatters3 lecture series. The Pixar exec regaled the audience with stories of his work and shed light on how the good people at Pixar do what they do.

After briefly being interrupted by a fire alarm, students and Champaign-Urbana residents filed into the auditorium in the Wohlers building located at 1206 South Sixth Street just a little after 5:30pm. The house was packed and the room buzzed with excitement as everyone waited for Johnson to begin. The title of the lecture "Making movies is hard fun - building tools for telling stories" opened the door for CU residents into the world of making movies.

The main points of Johnson's talk regarded Pixar's history, the way Pixar operates, and his role in that operation.

In brief, Pixar spun off from Lucasfilm in 1986 and had roughly 40 employees. They eventually merged with Disney and now find themselves in an ideal situation: a financially stable studio that has produced ten critically acclaimed animated feature films.

Johnson entertained the audience with a story from when he first started at Pixar 16 years ago. He had asked a colleague where the name

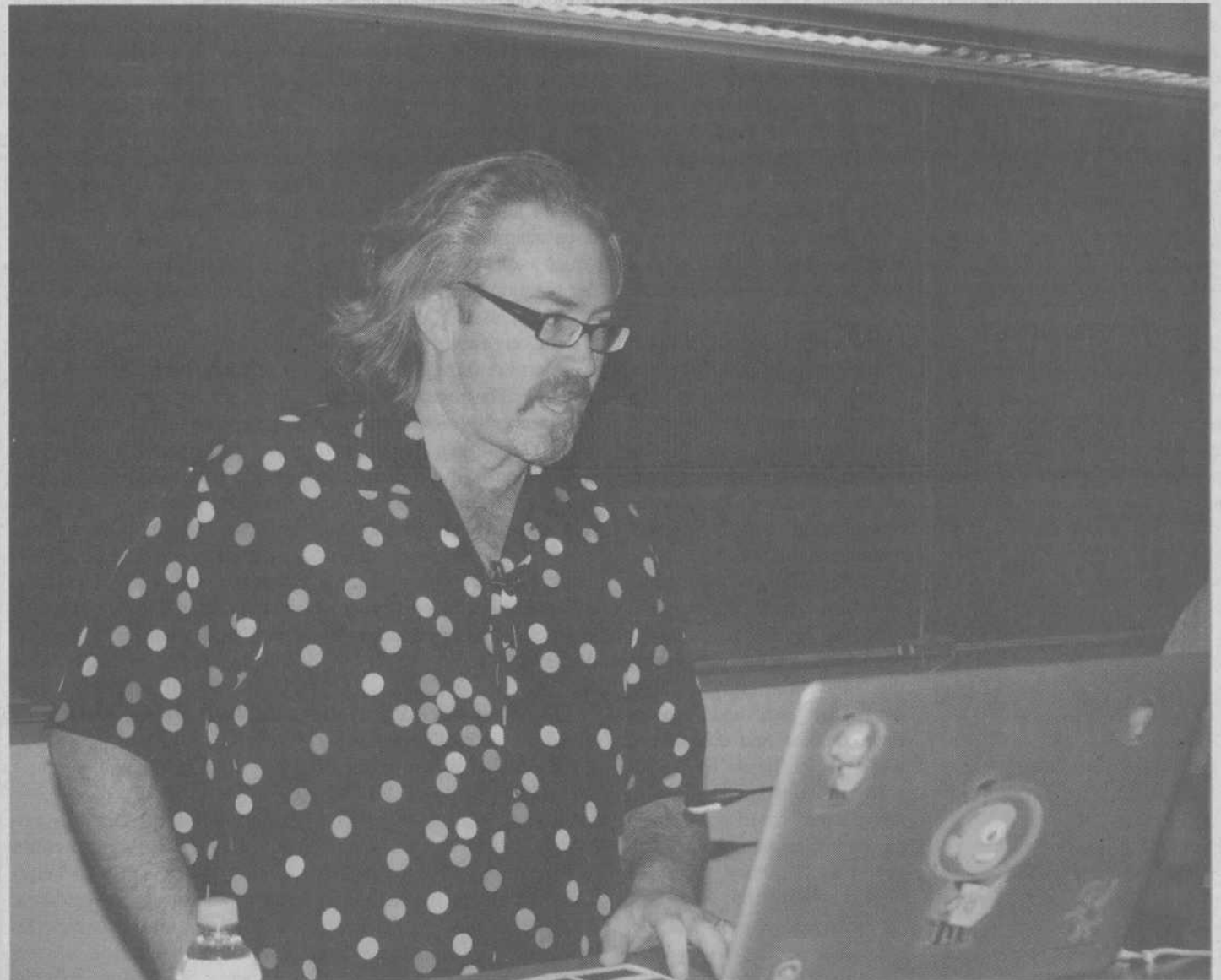
'Pixar' came from. Apparently, Pixar's 'Brain Trust' wanted a simple two-syllable word that sounded similar to 'Kodak' and brought forth the idea of the word 'pixel'. That is not the story Johnson's colleague told him.

"Pixar was a moon near Yoda's home planet Dagobah," Johnson was told. His superiors enjoyed that story and encouraged him stick with it. This mind-set just attests to the amount of fun that the men and women of Pixar bring to their work.

This attitude of positivity influences the Pixar philosophy. "(We look at filmmaking) as art; as team sport," said Johnson. Pixar stresses a strong relationship between the creative people and the technical people.

"We are a director driven studio," said Johnson. With most Hollywood studios, the producer is the point man. The producer would hire the screenwriter, the director, and be the main driving force during the early stages of development. While Johnson had nothing negative to say about this way of doing things, he stressed that if a director had a story to tell, it would be the director who pitched the idea to the studio and got the ball rolling. "(It is) a question of passion and love, not necessity," said Johnson. This love could explain Pixar's excellent track record of never once having a flop.

Johnson presented the audience with the method to the madness that his peers use in crafting the framework for their films. First, design a rich believable world. Next, create interesting characters that could logically exist in this



Michael B. Johnson, of the Moving Pictures Group at Pixar Animation Studios, returned to his alma mater of the University of Illinois for a talk on the industry. He spoke at the University's Designmatters3 lecture series. The lecture was briefly interrupted by a fire alarm at the Wohlers building. Johnson echoed the sentiment that Pixar shares: that filmmaking is art and "team sport."

world. Then create a story for these characters to undertake. "(If you) encounter a problem, refer to the previous step, and repeat until done," said Johnson. The emphasis is on the fundamentals that make stories work. Without a strong foundation, how can the artists and technicians create a solid movie?

Johnson told the audience the basic points of giving a peer a good note. Point out a problem, propose a solution, and only give the note when they can still use it. The people of Pixar thrive in a "culture of constructive criticism," said Johnson. Iteration and criticism is fundamental to all creative endeavors at Pixar. This

friendly scrutiny is apparent in all levels of production from story development to editorial to lighting etc. The ability to take a note well is also essential. "Fifty one percent of this job is the ability to play well with others," said Johnson. Pixar's commitment to excellence is boundless.

Johnson himself leads the

Moving Pictures Group within Pixar. He is responsible for research and development; he and his team provide tools to make everybody else's job easier.

"We aim to solve these problems in the most concise and powerful way we can," said Johnson in respect to the Mov-

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Shagun PRADHAN/Prospectus

## Things you should do before the sun disappears

**Merry THOMAS**  
Staff writer

It's that time of year again, where leaves are scattered about the ground, the heat of summer is all but a memory, and the crisp autumn air is saying one thing—winter is coming, the sunlight will be out for less than four hours a day, and we all will be miserable.

Yes, we will be shoveling our cars out of the snow or making the dreaded walk to the bus stop in sub-zero temperatures, and we all will be trudging the no-mans-land from Parkdand's parking lots and bus stops to the doors. But all is not lost yet—there is still a touch of sun left, and some of the landscaping is still green. It is time to capitalize on the last days of sunshine!

What to do:

Autumn is simply not complete if you don't go to Curtis Orchard. From the petting zoo to the extensive pumpkin patch, the adorable shop to its delicious food, there is something for all people (and stomachs). The bakery has a wide variety of goodies, such as cinnamon doughnuts and pies with a variety of flavors. Curtis Orchard also has a corn maze, which can provide endless amounts of fun, and rows of apple trees with the best apples around. With Halloween coming ever nearer, it might be just the place to pick up all of your festive needs, such as

pumpkins and sweet treats.

They also have a corn maze, rows of apple trees with the best apples around, and their pumpkin patch has thousands of pumpkins to choose from for when you decorate your house for fall. They even have a tour available for adult groups, organizations, private groups, and school outings. The cost is five dollars per person, and each tour group can have up to 60 people.

It might be a good idea to get some exercise outside while you can, because in a few short months you'll most likely be stuck inside for long stretches of time (which can lead to a severe case of the grumps). Champaign has a wealth of parks to choose from—all of them have something to offer, but Mattis Park located near Fox Drive is a particularly good park to go to. There are countless trails in which you can either walk or bike on, several lakes where ducks and geese like to hang out, so there would be opportunity to see the birds before they take off for the winter. There are plenty of trees and loads of space to play games, but perhaps a better park for games like football or Frisbee would be Hessel Park, because of its smooth, flat terrain. Hessel also has paths that you could bike or run on, as well as tennis and volleyball courts, and a playground structure.



Another thing that comes to mind when thinking of fall is all the yard work that has to be done. There is an abun-

dance of leaves everywhere, and if you're not going to jump in them, the fun of raking them up isn't there, but it has to be

done. You could always rake the ones that you have in your yard, or you could do a more constructive and potentially

more fun route and volunteer to rake them for someone who needs help. There are many

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Levi NORMAN/Prospectus



**Prospectus**

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 Phone: 217-351-2216, fax: 217-373-3835, e-mail: prospectus@parkland.edu,  
 U.S. mail: Parkland College, Room X-155, 2400 W. Bradley Ave., Champaign, IL 61821.  
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# Chuck Shepherd's News of the Weird

**LEAD STORY**

Beneath the luxury hotels on the Las Vegas Strip is a series of flood tunnels that are home to dozens of people who work odd jobs such as hustling left-over change in casino slot machines. A correspondent for London's The Sun gained the trust of a few and even photographed their "apartments" for a September dispatch, showing well-stocked quarters, with scrounged appliances and furniture and even one makeshift shower rigged from a water cooler. "Amy," who has lived in the tunnels with her husband, "J.R.," for two years, said she "love(s)" the Vegas lifestyle and appears in no hurry to leave her setup. "Kathryn" (who lives with boyfriend "Steven") also appears content except, she says, for the fragrance, the black widow spiders, and the periodic rush of water through their home (threatening any "valuables" not stacked on crates).

**Latest Religious Messages**

—David Cerullo came to prominence after purchasing the television studios abandoned by Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker and established what is perhaps the boldest of all Christian "prosperity gospel" ministries (that pays him an annual base salary of \$1.52 million). With his father, semi-retired Pentecostal preacher Morris Cerullo, they assure followers that the more they give, the more God will return to them. In a recent TV spot, Morris, speaking first in tongues and then addressing the currently credit-challenged: "When you (donate), the windows of heaven ... open for you ... 100 fold." "Debt cancellation!" (The on-screen message: "Call now with your \$900 offering and receive God's debt cancellation!")

—In September, a judge in Stuart, Fla., was about to sentence pastor Rodney McGill for real estate fraud, but McGill was undaunted, addressing a courtroom prayer for his enemies: "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, for every witness called against me, I pray cancer in their lives, lupus, brain tumor, pancreatic cancer." The judge then sentenced him to 20 years in prison.

**Questionable Judgments**

—The cheap-drink Tuesday night special at the Attic bar in Newcastle, England, in early September was a money-back guarantee at the end of the night to anyone who could still legally drive (measured by the bar's breathalyzer), with the evening's most-alcohol-saturated customer drinking free the following week. The Newcastle City Council soon convinced the bar it was a bad idea.

—The Department of Homeland Security (relying on a

study later termed by the Government Accounting Office to have been rushed and flawed) decided in January that the best place for its new \$700 million research facility on infectious diseases would be in Kansas, which happens to be in the heart of America's "tornado alley." The GAO report, leaked to The Washington Post in July, claimed the risk of accidental release of dangerous pathogens is far greater than the department assumed.

**Bright Ideas**

—Canadian medical appliance manufacturer X4 Labs, which sells a penis-elongating traction device for around \$400, disclosed in August that it is making a solid gold version on contract for a Saudi businessman. The buyer claimed he required gold only because of allergies, but then also ordered it ornamented with diamonds and rubies, according to an August Agence France-Presse report. X4's cachet as a medical-appliance supplier is expected to get the device past Saudi customs, which normally bans sex toys.

—Four apparently quite bored people in their early 20s were arrested in September in Bennington, Vt., after a Chili's restaurant burglar alarm sounded at 4:30 a.m. According to police, the four intended to remove and steal the large chili on the restaurant's sign, using a hacksaw and power drill. However, not possessing a battery-operated drill, they had strung extension cords together running to the nearest outlet they could find, which was 470 feet away, across four lanes of highway and through a Home Depot parking lot.

**Fine Points of the Law**

(1) Marine Sgt. Michael Ferschke was killed in Iraq in 2008, but his wife and their son, both Japanese citizens, cannot enter the United States. The couple exchanged vows under Japanese law by long-distance proxy, as Michael was about to deploy, but immigration law does not recognize such unions, unless subsequently "consummated." (The Ferschkes had conceived their child before they were married.) (2) Marine Lance Cpl. Josef Lopez took the Corps' advice and received a smallpox vaccination just before deploying to Iraq, but after nine days in country, he went into a coma with a rare adverse reaction that has left him permanently, seriously disabled. However, since he was felled by the vaccine and not "combat," he is ineligible for special disability funds to help seriously wounded troops (for such expenses as modifying a home to accommodate a disability).

**Fetishes on Parade**

In September, police in Bonney Lake, Wash., were seeking

"Dale," who had been reported hanging around the high school, trying to befriend male athletes. In the most recent incident, he lured a boy to the library, offering help on a term paper project, but when the boy declined and walked away, "Dale" jumped on his back and asked for a piggyback ride. (Fondness for piggyback rides is not a widely practiced obsession, though the legendary illustrator R. Crumb liked to receive them in lieu of sex, according to an ex-girlfriend in the 1994 movie "Crumb.")

**Least Competent Criminals**

Failure to Keep a Low Profile: (1) Angel DeLeon, 30, admitted to police in May that he was the one who had just robbed the National Penn Bank in Reading, Pa. Police originally started after DeLeon's car when he raced by them with his radio blaring. (2) Ricky Dale Ford was jailed in September in Conway, Ark., accused of stealing an all-terrain vehicle. While joyriding, Ford had accidentally hit a beehive, and when police found him in nearby woods, he was "barely breathing," one officer said, having been stung more than 100 times.

**Recurring Themes**

Britain's local councils are notoriously fearful of lawsuits arising from the garden "allotments" they rent to residents. For example, in September, the Southampton Council barred residents of recently vandalized property from installing barbed wire, lest a trespasser get hurt and sue. Meanwhile, in Michigan, Scott Zeilinski, who is serving eight years in prison for armed robbery, filed a lawsuit against the store he had robbed because an employee (whom Zeilinski had just threatened with a knife to the throat) had pulled out his gun and shot Zeilinski.

**Undignified Deaths**

Ironies: (1) A 77-year-old woman in Heaton Mersey, England, who was described by friends as an enthusiastic shopper whose home was crammed to the ceiling with purchases, died in January of natural causes, but rescuers made five passes through the clutter before locating her body under stacks of goods that had fallen on her. (2) A 45-year-old devout Catholic was killed recently in Vienna, Austria, shortly after a harrowing experience on a stuck elevator. The man had been so traumatized that, following his rescue, he went straight to the Weinhaus Church to give thanks. However, as he approached the altar, an 850-pound stone pillar fell and crushed him.

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 CHUCK SHEPHERD

# Feeding the flu

**Chrissie MCKENNEY**  
 Nutrition Columnist

Being stranded at home with the flu is no fun. Being stranded at home with the flu and nothing to eat is even less fun. The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services recommends keeping two weeks' worth of food and supplies on hand in case you are stricken with flu, too sick (and contagious) to go to the store, and don't have any friends brave enough to bring groceries to you.

Stocking your pantry for quarantine endurance is simple. There are several non-perishable and frozen items that are easy to keep on hand for a pandemic-related quarantine or some other emergency (natural disaster, nuclear attack,

depends on how long you are willing to wait for it to cook. (If you use brown rice, be sure to store it in the fridge after opening.) You can, of course, just buy canned soup, but where's the fun in that? If you are feeling extra pitiful, cook one half-cup of rice in about six cups of broth or water to make a restorative sort of porridge. Bring it to a boil and let it simmer until it is soft and porridge-y, adding more liquid, if necessary. Make it savory with salt and butter or season it with cinnamon and brown sugar, like oatmeal (also a good emergency food).

If you want something more solid than soup and porridge, keep a few bags of frozen mixed vegetables in your freezer. You can toss them in a pan with a little oil and your



Alishia REYNOLDS

alien invasion). The most important thing, though, is to have food that you like and will eat. It doesn't matter how well-stocked your pantry is if you don't want to eat anything in it. When you're sick, it also helps to have food that is easy to prepare, so you are not slaving away in the kitchen when you should be resting in bed. With some rice, pasta, frozen veggies, and a few canned goods, you should be able to survive most potential disasters. (You might also want to have some fairly bland foods like bread, soda crackers, and potatoes on hand, in case you have the extreme-gastric-distress version of the flu.)

Vegetable and chicken broths are available in boxes and in cans (I prefer the boxes.) and can simply be heated and eaten/drunk as soup. You can make your own noodle soup by cooking pasta (or ramen noodles) right in the broth. You could also throw in diced fresh or frozen vegetables for extra nutrients. For a thicker soup, use rice instead of pasta (about one tablespoon per cup of broth, cook until the rice softens). Either regular or quick-cooking rice will do. It just

favorite seasoning blend or prepared sauce for a quick stir-fry.

Get a few cans of beans—any variety you like. The easiest way to prepare canned beans is to heat them on the stove or in the microwave and serve over rice, although I would recommend adding salsa or some sautéed onion and garlic. You could also toss in frozen or canned corn. A little smoked sausage isn't a bad idea, either.

Be sure to have plenty to drink. It is important to stay hydrated when you are sick. Frozen juice concentrates are an easy way to keep 100% juice on hand, and they are a better source of electrolytes and nutrients than soda or sports drinks.

You may have noticed that there is very little meat involved here. There are two reasons for that: 1) I don't eat a lot of it, so I forget to write about it; 2) It is not very good when you get it out of a can. Most of these dishes could, however benefit from the addition of left-over or freshly-cooked meat or chicken. Use your own discretion. Whole portions of meat and chicken can be kept in the freezer for up to six months, ground meat for up to two months. If you buy it fresh and freeze it yourself, be sure to package it well, so that you do not find yourself sick, hungry, and confronted with freezer burn.

To sum up: Pasta, rice, veggie or chicken broth, frozen vegetables, and canned beans all store well, and will see you through most major disasters. If you make an effort to keep these items in your kitchen, you will always be prepared when you get stranded at home—whatever the reason. (And if these ideas involve too much cooking for you, there are always boxed meals, canned ravioli, and frozen dinners.)

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# Unconventional teaching: through their eyes

**Sean HERMANN**  
Assistant Editor

At Parkland, there are seemingly countless numbers of teachers, each with classes full of students. But a select few faculty members seem to differentiate themselves from one another—students seek them out. One common trait that many successful Parkland professors share is their use of unconventional methods.

Heidi Leuszler, Associate Professor of Biology, views her teaching style through a manner of adaptability and the needs of a student.

"To me, my style is my style, and I don't spend much time wondering whether or not things I do in class are conventional or not. I just do them. I spend time trying to get to know each class of students, and 'style' the activities in class somewhat around that particular group. In that vein, my 'style' is always changing, class-by-class, and semester-by-semester. I try new things out all the time to get to know a particular group of students, but sometimes I tell the same old stories, and sometimes go with the flow when students want to take the class in a certain direction

(as long as it's class-related, but in environmental science, almost everything can be related somehow!). I guess that style, overall, is unconventional. I do want to mention that a group of about 12 faculty, staff, and community members wrote the current environmental curriculum over about three years. We worked hard to write a solid skeleton of a course that could adapt to each instructor's teaching philosophy and style and each group of students, yet maintain enough stability of objectives that we could assess student learning over many semesters.

"One main goal of the course is for students to become environmentally literate citizens, and be able to figure out what their opinion is, justify their opinions, and vote for what they value. I spend a lot of time getting the students to think about their own lives and behaviors and to reflect on those. While personally I care what their opinion is, professionally, the only thing I want is for them to make informed, educated opinions and know how to use science as a tool to form those opinions. Regardless of their opinion, if they can make a good choice, I've done my job. I think that ends up being somewhat

unconventional in that students go home and see their impact, come to class and learn what that impact means, then go home and think about what they are doing. It's the only class I've ever taught where students really 'get it' right away. What they are learning is literally all around them.

"I guess one unconventional thing I do is to have a myriad of different assignments in class. It drives students nuts, I think, because there is always something due, but it keeps them working and learning in different ways. The midterm and final exams are oral. I learned to do this from my mentor, Rich Blazier (now in charge of dual credit at Parkland), and I've done it in almost every class I've taught because it is such an effective way of testing. I give students the questions ahead of time, let them bring notes to my office at a scheduled time, and they tell me their answers (not reading from their notes, but talking). It forces students to know their stuff, gives me a chance to ask for clarification or depth of their knowledge, and we almost always end up just chatting about science. Students tell me that they really like these exams and they look forward

to their final! It's also the only test I've ever given where students linger and want to tell me more about what they learned! Can you imagine?! It's wonderful. We also do orals in the online sections of environmental bio because it makes a great connection between the professor and students.

"One other thing is that I am a faculty fellow in the Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership due to a joint effort between UIUC and Parkland. I learned a great deal about entrepreneurial thinking in academia, and about social entrepreneurship. I have totally incorporated these ideas into class, and challenge students to think about new things, design new things, find solutions to environmental problems in more ways than simply throwing \$\$\$ at them. I presented what I do at a national conference, and I was shocked that I was one of three who did entrepreneurial work outside of business. It has such a natural home in environmental science; I couldn't believe no one else was doing it. Students seem to enjoy this slant because it gives them ownership of the issues and helps them walk away from the dreary news that we are polluting the water and air with a pos-

itive attitude. I firmly believe that the future of the green movement lies somewhat in the scientists and the technology, and mostly in the hands of the creative, imaginative non-scientists who value clean water and air. They are the ones outside of the box, who can find solutions because they won't see the limits."

Brian Nudelman, Associate Professor of English:

"In my ENG 102 classes, I ask my students to volunteer at an area schools for 12 hours over the course of the semester. Not only does this aspect of the course provide welcomed help in schools that often need a few extra hands around, but I ask my students to pull information and meaning from those experiences in the schools...I ask them, quite simply, 'What did you learn?' Ultimately, though I know my students have quite busy lives both in and out of Parkland; I believe they appreciate this opportunity to learn by living, and not just from a book or lecture.

As far as student enjoyment, I'd like to believe I arrive at the classroom with a good balance of caffeinated-fueled energy and subtle humor. Lastly, it's also good not to take oneself

too seriously."

Seth Mendelowitz, Humanities:

"I don't know that there is anything particularly unconventional about my style—honestly, I feel like I have my strong points and my weak points, like most teachers. I feel like I work well with students one-on-one and establishing a positive rapport with students; but as a presence up in front of the classroom, delivering information, I can put students to sleep as effectively as probably most teachers. There are some people who are truly talented in their ability to keep a class interesting and productive; while I think, on the balance, I do okay, I don't see myself as one of those truly talented types. What I try to do is capitalize on what I have come to think of as my strengths (clarity of assignments and of my expectations; designing assignments that I think will help to develop skills that will benefit students as they move on to other courses; getting students to explain themselves and their positions clearly in writing; and, as mentioned above, working one-on-one with students)."

## Economy persuades 4-year-school students to look closer to home

**Bonnie MILLER RUBIN**  
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO—When Amar Bhatia was weighing his post-secondary options, he chose Indiana University over DePaul University because DePaul's downtown Chicago campus was just too close to Mom and Dad.

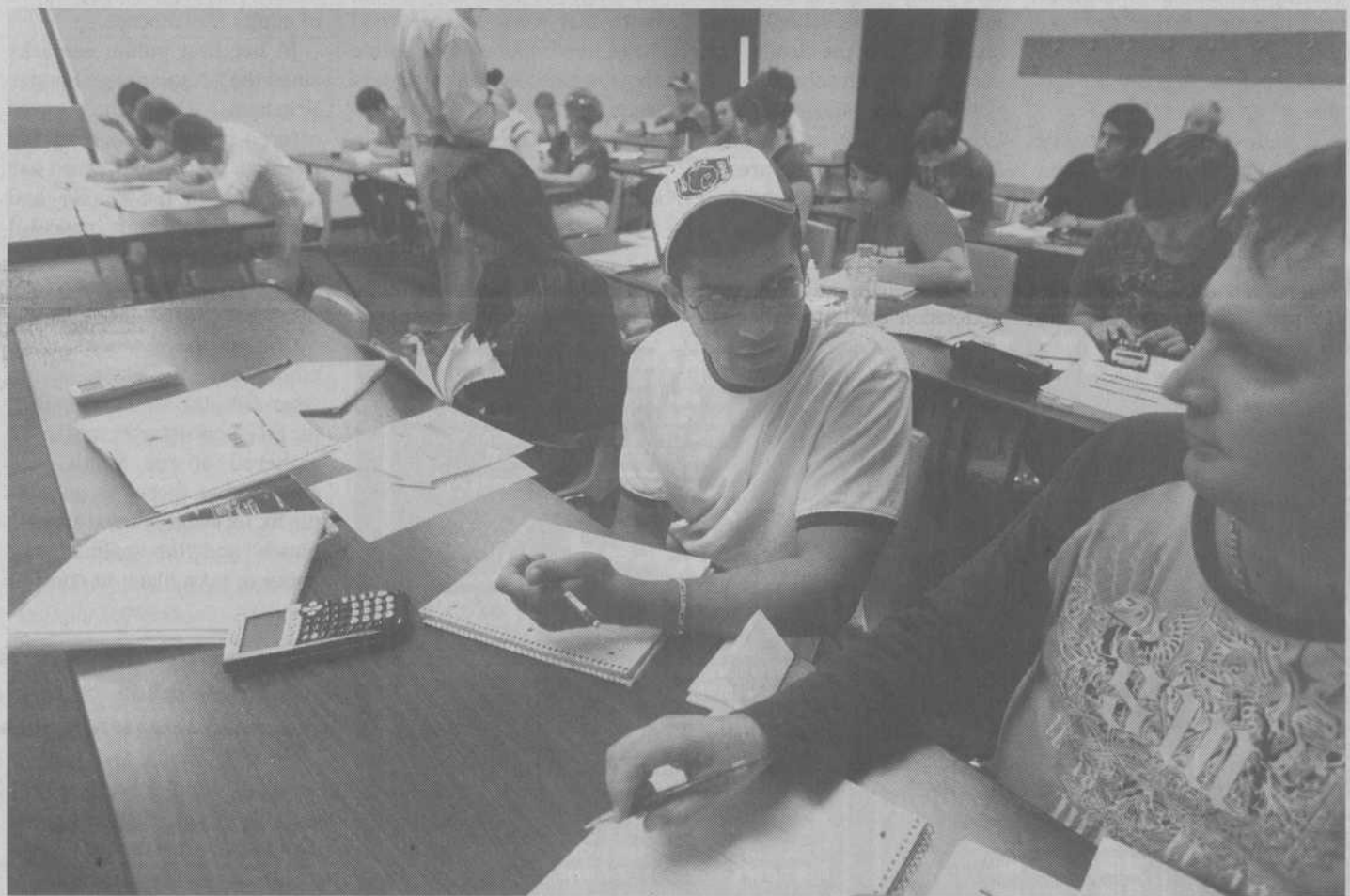
Now, as a sophomore, he's even closer—at Harper Community College, a five-minute drive from his Palatine, Ill., home. "It's like being a senior all over again," said the 2008 Fremd High School graduate.

Bhatia, 19, is part of a growing pool of students called "reverse transfers." Rather than use community colleges as a launching pad, these young adults are going the other way.

As the recession grinds on, prestige has taken a back seat to affordability. Sky-rocketing university tuition, along with more reluctance to take on huge loans (especially if grades are less than stellar or your major is "undecided") has spurred students to reconsider an alternative they once dismissed.

Although recent statistics aren't available, officials say there's plenty of anecdotal evidence to suggest that this group has contributed to the overall record enrollments currently being seen at community colleges nationwide.

"This is a direct response to last fall when the economy imploded," explained Steve Morse, spokesman of the Illinois Community College Board, referring to the rise in "reverse-transfers."



Harper College sophomore Amar Bhatia, center, asks classmate Jason Whiston, right, a question during their Financial Accounting Fundamentals class at Harper College in Palatine, Illinois, Wednesday, September 9, 2009. Bhatia transferred to Harper from Indiana University last year because both of his parents lost their jobs and they could no longer afford the out-of-state tuition.

Lane Christiansen/ Chicago Tribune/MCT

Along with Harper, a number of other area community colleges—Oakton in Des Plaines, Moraine Valley in Palos Hills, Prairie State in Chicago Heights and Joliet—all report an uptick in students making a U-turn.

Oakton officials said that this semester's crop of students have transferred from some highly selective schools, including University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (25 stu-

dents) and Northwestern University (15).

Finances certainly figured heavily into Bhatia's decision not to return to Indiana, with its picturesque limestone buildings, Big 10 sports teams and vibrant campus life.

The business major finished freshman year with a solid B average—good, but not good enough to qualify for scholarships.

Then, both his parents lost

jobs—his mom was at All-state Insurance, his dad, a self-employed consultant, hadn't snagged a new project in months.

Ultimately, they left the choice up to him. But weighing the annual costs (\$40,000 for out-of-state tuition and room and board vs. \$3,100) pushed him to Harper, where enrollment among 19- to 24-year-olds jumped 5.2 percent this semester.

Back in high school, the

kids who stayed close to home weren't really in his crowd, Bhatia said. "But now I'd call it one of the best decisions I've ever made."

Community colleges have long been seen as the last resort for those with limited resources—whether academic or financial.

The downturn, though, has chipped away at the stigma. Last year, some 70 percent of high schools reported an increase in the number of stu-

dents who jettisoned their "dream schools" for more budget-conscious choices, according to the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Still, those negative perceptions played heavily in Tom Crivellone's choice of McKendree College, just east of St. Louis.

His teachers at Richards High School—where he ranked 14th out of 470—told him he would be wasting his time at Moraine Valley Community College, where he's currently a sophomore. "Maybe that would be true if I knew what I wanted to do," said the 20-year-old, "but I didn't."

Crivellone was drawn to McKendree by the history (it's the oldest college in the state), a place on the track team and a \$7,000 scholarship. But when he arrived in the fall of 2008, not everything was "the paradise" he envisioned.

When a part-time job didn't materialize, the Oak Lawn, Ill., resident pulled the plug after winter break, abruptly jumping to Moraine Valley. The \$29,000 annual tab at McKendree—which he was primarily footing himself—seemed extravagant compared with \$1,700 a semester (books included) in his own backyard.

"Instead of people looking down at me, they were telling me how smart I am," said Crivellone, who still owes \$2,500 from his first semester at McKendree. (When his father lost his marketing job a few months later, the son felt even smarter.)

"Sure, there are things I miss

See Home on page 5



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# Teen whose beating death caught on tape laid to rest in Chicago

By KRISTEN MACK  
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO—Derrion Albert was laid to rest Saturday after a three-hour funeral attended by the well known, those who knew him well, and others who just wanted to pay their respects.

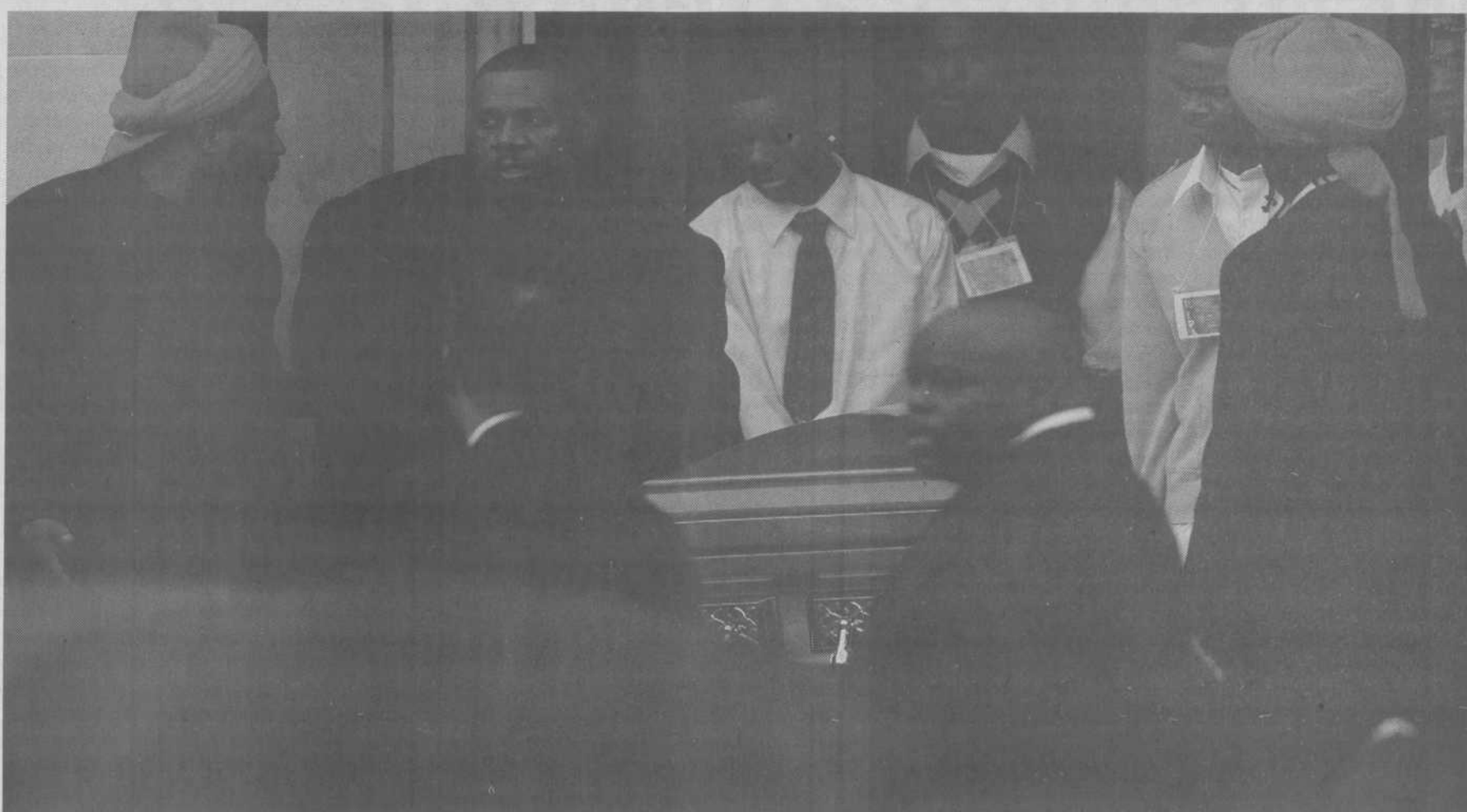
In death, the 16-year-old became the latest high-profile name on the long list of young Chicagoans who die violently. The teen's brutal beating with two-by-fours was caught on tape Sept. 24. The attack captured the nation's attention and elicited a response from the White House.

President Barack Obama is sending Attorney General Eric Holder and Education Secretary Arne Duncan to Chicago this week in the wake of the fatal beating. Obama's spokesman has indicated the administration is preparing an initiative to address the national issues of youth crime and violence.

Derrion was violently stomped, punched and smacked with large planks of wood in a South Side brawl shortly after classes ended for the afternoon at Fenger High School. The melee was between two long-warring factions of Fenger students, kids bused in from the Altgeld Gardens housing project and those who live in the portion of the Roseland neighborhood around Fenger known as "the Ville."

Four teens remain jailed on charges they murdered Derrion.

Eugene Bailey, 18, threw the "knockout punch," prosecutors said. Silvonus Shannon, 19, Eugene Riley, 18, and Eric Carson, 16, also are charged.



Pallbearers carry the casket of sixteen-year-old Derrion Albert following his funeral service, Saturday, October 3, 2009, at Greater Mt. Hebron Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois. Albert, a bystander during a gang fight, was beaten to death during the melee.

Abel Uribe/Chicago Tribune/MCT

Prosecutors said the four teens are seen on an amateur video attacking and killing Derrion.

Several ministers used the boy's death as a call to action, encouraging parents to reclaim and protect their children.

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan said he was both-ered to hear a father say on a TV story about the case that young people are un-salvage-able.

"I believe all of us can be saved," Farrakhan said. "[Derrion's] righteous life served as a redemptive force to make us

get up and save our children."

The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson called for the safe passage of students to and from school. Children who live in Altgeld Gardens should not have to take three CTA buses to attend Fenger, Jackson said. Instead they should go to the "closest and safest school possible." Fenger is the closest open enrollment high school.

"Why send these children into harm's way every day?" Jackson asked. "These are war zones. This wasn't an incident, it's a pattern."

Jackson led the church in a spontaneous offering on behalf of the family. Many who filled the 2,500 sanctuary seats walked to the front of the church and contributed.

Pictures and honor roll certificates that were taped on the wall of Derrion's living room last week were turned into a five-minute looping slide show at the funeral. Mourners watched it play on the projection screen while they stood in line to view his body before the service started.

Drove of teenagers

attended the funeral, many wearing custom-made T-shirts emblazoned with pictures of Derrion. Others wore pictures of him around their necks like school badges. Teenagers set aside their bravado during the service and wiped away tears as they leaned on the shoulders of adults for comfort.

In her first public remarks since the brutal melee, Fenger Principal Elizabeth Dozier offered a resolution honoring Derrion. Dozier expressed her sympathy to the family and said Derrion "built peaceful relationships with others," and the Fenger family "cherished his sweet spirit and intellect."

One of the service's most emotional moments came when Greater Mt. Hebron Pastor E.G. Ledbetter Jr. told those gathered at the South Side church that there "is no simple fix for what is wrong in our nation" and "the healing is not going to take place in one fell

swoop."

Every time someone kills, they die too, Ledbetter said to a round of applause and shouts of "Amen."

"A lot of folks died when Derrion died, the ones who were joking and laughing and the ones standing in the street who did not help and rescue him," he said. "Fathers need to go home and mothers need to be home."

While the adults welcomed the messages, many mourners left before the service finished and some teens were talking about their homecoming plans during the service.

Even though David Davis, 19, a friend of Albert's who lives in Roseland, said the past week has been "heartbreaking and unbelievable," he predicted the violence is "just going to get worse."

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Chicago Tribune.

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A final exam is expected in each credit course at Parkland College. Final exams for all full-semester and second-half-semester courses will be given during final exam week (December 14 - 18) according to the official published schedule. These final exams are not to be given early (during regular class periods). Final exams for all other courses (those ending earlier) will be given at the last regularly scheduled class meeting.

All requests from faculty to alter scheduled final exam times or dates must be reviewed and approved by the Department Chair and the Vice President for Academic Services.

In courses where a final exam is not appropriate, as determined by the Department Chair, an educational alternative scheduled during the week of final exams

is expected. Students: These official College guidelines were established to more fully ensure that you receive the full set of instructional class periods for which you paid and to which you are entitled; and that you have the appropriate amount of time to prepare adequately for your final exams. If your final exam is given earlier than scheduled, please contact the Department Chair or the Vice President for Academic Services (351-2542, Room A117). Three final exams scheduled on the same day may be considered a conflict. Conflicts may be resolved by arrangement with the faculty of these courses. Questions or concerns about these guidelines should be directed to the Vice President for Academic Services.



# IOC hands U.S., Obama a stinging defeat

By MARGARET TALEV  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON—The International Olympic Committee's stinging first-round elimination of Chicago on Friday as the site of the 2016 Summer Games probably won't count much in how history judges Barack Obama's presidency.

However, in setting aside his weightier responsibilities and jetting off to Copenhagen and making a very personal case for his adopted hometown's bid—then losing the gamble—Obama suffered an embarrassing defeat, one watched around the world and celebrated by some of his critics.

The conservative Drudge Report Web site's headline: "World Rejects Obama: Chicago Out in First Round."

Tim Reid of The Times of London wrote: "The Chicago's dismal showing today, after Mr. Obama's personal, impassioned last-minute pitch, is a stunning humiliation for this president. It cannot be emphasized enough how this will feed the perception that on the world stage he looks good—but carries no heft."

Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele was more circumspect, but still critical.

"While I am disappointed with the IOC's decision, I

look forward to the president returning to the stateside. ... Our country needs the president's undivided attention on the urgent issues facing American families today: rising unemployment, soaring health care costs, winning the war in Afghanistan and dealing with Iran's nuclear weapon."

Obama, who was said to be alone in his cabin on Air Force One between Newfoundland and Nova Scotia when he watched the IOC's decision on television, said he was disappointed but had no regrets about making the trip.

"One of the things that I think is most valuable about sports is that you can play a great game and still not win," the president said in the Rose Garden minutes after he returned. "I believe it's always a worthwhile endeavor to promote and boost the United States of America and invite the world to come see what we're all about."

Obama also said he had called Brazil's president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, to congratulate him on Rio de Janeiro's win.

Peter Brown, the assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute, said that although critics saw this as an opportunity to score points against Obama, voters probably wouldn't give it much

weight. "My gut is that it's unlikely that this will be a major factor 13 months from now when voters elect a new Congress," he said.

The president's decision to

anese prime minister, the president of Brazil and the king of Spain all going, Obama decided he should as well.

In his pitch to the IOC, Obama spoke of his own historic win last November and

ment in democracy still speaks to a set of universal aspirations and ideals."

Obama attempted to ease concerns about poor U.S. treatment of some foreigners in the post-9-11 era, saying that

sometimes that fundamental truth about the United States has been lost. And one of the legacies, I think, of this Olympics Games in Chicago would be a restoration of that understanding of what the United States is all about."

When Chicago was knocked out first, it raised two questions: Why weren't Obama's aides better able to gauge the IOC in advance? Further, was this an anti-American statement or was it more about the internal politics of the Olympic committees?

"I think there's certainly some tension between the IOC and the USOC," said Carson Cunningham, a history instructor at DePaul University in Chicago who teaches a course on the modern Olympics. He said the U.S. Olympic Committee got the most TV revenue and inspired jealousy among its peers.

Of Chicago's loss, Cunningham said: "Obviously, it's become a political football, and people are going to use it as such. But if you really want to analyze why Chicago lost, it gets a lot more nuanced. Blaming this loss on President Obama's support of the bid, I think, is misleading."

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McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.



## Rockin' in Rio

*Rio de Janeiro — a city famous for its beaches, samba music, Carnival festival and love of sports — beat Chicago, Madrid and Tokyo to become the first South American host of the Olympic Games.*

**Exciting venues**  
Among the competition sites

- **Maracana Stadium**, a world-class soccer field
- **The Sambodromo**, home of Rio's annual Carnival parade
- **Joao Havelange Stadium**, built for the 2007 Pan American Games
- **World-famous Copacabana Beach**

© 2009 MCT  
Source: Rio 2016, Encyclopedia Britannica  
Graphic: Pat Carr

**Interesting city**  
Called *Cidade Maravilhosa*, or "The Marvelous City"

- Named "River of January" by Portuguese navigators who arrived Jan. 1, 1502
- Served as Brazil's political capital, 1822-1960; remains the nation's social, cultural center
- Inhabitants called Cariocas; about 6 million live in the city; almost 12 million in metro area



Rio de Janeiro

## PIXAR

continued from page 1  
ing Pictures Group.

Johnson and his team focus their energies on buying off-the-shelf hardware and buying or developing software, though most of the work they do deals with creating custom software.

Johnson also gave tips on how a person in his job can perform effectively. "If people are getting mad at each other there is probably a need I can fill," said Johnson. Easy to use software that improves communication and understanding between various departments would be an example. Johnson stressed that the aptitude to make his users visibly better at their jobs and the desire to go out of his way to help is key. "Be a hero," said Johnson. The men and women who work at Pixar share camaraderie rooted in telling good stories and seem to do their best help each other in the shared struggle.

Audience reactions to Johnson's talk were positive. "I am excited to learn about his inspiration," said Brian Cerier, a junior studying Electrical Engineering at the University of Illinois. Cerier, like many other students present, was at the talk for a class, while some, like Ashlea Thomsen a sophomore majoring in Media Studies found personal reasons for going. "[Johnson and I] have similar career paths," said Thomsen.

## HOME

continued from page 3

about being on a campus—like waking up at 8:50 for a 9 a.m. class ... but it's not worth 20 grand a year."

It's not unusual for students to flock to community colleges when the economy sours. However, the current unprecedented demand comes at the same time that states are slashing financial aid, according to a report released Thursday by the Education Policy Center at the University of Alabama.

Of 43 states that responded to the study, 30 predicted cuts next year in their student aid programs.

But the switch from four-year to two-year schools isn't always just about money—sometimes it can be prompted by other issues.

For Ryan Derrick, his struggles at Southern Illinois University started with academics. The lively social scene provided too much of a distraction, explained the 2007 Rich East High School graduate. Then, a car accident caused the biology major to fall even further behind in his studies.

"I needed a fresh start," he explained. Derrick sheepishly returned home to Matteson, Ill., registering at Prairie State College, where, unexpectedly,

son's talk were positive. "I am excited to learn about his inspiration," said Brian Cerier, a junior studying Electrical Engineering at the University of Illinois. Cerier, like many other students present, was at the talk for a class, while some, like Ashlea Thomsen a sophomore majoring in Media Studies found personal reasons for going. "[Johnson and I] have similar career paths," said Thomsen.

According to the University's InfoStructure Web site, "The Designmatters3 series exists to promote design thinking that integrates design, business and technology in the creation of innovative products, services and experiences."

These events are free of charge and are just one of the many ways CU residents can educate and entertain themselves in the areas of design and technology.

he found the atmosphere more conducive to learning.

At SIU, a typical lecture class held 300 or more students. But now, most of his classes are limited to 30 students, making it easier to ask questions. "It's more personal ... you're not just another face."

Beyond size, classes are almost always taught by faculty—not teaching assistants—and have turned out to be more rigorous than expected, Crivellone said. "There's probably a difference when you get to higher-level courses, but in your first two years ... it's all sort of the same."

Even though Crivellone, Bhatia and Derrick are happy with their decisions, they all plan on returning to a traditional university. With various offerings available today—online classes, satellite campuses—they see their current stints as just another option in the post-secondary marketplace.

"In high school, it might be looked down upon ... but not anymore," Derrick said. "Everyone knows that no matter which path you choose, you're still trying to move forward."

(c) 2009

Chicago Tribune.

# "Ardi" new evolutionary link?

By ROBERT S. BOYD  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON—Move over, Lucy. A 4-foot-tall female nicknamed Ardi, who lived 4.4 million years ago in Africa, has replaced you as the earliest best known ancestor of the

White and his colleagues spent 15 years recovering and studying Ardi's bones before Thursday's announcement.

Ardi is "on our side of the family tree, not the chimpanzee side," White told a news conference in Washington sponsored by the journal Sci-

ancestor, White said, but "it's the closest we've come to the last common ancestor."

A few older hominid skulls and teeth have been discovered, but nothing as complete as Ardi or Lucy.

The first of Ardi's bones, a single tooth, was discovered

ering a time capsule from a period and place we knew nothing about."

Owen Lovejoy, an evolutionary biologist at Ohio's Kent State University, said Ardi is "an image of what our early ancestors must have looked like."

## Adding a link

Scientists have discovered the oldest pre-human ancestor found to date, nicknamed "Ardi."



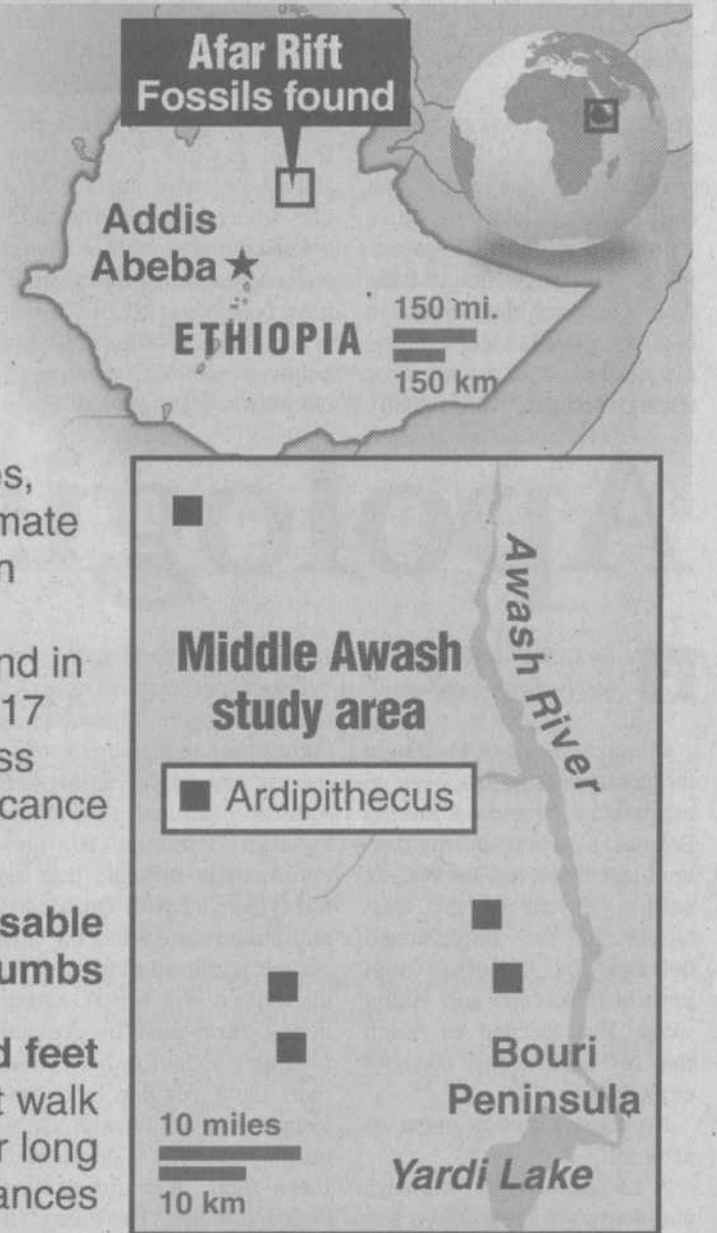
### Ardipithecus ramidus

- Hominid species, a pre-human primate
- Lived 4.4 million years ago
- First fossils found in 1992; has taken 17 years to assess their significance

Opposable thumbs

No arched feet  
Could not walk or run for long distances

© 2009 MCT



Source: Science, Illustrations by J.H. Matternes  
Graphic: Melina Yingling

human species.

Ardi's nearly complete skeleton is 1 million years older than Lucy's, pushing back the point when hominids—pre-human primates—are known to have split from the evolutionary line that led to chimpanzees and gorillas, an international team of scientists announced Thursday.

"Ardi is not a chimp. It's not a human. It's what we used to be," said paleontologist Tim White, an authority on human evolution at the University of California, Berkeley.

ence. Ardi is named for her genus and species, *Ardipithecus ramidus*, a distant cousin of Lucy's line, *Australopithecus afarensis*.

The discovery sheds new light on human evolution during a previously little known epoch. Scientists believe that humans and apes both descended from a "last common ancestor," an even more primitive primate that lived between 7 million and 9 million years ago.

Ardi isn't the last common

in 1992, not far from where Lucy's skeleton was buried in the fossil-rich Afar Rift of Ethiopia. Later, more than 100 other pieces, including bits of a skull, hand, foot and pelvis, were carefully eased out of the volcanic soil and reassembled.

The remains of 35 other individuals, plus birds, animals and plants, were also found there.

White called the project to assemble Ardi, which eventually involved 47 scientists from 10 different countries, "a scientific mission into the very deep past. ... It was like discov-

Ardi's hands, feet, pelvis and teeth are more like the bones of modern humans than of chimpanzees or gorillas. For example, her pelvis is modified for walking upright on the ground, as well as climbing trees.

"Ardi was not a knuckle-walker (like apes)," Lovejoy said. But she probably couldn't have outrun the smaller, more advanced Lucy.

"If Ardi and Lucy had a race, Lucy would win handily," Lovejoy said.

Ardi was a woodland crea-

See Ardi on page 9



# OPINIONS

## Don't take away the fairy tale—Disney's "black princess"

By PROSPECTUS NEWS

Recently, Disney has released a new movie called "Princess and the Frog," which is, of course, a twist on the classic fairy tale about a princess that finds her prince by kissing a frog. It just so happens that this princess is Tiana, who is African-American—a woman in the heart of New Orleans during the Jazz Age. One would think people would be happy about this milestone and be proud of Disney for taking a step towards diversity, but of course, critics have found every which way to pick apart the "race" motif.

The original working title of the movie was "The Frog Princess." Some people were outraged by the title, because they felt it somehow insinuated that black people were ugly, so in turn, Disney changed the title to "The Princess and The Frog." Soon after, some were outraged with Tiana's original name of Maddy. One camp felt that the name was not ethnic enough, and other people, according to AOL News, felt that "Maddy" was too similar to the old term, "mammy."

This is getting ridiculous, right? Just wait—it's not over yet. According to one complaint on filmschoolrejects.com, "This princess' story is set in New Orleans, the setting of one of the most devastating tragedies to beset a black community. And then they throw in the voodoo theme [the fairy-godmother character is a voodoo priestess] and an alligator sidekick. When you put New Orleans, alligators and voodoo together, there's no beauty there."

People are also angry that the princess falls in love with a frog who has an Indian-sounding name (Prince Naveen hails from a fictional Mediterranean country called Maldonia), is played by a "Hispanic" actor (Bruno Campos, who actually



hails from Brazil), and is portrayed as white. Should Tiana fall in love with a dashing, African-American prince instead?

Ridiculous enough, or should we keep going? People seem to have forgotten that this movie is for children. Who seriously believes that five to seven year-old girls are going to sit down

after the film to discuss how racially charged Tiana and her frog are? And does the public honestly believe Disney writers sat down and said, "Okay, let's think of a way to create the most racist movie for children we can come up with. Let's make people angry!" Not hardly. In fact, Disney has

probably spent a large sum of money consulting with experts in black history and African American culture to try to avoid the pitfalls it is currently finding itself in.

Not that Disney is innocent, either. We don't have to look too far back to find Uncle Remus and the "Song of the South."

Don't forget the racially sensationalized, singing crows from "Dumbo."

Yet Disney is hardly stepping into stepping into new territory—Jasmine, Mulan, and Pocahontas all explored new races for the princesses. And let's not forget some of the most memorable Disney mov-

ies—Selma Lord Selma followed a young girl on her quest to join Dr. King in his marches during the Civil Rights movement. The Color of Friendship followed a white South African exchange student being hosted by a black family who expected their exchange student to be black. It focuses on the relationship between the student and the oldest daughter, who at first resent each other.

The list goes on and on, so why are people just now getting their feathers ruffled over it?

It can simply be summed up that no one will ever be satisfied. People are going to continuously find something wrong in the simplest of things, even children's movies. The next movie will probably be about a black prince and a white princess falling in love, and people will get angry over it. Heaven forbid we see two princesses falling in love.

It seems that the problem lies in the older generation. The ones fighting over and commenting on it are the older generation. It is very rare to see a child or college student who is upset about the issue. It could be that young people are more open to the diversity and that they are not letting themselves get wrapped up in such a thing. People have bigger things to worry about then whether or not a fairy godmother does voodoo and the princess' name has some racial innuendo behind it.

Perhaps it is time that adults grab a pen and paper and take notes from the younger generation. You know, the ones that don't care what color you are, who you date, or how people look and sound. All they care about is that there is some sort of fairy tale behind all of this madness. And who are we to take that all away?

## Apologists twist the truth

By GLENN GARVIN  
McClatchy Newspapers

In our new era of teachable moments, nothing has been so educational to me as Roman Polanski's arrest in Switzerland last week for having sex with a 13-year-old girl. Listening to the impassioned defenses by Polanski's supporters in Europe and Hollywood, I've learned so much that my head is just about to explode.

No doesn't always mean no after all.

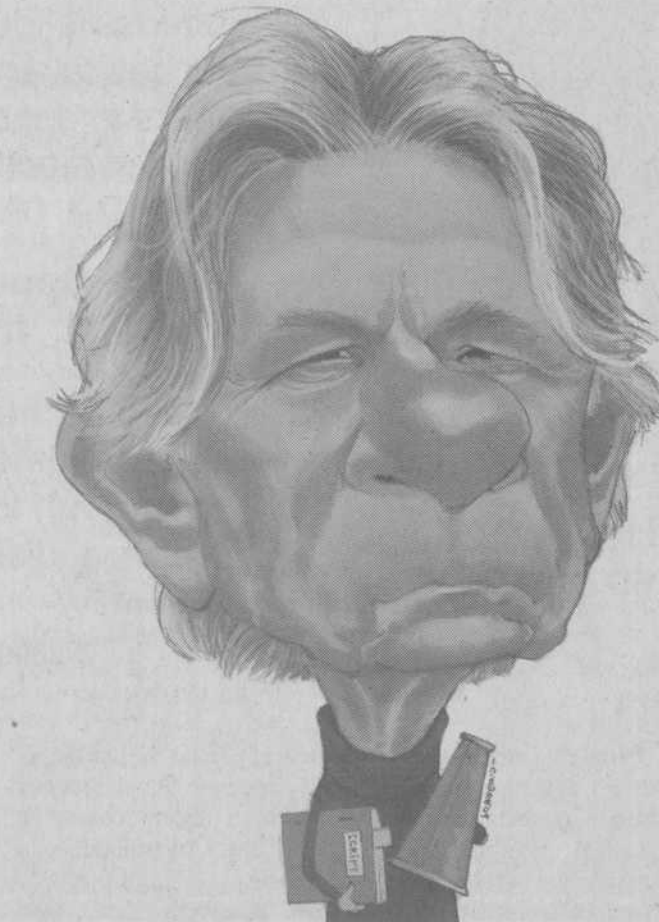
A 13-year-old girl who says she doesn't want to have sex with you is probably just kidding around. The girl testified to a Los Angeles grand jury that she repeatedly told Polanski that she didn't want to kiss him or have sex with him and that she wanted to go home. No matter: The real standard for consent is that she "was not unresponsive," as Polanski put it. That was good enough for Debra Tate, the sister of actress Sharon Tate and Polanski's former sister-in-law. "There's rape and then there's rape," she said. "It was determined that Roman did not forcibly have sex with this woman.

It was a consensual matter." Date-rape, schmdate-rape.

When you're pursuing a flighty teenager, there's nothing wrong with employing a little chemical assistance. Polanski admitted to law-enforcement officials that he plied the girl with Quaaludes and champagne—and the girl herself admitted that when he discovered she wasn't taking birth-control pills, he decided to simply sodomize her rather than have regular sex. Philosopher-queen Whoopi Goldberg carefully considered these facts, then proclaimed on her TV show "The View": "It wasn't rape-rape. It was something else."

Conservatives were right all these years—our legal system is too damned concerned with minor legal niceties.

Actress Debra Winger, who was supposed to present Polanski with an award at the Swiss film festival where he was arrested, was infuriated at his incarceration. "It is based on a 3-decade-old case that is all but dead, except for a minor technicality," she protested. The "minor technicality" was that Polanski skipped bail before his sentencing back in 1977



and, aside from six weeks confinement for psychiatric evaluation, never served a day of time for the crime to which he pleaded guilty.

Even if Polanski stepped over a line, piped up alleged

French intellectual Bernard-Henri Levy, the worst that could be said was that he "perhaps had committed a youthful error."

Polanski was a mere 43 at the time of the crime—more than

three times the age of the girl, but who's counting?

Anyway, we wouldn't put him in jail here. We'd ... oh, never mind.

Outside of Hollywood, nobody has been more outspoken in demanding Polanski's release than officials in his native Poland. Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski has announced plans to press the Obama administration and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for a pardon. Polanski "is a great person," said the country's former president Lech Walesa. "He did a lot for Poland and the world ... it should be forgiven." In Poland, of course, he'd be forgiven only after chemical castration: A bill passed by parliament two days before Polanski's arrest establishes that as the penalty for pedophiles convicted of sex with anybody under 15.

Artists deserve protection from the world's vulgarians, as long as they're not Muslim assassins.

Declaring Polanski an "Art God," popular Hollywood blogger Jeffrey Wells said that made him quasi-immune from concerns of the real world: "Art Gods have earned the right to

be shown an extra measure of consideration."

Meanwhile, more than 100 show-business celebrities (including Martin Scorsese, Michael Mann and, ahem, Woody Allen) have signed a petition demanding his release. Interestingly, when Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh was murdered in 2004 by Islamic terrorists after making a short film critical of treatment of women in the Muslim world, there wasn't a peep out of Hollywood.

There are a few Hollywood nuts who just don't get it.

"People are defending Roman Polanski because he made good movies 30 years ago?" comedian Chris Rock asked in wonder last week. "Are you kidding me? Even Johnny Cochran didn't have the nerve to go, 'Well did you see O.J. play against New England?'"

Forget it, Chris, it's Tinseltown.

(c) 2009  
The Miami Herald



# Answers about health care reform

While lawmakers battle over health care reform, here is a consensus on a few key questions

By DAVID LIGHTMAN  
McClatchy Newspapers

**W**ill your insurance premiums go up? Will your taxes? Will your Medicare coverage stay the same? Probably not, maybe and probably not. But really, who knows? Nothing is all that clear yet as Congress and the White House struggle to overhauling the nation's health care system, a task likely to take most of this year, if it succeeds at all.

Such potentially huge changes are provoking important questions, but so far, there are two hurdles to giving clear answers: The legislative process still has a long road ahead; neither the House of Representatives nor the Senate has even begun debating a bill.

Three House committees and the Senate Health committee have finished writing their versions of legislation. Yet to come is a bill from the Senate Finance Committee.

But even when there's legislation to examine, respected analysts disagree on its meaning.

So with the asterisk that nothing is certain until President Barack Obama signs legislation — if that ever happens — and the nation's best financial and health care minds often disagree, here's the consensus on key questions:

## Q: Will there be a new government-run health care program?

Probably not. The "public option" that Obama and a lot of congressional Democrats are seeking — a plan that would offer coverage to those who generally can't get it from the private sector — looks unlikely to muster the votes it needs. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., says it "cannot pass the Senate" and is offering an alternative, co-ops.

## Q: Are health care co-op's likely?

Maybe. Baucus' plan would create non-profit co-ops on a state, local or national basis that would be run and owned by members. The government would provide \$6 billion in start-up money and to help maintain solvency, though co-ops must be self-supporting. Supporters say co-ops would help lower costs because they could negotiate with doctors and hospitals for lower rates.

## Q: Can I keep the coverage I now have?

Absolutely, says the president. Employers are expected to continue coverage — or face penalties. Some critics maintain if government-run plans or co-ops are created, employers may be motivated to limit or change coverage.

## Q: Will my Medicare benefits be cut?

There's no talk of that — though some lawmakers worry benefits could be reduced — but chances are slim because the program is so popular. In fact, consumers could get an extra benefit, since the House of Representatives bill wants to eventually close the "doughnut hole" in prescription drug coverage. Currently, once beneficiaries have received \$2,700 per year in aid, they have to pay out of pocket until that figure reaches \$6,100, when government help again kicks in.

## Q: Will Medicare Advantage change?

Probably. Currently, about 22 percent of seniors get Medicare benefits from private insurers rather than traditional Medicare. A lot of Democrats say the private companies are too costly, and would change the system so payments are more equal. The White House argues no one would lose benefits, but some analysts believe the 10.5 million getting private coverage could see premium increases or cuts to the extra benefits Advantage plans provide.

## Q: But the president talks about billions in Medicare "savings." Won't that affect my coverage?

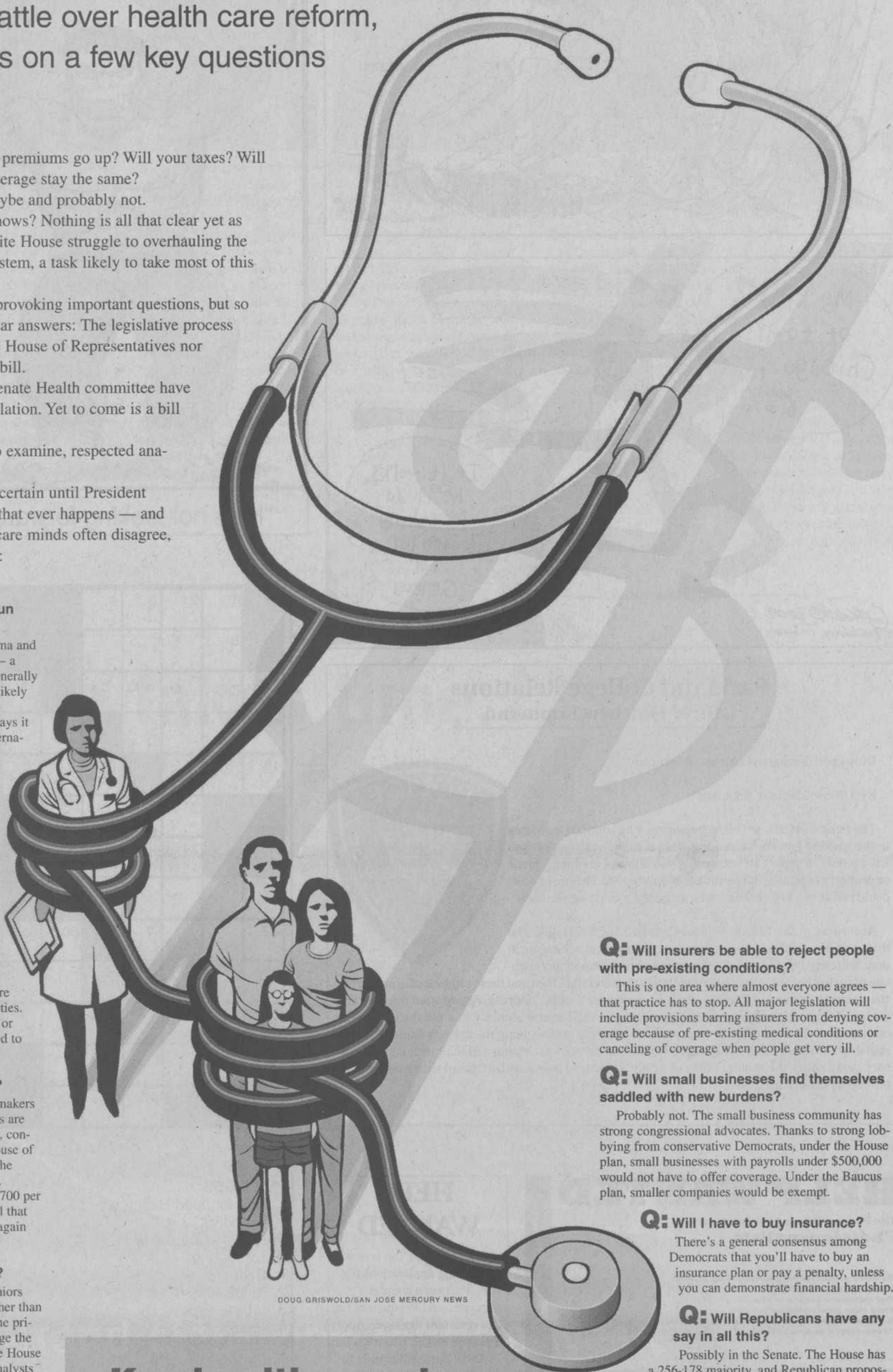
Democrats insist it won't, that the savings will come from making the system more efficient and eliminate waste, fraud and abuse. But a lot of financial analysts disagree, noting that savings are hard to predict — because changes in patient and provider behavior are hard to predict.

## Q: Will legislation be deficit-neutral?

The White House and congressional Democrats insist it will be. But a lot of respected independent analysts say it's going to be hard. Obama says "most" of the savings in his plan would come from making Medicare and Medicaid more efficient, but the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates only about \$230 billion of his \$900 billion plan can be paid that way. And CBO estimates the House bill adds \$239 billion to the deficit over 10 years. The Baucus measure, it says, would cut the deficit by \$21 billion.

## Q: Will my taxes go up?

Hard to say. House Democrats want to impose a surcharge on adjusted gross incomes of \$280,000 for singles and \$350,000 for couples. Senators are less enthusiastic, and Baucus proposes a 40 percent excise tax on insurers' policies above \$8,000 for singles and \$21,000 for families. The threshold for most retirees and people with high risk jobs would be \$8,750 for singles and \$23,000 for families.



DOUG GRISWOLD/SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

## Key health care terms

### ■ Employer Health Care Tax Credit:

An incentive mechanism designed to encourage employers, usually small employers, to offer health insurance to their employees. The tax credit enables employers to deduct an amount, usually a percentage of the contribution they make toward their employees' premiums, from the federal taxes they owe.

■ **Entitlement Program:** Federal programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, for which people who meet eligibility criteria have a federal right to benefits. Changes to eligibility criteria and benefits require legislation.

■ **Medicaid:** A federal entitlement program that provides health and long-term care coverage to certain categories of low-income Americans. States design their own Medicaid programs within broad federal guidelines.

■ **Medicare:** A federal entitlement program that provides health insurance coverage to 45 million people, including people ages 65 and older, and younger people with permanent disabilities, end-stage renal disease

and Lou Gehrig's disease.

■ **Medicare Advantage:** A health plan option under the Medicare program that allows participants to choose Medicare Health Maintenance Organization (HMOs), Preferred Provider Organizations (PPO), private fee-for-service plans or Medicare special needs plans provided through private insurers.

■ **Pre-existing Condition Exclusions:** An illness or medical condition diagnosed or treated within a specified period of time prior to a person becoming insured. Health care providers can exclude benefits for a defined period of time for the treatment of medical conditions they determine to have existed prior to the beginning of coverage.

■ **Public Plan Option:** A proposal to create a new insurance plan administered and funded by federal or state government that would be offered along with private plans in a newly-created health insurance exchange.

— Kaiser Family Foundation ([www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)), [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

## Q: Will insurers be able to reject people with pre-existing conditions?

This is one area where almost everyone agrees — that practice has to stop. All major legislation will include provisions barring insurers from denying coverage because of pre-existing medical conditions or canceling of coverage when people get very ill.

## Q: Will small businesses find themselves saddled with new burdens?

Probably not. The small business community has strong congressional advocates. Thanks to strong lobbying from conservative Democrats, under the House plan, small businesses with payrolls under \$500,000 would not have to offer coverage. Under the Baucus plan, smaller companies would be exempt.

## Q: Will I have to buy insurance?

There's a general consensus among Democrats that you'll have to buy an insurance plan or pay a penalty, unless you can demonstrate financial hardship.

## Q: Will Republicans have any say in all this?

Possibly in the Senate. The House has a 256-178 majority, and Republican proposals have been largely defeated in committees. In the Senate, at least two moderate Republicans, Maine's Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe, have indicated they would be willing to find common ground.

## Q: Can the Senate pass legislation without Republican votes?

Yes. It usually takes 60 votes to cut off debate, and the Senate has 59 Democrats. But a rule change adopted earlier this year would allow certain health care changes to pass with 51 votes after Oct. 15.

## Survey says

According to 2009 reports from the Kaiser Family Foundation:

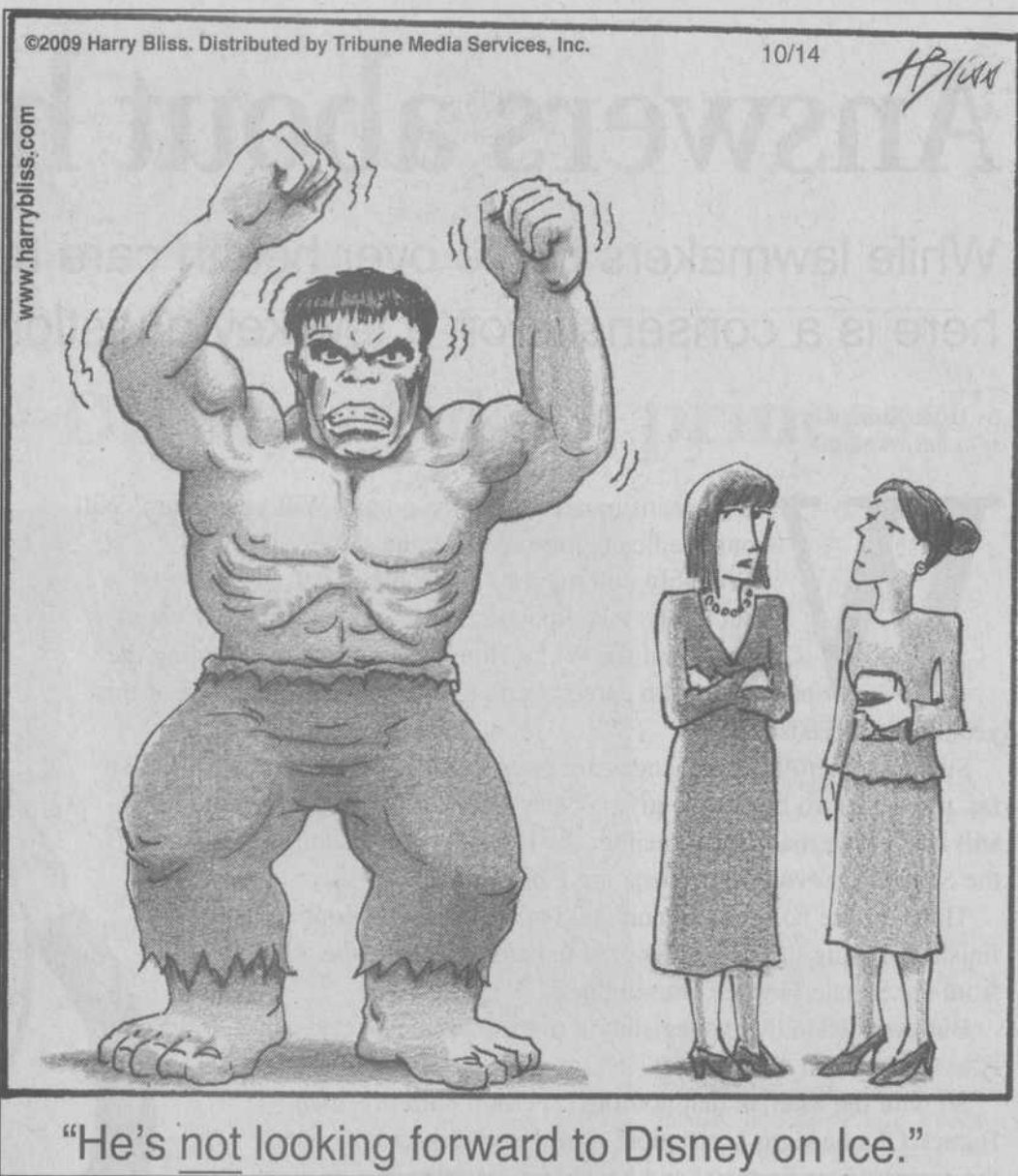
**32%** of Americans report their family has had problems paying medical bills in the past year, with 18 percent reporting bills in excess of \$1,000.

**53%** of Americans say their household cut back on health care due to cost concerns in the past 12 months.

**11%** of Americans used up all or most of their savings in the past 12 months because of medical bills.

**66%** of Americans are very worried or somewhat worried about not being able to afford the health care services they think they need.



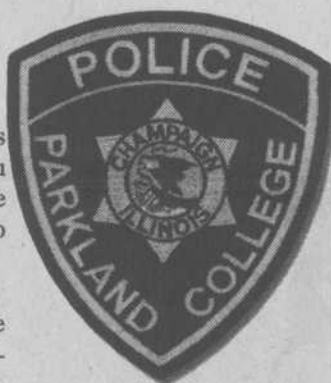


**Parkland College Relations  
Officer Matthew Kopmann**

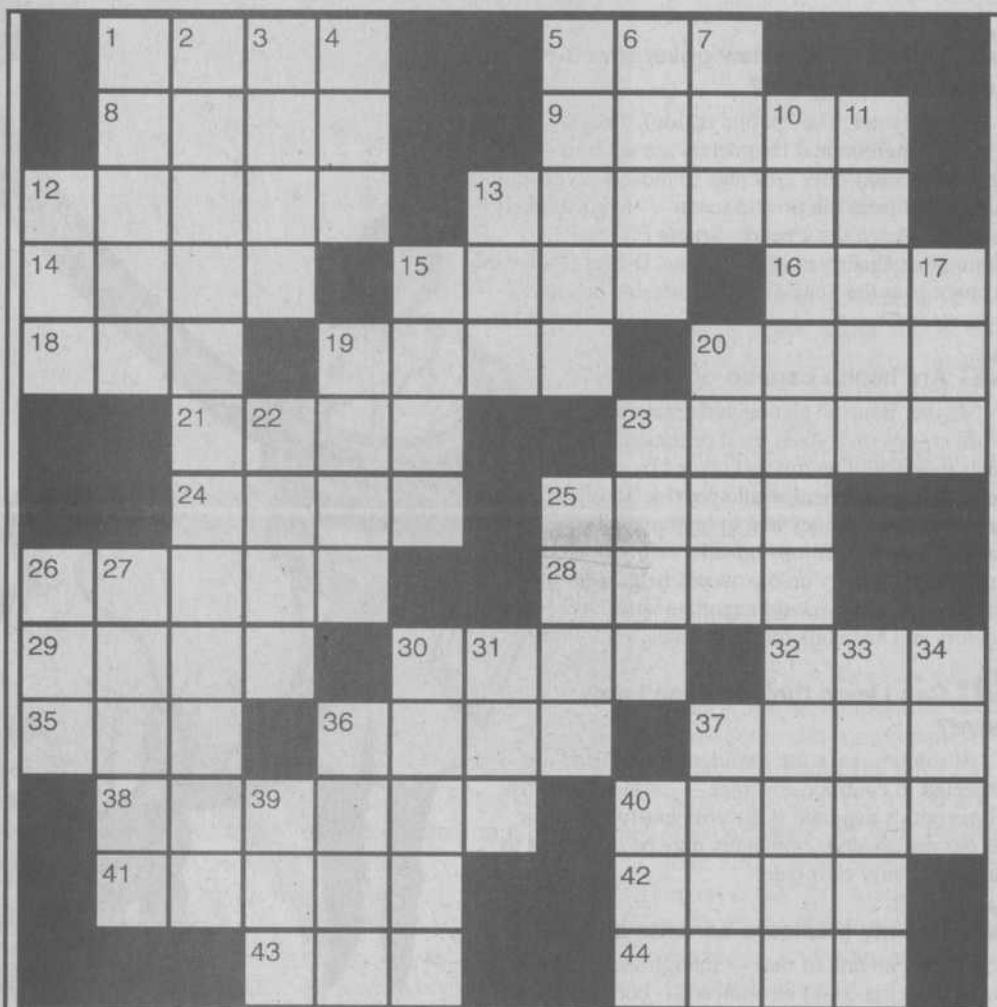
Duty upon damaging unattended vehicle

By: Officer Matthew Kopmann

The Parkland College Police Department has noticed accidents in the parking lots are increasing. This is to inform you that you have a duty to report an accident if you damage another vehicle or property especially if the vehicle is unattended. Failure to do so could result in a \$75 citation and a mandatory court appearance.



According to the Illinois Vehicle Code 625 ILCS 5/11-404, The driver of any vehicle which is involved in a motor vehicle accident with any vehicle which is unattended resulting in any damage to such other vehicle shall immediately stop and shall then and there either locate and notify the operator or owner of such vehicle of the driver's name, address, registration number and owner of the vehicle the driver was operating or shall attach securely in a conspicuous place on or in the vehicle or other property struck a written notice giving the driver's name, address, registration number and owner of the vehicle the driver was driving and shall without unnecessary delay notify the nearest office of a duly authorized police authority and shall make a written report of such accident.



10/4/09

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**HELP WANTED**

"The Ultimate Tan is now accepting applications for Part time counter associates and Permanent full time assistant manager. Apply in person at The Ultimate Tan 1909 W Springfield next to Blockbuster Video"

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**ACROSS**

- Role for Judd Hirsch on "Numb3rs"
- "The \_\_\_ Couple"
- "Larry King \_\_\_"
- "CSI: \_\_\_"
- Performed
- Actress Ethel
- Specks
- Actor Nicolas
- Actress Merkel
- \_\_\_ Mineo
- Plato or Delany
- "Dharma & \_\_\_"
- Perón and Gabor
- \_\_\_ Boothe Luce
- Bowler's targets
- Worry
- Eyeglasses, for short
- Actress Anderson
- \_\_\_ vera
- Undergarment
- "Mike Hammer, Private \_\_\_"
- "A \_\_\_ of the World"; Sigourney Weaver movie
- Perched on

- Rugged cliff
- John Ratzenberger's role on "Cheers"
- "Book 'em, \_\_\_!"
- "\_\_\_, Indiana"
- "Star \_\_\_"
- O'Neill and Bradley
- Utters

**DOWN**

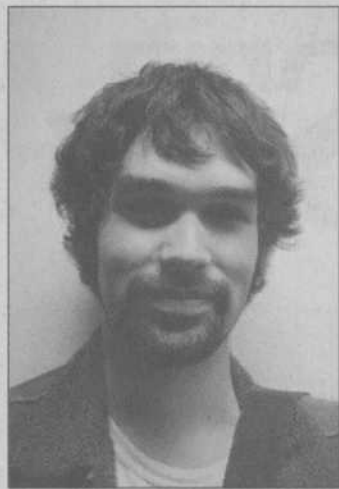
- World's third-largest producer of aluminum
- "\_\_\_, Big World"
- 5th and Pennsylvania; abbr.
- "\_\_\_ and Stacey"
- Last letter of the Greek alphabet
- Very urgent
- Aswan or Hoover
- Actress on "ER"
- Located near the center
- Commercials
- "The \_\_\_ from U.N.C.L.E."
- Elliot of The Mamas & the Papas
- Years lived
- Rowan and Rather
- "The \_\_\_ Campbell Goodtime Hour"
- "Miami \_\_\_"
- Cut off short
- "The \_\_\_ Wilson Show"
- Ally Walker's lead role on "Profiler"
- "Melrose \_\_\_"
- Homes for pigs
- Chaney or his son
- Richard Gere movie nominated for a Golden Globe Award
- Sense of self-esteem
- Eager
- One of the twins on "Jon & Kate Plus 8"
- "The Boys \_\_\_ Back"
- Sobering-up woes, for short

**Solution to Last Week's Puzzle**

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# MEET THE STAFF



**Isaac Mitchell**  
Production Manager  
Spirit Animal: Creeping Ivy

Hello. My name is Isaac Mitchell. I am the newly appointed Production Manager here at the Prospectus. My hobbies include competitive gaming such as Halo and Call of Duty, I also enjoy Ultimate Frisbee, Tennis and I can hazcheezburger.com in my free time. Hit me up anytime if you want to play any of the above, I am always looking for good competition.



**Merry Thomas**  
Writer  
Spirit Animal: Hippogriff

Hello. My name is Merry Thomas, and there are a lot of things I enjoy. I like biking while listening to Harry Potter book on tape. I like British comedies, like Are You Being Served, as well as Doctor Who, which isn't a Brit Com, but it's still a super-awesome show anyway. People predict that when I grow up, I'm most likely going to become a bag lady, a cat lady, or possibly both. I'm ok with that.



**Levi Norman**  
Photography Editor  
Spirit Animal: Bigfoot

Don't be fooled by this picture of Levi—he's actually much hairier. And he says "I'm sorry" more than we could ever count. But he's really nice, and he takes great pictures. And he has some tattoos that would make your momma blush. In fact, he'll probably go get a tattoo of your momma blushing after he reads this.



**Tara Christopher**  
Music Columnist  
Spirit Animal: Squirrel

Tara hosts a radio show for 88.7 in the morning. She loves music more than most people love eating Mac and Cheese while surfing Facebook. She apparently has a thing for squirrels, too. And she's new, which might explain why you're asking, "Who is this?"



**Cassandra Jo Cunningham**  
Social Media Editor  
Spirit Animal: Lemming

Hey guys, I'm Cassandra Cunningham. I am a writer and Social Media Editor for the Prospectus. I'm studying Mass Communications and I want to put Katie Couric out of a job one day. I serve milkshakes and cheese fries all day everyday at Steak N Shake and shampoo old ladies' hair at BJ Grand Salon & Spa. I love hip-hop and rap music, Lupe Fiasco is my favorite artist. I also have a serious addiction to Facebook. I am passionate about helping people and I love God. I hope that students will get into reading the Prospectus more, and get involved with our organization!

## SUN

continued from page 1

people who can't rake themselves, whether they're disabled or just too old, and raking their leaves would really help a lot. There are several organizations that you could find online, one of which is [www.volunteer-match.com](http://www.volunteer-match.com), which you could do a search on leaf raking in your area. Raking leaves is a big part of fall, and it really makes it feel like the season's here.

And what about camping in autumn? It's not too hot to go hiking, there's still a lot of wildlife to observe, and there aren't a lot of bugs swarming around. Being outdoors is a great way to relax and take a break from school and work—nothing distracts a mind more than being in the wilderness. There are several camping sites in Champaign, and you can do a quick search on the Internet to find some good spots, but if you're looking to get out of Champaign, Turkey Run State Park in Indiana might be a good place to go. There are several camping sites that you could choose from, like the electric ones where there are running bathrooms and showers, or you could opt for the more rugged camping site, which doesn't have either. There are a variety of activities that you could do, like canoeing, horseback riding, and fishing. There are also eleven different hiking trails to choose from, all varying in difficulty from easy to very rugged. Turkey Run is a very beautiful place, and these trails give you a first hand experience of the nature there. To learn more, you can go to their Web site or call 765-597-2654 for more information. Just keep in mind that some parks are more popular than others, and we recommend that you call Turkey Run as soon as possible to make reservations.

## ARDI

continued from page 9

ture, with a small brain, long arms and short legs. Her discovery disproves the earlier theory that pre-humans learned to walk when they came down from trees to live on open savannas, White said.

She probably ate fruit, berries, mushrooms, birds, bats and mice and other small mammals, judging by her teeth and the remains found where she was discovered. Scientists can tell she was female because of the shape of her canine teeth and her pelvis.

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Continued on page 10

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# MEET THE STAFF



**Alishia Reynolds**  
Photographer  
Spirit animal: Run-away cat

My name is Alishia. This is my third year here at parkland. I am an Art and Design major.

I spend my time mostly going to school and work and when I do have free time I enjoy taking photos, painting, listening to music, and going out with friends. I decided I wanted to be a photographer around high school. During this time I took senior photos for my friends and took promo pics for local bands. I joined the Prospectus as way to further myself as a photographer and also to meet new people.



**Chrissie Mckenney**  
Nutrition Columnist  
Spirit Animal: All primates

Chrissie McKenney is a Southern expatriate who lives in the remote and distant village of Savoy, where she cooks, eats, and drinks large volumes of tea. Professionally, she is the Editorial Assistant for the American Journal of Primatology (which is not nearly as exciting as it sounds). Recreationally, she is a Dietary Manager student at Parkland College, where she gets to write about food and nutrition for the Prospectus and make a cooking show called "What's in Your Pantry?" for PCTV. In her spare time she is also a culinary student at Chicago's Kendall College.



**Sean Whitsitt**  
Writer  
Spirit Animal: Meerkat

Sean Whitsitt is a new writer with an itch to cover entertainment stories—a field he is very familiar with. He was hired by the Prospectus because of the history of hiring successful students with the name of "Sean." He is also into making films!



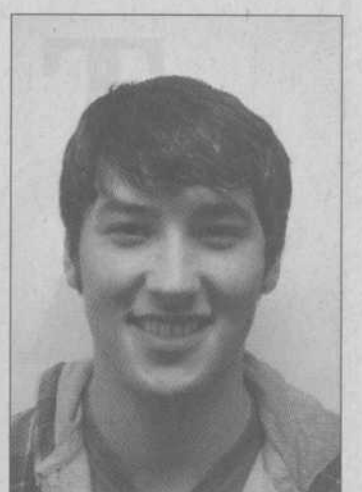
**Shagun Pradhan**  
Writer  
Spirit Animal: Musk Ox

This is a picture of Shagun. He does everything. And when we say everything, we mean he likes sports, theatre, gymnastics, photography, writing, and long hikes in Savoy. And he likes to wear sweats and he keeps his hair messy. We'd like to say he works at Kofusion, but he doesn't. Please don't call him "Sho-gun," because that's been way overdone.



**Patrick Wood**  
Editor  
Spirit Animal: Dead rabbit

My name is Patrick Wood. I graduated in 2008 from Unity High School and still reside in my hometown of Sadorus, a small farm community in southern Champaign County. I'm majoring in mass communication at Parkland College and have been writing and editing for the Prospectus since September of 2008. In my spare time, I enjoy sharpening my photography skills, fiction writing, road-tripping, and listening to music.

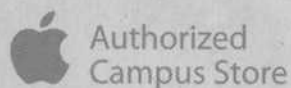


**Sean Hermann**  
Assistant Editor  
Spirit Animal: Anglerfish

I'm Sean. I looooveee music, sports and photography. I'm in two bands currently

and I love attending shows. I also looooveeee food. Go Cubs, Bears, Hawks, and Illini!

Most of all, I just enjoy having fun and being myself!



## Fall Sale

### Up to \$100 Off Laptops

Save \$50 on MacBooks and 13" MacBook Pros, and \$100 on 15" & 17" MacBook Pros.

#### 13" White MacBook:

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