

First Off

By JON VOLKMAN
Prospectus Editor

Who is number one?

In life, time is often very scarce, and one tends to get stressed and overwhelmed.

Lost in the shuffle of our daily lives is our priorities and who is truly important. Time management is an essential skill for students, yet its definition eludes many.

Part of the problem is that everyone has a different idea of what is important, or how to prioritize tasks on a daily basis. Most would agree that putting one's self first is a good start, but after that disparities arise.

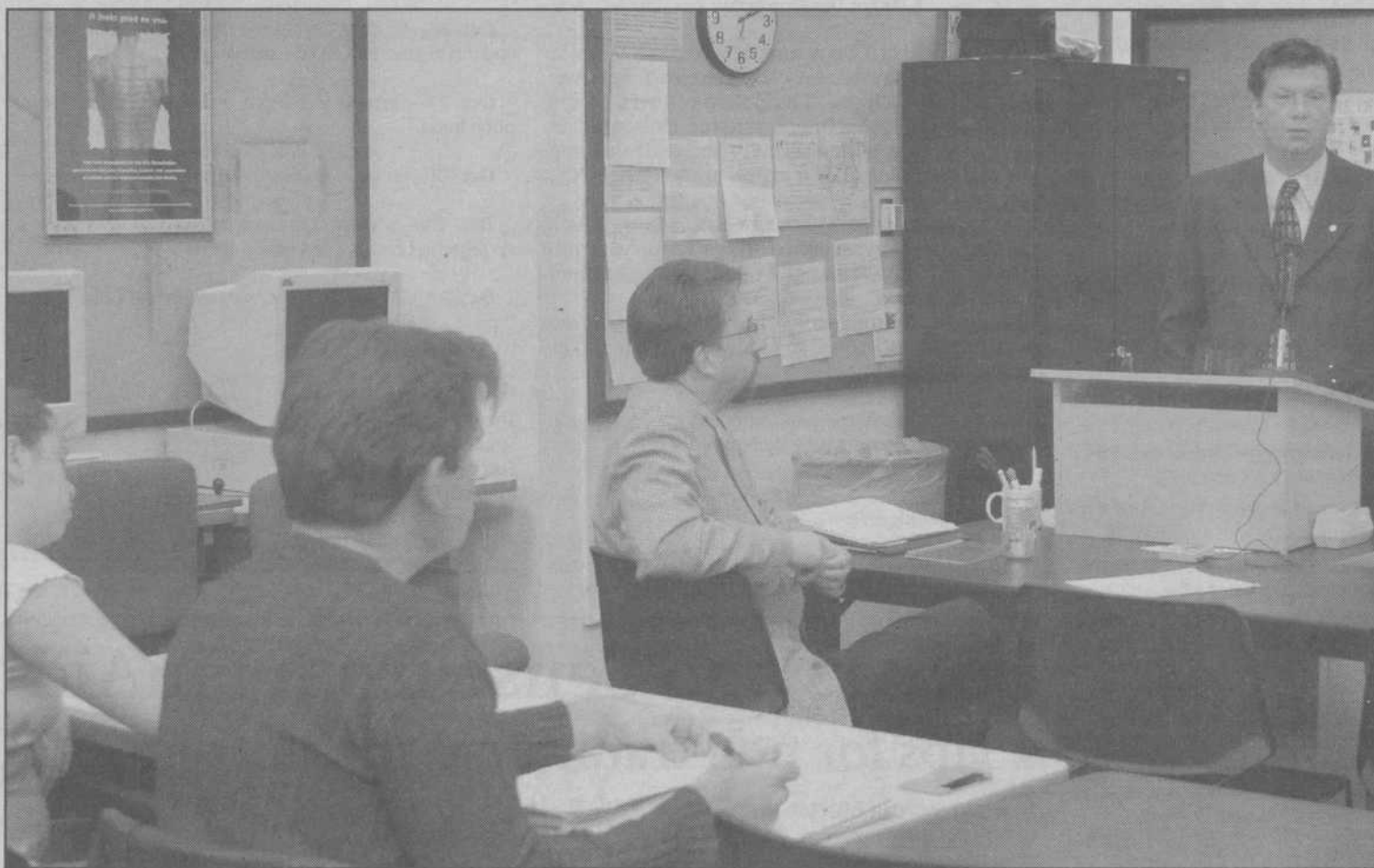
Recently, in a time management session, I listened as the speaker told me his idea of how to prioritize. He agreed that starting with one's self was important. Though next he said as students, and later as working members of society, that school and work should come before family and personal relationships.

I can somewhat understand this logic. Obviously, school and, later on, a career are important and effect how an individual's life will unfold. To put aside family and relationships to attain these goals seems counterproductive though.

For me, being in school is one of the most important aspects of my life. Where I am in school wouldn't be possible without the support I receive from my family and personal relationships. I will agree also that there are times where my coursework is set aside because of my relationship.

To state one should tell their family and/or significant other that school is more important seems overzealous.

My life and my education are enhanced by having a relationship, as well as through family. They complement my studies, and provide support, not only emotionally, but in tangible ways as well.



Tom Ramage, Parkland's Vice President for Academic Services, speaks to the COM 105 class on Wednesday, October 26. He spoke to the class as a mock press conference, announcing Parkland's recent achievement of being top in the state in transfer rates.

Chad Thomas/*Prospectus*

Parkland College top in the state

■ College number one in transfer rate

By ERIK PHEIFER and
DAVID BODNAR
COM 105 Students

Parkland College is the best in the state. This feat did not occur in an athletic or academic competition; it came in an area more beneficial to Parkland students in general. According to the latest Graduation Rate Survey from the Illinois Community College Board, Parkland ranks number one out of all state community colleges in transferring students to four-year universities.

Tom Ramage, Vice President for Academic Services, announced the news at a press conference for COM 105 news writing students last week. Ramage said GRS figures indi-

cate Parkland's transfer rate was 33.9 percent, five percentage points better than its closest competitors Triton College and Heartland Community College.

Ramage said the reason that Parkland is the best transfer school is due to the college closely aligning itself with Illinois Articulation Initiative guidelines. IAI is a system that was put in place in the mid '90's to help courses taken at one school transfer to another with ease.

He also said that Parkland had made effective inroads with several four-year institutions, including Southern Illinois University and Eastern Illinois University, to offer 2+2 agreements. This means that career programs at Parkland can be transferred to four-year colleges and

universities and applied toward a Bachelor's degree.

Ramage says Parkland's transfer success is worth talking about.

"This is an excellent marketing tool for Parkland," he said. "Members of the board, Dr. Harris and I have been traveling around the district to let local school boards know about this."

Data shows the large majority of students, 61% in 2004 polling, transfer to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Illinois State and Eastern Illinois come in at a distant second and third.

Ramage said the GRS survey is standardized statewide. Standards were agreed upon for what criteria were used to qualify a transfer student as a transfer student by the Illinois Com-

munity College Board. He said, while some colleges may have other standards and definitions, one standardized definition was agreed upon by the board to create and poll for this survey.

Not only do Parkland's transfer students move on to four-year colleges and universities with regularity, they often excel at their new school. Ramage said Parkland transfer students to the University of Illinois do as well or better academically than students who attend the U of I for their first two years of college.

"Together with affordable tuition rates, small class sizes, and a comprehensive and dedicated student services staff, Parkland College remains a leader in the state of Illinois," Ramage said.



Weather Forecast

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 65. West wind 6 to 10 mph becoming south.

Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low near 45. South southwest wind between 9 and 14 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. South southwest wind between 13 and 18 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 67.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45.

Saturday: A chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a high around 61.

Saturday Night: A chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low near 48.

Sunday: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 60.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45.

The Watch

By OFFICER BRAND
For The Prospectus

The Watch will be a monthly feature to raise awareness of crime and emergencies that occur at Parkland College. The police officers of the Public Safety department provide this information to remind students, faculty and staff that anyone can be a victim of a crime anywhere, at any time.

Our office is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and there is always a police officer on duty. If you witness a crime, contact Public Safety immediately at 351-2369.

In case of emergency use the SAD button on office phones or the emergency call boxes throughout campus.

Oct. 6—Disorderly conduct, visitor escorted off of property for viewing pornography in computer lab.

Oct. 11—Deceptive practices, \$590 in counterfeit currency discovered.

Oct. 19—Deceptive practice, multiple victims of "magazine subscription scam"

zine subscription scam"

Oct. 20—Student Conduct review for verbal argument and intimidation in GED classroom.

Oct. 21—Deceptive practice, attempted "paypal" computer fraud.

Oct. 22—Burglary, unknown subject found in office.

Oct. 24—Student Conduct review for 2 students engaged in horseplay in College center.

Oct. 28—Battery, student battered in the College center.

Compiled:

Theft \$300 and under—5

Theft over \$300—2

Total vehicle accidents—7

Hit and Run reports—4

Criminal Damage to Property—4

Theft from vehicle—2

Traffic Citations written for October—5

Responded to Medical calls for October—11

Dollars and Sense from FinAid

■ Tips for non-traditional students

BY DONNA MEYER
For the Prospectus

Tip — Identify your strengths. Write down your strong points: personality traits, life experiences, lessons learned. Use everything from your work ethic to how you raise your children.

Tip — Write down your "weaknesses." The word "weaknesses" is in quotes because what you think is a weakness may be the very thing that sets you apart from other applicants. Try looking at your "weaknesses" from someone else's perspective—you may realize they're actually strengths.

Tip — Make your weaknesses your strengths. Pick one of your weaknesses from your list and ask yourself three questions:

How did I cope with this experience/weakness?

What good qualities/traits did this experience bring out in me?

How has this made me a better person?

For example, maybe you didn't finish high school and

obtained a G.E.D. because you needed to help support your family.

You may believe that not having a high school diploma is a drawback, but you may also feel that not getting the diploma right away and helping support your family is a show of character.

You displayed strengths such as responsibility, determination, hard work,

family loyalty, etc.

Remember that every life experience—positive or negative—is a lesson learned. Those lessons should be the theme of your scholarship essays and applications.

Put your best foot forward and make your strengths shine through. You'll be surprised at the effect it has on your applications!

Did you know that safety is everyone's business?

By OFFICER MEYER

When driving in parking lots on or off campus extreme caution should be used. Most parking lots that you use during your everyday life are private property and accidents are considered a civil matter. However, here on Parkland's campus the Illinois Vehicle Code is enforced. So traffic crashes are issued citations as if you were driving on a regular city street. Although there are no speed limit signs posted in the parking lots keep in mind that the speed limit on campus is 20 MPH. A speed MUCH less than that should be used when driving in the lots to maximize safety and to avoid traffic crashes. Additionally, please use extreme caution when driving in any parking lot to promote vehicle and pedestrian safety.



Spring 2006 CLASS SCHEDULE Education Pays is now available

Course Reservations for continuing students
Nov. 7-13

Open Registration
Nov. 14-Jan. 8



Parkland Art Gallery

Nov. 3-Dec. 8: Microcosms in Memory: Recent Works by Sunkoo Yuh

Parkland College Events

Nov. 3, 6:00 p.m. —Parents' Night: A Mythbusters Meeting, Room D244

Nov. 18, 1:00 p.m. — Parkland: A Sweet Deal, fall Open House.

Parkland Theatre

Through Nov. 11: *Bat Boy: The Musical*.

Staerkel Planetarium

Friday, Nov. 4:
7:00 p.m.—World of Science Lecture Series.

8:00 p.m.—Just Imagine.

9:30 p.m.—Led Zepplin's "Beads of Time."

Saturday, Nov. 5:

7:00 p.m.—Santa's Secret Star

8:00 p.m.—Just Imagine.

9:30 p.m.—Led Zepplin's "Beads of Time."

Have an Event at Parkland? Let the *Prospectus* know!

E-mail activities/events to us at:
prospectus@parkland.edu

Prospectus

The *Prospectus* is a student publication, and is published weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters, intermittently in summer. To contact the Parkland *Prospectus*:

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.

Advertising

phone: 217-373-3855, fax: 217-373-3835, e-mail: prospectusads@parkland.edu, U.S. mail: same as above.

• 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* deadline for all advertising is 5 p.m. of the Friday immediately before the upcoming issue.

Letters and Editorial Policy

• Views expressed are opinions of staff and contributors and not necessarily that of the *Prospectus* or Parkland College.

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

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

Staff

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Erik Pfeifer, Ellen Schmidt



Area residents enjoy the Farmer's Market, which takes place at Lincoln Square Mall in Urbana every Saturday May 14 through November 12, from 7 a.m. to noon.

Theresa Campagna/Prospectus

Free music praise worthy

By E. CLARKSON
Prospectus Staff Writer



I love free music, and not just the downloaded internet kind. Records and mixed tapes make this journalist flip. Somehow, nationally touring band Apollo Sunshine found out that I write a music column, and sent me a copy of their self-titled album, in hopes that I'd speak favorably of them. Lemme tell you, ladies and gents...free music will earn you many words of praise in my book.

This group has been causing quite a ruckus on the live music circuit. After releasing debut album *Katonah*, Apollo Sunshine went on to open up for bands including The Walkmen, Sonic Youth and Built to Spill does not go unnoticed. The Boston trio formed while the three were attending the Berklee College of Music.

Following their successful publicity and exposure, three gained another guitarist and became four. A mystifying combination of American Minor, Wilco and The Flaming Lips, their mix of rock-a-billy and complex three part harmonies

exemplify the contemporary American rock band.

Wednesday Nov. 2:

Parkland Jazz Combo @ Iron Post, TBA, 5 p.m., All Ages

URBANA BOOKING CO. PRESENTS: Anomic, Stilline, The Close and The Younger Brothers @ Canopy Club, \$5, 9 p.m., 18+

Open Decks @ Soma, TBA, 10 p.m., 21+

(sign up at the door for a time slot to spin your set!)

Thursday Nov. 3:

URBANA BOOKING CO. PRESENTS: Murder By Death, The Life and Times and William Eliot Whitmore @ Camopy Club, \$10, 8 p.m., 18+

The Golden Republic and Scotland Yard Gospel Choir @ Courtyard Café, \$5, 8 p.m., 18+

Temple of Low Men Final Show! @ Cowboy Monkey, TBA, TBA, 19+

Friday Nov. 4:

Stitches w/ DJ Rickbats and DJ Kanibal @ Channing-Murray Foundation, \$2, 8 p.m., All Ages

(gothic/rock/deathrock/minimal electro party!)

Commeal @ Cowboy Monkey, \$5, 10 p.m., 19+

Terminus Victor, Bear Claw and Scurvine @ Brass Rail, TBA, TBA, 21+

Saturday Nov. 5:

311 and Grasshopper Takeover @ Assembly Hall, \$29/32, 7:30 p.m., All Ages

Candy Foster and Shades of Blue @ Cowboy Monkey, \$4, 9:30 p.m., 19+

The Big Easy @ Iron Post, TBA, 9 p.m., All Ages

Sunday Nov. 6:

URBANA BOOKING CO. PRESENTS: Cameron McGill and What Army, The Wandering Sons, The Elanors and Ryan Groff @ Cowboy Monkey, \$5, 9 p.m., 19+

Craig Russo Latin Jazz Project @ Iron Post, TBA, 7 p.m., All Ages

DJ Jon Meske @ Boltini, free!, 10:30 p.m., 19+

Monday Nov. 7:

Veruca Salt and Porselain @ Canopy Club, \$12, 10 p.m., 18+

Nekromancy w/ DJ Randall Ellison @ C-Street, \$2, 11 p.m., 19+

Mixtape Mondays w/ DJ Elise @ Boltini, free!, 10:30 p.m., 19+

Tuesday Nov. 8:

Captured! By Robots and Probably Vampires @ Cowboy Monkey, \$6, 10 p.m., 19+

Open Jam/ Open Mic hosted by Mike Ingram @ Canopy Club, free/\$2, 10 p.m., 18+

Adam Wolfe's Acoustic Night @ Tommy G's Bar and Grill, free!, 10 p.m., 19+

Keyboard chatter

By LARRY V. GILBERT

For the Prospectus

WHERE HAS THE time gone this first semester? Has the summer-like weather, allowing us to spend more time out-of-doors, made time fly by?

I thought about this over the weekend. Had some extra time, you know, because of the time change. Drifting into a dream-world of sorts, I decided to think of as many phrases as I could relating to time. Here's what I came up with. (My high school English teacher would roll her eyes at that last sentence.)

—*In the nick of time.*

—*Well, it's about time.* I can hear my high school accounting teacher saying that when I turned in a practice set. Also applies to nick of time!

—*How many times do I have to tell you?* Parents shaking the index finger to a misbehaving son or daughter.

—*Quality Time.* Time spent with family or friends. No cell phone, no television, and no pager. Perhaps by yourself with a good book.

—*Time for bed.* How many times did you hear that when you were in grade school?

—*Did time.* Person was sentenced to a jail or prison term.

—*His/her time's coming!* I, as a child, often overheard a young, married couple telling parents in our church who had teenagers that when they had children they would never let them do such and such. On the car ride home my dad would look at my mother and say, "Their time's coming." Then my mother would turn toward the three of us in the back seat and admonish us: "Never say what your child will do or never do. It will come back to haunt you." And I laugh as I recall those same folk having to deal with pre-teens and teens in ways that were "never going to happen."

—*3 times 8 equals 24, etc.* One of my junior high teachers would never permit that phrase. We had to say, "3 multiplied by 8."

—*Is the plane on time?*

—*I put in a lot of time and effort on this!* (And you gave me a C?)

—*Had the time of my life!*

—*Once upon a time.* When someone was reading a book to me, they would always warn that the story was "make belief" if it started with "Once upon a time."

—*It's that time of the year.* Usually uttered in Illinois when the first cold spell or heavy snow hits. Heavy snow in Illinois? You have to be kidding. We haven't had a heavy snow for year. I know. You'll be on my doorstep with a snow shovel in January, hand it to me, and tell me it's all my fault for saying such in a November column. Hey! If that's what it takes, I'll say it again.

—*Time payments.* We all know what that means.

—*All-time high (or low).* Right now as one drives past a gas station.

—*Time-out.* From the sports world, I guess.

—*All the time in the world.* From the mouth of someone who has just retired and has not volunteered for a dozen committees.

—*Time is money.*

—*Two-time.* Being disloyal to one or something.

—*Lose no time.* Many times refers to one who does something another person might think was a little rushed.

—*Out of time.* This phrase always reminds me of my appearance on "What's My Line" in New York. I was the last contestant and could answer only a dozen or so questions before Mr. Daly announced, "We are out of time, panel," as he flipped all the cards which gave me \$50.

—*I really had a good time.* Guests addressing the host as they leave a party.

—*Well, it's crunch time.* A student who waits until a week before the end of the semester and asks the instructor, "What can I do to pass?"

Sorry, out of space; not out of time.

I bet you can think of more.

How safe are the computer services?

By **DAVID J. BODNAR**
Prospectus Guest Writer

In their on going efforts to provide all Parkland students, staff and faculty with first rate, state of the art, computer services, Parkland College offers all its students, faculty and staff a free computer account with such benefits as personal e-mail, calendar and organizational tools. Given the rise of more complex and diverse virus, worm and hacker threats, just how safe is this account system today?

According to the head of the computer technical support at Parkland, Doug Brooks, there are few ways the system could be any safer than it is now. Part of the reason for Parkland's safe and secure system is its basic structure. Parkland's student, staff and faculty e-mail accounts are controlled and centralized by a Parkland "in-house" server.

The student accounts use a program called NetMail produced by Novell. Faculty and staff accounts use a program called, GroupWise, as well by Novell. The staff and faculty have a few more features than the student accounts but both are just as efficient and secure.

According to Brooks, all incoming files to Parkland's servers are screened and scanned by an advanced and continuously updated "shareware" virus scan program, before this data enters the Parkland in-house server. He says that this process makes it very unlikely that any unclean viral or worm laden files will ever get through the system.

In regard to physical tampering to the servers, Brooks speaks of the significant safety measures put in place to avoid this as well. He says that Parkland servers and backup data systems are stored in rooms with near perfect climate control and that the rooms themselves are subject to very restricted access and are protected by both alarm system and by video surveillance.

"We have taken many measures to preserve the safety and security of Parkland e-mail accounts."

Brook says that apart from having to reboot the Macintosh program servers a few times, due to student tampering or system errors, there has been no significant breach of

Internet security over the last four years. Thankfully when viruses or worm problems have occurred it has been on a macro computing level.

This means that is has been limited to one of just a few computers in various labs around Parkland and not been an issue at a system wide level. The computers affected in these cases were infected by students or staff uploading software or opening files on these computers that contained the virus or worm on their data storage device.

Brooks points out some useful things that both students and staff can do to insure that the Parkland servers and likewise student accounts remain clean and safe.

Students should be cautious before opening e-mails

from unknown senders with attachments. Preferably they should delete them or run them through an on line or personal computer based virus scan program before they open them. If they are sent an e-mail with an attachment that they are unsure of they have the option of calling the Parkland College Technical Help Hotline: (217) 353-2633 for further information and help on how to deal with this file.

Brooks stresses the important of students themselves also practicing good stewardship of their own personal computers as well. Students and staff alike should stay up to date on anti viral software and scan their own programs and files for viruses often.

"As of now there is no foreseeable threat. It is still best to stay observant and cautious."

Final Examination Schedule December 12-16, 2005

DAY COURSES

If your first class meeting

during the week is:

The final exam will be held:

Monday at 7 a.m.	8-10 a.m.	Tues. ...	Dec. 13
Monday at 8 a.m.	8-10 a.m.	Mon. ...	Dec. 12
Monday at 9 a.m.	8-10 a.m.	Wed. ...	Dec. 14
Monday at 10 a.m.	8-10 a.m.	Thurs. ...	Dec. 15
Monday at 11 a.m.	11 a.m.-1 p.m. ...	Mon. ...	Dec. 12
Monday at 12 noon	11 a.m.-1 p.m. ...	Wed. ...	Dec. 14
Monday at 1 p.m.	11 a.m.-1 p.m. ...	Tues. ...	Dec. 13
Monday at 2 p.m.	2-4 p.m.	Tues. ...	Dec. 13
Monday at 3 p.m. or 4 p.m. ...	2-4 p.m.	Mon. ...	Dec. 12
Tuesday at 7 a.m.	8-10 a.m.	Mon. ...	Dec. 12
Tuesday at 8 a.m.	8-10 a.m.	Tues. ...	Dec. 13
Tuesday at 9 a.m. or 10 a.m. ...	8-10 a.m.	Fri.	Dec. 16
Tuesday at 11 a.m.	11 a.m.-1 p.m. ...	Thurs. ...	Dec. 15
Tuesday at 12 noon	11 a.m.-1 p.m. ...	Fri.	Dec. 16
Tuesday at 1 p.m.	2-4 p.m.	Wed. ...	Dec. 14
Tuesday at 2 p.m.	2-4 p.m.	Thurs. ...	Dec. 15
Tuesday at 3 p.m.	2-4 p.m.	Wed. ...	Dec. 14
Tuesday at 4 p.m.	2-4 p.m.	Thurs. ...	Dec. 15
Any day class after Tuesday ...	2-4 p.m.	Fri.	Dec. 16

EVENING COURSES

If your evening class is held on
(first meeting of the week):

The final exam
will be held:

Monday	Mon. ...	Dec. 12
Tuesday	Tues. ...	Dec. 13
Wednesday	Wed. ...	Dec. 14
Thursday	Thurs. ...	Dec. 15

All evening finals (5 p.m. or later) will be at the regular class time.

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Day: 1:30pm-6:30pm • Twilight: 6:30pm-11:00 pm
Midnight: 11:00 pm-3:30am • Pre Load: 2:30am-7:30am
Sunrise: 3:30am-8:30am

Attend a Pre-employment tour conducted every Monday and Wednesday 2PM and 3:30PM, Friday 7AM, 2PM, and 3:30PM. You must attend a tour before you can fill out an application, no appointment necessary. For safety reasons, you must be at least 18 years old to attend.

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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 (December 12-16) 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).

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.

CITY OF CHAMPAIGN ANNOUNCES:

Fall Yard Waste Collection

The collection is available to all residential properties within the City limits.

Collection Weeks:

- October 31 – November 4
- November 14 – November 18
- November 28 – December 2
- December 5 – December 9

Schedule

Monday	South of Springfield East of Prospect
Tuesday	South of Springfield Between Mattis/Prospect
Wednesday	South of Springfield West of Mattis
Thursday	North of Springfield West of Prospect
Friday	North of Springfield East of Prospect

Materials must be in 30-gallon paper yard waste bags or bundled with non-metallic twine. Loosely piled material will not be collected. NO PLASTIC BAGS.

Twigs and branches may be bundled with non-metallic twine or placed in paper yard waste bags. Branches cannot be larger than 2 inches in diameter and 3½ feet long and bundles cannot be larger than 18 inches in diameter.

Materials must be placed within 10 feet of the curb of a public street by 6:00 a.m. to ensure pickup on your scheduled day. On heavier collection days, your pickup may be later than normal or even the next day.

For residents outside of the City or if your materials do not fit the requirements above, you may take landscape materials to the Landscape Recycling Center at 1210 E. University Avenue in Urbana (217-344-5323). There is a fee for all material dropped off.

Hotline: 403-8852
Operations: 403-4770

www.ci.champaign.il.us

CrimeStoppers seeks assistance

This week CrimeStoppers is seeking information concerning several burglaries that have occurred at two of the University of Illinois Campus Recreation facilities located at 1102 W. Gregory, Urbana, and 201 E. Peabody, Champaign.

During the month of October, UIPD officers have taken several reports of thefts from secured lockers in locker rooms of these two facilities.

These thefts include US Currency, iPods, cellular telephones and a lap top computer.

Victims have reported that after placing items in their locker and securing the locker, when they return they find their

locker still secured but their personal items missing.

There is no suspect information at this time.

University of Illinois Police Investigators are requesting information regarding these burglaries.

CrimeStoppers will pay a reward for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for this crime.

If you have any information, please call CrimeStoppers at 373-T-I-P-S. Callers do not have to give their names or appear in court. Cash rewards are also paid for information on other felony crimes or fugitives in the Champaign County area.



PERCEPTION

...everybody does it



REALITY

...they don't



The majority of C-U college students don't use tobacco.

Keep it Real—Choose not to Use

Parkland College Wellness Center

Illinois
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
YOU CAN

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\$10,000
ENLISTMENT BONUS
IF YOU QUALIFY

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Endangered Species Act undergoes overhaul

By **BILL LAMBRECHT**
St. Louis Post-Dispatch (KRT)

WASHINGTON — The new version of the Endangered Species Act approved by the House is unlikely to pass muster in the Senate, at least right away. Critics worry especially about a murky provision that could pay landowners tens of millions of dollars in damages for property devalued by restrictions due to rare critters or plants.

Nonetheless, sponsors' success in getting this far and winning bipartisan backing shows widespread recognition of problems in one of the nation's most venerable environmental laws.

In a barometer of emotions flowing on the issue, no fewer than four Old Testament books (Genesis, Psalms, Ecclesiastes and Isaiah) were quoted during the daylong debate on the House floor.

Members pointed fingers at one another as they spoke with passion about their core beliefs, whether they be saving "God's creatures" or protecting private property.

Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, likened voting for the overhaul to poisoning the bald eagle. A Montana Republican, Rep. Dennis Rehberg, brought a shovel

to the House floor to demonstrate, he said, what ranchers and farmers need after shooting endangered creatures.

Only after a late lobbying push by the White House and GOP House leadership did the proposed new law—called the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act—pass, by a less-than-expected margin of 36 votes.

The bill would do away with designations of "critical habitat" that limit what the Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies can do on land with protected species; remove controls on pesticide use that could threaten creatures; and give political appointees more authority to decide the science used in making decisions on protecting animals and plants.

But nothing provoked more debate than a proposed compensation plan that would pay developers or farmers for economic losses if the use of their property is restricted by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determination that development plans would harm protected species. Critics called the provision an entitlement program that could cost billions of dollars.

That argument didn't faze Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif., a

rancher and the driving force in Congress behind the overhaul of the law.

"In our bill, we protect the small property owners. Yes we do. You know what? We should. If the federal government steps in and takes someone's land for a highway, we pay for it. And I don't see people running down here saying 'it's an entitlement,'" Pombo, chairman of the House Resources Committee, replied to critics.

The debate focused on what is seen even by diehard supporters of the current law as one of its flaws—the lack of incentive for landowners to go along with federal programs that can devalue their land by putting restrictions on it. Farmers and developers receive neither financial support for potentially costly decisions nor assurance that they won't get in regulatory trouble for admitting discovery of rare species on their land.

Critics of the law told stories of development blocked, farm land idled and levees unrepaired because of restrictions forced by the Endangered Species Act.

Rep. Joe Baca, D-Calif., said that a hospital in his district was forced to spend \$3 million to move a building because of

the presence of an endangered fly.

As a result of the threats posed by the law, "shoot, shovel and shut up" has become the mindset among many farmers, Rep. Sam Graves, R-Mo., asserted on the House floor.

Graves said afterward that he didn't know of any instances in which farmers had killed a federally protected species, which could bring criminal penalties and even jail time.

But, he added, "The last thing you want on your property is an endangered species, because you're going to do everything you can to prevent people from knowing it's there. But if we can get landowners to have an interest in the law, we could go a lot farther to save species," he said.

A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT WOULD:

Eliminate the designation of certain land as "critical habitat" for endangered species. The current law limits the use of such land.

Require the government to come up with a plan to save endangered species; the plans must be finalized within two years after a plant or animal is designated "endangered."

Require the government to reimburse landowners for the value of developments that are blocked because of potential harm to endangered species.

Expand the power of the Secretary of the Interior to decide what scientific data to use in designating and protecting endangered species.

Repeal restrictions on the use of pesticides that could harm endangered species.

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Many of Alito's rulings have been at odds with Supreme Court

By **STEPHEN HENDERSON**
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON — Samuel Alito once wrote that employees who allege sex discrimination ought to have a tougher time proving their claims. The Supreme Court disagreed. Alito once argued that Congress hadn't granted state workers the family-leave benefits that are mandated for other employees.

The high court rejected his thinking again. And Alito, now President Bush's choice to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, once embraced a standard that would make it harder to punish water polluters. But the Supreme Court didn't go along.

In Alito's 15 years of rulings on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, many of his interpretations of federal law and the Constitution are at odds with established thinking and practice, and ultimately they've been rejected by large majorities on the high court he hopes to join.

Alito's most aggressive opinions—on everything from abortion and civil rights to gun control and federal authority—are already drawing fire from the critics lining up to oppose his confirmation. And they'll likely be a focus of the debate on the Senate floor.

Nearly everyone expected Bush to pick someone with superior conservative bona fides after White House counsel Harriet Miers' catastrophic nomination was withdrawn.

But some court watchers say Alito's conservatism often takes shape in opinions that attempt to push the law closer to his ideals, rather than simply reflect it.

It's an approach that could be difficult to define as restrained—the philosophy preferred by many conservatives. And that could leave Alito open to charges that he's an activist.

"It's clear he'll write opinions in cases just to voice what are clearly unpopular opinions," said University of Pennsylvania law professor Nathaniel Persily. "And he has 15 years of opinions for people to go through, so there's potentially a lot of material for people to find."

Douglas Kmiec, who worked with Alito in the Department of Justice during the Reagan administration, described the judge as "careful in his reasoning" and said any notion of him as an activist is "not the Sam Alito I know." Kmiec said Alito does have a knack for pointing out "weaknesses" in court precedent and the conflicts and inconsistencies that he believes

should be remedied. "But he generally does not reach out to decide those issues if they aren't squarely before him in a case," Kmiec said. "In that sense, Sam is more scholar than activist. And most of the disagreements with the high court are explainable in similar terms."

Alito has also written several opinions whose results should please liberal interests: cases asserting disability rights, preserving due process for criminal defendants and securing free-speech rights. When he was introduced at the White House Monday, Alito also spoke of the limited role that judges play and its importance.

"Federal judges have the duty to interpret the Constitution and the laws faithfully and fairly, to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans and to do these things with care and with restraint," Alito said.

Not all of his work may square with that notion, though. In a 1996 employment discrimination case, *Sheridan v. Dupont*, Alito concluded in his dissent that victims of sex discrimination in the workplace should meet a higher standard of proof than was required.

Alito said proving discrimination and that the employer

was responsible weren't always enough to ensure that the claim wouldn't be dismissed by a court. He based his interpretation on the rulings of another, more conservative appellate court decision, urging his colleagues on the 3rd Circuit to adopt that standard.

They didn't, and the Supreme Court later unanimously rejected that same rationale in another discrimination case, *Reeves v. Sanderson Plumbing Products*, in 2000. Kmiec said the *Sheridan* opinion is an example of restraint on Alito's part, because he acknowledged that he was bound by his own circuit's rules; he was simply pointing out his preference for another approach.

"That's one of the things he does, and I think it's from a scholarly point of view," Kmiec said. But Alito's interpretation would have led to a fundamental change in the way sex discrimination claims are handled and would have conflicted with what Congress intended when it enacted anti-discrimination laws.

In another knotty case, *Chittister v. Department of Community and Economic Development*, Alito questioned Congress' power to require state governments to grant family and medical leave to

men and women equally.

Alito's opinion, which was echoed in opinions from other lower courts, would have denied protection to millions of workers whom Congress clearly intended to protect with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

The Supreme Court contradicted Alito's thinking in a 2003 ruling in *Hibbs v. Nevada Department of Human Resources*. The late Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote the opinion. Alito also joined another judge in 1997 in a ruling that attempted to make it more difficult to hold polluters accountable when they fouled water supplies.

Rather than applying the standards that punished companies based on how much they polluted a body of water, Alito embraced an approach that would require proof that the pollution damaged the water.

The ruling, in *Public Interest Research Group v. Magnesium Elektron*, invalidated an existing \$2 million fine. Three years later, the Supreme Court rejected Alito's analysis, saying in another case that the new standard raised "the hurdle higher than ... necessary."

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PARKLAND THEATRE

Event should be exclusive, as well as empowering

By E. CLARKSON
Prospectus Staff Writer

Last Monday, Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University's Feminist Majority groups joined forces to take a stand against sexual violence towards women. The groups chose to organize their march in October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness month. A proud feminist and a survivor of sexual assault, I jumped at the opportunity to participate and support another city's efforts at putting an end to sexual assault and violence towards women.

After the opening performances by ISU's Guerrilla Theatre Company, and moving speeches given by keynote speakers, the group gathered outside the Bone Student Center to begin the march to Illinois Wesleyan's Student Center. A familiar scene with familiar chants transformed into the r and uncomfortable when the "Women Unite, Take Back The Night" cheer was altered to "People Unite, Take Back The Night". This time around, the march had been opened to include men.

Take Back the Night, has traditionally been a march that is open only to women and those who identify as a woman. The march, symbolic of women's refusal to be terrorized because of sex, has no place for men. Men's participation at rallies,

informational forums, awareness groups and the like are appropriate and necessary in order to change cultural perceptions and attitudes surrounding sexual violence.

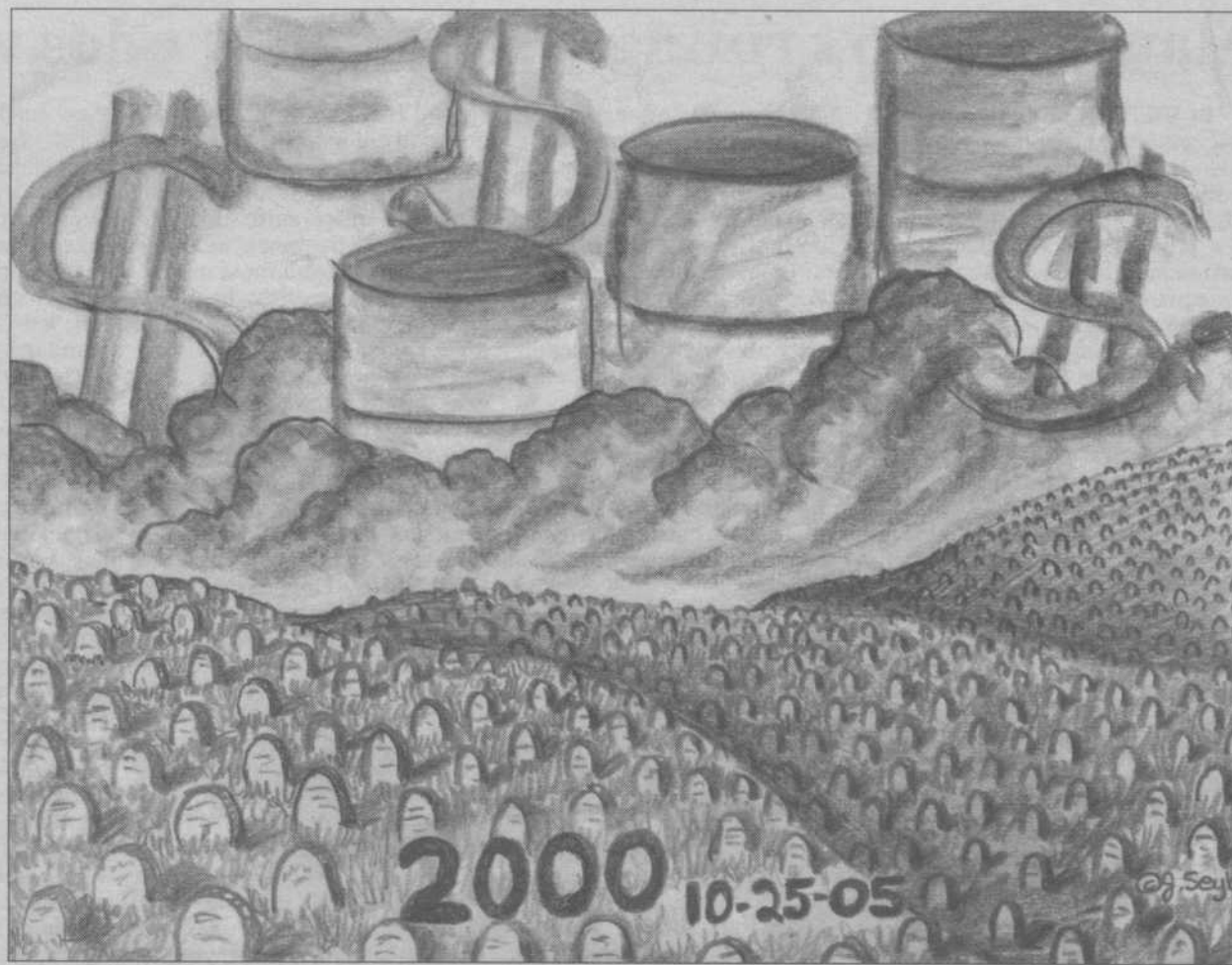
While I understand the role men play in this battle, I did not appreciate their presence in the march. The group is intended to create a safe space, where women may feel that it is all right to express their anger and intolerance towards perpetrators and perpetrators of sexual violence. In a culture where society points the finger at survivors, with questions such as "What were you wearing?" and "Were you drinking?", it is a rare opportunity that women are allowed to speak out against these injustices without being afraid. That safe place was compromised by the participation of men.

One of the arguments I hear supporting men's involvement in TBTN, is that if we exclude men, we are being "bitchy" or exclusive. In the United States, once every three minutes, a woman is raped. When one out of every three women at the University of Illinois and in our community experience sexual assault, you can be sure that the last thing I consider a priority when planning an event that empowers women and brings to light some of the less-than-acceptable statistics about the C-U area, is whether or not the men feel included,

Speak Out!

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

I enjoyed James Casey's article on the spirits at the YMCA. In fact, he dropped off a DVD copy of his video to me a couple of weeks ago, so I have seen the fruits of his labor. It's obvious that Mr. Casey believes the YMCA is haunted and I'm sure others share that belief. The problem is, with us "geeky science types," you don't "believe" in anything. In science, ideas are based on observation, experimentation and hard evidence. And the evidence has to stand up to critical analysis and be repeatable. Mr. Casey has some convincing to do.

Mr. Casey's "gauge meter" (which he pronounces "geiga-meter" in the video) appears frequently in the film. The units on the meter are "milligauss," which is a unit for measuring magnetic fields. Electrical wires and light fixtures have magnetic fields associated with

them. In one instance in the video, the meter went wild as it was pointed at a door lock. Is the door lock haunted? What spirit would choose to inhabit a door lock? When a metal is near a coiled loop of current-carrying wire, the metal can strengthen the magnetic field, just like a nail inserted into a loop of wire makes it a stronger electromagnet. The same effect makes the streetlight turn green when you pull your car over the coil in the pavement. It's hardly a reason to suspect spirits. If the temperature drop is indicative of spirits, then my office is definitely haunted!! And, to the best of my knowledge, electrons are pretty stable, even though his article says otherwise.

I was also disturbed by the notion of switching the camera to "infrared."

A true infrared camera will show objects that are warm, such as a human body. You can take an infrared photo of your home and see where heat is leaking out of doors and windows. Mr. Casey's camera did not show any of this in the video.

In one instance, a door was opened into a room that appeared to be a large closet, which no one had entered in quite some time. Mr. Casey's camera

spotlight showed objects flying through the air while in the light beam. Given the draft of opening the door, I would imagine any old closet would show this. All of these "orbs" were floating down, consistent with the notion of gravity. As far as the photo in the Prospectus, I offer no explanation, though I also own a digital camera and I obtain odd lighting effects on photos all the time, whether it be shadows or light reflecting off a surface. Someone in his team also had a laser pointer that they were shining off surfaces at random.

I'm not implying the YMCA isn't haunted. My wife works there part-time and she tells me people joke about it. Everyone loves a good ghost story, especially this time of year. It makes life interesting. But if someone is going to claim that they have scientific evidence for such a story, you've just crossed the line into a forest of fairly strict standards. I wish Mr. Casey the best of luck but warn him that if he goes into a building looking for something very specific, odds are he'll find it no matter where the true evidence takes him.

Dave Leake
Department of Natural Sciences
Staerckel Planetarium

Women's basketball set to kickoff season

By **ERIK PHEIFER**
Prospectus Staff Writer



The Parkland College women's basketball team will return to the court this week looking to bounce back from a down year last season. They finished last season with a record of 13-17, but lost half of those games by less than five points. This year they will try to improve on that record and again make the Lady Cobras a national power.

Head Coach Alex Parteneheimer will lead the Lady Cobras as he did last year. This will mark his second year as head coach of the team. This is his sixth year with the program, as he was an assistant coach for four years.

Parkland will return four sophomores to the team. This group of sophomores is led by All-Region and All-Conference standout Ashley Hayes. She was also the leading scorer and second leading rebounder on last year's team. She will be joined by Sarah Houston who Parteneheimer calls "a great pure shooter" that can score from anywhere on the floor. Shanda Fuller, a defensive sparkplug for the team, also returns. Shaquita Lee will be red shirting this season.

There will be a number of new faces for the Lady Cobras as they have 13 newcomers to the team. One of these freshmen includes Danville High School graduate Ashley Lilliard who Parteneheimer says can be one of the top scorers on the team. He expects her to contribute right away.

The other newcomers to the team include: Krista Bloemer from Macon H.S., Megan Crane from Prairie Central H.S. in Indiana, Alix Phelps from Macon H.S., Maggie Schonauer from Lincoln H.S., Katie Williams from Lafayette Central Catholic H.S. in Indiana, Lindsey Trent from Frankfurt H.S. in Indiana, and Amber Hendricks from Blue Ridge. Jazmine Warren from Anderson H.S. in Indiana is sitting out the year as a

red shirt.

The coaching staff knows that it is going to be a challenge to find all these girls playing time throughout the season. In order for the team to succeed, Parteneheimer said that the girls will have to accept their roles since all of them were star players in high school that are used to lots of playing time. He also said that another key to success this season will be how well the girls mature during the season.

The Lady Cobras are scheduled to play over 30 games on the season and here are some of the highlights.

The Lady Cobras will commence their season on November 4 in Kalamazoo, Michigan as they take on Wayne County Community College. They kick-off their home schedule the following weekend where they will take on Black Hawk College, a team nearly ranked in the top 30 in Division I.

The Lady Cobras host a tourney on the 9 and 10 of December. Then over winter break they will go on a trip to Florida that spans from December 26 through January 2. They wrap up their regular season schedule at home against Spoon River College on February 25.

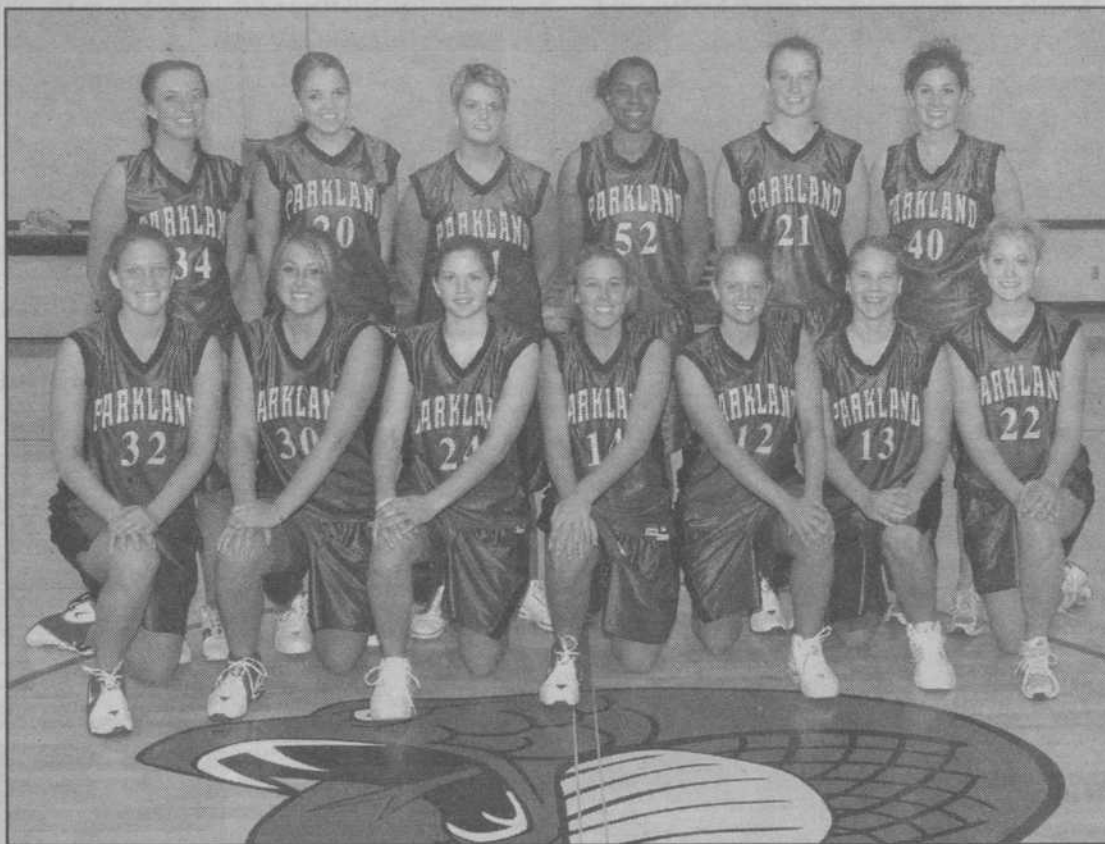
The schedule also includes many games against teams ranked in the NJCAA Division II Preseason Poll.

The first of these match-ups will take place when the Lady Cobras travel to Galesburg to take on second ranked Carl Sandburg College. On December 4 they will host Kankakee Community College, which is ranked fourth. The Lady Cobras will take on sixth ranked John Wood Community College at home on January 7 and on the road on February 11.

They will also play host to the top ranked team, Illinois Central College, on February 8. The schedule also includes a game against Lake Land Community College, which received votes in the preseason poll but didn't crack the top 20.

For a full schedule, visit the women's basketball page at Parkland's website.

This schedule will certainly have the Lady Cobras battle tested and well prepared when the playoffs roll around at the beginning of March. Parteneheimer made such a difficult schedule because he believes in playing "the best teams you



The 2005 Parkland College Lady Cobras

can play" so that his team can improve each and every time they step on the floor.

"We want to be the best team we can be by the end of the season," Parteneheimer said.

Parteneheimer says his team is defensive minded and will be deep and athletic. He says they will play an up-tempo style of basketball that will be fun to watch.

He encourages everyone to come watch and cheer on the Lady Cobras as they strive to get back to the tradition and pride that has been Lady Cobras basketball.

Athlete's personal life not a factor in ability

By **JAKE MCGILL**
Prospectus Staff Writer



Last week WNBA player Sheryl Swoopes said in an ESPN the magazine article that she was homosexual. Trying to decide whether or not this was going to be a good idea had to be one of the hardest decisions of her life. Swoopes is one of the WNBA's best players, she is also the league's reigning MVP.

Swoopes has been in the league since its inaugural season of 1997, and she has also played with the Houston Comets for her whole career as well. Being a great athlete, a 4-time

champion and a gold medalist, Swoopes is one of the only, and maybe the highest profiled athlete, to come out with his/her sexuality.

Being a well-known athlete, a role model, and great person is all put on the back burner when news like this is brought to the nation's eye.

With one's image on the line, and with millions of fans input "coming out of the closet" can be one the biggest decisions in one's life, especially a professional athlete.

The question is how many more athletes are going to follow in Swoope's footsteps?

Many professional athletes don't like for their personal life to get involved with their career, but sometimes it is unavoidable.

able. I believe that what Swoopes has done will only be good for professional athletes. The percent of homosexual athletes in professional athletics is very low and after Swoope's statement maybe that number is going to increase.

The decision which Swoopes had to make was huge, not just with her, but also with all professional athletes. Will others follow? Is her image tarnished?

Whether it is or is not, the view of athletes should be solely on how they play the game, and not on what they choose in their personal life. I am still going to view Swoopes as a great women's basketball player, a player who represents her nation well, and a great person!

Off Topic



A College Girl Named Joe

by Aaron Warner

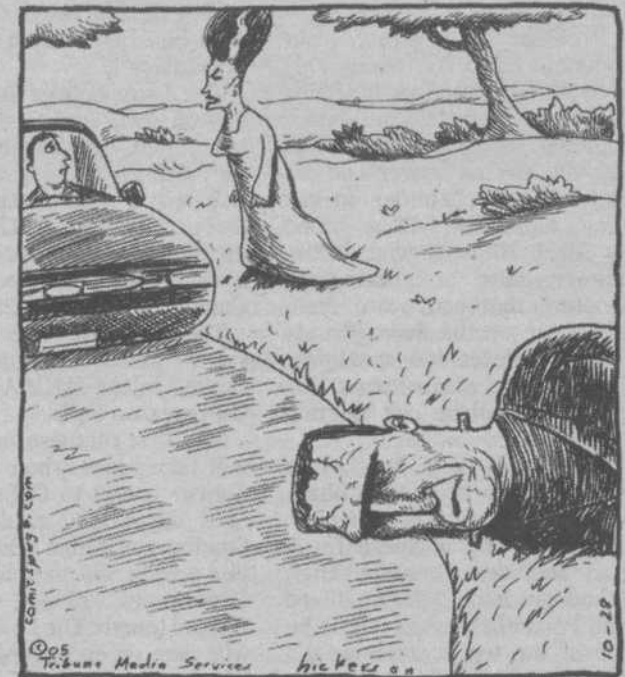


"I think we should take some time to get to know each other less."

The Family Monster by Josh Shalek



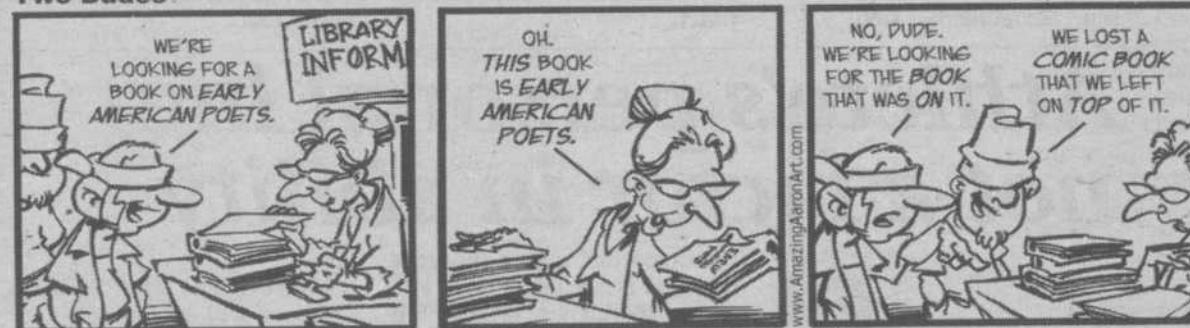
The path of least resistance: www.joshshalek.com kid_shay@joshshalek.com



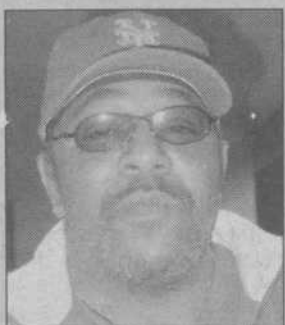
"Sorry to bother you, but could you give my husband a jump?"

Two Dudes

by Aaron Warner



Just asking ... Which two states do not "fall back" or "spring forward"?



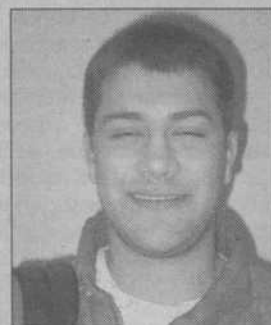
Indiana, Ohio

Duncan



Alaska, Hawaii

Jennifer



Indiana, Kentucky

Ross



Alaska, Arizona

Tiffany

Classified

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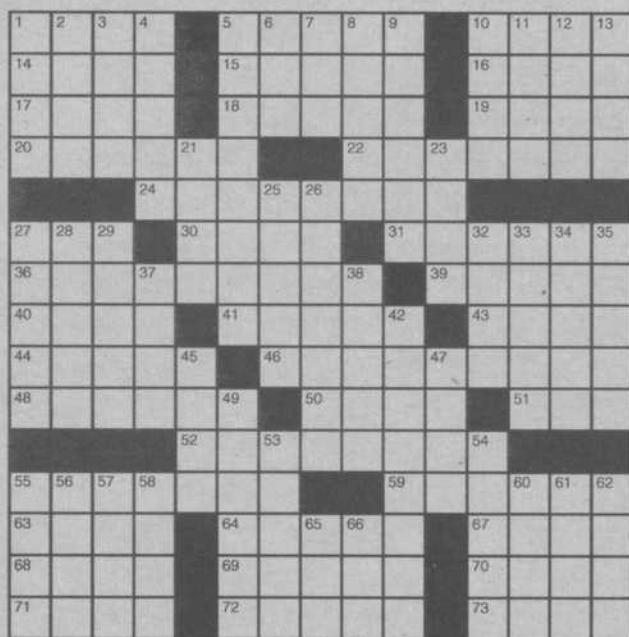
A College Girl Named Joe

by Aaron Warner



Crossword

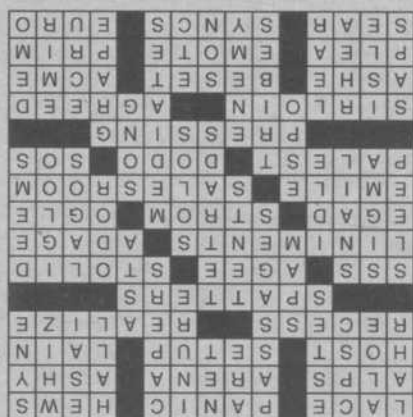
- ACROSS**
- 1 Shoestring
 - 5 Terror
 - 10 Shapes with an axe
 - 14 High peaks
 - 15 Fight site
 - 16 Soot-covered
 - 17 Party-giver
 - 18 Establish
 - 19 Reclined
 - 20 Time out
 - 22 Achieve
 - 24 Spots with small splashes
 - 27 Sound of a leak
 - 30 "A Death in the Family" author
 - 31 Impassive
 - 36 Pain relievers
 - 39 Proverb
 - 40 Mild expletive
 - 41 Sen. Thurmond
 - 43 Leer at
 - 44 Writer Zola
 - 46 Product display area
 - 48 Most wan
 - 50 Extinct bird
 - 51 Help!
 - 52 Urgent
 - 55 Prime cut of beef
 - 59 Came to terms
 - 63 Tennis great
 - 64 Attack
 - 67 Summit
 - 68 Nolo contendere, for one
 - 69 Ham it up
 - 70 Prudish
 - 71 Burn slightly
 - 72 Links up chronologically
 - 73 Continental cash
- DOWN**
- 1 Cowardly Lion portrayer
 - 2 Cosmetic ingredient
 - 3 End-users' watchdog grp.
 - 4 Photorealist painter
 - 5 Corridors
 - 6 Exist
 - 7 Court separator
 - 8 Harden
 - 9 Frolics
 - 10 Monty or Huntz
 - 11 Morales of "Bad Boys"
 - 12 Kind of kid
 - 13 "Auld Lang —"
 - 21 Junk on your PC
 - 23 Cinema canine
 - 25 Campers' abodes
 - 26 Groups of four
 - 27 Hypnotist's command
 - 28 Greek letter
 - 29 Animal in a mobile home?
 - 32 Olfactory offense
 - 33 Largest city in Nigeria
 - 34 Icy abode
 - 35 Considers
 - 37 Like a couch potato
 - 38 Recital pieces
 - 42 Acts as a go-between
 - 45 NHL star Phil, to fans
 - 47 Tune
 - 49 Clan groups
 - 53 Opponent
 - 54 Jelly choice
 - 55 Digs a trench
 - 56 Wight or Skye
 - 57 Emu's cousin
 - 58 Shakespearean king
 - 60 Hosiery shade
 - 61 Bahrain ruler
 - 62 Sample tape
 - 65 Family member
 - 66 Oft-used abbr.



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Solutions



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49 Clan groups
53 Opponent
54 Jelly choice
55 Digs a trench
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65 Family member
66 Oft-used abbr.

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Did You Know? Only two states don't change their clocks: Arizona and Hawaii

United States' casualties top 2,000 in Iraq

■ Civilian toll over 40,000

By DAVID JACKSON

The Dallas Morning News(KRT)

WASHINGTON — As the Iraq war hit a grim benchmark Tuesday with the announcement that the death toll for American troops had reached 2,000, President Bush said his commitment to victory had not changed.

The political environment in which he is conducting the war, however, is very different from how it was earlier in the conflict.

His lowest-ever approval ratings, conservative anger over his Supreme Court nominee, and a grand jury investigation based in part on faulty pre-war intelligence can only make it harder to stay the course, said members of Congress and political analysts.

"It's the bigger picture that continues to wear down Bush's approval rating on Iraq, and voter frustration with Iraq," said Amy Walter, a senior editor with the Washington-based Cook Political Report.

When the 1,000th American died in Iraq in September of last year, Bush stood less than two months from re-election. The 2,000th death finds him more vulnerable to demands to pull out U.S. troops sooner rather than later.

"It's a very sobering hallmark," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. "It indicates that we need to rethink where we are in Iraq."

Bush told a group of military spouses in Washington on Tuesday that the United States will continue helping Iraq's military and political system to the point where they can operate independently.

"No one should underestimate the difficulties ahead," he said. "Nor should they overlook the advantages we bring to

this fight."

Speaking at Bolling Air Force Base, Bush did not specifically cite the 2,000th death but said, "Each loss of life is heartbreaking."

"The best way to honor the sacrifice of our fallen troops is to complete the mission and lay the foundation of peace by spreading freedom," Bush said.

Bush and his aides touted the Iraqi electorate's recent approval of a constitution as a major step forward. They now look forward to the election of a permanent Iraqi government in mid-December, though that doesn't automatically mean a drawdown of troops.

"The president doesn't believe in artificial time lines," said White House press secretary Scott McClellan. "It will be based on circumstances on the ground."

Bush and supporters said a democracy can spread from Iraq to the rest of the Middle East, thereby reducing the influence of terrorism.

Critics laud the goals but question the cost, and marked the 2,000th death by calling for a clearer plan, leading to withdrawal.

"If he is suggesting an open-ended, long-term commitment, I'm afraid that's not good enough," said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.

Feinstein said the election of a new government in December is an opportunity.

"It seems to me that that's the time to look at getting to downsize, and change the mission in Iraq," she said.

Some skeptics fear things will get worse before they get better.

Many Arab Sunnis voted against the constitution, some of these critics pointed out, and civil war between Sunnis and Shiites remains a possibility.

In any event, critics

note that Iraq has become a haven for al-Qaida and other militants.

Others pointed to recent testimony by Gen. George Casey, who said only one Iraqi battalion is ready to fight without American support, down from three last year.

The Government Accountability Office reported this month that security costs are diverting money from needed infrastructure projects in Iraq.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., said the Bush administration has to work harder for more help from more countries in combating the insurgency.

"The fact is we have to get other nations involved," she said. "We went to war with Iraq; now we're at war within Iraq."

News of the 2,000th death also underscored the nation's political polarization.

"Opponents of the war will seize this moment to attack our policy in Iraq," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. "They're already doing that. We know that. It will not affect my view, except for the sorrow and regret that I feel at the loss of American lives."

Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, called the 2,000 deaths "a non-partisan issue" and "an immense tragedy personally for the families of those Americans."

One result, he said, is already lost public support.

"America is now questioning more and more the president's decisions," Levin said. "Not only the statements, the policy which led to the war, the way we got into it, but the failure to acquire allies and to get the Iraqis to take over the security of their country."

Bush could normally look to his conservative base for support, but the



Area residents gather outside the Champaign County Courthouse in Urbana to remember fallen soldiers in Iraq after the U.S. troop casualties topped 2,000 last week.

Theresa Campagna/Prospectus

Iraq war has also been criticized by nominal allies.

Lawrence Wilkerson, former chief of staff to former Secretary of State Colin Powell, said last week that Iraq has had a "deleterious impact" on foreign policy, and "is going to resonate with the military for a long time to come."

Meanwhile, Bush's deep pool of conservative support has been drained by opposition to Supreme Court nominee Harriet

Miers. Some conservatives say the White House counsel lacks qualifications for the job.

A grand jury, meanwhile, is investigating the news leak of the name of a CIA operative, the wife of a former diplomat who challenged the administration claims about Saddam Hussein and weapons of mass destruction.

Indictments of high-level aides could make the administration more vulnerable to criticism over Iraq, analysts said, at least

temporarily.

Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said Iraq preceded the president's other difficulties and will likely linger after the rest fade.

"A lot of these recent problems," he said, "are sort of classic temporary problems—with the notable exception of Iraq."