

Photo by Nicole Simmons

Congressman Tim Johnson speaks to members of the agriculture industry Monday in the Tony Noel Building about the state of agriculture in Illinois. One topic discussed was "The Three Entity Rule." Johnson then opened the floor to questions.

Johnson reports on Ag legislation

■ Update is not all good news

By **JODY LITTLETON**
Contributing Writer

Monday, March 14, Congressman Tim Johnson, a senior member on the House Agriculture Committee, presented the agricultural news from the nation's capital. Speaking to members of the agriculture industry, media, educators, and students in the Tony Noel Building at Parkland College, Congressman Johnson's update was not all good news for the agriculture community.

He expects some cuts in the federal budget for agriculture although it is not clear what programs may be eliminated or reduced. However, the "Three Entity Rule" is a topic of Congressional discussion. Farmers currently abide by the three entity rule as part of the 2002 Farm Bill. Under the rule, an individ-

ual can receive a full payment directly and up to a half payment from two additional entities. Congressman Johnson told his audience that he did not support the elimination of this rule, which has a direct impact on the farmer.

There were bright spots in Congressman Johnson's report. There may be an increase in funding research for mad cow disease. In addition, possible support for rural development and the House Transportation Bill may be available. Congressman Johnson supports trade expansion with Cuba. He stated that the artificial limits on travel and trade with Cuba allow Fidel Castro to use the United States as a scapegoat.

Congressman Johnson closed by saying: "We all know what the predominant issue in Illinois is today. Go Illini!"

Illinois flexes its fueling options

By **JON VOLKMAN**
Prospectus Staff Writer

On March 8, Governor Blagojevich announced funding for the "Illinois E-85 Clean Energy Infrastructure Development Program." With five hundred thousand in funding, the program aims to improve accessibility to E-85 across Illinois.

E-85 is a fuel is a mixture consisting of 70-85% ethanol and 15% percent gasoline. In promoting the use of ethanol as a viable alternative to unleaded gasoline, Illinois joins several states who have worked to bring fuel production closer to home, as well as boost their economies in the process.

In Minnesota, over one hundred stations offer not only gasoline, but in addition E-85. The state produces more than 350 million gallons of ethanol each

year. The state also has over 100,000 flexible fuel vehicles registered and operating within the state. These vehicles take advantage of E-85, running on it or unleaded gasoline.

The market for E-85 has increased over the last five years. Over ten million gallons annually are used, and many major auto manufacturers are beginning to sell flexible fuel vehicles. In fact, over four million flexible fuel vehicles are on the road nationwide, featuring models such as the Chevrolet Silverado, the Ford Taurus, and the Chrysler Caravan.

In giving money to gas stations to aid their expansion to support E-85, Illinois is aiding more than just the stations. An increase in ethanol demand will benefit local farmers. Consumers will

See **Fuel** on page 10

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Parkland Theatre presents: *'The Skin of Our Teeth'*

Press release

Witness a comic testimony to the indestructibility of the human spirit, as Parkland Theatre presents Thornton Wilder's fantasy masterpiece, "The Skin of Our Teeth," April 6-17.

This zany play features George Antrabus, inventor extraordinaire, who with his wife, two children, and maid seem a typical American family living in New Jersey. However, they are also Adam, Eve, Cain, Lilith, and a daughter who survive the 'trifles' of everyday life from the Ice Age to world war. Come and enjoy this creative celebration

of humanity's resilience, inventiveness, and will to survive.

Performances are April 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 at 8 p.m. and April 17 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$8 for seniors and students over 12. Youth tickets (12 and under) are \$6. Tickets for the opening night on April 6 are \$4.99. Tickets to the Thursday, April 14 performance are half price. There will be a post-performance talk with the director and actors on Friday, April 8. Tickets and more information are available by calling the box office at 217/351-2528 or www.parkland.edu/theatre.

CORRECTION: In the March 9 edition of the *Prospectus*, student government candidate Lisa Monroy's name was misspelled in a page 1 photo caption. The *Prospectus* regrets the error.

Prospectus



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By U.S. mail: Parkland College, Room X-155, 2400 W. Bradley Ave., Champaign, IL 61821. ADVERTISERS phone 217-373-3855 or FAX 217-373-3835

Letters and Editorial Policy

- The *Prospectus* is a student publication.
- It is published weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters, intermittently in summer.
- Views expressed are opinions of staff and contributors
- Advertising is accepted which is non-discriminatory and not in violation of any laws. The *Prospectus* reserves the right to refuse any advertising. Publication of advertising constitutes final acceptance.
- Advertisers must verify ads for accuracy.
- The *Prospectus* welcomes letters to the editor.
- The rules of correspondence: all letters must be signed with a phone number and address. The *Prospectus* staff must verify the identity of letter writers. E-mail to the *Prospectus* must also include a full name, phone number and address. Unverifiable letters will not be printed. Correspondence may be edited to accommodate the space requirements of the paper.
- Guest writers are welcome and subject to the same rules as other correspondence. We welcome writers from the Parkland community and the public. The editor will consider original works of fiction and short writings, if space is available.
- The *Prospectus* deadline for all advertising and other submissions is 5 PM of the Friday immediately before the upcoming issue.

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Monster truck extravaganza



By **DAVID BERGLUND**
Prospectus Staff Writer

It happens every year around this time. The weather starts to get warmer as winter melts into spring. And monster trucks invade the U of I Assembly Hall!

This year's Monster Nationals show was held March 5. The size of the crowd may pale in comparison to the basketball, game crowds, but the energy level is still there. As is tradition, fans were treated to a party in the pits.

Sponsored by the Champaign Automotive Superstore, the

party gives fans an opportunity to meet drivers, and see the big machines before they come to life.

Like boxers before a big match, the trucks sit in their respective corners.

Three and a half hours later, it's showtime. The drivers rev up the roaring engines, and much to the delight of fans, for the next two hours or so, the Hall is dominated by trucks racing and soaring above crushed cars on the arena's floor. The drivers hold nothing back as anything seems to go. Near-flips and crashes are the norm on such a small floor.

"I love it. It's awesome," Big Dawg driver Doug Noelke exclaimed. "It's a blast!" Noelke has been driving for five years, but veteran truck driver Andy Hoffman is in his eleventh year. Hoffman is the driver of the Chevrolet truck, Nitemare.

Monster trucks are not the only stars though. Kids operating remote control cars and stunt bikers try to steal the show.

New to the Champaign festivities this year was a fire breathing dinosaur. A fan favorite, the hungry beast ripped a small Ford in half.

Among the many excited monster truck enthusiasts in attendance, was Tim Shelton of Danville. He was pumped up long before the dinosaur stuffed its face after intermission.

"Well, it hasn't started yet," he said, "but from what I can see with that Tyrannosaurus, it looks like it's going to be pretty cool!"

Year after year, favorites at the show continue to be the Hall Bros. trucks, the Raminator and Rammunition.

Dale Benaar, driving Rammunition, was the evening's hold winner. He defeated Bigfoot, winning by a nose or in this case, by a tire!



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Photo by Nicole Simmons

Beth Lesley shops for her groceries at County Market on Mattis Ave. County Market is a favorite for students because of the selection and low prices.

Grocery choices for students

By ALISON SMITH
Prospectus Staff Writer

After graduating high school I couldn't wait to get out on my own and start my life as a college student. Once I was in charge, curfews and rules would be a thing of the past! Life was great! Of course, this feeling of elation lasted only so long. Eventually I had to buy groceries, and that elated feeling quickly went away, right with the money in my wallet. What happened?! Once upon a time I could get excited to go to the store, but here I am, pricing bread and considering milk a luxury. So what's a poor college student on a budget to do?

After seeing one too many friends attempt to sustain themselves on Ramen alone, I decided to do some research and find an answer to that question. Because Champaign-Urbana has such a large number of grocery stores in the area, we have the ability to choose where we go. Now comes

the important part, which one to choose. My personal favorite is County Market. Items are reasonably priced and a good half of the store is discounted if you sign up for a Max Card (which is free of charge). Since County Market is a relatively large chain, with several stores in the Champaign-Urbana area, they are pretty convenient. They also have a wide selection to choose from.

Another favorite for many is Meijer, although its location makes it a little more inconvenient. With everything from shoes to CD's to pork tenderloin, Meijer definitely has the best selection of the stores in this area, and prices comparable to County Market.

IGA is another familiar name around Champaign. While the selection is somewhat more diverse compared to some of the other chains, the prices are definitely higher. If you're on a budget, I would recommend holding off on IGA until your parents

can pick up the tab. However, IGA does offer a discount card, similar to County Market's, which is good for many items in the store.

Schnucks is another store with a tempting selecting, but not so tempting prices. If you're really tight on money there are a few places in town to definitely consider. Supervalu, located in Urbana, is your best bet for groceries at a discounted price. With most of their groceries at wholesale prices, Supervalu can definitely save you some cash. Along the same lines are the Save-A-Lot and ALDI stores. These three stores, while lacking some services and selection, most definitely make up for it in price. With savings of up to 30-40% on name brand items, it's enough to overlook the fact that they may not have your favorite cereal. Save-A-Lot is located on North Broadway in downtown Urbana while ALDI is just off Mattis Avenue in Champaign.

What are you looking forward to this spring?



Adam—Baseball season.



Erica—Wearing cute outfits.



Beth—Flip-flops.



Will—Cancun, and the weather.



Stephanie—Wearing shorts.



Adam—Spring break.

Photos by Erin Koelkebeck

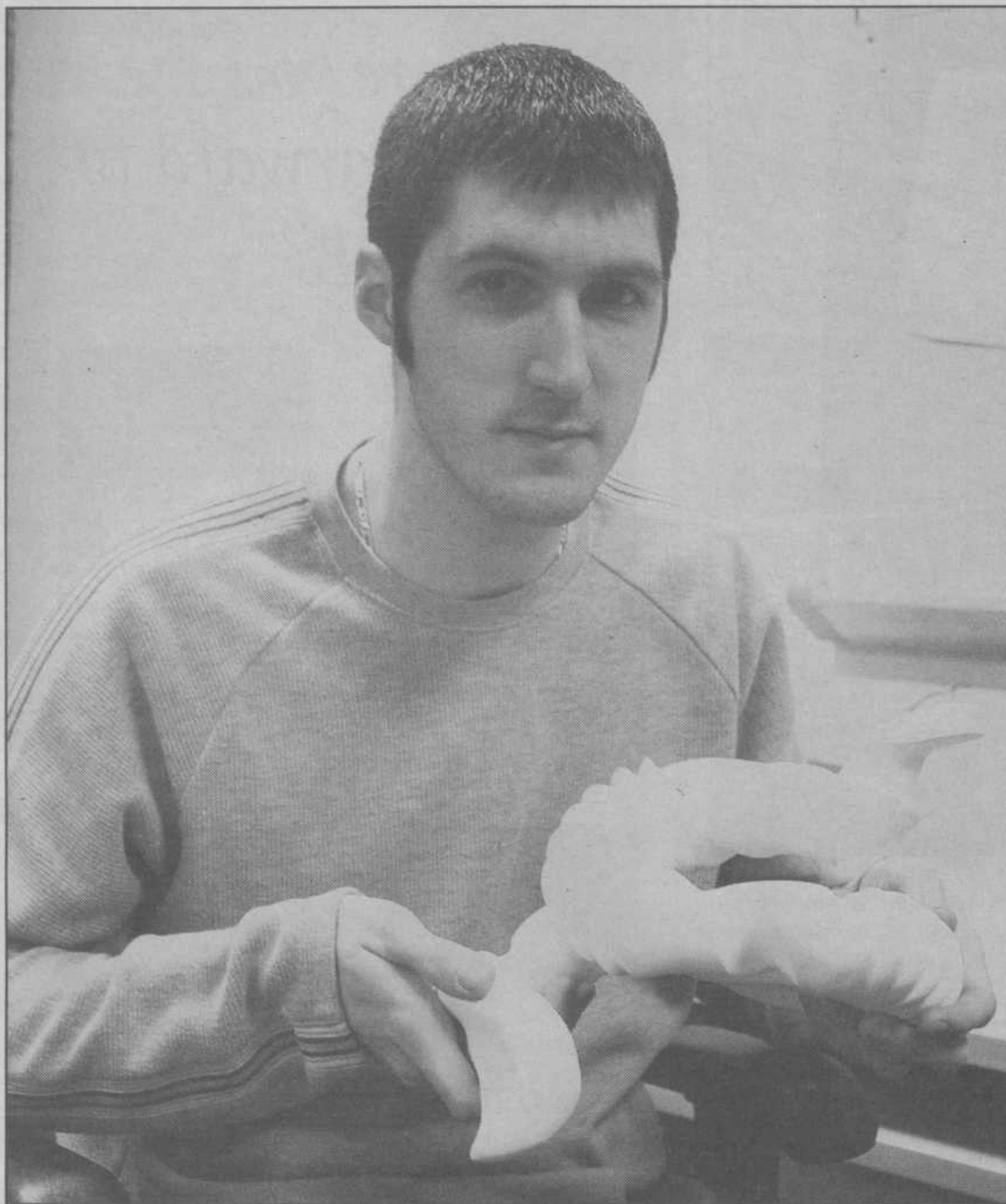


Photo by Chad Thomas

Student chosen as finalist

Parkland student Shawn Roosevelt displays his plaster "Untitled" earlier this week. The piece was selected as a finalist in the 2005 Annual Collegiate Artists Competition. Roosevelt received \$250 for the honor and is eligible for one of four \$1,000 purchase awards. The competition will culminate in an awards ceremony at Southwestern Illinois College on May 17.

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Baseball: Olney at Olney 1 p.m.
Softball: MS Delta at Pensacola, Fla
9 a.m.
vs. Three Rivers 1 p.m.

Friday, March 18

Softball: Lake Michigan at Pensacola,
Fla 1 p.m.

vs. Kirkwood 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 19

Baseball: Vincennes at Vincennes, In

1 p.m.

Softball: Pensacola DH at Pensacola,
Fla

Sunday, March 20

Baseball: Vincennes at Vincennes, In
12 p.m.

Tuesday, March 22

Baseball: St. Louis Forest Park at St.
Louis, Mo 1 p.m.

Softball: Lincoln Land at Parkland
2 p.m.

Cap and Gown Measurement

Cap and Gown must be ordered by
3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 18, 2005

Payment is due at the time you order

cash or check only

Checks are to be made payable to
Parkland College



Measurement dates and times are:

Monday	March 14	9 am — 5 pm
Tuesday	March 15	9 am — 3 pm
Wednesday	March 16	9 am — 7 pm
Thursday	March 17	9 am — 5 pm
Friday	March 18	9 am — 3 pm

Questions? Come to X-153

Visit us on the Web at
<http://www.parkland.edu/prospectus>

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Cicatrix
- 5 9th month
- 9 Portents
- 14 Cup on a green
- 15 Nimbus
- 16 Academy in Annapolis
- 17 Inning sixths
- 18 Greek god of war
- 19 Create text
- 20 Sermonizer
- 22 Beset
- 24 Flashing lights
- 26 Notable time
- 27 Said again
- 30 Small indefinite amount
- 33 Beatles album, "___ Road"
- 36 Mild, yellow cheese
- 37 Mongolian desert
- 38 Boscs and Bartletts
- 39 Take in food
- 40 Terrific!
- 41 Utters
- 42 Margin
- 43 Brandish
- 44 UFO crew
- 45 Put among
- 47 Unmatched
- 48 Picks out
- 52 Car interior features
- 57 Drawing power
- 58 Dutch cheese
- 59 Sorry 'bout that
- 61 Press
- 62 Ford's folly
- 63 Burn ointment
- 64 New Jersey cagers
- 65 Prophets
- 66 Accomplishes
- 67 Latin being

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62					63					64		
65					66					67		

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03/16/05

- 9 Forth
- 10 "West Side Story" tune
- 11 Villainous
- 12 Son on "Six Feet Under"
- 13 Child's coaster
- 21 Follows orders
- 23 Appear
- 25 Proud mounts
- 28 Proverb
- 29 Spuds
- 30 Ninny
- 31 First murder victim
- 32 Charlie Parker's nickname
- 33 Area of a basilica
- 34 Kerouac's generation
- 35 Some horses
- 37 Rule of thumb
- 40 Jim-dandy
- 42 Extremes
- 45 Concepts of perfection
- 46 Pokes fun at
- 47 Sequence

DOWN

- 1 Chases away
- 2 Woo
- 3 Bridal path terminus
- 4 Antique menders
- 5 Divvies up
- 6 Hearing organ
- 7 Appeal
- 8 Discard

Solutions

S	E	S	E	S	E	D	O	E	S	H	E	R	S
S	T	E	N	E	O	L	A	L	E	S	E	D	E
N	O	H	I	S	O	O	V	A	D	A	O	G	
H	U	L	L	A	L	S	T	S	E	R	M	H	A
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			D	E	H	S	E	R	I	N	S	T	E
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R			S	U	P	E	R			S	H	A	P
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L	V	L	V	N	L	O	V	A	L	H	E	L	O
S	N	E	N	O	M	E	P	T	S	E	R	A	S

- 49 Heals
- 50 Runs at an easy pace
- 51 Feel
- 52 Gets older
- 53 Traveled by car
- 54 Ponder
- 55 Tailless amphibian
- 56 Han or Napoleon
- 60 Author of "The Pit and the Pendulum"

Notice to Students and Faculty Regarding FINAL EXAMINATIONS

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 (May 9-13) 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 insure 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.

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Poet's Corner

Vernal Hijinks

By ANDY MUSSON

A week full of sun and beaches and vice
That beckons us all to head for the coast
The party pie waits and I want a slice
My white bread life is about to be toast
I sleep through the day and party all night
With pants on my head and holding a mug
My poor conscience cries out for a respite
But the crowd proves to be louder: *Chug! Chug!*
What force draws me here to party for days?
Gambling my future and my parents' trust
Giving up my time to the Budweiser haze
Hoping to find some scantily clad lust
And when the week's over I've done it all
The time of my life, I just can't recall.

Jacket lacks direction, excels in acting

By ALISON SMITH
Prospectus Staff Writer

Adrien Broady and Keira Knightley star in *The Jacket*, the latest of this year's new breed of psychological thrillers about a military veteran who is given the opportunity to forsee his future.

After being tried for a murder he can not remember committing, Jack Starks (Broady) is placed under the care of a well meaning psychologist, Thomas Becker (Kris Kristofferson). Using a controversial, experimental treatment meant to 'reset' Starks' mind, Dr. Becker gives him frequent and strong doses of drugs and restricts him in a straight jacket. He is then placed in a drawer in a morgue.

Instead of resetting his mind, the procedure causes Starks to trip out and he finds himself in his future. Here, a girl he met in the past (Knightley) tells him of his quickly approaching death. In order to save himself, he must convince her to help him, but getting her to believe him is no easy feat.

While the idea of *The Jacket* is original and promising, the reality of the movie leaves something to be desired. The first half hour is taken up by a montage of choppy and confusing scenes meant to set up the story and explain his past. Instead it sets the scene for many loose ends that will be left untied. Much of the set-up could take place in half the time, leaving the rest for explanations and tying the loose ends. Another downfall *The Jacket* suffered was the confusion it creates throughout the movie. Many things are mentioned or shown once, but their relevance is questioned later.

Faults aside, *The Jacket* was no doubt carried by the phenomenal acting it showcased. As Jack

Starks, Brody (*The Pianist*) is exceptional and believable as always. He has some great scenes in the morgue where he really lets go and expresses his fear in a haunting real way. The dynamic of his character shows the range he is capable of as an actor. Throughout the movie he experiences your typical emotions of happiness and sadness, but he also adds elements of fear, paranoia, confusion, and desperation to his actions in a way that allows viewers to really connect to his character. His chemistry with Knightley also leads to a romantic undertone that adds a depth to the story.

Knightley (*Pirates of the Caribbean*) also delivers in her role as Jackie Price, the girl Starks meets again in the future. While not a huge role, it is definitely vital to the story. Knightley is first portrayed as an anguished and troubled young woman, which she does very convincingly. She allows herself to really give to the role, expressing raw emotion and feeling. Throughout the course of the movie we see her character grow and change as she is affected by Starks. In a role where over-acting could be dangerous, Knightley manages to keep her character real, and does so beautifully.

Kristofferson (*Blade* trilogy) as Dr. Becker also shows an acute understanding of his character and portrays him well, leaving the audience not knowing how to feel about him.

On the whole, *The Jacket* is a great movie in theory but lacks the writing and direction to take it from its reality as a good movie to its real potential as a mind blowing psychological thriller. The acting is definitely one of the redeeming qualities and, in my opinion, carries the movie. In any case, it's not a bad way to spend \$7 and two hours of your day, but don't expect to be completely blown away.

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great
Spring
Break
from the
Prospectus
staff

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About Town

At the Virginia

Ebertfest will make its 7th appearance

By **BARBARA ALLHOUSE**
COM 105 Student

The seventh annual "Roger Ebert's Overlooked Film Festival" is set to make its appearance in a little over a month, and fans can hardly wait. Those who have attended in the past have been inundating the festival's assistant director, Mary Susan Britt, with calls ever since the website announced the dates for 2005's program. Enthusiasts know it's slated for Wednesday, April 20 through Sunday, April 24. What they don't know is which films, selected personally by Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic Roger Ebert, will be shown at the festival this year. And the suspense is almost more than they can bear.

Ebert is an Urbana native who earned his bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The festival is a non-profit event sponsored by the College of Communications at his alma mater. As host of the festival, Ebert selects a total of 12 films that represent a cross-section of important cinematic works that have been overlooked by audiences, critics, and distributors alike.

According to Britt, works that are included may include musicals, documentaries, and silent films, as well as overlooked theatrical feature films. The festival's website proclaims its mission is to "praise overlooked films, genres, and formats that have been overlooked... We work to keep the festival small enough so that a sense of community can develop among the audience, the film-makers, the guests, University of Illinois stu-

dents and scholars."

Along with the films themselves, Ebert brings to the festival the writers, producers, actors, and directors who helped create them. The invited guests will join Ebert in on-stage discussions following each screening, as well as in campus-wide educational panel discussions that are free and open to the public.

In recent years, guests have included director Tim Reid ("Once Upon A Time...When We Were Colored,") director Jay Russell ("My Dog Skip,") and writer/producer/director Dan Cohen ("Diamond Men.")

Ebertfest attendance ratios per movie have risen steadily each year, almost tripling since the festival's inception in 1999. The last several years have seen sold-out crowds at the 1500-seat Virginia Theatre, a restored movie palace built in the 1920s, although the website assures prospective attendees that last year "all patrons waiting in line to get tickets for sold out films were able to get in." A portion of the festival's income goes toward on-going renovations at the theatre.

Tickets for the festival go on sale April 1, and can be purchased from the Virginia Theatre by phoning (217) 356-9053, or from the festival's official website at www.ebertfest.com via TicketWeb. Tickets for individual screenings are priced at \$9, while a festival pass, good for all 12 screenings, can be purchased for \$85.

Britt promises that this year's selected film lineup will be posted on the Ebertfest website well before tickets go on sale. Those anxious for the announcement will just have to wait along with the rest of us.

Don't just think of the farmers during the busy season

■ Seed dealers also working hard

By **SUE YORK**
Contributing Writer

You may have seen a few fertilizer trucks running around lately or maybe even a tractor or two in a field somewhere. Well, planting season is coming upon us very quickly.

Farmers will be picking up their seed soon from their seed dealers and some will take their own soybeans in to a seed mill to get them cleaned for planting. It's a busy time of year for farmers, but it is also very busy for seed dealers.

As farmers get ready for spring planting, seed dealers are also working hard making sure they have enough seed to go around. It is sometimes forgotten that many people have a lot of work to do before a farmer can even get his/her seed for the spring. There is quite a bit of phone calls made and plenty of order forms to fill out.

The typical process for the farmer is: 1) call the seed dealer, 2) tell them how much of what they want and 3) when they

want it by. Sounds pretty simple right? Well, it is for the farmer. The seed dealer has a lot of things to do in order to get that seed, in that amount, to that farmer, and on time. But that's not the only order they will have. There are many, many people to take care of.

John Schweizer, Feed & Seed Manager at Ludlow Co-op Elevator in Ludlow, said that the ordering process is complex for even a single customer. "First of all, the sales discovery and seed availability has to be determined when writing the order. Once you have this information the order can be placed with the seed company. Usually we will receive all of our orders at one time. After receiving this order it has to be sorted into the individual farmer's orders and the farmer can be notified that his [or her] seed is available for pickup."

Typically there are more orders for soybeans than corn. "Volume-wise you can expect to handle about three times as many beans as corn. For the most part acreage is split half corn and half beans, but a bag of corn plants about 2.7 acres whereas a bag of beans plants about .8 acres," said Schweizer. Last year we all know they had a 'bin bustin' corn crop. Corn yields were almost perfect for 13 states. There was so much corn there was almost no where to put all of it. This year may be different.

"In the last 20 days or so, new crop bean bids have more than made up enough ground to be economically feasible to plant [soybeans] instead of corn", said Dave Hastings, General Manager of Ludlow Co-op Elevator. "Many farmers have already put on nitrogen, bought seed, etc, and may not go back to beans."

Even though soybeans may be the crop to produce more of this year, it seems some farmers have already done all the planning for corn instead. Was this the right decision? We'll just have to wait and see.



VOTE



March 28, 29: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

March 30: 10 a.m. - 12 noon

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Any Registered Parkland College Student with an I.D. May Vote

Come to the College Center and



VOTE



Wrestlemania: Soap opera for men or the greatest show on earth?

By **JOSEPH ROSENBAUM**
Prospectus Staff Writer

Wrestlemania is to professional wrestling as the Superbowl is to professional football or as the World Series is to Major League Baseball. All the hard work, training and preparation lead up to the greatest stage of them all. Feuds are settled, new champions emerge and homage is paid to retired wrestling greats in the Wrestlemania hall of fame.

Most fans of "real" sports look down upon wrestling because they say it's all "fake", choreographed, etc. To openly admit you are an avid wrestling fan is to invite criticism and disdain. It's long overdue to dispel some myths. First of all, most wrestlers are superbly conditioned world-class athletes. There are wrestlers that were former professional football players; Olympic gold medalist Kurt Angle and a host of other well rounded athletes.

Let's talk about the word "fake" for a minute. All sports, football, hockey, boxing, NASCAR, etc. all share one common denominator: to perform for the fans. Some people might say it's the love of the game, the thrill of victory, the agony of defeat, etc.etc.etc.

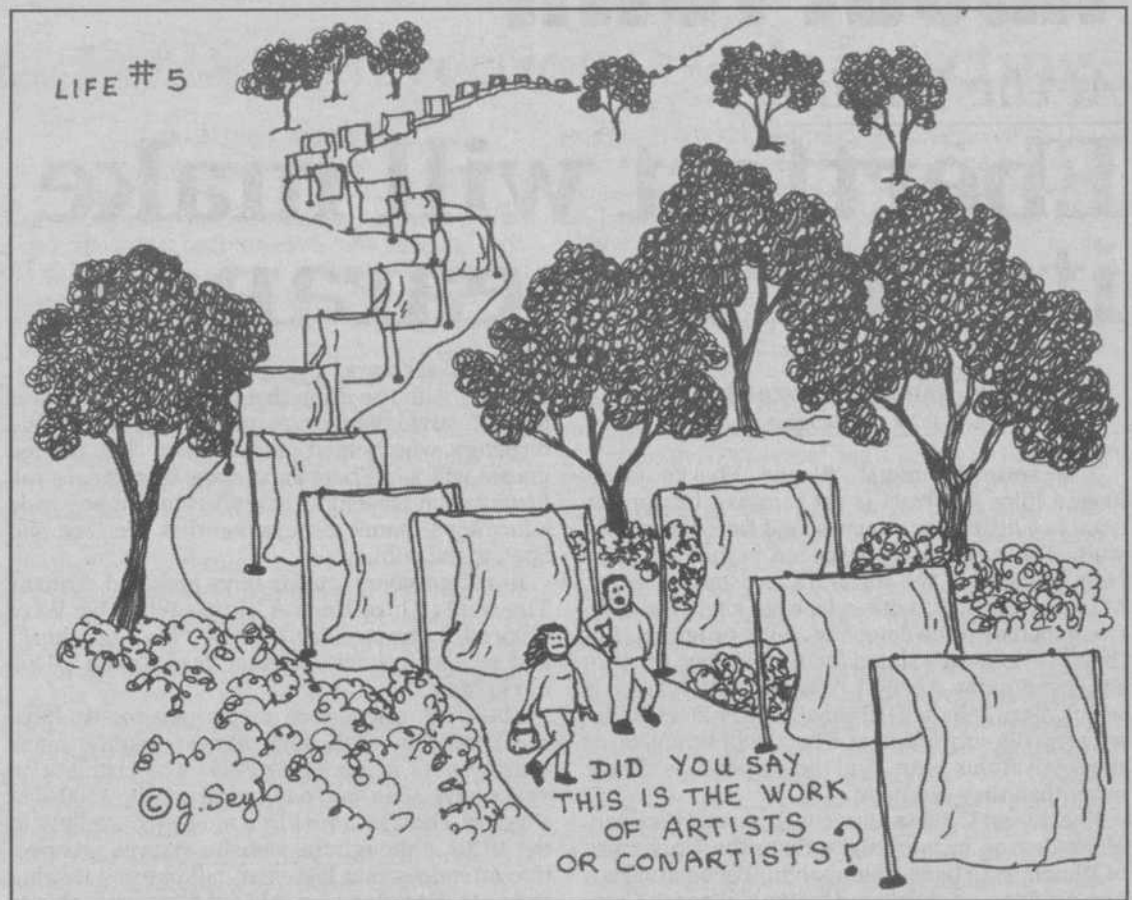
The bottom line is, it's all for the fans enjoyment. Without the fans, there would be no sports. Athletes that participate in so called "real" sports go out and risk life and possible paralysis or other career ending injuries just so we can be entertained.

On the other hand, if professional wrestlers didn't choreograph their matches, they would all be paralyzed or dead. Make no mistake about it; I'd be willing to match up pro wrestlers against players from any other sport in terms of athletic ability, perseverance, strength and dedication. Even with matches being choreographed, wrestlers still get

injured and they fight a tough, grueling battle, almost every night. The difference is, wrestlers know this is for the fans and they go out and give the fans their monies worth. There is a perverse sense of excitement, held by many NASCAR fans that the idea of a driver going in excess of 200 mph and crashing into a wall, that he might not walk away, somehow makes it all worth it. To say a sport is not real because the outcome is known before the match is a serious misinterpretation. In the sense that fans cry out for blood, carnage, brutalization of opponents, etc. not to mention fans rioting, makes us no better than the ancient Romans that forced men to fight in a battle to the death, all for the amusement of the king and his subjects.

Is this how far we have come as a so-called civilized society in a few thousand years? Admittedly there is soap opera like on-going sagas that turn most people away. The irony of that is the soap opera like antics are the prelude to the excitement that happens when one wrestler calls out another because you never know what's going to happen. In any other sport there are few examples of the unpredictability that makes professional wrestling what it is today... The most electrifying show on earth! Wrestlemania 21 will be held on Sunday April 3 at 6 p.m. central time as a pay per view event that you can order from your local cable company. The two main shows are Monday night Raw and Thursday night Smackdown. Raw is televised locally on chan. 49 (Spike TV) Monday nights at 8 p.m. central time and Smackdown is telecast on Thursday nights on UPN (channel 3 locally) at 7 p.m. central time.

P.S. Professional wrestling doesn't have seasons, they wrestle year round. How many "real" sports can make that claim?



Ribbon fever: A show of support?

By **JON VOLKMAN**
Prospectus Staff Writer

These days, it seems as if they are everywhere. They reside on windows, shirts, backpacks and car exteriors. They show solidarity in supporting a cause, and a community united, or so it seems. To be certain, they are in vogue, and for many, they are an easy way to display your concern and/or pride.

Those ribbons symbolize everything these days. From cancer awareness to anti-gang awareness, a full range of definitions can be found. Some ribbons have two or three meanings, leading to mixed signals of support. These ribbons are not just ribbons either, taking the form of stickers, earrings, and even magnets.

It is easy to understand the desire to support a cause. A definitive case can be made for fighting cancer and AIDS. In buying a ribbon or related memorabilia, one is showing support for something they believe in, or so the theory goes.

That is where a problem enters the equation. Showing support is great, but how much thought is occurring for the majority of the people who buy these ribbons? Granted some individuals do put the effort into supporting a cause and the ribbons are an extension of their interior emotional connection to said cause. This is not true for the majority though.

For a majority, the reason stems from being in the majority. Everyone else has one, so let's go get our own, right? Who cares about the reason behind it, or what else could be done to actually

help and support the said cause.

Take five bucks and buy a ribbon to support cancer awareness and feel better about yourself. Out of that five dollars, two dollars and fifteen cents makes it the American Cancer Society. At this point, it does not matter, as the support has been extended, and the person can proudly show said support.

Yet what if instead of spending five dollars for a ribbon, one instead took two percent of their paycheck and offered continual support? This would be two dollars for every one hundred earned. Hardly enough to make a difference in one's well being.

For an organization though, those two dollars on a continual basis would be extremely beneficial. Given a two week pay cycle, that would be fifty dollars a year. Take one hundred people and the total amount increases. It then becomes a way for them to advance their funding and research. If this kind of support was extended to more causes, their effectiveness would also increase.

Still though, the ribbons remain. People seem addicted in ways, sporting several ribbons on their cars and various affects. For some the reasons are deeply rooted in personal convictions and long hours spent volunteering. For others though, it is a reason to stand out and feel good about one's self without actually doing anything good. That is the problem too, for those empty exhibits of support do just the opposite, as their lack of knowledge and compassion tarnish the very cause they are attempting to support.

Speak Out!

Prospectus welcomes Letters to the Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

In your March 9 edition you ran an article "I am the anti-recruiter."

Sir I spent 20 years in the Navy 8 years on active duty and 12 in the Reserves. Your article basically says that recruiters lie to get you to enlist. And that males and females share the same building, and that the male and female Company Commanders can just walk in to the berthing areas unannounced, and can walk into the shower areas at will. And that the Doctors and Dentist are of poor quality. And that people in the military generally have mundane and unhappy with their lives.

Sir this is so untrue.

1. Recruiters may stretch the truth but the person hears what he/she wants to hear.

2. The males and females do not share the same building, and the male and female Company Commanders are announced when they come on deck. The females like

the males cannot go into the shower areas of the other gender, and they have to give time to cover up.

3. Not all nationals can just enlist in the military. They have to be citizens of this country. The only nationals that I have seen in the military were from the Philippines and Porto Rico.

4. I have had medical and dental work done by the military. And I can say that in many cases their work was equal if not better than the civilian.

5. If this is the case how's come we have so many members of Congress, CEO's, Doctors, Lawyers, and Engineers, who were in the military or were trained in the Military Academies.

Sir I think in the future before you start running your mouth about the military you need hard facts, and not a bad attitude.

—James Beasley
HM2 USNR-RET
Parkland student

A response from the columnist:

Mr. Beasley, although I do appreciate your lengthy service for our country, I'm afraid you are mistaken on your points.

1. You agree that recruiters stretch the truth, but no one ultimately 'hears what he/she wants to hear'. It is the responsibility of the military to accurately convey the implications of joining the service. There is not a soul that I know that wasn't lied to in some form or fashion by the recruiters (who are even more desperate these days).

2. Males and Females share the same building. I should know—I was in a cooperative unit. The females lived on the floor above the males. I never mentioned anything about Recruit Division Commanders (the current term), much less write about announcements. Nor did I mention that members of the opposite sex entered showering areas. You made that assumption. I was referring to a peer who was changing ALL of his clothes when a female RDC was in the barracks, and she saw him.

3. I don't know what your experience was, but I had a few friends that were from places like Columbia, Honduras, Nigeria, and Mexico, and none of them had their citizenship status. They were confined to jobs like being a boatswain's mate or deckhand until they gained citizenship. The military all but guarantees foreign nationals citizenship, provided they serve honorably.

4. I'm glad that you received good health and dental care. I didn't. It's also possible that things went better for you since you were a corpsman. I distinctly remember one incident when I was slowly going into a state of shock after experiencing a training accident in winter waters; I was left on a gurney, nursing several wounds and shaking violently for almost two hours just inside the emergency room doors...and that's after I told the ambulance that I would go to the Navy Hospital instead of Scripps Medical (the best in California).

5. I'm not following your last point. I do not dispute that hun-

dreds, if not thousands, of people have succeeded to prominent positions after gaining an education in the officer academies, or through relevant colleges. I learned a lot myself. But most of those prominent people were officers, who happen to have quite a different life than enlisted men like you and I.

I'm also entitled to 'run my mouth' about the military. I served so that people could be entitled to free speech and an expression of opinion in this country. How ironic that I'm using that privilege now. I didn't write an academic paper, therefore my 'hard facts' were replaced by my own memoirs. I spent half of my time with a bad attitude, and the other half in good spirits, just like the majority of servicemen and women. The old saying goes, "The only time you worry about a soldier, is when he (or she) stops complaining."

—Aaron Geiger
Parkland student

Fun with poetry and adventures with sonnets

By LEAH NELSON
Prospectus Editor

Who knew? Sonnets are awesome, and poetry rocks. I am currently enrolled in ENG 162—Intro to Poetry. In the class, we read poems, discuss them and then write our own poetry using traditional forms. The class has a small, workshop-type atmosphere, and each of my classmates have a unique writing style. (Check out Andy Musson's poem on page 6.)

But the class didn't start off on a high note for me. Inspiration was uncommon, my poems were crap. After three weeks, I considered dropping the class and finding a new career. But I worked it out, and the challenging assignments started to grow on me.

This week, it was a sonnet. I ignored the assignment for a few days, cursing rhyme schemes and iambic pentameter rhythms. Finally, on Friday morning, the muse came to visit and the metaphors poured forth. I wrote pages of nonsense rhyming to figure out the lines—dread, bed, head, led, lead, said,

fled, read, red.

Lo and behold, it was fun! I felt like a budding Seussian prodigy, rhyming and dancing with mythical creatures called Guffs and Snuffs. Seriously, though, the poem worked itself out better than I had ever expected, and I felt a sense of accomplishment upon reading the final kick-ass product.

So why do you care about my adventures with poetry? So glad you asked—because next month is National Poetry Month, and the *Prospectus* is excited. Submit your poems to the Poet's Corner for all to see! Pick up a book of poems and start reading! For non-evasive poetry, I suggest Langston Hughes. For feminist poetry, (it is women's History

Month, after all), I recommend Adrienne Rich. Also consider enrolling in Marva Nelson's ENG 106 class in the fall. Just don't think that because it's poetry, it will be a blow-off class, because by the middle of the semester, one line that is too long or a rhyme scheme that doesn't quite work will make you tear your hair out!

VIRUS*†

"BUMPER STICKERS" ©2005

BY: IAN JOHNSON



About Town

A great time at the Int'l Cultures Fair



Photo by Nicole Simmons

Robert van de Velde introduces students modeling international fashions at the International Cultures Fair in the Flag Lounge last Wednesday, March 9.

By **DEBRA LEWIS**
Prospectus Staff Writer

In our ever expanding global village, it is vital to have insight into the history and culture of other groups. Parkland offers many opportunities, both in and out of the classroom, to educate yourself on some of the practices of different cultures. Recently, one such event was held here at Parkland, the International Cultures Fair.

Wednesday, March 9, in the South and Flag Lounges, students from many different cultures took time to come together and help students learn about their respective cultures. They shared the National An-

them from their countries of origin, delicious home cooked food, historical information and even fashion from their native lands.

The Welcome center was buzzing with activity. Students had the opportunity to visit booths hosted by many cultural organization here at Parkland and get more information about the club and the country or countries the club represents. Best of all, the proceeds from the fair will be donated to Doctors Without Borders to assist in tsunami relief.

The fair was sponsored by the International Students Association, an organization that aids international students on campus. The International Students

Association hosts many other events intended to help students develop friendships and social networks in an effort to make studying in a foreign country easier. For more information about the club or their activities you can visit their website, www.geocities.com/parklandisa or you can email the officers at isa_officers@yahoo.com.

The International Cultures Fair was really interesting and a great time. Having the chance to watch other cultures in action can help bring understanding to everyone. If you will be here next year, make sure to stop by, you might learn something or even make a new friend.

number to over one hundred in the next two years. Already, stations exist in Chicago, Rockford, and Bloomington.

In addition to the new program is the added incentive of E-85 not having a state sales tax. Legislation passed in 2003 eliminated the state sales tax on E-85, in hopes of making it more competitive with unleaded gasoline. As a result, E-85 runs thirteen

to fifteen cents cheaper than unleaded gasoline.

Flexible fuel technology continues to expand as states pass legislation to aid access to the fuel. Increased access to alternatives like E-85 benefits local economies and consumers. With the continual help of the auto manufacturers, this program will reap many rewards for Illinois.

Dollars & Sense

A special feature from the Parkland College Office of Financial Aid

Credit Cards: What You Need to Know

The Good:

- Emergency situations can be easier to handle.
- Paying the balance on time establishes a good credit record, critical for future large purchases

The Bad:

- If you can't pay off your balance in full, you will end up paying more for your purchases over time.
- Excessive spending means that more money will go to pay off debt, rather than your budget.
- It takes seven years for anything to be erased from your credit rating, good or bad. Declaring bankruptcy stays on your report for 10 years.

Important to know:

Excessive credit card debt can make it much more difficult for you to get private student loans.

Watch Out for Hidden Fees

- Annual fees: Find a card that doesn't charge one.
- Annual percentage rate (APR) or interest rate: Rates vary. Shop and compare – pick one with a low rate.
- Introductory offers: Interest rates can go up considerable after only three to six months.
- Additional fees: Many cards have extra fees for late payment, exceeding your limit or maintaining a balance.
- Cash advances: The interest on cash advances is almost always higher than the interest rate on regular purchases. Use cash advances for emergencies only.

Recognize Risky Credit Card Behavior

You may have a problem with debt if you:

- use a credit card to pay off debt on another credit card.
- are at or near your credit limit on many credit cards.
- can only afford to make the minimum payment.
- ignore collection agency calls about unpaid bills.
- hide purchases or lie about your finances to your family and/or friends.
- have been declined from making purchases because of insufficient credit.

If these statements sound familiar, strongly consider getting help.

- Get a free copy of your credit report online at: www.annualcreditreport.com.
- Contact your credit card company. Ask if they can lower your interest rate or set up a more affordable payment plan.
- Rethink your spending. Set up a budget. Be realistic about your spending and financial needs.
- Get help from a local consumer credit counseling center. Avoid credit groups that charge fees.

For More Information:

Contact the Consumer Credit Counseling Service by phoning 1-800-959-2227, or e-mail www.cccsillinois.org. Please send questions you have about financial aid and other financial challenges to finaid@parkland.edu with the subject line, Dollars & Sense.

FUEL

continued from page 1

also be able to make more environmentally sound choices, and not be limited to the hybrid market, which features the Toyota Prius and Honda Insight.

Currently, only about twenty stations exist in Illinois that offer E-85. With the new program, the state hopes to increase that

Visit us on the Web at
<http://www.parkland.edu/prospectus>

Classified

Sublet

Sublet for Summer—906 S. Oak, two bedroom, large living room, laundry room, 1½ bath. Fully furnished, cable included. Parking available. \$600, price negotiable. Call Sarah at 847-845-1309 or 217-714-1222.

Help Wanted

Terri's Interior Design Studio has an immediate opening for a multi-tasking Studio Coordinator who is assertive, detail oriented and has good communication skills. Design assistance and general office duties will be involved. Please call Terri, 352-2998.

Immediate Openings available for PT weekend Alarm Handling Operators. Customer service and data entry skills extremely helpful. Must be 18 and able to pass a background check. Submit resumes to: F. E. Moran Alarm & Monitoring, 2202 Fox Dr., Champaign, IL 61820. rengstrom@femoranalarm.com & klaboo@femoranalarm.com.

Homeowner needs help with remodeling and addition. Construction Technology student helpful. Can work around summer class schedule. 863-2703.

Run an ad in the *Prospectus*. Use Insertion Order found elsewhere on this page.

Sale

Rummage Sale—Furniture, appliances, books, craft supplies, lots of miscellaneous. All proceeds go to Relay for Life. Saturday, March 19 from 8 a.m.–2 p.m., 511 Columbia, Champaign.

Wanted

Need 4–6 Commencement tickets. Will pay cash. Please call Rachel 217-390-3208.

Wanted—Tickets for May Commencement. Contact mbrown19@stu.parkland.edu.

Apartments

Courtyard on Randolph—Now renting for fall from \$618/mo., two- and three-bedroom apartments. 713 S. Randolph, Champaign. Includes cable, water, trash, laundry facility and seasonal pool. 352-8540 a.m., 355-4608 p.m. www.faronproperties.com.


Wanted—Writers for weekly college newspaper. Now accepting applications for summer and fall. Also have openings for photographers. Contact the *Prospectus* at 217-351-2216 or send email to: prospectus@parkland.edu.

The Prospectus
will not publish next Wednesday, March 23
during Parkland's Spring Break

Publication will resume
Wednesday, March 30
Regular deadlines will apply.



PCETV
The Parkland Channel



Warehouse Associate

Regular full time positions on 1st and 2nd shift. Part time regular positions available Monday and Tuesday on 1st and 2nd shift. Requires a dependable work history. Previous warehouse experience helpful.

APPLY IN PERSON AT:
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Mon-Fri. 9:00-4:30 EOE
e-mail: hr@hobbico.com website: www.hobbico.com

Apply Now!

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Ph: 217/351-2216 or 351-2278
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DEADLINES

- All Classified ads must meet the Monday before publication deadline.
- Ads cannot be canceled after the above deadline.

POLICIES

- ADVERTISING COPY is subject to the approval of the Prospectus and may be revised, rejected, or canceled at any time.
- ALL ADS MUST BE accompanied by a signed insertion order and payment.
- A SAMPLE OF ALL MAIL ORDER items must be submitted prior to the publication of the advertisement.
- NO SPECIAL PLACEMENT request given.
- THE PROSPECTUS CANNOT BE responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Report errors immediately at 217/351-2216. A corrected ad will appear in the next edition.
- TEARSHEETS GIVEN ONLY when a self-addressed stamped envelope accompanies insertion order.

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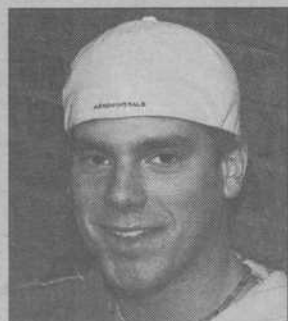
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Sign by
2/28/05 for a
chance to win
Spring Break cash!

Who is your favorite Illini player and why?



Aaron—Nick Smith because he's so goofy and he kind of looks like Ihabod Crane. But he is very



Brandi—Dee Brown because he has a great personality and is so loveable.



Chad—Dee Brown because he leads his team like a general leads his army.



Nicole—Dee Brown because he is an amazing player and he brings so much excitement to the team.



Matt—James Augustine because he has been a solid player the whole year.



Frank—Nick Smith because I was fortunate to see him dancing in a bar and it was very awkward.

Photos by Adam Preston

Cobras have high hopes for '05 softball season

By SARAH TRUSTY
Prospectus Staff Writer

Parkland's softball team started off their season on Sunday, March 6 with an 8-0 win followed by a 4-0 win in St. Louis. They began practicing right after Christmas break, and are therefore well prepared for what should be an exciting season.

Coach Chuck Clutts is coaching the team for his fifth year, after previously coaching for seven years at Centennial High School. Last year he coached his team to be fifth in the nation at Nationals, and this year he has seven of his eight starters returning, making it a very promising season for the Cobras. The Cobras do have an all new pitching staff this year, but Clutts has a lot of confidence in them, saying that they are all very strong players.

Clutts's main goal for the team this year is for them to get back to Nationals. If successful, the team will be competing in Nationals for their fourth year in a row, making them the first Parkland team to attend Nationals for four consecutive years. The team's first goal, though, is to win Conference, and then Regionals.

Center fielder Brittany Nash, sophomore at Parkland College, shares the same goals for her team as Clutts, and is striving for the team to be the first team All American this year. She also has some personal goals, though, including cutting her sprint time down and to lead in stolen bases.

Two of the most difficult teams the Cobras will have to face will be Lewis & Clark and John Wood. They won't meet up with these teams until mid season, though, so they have plenty of time to practice and get ready

for these games.

Although last year's 50/7 season doesn't leave much room for the Cobras to improve, they are still working to be a stronger team. Right now, although working on everything, Clutts says that their biggest focus is working on more consistency in their fielding and defensive play.

With such a strong team, the Cobras have a very promising season ahead of them. Clutts and Nash both agree that their biggest strength is team unity. This year they have at least one person to back up for every position, keeping the team strong if anything happens to any of the players. Clutts also feels that the team outworks any other team in the nation, and claims that "they just don't quit."

The Cobras' first home game will be held on Tuesday, March 22, which will be the first Tuesday of Spring Break.

Sports Around the Country

By RYAN ZERRUSEN
Prospectus Staff Writer

Conference Tournaments

With the NCAA selection show coming up, many teams had to make sure of their seeding in the tournament by playing well in their conference tournaments. In the ACC tourney, Duke won by defeating Georgia Tech. Duke received the number one seed and Georgia Tech, once a bubble team, claimed five-seed in the tournament.

The Big Ten tournament went to the conference champion, Illinois. The Illini won the tournament beside Coach Bruce Weber, who lost his mother just before the tournament on Friday.

In the Big East, Syracuse won their tournament by defeating West Virginia, but it did little to improve their seed in the tournament. They received a 4 seed. Oklahoma won the Big 12 tournament by

defeating Texas Tech, moving them to get a number 2 seed. In the Pac 10, Washington defeated the number 1 seed in their tournament, Arizona. One of the hottest teams in the country, Florida, defeated Kentucky in the SEC.

The March to the Arch

And the Madness begins. The NCAA tournament selection committee came out with the 64-team bracket on Sunday. The number one seeds for this year's tournament are Illinois, North Carolina, Duke and the biggest surprise, Washington. Winning the Pac-10 tournament by defeating Arizona propelled Washington into the number one seed in the Albuquerque region. Duke became the number one seed by winning the ACC tournament. Some of the snubbed teams absent from the bracket were Notre Dame and Buffalo, a team that has shown promise in the last month. Some questionable teams that got in were UAB and Northern Iowa. However, overall the committee made the brackets very well balanced.

The tournament games start this week on Thursday on CBS at 11 a.m. and continue all weekend. Illinois plays on Thursday against the 16 seed Fairleigh Dickinson.

NASCAR in Las Vegas

Jimmie Johnson claimed a victory for the Hendrick's racing beating the dominating Roush racing team that had done well in the Las Vegas Race. Johnson has won 5 of the last 9 races dating back to last season. This pushes him into the points lead for the year. Next week's race is at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Fox at 12 p.m.

ENJOY YOUR SPRING BREAK!