

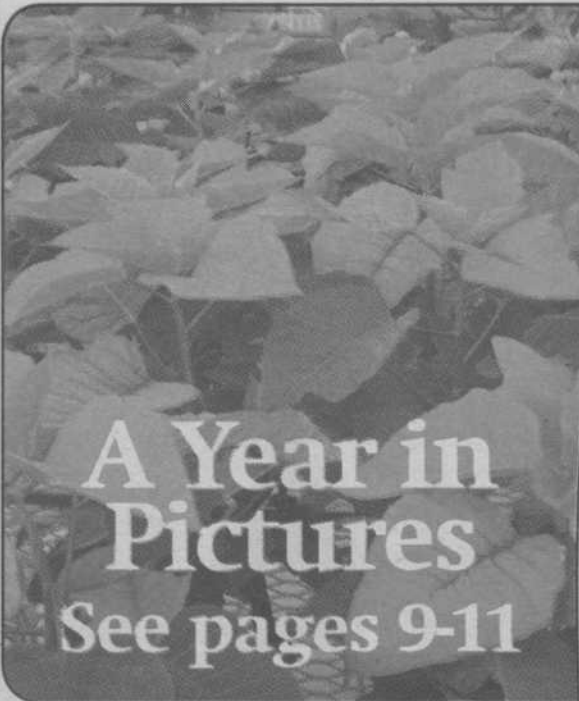
Prospectus

A student produced publication since 1969

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Vol. 39 No. 14

Parkland College



A Year in Pictures
See pages 9-11



Poet Laureate delights Parkland

By ELLEN SCHMIDT
Prospectus Assistant Editor

Keeping with the Parkland College tradition of a visiting writers series that began a few years ago, Professor Marva Nelson presented a portion of the series last week when Kevin Stein—Illinois Poet Laureate—arrived on campus to give a reading of his poems.

"I first met Kevin as a graduate student at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and his willingness then and now to make poetry more accessible to people in the community continues to impress and encourage me," Nelson said.

Stein, Caterpillar Professor of English at Bradley University in Peoria, delighted students and faculty in the International reading lounge.

Seamus Reilly, instructor of Applied and Fine Arts, described Stein's work as "a brilliant observer of the everyday."

"Kevin is attuned to the naturally symphony which takes place all around him," Reilly said. "Kevin's poetic voice is that of the private poet, in active interaction with the imperfect world."

Stein, Illinois Poet Laureate since

2003, recalls the process of deciding to enter the field of poets to be named Poet Laureate. It was not an easy decision for him. "I will tell you, Bradley University where I teach asked to nominate me and originally I said no. I didn't want to be nominated because I feared it would be a sign of self-aggrandizement."

In a few short weeks he began to warm to the idea. He and his wife weighed the pros and cons of putting himself out there and found that he might be able to use it as an avenue to give more exposure to not only himself but also other fine poets in Illinois.

The interview process included interviews of a committee of eight or nine chaired by the First Lady of Illinois, Patty Blagojevich. After finding himself as one of five finalists, the field narrowed to two and soon he was chosen to be the Illinois Poet Laureate.

"Illinois is gifted with a whole slough of wonderful poets so it's really quite an honor to be representing their fine work," Stein said.

One of the ways that Stein is helping to spread poetry is through a CD of poetry anthology, titled "Bread and Steel."

"I hope that this will give a taste of this very diverse and electric group of folks," he said.

Stein shared a meditative poem, a generational poem, and a poem compromised of seven sonnets.

Although Stein said, "I don't write little poems," he shared an opportunity

that arose during a Bradley University centennial celebration to include some of his work in a time capsule to be revealed in the spring of 2097. He wrote the poem, "What would you say 100 years from now?" He slipped it inside a short book of 20 poems that he had written.

Stein's schedule affords him the opportunity to write in the morning, teach in the afternoon and to prepare for the next day in the evenings. He tries to keep up a regular routine of writing.

He offered advice to those students who are interested in writing at any level. He calls these the three R's. "Read widely," he said—the more information coming in the better. "Revise," he added saying that many students believe that their first work is their best. He stressed that one should not "be easily satisfied." And finally, "risk," noting that safe poems rarely turn out to be great poems.

"Risk shocking yourself," he concluded.

Stein offered that taking a class or participating in a writer's group can be a good place to share your poetry and get essential feedback. Parkland has plans to implement such a group either over the summer or next fall.

Stein made a donation to the Parkland Library for the purchase of books by Illinois poets to bring further awareness to poetry. He hopes to continue this practice with the proceeds from selling his anthology CD, "Bread and Steel."

Honors Convocation
10am
Friday, May 11, 2007
Parkland Gymnasium

Commencement
8pm
Friday, May 11, 2007
The Great Hall,
Krannert Center for the
Performing Arts

Final Exam Schedule
Page 4

STUDENT
P
LIFE

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.

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• 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.

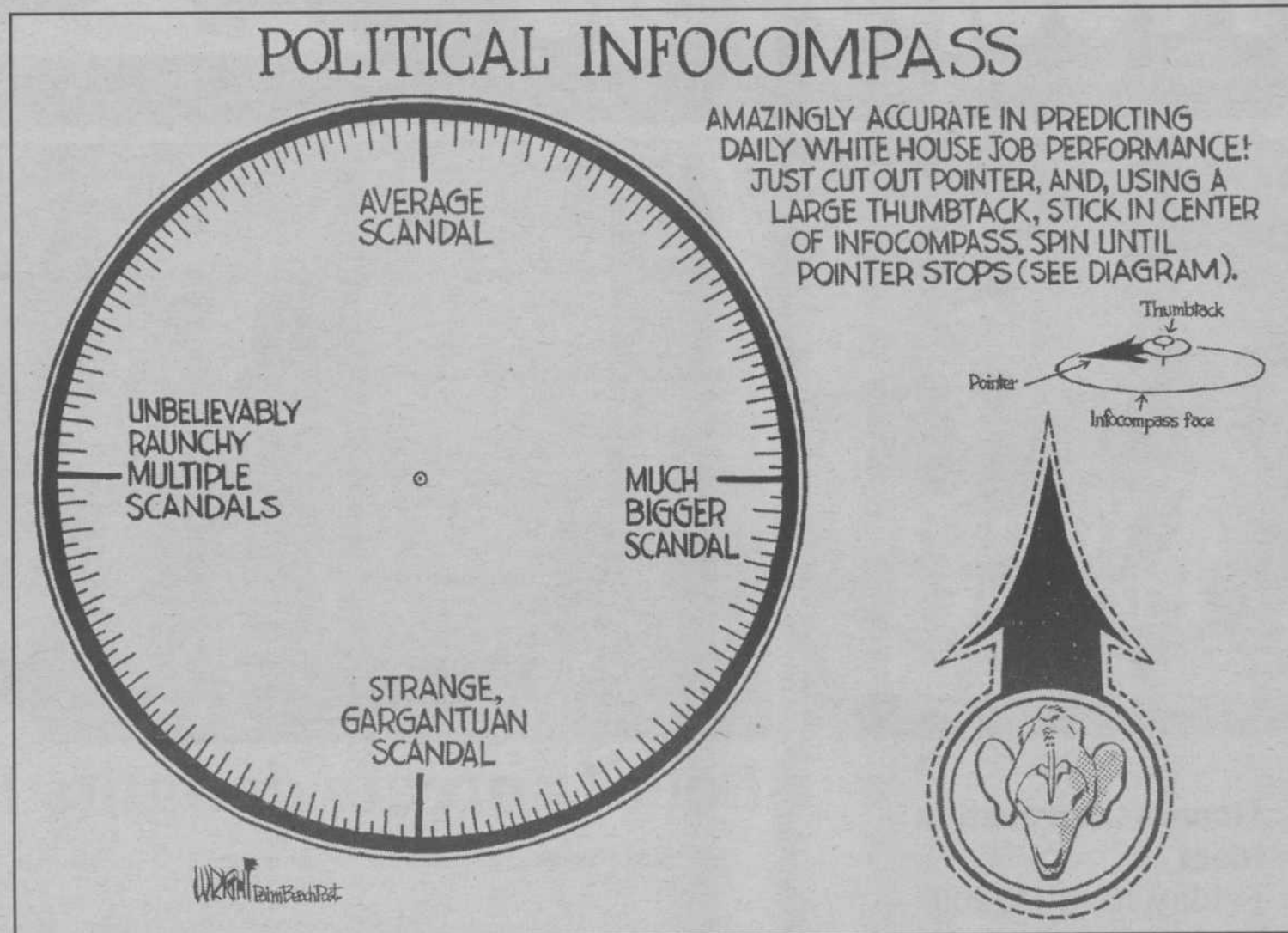
• The rules of correspondence: all submissions must be signed with a phone number and address. The *Prospectus* staff must verify the identity of letter writers. Correspondence may be edited to accommodate the space requirements of the paper. The deadline for all submissions is 12 p.m. of the Thursday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

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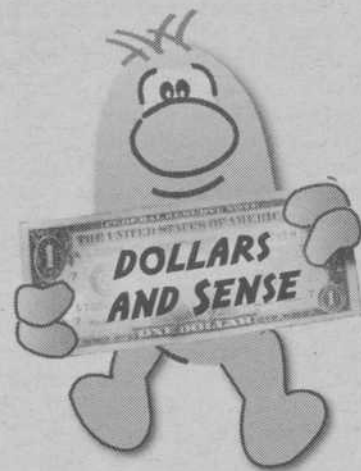
"Wal-Mart is a poster child for what is wrong with U.S. labor laws. Many tactics comport with U.S. law but taken together they create a climate of fear and intimidation." — Carol Pier, referring to a Human Rights Watch report on the tactics that Wal-Mart employs against employees.

"A police officer's attempt to terminate a dangerous high-speed police chase that threatens the lives of innocent bystanders does not violate the Fourth Amendment, even when it places the fleeing motorist at risk of serious injury or death." — Chief Justice Antonin Scalia, overturning a lawsuit brought by Victor Harris, a man injured by police after leading them on a high-speed chase. Harris is now a quadriplegic.

Dollars and Sense from FinAid

■ Summer jobs—Where to look

By DONNA MAYER
Prospectus Guest Writer



You know you want to work during the summer. You know what type of work you'd like to be doing. Now you need to find the job.

Let people know you're looking for a summer job. Tell your family, friends, and anyone else you know or talk to, and ask for a referral or a job.

In addition to looking for jobs in the usual stores and restaurants, check out amusement parks, camps, country clubs, parks and recreation departments, museums, historical societies, and resorts. You may

find jobs listed in the newspaper under Employment Opportunities—Seasonal.

Another option is to sign up with a temporary employment agency. You'll have a chance to work a wide variety of jobs, with a better chance of picking the hours and days you'd like to work.

Watch the newspaper for articles about new businesses or programs that might have opportunities for summer employment.

Self-employment offers a chance to set your own hours. Consider mowing yards, house painting, child care, dog sitting, or anything else you might think of.

Check bulletin boards wherever you go, including grocery stores, libraries, and at colleges or universities.

The Parkland Career Center at <http://www.parkland.edu/ss/cpes/employment.html>, or in Room A-175 has job listings, and they're more than happy to help you with your search.

Don't be shy about looking for a job. Talk to everyone you can think of, including people you meet while you're in their place of business. The more people you talk to and get the word out to that you're looking for a job, the better chance you have of finding something you really like.

Scholarship contest winners honored for speeches

Press Release

Three students earned top honors among the twelve persuasive speakers who recently presented at the 4th annual David M. Jones Persuasive Speaking Contest. The contest spotlights the speaking styles and skills of students who have taken classes in the Parkland College Speech Communication program.

This year's competition gave students the opportunity to speak in support of their favorite charity. Local as well as national and international charities were represented.

Earning first-place honors in this year's competition was Amanda Kreeb of Champaign, whose speech supporting the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) earned her a \$500 scholarship. Nicole Martin of East St. Louis came in second with her speech for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Champaign County. She will receive \$250. Jan Hansen of Champaign was third with her speech asking the audience to support In Defense of Animals. She will receive \$100.

The organization represented by the first place speaker, the National Organi-

zation for Rare Disorders, will also receive a \$500 donation from the Speech Program faculty. The Scholarship awards, given to the winning speakers, came from the David Jones Persuasive Speech Contest Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund was created in honor of David Jones, former Chairman of Fine and Applied Arts from 1988 until his death from cancer in 2002. The annual speech contest honors Dr. Jones' commitment to speech communication and student enrichment.

The contest is open to Parkland students annually.

American table. They came from different parts of Latin America and most of them were members of the club Latino on our campus. I was able to survey another student body, this time from UIUC via emails or messages in popular friend networks over the Internet. These students were mainly pursuing doctorate degree at the university. This fact, I believe, brought different views than the previous student body, which were from undergraduate students. The pursuing of different views made me look for Latinos who are in the labor force in the local area. I went to different restaurants in town, and our cafeteria here at Parkland College where a few Latin Americans are employed.

Most of the people I surveyed were from Mexico and Peru, which total more than half of the participants. The rest of the Latinos I surveyed were from Guatemala, three from Venezuela, Argentina, Chile and Costa Rica. They all answered firmly that they feel comfortable in the USA, 35 out of 35 answered "yes" to the question: "Do you feel like a member of our community?" Majority of the participants listed "medical services" as common difficulty they faced in C-U. They are hoping that the community could work on that issue in the future in order to provide accessible health care for the Latin Americans in town.

I hope that those issues will be on the agenda for the people in power in our community and wish that they will read these lines and consider further actions.

This survey which started as an honor project for my HUM106 Latin American Cultures class, expand to great opportunity for me to meet Latinos from different background, practice my research abilities as well as exercising the Spanish I have learned in Parkland classes.

I would like to thank all of the participants in my survey, club Latino at Parkland and extend my gratitude to Dr. Frost who guided me through that project.

[Are you currently writing any projects for your classes? Are you studying communications or journalism? The Prospectus has published over a dozen contributing writers over the course of this school year alone. We would love to work with you! Email the editor: editor.prospectus.edu@gmail.com]



Parkland Planetarium

Friday, May 4, 11, 18:

7:00 p.m.—Spring Prairie Skies

8:00 p.m.—Skywatchers of Africa

9:30 p.m.—Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon"

Saturday, May 5, 12, 19:

7:00 p.m.—The Cowboy Astronomer

8:00 p.m.—Skywatchers of Africa

9:30 p.m.—Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon"

Parkland Art Gallery

Monday, April 9-Saturday, May 5:

Parkland College Fine Art Student Juried Exhibition

Monday, May 14-Thursday, June 21:

Parkland College Digital Media Student Show

Thursday, May 17:

6:00-8:00 p.m.—Reception



From left to right: Jan Hansen, third place; Nicole Martin, second place; Amanda Kreeb, first place.

John Eby/Prospectus

Are local Latinos comfortable in C-U?

By **BORIS PILEV**
Contributing Writer

[Editor's note: Boris Pilev is an international student, and contributed this honors project from HUM106 as part of the fulfillment of his studies.]

I had an opportunity to conduct a survey among the Latin American population in Champaign-Urbana. The participants in my survey varied from undergraduate students, doctoral stu-

dents at UIUC, and people from the working sector.

The project consisted of survey forms that I distributed to Latin Americans who reside in Champaign-Urbana. The survey form included four basic questions: "Where are you from?", "Do you feel comfortable/welcome in our community?", and "What kind of difficulties have you encountered so far here?"

The possible answers given underneath for the participants to choose from were: "medical

services", "educational", "looking for a job or place to live." Then I asked them to tell me what they think the community should do in order to make the life of the Latinos better in our community.

My research began at the International Cultures Fair at Parkland College held on March 11, 2007. This event hosted tables which represented different countries and parts of the world. I surveyed students who gathered around the Latin

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Parkland Athletics

Thursday, May 3:
2:00 p.m. (DH)—Men's Soccer vs. Springfield College @ Home

Friday, May 4:
1:45 p.m.—Women's Soccer vs. unknown @ Mattoon, IL

Saturday, May 5:
1:00 p.m. (DH)—Men's Soccer vs. Springfield College @ Springfield, IL

Tuesday, May 8:
3:00 p.m.—Men's Soccer vs. Kankakee @ Home

10th Annual Community Gala

Friday, May 4:
6:00-9:00 p.m.—Round Barn Banquet Center
\$50-\$100
217/351-2464 / sgoldenstein@parkland.edu

"See IT All"

Friday, May 4:
8:55 a.m.-2:00 p.m.—Parkland College

Local teachers are invited to learn more about technology.

Parkland Motor Sports Car Show

Saturday, May 5:
10:30-12:00 p.m.—Registration \$5-\$10
12:00 p.m.—Judging
3:00 p.m.—Winner Announced

New Plant Laboratory Ceremony

Tuesday, May 8:
4:00 p.m.—Prairie Gardens Plant Laboratory

Have a great summer vacation!

President Exley's request for medical leave approved

■ Parkland anticipates no issues during his absence

By **LEAH ZIMMERMAN**
Prospectus Staff Writer

Parkland President Dr. Robert Exley wrote, "[Parkland College is] a college family clearly passionate about its mission, serving all who come to us with a vibrant enthusiasm that infects them with the joy of learning."

And Parkland is a family indeed.

On Wednesday April 25, 2007 at 8:30 pm a special board meeting was held to approve or disapprove Parkland President Dr. Robert Exley's request for a four-week medical leave.

The result of that meeting came out positive. After a closed session discussion there was a unanimous decision of approval.

Dr. Robert Exley has suffered from some health problems during his first year as president, including a heart attack that occurred during a "staff vs. students" basketball game on Wednesday, November 8.

Dr. Exley then underwent quadruple by-pass surgery on Friday, November 17 and had a stent implanted.

Dr. Exley's medical leave began 8:00 am Monday April 23, 2007 and will end 8:00 am Monday May 21, 2007. According to Vice President Dr. Tom Ramage, the faculty doesn't anticipate a leadership gap. Being a college family this means taking care of things when others are unable to and Dr. Ramage expressed that exactly what is intended to be done.

According to a Parkland press release, the board also approved that during President Exley's four-week leave of absence that Dr. Linda Moore, Vice President of Student Services; Dr. Tom Ramage, Vice President for Academic Services; and Mr. Jon Surma, Vice President for Administrative Services be in charge of their respective areas, with Dr. Tom Ramage administrating the collective group. Dr. Ramage will also cover appointments and/or duties as needed for President Exley during his leave.

Dr. Ramage also commented, "We have had Presidents who have had health problems

before and none of us are new so we don't expect any problems."

In fact, the previous president of the college, Dr. Zalema Harris, who presided for 16 years, took a month-long sabbatical

the college in his absence.

As far as Dr. Exley's return, Dr. Ramage and others expect him to be back this summer.

Dr. Ramage said, "[It's] a good time of year" with things wind-



Dr. Tom Ramage, Vice President for Academic Services, is confident that leadership will continue while Dr. Exley takes medical leave.

Aaron Geiger / Prospectus

each year for as part of the professional contract. Therefore, because of the leadership "gap" regularly anticipated each year, the vice presidents and college are well equipped for this unexpected leave and predict no detrimental effects while they run

ing down on the campus and preparing for summer session to begin.

Thanks to the faculty at Parkland College we have nothing to worry about while Dr. Exley is recuperating during his medical leave.

Parkland dominates EIU accounting challenge

Press Release

Eastern Illinois University's Accountancy Program in the Lumpkin

College of Business and Applied Sciences held its 2nd Annual Accounting

Challenge on Friday, April 13. The highlight of the day was a written

examination of financial accounting skills.

First, second, and third place winners in both the high school and

community college divisions received a plaque and \$500, \$300 and \$200

scholarship, respectively, to major in accounting at EIU. Other winners

received plaques or certificates of merit.

Three community colleges—Kankakee, Parkland, and Richland-participated

in the college division of the Accounting Challenge. This year Parkland

Community College dominated this division.

For the individual winners, Yumi Okada (Parkland) took first place. Second place went to Georgeta Marinov (Parkland). Julia Waddell (Richland) and Stephen Paul (Parkland)

and Stephen Paul (Parkland)

and Stephen Sutton (Parkland) took fifth.

Parkland took four out of the top five places in the team competition division; Richland took third. First place went to Paula Stanion, Yumi Okada, and Stephen Sutton. Georgeta Marinov, Stephen Paul, Eugene Chan, and David Rogers placed second. Diane Happ, Wenjun Wang, and Margaret Sumitro took fourth, and Ashlee Ahlf, Seena Kim, and Matthew Herriott completed the bracket with fifth place.

If you have any of these students in your classes be sure to congratulate them!

Final Exam Schedule

DAY COURSES

Monday, 7am—8-10am,
Tuesday, May 8
Monday, 8am—8-10am,
Monday, May 7
Monday, 9am—8-10am,
Wednesday, May 9
Monday, 10am—8-10am,
Thursday, May 10
Monday, 11am—11am-1pm, Monday, May 7
Monday, 12pm—11am-1pm, Wednesday, May 9
Monday, 1pm—11am-1pm, Tuesday, May 8
Monday, 2pm—2-4pm, Tuesday, May 8
Monday, 3pm OR 4pm—2-4pm, Monday, May 7
Tuesday, 7am—8-10am, Monday, May 7
Tuesday, 8am—8-10am, Tuesday, May 8
Tuesday, 9am OR 10am—8-10am, Friday, May 11
Tuesday, 11am—11am-1pm, Thursday, May 10
Tuesday, 12pm—11am-1pm, Friday, May 11
Tuesday, 1pm—2-4pm, Wednesday, May 9
Tuesday, 2pm—2-4pm, Thursday, May 10
Tuesday, 3pm—2-4pm, Wednesday, May 9
Tuesday, 4pm—2-4pm, Thursday, May 10
Any day class after Tuesday—2-4pm, Friday, May 11

EVENING COURSES

All evening finals (5pm or later) will be at regular class time.

Hawaiians throng to hear the Dalai Lama on first stop of U.S. tour

By **KIRSTEN SCHARNBERG**
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

WAILUKU, Hawaii—Two silent, meditating Buddhist monks sat cross-legged next to a gaggle of chattering teenagers. Native Hawaiians, wearing flower leis in honor of the special day, crowded in next to sunburned American tourists who had chosen a spot at inner peace over baking on the beach for another afternoon. Armed Secret Service agents gazed over the masses.

"Aloha, Your Holiness, the Dalai Lama," read one hand-lettered sign.

During a two-day visit to the Hawaiian island of Maui, the Dalai Lama—leader of Tibetan Buddhists, 1989 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, best-selling author—drew crowds of more than 10,000 people to two speeches focused on promoting human compassion, envi-

ronmentalism and world peace. The trip marked his first stop on a U.S. tour set to include visits to San Francisco, Houston, Madison, Wis., and Chicago.

The Dalai Lama's whirlwind visit seems to be generating all the buzz of some of the most legendary rock concert tours, albeit with a decidedly serious undercurrent. Inside War Memorial Stadium, where the Dalai Lama spoke in the shadow of the lush West Maui Mountains, an "Event Merchandise" stand selling Dalai Lama T-shirts stood next to a stand taking donations for the Tibetan Nuns Project. Men in traditional robes stepped over bikini-clad women basking in the sun.

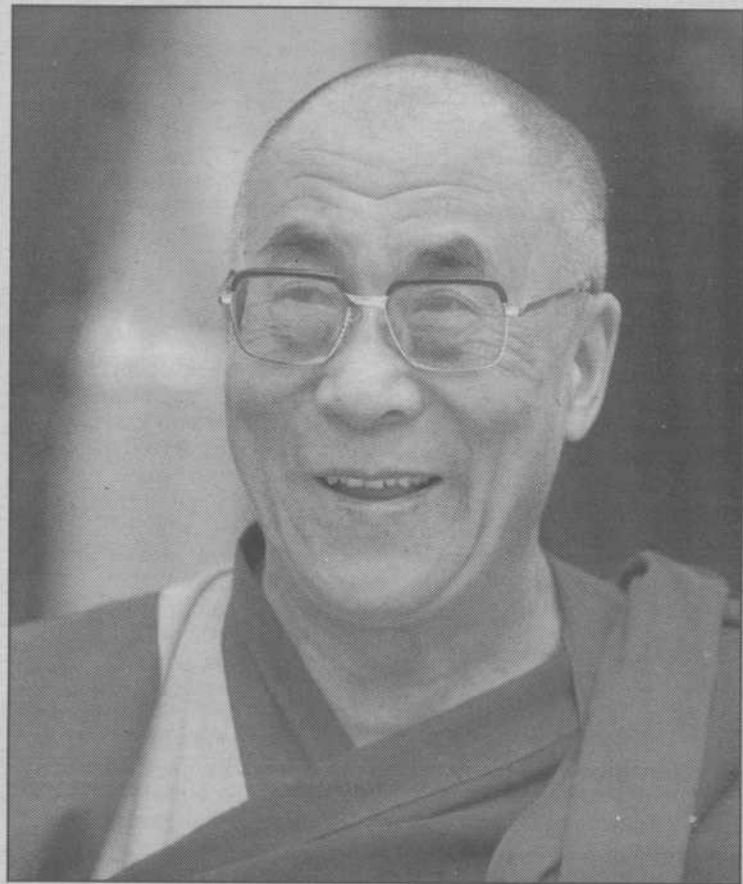
"Wow," Maui native Nahi `Ena `Ena, 57, said in awe as she walked through the massive crowd gathered on the stadium's football field.

Audrey Butler, of Honolulu, seemed equally moved by

the crowd, many of whom had donned T-shirts that read "His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Maui, 2007." The 21-year-old is hoping to take the vows to convert to Buddhism, and she was clear about her reasons for being there.

"To see His Holiness," she said simply, when asked what had drawn her to the sun-baked stadium.

Indeed, the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, the first of the Tibetan spiritual leaders to interact so consistently with the West, has drawn crowds throughout the United States for years. Ironically, even as the number of admirers in America grows larger, he has seen a decline in popularity among many of his Tibetan followers, particularly young people who believe he has not been tough enough in his positions with China, which invaded Tibet in 1950 and has ruled there since



His Holiness the Dalai Lama meets with supporters.

Chuck Kennedy/KRT

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In addition to his quest to spread the ideals of Buddhism, the Dalai Lama is expected to focus much of his comments during this trip on world peace, environmental reform and promoting a "return to love and compassion," as he said in his Maui speech on Tuesday. The topics are serious enough—particularly in an age of much debate over the war in Iraq, global warming and Washington political infighting—but there is little serious about the Dalai Lama's approach.

During his speeches, the slight, bespectacled monk in a maroon and saffron robe sits cross-legged in an ornate wooden chair in the center of stage. As he talks, he giggles. He chortles. He downright belly laughs. No matter how somber the topic, the crowds soon are smiling with him. (When talking about ending war by forgiving one's enemies, he jokes that he has managed to feel compassion for all who attack him—except for mosquitoes, he said, swatting at his arm.)

In many regards, the jovial leader of Tibetan Buddhists—some 140,000 of whom live in

exile in the Himalayan foothills of India—seemed a world apart from his audience. While he advocated forming no worldly attachments, his listeners bought ornate scarves, candles, incense, clothing from booths on the running track ringing the stadium. The food stands—tacos, gyros, doughnuts, Coca Cola—were not exactly the sort of fare advocated by a health conscious Buddhist monk.

The majority of those attending both day's events were not Buddhists. There were honeymooners from Pennsylvania. There were businessmen from Utah. There were Catholic school children.

Many seemed to express the same reason for coming to see the Dalai Lama, author of "The Art of Happiness," an American best-seller.

"He's the best example of peace on earth today," said Nan Holmes, 61. "Regardless of your religious beliefs that is a comforting message to hear during this time of war."

Mexico City legalizes early-stage abortion

By **DAVID OVALLE**
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

MEXICO CITY—Mexico City's liberal legislative assembly passed a controversial law Tuesday night legalizing abortion during a woman's first 12 weeks of pregnancy, placing the Mexican capital among Cuba and Guyana as the only Latin American and Caribbean locations with unrestricted access to the procedure.

The vote, after a day of fiery debate, was praised by supporters of abortion rights and denounced by their opponents.

The vote will dramatically alter the landscape of abortion in Mexico, where most of the 107 million population claims to be Roman Catholic. Mexico City has 8 million people, but its surrounding region contains 21 million more, and opponents warned that Mexicans from throughout the country could avail themselves of Mexico City's new legislation.

"It's a huge victory," said Dr. Raffaella Schiavon, the executive director of the women's health advocacy group Ipas Mexico. "It could start a chain of similar initiatives in other Mexican states and be an example for other countries."

The passage also signifies a victory for the country's liberal Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), which last year lost a narrow, bitterly contested presidential election to the conservative National Action Party (PAN).

Political analyst Armand Peschard-Sverdrup says the legislation's passage will help the left-leaning PRD solidify its appeal.

"They're catering to their base," said Peschard-Sverdrup, the director of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies' Mexico Project. "It's a natural outcome of the election."

The debate over the bill has roiled Mexico for weeks, pitting conservative leaders and the country's Roman Catholic Church, with help from the Vatican, against abortion-rights advocates.

Supporters of the bill say it will protect the lives of thousands of women who already undergo risky illegal abortion procedures.

"It's going to make an enormous difference in the lives of

Mexican women," said Lilian Sepulveda, the Latin American legal adviser for the New York-based Center for Reproductive Rights. "So instead of back alleys, women will be able to go to the doctor's office to get the health services they need."

But the bill had brought fierce opposition from the church, which publicly blasted the PRD.

In recent weeks, church leaders collected signatures and called for a nationwide referendum. They organized protests and rallies and were buoyed last week by a letter from Pope Benedict XVI, who called the proposed law a "grave threat" to unborn children.

Their fierce opposition came despite a ban on political activity by religious groups.

The PRD responded with its own letter to the Vatican, protesting the pope's involvement.

President Felipe Calderon, of the PAN, has opposed the bill, and the party has said it will ask

the Mexican Supreme Court to review the law.

Abortion in Mexico was already legal in cases of incest, rape or if a woman's life is in danger. The procedure would remain illegal if done after 13 weeks.

Mexico City officials estimate that at least 20,000 Mexican women undergo illegal abortions each year, with at least 1,500 dying from complications.

Opponents fear women from across the country will stream to Mexico City for the low-cost procedure.

On Tuesday, spirited but civil public demonstrations continued under the watchful eye of Mexico City police.

At a park under a monument to former President Benito Juarez, several blocks from the assembly, demonstrations were well planned.

Supporters waving yellow PRD flags watched the assembly debate live on two big-screen

televisions. A rock band played and sang pro-choice lyrics. Vendors hawked Fidel Castro posters and Ernesto "Che" Guevara key chains.

"There are women dying because of illegal abortions. We have to be responsible because these illegal abortions are already there," said activist Manuel Amador, 31.

Hundreds of mostly bored police officers, some in riot gear, blocked off the streets near the assembly building. Hundreds of demonstrators from both sides squeezed into a small cobblestone intersection at Tacuba and Bolivar streets.

There were a few shouting

matches, but no fights.

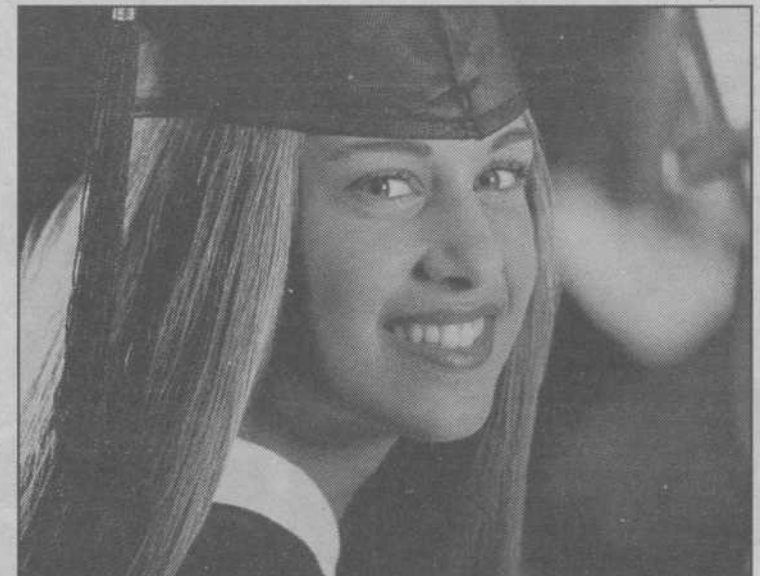
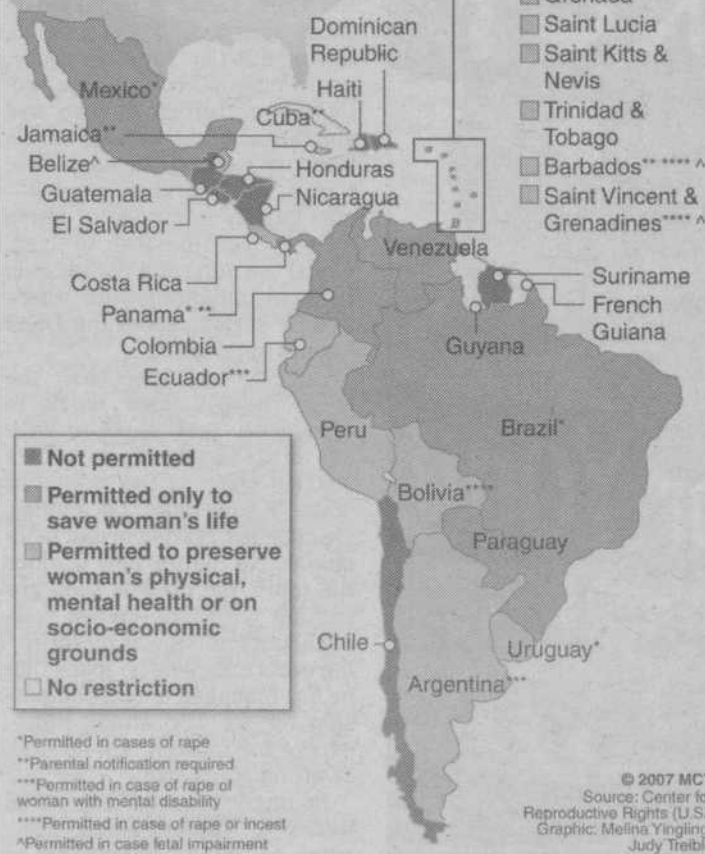
Passions nevertheless ran high. Anti-abortion activists staged a mock funeral procession carrying tiny caskets adorned with painted crosses and topped by three plastic pink roses.

"We think to defend life is to defend civilization," said Vini-cio Cruz, a student who handed out prayer leaflets adorned with images of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary.

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Abortion laws in Latin America

Mexico City is expected to legalize abortion though it would not be legal in the rest of the country. Abortion laws in the region:



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Cubans ask diocese to keep publishing alternative magazine

By RAY SANCHEZ

South Florida Sun-Sentinel (MCT)

PINAR DEL RIO, Cuba—In a small Roman Catholic church the other night, an unusual gathering of Jehovah's Witnesses and Catholics, Marxists, barbers, electricians and lawyers discussed how to change the hearts of a society in perpetual limbo.

A moderator, who feared to be named, interrupted with transcendental news.

"The church has just announced that limbo doesn't exist," he said. "The church has admitted that in another era, it had invented the concept of limbo as a place where unbaptized children went after death. They didn't suffer like in hell but they weren't entirely happy like in heaven. It meant they were nowhere."

Indeed, the Vatican recently dismissed the medieval notion that unbaptized babies are condemned to eternity in limbo. But some Cubans believe the Cath-

olic diocese in the western city of Pinar del Rio has destined an acclaimed magazine to such a fate.

The controversy erupted earlier this month when Vitral, the most prominent of two or three alternative voices in a country where the news media is controlled by the communist state, published an editor's note in its April edition saying it was shutting down.

"Because of a lack of resources, the editorial council of Vitral informs its readers that it can no longer guarantee the magazine's publication," the editor, Dagoberto Valdes, wrote in a brief note.

The news immediately put in doubt the future of Vitral and the diocese's much-heralded Center for Civic and Religious Formation, which offers parish-based classes on civic participation.

Within days of the announcement, the diocese's new bishop, Jorge Serpa, issued a statement denying that the maga-

zine would close but alluding to a clash with Valdes and the publication's tone.

"I have asked that Vitral magazine keep to the truth based on the gospel and the church's social doctrine, without falling into aggressive and argumentative expressions," Serpa wrote.

Tuesday night, ordinary Cubans who attend the weekly civic classes here began gathering signatures on a petition asking the diocese to keep Vitral the way it was.

"A voice has been taken from us," said Marilei Castro, a 29-year-old lawyer who signed the petition. "The issues are taboo. But there are no other places in Cuba where these things are discussed openly. People don't want to speak about them. It makes them uncomfortable."

The magazine's readers and others, like her, who attended the workshops are "confused right now," she added. "We don't know what will happen."

Without attacking any Cuban leader by name and assert-

ing that Cubans must decide their own fate without outside intervention, Vitral has regularly published articles calling for greater plurality and democratic participation. The civic center's workshops include discussions about "empowerment," human rights and individual liberties such as free speech and freedom of association.

"This could be the hour in which those who hold the highest responsibilities in government gradually and peacefully open up more opportunities for the legal participation of all Cubans in greater areas of democratic responsibility," read an editorial in the magazine's April edition.

Valdes declined comment on the future of Vitral or the civic center.

Analysts and diplomatic sources said Valdes had long enjoyed the protection of Jose Siro Gonzalez, a social progressive who retired in December as bishop of Pinar del Rio. Attempts to reach him were

unsuccessful.

"There's no way to know if government pressure led the church to do this," Cuba analyst Phil Peters said. "Like a lot of things in Cuba, this is a black box."

At a civic center workshop Tuesday night, the moderator spoke of the church's need to keep an open line of dialogue with not only the state but with ordinary Cubans.

"The church cannot sacrifice civil society in order to maintain a dialogue with the state," he said. "How do you do that? It is difficult balancing act similar to what we do here. Don't confuse this space with that of a political party. We don't do political propaganda here. That is how you guarantee that the state doesn't claim that we're taking Tuesdays to organize the Christian Democratic Party or liberal party or God knows what."

(c) 2007 South Florida Sun-Sentinel.

Mexico drug cartels reap big profits from meth

By LAURENCE ILIFF

The Dallas Morning News (MCT)

MEXICO CITY—The anti-drug operation was in the works for months. And the news would be big, officials said. But when Mexican police burst into a plush home in the capital's exclusive Lomas de Chapultepec neighborhood last month, guided in part by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, they were taken aback.

They found stacks and stacks of crisp U.S. \$100 bills. In closets, in drawers, and suitcases. The attorney general's office arranged the bills into a huge, bed-shaped platform, with Ben Franklin beaming from a thousand eyes. The first estimate by authorities put the take at \$100 million. Then the bill-counting machines came in and the figure topped \$200 million. It was the biggest drug cash seizure ever.

There was another surprise. The money did not belong to one of Mexico's powerful drug cartels, nor did it represent profits from the sale of traditional drugs such as Colombian cocaine, Mexican marijuana and black-tar heroin.

Rather, authorities said, it was amassed by a naturalized Mexican from China, Zhenli Ye Gon, who is accused of using his Asian contacts to illegally import the precursor drugs to make the new star of the U.S. and Mexican drug markets: methamphetamine.

As a U.S. crackdown against meth labs and precursor chemicals has been drying up domestic production in recent years, the Mexican cartels are enthusiastically filling the void, U.S. and Mexican officials say. Moreover, officials say, meth has advantages for the cartels over even highly profitable cocaine. It is a highly addictive drug that can be made at home, smuggled easily and reap huge profit margins.

Like the nonamphetamine designer drug "cheese" that is causing deaths in the Dallas area, cheap meth distributed through existing drug channels may be the coming nightmare on both sides of the border. "What we are seeing is a manipulation of the drug markets," said Santiago Vasconcelos, deputy director of international and legal matters for Mexico's attorney general's office.

"It is a diabolical plan by these criminal organizations" to increase sales of homemade amphetamines as an alternative to South American cocaine, which must be grown, processed, and transported thousands of miles.

"The lesson we get from this is very painful," said Vasconcelos. "The American people have yet to wake up from the nightmare of synthetic drugs, especially the nightmare that has brought them to methamphetamines."

It costs 20 cents to make a dose of meth that garners \$20, he said in an interview. Amphetamines can be taken as a pill,

smoked as "ice," snorted as "crystal," or dissolved in water like the club drug "ecstasy," or MDMA. Some of the varied forms are old, some are new, but together they threaten to create new U.S. addictions and financially strengthen the Mexican cartels and their war against each other and the government.

The effects in Dallas, and across the U.S., could be devastating over time. Meth addicts are infamous for their obsessive addictions and failure to care for themselves, which causes their teeth to fall out and leaves their emaciated bodies susceptible to illness. This is especially true among those who inject or smoke the drug.

In contrast, ecstasy, an amphetamine derivative taken as a pill, is best known as a "club drug" that causes hours of energy followed by lethargy. Use of amphetamines has not exploded in the U.S., but the promise of a drop-off due to the U.S. crackdown on precursor chemicals and drug labs has not materialized—because of increased Mexican supply. U.S. and Mexican officials do not agree on Mexico's role in meth production.

A.J. Turner, section chief for the FBI's criminal investigative division, said in an interview that Mexican cartels are the source of 85 percent to 90 percent of the methamphetamine in the U.S., according to the agency's intelligence. "The supply is on the Mexican side; the demand is on the United States side," he said.

Vasconcelos said suggestions that Mexico had become the dominant supplier to the U.S. were false. While U.S. meth lab seizures number in the thousands each year, Mexico raids about 100 labs annually, he said. He described Mexico as an "incipient" producer that is now cracking down on the illegal import of precursor chemicals, such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Mexico needs about 70 tons a year of pseudoephedrine for legal drugs but has imported as much as 240 tons year. It is now getting a handle on imports, although China remains a problem, he said.

Likewise, all ephedrine and pseudoephedrine coming into Mexico—100 percent—passes through U.S. ports such as Long Beach before arriving in Mexico. Finger-pointing by U.S. officials, Vasconcelos said, only plays into the cartels' hands. "The challenge here is to see ourselves as the community that we are; to see ourselves as neighbors," he said.

According to the U.S. government's 2007 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, more methamphetamine labs are turning up on Mexican soil, and increasing amounts of the drug are being seized. "Seizure statistics for cocaine and methamphetamine during 2006 demonstrate Mexico's significance as a production and transit country," the report says.

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Black colleges slow to divest from Sudan

By **MICHELLE S. KELLER**
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

CHICAGO—Though the movement to divest from Sudan has swept U.S. colleges and universities, historically black colleges have remained on the sidelines of the issue—until recently.

In recent months, Hampton and Howard Universities divested fully from companies that do business with the African nation, where violence has claimed more than 200,000 lives in the Darfur region.

The decision by two of the nation's most well-known black universities was widely applauded. But their late entrance into the divestment movement, which began at Harvard University in 2004, raises questions about why historically black colleges have been slow to respond to what the U.S. government has deemed genocide in Darfur.

"It unfortunately has not been on the radar screen for many," said Hampton President William R. Harvey. Hampton started the divestment process in July.

African-Americans traditionally have been a reliable lobby for humanitarian and political causes in Africa. But some alumni and university officials say most of the colleges are less likely to divest because they

have smaller endowments than their white counterparts.

"Howard University can afford to do it because its endowment is among leading endowments in the country," said Ron Walters, professor of political science at the University of Maryland in College Park. Walters helped spearhead the U.S. anti-apartheid movement in the late 1970s.

But, "you can't ask Fisk University to join the divestment movement when the state of their economic situation is so bad," Walters said. "Those movements are reserved for universities that have the money, that have the valid alternatives. Most of them can afford to follow a social investment strategy."

Fisk University, in Nashville, has about 800 undergraduate students and an endowment of roughly \$7.5 million, a spokesman said. By comparison, Howard, sometimes referred to as the "Black Harvard," has an endowment of just under \$424 million. Harvard has nearly \$29 billion, according to the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

Though Walters says many historically black colleges can't afford to divest, Maryland's Bowie State University, with a \$4 million endowment, has severed financial ties with companies that do business in Sudan.

Some believe that the divestment movement itself has been strategic in its selection of schools to target.

The Sudan Divestment Task Force "chose schools with large endowments whose divestiture in Sudan would have a greater impact. Schools like Harvard, the California university system, Yale and so on," said Emmett Bradbury, associate professor of philosophy at Chicago State University.

Bradbury believes historically and predominantly black campuses are not part of the Sudan divestment movement "because the movement has yet to come to them," he said.

Conservative climates on campus also have hampered student activism, alumni and scholars said.

Many of the schools were established by religious institutions such as the Southern Baptist or the United Methodist Church, entrenching conservative attitudes on the campuses. Most also are in the South.

"Most of these administrations report to Southern state legislatures," said Martha Biondi, associate professor of African-American studies at Northwestern University. "That produces a very conservative culture among the administrators."

During the civil rights move-

ment, schools in the South that heavily depended on state and federal funding feared being closed if they participated in protests, said Charles Henry, a professor of African-American studies at the University of California at Berkeley.

During the war protests of the late 1960s, students on historically black campuses were more vulnerable to violence from authorities, Biondi said. "The state and local law-enforcement agencies were more likely to invade those campuses."

These conservative attitudes have persisted. Two years ago, Hampton threatened to expel seven students for handing out leaflets—including information on HIV/AIDS, the crisis in Sudan and the war in Iraq—in the school center. The Virginia school defended its actions, saying students had not distributed the leaflets in accordance with school code. But several people accused administrators of trying to squelch student activism.

"Usually these schools are 25 to 30 years behind other institutions" in terms of their progressive attitudes, said J. Anthony Clark, a Chicago attorney who graduated from Hampton in 1978. "They tend to be much more conservative than people think."

The Sudan divestment movement started at Harvard, where students persuaded the board of trustees to divest its holdings from PetroChina in 2005.

In 1997, the U.S. government imposed a trade and investment embargo in Sudan. As a result, companies that have been heavily targeted in divestment campaigns are primarily from China.

Soon after Harvard's decision, universities such as Stanford and Yale divested, and states such as Illinois and California have followed suit.

In Illinois, Chicago State University, which is not a historically black university but is predominantly African-American, has not passed an official resolution to divest from Sudan. The United Negro College Fund, an educational assistance fund including 40 private, historically black campuses, has not taken a position on the issue.

Students at historically black institutions say the need to make a living limits their political involvement.

"Many of these students have

COLLEGE ENDOWMENTS

Until recently, historically black campuses have not been a big part of the movement to divest from Sudan. Many of them have small endowments and do not have the flexibility to be more selective with their investments.

ENDOWMENT FIGURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

TOP THREE

Harvard University: \$28.62 billion
Yale University: \$17.95 billion
Stanford University: \$14.08 billion

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES

Howard University: \$423.9 million
Spelman College: \$291.6 million
Hampton Univ.: \$217.5 million
Morehouse College: \$121.0 million
Fisk University: \$7.5 million
Bowie State Univ.: \$4.0 million

Source: Council for Aid to Education

World's worst human rights abusers

The continuing genocide in Sudan's troubled Darfur region was the world's worst human rights abuse last year, according to a new U.S. State department report:

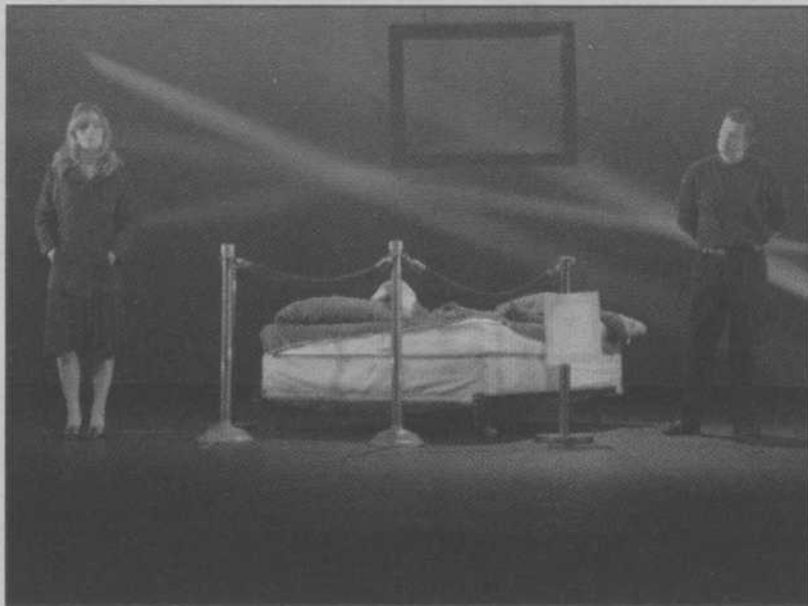
Worst violators



jobs and are trying to put themselves through school," said Henry, the Berkeley professor. "Many are also the first generation to go to college, so they are going to get a lot of parental pressure to focus on what will get them through school. Protesting is a secondary priority."

At Spelman College, a historically black liberal arts college in Atlanta, junior Sheeba Ema-Nuru said students have been working to raise awareness about Darfur, but the movement has been slow to catch on. Spelman and Morehouse, also in Atlanta, have not divested.

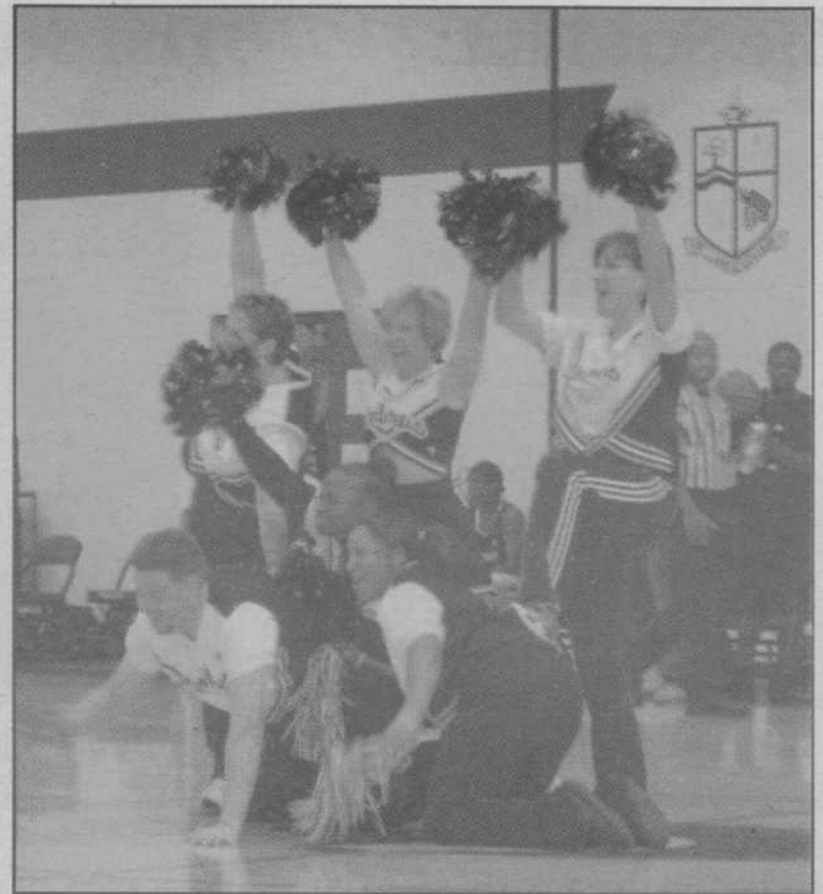
"It's not that students don't care," said Ema-Nuru, 20. "A lot of the students have the mentality that I will help when I can, but right now, I cannot."



A Year in Pictures







Page 9, clockwise from top left: "Poinsettias in the Greenhouse" by Aaron Geiger; "Urinetown" by Karyn Johner; "Backstage" by Karyn Johner; "Volleyball Huddle" by Aaron Geiger; "One-Act" by Erika Porter.

Page 10, clockwise from top left: "Old-Time Band" by Aaron Geiger; "Automotive" by Erika Porter; "Body Sublime" by Karyn Johner; "I Have a Dream" by Karyn Johner; "Art Gallery Opener" by Karyn Johner; "Student Juried" by Erika Porter

Page 11, clockwise from top left: "International Halloween" by Takamichi Kono; "The Other Cheerleaders" by Aaron Geiger; "Blizzard" by Aaron Geiger; "Scrimmage" by Erika Porter; "Fall Window" by Erika Porter

Parkland Staff/*Prospectus*



The Student:

Lindsay Watkins



Major: Mass Communications
Student Since: 2006

Groups involved with:

Softball team, Phi Theta Kappa

What's after Parkland?

Either University of Illinois or Illinois State University

Favorite Parkland course(s):

Film Appreciation, Biology and Broadcast writing

What would you change at Parkland College?

Closer and more convenient parking

Best part of the Prospectus?

All of it!

The Staff:

Pam Lytel



Position Held: Financial Aid Advisor
Employed Since: 1992

Best part of your job:

Working with the students

Where were you raised?

West Palm Beach, Florida

Biggest inspiration:

My dad

What would you change at Parkland College?

It was sure nice when we were closed on Fridays

Best part of the Prospectus?

Dollars and Sense from FinAid. Of course!

The Staff:

Ruthie Counter



Position Held: Staff Writer
Employed Since: 2003

Best part of your job:

Meeting interesting people and getting their stories for class schedule ads and other marketing materials; coming up with new ways to promote college information

Where were you raised?

Gary, Indiana

Biggest inspiration:

My mother

What would you change at Parkland College?

More windows

Best part of the Prospectus?

It gives students information on Parkland happenings

Power in 2008 campaign is at voters' fingertips

By **ETAN HOROWITZ**
The Orlando Sentinel (MCT)

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.— Nearly a year out from Florida's presidential primary, a handful of strangers are sitting in Marcy Haydt's living room sipping red wine and listening to the voices booming through her computer's speakers.

The voices belong to seven of the Democratic presidential candidates. And with every remark about troop surges, funding vetoes or suicide bombings, Haydt's guests nod in agreement or roll their eyes in disbelief.

These "virtual town hall" guests are part of the "netroots"—an online breed of grass-roots activists who use the Internet to organize around issues and candidates.

And as the race for the White House heats up, the netroots are expected to play a significant role in the campaign.

Bolstered by the influence of blogs, social-networking sites and video-sharing sites, the average Joe and Jane have more

influence on campaigns than ever before. People young and old have already begun using the Internet to organize meetings, raise money and debate issues.

"If you think back to how things used to work, the only people who had a chance to talk to the candidates were the people who happened to be in a diner in New Hampshire when the candidate wandered in," said Adam Ruben, the political director for MoveOn.org. "Now many more people have a chance to talk to the candidate."

MoveOn.org, a liberal advocacy group, organized this month's virtual town hall, which focused on Iraq. The event was billed as the first of its kind, and MoveOn's membership picked the candidates and the questions.

The candidates' answers were recorded separately and then broadcast on the Internet on April 10 to more than 1,000 viewing parties such as the one at Haydt's home in Daytona Beach.

Only two of the eight peo-

ple who showed up were Haydt's friends. The rest found the party through MoveOn.org.

After the town hall, MoveOn members voted on which candidate did the best—it was Obama. Now the group is planning two more virtual town halls on health care and global warming.

Gatherings organized online around a common theme or "meetups," were used by Howard Dean and other candidates in 2004. Since then, the amount of "user-generated content" on an ever-growing number of Web sites has exploded, forcing candidates to pay attention and offer tools that let supporters speak up.

"Traditional political discourse in our country is top down—the politician speaking down to the voter and hoping the voter responds by voting for them or giving them money," said Andrew Rasiej, the co-founder of techPresident.com, a Web site that tracks the role of the Internet in the presidential campaign.

"But if you think about the new landscape, the voters are talking to each other," he said. "It's the side-to-side communication voters are doing among themselves that is palpable."

Much of this online activism is taking place on social-networking sites such as Facebook or MySpace, where users cre-

ate personal profiles, become friends with other users and post their thoughts.

Candidates have responded by creating their own social-networking sites. Republican John McCain has McCainSpace, Obama has My.BarackObama.com and Democrat John Edwards has One Corps.

A key benefit to candidates is that these sites organize supporters to campaign for them. But the sites also remove the stringent controls over message that have marked past presidential campaigns.

Consider 20-year-old Chris Siercks. A few months ago he started a group on Facebook called Floridians for Mitt Romney, which now has 87 members.

On the group's page, Siercks posts links to news articles about Romney, pictures he took of the former Massachusetts governor at a campaign stop in The Villages and debates with other users. In one of the postings, Siercks and another group member criticized Romney for announcing possible running mates because they thought it was too early and conveyed a sense of overconfidence.

"My intention with the group is not just a positive-spin propaganda group," said Siercks, a student at Lake-Sumter Community College. "It's a realistic, open place for supporters to give their views and give their concerns about what is going on currently, and maybe we talk about some of the things we could do to help his campaign."

Siercks said he plans to share the online back and forth with Romney's operatives so they can incorporate it into their strategy. But he might not have to pick up a phone or send an e-mail: Romney is a member of Siercks' group.

The Internet has also changed the way people campaign for candidates.

In 2004, Geno Mehalik, 23, helped John Kerry by handing out fliers at a speech by Michael Moore at the University of Central Florida.

This time, Mehalik is supporting Clinton in cyberspace. He searches out news articles on Clinton and e-mails them to friends and posts them on Facebook.

He also has a link at the bottom of every e-mail that allows people to donate to Clinton. If

CYBER CAMPAIGN 2008

The Internet is going to play a bigger role in the 2008 campaign than ever before. Here are some of the tools people use to debate issues and campaign for candidates:

YOUCHOOSE '08

youtube.com/youchoose: A roundup of videos from the candidates on the video-sharing site YouTube. Candidates can post videos, and people can post video responses. Most are clips of speeches or TV interviews. However, starting with Mitt Romney this month, candidates will post videos in which they ask users a question and invite users to post video responses.

EVENTFUL POLITICS

eventful.com/politics: Eventful is a Web site that bills itself as the "world's largest collection of events." It allows users to "demand" an appearance in their town.

MYSPACE IMPACT

impact.myspace.com: A roundup of the official MySpace profiles of the presidential candidates. Users can add the candidates as their friends, post comments on candidates' pages, watch videos and donate online.

people click on the link and donate, Mehalik is credited with the donation. So far, he hasn't raised any money besides the \$50 he donated but has set a goal of \$1,000.

"It makes you feel proud that you were the one who went out there and got that money," said Mehalik, who works in marketing for Florida Hospital.

Although it's clear the Internet reflects enthusiasm for a particular candidate or issues and is important for organizing offline activity, Rasiej said it's unclear whether cyberpolitics will tip the election.

Obama might have the most friends on MySpace, Rasiej said, but that doesn't mean he will get the most votes.

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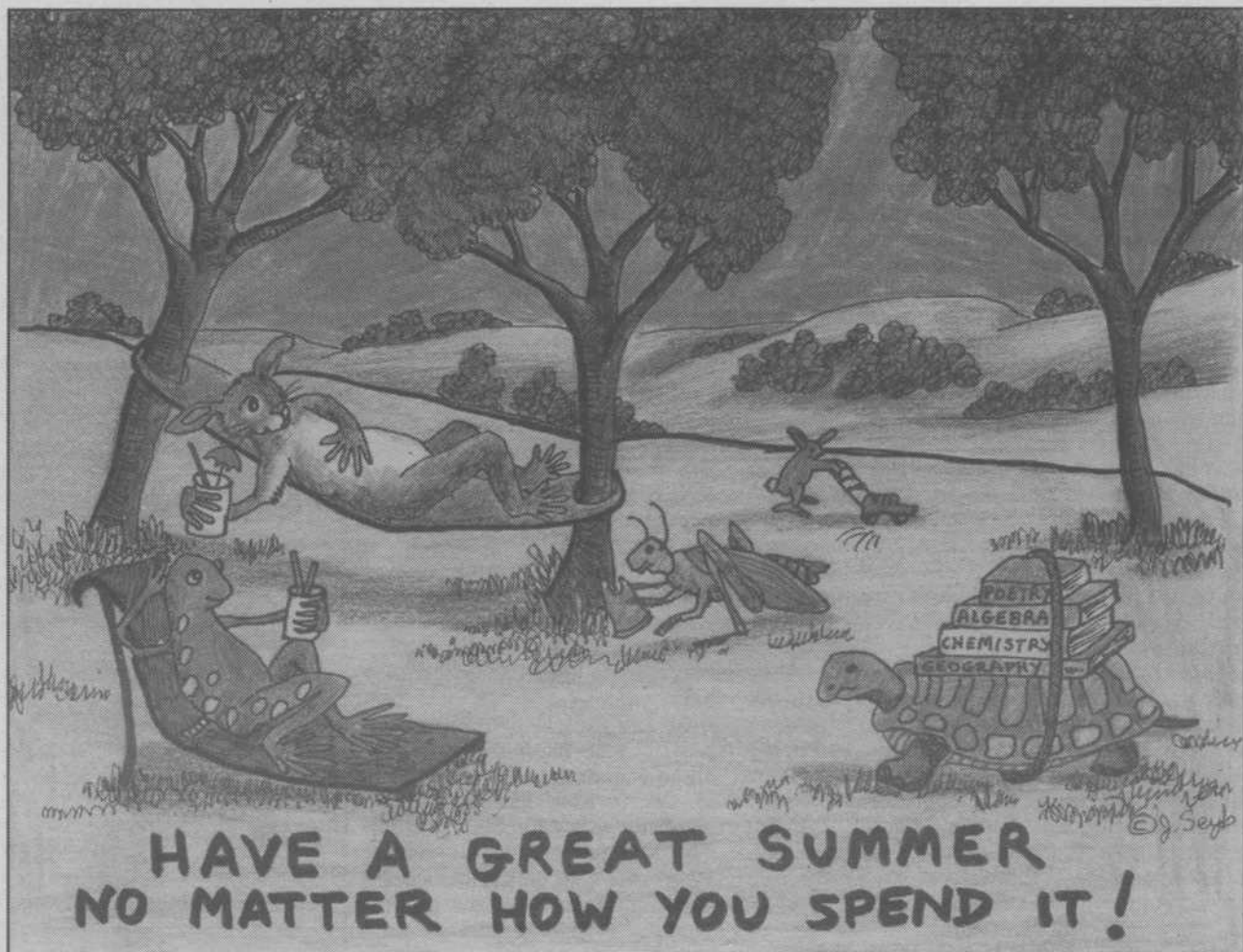
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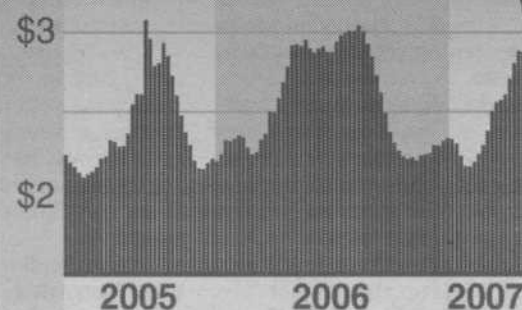
Up 10¢



Week ending April 30, 2007

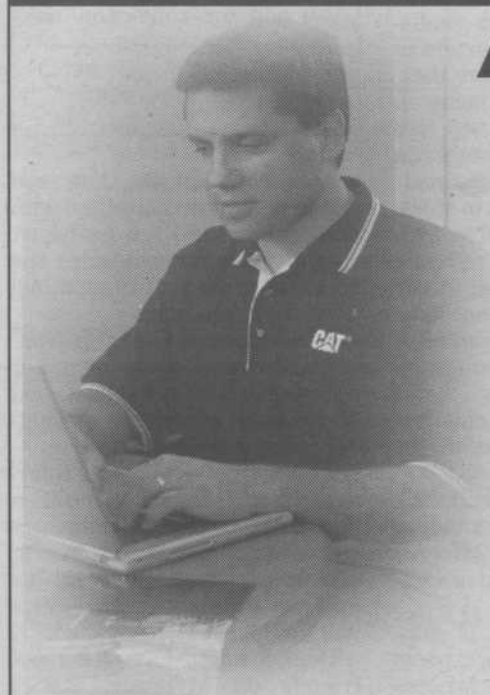
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Two-year trend



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Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

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Two Dudes

by Aaron Warner



College Girl Named Joe

by Aaron Warner



A College Girl Named Joe

by Aaron Warner



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Two Dudes

by Aaron Warner



Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Judge's order
 - Did in, as a dragon
 - Batter
 - Jason's ship
 - Docking platform
 - Japanese capital
 - Island feast
 - Qualified
 - Demolishes
 - NYC hours
 - Is for two?
 - Methodological discipline
 - Kind of clam
 - Light touch
 - Pentateuch
 - Sketch again
 - Put in the bank
 - Clear frost
 - News piece
 - NFL team
 - Part of a dance
 - Plaster of
 - Superlatively bleak
 - Cut into thin pieces
 - Calls a chicken
 - Narc org.
 - Fireplace shelves
 - Look over
 - D-Day ride
 - Bovine comment
 - On the up-and-up
 - Aoki of the PGA
 - Actor Julia
 - Hackneyed
 - Is unable to
 - Sundial number
 - Helped out
 - Icelandic saga
 - Rosebud, e.g.
- DOWN**
- Business transactions
 - Reliance
 - Playing marble
 - The better part of youth?
 - Barbecue favorite
 - Freed
 - Sushi bar order
 - Take by force
 - Like some pajamas
 - Wry face
 - Related (to)
 - Out of (discordant)
 - Wash down
 - Book after Joel
 - Auto
 - Submarine type
 - Listened to
 - Forbear
 - Religious custom
 - High cards
 - Sobbed
 - Quick swims
 - List ender
 - Actress Gilpin
 - Fantasy world
 - City south of Tampa
 - Drugged to sleep
 - Tenant's check
 - Dolores Rio
 - Wonderland visitor
 - Online messages
 - "Taxi" dispatcher
 - Unbroken
 - "Lohengrin" heroine
 - Abominable snowman
 - Yikes!
 - Liver secretion
 - Low-spirited
 - Letters for motor homes

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5/2/07

Solutions

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- Online messages
- "Taxi" dispatcher
- Unbroken
- "Lohengrin" heroine
- Abominable snowman
- Yikes!
- Liver secretion
- Low-spirited
- Letters for motor homes

Classified

PROSPECTUS
Wednesday, May 2, 2007 — Page 16

■ Tickets

Student seeking— extra graduation tickets for big family (six siblings + parents). Please call 217-684-5286 or email mwingler@stu.parkland.edu

■ Tickets

I need extra— tickets to the upcoming graduation on May 11. If anyone has tickets they don't need and wouldn't mind passing them along, contact me please. Angela 217-355-1873.

■ Part-time Job

Part-time legal— secretary needed for local law firm. Basic secretarial skills necessary in addition to knowledge of legal procedures, forms, etc. Workers' Compensation experience preferred. Please fax resume to: 217-351-1731 or e-mail resume to careers@rusinlaw.com.

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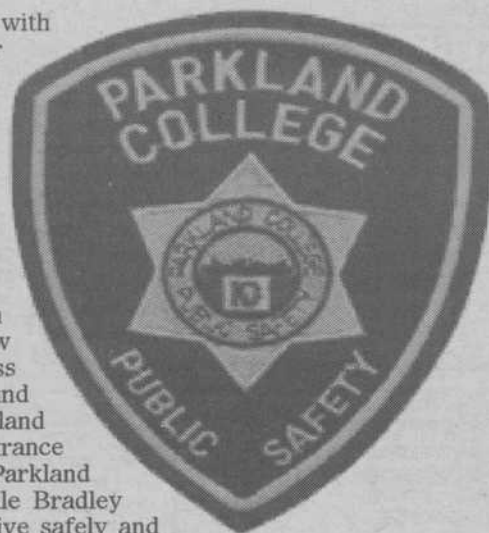
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Did you know that safety is everyone's business?

The rate of traffic crashes with fatalities rise in the warmer months due to distracted drivers. During the summer, the amount of road construction increases, not only on highways, but also here at Parkland College. The road construction on Bradley Ave. will be continuing for about 9 months so expect delays and please slow down. When you are driving in a construction zone **anywhere**, slow down, heighten your awareness and observe everything around you. Also, remember that Parkland College has more than one entrance please use the Duncan St. and Parkland Way entrances more often while Bradley Ave is under construction. Drive safely and please remember to buckle up.



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



Weather Forecast

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 71.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 49.
Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 71.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.
Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 56.
Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 80.
Sunday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms.
Monday: A chance of rain. Partly cloudy, with a high near 80.

CrimeStoppers seeks assistance

This week, CrimeStoppers and the University of Illinois Police Department are seeking your assistance in solving a motor vehicle theft. On April 11, a subject reported his white 1997 Saturn LS2 stolen from the Law Building parking lot located at 504 East Pennsylvania Avenue. The theft occurred sometime prior to 7:00 p.m. Later the same day, at 11:58 p.m., a Champaign police officer recovered the vehi-

cle in the 800 block of Dennison Drive in Champaign. The vehicle had sustained damage to its front right tire and steering column.



Missing from the vehicle were its engine and windshield wipers.

Investigators with the University of Illinois Police Department are requesting any informa-

tion you may have about this crime.

If you have any information regarding this crime, please call CrimeStoppers at 373-TIPS. Callers do not have to give their names or appear in court. CrimeStoppers will pay a reward if the information you provide leads to an arrest for this crime. Rewards are also paid for information on other felony crimes or fugitives in the Champaign County area.

The Front Page: Predicting the summer's stinkers

By **BILL GIBRON**
PopMatters.com (MCT)

Every summer, critics and film fans alike love to predict the eventual box office champions. They look across the 40 or 50 flicks about to open, manufacture a formula that takes into consideration past performance, their own interest levels, the timeliness of the title and a few other subjective factors, and draw their concrete conclusions. Sometimes, this process is stiflingly simple. After all, "Spider-Man 3," "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" and "Shrek the Third" all look like guaranteed money in the bank—and BIG money at that. Even if each one fails to fulfill its promise—either aesthetically or commercially—they will earn back their budgets via international releases, preplanned merchandising, and the eventual DVD release/TV premiere. In fact, it's safe to say that they are doomed to succeed. There are just so many interconnected interests that it's impossible for them to truly flop.

"Fantastic Four: The Rise of the Silver Surfer"

Let's face it—the original wasn't some massive megahit. It did rather nicely for its studio (\$155 million), especially for a movie very few people actually liked (Rotten Tomatoes Rating—a mere 26 percent). And up until the sequel was announced, many in the comic book fanbase felt that this entire franchise would end up a well deserved one-off deal. Now comes the inevitable follow-up (thanks in part to the success of the film

on DVD and cable TV showings) and with it, a villain guaranteed to make audiences groan. Back in the day, the Silver Surfer was a misunderstood alien dude who came to Earth to wreck some havoc, only to fall into the whole peace and love vibe of the magical '60s, and end up a kind of counterculture convert. Here, he's the T-1000 on a CG boogie board. While geeks have been salivating over the possibility of this character's arrival from the moment the original Roger Corman adaptation of the quartet was released, it remains difficult to figure out just who's anxious to see Michael Chiklis in a bad Ben Grimm outfit again (Jessica Alba's Susan Storm? That's another story altogether). Indeed, everything about this cinematic series feels second rate and underdone, which translates into very little blockbuster potential.

"Live Free or Die Hard"

Sorry Bruce, it just won't work this time. Over the 12 years since the last installment in this series, you've done a wonderful job of dispelling your 'action hero only' mythos, and settled into a nice rut as a talented, reliable actor. Sure, you've certainly stumbled along the way ("The Story of Us," "Perfect Stranger"), and your rocky personal life didn't help matters much, but you did a decent job of leaving John McClane and his "yippee yay kay aye-ing" in your wake. So why pick him back up after all this time? It's not like the latest generation of film fans has been eager to see you return to the agent against the apocalypse format, and this latest idea

(a supersmart computer hacker tries to give the entire world a crippling virus) is just so Y2K. And the choice of Len Wiseman as a director? PU! Come on, this is a guy whose been making werewolf vs. vampire films for the last four years—and when he's done with you, he's back to the paranormal with yet another installment in the "Underworld" franchise (this time out, it's a prequel). Unless the stunt set-pieces redefine the concept of action, this latest series installment looks dead on arrival.

"I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry"

This is clearly a case of a high concept losing sight of what truly makes people laugh. Now, if you get a bunch of drunken frat boys in a room together and tell them a slew of homophobic jokes, you're bound to get some beer-soaked guffaws. But in our proto-PC society, where humor has to now walk a fine line between crass and considerate, something like this sloppy same sex stupidity can't possibly work. Adam Sandler appeared to move beyond his arrested adolescence aura with "Click," and for the most part, his fanbase decided to join him. But he has long stopped being the clown prince of the college crowd, and trying to reenergize your star status by making fun of gay men seems like a tricky proposition. Certainly you'll draw the Neanderthals and those predisposed to prejudice as pratfalls, but there is something uneasy about the whole forced machismo and 'emotions are emasculating' narrative undercurrent. Rumor has

it that the studio ran this film by GLAAD before approving its release. It was also true that this script sat around for years, with many famous A-listers a tad antsy about how it would play in this supposedly enlightened post-millennial age. Here's guessing it won't.

"Underdog"

Talk about your animated sacrilege! Underdog may have been many things—a rhyme obsessed goody two shoes, a blind as a bat paramour for an eager Sweet Polly Purebred, a simpleton superhero battling less than capable crooks—but he was never, ever, EVER! considered to be real. Anthropomorphized and pictured in pen and ink, but no child ever thought he was an honest to goodness pup. So what do those dunce caps over in Tinsel Town try to pull on us? They figure that they can

turn this entire project into a live action kiddie action film and no one will really care. They'll even give the title character a hip adolescent swagger, turning him from a moralizing mensch into a skaterat with a tail. Didn't these people learn ANYTHING from the whole Itchy/Scratchy/Poochie fiasco? You don't mess around with the classics—even if you've somehow managed to stumble upon the brilliant casting decision of Peter Dinklage playing villain Simon Barsinister. Belgian director Frederik Du Chau may have the proper family film credentials (he made the semi-successful "Racing Stripes") but this pile of hound hashwey appears ready to crash and burn. Those who remember the old series won't darken its big screen doors, and by this time in the season (mid-August), the wee ones are just worn out.

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Cardinals mourning loss of a pitcher for 2nd time in 5 years

By **PAUL SULLIVAN**
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

ST. LOUIS—The death of St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Josh Hancock in an auto accident early Sunday was felt throughout the baseball world, leaving the Cardinals organization reeling from a second player death in five years.

Hancock, 29, died when his Ford Explorer rammed the rear of a flatbed tow truck as he drove along a St. Louis area highway at 12:35 a.m. Sunday.

Manager Tony La Russa and the Cardinals were forced to relive the nightmare of 2002, when pitcher Darryl Kile died after suffering a heart attack in a downtown Chicago hotel room.

"There's a big hole that's going to be there," La Russa said.

Sunday night's game between the Cubs and Cardinals was postponed and will be rescheduled later. The news hit the team hard, and there was no possibility of the Cardinals playing after hearing of Hancock's death.

"Obviously, this is very difficult for all of us, especially those of us who were here five years ago when we lost Darryl Kile," general manager Walt Jocketty said.

"There's no way we could have played (Sunday night)."

Jocketty said the Cardinals would charter a plane to Tupelo, Miss., for the funeral Thursday, an off day. They also will wear commemorative patches with Hancock's number, 32, for the rest of the season.

Cardinals pitcher Braden Loper called Hancock a "great teammate, a great friend. We just ask, as we try to get through this as a team, to keep Josh's family in your prayers and thoughts."

Cubs manager Lou Piniella said baseball is a "tight-knit fraternity" and that the death of a player affects everyone in it.

"On behalf of the Chicago Cub organization, I'd like to express my deepest sympathies to the Hancock family and the entire Cardinals organization," Piniella said. "Especially my good friend Tony La Russa. It's a terrible, terrible thing that happened."

Cubs general manager Jim Hendry called Piniella on Sun-

day morning to inform him of Hancock's death. Piniella recalled getting a similar phone call in August 1979, when his friend and Yankees teammate Thurman Munson died in a plane crash.

"So in a way I know what those kids in that clubhouse are going through, and it's really a tough thing," Piniella said. "A baseball team, that's really your second family."

St. Louis Police Chief Joe Mokwa said the tow truck was in the left lane of Interstate 64 with its lights flashing when Hancock's vehicle plowed into it, killing Hancock instantly.



Chris Lee/ St. Louis Post-Dispatch (MCT)

The driver of the tow truck was in his vehicle but was uninjured. His name was not released.

An autopsy has been scheduled. Mokwa said early indications are that Hancock did not appear to be speeding, and no alcohol containers were discovered in his vehicle.

"We may never know what occurred," Mokwa said. "It appears that he just didn't see the tow truck."

La Russa praised Hancock, who was single, as a consummate team player who would move into any role and not complain. In a town where baseball is a significant part of the culture, a Cardinals player has thousands of relatives.

"It's really an extended family," La Russa said. "One of the things that's really painful here

is Josh, in this town, his family were his teammates. He was a very strong part of the family here at the ballpark."

Cubs pitcher Jason Marquis, a friend of Hancock's and his teammate last season in St. Louis, was shocked by the news. Hancock was one of several Cardinals who attended Saturday's pregame ceremony in which Marquis received his World Series ring.

"It was a nice gesture on the part of the team, and he was one of the guys out there," Marquis said. "I happened to see him walking out of the ballpark after the game. He was like, 'Hey, I'll see you tomorrow.' It's a tough situation."

Marquis described Hancock as a fun-loving, generous person, liked by everyone on the club.

"Playing with Josh last year was a treat, especially the season we had," Marquis said. "He's a friend and will always be in my heart. My thoughts and prayers are not only with him but with his grieving teammates."

Piniella said he couldn't imagine going through such a terrible episode twice, as La Russa and Cardinals veterans Albert Pujols, Chris Carpenter and Jason Istringhausen have done with the loss of Kile and now Hancock. La Russa was the one who called Hancock's father to notify him of the news.

"You've got to be a strong person," Piniella said. "Listening to Tony have to make the phone call ... it's a really tough thing to do."

The Cardinals will face a difficult time recovering, just as Piniella and the Yankees did in '79 after the loss of Munson, their captain, whose locker was left empty after he died.

"Every time you walked into that home clubhouse, it was a constant reminder," Piniella said. "But you know you have to go forward. It's something that people have no explanation for, but it goes to show you how dear and fragile life can be."

"We all worry so much about wins and losses, and when something like this happens, it puts things in perspective rather quickly."

By **ERIC HARPRING**
Prospectus Staff Writer

The 4.0 baseball standout

Caleb King is a home-grown freshman standout from Mahomet-Seymour High School. Not only is Caleb a great baseball player, but he is a standout student. This semester he is taking 17 credit hours on top of a baseball schedule that is grueling and demanding. Despite this, he is still carrying an astounding 4.0 GPA.

"I might have one B this semester, out of all my classes. It's not too hard, I am taking a few general education classes, which really help," said King.

In comparison to high school sports and school Caleb feels that the college life is easier to balance because he has more free time available between classes and practice.

"I feel like I take care of business off the field first, then I worry about on the field issues," King said.

Caleb is not just a bookworm, though. He was recently named NJCAA Division II Player of the Week a couple of weeks ago. "Not many people get chosen for such an honor. I mean, there are how many people playing Division II baseball and I was the one that was chosen? It is a great honor," he said.

A big reason for his nomination was his two-game performance against Illinois Central College. He was 7 for 8 at the plate with 3 home runs, 9 runs batted in, and 7 runs in the two games.

Other than that amazing day, his most memorable moment of the season has been the Cobras game against Danville Area Community College. "It was one of those things that once you accomplish it once, you know you can accomplish it again if you need to," he said.

He was referring to the Cobras' game in which they were down by six going into the bottom of the sixth inning and came back to win by scoring seven runs in the inning.

"We don't have any weak spots in our lineup. From top to bottom we have people who can get hits on any given day. You never know who is going to break out from one day to the next," he said.

The record breaker

Jessica Gourdier is a phenomenal freshman student athlete from Olympia High School. She has excelled in the classroom, achieving a 3.5 GPA and is balancing softball and 15 credit hours of school-work.

"Softball is a lot bigger deal here than it was at my high school. Practices are sometimes from two in the afternoon to six at night, and you have to keep your priorities in line. I can't really say that I am an amazing student, so I have to put in the extra effort. It's not impossible to do well in school and balance athletics and can be achieved," said Gourdier.

In terms of athletic ability, Jessica can't really say she is not amazing. She recently broke the school record for home runs in a season, with 13. "Every day people were asking, 'Are you going to break it today?' and giving me a hard time about it," she said.

She was not even aware that she was close to the school record until Athletic Director Rod Lovett informed her. When she hit the record breaking home run, she knew it immediately.

"It feels really good to hold the record, but it hasn't really sunk in yet. I have never held a school record before, so it's different. I am always going to be in the Parkland record books now," she said.

Her most prominent memory this season, other than the record-breaking game, was when Parkland defeated #1 Kankakee College in extra innings at Kankakee. "We weren't expected to beat them because they were the top team in the country. We beat them at home too, but the away game meant more because of the 'underdog factor,'" she said.

"This year we have a lot of chemistry and get along very well. We don't really separate into freshman and sophomores. In terms of performance, our defense and offense make up for a lack of pitching compared to other years' teams. We are much more involved as a team. It is more fun to have the defense making plays than striking everyone out every time," said Gourdier.