

Election information (and lack thereof)

■ Voters told by county to register after due date passes

By **TAKAMICHI KONO**
Prospectus Staff Writer

Naomi Jakobsson, David Gill— It being just a few weeks before the General Election day, the heat of the race for state and Congressional seats seems to have reached its peak. Candidates' ads begging for as many votes as possible now take virtually all forms of the media including TV, internet web pages and flyers. But, the majority of the potential politicians who appear on the ballot of the election held on November 7 are running for neither the state assembly nor the Congressional positions. Equally important as such upper level competition but almost forgotten, at least until October 19th when the voter's guides distributed by County Clerk finally reached some of Champaign residents, is the Champaign County General Election.

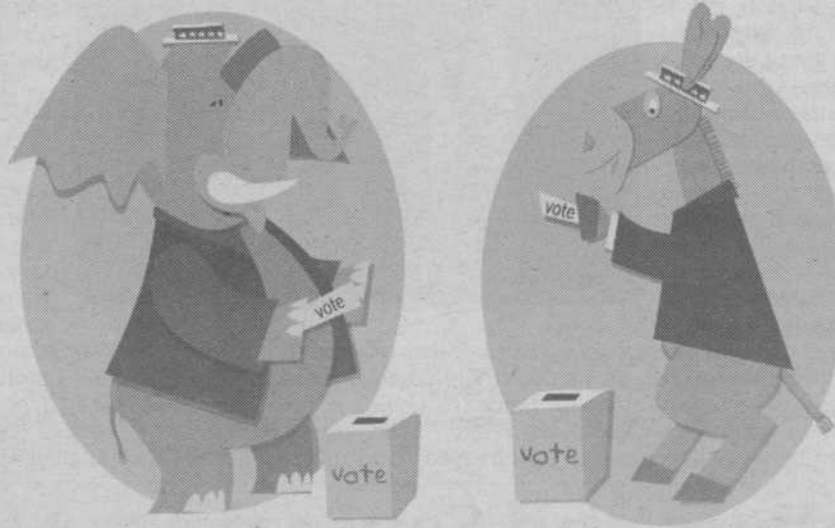
According to the Voter's

Guide, through this mid-term election, up to one County Clerk, Sheriff, County Treasurer, Regional Superintendent of Schools and the total of fifteen County Board members will be elected. At all of the precincts, the voting will be opened from 6pm to 7pm. Any person who has stepped in line by 7pm will be allowed to vote on the day. Absentee voting already opened on Thursday, September 28, and will last until November 6.

Ironically, this Voter's Guide, supposed to instruct all of the Champaign County residents how to vote, might have misled the County to lose potential voters who were interested in but had not got registered yet for the voting. "Every Vote Counts."

"Vote=Liberty." Just taking a look at the front and back page of the Voter's Guide easily tells the

with such County's welcome for more voters were, however, found in latter part of the guide.



readers the fact that the County is calling for prosperous turnout rate for the election. Some catches that make contradiction

"Get Registered!" page generously explains that any over-18-year-old U.S. citizen, as long as he or she has resided in the

election precinct for 30 days or more, can participate in the election. But, "Registration for the November 7, 2006 General Election", ends up a surprise: "closes October 10, 2006." Oops. How could a those lucky residents who have received the guide on October 19—there are many who did not have one on the day—make registration already closed on October 10th? According to the explanation of the County Clerk Mark Shelden, some technical problem in the printing process delayed, to an unusual extent, the issue of the Voter's Guide. "Sooner or later, the guide will be distributed to those who could not get one on the nineteenth," said Shelden.

Champaign County is the only county in the state of Illinois that issues the Voter's Guide to the all of the house holds in the region—regardless of the residents' registration status.

See **Vote** on page 10

Special Election Day Edition

Obama considering run for President

By **WILLIAM NEIKIRK**
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

WASHINGTON—In a decided and unequivocal shift, Sen. Barack Obama said Sunday he is seriously considering a run for the White House in 2008, affirming the stunningly rapid trajectory of a political career that saw him in the Illinois legislature just two years ago.

In an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," the same program where he categorically ruled out a run just last January, Obama went further than ever before in discussing his Oval Office ambitions, and left clear the impression that he could well run, a move that would fundamentally reshape the contest for the Democratic nomination.

During the interview, host Tim Russert put Obama through a series of questions about Iraq, North Korea and Darfur and about the tone of politics in this country—all questions that would typically be put to a prospective presidential candidate. Obama held forth on those

issues and his views on the presidency, at once addressing issues about his relative inexperience but also about how he per-



ceived the role of the world's most powerful office.

The "Meet the Press" appearance

capped a week-long span of intensive publicity, ostensibly about the publication of his second book, "The Audacity of Hope," but what in fact seemed more like a long run-up to articulate his presidential ambitions, winning him publicity that would cost others millions of dollars to generate.

All week long during a whirlwind book tour, the Illinois Democrat had dropped hints about a possible 2008 presidential bid, but on Sunday he made it clear that he has been thinking about it for months as more people have encouraged him to run.

His sudden openness to running represented a sharp reversal of his old political calculation. On the same program last January, he had flatly rejected a presidential bid and reaffirmed he would serve out a full six-year term as senator, which would end in 2010.

But Obama's political stock has been on a sharp climb since he gave the keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, and he has been

turned into one of the party's biggest fundraisers, most popular speakers and among the few with true star power. He acknowledged that the door had opened "a bit" to an actual run for the nation's highest office.

Russert replayed Obama's January statement on "Meet the Press" when he said, "I will not" seek the presidency or vice presidency in 2008 and would serve out his full six years.

"You will not?" Russert asked on Sunday.

"That's how I was thinking at that time, and I don't want to be coy about this," Obama responded.

"Given the responses I've been getting over the last several months, I have thought about the possibility, but I have not thought about it with the seriousness and depth that I think is required," Obama said. After the Nov. 7 election, he said, "I will sit down and consider it."

His statements touched off even more

See **Obama** on page 10

Mrs. Clinton's presidential aspirations take center stage

By HELEN KENNEDY
New York Daily News (MCT)

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—Sen. Hillary Clinton and Republican opponent John Spencer debated for the first time Friday night—but nearly half the questions were about her possible presidential future instead of their Senate race.

"Obviously, people are talking about whether I will or should be running for President, and I'm flattered by that," Clinton said when asked why she wouldn't pledge to fill out her term if reelected. "If that is a

concern for people, they should factor that into their decision in November. But I have made no decisions."

As moderator Dominic Carter kept pushing the issue, asking whether she thought she would do a better job than President Bush, and whether America is ready for a woman in the Oval Office, Clinton was reduced to laughing, "I'm not going there."

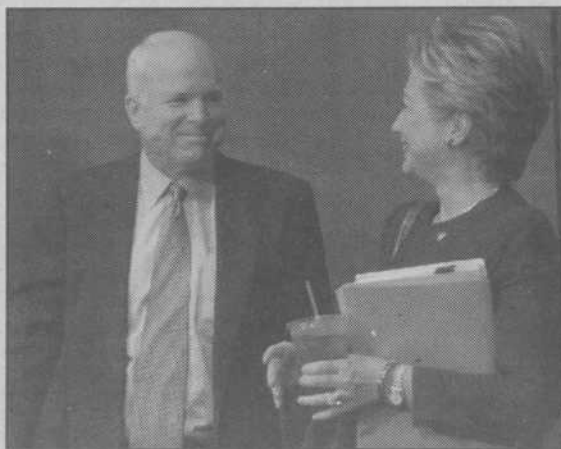
Spencer—who has tried to make Clinton's ambitions a major issue of his campaign—was delighted.

"I'm the only one standing on this platform that wants to be a United States Senator for the people of New York for six years," the conservative former Yonkers, N.Y., mayor said.

"She was given a welcome mat and I believe she's using it

as a doormat to get to the White House," he said in his closing statement.

At the top of the debate, Clinton walked straight up to Spencer's podium and grabbed his



hand. It was practically the last time she acknowledged his existence.

While Spencer repeatedly addressed her directly, with

attacks or jokes, Clinton mostly sailed along as if he weren't there, reserving her broadsides for Bush and the GOP.

In one lively exchange, Spencer was slamming Clinton for undermining support for the Iraq war by branding the President a liar and calling for the head of Donald Rumsfeld when Clinton interrupted to call again for Rumsfeld to get the boot.

"In the middle of the Civil War, the bloodiest war that our nation ever fought, Abraham Lincoln did not hesitate to change generals. We have a secretary of defense who is not credible anymore," she said.

"You're not President yet, Mrs. Clinton," Spencer shot back.

Spencer seemed less prepared than Clinton, and didn't

help himself when he disavowed a policy proposal from his own campaign Web site for a 2,000-mile fence along the Mexican border.

"I haven't looked at my Web site in six months," he protested, saying he actually supports setting up a system of security cameras along the border.

In keeping with the generally civil nature of the debate, Spencer said Clinton shook his hand again backstage and said, "You did good, John."

They meet up for a second and final debate Saturday at 9 a.m.

Green Party candidate Howie Hawkins, who was shut out of the debate, spent the evening trying to get into the venue by sneaking in various doors, but he was run off by security.

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Prospectus

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• 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.

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Dollars and Sense from FinAid ■ Scholarship Scams

By DONNA MAYER
Prospectus Guest Writer

Scholarships are a great way to increase your capital while going to school. Unfortunately, not every scholarship offer is on the up-and-up. Knowing the following warning signs can keep you from being a scholarship scam victim.

• Fees: You should never have to pay to search or apply for scholarships or financial aid.

Be careful of offers like: "For a small fee, we'll give you the most comprehensive list of scholarships for which you're eligible from the largest database available."

The biggest and best scholarship databases are available for free online. FastWeb is a free scholarship search that will search nationwide for you. www.fastweb.com

• Credit card or bank account information needed: You should never have to give credit card or bank account information to award providers.

• Scholarship guarantee: No one can guarantee up-front that someone will win anything.

Some of the more common statements made are:

"You are guaranteed a minimum of \$1,000 in financial aid sources."

No one can guarantee that you'll win a scholarship because no one can control scholarship judges' decisions.

"Everybody is eligible."

While scholarships are awarded based on a variety of merits and needs, some set of restrictions always apply since sponsors are looking for candidates who match certain criteria.



• High success rates: This is a case that if something sounds too good to be true, then it probably isn't true.

Don't be misled by statements like "We have a 96% success rate."

That usually refers to the percentage of students they've matched with the database, not the number of students who actually receive money.

• No work involved: There is no way to avoid putting in time and effort to complete a scholarship application.

• No contact information: Legitimate sponsors should provide contact information up-front. If a valid e-mail address, phone number and mailing address (not a P.O. box) aren't available up-front, and aren't provided even after you request it, be aware that it may be a scam.

• Unsolicited scholarships: If you are called to receive an award for which you never applied, be alert—it's most likely a scam.

• Pressure tactics: Don't allow yourself to be pressured into applying for a scholarship, especially if the sponsor is asking for money up front. They might use wording like:

"You must use our service to qualify for aid."

Scholarship matching ser-

vices don't control who wins a scholarship, they just match you to a list of possibilities.

"Awards are given on a first-come, first-served basis. Time is limited. Apply now!"

Most scholarships have set deadlines—very few have rolling admissions.

• Claims of "exclusive" scholarships: Sponsors don't make their scholarships available through only one service. They want to award their scholarships, and will promote them in as many places as possible.

• Sponsor goes out of their way to sound "official": Beware of official-sounding words like "national," "education" or "federal," or an official-looking seal in their aid. They may be trying to fool you into thinking they are legit.

• Your questions aren't answered directly: If you can't get a straight answer from a sponsor regarding their application, what will be done with your information, or other questions, proceed with caution.

If you have any questions about a scholarship or search service, please contact our office at finaid@parkland.edu.

“But I don’t like the current system!”

■ A guide to third parties—the good, the weird, and the fanatical

By **AARON GEIGER**
Prospectus Editor

Count ‘em: forty-seven third parties, thirty-two of which have endorsed candidates for office. Although there are major third parties that constitute a strong following of voters, there is a surprising lack of knowledge about those who stay away from donkeys and elephants.

Look at the **Green Party**, for instance. Their nominee, Ralph Nader, garnered 700,000 votes in the 1996 Presidential election, yet was only on the ballots of 22 states, and spent a mere \$5,000 in campaign money. Yet very few people can tell you about his platform. Fewer still know that there is another green party, known as ‘**The Greens**’ and/or **G/GPUSA**, who were declined by Nader to be their representative.

H. Ross Perot, a Texas billionaire, ran as an **independent** in 1992, and nailed down 19 million voters. He decided to join the **Reform Party**, and although he lost a lot of followers, still collected over 8 million nods for the presidency.

Boasting the highest third party membership, the **Liberarians** promote what appears to be self-governing harmony: pro-choice, pro-gay marriage, pro-drug legalization. They eschew government programs such as gun control, welfare, and income tax. Michael Badnarik took home 0.3% of the Presidential votes in 2004—compared to Ed Clark’s 921,000 votes (1.1%) in 1980.

The aforementioned third parties have been blamed for changing the outcome of elections. The most recently heated event involved some nasty slandering of the **Green Party** by the **Democratic Party**, who blamed the environmentally-friendly, left-winged voters for taking away Democrat votes, and caused the **Republican Party** to win a race they most likely would have lost.

But just how much do these smaller groups affect the nation as a whole? Did you know there are registered New Age music peddlers, cults, racists, and anti-Islamic parties? Did you know that there are, or have

been, people in office—civil and federal—that represent these groups? Here’s a short guide to the more interesting:

Family Values Party—

God spoke to their leader, Tom Wells, on Christmas of 2004, where He commanded Wells to begin a political party. The main mantra of the party is “to stop paying taxes until abortion ends.” Wells is a write-in for President and/or Congress.

The Light Party—

Run by “Da Vid, M.D., Wholistic Physician, Human Ecologist & Artist.” He has been a Presidential write-in for the last four presidential elections. Their

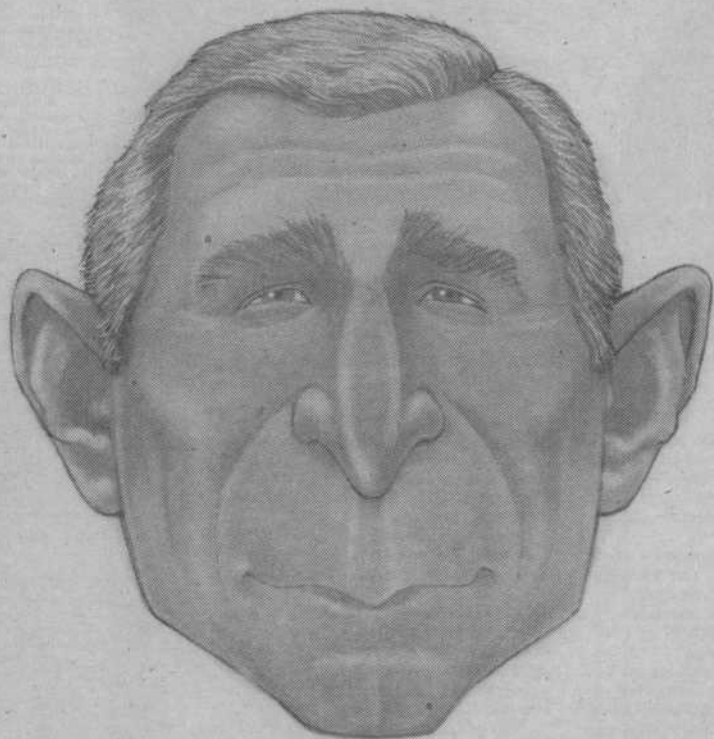
platform consists of holistic medicine, national health insurance, organic foods, solar energy, nuclear disarmament, and a flat tax. They sell New Age music to support their cause.

Peace and Freedom Party—

In 1968, they nominated the Blank Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver for President (who later backed Reagan, then became a drug addict, and finally an environmental activist). Dr. Spock, the infamous baby doctor was their nominee in 1972. The convicted cop-killer Leonard Peltier, a Native-American activist, took 27,500 votes in the 2004 Presidential election.

U.S. Marijuana Party—

Not much to say here, but the USMJPP states, “The civil rights of Americans have been compromised by the war on drug-



music to support their cause.

Natural Law Party—

A New Age entity run by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, the leader of the Transcendentalist Movement (“yogic flying”). They actually garnered 110,000 votes in 44 states in the 1996 election, choosing to run nuclear physi-

Because the vast majority of citizens who use any illegal substance use only marijuana, the war on drugs is basically a war on marijuana. If you can pull the plug on the war on marijuana, you end the war on drugs as we know it. You shut down the prison industrial complex, and you restore the liberties that have been eroded because of this futile war on marijuana.”

Pansexual Peace Party—

Founded with a Wiccan flair,

their motto is, “Sex is Good! Sex is Great! Yea, Sex!” Jimi Freidenker is the ‘chairentity’ of the PPP.

Knights Party—

It’s almost a waste of space to include this party in the rank and file, but they are registered, and they *did* nominate KKK national leader David Duke for office several times in the 80s and 90s. Also keep in mind there have been Governors, such as Indiana’s Warren McCray, and Alabama’s John Paterson. William McAdoo ran for President in 1924. Yes, racism is still rampant, folks. See also: **American Nazi Party**.

Christian Falangist Party of America—

Fascist ideology, nationalism, Catholic theology, and a penchant for Francisco Franco (the 1930s Spanish dictator) are the themes for the followers of this group. They attempt to combat the “Forces of Darkness”, which includes, “Radical Islam, Communism/Socialism, the New World Order, the New Age movement, Third Position/Neo-Nazis, Free Masons, Abortionists, Euthanasianists, Radical Homosexuals and Pornographers.” The Falangists support Israel. Go figure.

Although humorous in nature, this list is only a fraction of the official registration of the third parties of the United States, and constitutes a broad agenda. This list also serves to remind the public that hatred, insensitivity, and extreme activism does exist, and it does vote. Primarily disturbing is the fact that there are many civil servants that have been elected that serve interest groups that promote a breakdown in progressive thought. On the liberating side is the fact that your voice can be represented, and can make such a difference as to change the way elections are run, from the Presidency to the small county. From environmentalism, to social feminist activism, to labor rights and national health insurance, there are fundamentals to this nation to which people are taking an interest. Are you?



Parkland Planetarium

Saturday, October 28:
7:00 p.m.—In My Backyard
8:00 p.m.—Stellar Extremes
9:30 p.m.—Halloween: “A Night of Horrors” (Dress up for Halloween and get in for half price!)

Parkland Theatre

Sunday, October 29, Open Auditions:
2:00-5:00 p.m.—“A Christmas Story”

Do you have an event for this calendar?
Drop us an e-mail.

Send events to:
prospectus@parkland.edu
or drop by X-155

POWER PLAY



Democrats and Republicans are locked in battle over House and Senate seats. This November voters will decide who stays and who goes.

BY STEVEN THOMAS, McClatchy Newspapers

Americans decide on Nov. 7 whether to keep Republicans in control of the federal government or give Democrats a share of power — and a powerful check on President Bush.

They'll make that choice in electing all 435 members of the House and 33 members of the Senate. That's the entire House. Senate terms are staggered, with only one third up every two years.

The most dramatic impact of a shift to the Democrats would be their ability to investigate the Bush administration. With control of either chamber, they'd get subpoena power and could investigate such issues as how the administration decided to go to war, or how it wrote a proposed energy policy behind closed doors.

Bold changes in policy are less likely.

From one perspective, the Republicans themselves have stalled and haven't been able to agree on such major issues as immigration, Social Security or tax reform.

From the other, Democrats likely would not win big enough majorities, especially in the Senate, to enact their own agenda over Bush's vetoes.

If history is a guide, Bush's party

will lose seats this fall, but perhaps not control of Congress. Every president since the Civil War has lost Congressional seats in their sixth year in office with only one exception.

That one exception was Bill Clinton, whose Democrats gained seats in 1998. But Clinton enjoyed — or suffered — some circumstances Bush would hate to emulate. For one, Clinton already lost control of Congress four years earlier. For another, he had been impeached, and voters apparently rebelled at the process.

Rather, voters appear more likely to rebel at Bush and the most dramatic decision of his presidency, the war in Iraq.

Polls show that about four out of 10 voters approve of the job Bush is doing — low by historic standards. They also show the country divided over Iraq.

Anger at incumbents rivals that in 1994, when voters threw the Democrats out of power in the House after a 40-year reign, and in the Senate as well.

In the Senate, Republicans would have to lose a net of six seats to lose control. In the House, Republicans would have to lose a net of 15 seats to lose control. Here's a look at some of the key races in this year's election.

SENATE

MINNESOTA

Democrats need to hold the seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Mark Dayton. Their candidate, **Amy Klobuchar**, leads in all public polls over Republican **Rep. Mark Kennedy**. As the chief prosecutor in the state's largest county, Klobuchar is well known in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. Also helping her: The state is sour on President Bush.

MISSOURI

Republican Sen. **Jim Talent** is seeking his first full term in a state that's split down the middle as usual. Talent is neck and neck with Democrat **Chair McConkili**, the state auditor. He's running as someone who's brought home the federal bacon. She's pitching embryonic stem cell research.

MONTANA

Republican Sen. **Conrad Burns** is the most prominent Republican on the ballot this fall who is tied to the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal. That and a tendency to put his foot in his mouth make him vulnerable to a challenge from Democrat **Jon Tester**, the president of the state Senate.

NEW JERSEY

Democratic Sen. **Robert Menendez** is neck and neck with Republican **Tom Kean Jr.**, the son of the popular former governor. A problem for Menendez: ethics allegations from rivals about collecting rent from a nonprofit agency he had helped win federal funds. The pitfall for Kean: being tied to Bush.

OHIO

Republican Sen. **Mike DeWine** is fighting to hold his seat against a strong challenge from Democrat **Rep. Sherrod Brown**. DeWine has dual burdens from fellow Republicans: President Bush is now unpopular in the state that gave him a second term, and Gov. **Bob Taft** leaves office with a dismal approval rating.

PENNSYLVANIA

Republican Sen. **Rick Santorum** was once thought to be the most endangered Republican in the Senate, facing Democrat **Bob Casey Jr.**, state treasurer and son of a popular former governor. Santorum has fought back and is within reach, but still trails. The key question: Which candidate better fits the state? Santorum is conservative, but so is Casey.

RHODE ISLAND

Republican Sen. **Lincoln Chafee** only won half his senatorial term when he survived a hard-fought Republican primary clash with a more conservative challenger. Chafee opposes tax cuts and the Iraq war, a good fit for the liberal state. But he's up against a real Democrat in November, **Sheldon Whitehouse**.

TENNESSEE

With Senate Majority Leader **Bill Frist** leaving in run fall time for president, Republicans are working to keep the seat. Their candidate is former Chattanooga Mayor **Bob Corker**. The Democrat is **Rep. Harold Ford Jr.**, who would become the first black elected to the Senate from the South since Reconstruction. The race is a dead heat.

A tough battle ahead

The Democrats need six Senate seats and 15 House seats to take control of Congress

CURRENT COMPOSITION OF CONGRESS

SENATE		
Republicans	Independent* 1	Democrats
95	6	44

Seats needed for majority

HOUSE		
Republicans	Independent* 1	Democrats
232	15	202

Seats needed for majority

*Agreed with Democrats. ©Graphic: Chrisq. Tibbitt

VIRGINIA

Republican Sen. **George Allen** hoped an easy re-election would serve as a springboard for a 2008 presidential campaign. Not so fast. Allen faces a challenge from **Jim Webb**, a former Republican, combat veteran and Navy secretary who could make inroads in the right of center state.

WASHINGTON

Democratic Sen. **Marion Cantwell** survived a primary challenge over her vote to authorize the Iraq war. Now, anti-war voters may have nowhere else to go, and Cantwell leads Republican **Mike McGavick**, a former insurance executive. McGavick suffered a setback when he disclosed he was arrested for drunk driving in the D.C. suburbs 13 years ago.

HOUSE

COLORADO 7TH DISTRICT

The Denver suburban district is again a political battleground, with immigration a key issue to who wins the Republican seat. Republican **Rick O'Donnell**, a state education official, wants to seal the borders. Democrat **Ed Perlmutter**, a state senator, ridicules O'Donnell for once proposing that high school seniors patrol the borders as part of a national service corps.

CONNECTICUT 4TH DISTRICT

Rep. **Chris Shays** has survived in his Democrat-leaning district by being a moderate but now faces a strong challenge from Democrat **Diane Farrell**, who ties him to the unpopular Iraq war. A key question is how that will play in a state where pro-war Democrat Sen. **Joe Lieberman** lost a primary but could win the general election.

FLORIDA 22ND DISTRICT

This coastal district north of Miami went for Al Gore and John Kerry, but sent Republican Rep. **Clay Shaw** back to Congress each time. Now seeking his 14th term, Shaw faces a tough challenge from Democrat Sen. **Ron Klein**. A key issue in the retiree-rich condos that line the district: Social Security.

ILLINOIS 6TH DISTRICT

Republican Rep. **Henry Hyde** is retiring. Republican state Sen. **Peter Roskam** is working to keep the seat in the R column, but faces a spirited challenge from Democrat **Tammy Duckworth**, a wounded combat veteran of the Iraq war. One key difference: Roskam says Iraq is part of the broader (and more popular) war on terror; Duckworth says it's not.

INDIANA 9TH DISTRICT

Southern Indiana leans Republican, but Republican Rep. **Mike Sodrel** is one of three Hoosier Republicans in trouble this year. Sodrel faces a rematch with Democrat **Baron Hill**, a former member of Congress. In 2004, Sodrel defeated Hill in a razor-close contest, by a margin of 1,425 votes out of nearly 293,000 cast.

KENTUCKY 4TH DISTRICT

The district cuts across the northern tier of Kentucky, from the suburbs of Cincinnati to coal country, and leans Republican. But Republican Rep. **Geoff Davis** faces a strong challenge for a second term because his challenger is **Ken Lucas**, a conservative Democrat who held the seat before. Also, Davis could be weakened by scandals in the Republican statehouse.

NEW MEXICO 1ST DISTRICT

Republican Rep. **Heather Wilson** has won three times despite the fact the district in Albuquerque and its suburbs went narrowly for Democratic presidential candidates **John Kerry** in 2004 and **Al Gore** in 2000. Now she faces **Atty. Gen. Patricia Madrid**, who is well known and well financed.

NORTH CAROLINA 11TH DISTRICT

Republican Rep. **Charles Taylor** has often closed strong in his Smoky Mountain district — and may do so again this year. But he faces a strong challenger with star power this time in Democrat **Heath Shuler**, a former star football quarterback. One advantage of that celebrity: Shuler ended the second quarter with more campaign cash than the incumbent.

OHIO 18TH DISTRICT

Republican Rep. **Rob Ney** bowed to the inevitable and stepped down from his reelection bid after pleading guilty to corruption charges in the Abramoff lobbying scandal. Now the Republican steps in candidate, state Sen. **Joy Padgett**, has to brush off any name from Ney in the faces Democrat **Zack Space**, an attorney.

PENNSYLVANIA 6TH DISTRICT

Republican Rep. **Jim Gerlach** has won narrowly in the suburban Philadelphia district even as Al Gore and John Kerry won there. Now he faces a second challenge from women's rights attorney **Lois Murphy**, who hammers Gerlach as too close to the unpopular Bush.

VIRGINIA 2ND DISTRICT

The district around Norfolk is home to the Atlantic fleet, solid Republican election wins and Republican Rep. **Thomas Drake**. Drake has an edge seeking a second term against Democrat **Phil Kellum**, the former commissioner in Virginia Beach. But Kellum is popular and well known in the biggest city in the district.

State investigates allegations of voter intimidation in California

By MARTIN WISCKOL AND DENA BUNIS
The Orange County Register (MCT)

SANTA ANA, Calif.—Condemnation of an intimidating mailer from Congressional candidate Tan Nguyen's campaign swelled Thursday, as state investigators continued interviews in the county and the U.S. Justice Department joined the probe.

State Attorney General Bill Lockyer told Nguyen's opponent, Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-Garden Grove, that details should become clearer in the next couple days and that his office "would be making arrests," Sanchez said.

Nguyen, a Republican, said Thursday that a campaign worker helped put out the letter without his knowledge and that she had been fired. He called the letter, which targeted immigrant voters, "flawed and ill-conceived."

But Orange County Republican Party Chairman Scott Baugh didn't believe Nguyen's denial and continued to call for him to bow out of the race.

"I've learned that Mr. Nguyen was involved in expediting that mailer," Baugh said. "I've had

conversations with the attorney general and folks involved with the mail house. He called the mail house himself and told them to expedite the mailing."

Nguyen, who said Thursday morning that he was scheduled to meet with investigators later in the day, did not return subsequent calls seeking response to Baugh. Lockyer's office did not return calls seeking specifics of Nguyen's relationship to the case.

The letter, written in Spanish and sent to about 14,000 foreign-born Hispanic voters, said that immigrants voting in an election are committing a crime that "could result in jail time, and you will be deported for voting without a right to do so."

Immigrants who become U.S. citizens have the same voting rights as native-born citizens.

"If it is determined that this letter was directed to prevent a certain population from voting, then potentially there could have been a criminal act and there could be criminal charges," said Cynthia Magnuson of the U.S. Justice Department.

The controversial letter also said a new federal computer system could verify the names

of newly registered voters and that anti-immigration groups could access the information.

Magnuson said there is no such system and no plans for one.

The mailer carried the letterhead of the Huntington Beach-based California Coalition for Immigration Reform. CCIR founder Barbara Coe condemned the letter and said her group had no part in it.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called the letter "a despicable act of political intimidation."

Sen. Barbara Boxer called it "outrageous and reprehensible." Assemblyman Van Tran, R-Westminster also condemned it.

Throughout the Vietnamese community, there was criticism of the campaign tactic. A coalition of Hispanic, Asian-American and Muslim groups will hold a joint press conference today to denounce the letter.

Nguyen said he would hold a press conference today to discuss whether he will remain in the race. If he pulls out, his name would remain on the ballot.

Orange County Democratic Party Chairman Frank Bar-

baro praised Baugh for calling on Nguyen to bow out. Barbaro also called on Registrar of Voters Neal Kelley to write voters who received the letter and encourage them to vote. Kelley said Thursday he is not planning such a mailing.

Like Baugh, Barbaro doesn't believe Nguyen's denial of involvement with the controversy. "All roads lead to Tan Nguyen," he said.

But Barbaro said that rather than hurt Democratic and Hispanic turnout, [the issue] could provide a boost. While Sanchez was already predicted to win easily, turnout will play a key role in the competitive match for state Senate between Democrat Lou Correa and Republican Lynn Daucher.

"The anger here is amazing," Barbaro said. "People are mobilizing. This is going to help elect Lou Correa." Correa wasn't so sure. "I'm getting phone calls from voters saying they're afraid to vote," he said.

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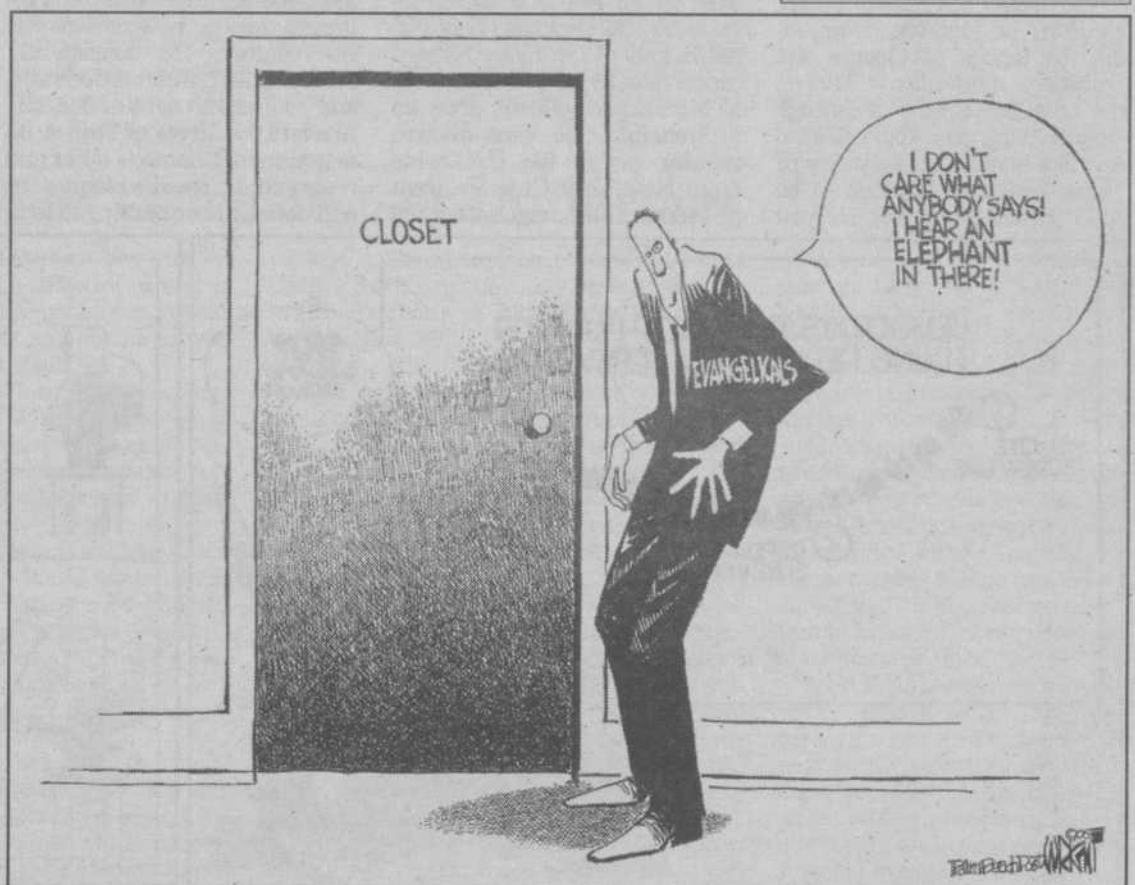
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Who is the poster child of the GOP? ■ Why the Dems have new appeal

By **AARON GEIGER**
Prospectus Editor

The political arena has the aura of an advertisement for Apple. The hip, young lad is the Democratic Party, and the slightly overweight, business-model icon of the PC world is the Republican. Acknowledged is the mantra that the GOP has been in the limelight, but not for long. A new, zippy, fresh Democratic Donkey is back, and seems to be working consistently, confidently, and in an appealing way to the new era.

What used to be the 'norm', and what was comfortable is giving way to a new brand of style. Who wants to associate with overweight white men who waddle from event to event, and who have the social skills of a bad middle school computer teacher? Why not convert to the up-and-coming, multi-cultural, dual-sex, gay and straight party?

The Democrats have done what advertising has done for Apple, Volkswagen, and MTV—appeal to the image-conscious youthful America.

The Dems have their poster children on display, trumpeting the herald of change and political dynamics. There's the new, fresh face of Barack Obama, who has just released another book, *The Audacity of Hope*, which is destined to be a NY Times Bestseller. He just

announced his consideration to run for the 2008 Presidential ticket. He just turned 45.

There's Sen. Clinton, perched in the hot zone of New York, defecting scandals and repeated bombardments by the GOP, and is gaining momentum. She displays a manner of confidence and resolution. She is the proverbial powerful woman in charge—a threat to the era of concealed sexism.

The Republican Party looks like a criminal lineup in the media spotlight. George Bush hasn't had anything nice said about him since he vowed to avenge the 9/11 atrocities. Cheney looks like a mafia tycoon, a sneer on half of his newspaper mug shots. Foley is blaming his pedophilic nature on another pederast priest. Hastert slumps back in his cushioned chair, wipes sweat off of his bloated body, and says that he will not resign in the wakes of the Foley scandal.

The trend? The Democratic Party features a man who was born to a "black as pitch" father from Kenya, and a "white as milk" mother from the Midwest in an era of miscegenation that saw their union as illegal in half of the United States (according to his book, *Dreams of My Father*). Obama grew up in Honolulu, the most diverse melting pot in the U.S. aside from New York City. He went to Africa, and negotiated the

release of a journalist held in jail. He visited the prison of Nelson Mandela. He is smart, crisp, well spoken, and is the epitome of every youth born into a society that threatens to hold them down. Then there is the woman who carries on humanitarian work, emboldens the strength of character of women who have been oppressed. She faced her husband's sexual affronts, and came out on top by running for the Senate and winning. The lasting joke of Hilary as the President and Bill as the First Lady carries on today with her endeavors.

There is no denying that the GOP has a legion of politicians who have tirelessly worked to serve the voice of the people. But who are they? Is the media to blame for the imagery, or are the actions of a few serving to tarnish the reputation of the many?

Compare George W. Bush to Barack Obama. Bush speaks with a heavy Texas accent, gets mad at the press when being grilled over relatively soft questions in the Rose Garden. He is plagued by the Iraqi War, and has recently met with his Cabinet to discuss new options for the conflict. He consistently stands up for his embattled staff, and projects an aura of domination and the threat of little or no negotiation. Obama is quiet and reserved; he speaks eloquently, and does little or nothing to lend

him the title of provocateur. He endures slander, and continues to work hard. He has the air of athleticism, and the demeanor of hope.

The public doesn't know either of them personally, with the exception of a minute fraction. But the public is friends with the media, and the media hangs out with Bush and Obama every day of their waking lives. Having a left-leaning media lends advantages to the Democratic Party, but is this fair?

In the era of the modifying Republicans, new questions have risen. There is no disputing that there are prominent, powerful, gay Republicans. There is no question that there are atheists, pro-choice advocates, and gun control hopefuls among their ranks, but the party chooses to ignore them. On the contrary, the Democratic Party is all about change. They are embracing the views of the people who want to be represented by someone who is an embodiment of themselves.

In an ideal world, the politicians would directly represent the census and facts of the people. If that were the case, considering there are 106 Senators and 449 seats in Congress (total: 555) in the United States, then:

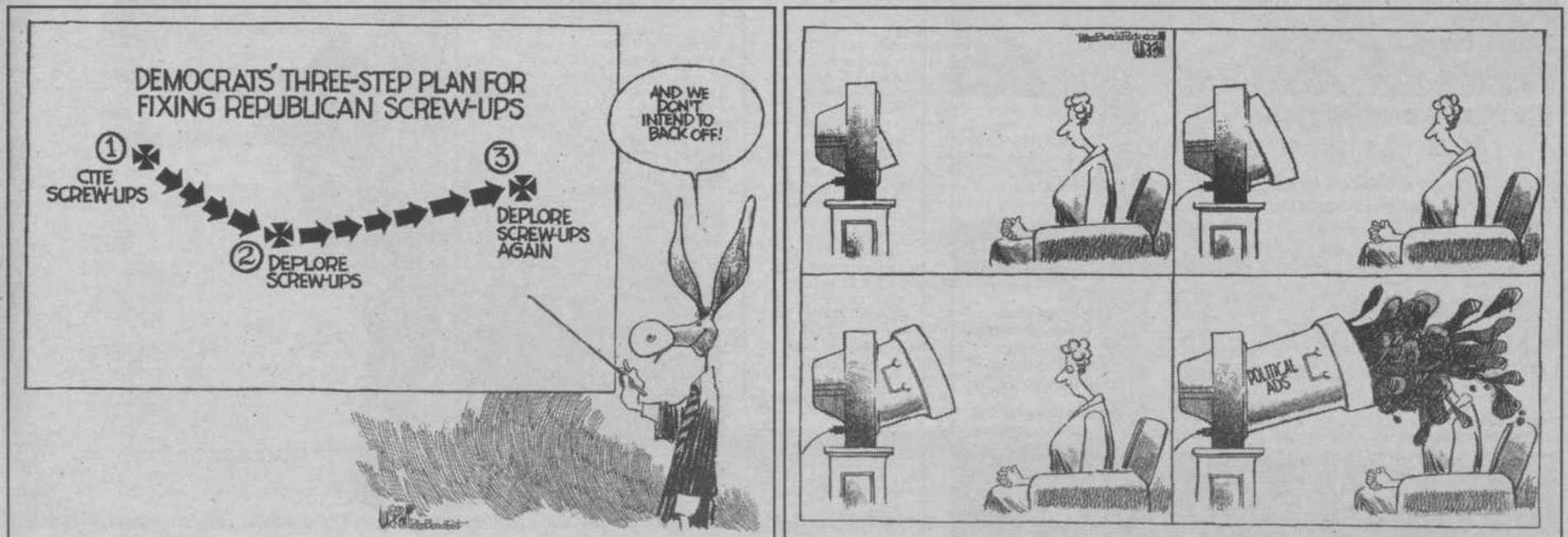
- 58 would be impoverished
- 272 would be women
- 417 would be 18-64 years old
- 148 would be senior citizens

- 421 would be White/Caucasian
- 41 would be Black/African-American
- 5 would be Native American or Aleutian
- 27 would be Asian-American
- 6 would be Pacific Islander
- 5 would be of Arabic descent
- 50 would be Latino
- 60 would not occupy a residence
- 370 would own a home
- 185 would rent
- 88 would be high school dropouts
- 142 would have collegiate degrees
- 107 would be disabled in some form
- 83 would be foreign-born
- 303 would be married
- 139 would speak another language in addition to English
- 59 would have served our country in the military

Republican or Democrat or third party, we know this is not the case. But then again, this is not an ideal world.

Are the Democrats, with their broader selection of candidates, finally succeeding in their goal of turning the House and Senate back in their favor? Is the media helping to accomplish this goal?

We will have to wait until November 7th. Until then, here's hoping for a more equal world no matter the political affiliation.



Community

Online gambling

PROSPECTUS — THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2006 — PAGE 7

By KASIE NETTE
Contributing Writer

Attempts to ban online gambling have not only failed, they've caused more problems than they've solved and college students, who spend endless leisure hours betting, are not too pleased with the efforts of the government.

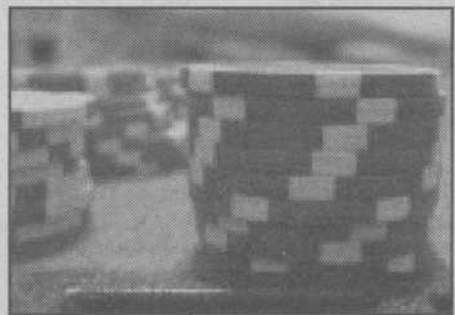
Since the government has banned the "bet taking" side of online gaming, gambling proprietors have simply set up shop in countries where gambling is legal. That keeps them out of reach of U.S. laws, but thanks to the Internet, it's still well within the reach of U.S. customers. That makes the people who play these sites highly susceptible to fraud, with no recourse in U.S. courts should they be bilked out of their money.

For now, the "bet placing" side of Internet gambling is still legal (there's some debate on this point, but most experts agree that the government can't and won't arrest you for placing a bet from your computer). Which is why, despite that it's illegal, Americans still wager billions of dollars online.

College students, who often bet, express their opinions on the subject matter. Derek Iversen, 21-year-old savvy online poker player had this to say when asked what he thought about the ban: "It will be difficult for the government to completely wipe

out access to internet gambling because many companies are based in off-shore locations outside U.S. jurisdiction."

21-year-old frequent online gambler Darrin Weathersby says, "as an advocate of complete, hands-off capitalism, I support the right for people to use their money in any way they choose (be it investing in stocks, buying a big screen TV, or gam-



bling with it). The government's duty is not to take these property rights away, but precisely the opposite; to protect them."

The government is also worried about children posing as adults to gamble and developing an addiction to gambling. Researchers found that when things such as gambling and drinking start at an early age so does addiction.

When asked thoughts on whether or not children gambling is a problem and/or could lead to addiction Iversen replies, "The internet has provided the world a way to bend laws gov-

erning gambling. Children can pose as adults and gamble with credit/debit cards. Gambling at a young age encourages the development of bad money management

Habits and I think gambling addiction is very closely related to how early in childhood a person begins gambling. Many gambling sites promote attractive offers like deposit bonuses as a way to draw in new, young customers."

Weathersby says, "well, since minors are (I think) are not financially liable for certain things (causing them to not be able to take out loans, sign-up for credit cards, etc.), this should probably exclude them from online gambling as it does from on-land

gambling. But, I think this is already taken care of since one needs a credit card or financial institution to transfer money on to a gambling site."

A couple of useful statistics to show money matters on the subject are as follows:

- \$6.5 billion: The amount wiped off the value of online gambling shares on Monday after the U.S. Congress passed legislation to ban Internet gaming there.
- \$12 billion: The estimated worldwide revenue from gambling online in 2005, according to a recent report by industry

analysts Christiansen Capital Advisors. They also predicted the market will double in five years.

- 78: The percentage of revenue earned by UK-based gambling firm PartyGaming Plc, which runs the leading Internet poker site PartyPoker.com, currently generated from the U.S.

- 19 million: The number of customers who use PartyGaming, spending nearly \$4 million a day. Shares in the company fell 58 percent Monday.

- \$3.2bn: The estimated wealth of PartyGaming founder Anurag Dikshit, according to the Sunday Times Rich List.

- 1,700: The estimated number of gambling Web sites.

- 2.3: The percentage of people estimated to suffer from gambling addiction in Australia—the highest figure in the world.

These numbers and thoughts from frequent Internet gamblers show how serious and popular internet gambling has become.

Iversen left the interview with this to say: "The ability to gamble electronically creates an illusion of being disconnected from the money won or lost. It is a lot easier to click a mouse and bet \$100 on a football game than to physically hand the money over to a bookie, which is why so much money is spent on internet gambling. I still think it's fun."

AmerenIP

By KASIE NETTE
Contributing Writer

College students are always worried about paying their bills, but the possible increase of Ameren IP rates has heightened that concern. The preliminary average increase will be about \$13 a month or 22% and will go into effect in the New Year. Rates in the AmerenIP and Ameren CIPS territories – which include Champaign-Urbana, Danville, and most surrounding communities – will increase 40 percent, to about \$90 a month or \$1,080 a year for the average consumer.

"Just when I thought my \$110 dollar power bill was too high, Ameren raises their rates. For once, the phrase 'I appreciate my hundred dollar power bill' came out of my mouth" said Parkland College nursing student Whitney Close.

Senior at the University of Illinois Lauren Swanson said, "Ameren increasing their rate is ridiculous. I realize that gas rates have increased in the past, but they have gone down recently, so Ameren's new rates are unnecessary. Especially since Ameren estimates usage when it is entirely possible that the air or heat wasn't on at all that month."

So how will students make up for this increase? Ameren customer and college student Derek Iversen said, "It's worth it to buy efficient appliances that may cost more because in the long run people will end up paying less." Other students may decide to cut down on using certain appliances in hopes that their bills will not drastically change. Ameren customer Morgan Hartigan said, "I may not be able to afford to blow dry or straighten my hair everyday. I'll just let it air dry and I will make sure my television is off while I am not watching it."

Although plenty of customers are worried there is not much anyone can do. Unless the rate increase is blocked by the courts or modified by the Legislature, the new rates will go into effect Jan. 2, 2007. They represent the first increase in most residential electric rates since 1997.

Scott Cisel, president of Ameren's Illinois-based utilities, said, "we are searching for an approach to soften the impact of these increases while allowing us to safely and reliably deliver electricity and recover costs in a timely manner."

20th Annual Food For Families Drive To Get Underway

URBANA, IL. — The Eastern Illinois Foodbank's 20th Annual Food For Families Drive will be kicking off at Urbana's Market at the Square at 10 AM on Saturday, October 28, 2006 and will run through Saturday, November 11, 2006.

Food For Families is the largest food-and-fundraiser of the year for the Foodbank, which, through its 180 agencies and programs, serves 31,000 people per month in its 14-county service area. EIF hopes to raise \$60,000 in funds and 185,000 pounds of food during the drive. "Food For Families is not only a signature event for us but our annual opportunity to connect with the many people in our area who care about hunger and poverty," said EIF Executive Director Jim Hires. "The response from the community is always tremendous."

The Foodbank became involved with the drive at its inception in 1986, working with the Junior League of Champaign-Urbana. EIF took over operation of Food For Families in 1996. Over three million pounds of

food have been collected over 20 years for Food For Families via a network of collection sites at schools, grocery stores, participating local businesses and places of worship, and the Foodbank itself.

This year, Food For Families food collection sites will include 34 area schools, 11 area grocery stores, many businesses and places of worship, and several departments and organizations on the University of Illinois campus.

Each location decides how they will attract food donations – some schools have friendly competitions between classrooms or grades, for example – and the Foodbank picks up donations on request or at the end of the Drive. All food donations go to people in need throughout the Foodbank's 14-county service area.

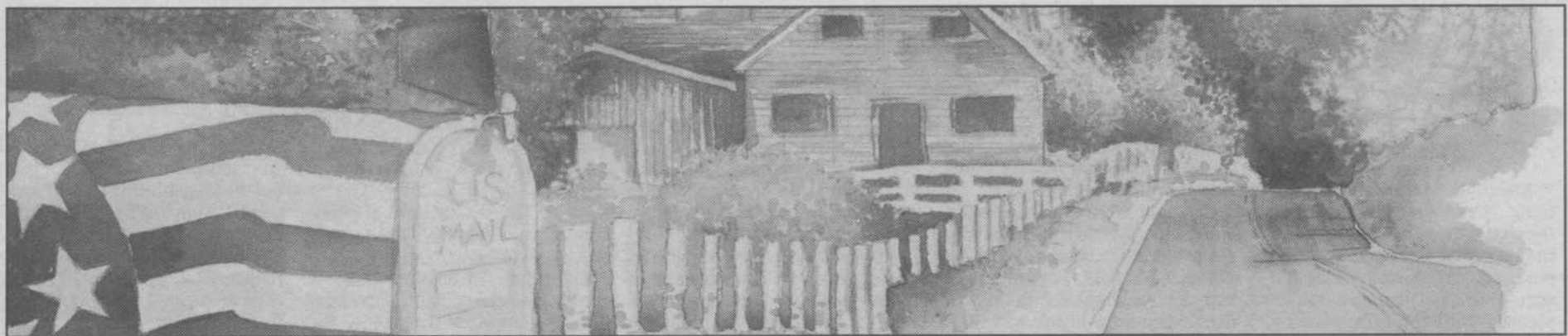
Financial donations are also a crucial component of Food For Families – for every dollar donated, the Foodbank can secure ten dollars' worth of food. Financial donations for Food For Families may be made online at

www.eifoodbank.org, over the telephone at (217) 328-3663, or they may be sent directly to the Foodbank at 2405 North Shore Dr., Urbana, IL 61802.

Eastern Illinois Foodbank (EIF) opened in 1983 as an invaluable resource to non-profit community food programs in 14 counties that feed food insecure individuals and households, elders, and children. EIF distributes over 5 million pounds of food annually to emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, residential facilities and youth snack programs.

For every \$1 donated, EIF can acquire \$10 worth of grocery products for households in need. By partnering with Eastern Illinois Food Bank, a member of America's Second Harvest – America's Food Bank Network, member agencies save millions of dollars in food purchasing and handling costs, thereby more effectively working to alleviate hunger in our area.

Please call (217) 328-3663 or visit www.eifoodbank.org for more information.



PCTV Program Guide NOVEMBER 2006



**WEDNESDAY, November 1, 8,
15, 22, 29**

12 a.m. — Classic Arts Showcase
2 a.m. — Parkland Announcements and WPCD Radio
8 a.m. — Parkland Community Forum, from the Archives Women Making History, Pt. 1, Helen Satterthwaite, Vickie Stewart, Jeanette Goins Osler
8:30 p.m. — Women Making History, Pt. 2, Mary Lee Sargent, Tamara Youngerman, Jet-tie Rhodes
9 p.m. — Parkland Community Forum, from the Archives Illinois PTA, 100 Years
10 a.m. — Parkland Telecourse, Psychology 101
12 p.m. — Cooking Around the World: Greek
12:30 p.m. — Parkland Voice: Creating Significant Learning
1 p.m. — News Parents Can Use: Back to School, American Competitiveness, U.S. D.O.E
2 p.m. — Nutrition Mission, Protein and Vegetarian Diets
2:30 p.m. — Nutrition Mission, Vitamins
3 p.m. — Accounting Tele course
4 p.m. — Voices & Visions, Marianne Moore
5 p.m. — Parkland Announcements, WPCD radio
5:30 p.m. — Cooking Around the World: Caribbean
6 p.m. — Parkland Threads: Connecting Community
6:30 p.m. — Parkland Report: International Education

7 p.m. — Surrounded By Science: Veterinary Medicine/Technology
7:30 p.m. — Parkland Voice: Community Service
8 p.m. — Parkland Report: International Education
8:30 p.m. — TBA
9 p.m. — Parkland Challenge: H.S. Quiz Bowl 2006; Blue Ridge v Unity
9:30 p.m. — St. Thomas More v Monticello
10 p.m. — Surrounded By Science: Flatlands of Illinois
11:12 p.m. — Classic Arts Showcase

**THURSDAY, November 2, 9,
16, 23, 30**

12 a.m. — Classic Arts Showcase
2 a.m. — Parkland Announcements/WPCD radio
8 a.m. — Psychology Tele course
10 a.m. — Parkland Threads: Community Connections
10:30 p.m. — Cooking Around the World: Greek
11 a.m. — Parkland Report: International Education
11:30 a.m. — Surrounded By Science: Vet. Med. & Vet. Tech.
12 p.m. — Accounting Tele course
1 p.m. — Gender & Power in Relationships, Phi Theta Kappa Honors Seminar Series
2 p.m. — Classic Arts Showcase
4 p.m. — Parkland Challenge: H.S. Quiz Bowl 2006
Blue Ridge v Unity
4:30 p.m. — St. Thomas More v Monticello
5 p.m. — Parkland Announcements/WPCD radio
5:30 p.m. — Parkland Voice: Center for Academic Success
6 p.m. — For Arts Sake: Ceramics Invitational 2006
6:30 p.m. — Live & Learn: Community Education
7 p.m. — Cooking Around the World: Greek
7:30 p.m. — Parkland Voice: Creating Significant Learning
8 p.m. — Parkland Challenge: High School Quiz Bowl 2006;

Blue Ridge v Unity
8:30 p.m. — St. Thomas More v Monticello
9 p.m. — Parkland Threads: Community Connections
9:30 p.m. — Surrounded By Science: Vet. Med. & Technology
10 p.m. — Parkland Voice: Creating Significant Learning
11 p.m. — Classic Arts Showcase

**FRIDAY, November 3, 10, 17,
24**

12 a.m. — Classic Arts Showcase
2 p.m. — Parkland Announcements/WPCD radio
8 a.m. — Accounting Tele-course
9 a.m. — Parkland Voice: Creating Significant Learning
9:30 a.m. — Classic Arts Showcase
2:30 p.m. — Parkland Voice: Community Service
3 p.m. — Psychology Tele course
5 p.m. — Parkland Announcements/WPCD radio
5:30 p.m. — Cooking Around the World: Italian
6 p.m. — Nutrition Mission: Protein and Vegetarian Diets
6:30 p.m. — Nutrition Mission: Vitamins
7 p.m. — Classic Arts Showcase

**SATURDAY, November 4, 11,
18, 25**

12 a.m. — Classic Arts Showcase
2 a.m. — Parkland Announcements/WPCD radio
8 a.m. — Accounting Tele course
9 a.m. — Psychology Tele course
11 a.m. — Cooking Around the World: Greek
11:30 a.m. — Parkland Report: International Education
12 p.m. — Classic Arts Showcase

**SUNDAY, November 5, 12, 19,
26**

12 a.m. — Classic Arts Showcase
2 a.m. — Parkland Announcements/WPCD radio
8 a.m. — Classic Arts Showcase
5 p.m. — Parkland Announcements/WPCD radio
5:30 p.m. — Parkland Voice: Community Service
6 p.m. — Parkland Challenge: H.S. Quiz Bowl 2006; Blue Ridge v Unity
6:30 p.m. — St. Thomas More v Monticello
7 p.m. — Cooking Around the World: Greek
7:30 p.m. — Parkland Voice: Creating Significant Learning
8 p.m. — Parkland Report: International Education
8:30 p.m. — For Arts Sake: Ceramic Invitational 2006
9 p.m. — Parkland Threads: Connecting Community
9:30 p.m. — Surrounded By Science: Vet. Med. & Tech.
10 p.m. — Classic Arts Showcase

**MONDAY, November 5, 12, 19,
26**

12 a.m. — Classic Arts Showcase
2 a.m. — Parkland Announcements
8 a.m. — Classic Arts Showcase
12 p.m. — Psychology Tele course
2 p.m. — Cooking Around the World: Caribbean
2:30 p.m. — Parkland Voice: Creating Significant Learning
3 p.m. — Parkland Threads: Connecting Community
3:30 p.m. — Surrounded By Science: Vet. Med. & Tech.
4 p.m. — Accounting Tele course
5 p.m. — Parkland Announcements/WPCD radio
5:30 p.m. — Cooking Around the World: Greek
6 p.m. — Surrounded By Science: The Periodic Table
7 p.m. — Cooking Around the World: Caribbean
7:30 p.m. — Parkland Voice: Community Service
8 p.m. — Parkland Commu-

nity Forum, from the Archives Local Black History: This Legacy is Yours, Pt. 1
Cheryl Kennedy, Ruthie Hillsman, Doris Hoskins
9 p.m. — This Legacy is Yours, Pt. 2
Doris Hoskins, Kathryn Humphrey, Patricia Lewis
10 p.m. — Seeing Thru the Eyes of Boys, part 1 Apples Video Magazine
10:30 p.m. — Seeing Thru the Eyes of Boys, part 2 Apples Video Magazine
11 p.m. — Classic Arts Showcase

**TUESDAY, November 7, 14, 21,
28**

12 a.m. — Classic Arts Showcase
2 a.m. — Parkland Announcements/WPCD radio
8 a.m. — Accounting Tele course
9 a.m. — Psychology Tele course
11 a.m. — Cooking Around the World: Greek
11:30 p.m. — Parkland Report: International Education
12 p.m. — Parkland Announcements/WPCD radio
12:30 p.m. — Classic Arts Showcase
5 p.m. — Bulletin Board/WPCD
5:30 p.m. — Parkland Voice: Creating Significant Learning
6 p.m. — Guten Tag: Beginning German
7 p.m. — Cooking Around the World: BBQ
7:30 p.m. — Parkland Voice: Center for Academic Success
8 p.m. — Parkland Community Forum, from the Archives Courts at Work: Judge Jeffrey Ford
8:30 p.m. — Courts at Work: Judge John De LaMar
9 p.m. — Courts at Work: Judge J.G. Townsend
9:30 p.m. — Courts at Work: Judge Donald Parkinson
10 p.m. — Phi Theta Kappa Honor Seminar Series, 2006
Gender & Power in Relationships

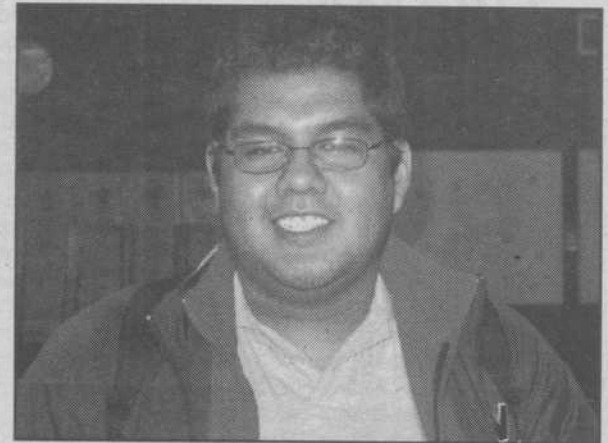
Election Day

PROSPECTUS — THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2006 — PAGE 9



"[I'm] surprised to see more parties like Green Party candidates. I don't think that two parties represent people's opinions."

Jack Cogswell



"I don't know who the candidates are. I don't really have a TV. I am very interested in getting involved...in exercising my civic duty."

Marcos Avila



"[The election] is important. I think we miss a great opportunity when we don't vote in elections."

Jan Savey



"How come they haven't been shopping around? I didn't know anything about the elections."

Jeremy Young



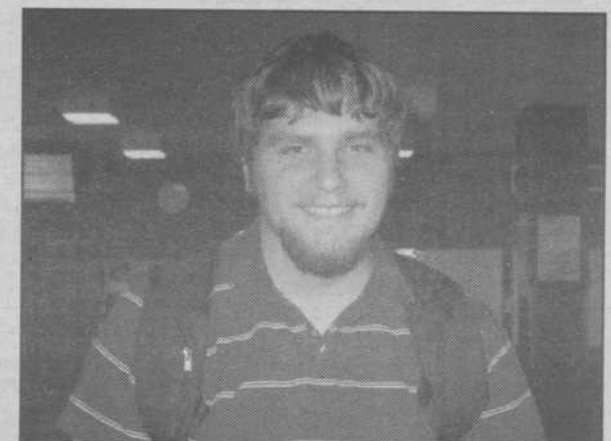
"I just moved here two months ago from Michigan. I was raised a 'dyed-in-the-wool' Democrat. I'm open-minded to other perspectives."

Jenni Sage



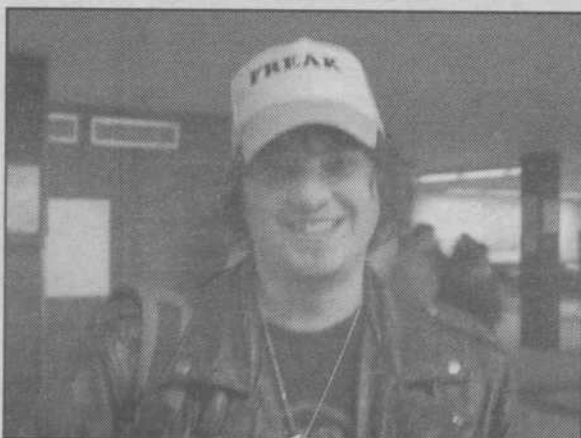
"I'm not registered. I haven't really had time."

Shanella Parker



"Everybody has a right to vote...to be there [regarding the exclusion of the Green Party]."

Zach Glascock



"I like [Ralph] Nader. I say the guy has been running since Carter, so give him a chance."

John Schall

OBAMA

continued from page 1

speculation that the Democratic contest could feature both Obama and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, considered the leading candidate at the moment.

He was not clear when he would make the decision, but it is likely that it would have to come late this year or early next year. Obama is wrestling with whether his time is now or in the future. Increasingly, many friends, including Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., have counseled him that he should not pass up the opportunity when he enjoys such a high and positive national political profile.

Pollster Andrew Kohut of Pew Research Center said the Illinois senator would be an "exciting and very attractive candidate" if he decides to run. He said Obama is a fresh face on the national political stage, although he remains an "untested commodity. His biggest liability is a lack of experience." Questions also could likely be raised about his electability because of his race, Kohut added.

Kohut compared Obama with former Secretary of State Colin Powell, who enjoyed high popularity in 1996 but decided against running. The difference, however, was that Pow-

ell had a long record of distinguished service and "he was not an unknown commodity."

Democratic political consultant Mark Mellman said that with Obama in the race, "It would make it even more interesting and exciting than it was going to be. ... There are a lot of people in a good position to win. The most important thing is that this is a nomination worth having."

Analysts in recent days have cited the grueling nature of the campaign and its possible effect on his family. They have said the senator does not have the kind of political and foreign policy seasoning that many of the other candidates have, though Obama is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Obama said that President Bush gave him good advice when he urged the senator to "watch yourself" as "everybody will be waiting for you to slip"—a conversation described in his book.

The senator added, "I think that it is important not to buy

into your own hype or your press clippings, and one of the advantages I have, I think, is that I've got a wife who knocks me down a peg anytime I start thinking that what they're writing about me is true."

But he also pointedly challenged the president in his book, saying that Bush had developed an almost "messianic certainty" about his point of view.

if I ever did decide to run, I'm confident that I'd be run through the paces pretty good, including on 'Meet the Press.'"

Illinois politicians, led by Durbin, praised the senator's willingness to consider a run for the presidency. Durbin, who has spent the better part of a year telling audiences why he believes Obama would make a good president, said that he was

thrilled to hear Obama's remarks.

"I am glad he's made this public statement, as an opportunity like this comes around once in a political lifetime," Durbin said.

Believing 2008 is the right time for Obama, Durbin said he's had many friends put off a run, planning to run the next time. "And the next time never comes," he said.

Asked if he thought Illinois voters would be upset at Obama for not completing his Senate term, Durbin said he did not.

"This is such a high honor to be considered for the highest office in the land, and I think Illinois voters will support him if he chooses to run," he said.

State Comptroller Dan Hynes,

who ran against Obama in the 2004 Democratic senatorial primary, said he was "pleasantly surprised" by the senator's statement and added, "I think it is the right time."

"I think that with the fever pitch that he's in, he has no choice but to consider it," Hynes said.

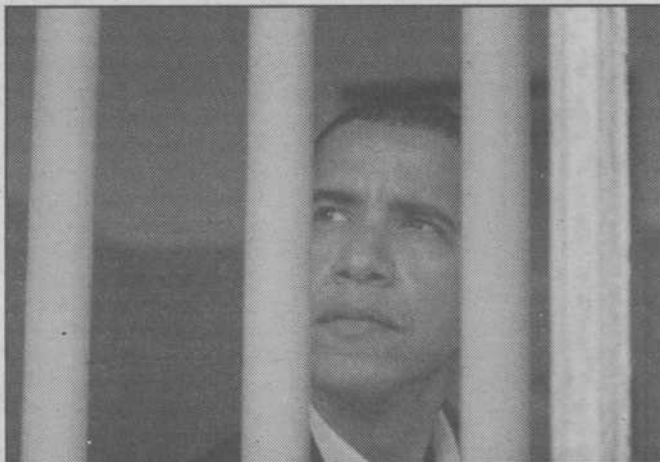
Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich said he will support Obama if he runs for president but cautioned that a switch from the legislative branch to the executive is not one that should be taken lightly.

"He has to make that decision for himself and I would imagine he'll spend a lot of time consulting with his wife, with his family before making a decision like that. But if he were to do something like that I'd be eager to help him," Blagojevich said.

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., added his support, saying, "the first rule of politics is to keep your options open. Our senator has a lot to bring to the public debate and obviously it'll be a tremendous amount of excitement if he does decide to run."

By leaving the door open Sunday, Jackson said, Obama infused "some energy into the process."

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— Visit the Chicago Tribune on the Internet at <http://www.chicagotribune.com>



When asked if he was ready to be president, Obama said, "Well, I'm not sure anybody is ready to be president before they're president. You know, ultimately, I trust the judgment of the American people that in any election they sort it through. We have a long and rigorous process, and, you know, should I decide to run,

VOTE

continued from page 1

So, a concern is that the Voter's Guide happening might have blown a chance for the County Board calling for more and more registration of those non-registered. The study of Census Bureau, if not local, depicts the recent situation of U.S. politics, proving that there is a respectable correlation between registration rates and turnout rates. "The [voting] rate for citizens 55 and older was 72 percent in the election of 2004, compared with 47 percent among 18- to 24-year-old citizen...[A] key difference between these groups was registration. While 79 percent of citizens 55 years and older were registered to vote in 2004, 58 of younger citizens were." (*Voting and Registration of the Election 2004*).

The study also attributes the gap between these different generations in registration rate to the fact that those at age twenties are the most transient and thus are most frequently required to get re-registered. Welcoming new Parkland and U of I students from all over the nation, it must be a struggle but chance for Champaign County to expand voting population by appealing

toward the young. "I am not sure if I go to vote for this election because I have not done any research on the candidates yet. If I can get enough information to tell about that, I will," says Ray Bey, a Parkland student who lives in Urbana. He has not yet received the Voter's Guide that shows, if not all, contact information of the candidates including their telephone number and e-mail address.

It's not that there is no hope for the county politics. As a matter of fact, the youngest-ever hopeful, Anna Lempart, instead of voting for someone else, actually won last year's consolidated election and got a seat of the Regional Board of School Trustee. Studying politics at U of I, nothing but her "interest" on politics was just enough incentive for her to run for the position.

In addition, the county's "effort to make voting more accessible to every voter" fully welcomes voters with disability. Since General Election

held last March, AutoMark Voter Assistance Terminal, newly introduced voting system featuring touch screen



technology was installed to improve voting accessibility for people with special physical needs.

Still, numerical comparison between 2004 Presidential Election and 2005 Champaign County Consolidated Election could tell all about the unpleasant, and more importantly, unknown reality; according to the official website of Champaign County, the voter turnout percentage in Champaign County, 69% in 2004 election, only scarcely got over 20% in 2005 County Election. "There are many young people who even do not know that we will have an election in November," said Lempart.

In any case, how the tide could change, with a young hopeful, new voting device, and lately-delivered Voter's Guide, will be clear in November.

**Voter's
Guide on
page 12**



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Mark V. Sheldon (R)
 2908 S. Myra Ridge Drive, Urbana 61802
 Phone: 217-344-1484

Sheriff (Vote up to 1)
Dan Walsh (R)
 2067 County Rd 1250 N, St Joseph 61873

County Treasurer (Vote up to 1)
Daniel J. Welch (R)
 2710 Woodridge Rd, Champaign 61822
 Phone: 217-352-7375

County Board Member District 1 (Vote up to 1)
Bob Marrison (D)
 203 W. Main St, Mahomet 61853
 Phone: 217-586-4730
Chris A. Doentiz (R)
 125 County Rd 2300 N, Mahomet 61853
 Phone: 217-202-1910

County Board Member District 2 (Vote up to 2)
Stan James (R)
 1310 E County Rd 2900 N, Rantoul 61866
Kevin Hunt (R)
 1501 Kenneth Dr, Rantoul 61866
 Phone: 217-893-9011

County Board Member District 3 (Vote up to 2)
Mary Ann Midden (D)
 2103 Rodney Dr, Champaign 61821
 Phone: 217-398-8655
Brad Jones (R)
 3105 Amy Dr, Champaign 61822
 Phone: 217-359-2541
Jonathan Schroeder (R)
 684 County Rd 400 N, Sadorus 61872
 Phone: 217-598-2327

County Board Member District 4 (Vote up to 2)
Michael Talkington (D)
 208 N Scarborough, Sidney 61877
 Phone: 217-688-3116
Brad Diel (D)
 925 County Rd 900 E, Champaign 61822
 Phone: 217-841-2822
Steve Moser (R)
 1860 County Rd 1400 N, Urbana 61802
Greg Knott (R)
 1377 Knott Rd 2275 E, St Joseph 61873

County Board Member District 5 (Vote up to 1)
Lorraine Cowart (D)
 601 E Bradley, Champaign 61820
 217-355-9042
Arthur J. Westle (R)
 2116 Ransom Pl, Urbana 61801
 217-337-5256

County Board Member District 6 (Vote up to 2)
Tony Fabri (D)
 308 N. Edwin St, Champaign 61821
Matthew Gladney (D)
 508 S Edwin St, Champaign 61821
 217-355-1277
Bruce Ratcliffe (R)
 1200 West Union, Champaign 61821
Beckie Heller (R)
 1101 Hollycrest Dr, Champaign 61821

County Board Member District 7 (Vote up to 1)
Kostas Yfantis (G)
 2001 A Three Hierarchs Ct, Champaign 61820
 Phone: 217-840-6780
Carrie Melin (D)
 713 Arlington Ct, Champaign 61820
Mark Randall (R)
 807 Ayrshire Dr, Champaign 61820
 Phone: 217-356-7173

County Board Member District 8 (Vote up to 2)
Joe Futrelle (G)
 1205 S. Race St, Urbana 61801
 Phone: 217-328-7853
Thomas E. Betz (D)
 707 W. Oregon, Urbana 61801
 Phone: 217-328-5419
Ralph L. Langenheim (D)
 401 W Vermont, Urbana 61801
 Phone: 217-344-5285

County Board Member District 9 (Vote up to 2)
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 408 S. Anderson St, Urbana 61801
Steve Beckett (D)
 1794 Aero Place, Urbana 61802
 Phone: 217-328-0263
Barbara Wysocki (D)
 108 W Holmes, Urbana 61801
 Phone: 217-369-5014
John J. Farney (R)
 2504 E. Florida Ave, Urbana 61802
 Phone: 217-637-5468
Stu Moment (R)
 1786 Aero Pl, Urbana 61802
 Phone: 217-367-0288

Champaign Ford Regional Office of Education; Superintendent (Vote up to 1)
Jane E. Quinlan (R)
 2317 Milan Ct, Champaign 61822
 P.O. No. 35
 Phone: 217-840-8722

Macon Piatt Regional Office of Education; Superintendent (Vote up to 1)
Richard "Dick" Shelby (R)
 6402 Birchwood Lane, Decatur 62521

Clark Coles Cumberland Douglas Edgar Moultrie Shelby Regional Office of Education; Superintendent (Vote up to 1)
John McNary (D)
 116 Allenwood Drive, Paris 61944
 Phone: 217-465-5419

Voter opinion in battleground states

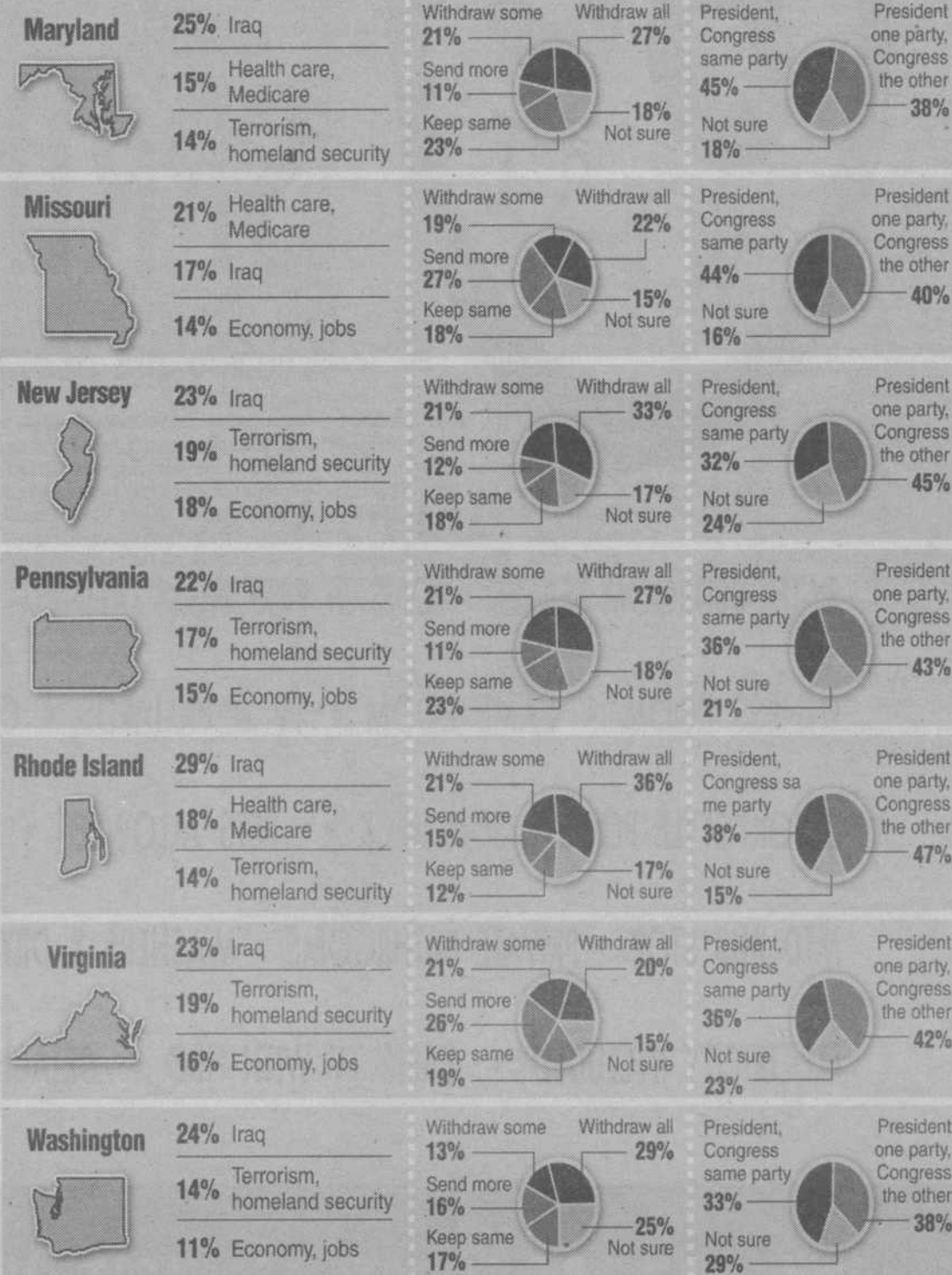
How likely voters weigh in on issues affecting the mid-term election:



TOP ISSUES
 that will determine your vote for Senate

IRAQ
 What should the U.S. do with troop levels?

PARTY CONTROL
 Which is better for the country?



Note: Some answers do not total 100% because not all responses are shown

© 2006 MCT
 Source: McClatchy/MSNBC poll of 625 likely voters in each state, Sept. 22-28, 2006; margin of error: +/- 4 percentage points

Graphic: Lee Hulteng, Judy Treible



Weather Forecast

Thursday Night: Rain likely. Cloudy, with a low around 43. East southeast wind between 10 and 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Friday: Rain likely. Cloudy, with a high near 49. East northeast wind between 11 and 16 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37. North northwest wind between 11 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 55.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 60.

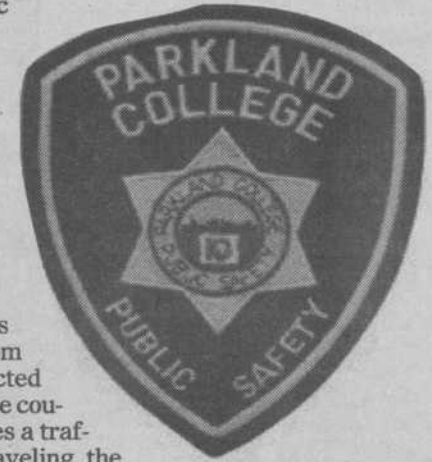
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 59.

Did you know that safety is everyone's business?

To err is human, but everyone must realize that traffic crashes happen. That is why they are commonly called accidents. Increased reaction time, manageable vehicle speed, and the ability to control the vehicle are the main ways to reduce the possibility of a crash. Everyone's reaction time is different and varies for many reasons. A person's age, physical health, fitness level, and the influence of drugs or alcohol are all things that can affect your reaction time. People who are in good health (mentally and physically) have a better reaction time than those who don't; thus they are generally better drivers due to their ability to multi-task.

Studies show that if a driver is expecting to stop it takes the average driver 0.7 seconds to remove their foot from the accelerator and depress the brake. In an unexpected stop the reaction time is elevated to 1.5 seconds. This time coupled with the speed of the vehicle is what actually causes a traffic crash. Remember, for every mile an hour you are traveling, the greater distance it is to stop since brakes work on the basis of friction. For example, if you were driving 55 mph on a clear dry day it would take you almost 280 feet before you completely stopped. Obviously, these are ideal driving conditions but this explains the idea to have enough distance between you and the vehicle in front of you. Additionally you should always be alert and aware of your surroundings when driving and watch for pedestrians or road hazards. Remember to buckle up and stay safe.



ON OCTOBER 10, REPUBLICAN SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE DENNIS HASTER HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE... IN A CEMETERY... EVERYONE IS WONDERING... IS THIS A FORESHADOWING... OR A STRANGE KIND OF IRONY... OR THE SUBCONSCIOUS MIND AT WORK... OR A CREEPY METAPHOR... OR...



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SCHMETAPHORS!
I SAY SOMETIMES
CHRISTMAS JUST
COMES EARLY FOR
CARTOONISTS!

Classified

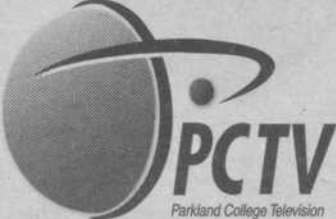
PROSPECTUS
Thursday, October 28, 2006 — Page 14

■ Apartments


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CrimeStoppers seeks assistance

This week, CrimeStoppers and the Champaign Police Department are seeking information regarding an armed robbery that occurred on September 24 at approximately 1:50 a.m. in the 200 block of West Columbia Avenue.

A male and female were robbed at gunpoint by three black males. The black males, described as being approximately 20 years

of age, were dressed in black or dark clothing, and two were wearing black masks. All three



were armed with weapons.

Champaign Police investigators are requesting any information you may have about this crime. If you

have any information, please call CrimeStoppers at 373-TIPS. The information you provide is confidential. You do not have to give your name or appear in court. CrimeStoppers will pay a reward if the information

you provide leads to an arrest for this crime. Cash rewards are also paid for information on other felony crimes or fugitives in the Champaign County area.

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Daytime Phone _____	
E-mail (opt.) _____	
# of words _____	
Dates to run _____	

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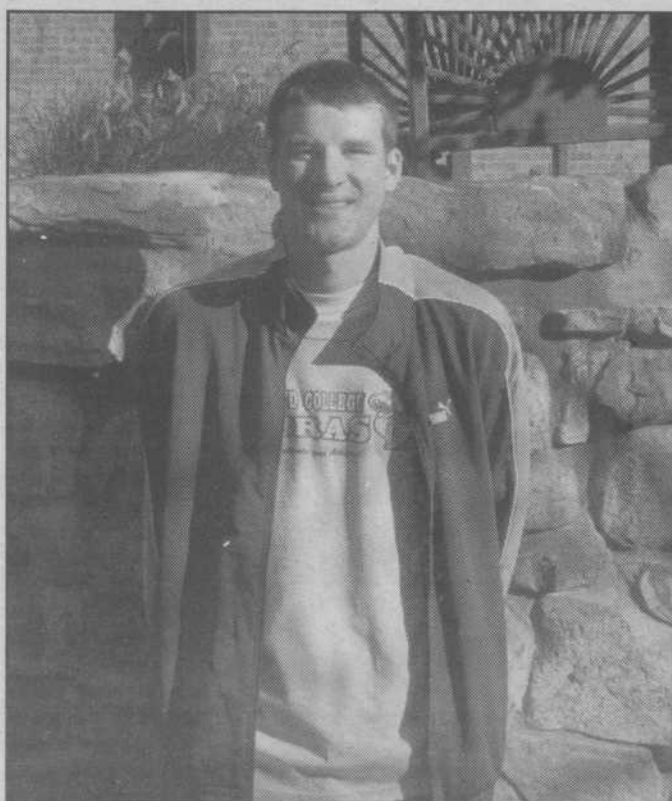
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- Ads cannot be canceled after the above deadline.

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Any questions can be directed to Kate Kaput, Business and Advertising Manager for the Prospectus at 217-373-3876.



Parkland Golf team ace David Sebestik.



Member of the Busch Stadium grounds crew cover the field cause of rain before the start of Game 4 of the World Series between Detroit Tigers and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Robert Cohen/ St. Louis Post-Dispatch (MCT)

Parkland Golf shows improvement until the end

By ERIK PHEIFER

Prospectus Staff Writer

The Parkland College Golf Team competed at the Region 24 tourney October 14th through the 16th with a trip to Nationals on the line. The tourney was held at Lock Haven Country Club in Alton. After three tense days of competition, the Cobras narrowly missed finishing in the top two by a mere two strokes and ended up fourth overall.

The tourney consisted of five-person teams with the top four scores each day counting for the team score. The overall strength of the team really showed since each day a different golfer had the highest and lowest scores. The Parkland team consisted of David Sebestik, Tim Walters, Matt Koester, Cameron Heino, and Tad Lidy.

Following the first two days of competition, the Cobras found themselves in a nine shot deficit for second place heading into Monday. Monday's round was plagued by rain, wind, and cold from start to end. Despite the conditions, the Cobras battled back to challenge for the second spot, but in the end fell just

short of second place Springfield College who finished with a score of 964. Rend Lake edged Parkland for third place by a point with a total score of 965. John A. Logan College cruised to victory as they took the top three individual spots in route to a score of 918.

Regardless of the outcome, the tourney was still mildly successful for the Cobras with Sebestik qualifying for the National Tournament next May in Scottsboro, Alabama. Sebestik had rounds of 80, 77, and 83 for a total of 240, which was good enough for ninth place overall.

"It is bittersweet; I made it as an individual but disappointed I couldn't bring my teammates with," commented Sebestik. He added he was excited because no one has qualified from Parkland in a few years.

Walters fired rounds of 80, 81, and 80 for a 241 and finished in 11th. Walters is the first alternate for the National Tourney if someone ahead of him is unable to attend.

Head Coach Jim Thompson was pleased with his team's performance, but was a bit sad-

dened the whole team failed to qualify. He was extremely proud of the way his team responded after a tough first day, especially the final day, when they fought through the treacherous conditions to make their comeback.

Overall, Thompson was happy with how the season turned out. The team went through ups and downs but continued to improve right up to the end. The uncertainty about his team's depth that Thompson started the season with had diminished by season's end with the emergence of Heino and Lidy as quality fourth and fifth golfers.

The Cobras will now put away the clubs until the spring when they will play their conference schedule. The experience the Cobras gained this fall should allow them to compete for a conference title and with only one sophomore, Sebestik, in the top five golfers a spot at Nationals next year is certainly within reach.

Side note—Region 24 is one of two regions to hold its golf tournament in the fall due to weather concerns in the spring.

Volleyball

Record: 37-5

(Ranked 5th in the latest NJCAA Division II poll)Vincennes (Indiana) Quad Meet October 28th. Region 24 tourney begins November 1st. Parkland will host Region 24A tourney on November 3rd and 4th (Opponents TBD).

Men's Soccer

Record: 8-10

Upset No.2 Lewis and Clark 4-1 in the Region 24 Quarterfinals. They will now travel to take on No. 1 Illinois Central College on October 25th. The only meeting between the two teams this year ended in a 7-0 victory for ICC.

Women's Soccer

Record: 13-7

The Lady Cobras also advanced to the Region 24 semifinals with a 5-1 victory over No. 5 seed Lincoln College. They

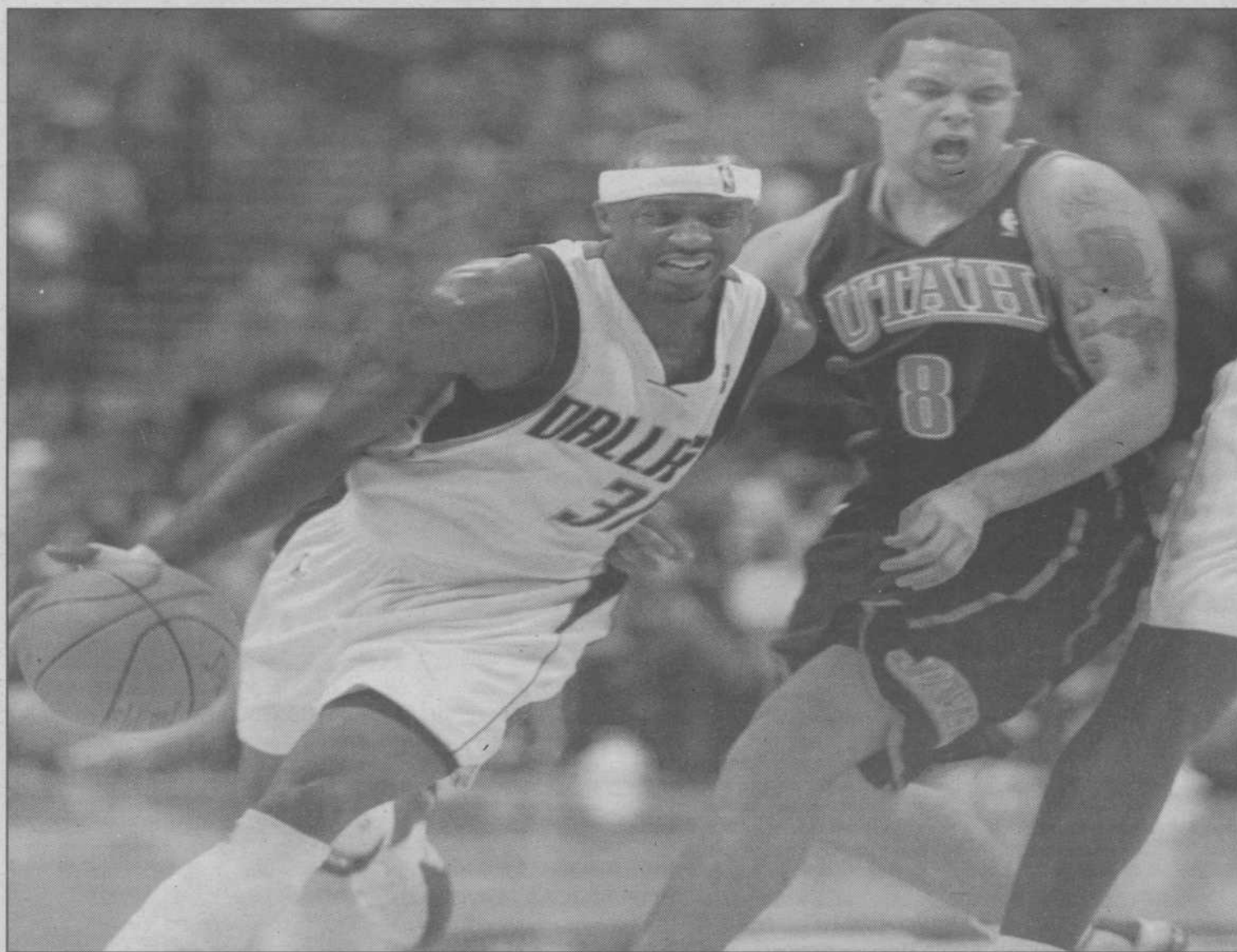
advance to play No. 1 seed Illinois Central College on October 26th. ICC has defeated the Lady Cobras twice this year by identical scores.

Men's Basketball

The Cobras have received preseason recognition by being ranked 15th in the NJCAA division II preseason poll. They open their season on November 1st against Malcolm X at home. Play in the John A. Logan tourney against Rend Lake and John A. Logan on the 3rd and 4th.

Women's Basketball

Play in the Kalamazoo Valley Cougar Tip-Off Invitational November 3rd and 4th against Wayne Community College and an opponent to be determined. Tips off season home schedule against Lincoln Trail on the 7th.



Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Terry (31) drives against Utah Jazz guard Deron Williams (8) at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas.

Brad Loper / Dallas Morning News (KRT)

To the top

By JAKE MCGILL
Prospectus Staff Writer

Mike Trame's Parkland volleyball team is playing very well thus far in the 2006 season. With a 31-5 record going into one of the biggest tournaments during the whole season, the Cobras are looking to make a long run into the postseason. Currently ranked 5th in the country behind Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Kishwaukee College, Cowley County Community College, and Iowa Lakes Community College, the Cobras are making themselves a team to beat once again. The Cobras have been ranked in the top 10 most of the season and are always a force to be reckoned with.

Last week Parkland wrapped up their 11th consecutive conference title by beating John Wood with the scores of 30-17, 30-15, and 30-11. With that win, the Cobras moved themselves to 7-0 in the Mid Western Athletic Conference. In the Conference clinching win, Parkland was lead by Rachel Robinson, Nicole Kupish, and sophomore setter Brooklyn Robbins. The big conference wrap up is huge because the Cobra's play a huge tournament in Florida with some of the nations top teams. During the stint in Florida, the Cobras will play 11th ranked NJCAA Division I St. Petersburg and division II counterparts 12th ranked Longview CC and Mott CC. Not only is this tournament one of the most prestigious around, it also displays some of the best talent in the country at this level of play.

With the St. Petersburg tournament pretty much ending the Cobra's season they will want to make a good showing and keep on top of their game heading into postseason. The Cobras have two more dates left on their schedule before the playoffs start. They play Lake Land College and then play at the Vincennes Quad Meet to wrap up the season. The Regional Quarterfinals and the Regional Final Four are during the first week of November.

Editor's Note: Parkland won the St. Petersburg Invitational going a perfect 6-0. Two of the victories came over the host school, which was ranked 9th in the NJCAA Division I poll. — Erik Pheifer

Viewpoint: A baseball player's perspective

By ERIC HARPRING
Contributing Writer

Parkland College baseball has recently been one of the most successful athletic programs not only at Parkland, but the entire country. I had the amazing opportunity to join the program this fall.

I am originally from Indiana; I had not heard much about Parkland until I was recruited to play here. My decision to play for Parkland may have been the wisest decision I could have made not only academically, but socially and athletically.

I have met many new friends that will be my friends for life because of the memories we will share in our time here. When I decided to come here, I was unsure if I had made the right decision because of the talent level around me. Everyone seemed to be heads and shoulders above me at first, mainly because I was trying extremely hard to fit in and to impress the coach early.

My early trials were struggles because

of my zealously. I was trying too hard and was not performing to my capabilities because I had the mindset that every single thing I did was watched and kept in mind.

After some help from some of the sophomores on the team, I have learned to relax and just let my natural talents and abilities shine through. The guys on the team are all great guys who I am proud to be spending my days with here at Parkland.

During these early times, I had my doubts about whether to continue my career here or to find something else. The history is one of the main sticking points that keep me thrilled about being here.

How many people do you know that can say that they are competing for a national championship and are actually considered a favorite? This is the line I tell all of my friends from my hometown in Indiana. Not very many people can claim athletic success from my hometown—I am one of the few people who have to produce in college athletics to meet their standards. I am

extremely grateful for the opportunity that Coach Mitch Rosenthal and athletic director Rod Lovett has given me.

During the fall, the baseball team went undefeated in a span of over fifteen games. This success was built on the foundations of a couple of sophomores who greatly contributed to last year's success.

Three current players on the Parkland roster have been drafted in the past two years. With the help of Coach Rosenthal, the team should improve on last season's disappointing finish after being ranked in the top five of Division II and failed to make it to the National Championship for just the second time in six years.

Eric Harpring is a Parkland athlete, and a contributing writer to Prospectus Sports. Are you an athlete at Parkland? Do you have a personal story to tell the campus? Email editor.prospectus@gmail.com, and put "Erik Pheifer" in the headline.