

## Inside This Week...

- Page 2 — Spotlight
- Page 3 — Local/Parkland
  - Calendar
  - Parkland Foundation
  - Student Ambassadors
- Page 4 — Local/Parkland
  - Battling Melanoma
- Page 5 — National News
  - The next Reagan?
  - VA Tech shootings
- Page 6 — World News
  - Green Zone
- Page 7 — Diversity
  - Rutgers athletes
- Page 9 — Parkland Profiles
- Page 10 — Technology
  - Mac on the big screen
- Page 12 — Judy Seyb
- Page 13 — Off Topic
- Page 14 — Classified
  - Did You Know
- Page 15 — Radio/TV/Film
  - Weather
  - CrimeStoppers
  - Vonnegut dies
- Page 16 — Sports
  - Cobra baseball
  - Cobra softball

## Fundraiser to be held for Parkland Alum

### ■ Mother of three fighting stage IV Melanoma

By AARON GEIGER  
*Prospectus Editor*

*[Editor's note: In this article, excerpts of Amber Eldridge's weblog have been inserted into the story in an effort to help promote awareness of Melanoma and cancer, as well as shed a personal light on a fellow Parkland Alumnus who is struggling day-to-day in her fight.]*

Parkland Alumnus and Champaign resident Amber Eldridge, 31, is fighting stage IV malignant Melanoma cancer. She was diagnosed last April, while pregnant with her third child. Thanks to a large base of support, there will be an upcoming fundraiser on April 21 at 606 W. Anthony Dr., Champaign. The Jammies, Champaign's rock band for kids, will perform at the One Week Boutique Children's Consignment Sale. A metallic pink guitar signed by Trisha Yearwood, and personalized by Garth Brooks, will be raffled away. Donna Pepper, Parkland Alumnus and friend of Amber, is coordinating the event.

"This [the cancer] has been going on for a while now. She just got some more bad news. This event is important to her; to all of us," Pepper said.

Amber writes almost daily on a weblog that she uses to describe her thoughts, her medical procedures, the love for her family, and to trade support and gratitude with family and strangers.

"[Amber] wants to let others know about the dangers of Melanoma. It can happen to anyone," Pepper said.

Wednesday, April 19, 2006 02:40 PM, CDT

*It's malignant melanoma. The surgeon's office called and asked me to come in this afternoon. They wouldn't tell me anything over the phone. It's so surreal. These things are suppose to happen to other people-not to me. Cancer isn't suppose to happen to you when you are 30 and pregnant.*

*I heard him give us the diagnoses, but my mind was moving in slow motion. I asked him if that was the cancer you don't want to get. He said yes. He said that the baby may make it through everything just fine, but that we would have to be making some hard choices quickly and that we needed to remember our other two kids at home who needed me.*

*No one was expecting this to be melanoma. There's no family history of cancer and I've never been an outdoorsy person. I've had minimal minor sun-*

*burns and have never been tanning.*

Amber underwent a series of medical tests to find the point of origin. Although she had, "healthy skin," melanoma was found on a mole that was removed from her elbow. Still pregnant, Amber was concerned. Cancer can still spread to the placental wall of the fetus.

Amber's eyes were checked—the point of origin could have come from behind them. She had lymph nodes removed under general anesthesia. Special sonograms were ordered to ensure that Amber's baby didn't receive the spread of the cancer.

Nathan Isaac was born June 13 at 8:13am. He weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces, and measured 18.5 inches. Amber also found out a day later that her CAT scan came through clear, and Nathan did not have cancer.

While following up on her diagnosis, a lot of activity was seen in a troublesome area, which concerned doctors.

Monday, July 10, 2006 11:12 AM, CDT

*Radiation is off. The melanoma is back. There's a 15cm mass under the left armpit again. It's extending down the chest wall and into the muscles of the arm.*

*Nothing showed up in the liver. I have to have a follow up MRI in 3-6 months to double check.*

See Alum on page 4



## Prospectus

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Phone: 217-351-2216, fax: 217-373-3835, e-mail: prospectus@parkland.edu, U.S. mail: Parkland College, Room X-155, 2400 W. Bradley Ave., Champaign, IL 61821. URL: <http://virtual.parkland.edu/prospectus>

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### Letters and Editorial Policy

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

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

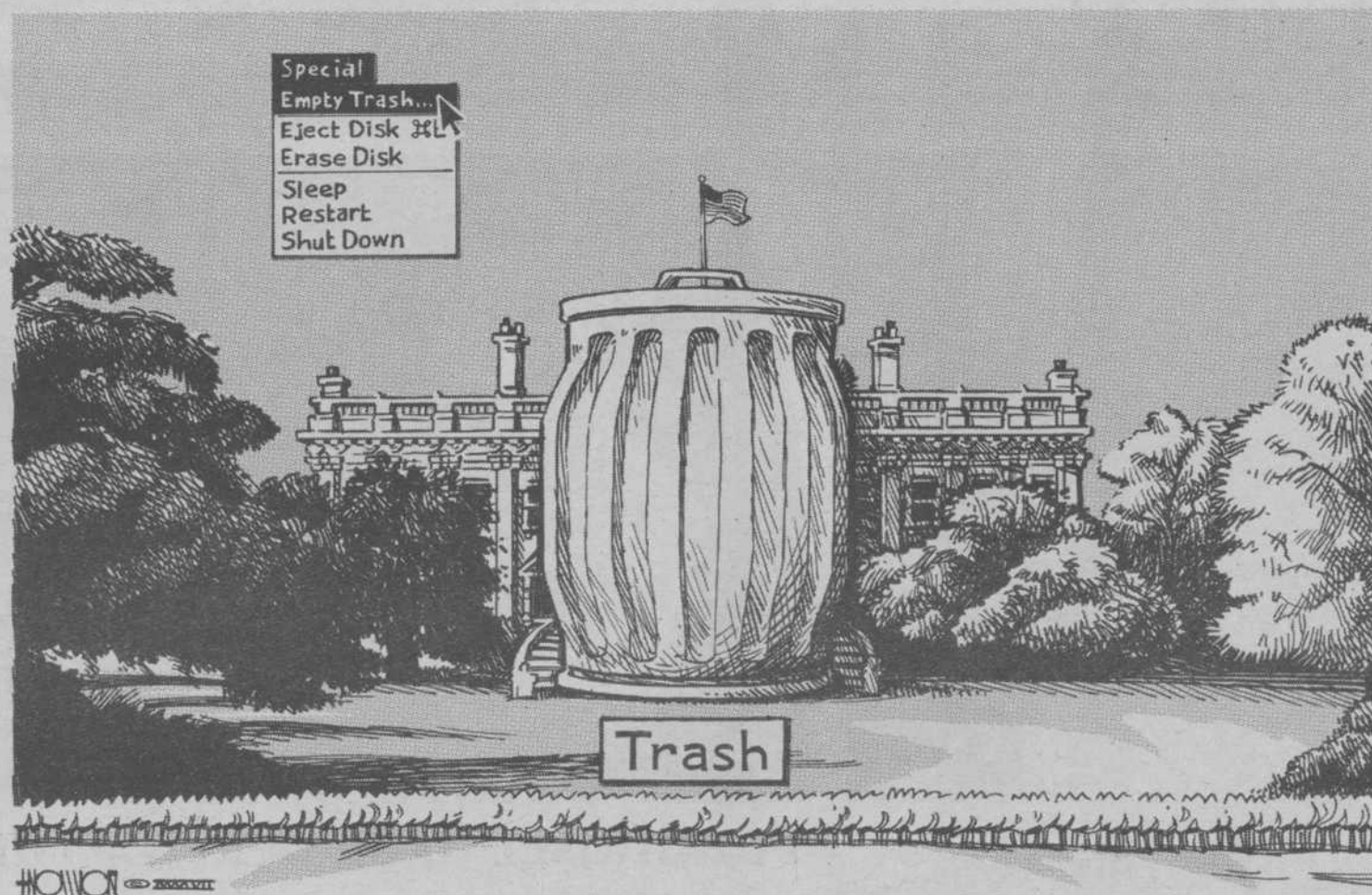
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Front Page photo credits: Top left—Ellen Schmidt/*Prospectus* Top right—Photo courtesy of Amber Eldridge



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"I think he was horrific. I think it was a malicious prosecution. I think he conducted himself unethically. I think he tried to take our son's life away." —Kevin Finnerty, father of one of the Duke Lacrosse players exonerated from rape charges against a stripper; Finnerty was referring to embattled District Attorney Mike Nifong.

"Today, the university was struck with a tragedy of monumental proportions." —Virginia Tech President Charles Steger, after a gunman killed at least 32 people, including himself, on campus in a shooting spree.

## Dollars and Sense from FinAid

### ■ Is this really how you want to spend your money?

By DONNA MAYER

*Prospectus Guest Writer*

\$1.25 to buy a soda from a machine may not sound like a lot of money.

\$1.25 for 2 sodas a day = \$2.50 a day.

\$2.50 times an average 5 days a week = \$12.50 a week.

\$12.50 times 52 weeks a year = \$650.00 a year to drink 2 sodas a day.

Is this really how you want to spend your money?

If your answer is no, and you continually wonder where your money went, ask yourself the following questions before you buy anything.

• Do I need it? If the answer is "no" and you don't have a lot of extra money, then congratulate yourself that you've avoided an unnecessary purchase and

saved yourself some money.

• Can I afford it? If you have to go into debt to pay for it—and it's not an absolute necessity—then forget about buying it until you can afford it.

• Do I have something that will work just as well? Take an honest look at items you already own. If the answer is yes, then forget about buying something that you don't really need.

• Can I wait until I find something cheaper? A big desire to have something can create a false sense of urgency and cause you to make a decision you'll wish later that you hadn't made. Wait a few days, the desire may disappear.

• Have I found the best price? The time it takes to comparison shop can give you a chance

to make a wiser decision. In the above example of the soda, it's much cheaper to buy soda by



the carton at the grocery or discount store than to pay \$1.25 a bottle.

• What if I don't buy this now? What will happen if you don't

buy the item? If it's paying for rent, obviously you have to pay that or be evicted. If it's something like another pair of shoes, \$80 concert tickets, or a faster computer, you might want to take another look at your priorities.

Get in the habit of asking yourself the above questions before making purchases—and abiding by your answers—and it shouldn't be very long until you're spending your money the way you really want to. Your savings account will probably be a lot healthier, also.

If you have questions about money management, or would like help in figuring a budget, the Financial Aid advisors are available in A-170 to help you on a walk-in basis Mondays through Fridays, 9:00-11:30 A.M. and 1:00-4:00 P.M., unless otherwise posted.



## An inside look at the Parkland Foundation

By ELLEN SCHMIDT  
Prospectus Assistant Editor

Carl Meyer, executive director of the Parkland Foundation, finds that his work is never done. Meyer, who has ten years with the Foundation, spends most days out in the community building relationships and sharing the vision and mission of the college. What started out as a letter-writing campaign to raise money for the campus has grown into a successful myriad of events that continue to bring recognition to Parkland.

Meyer's goals are to raise money to fund special projects and scholarships to benefit the students that attend Parkland. "I personally like the prospecting. My real interest is that it's wonderful to get those gifts," Meyer said.

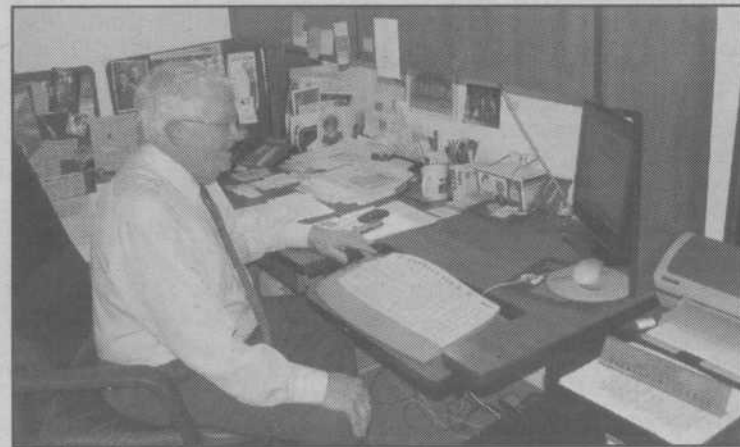
It's like anything else...you are only as good as your last gift. That thinking keeps Meyer on his toes.

Some gifts are easier to secure than others. "I think the most challenging project was the Tony Noel Center," said Meyer. "We went out and raised that money during a recession in the ag market." Strong support from the state with the help of local officials and the Noel family helped to make that facility a reality.

On the other hand, gifts such as the one that Lois Dickson left the college, in the amount of \$3 million, literally fell in the foundations lap. Meyer calls the gift

a "wonderful tribute to the talent of our graduates." Impressed with the care given to Ms. Dickson from nurses who had graduated from Parkland helped to facilitate the gift.

Some of the success of those gifts lies in forming good relations with attorney's involved in estate planning, exposing the possibilities available at Park-



Ellen Schmidt/Prospectus

land.

While relationships in the community are important, Meyer works on relationships within the faculty and staff at Parkland. It's important to him for them to have a positive view of what the foundation is trying to accomplish.

"One of the things that we needed to do when I got here was to let people know about the foundation and there was a lot of negatives about the foun-

ation," Meyer said.

Meyer and his staff set out to smooth over those negatives by keeping up with activities of the faculty and staff as well as remembering them on special holidays and birthdays.

In addition to securing gifts, the foundation is involved in a number of events that not only raise money but also to bring

awareness to the college.

Julie McGown, assistant director of the Parkland Foundation, is Carl's right hand and looks over most of the administration duties of the office. She shared a glimpse of the ongoing events coming up in the next month.

The Arbor Day living tree program that began in 1980 by Mary Lee Sergeant planting a tree every year with her class has been picked up by the

foundation with a new twist. "In about 1993 the foundation took over the program and we offered it as a memorial or honor to someone," McGown said. A plaque accompanies each tree.

This year the program will birth six new trees in the memorial grove located on the campus.

The Gala, in its tenth year offers a chance for community members to mingle with the Parkland administrators, faculty and staff. What began as an event to bring more recognition to the college by showcasing different parts of the school has morphed into a community wide event that has outgrown the campus.

An event to raise scholarship funds for the college includes food, beverages, music and prizes. "There is a silent auction and there will be a few small raffle items," said McGown.

In addition to these events, the foundation hosts a golf outing in the fall at about the same time that they start their annual appeal with the Partners for Parkland campaign.

The foundation offers recognition to donors showcased in their "Walk of Honor" located in the walkway between the Planetarium and the Theater.

The foundation's work continues. Meyer and his team in combination with the efforts of administrators, faculty and students allow Parkland to have and enhance their favorable reputation.



### Parkland Planetarium

Friday, April 19:  
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, April 20:  
7:00 p.m.—Zubenelgenubi's Magical Sky  
8:00 p.m.—Skywatchers of Africa  
9:30 p.m.—Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon

### Parkland Theatre

April 19, 20, 21:  
8:00 p.m.—Spoon River Anthology  
Sunday, April 22:  
3:00 p.m.—Spoon River Anthology

### Parkland Art Gallery

Monday, April 9-Saturday, May 5:  
Fine Art Student Juried Exhibition  
Thursday, April 12:  
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.—Reception

### Parkland Athletics

Friday, April 20:  
3:30 p.m.—Baseball vs. South Suburban @ South Holland, IL  
Saturday, April 21:  
1:00 p.m.—Softball vs. Lewis & Clark @ Godfrey, IL  
1:00 p.m. (DH)—Baseball vs. Lewis & Clark @ Home  
Sunday, April 22:  
1:00 p.m.—Softball vs. John Wood @ Quincy, IL  
1:00 p.m. (DH)—Baseball vs. Lewis & Clark @ Quincy, IL  
Tuesday, April 24:  
3:00 p.m.—Softball vs. Illinois Central @ Home  
3:00 p.m. (DH)—Baseball vs. Spoon River @ Canton, IL  
Wednesday, April 25:  
3:00 p.m.—Softball vs. Lewis & Clark @ Home  
6:00 p.m.—Baseball vs. Illinois Wesleyan JV @ Normal, IL.

## Who are the Student Ambassadors?

By LEAH ZIMMERMAN  
Prospectus Staff Writer

Student Ambassadors are about twelve students who "greet Parkland guests, give tours to prospective students, organize special events, play a leadership role in community service, work the Parkland booth at events, and make new friends and new contacts." (Ambassador Pamphlet)

Student Ambassadors serve as representatives for the college and must be able to answer any question about the college. They support admissions and the president's office. They help out with Parkland's events and different centers. "Anybody that asks us we try to support them" says Advisor Mary Kay Smith. The members are very help oriented. They have led tours during two campus visits, helped with Parent's Night, worked the Job Fair and helped with the Urbana High School visit. They also work Parkland's table at the Taste of Cham-

paign festival. The group is diverse, responsible, and must be time-oriented.

The Student Ambassador is a hired position that is described as half volunteer and half paid. The Ambassadors are paid for the events they work, not for the meetings each week or volunteer opportunities. The small group of Student Ambassadors is made up of students ranging from 18 to mid-40s; some of them are married, some of them are single, and some have kids. The group meets once a week on Tuesday from noon to one and are occasionally joined by a guest speaker, such as the Parkland Foundation president. They also develop and execute events, and help with other centers or offices. Currently they will be renaming the perimeter drive.

Currently, Parkland is looking for new members. Applicants must have two letters of recommendation, a 2.5 GPA, fill out an application and write an essay. Current Ambassadors assist in the interviewing and

hiring of the new ambassadors. Benefits of participating in this opportunity include building one's resume, develop leadership skills like running events, public relations, and training skills, and create relationships for future recommendations. There is also a social aspect to the organization as well, when working with others in close settings the opportunity for friendship is presented. For example, some of the Ambassadors are taking a trip turkey run together relatively soon. The group has ranged from as low as six members to twelve which it currently has. Some of the current Ambassadors will be leaving school soon, and some others are getting involved with Student Government as well.

Parkland is currently hiring for summer and fall Ambassadors.

These students help orient people. Smith also added, "They aren't in it for themselves. They have a good experience at Parkland and want to talk about it."



## ALUM

continued from page 1

Amber turned her efforts into writing about her children and their experiences, opting to change the subject away from cancer. But she soon began to reflect on the past, and the preventative measures she could have taken.

**Saturday, August 12, 2006 09:13PM, CDT**

*I wish that I would have known that I should have been having yearly appointments with the dermatologist. Maybe it would have been caught sooner.*

*I was always aware that I was at risk for skin cancers because of my fair skin and blonde hair; that's specifically why I never went to tanning booths and why I didn't lay out in the sun...*

*...What I wasn't aware of is that having over 100 moles puts you at a significant risk of skin cancer. After being diagnosed, I found out that my moles were my primary risk factor. I also learned that a lot of my moles are what's called atypical moles. These are moles that are not perfectly even, small circles of the exact same color. Even people who don't have lots of UV exposure can get skin cancer; I'm one of them. I wish that I would have known that before hand.*

*If you have a lot of moles (or sometimes I use to think of them as large freckles), know that you are at risk. Go see a dermatologist, please. Basal cell and squamous cell cancers are the two most common skin cancers. They are slow moving and easily cured.*

*Melanoma is the rarest form of skin cancer. It is also the most*

*aggressive and fastest moving cancer. 4% of skin cancers diagnosed are melanoma, but it accounts for 80% of all deaths from skin cancer. The good news is that if it is caught early, the cure rate is about 95%. The more advanced that melanoma is, the harder that it is to cure. The 5 year survival rate for my stage, 3C, is about 35%. The point that I'm trying to make is that we all need to be aware of the risk factors for skin cancer. If you are at risk, get yearly check ups because if you are going to develop a skin cancer, you want to catch it early. I never thought this would happen to me, but it did.*

Jessica Tatar grew up right next door to Amber. "We were childhood friends," she said.

"[Amber's] main thing is to educate people. She wants people to know that they can get Melanoma. She wants them to know that it can be prevented; it's treatable," Tatar said.

When Amber noticed a lump in her armpit, it had grown to 11cm.

"Melanoma is a slow-moving cancer, and quite treatable in the early stages. But once it invades the body cavity, it spreads rapidly," Tatar said.

"[The doctors] thought she may have had cancer since her first child, and her first child is five," Tatar said.

**Wednesday, November 22, 2006 10:42 PM, CST**

*Tomorrow is a day to give thanks for our many blessings. I have been blessed with three beautiful children, wonderful friends near and far, a supportive family, an encouraging church, and a husband who is growing with me each day.*

*Our needs are being met, actu-*

*ally, above and beyond what we require. We have a home, clothing, food, love, and lots of fun times together creating memories. God has placed people in our lives who give us wisdom, courage, and support.*

*Count your blessings today and every day. Don't take any moment for granted; the time passes too quickly. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.*

Recently Amber found out that the cancer has spread. It is in her right breast, left arm, left breast, and left chest wall. It is also in her sacrum, middle back, and right femur.

Throughout her entire ordeal, through bio-chemotherapy, surgeries, biopsies, and massive amounts of pharmaceuticals, Amber always makes time to ask her supporters to remember others who are in need—a testament to her personal integrity.

**Saturday, April 07, 2007 03:50AM, CDT**

*The thing is, mentally, I haven't reached the point where*

*I want to sit back and just accept hospice care. I can't just sit at home and let the disease overtake my body when I have three little children at home. I have to try. My kids need me here. Kailee's starting kindergarten this fall and hopefully Jordan will hopefully be starting preschool, assuming we can get him potty trained. Nathan's just learned to crawl. They need me; they need their mom. I'm suppose to be here to make snacks for preschool parties, to help them learn their spelling words, kiss scrapes and boo boos, teach them how to drive, help them in Mr. McCleary's algebra classes, comfort them through the break up of their first relationship, watch them graduate and figure out what they want to do with their lives. I'm suppose to be here to help Kailee pick out a wedding dress. I'm suppose to be their strong, capable, loving mommy.*

Amber's family and friends have created a large team for the Relay for Life benefit at the

U of I track, to be held April 20 from 7pm to 7am. Amber's two sisters, friend and Parkland Alumnus Angela, and Jessica Tatar will be a few of the participants on the team, "Partners in Crime for Amber."

Supporters are encouraged to attend.

"I might be able to stop by for a little bit," said Amber.

"Skin cancer is second only to breast cancer in young women in their 20s," said Amber. "It's very important to be screened by a dermatologist once a year. I would recommend not tanning, and to use sunblock when outdoors."

If you would like to support Amber Eldridge and her family in their fight with Melanoma, you can attend the fundraiser on April 21. Additional information is provided inside this issue of the Prospectus.

[The Prospectus would like to thank Donna Pepper, Jessica Tatar, and Amber Eldridge for their contributions to this report.]

### IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

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## Conservatives looking for the next Reagan, is it Thompson?

By **MATT STEARNS**

McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

WASHINGTON—Conservative leaders know whom they really want for president in 2008.

Alas, he's dead.

"I still think what most conservatives around the country are looking for ... is the next Ronald Reagan," said Gary Bauer, president of the socially conservative group American Values. "I don't think people are looking for a continuation of the Bush era. They're looking for somebody who resembles more clearly what they remember

from the Reagan era."

Much as memories of John F. Kennedy cast an intimidating specter over Democratic presidential contests for decades, so Reagan does now among Republicans seeking an electoral Messiah during the party's darkest time in years. They miss his sunny optimism; his appeal across the conservative spectrum, uniting social conservatives, economic conservatives, and national security conservatives; his communication skills; and his true-grit combination of toughness and humor.

So far, no Republican candidate can claim Reagan's transcendent, transformative mantle.

"Reagan communicated to the population at large the truths of conservative ideas and ideals," said Bill Greene, president of the conservative Web site rightmarch.com. "We don't have, at least in the top tier, someone that is able to do that."

Frontrunner Rudy Giuliani, the former New York mayor? Not being a social conservative hurts him with many activists. "I don't think the party can successfully nominate a pro-abortion candidate and win the White House," said Tony Perkins, president of the conservative Family Research Council. "I think it's a ticket for Hillary Clinton to win the White House."

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who leads the GOP field so far in fundraising? He has the Reaganesque hair and good looks. Yet doubts fester about whether his recently adopted conservative stances on social issues are "a road to Damascus, not a road to Des Moines, experience," Bauer said Wednesday at a press breakfast.

Arizona Sen. John McCain? He's long fought the conservative fight. Yet he's also famously fought with conservatives—he called some religious conservatives "agents of intolerance" in 2000, and others are wary of his quest for campaign finance reform—and that's remembered even as McCain tries to patch things up.

"It's not just record," Perkins said. "It's capturing the imagination of the American people."

Conservatives saw Reagan as "one of their own ... who attained

widespread popularity as one of their own," said Norman Ornstein, a scholar at the conservative American Enterprise Institute. None of the current leading GOP candidates "has that magic," a problem accentuated because for the first time in the post-Reagan era, there's no clear claimant to the Republican nomination, Ornstein said.

The search for the "New Reagan" helps account for the recent flurry of interest in former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson, a self-styled straight-talker with a solid conservative record and a presence honed by an acting career.

Thompson hasn't announced whether he's running, but he's already won an endorsement from Missouri Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder. "Fred Thompson is ... the closest thing to a natural we've had (or are likely to see) since Reagan," Kinder wrote, saying Thompson "echoes the great Reagan magic."

Thompson's acknowledgment Wednesday that he has lymphoma, a form of cancer, could hurt his prospects. (He said he's coped with it since 2004, that it's in remission, and that it shouldn't cut short his life expectancy.)

Yet Thompson too is unacceptable to one faction of self-described "traditionalist conservatives" who are organizing an online petition for the disgruntled. Their petition includes a pledge not to support the Republican Party unless it nominates a true-blue conservative opposed to "the third-world invasion of the United States," free trade, the war in Iraq and big government. They call their drive the "Conservative Exodus Project."

And so the springtime of conservative discontent continues, even as many recognize with regret that Reagan was one of a kind.

"This may be a lot like the music you listened to as a teenager," Bauer conceded. "There's never music as good as the music you grew up with. ... We're probably always going to be frustrated that there's not somebody else that fits the bill."

(c) 2007, McClatchy-Tribune Information Services

## Virginia Tech shootings

By **MATTHEW BOWERS**

The Virginian-Pilot (MCT)

Students at Virginia Tech were stunned and angered by the shooting deaths on the Blacksburg campus this morning. The Associated Press has reported at least 33 people dead in the shootings, including the gunman.

In his apartment three miles away from campus, Jason Grieves learned that a friend was one of the students who jumped out a second-story Norris Hall window to escape the gunman in the second wave of shootings.

"He definitely heard the gunshots," said Grieves, a Chesapeake, Va., native.

Grieves fretted about friends on campus, not knowing whether all of them escaped the shootings.

"One death, that was shock, OK, it's amazing," he said. "But when you hear 20 people dead, that's when it's real, it really clicked."

Students are "all pretty upset and angry about it," he said.

On campus, students were warned to stay inside their dorms or classrooms, though Tech's student newspaper reported on its Web site early this afternoon they were allowed to begin going to dining halls. Classes are canceled today and Tuesday.

Michelle Silva, 21, a junior from Chesapeake, lent her cell phone to other students hunkered down in an off-campus apartment building. "Most cell phones aren't working because the system is overloaded," she said. "If you can't get a hold of your loved one, don't assume the worst. Their cell phone just might not be working." Silva said she is unable to access her e-mail because that system is overwhelmed as well.

Silva, who turned 21 Monday, said students are shocked by what happened. "This is a horrible incident," she said. "I don't think campus will be the same for a while."

Kristen Walker, a freshman from Williamsburg, Va., first heard about a shooting at about 8:30 a.m., when a residential assistant told students that there had been an "incident" in West Ambler Johnston Hall, where she lives. The dorm, called West A.J., is where the first shootings occurred.

The R.A. told students at the 895-person co-ed dorm was on

lockdown and to stay put behind locked doors.

"I mean, we're all pretty freaked out. ... There are just all kinds of rumors flying about."

Late this morning, Walker said, "Everything's pretty bare and dead—nobody's outside anymore. And sirens have been going off for hours."

Jonathan Hostetler, a sophomore from Virginia Beach, Va., was in a building construction class in Hancock Hall about 9:45 a.m. when someone popped in to tell students there had been a shooting and to stay put.

"We're just away from all the windows. They've moved us upstairs to a classroom with no windows," in an adjacent building, he said by cell phone. "There are a bunch of police officers outside."

"Pretty much right now, all the information we're getting is from the news," he said. "Everybody's just waiting to see what the deal is. ..."

"People are staying pretty calm right now, because we don't know what's going on now," he added. "Everybody's worried, because we don't know what happened to any of the people."

Phyllis Gibson of Chesapeake talked with her daughter, Kimberly Ferguson, who works in the Virginia Tech financial aid office. Ferguson called her mother with the news.

"Just that two people were shot, and after that they heard more shots, and everybody's on lockdown," Gibson said.

As today's incident dragged on, an automated emergency broadcast system on campus blared warnings about every three minutes, said Nathan Rosso, a senior from Virginia Beach. He said the messages included: "Stay inside"; "There's a shooter on campus"; "Stay away from windows"; "All classes canceled."

Rosso could hear them from his off-campus apartment a mile away, along with police cars racing across town. It brought him back to the August incident.

"It's just real weird," he said. "Blacksburg is a very small place, it's a very small college town. Man, for this to be going on."

(c) 2007, The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, Va.).



Former Republican senator from Tennessee

**Fred Thompson**

### Early years

Born 1942, in Sheffield, Ala.; raised in Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

**Education** Bachelor's degree, Memphis State Univ., 1964; law degree, Vanderbilt Univ., 1967

### Career

1969-72 Assistant U.S. attorney

1973-74 Minority counsel, Senate Watergate Committee

1975-93 Lobbyist, lawyer

1977 Took on a Tennessee Parole Board case that exposed a cash-for-clemency scheme that toppled the governor and became the subject of a book and the film "Marie," in which Thompson played himself (1985)

1987-present Actor; appeared in 18 films, including "The Hunt for Red October," and as the district attorney since 2002 on the TV series "Law & Order"

### Political career

1994-2002 U.S. senator; served as chairman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; focused on such issues as cutting taxes, waste



© 2007 MCT  
Source: Draft Fred Thompson President 2008, Internet Movie Database, MCT Photo Service  
Graphic: Pat Carr



## Attack underscores vulnerability of Green Zone

### ■ Attack on Iraq Parliament shows weakness in “impervious” areas

By SHASHANK BENGALI  
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

BAGHDAD, Iraq—A mid-afternoon bombing Thursday in the cafeteria of Iraq's parliament offered the deadliest evidence yet that the fortress-like Green Zone—long thought to be Baghdad's most secure section—has become less safe in recent weeks.

Two months into a new U.S.-Iraqi security crackdown in the capital, assassination attempts, mortar and rocket attacks and other security breaches are frequent in and around the Green Zone, home to the U.S. Embassy, thousands of American troops and major Iraqi government buildings.

“This shouldn't happen, but the security plan cannot stop such violations,” said Ridha Jawa Taqi, a legislator from the main Shiite political party, the United Iraqi Alliance. “We all know there have been serious incidents.”

Details of Thursday's attack, which struck just after lunchtime while the cafeteria was crowded with legislators and their staffs, were still sketchy. Iraqi lawmakers said at least three people, including one parliament member, were killed in the blast. U.S. military spokesman Major Gen. William Caldwell said eight people had died. At least 23 people were wounded, the Iraqi Interior Ministry and Caldwell said.

It isn't known whether the bomb had been planted in the second-floor cafeteria or was carried there by a suicide attacker. Several witnesses said they saw severed body parts at the scene of the attack, suggesting that a suicide bomber had been blown apart.

For the Iraqi government, which is trying to persuade residents, insurgent groups and U.S. officials that it can get a grip on the violence, the attack underscored the vulnerability of even its most heavily fortified area—a four-square-mile zone ringed by checkpoints, concrete walls and concertina wire, and guarded by Iraqi security forces, coalition troops and private security contractors.

Thousands of people—from janitors to high-level officials and their large security details—pass through the

checkpoints each day, and several Iraqi officials speculated that the attack was carried out by someone with regular access to the Green Zone.

Last month, the deputy prime minister, Salam al-Zobaie, a Sunni Muslim, was wounded in a suicide bombing in a prayer hall. The hall was adjacent to his home in a heavily guarded district just outside the Green Zone where many government officials live. Many lawmakers speculated that the attacker was one of Zobaie's bodyguards, a charge that he denied.

A day earlier, a rocket landed inside the perimeter, less than 100 yards from where U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon was holding a news conference, although no one was hurt. The following week, two Americans—a soldier and a government contractor—were killed in another rocket attack. Days later, coalition forces discovered two unexploded suicide vests next to a Dumpster.

The incidents prompted U.S. officials to impose new security measures, requiring embassy personnel to wear protective body armor when outdoors inside the embassy complex and restricting access for outside visitors.

“Certainly, all of us know this is what the war is about,” U.S. Embassy spokesman Lou Fintor said Thursday. “Iraq is a dangerous place.”

No group immediately claimed responsibility. Mithal al-Alusi, a secular Sunni legislator who'd left the cafeteria moments before the attack, said intelligence information before the bombing had warned of a strike by al-Qaida in Iraq, a Sunni group known to use suicide-bombing vests.

Legislators have long worried about the security of the parliament. Six weeks ago, security forces searched the building from top to bottom but turned up only a few weapons.

“It's not that safe,” Alusi said of the Green Zone. “There are many entrances, and thousands of people have the permits to come in.”

Some legislators speculated that the explosive device could have been smuggled into the convention center—where the parliament is housed—hidden in food destined for the cafete-

ria.

The convention center isn't as heavily secured as some other parts of the Green Zone, such as the U.S. Embassy. Still, pedestrians must carry two forms of identification and are frisked at four checkpoints, including one with a full-body electronic scanning machine.

The security procedures were revamped following the last bombing inside the Green Zone—an assassination attempt in November on the parliament speaker, Mahmoud al-Mashhadani. A bomb planted under a car at the rear of his motorcade exploded as it was driving into the convention center parking lot, but no one was killed.

“I'm 100 percent sure it was an inside job,” Brig. Gen. Abdulkarim Khalaf, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said of Thursday's attack. “Even I as a brigadier general cannot get inside the Green Zone without passing through heavy security procedures.”

Thirty to 40 Sunni and Shiite parliament members were in the room, witnesses said, when the blast occurred at around 2 p.m. The cafeteria is a few yards away from the main parliamentary chamber, where lawmakers had just concluded a regular session.

“We heard a very big sound of an explosion and the whole room got very dark because of the thick smoke,” said Ali Alyas, a journalist with the Al-Hurra television station, who was in an adjacent room.

The dead lawmaker was identified by colleagues as Mohammed Awad, a member of the Sunni National Dialogue Front political party. An undisclosed number of wounded were taken to the U.S.-run Ibn Sina hospital inside the Green Zone.

Within an hour of the blast, security forces blocked access to the area. Reporters for McClatchy Newspapers saw two ambulances and a fire truck arriving at the scene while helicopter gunships circled low overhead.

Mashhadani, the parliament speaker, called for a special legislative session on Friday, the Muslim day of prayer, as a show of defiance.

Earlier Thursday, in a separate attack, a truck bomb exploded on al-Sarafiyah bridge,

a British-built landmark spanning the Tigris River. Ten people were believed dead and 30 injured in the explosion, which collapsed the steel structure and sent several cars tumbling into the water.

A roundup of violent incidents in Iraq is posted every afternoon at [www.mcclatchydc.com](http://www.mcclatchydc.com). Click on Iraq war coverage.



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## Rutgers athletes display dignity at news conference

By **AUSTIN FENNER**  
New York Daily News (MCT)

NEW YORK—They were hurt. They were angry. But they were dignified.

The Rutgers women Don Imus disparaged as “nappy-headed hos” held their heads high Tuesday and slam-dunked their detractor with an inspiring display of class.

Carefully coiffed and looking sharp in Rutgers red, the female basketball players whose moment in the national spotlight was ruined by Imus’ vicious words said they were ready to meet with him—and expected more than apology.

“I want to ask him, ‘Now that you’ve met me, am I ho?’” said

Rutgers center Kia Vaughn. “Unless they’ve given ‘ho’ a whole new definition, that’s not what I am.”

Declaring that Imus has “stolen a moment of pure grace for us,” the wounded women spoke out for the first time about Imus’ racist radio remarks.

“This has scarred me for life,” said guard Matee Ajavon. “I’ve dealt with racism before. For it to be in the public eye like this, it will be something I will tell my granddaughter.”

The 10 players thanked the Rev. Al Sharpton and other black leaders for defending their honor—but did not echo their calls for Imus to be fired.

“We hope to come to some kind of understanding,” said

team leader Essence Carson. “We would just like to express our great hurt.”

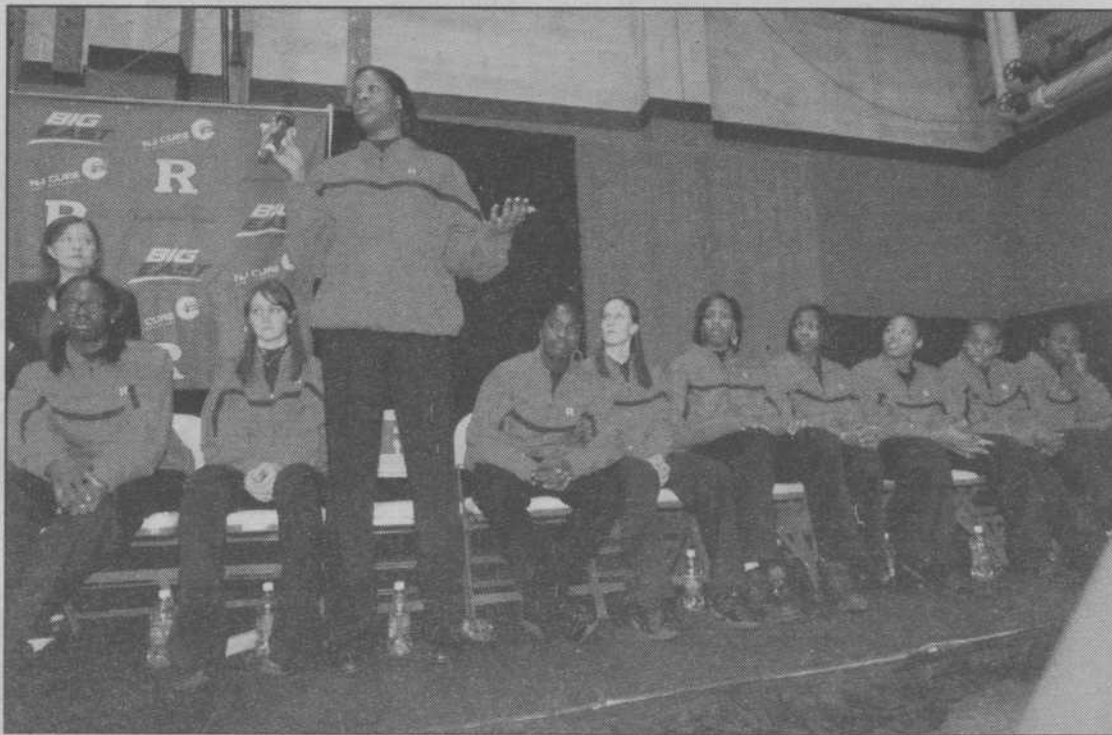
The time, date and place of their faceoff with Imus has not been set, but it will be moderated by the Rev. DeForest Soaries. Ajavon said it will be private. “Right now I can’t really say if we have come to a con-

Mayor Michael Bloomberg called his comments about the women “not only ill-advised and inappropriate, they were repugnant.”

Imus insulted the mostly black team last Wednesday, a day after Rutgers nearly won the NCAA championship game. He apologized for the first time

said. “His message was conveyed to so many people. Can you imagine how many people think there is some truth behind the joke?”

Imus was not without his defenders. Shock jocks Opie and Anthony called him the victim of a “double standard” because rappers and some black radio



Rutgers player Kia Vaughn addresses derogatory remarks made by radio talk show host Don Imus during a press conference at Rutgers Athletic Center in Piscataway, New Jersey, Tuesday, April 10, 2007.

Chris Pedota/The Record (MCT)



Rutgers women's basketball head coach Vivian Stringer listens as her players address derogatory remarks made by radio talk show host Don Imus during a press conference at Rutgers Athletic Center in Piscataway, New Jersey, Tuesday, April 10, 2007.

Chris Pedota/The Record (MCT)

clusion about whether we will accept the apology,” she said.

Imus, who was suspended by CBS Radio for two weeks starting Monday, said, “I am enormously grateful that they are going to let me come and talk to them.”

While WFAN has not yet said what will air during Imus’ time slot, Carson had a suggestion. “It could be highlights of Rutgers women’s basketball games,” she said.

Imus has long been a cantankerous critic of Washington and his show is a favorite stop for politicians, pundits and reporters. Tuesday, President Bush weighed in on the controversy.

“The president believes that the apology was the right thing to do,” Bush spokeswoman Dana Perino said.

Prefacing his remarks by noting that he’s never met Imus or been on his show, New York

two days later and made a futile stab at winning more forgiveness by going on Sharpton’s radio show.

Rutgers’ outraged coach, C. Vivian Stringer, wiped away tears as she recounted her own battles with racism and said she won’t let Imus “steal our joy.”

Then each player stood up, walked over to the microphone, and introduced herself.

Towering over her teammates, Vaughn gave a cheery “Good morning, everyone.” But her broad smile faded as she opened up about the hurt she feels—as an African American and a woman. “I’m not a ho, I’m a woman. I’m someone’s child,” she said.

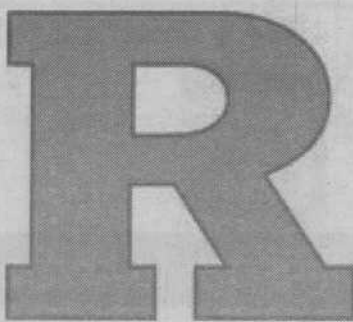
Carson said most of the team didn’t even know who Imus was and their first impulse was to “let it slide.”

“But reading the transcript . . . it hit too close to home,” she

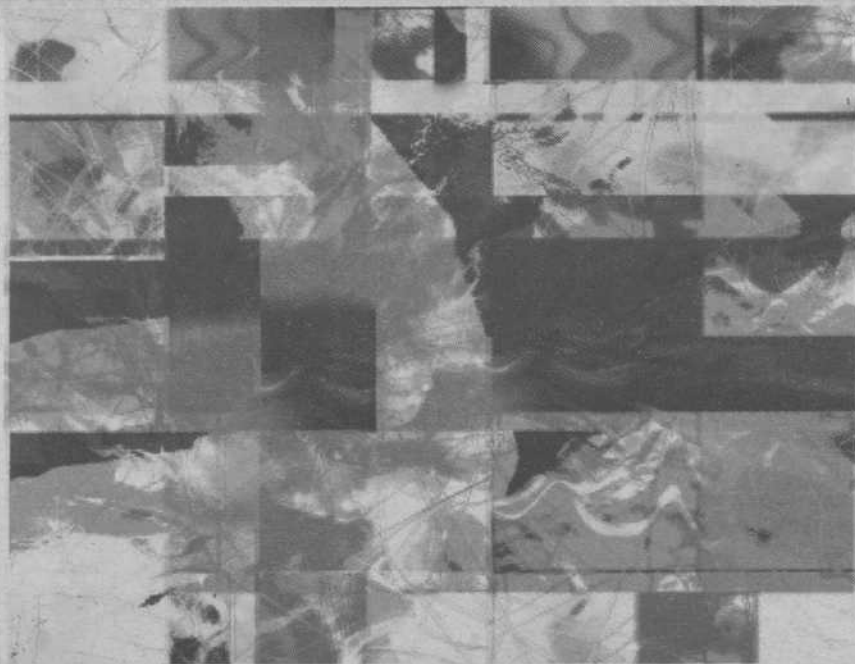
hosts routinely make disparaging remarks about women. But “Today” show weatherman Al Roker said “it is time for him to go.”

“I, for one, am really tired of the diatribes, the ‘humor’ at others’ expense,” he wrote on his MSNBC Web site.

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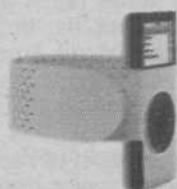
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## The Student:

Mark Shirley



**Major:** Graphic Design  
**Student Since:** 2006

### Groups involved with:

Images.

### What's after Parkland?

Unsure. I have some ideas, but not solid plans as of yet.

### Favorite Parkland course(s):

i enjoy my GDS and ART courses.

### What would you change at Parkland College?

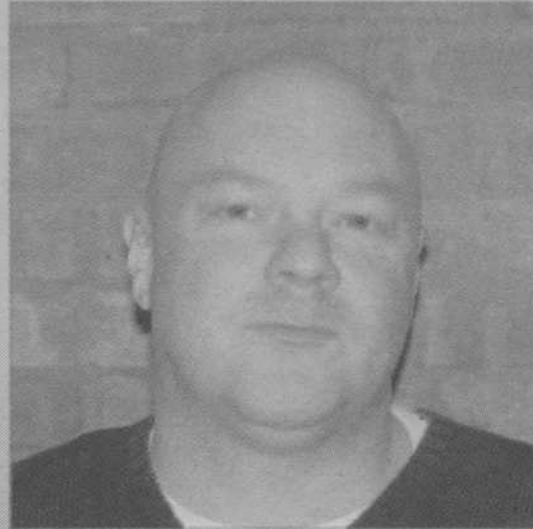
There are things that I would change about the education system but don't pertain to Parkland specifically.

### Best part of the Prospectus?

I like articles that are relevant to student issues on campus.

## The Staff:

Michael Coulter



**Title:** Instructional Technology Specialist  
**Employed Since:** 1998

### Courses taught:

Not teaching, but I do video production for the college.

### Previous education:

Eastern Illinois University.

### Favorite quote/saying:

"The way you do anything is the way you do everything."

— Tom Waits

### What would you change at Parkland College?

Not much at all, but in general I would say parking is usually my biggest frustration.

### Best part of the Prospectus?

I enjoy that it offers Parkland College news, but I usually find there are at least one or two interesting national or international articles that can apply locally.

## The Staff:

Beth Chepan



**Major:** Admission Clerk  
**Student Since:** 2005

### Best part of job:

Working with students, it is great talking to someone who is excited about earning a degree and learning. They are here because they want to be here not because they have to be here.

### Where were you raised?

Bondville.

### Biggest inspiration:

My younger sister. She has earned an A.A., B.A. and 3 Masters. She teaches at a local high school and the mother of 2 small children. She inspired me to go back to school.

### What would you change at Parkland College?

Not a lot, I think Parkland is a great learning institution and has a lot to offer.

### Best part of Parkland College?

The people. The staff is very friendly and helpful and the students are great to interact with!



## The Mac and PC are coming to a big screen near you

By **CRAIG CROSSMAN**  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service  
(MCT)

Apple wants you to see its Macintosh as the control center of all your media or to use the phrase of its CEO, the "Digital Hub" of everything you see and hear. Put all your music, videos and pictures you've taken on your computer for easy viewing. Take all of the DVD movies in your library, and play those TV shows you've downloaded and watch them all on the computer's screen. Display and play all of it on the computer. That's Apple's vision. But just a moment please.

My PC only has a 19-inch screen and the speakers are adequate for day to day computer functions, and even my Mac's 30-inch display hardly compares to my 50-inch plasma screen that has an incredible Dolby Digital Surround Sound speaker setup over there in the den. And besides, the computer is way over on the other side of the house in that little room I call my home office. Also, sitting at my computer's desk is certainly tolerable for while I'm working but it certainly doesn't begin to compare with my recliner or the sectional I have in the TV room.

OK so if I could somehow get all of my computer's content to be displayed and played on my big screen TV system that's in that way over there other part of my house, then maybe Apple would be onto something. Then again, I would think my wife would have something to say about all those wires I'd have to string between the computer room and the TV setup.

But don't worry about all of that because Apple's got you covered with something new, they call it Apple TV and it's about time they came up with some-

immediately displayed thanks to the built-in hard drive. Even with the slower 802.11b, you'll be amazed how fast the media content appears on the TV. Of

and you can do it without wires. However, Apple does provide the Apple TV with a high-speed Ethernet connection just in case. But however you choose

letting you play and display your computer's content on hardware that was designed to play it. Let's face it. Even with a 30-inch screen on your computer, it's still more than likely no match for your entertainment setup. The Apple TV is a really great way for you to take your digital content and present it in the best possible manner. Now, where's the popcorn? \$299. Available at Apple stores and on the Apple website at [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com).



(Craig Crossman is a national newspaper columnist writing about computers and technology. He also hosts the No. 1 daily national computer radio talk show, Computer America, heard on the Business TalkRadio Network and the Lifestyle TalkRadio Network—Monday through Friday, 10 p.m.-midnight ET. For more information, visit his web site at [www.computeramerica.com](http://www.computeramerica.com).)

thing like this.

The Apple TV has a slightly larger footprint (7.7 by 7.7 inches) as the Mac Mini (6.5 by 6.5 inches) but it's only 1.1 inches tall. Included in the box is the same 6-button Apple Remote control that you find with the iMac. All the necessary software is on the Apple TV's built-in 40-gigabyte hard drive which can store up to 50 hours of video, 9,000 songs and 25,000 photos. You connect the Apple TV to your TV set using component or DVI video cables or ideally, an HDMI cable, which comes in real handy if your TV is High Definition.

Once connected, your Mac or Windows PC needs a WiFi connection. Content is almost

course, having the faster 802.11n draft really lets things move along nicely with its larger, virtual pipe.

You navigate the Apple TV in much the same way as you navigate via Apple's Front Row interface that's found on the iMac. But in this case, everything is centralized via iTunes. If you can play it on iTunes, you can now play it on your mega TV system in the other room

to make the connection between your computer and the Apple TV, you'll be pleased with the smooth playing results.

Apple TV does a good job in

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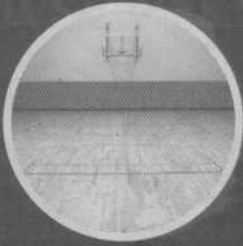
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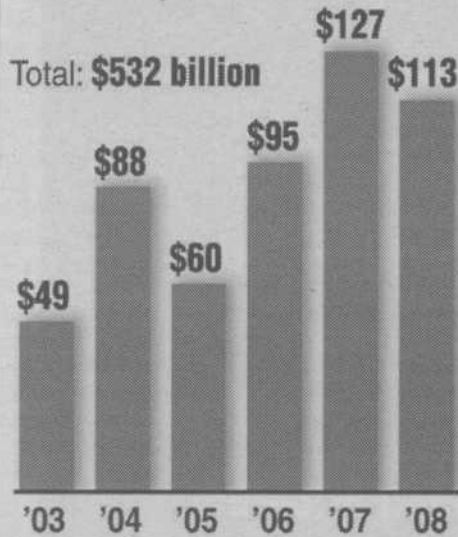
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## Iraq war costs

Estimated appropriations and requests for the war in Iraq, 2003-2008, in billions:



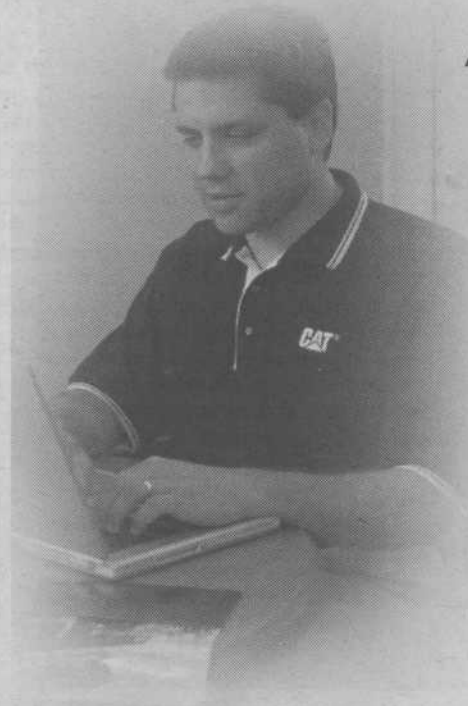
NOTE: Includes diplomatic operations and foreign aid; 2007 figure includes supplemental appropriation request

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Source: Congressional Budget Office  
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			7	4			5	2	
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## Crossword

**ACROSS**

- Racing circuits
- Skiers' ride
- Broom stroke
- Landed
- Seniors' grp.
- To the point
- One who performs
- Work on the hedges
- Bump in salary
- Left alone
- Ebert's former partner
- Feels poorly
- Fork part
- Burning food
- Twisting and turning
- Roof overhang
- Mends by reweaving
- Negative conjunction
- Hebrew month
- Entices
- Roll-call response
- "Kidnapped" auth.
- Contrasting strips
- Concentration gap
- Reversals
- Separated
- Pub offerings
- installed, as carpet
- Souped-up car
- Deluges
- Hunter in the sky
- Peace lover
- Small recess
- Act part
- Idyllic place
- Needle case
- Pert
- Do a postal job
- "Wild at Heart" star Laura

**DOWN**

- Alan or Cheryl
- \_\_ vera
- Pizza orders
- Decorative strip
- Reveal by gossip
- Exposes
- Extra dry
- Letters in record time?
- Orchestra section
- Mink's cousin
- Actor Estrada
- Latin I verb
- Rind
- Barbecue fare
- Traffic advisories
- Becomes weary
- Phobias
- Soup server
- Nautical command
- Electoral districts
- All thumbs
- Scandinavian
- Avarice
- Immerses
- Entwined
- Set
- Hogwash!
- Den

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S	T	N	E	R	O	T	G	O	R	L	O	H		
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|------------------------|----------------------|
| 42 Some noblemen       | 48 Cravats           |
| 43 Mom or dad          | 49 Hubbub            |
| 45 Paramour            | 50 Observe with care |
| 46 "Bonanza" character | 51 Junket            |
| 47 Puget Sound whale   | 52 Body covering     |
|                        | 54 __ Plaines, IL    |



# Classified

PROSPECTUS  
Wednesday, April 18, 2007 — Page 14

## ■ Tickets

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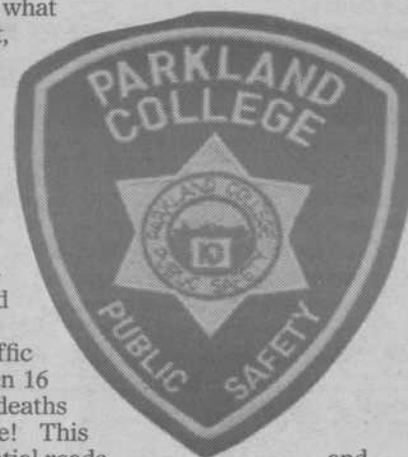


## Did you know that safety is everyone's business?

Slow down!! Across the country this is what is being shouted out by law enforcement, child safety professionals, the insurance industry, and emergency response workers. I recently went to a conference that is dedicated to traffic safety.

I found out that speed is the number one contributor to traffic crashes, especially with the under 25 population. This age group of drivers has the highest rate of fatal crashes. The combination of inexperience and risk taking can be deadly, and the statistics prove it.

Latest statistics show 24% of all traffic fatalities in the nation are people between 16 and 24 years of age, which is equal to 8,738 deaths per year. Please slow down everywhere! This includes the interstate, city roads, residential roads, yes, even parking lots. Also, please don't be a distracted driver. Avoid additional distractions such as too many extra passengers, cell phone usage (and text messaging) while driving, and very loud music. Drive safely and remember to always buckle up.



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- FREE Ethernet and Cable w/HBO
- Heated pool and Hot tub
- Tennis, Basketball and Volleyball courts
- Close to campus
- Bus service available
- Washer & Dryer in each Apt.
- Group discounts available
- 24-hour Fitness Center
- Computer Lab
- Game Room

**Prices  
Starting at  
\$365**

www.collegeparkweb.com  
**College Park Lincoln View**  
1321 N. Lincoln  
Urbana, IL 61801

Ad Insertion Order

BASIC RATE

Ad to read: (please print)

### E-MAIL • FAX • MAIL • DROP IN

Submit following information with classified ad.

Name _____	<b>E-MAIL</b> prospectusads@parkland.edu
Address _____	
City, State, Zip _____	<b>FAX</b> 217-373-3835
Daytime Phone _____	
E-mail (opt.) _____	<b>MAIL / DROP IN</b> Parkland Prospectus Rm X155, 2400 W. Bradley Ave. Champaign, IL 61821-1899
# of words _____	
Dates to run _____	

#### DEADLINES

- All classified ads must be submitted by 5 p.m. of the Thursday before desired publication.
- Ads cannot be canceled after the above deadline.

#### BASIC RATE

25 words — \$4.00  
Each additional word is 10¢.

#### POLICIES

- The Prospectus reserves the right to revise or reject any advertisement.
- Advertisers must verify ads for accuracy. The Prospectus is not responsible for any errors from the advertiser.
- In case of an error in a published classified the Prospectus will run the ad again corrected.

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





## Weather Forecast

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, low around 34.  
**Thursday:** Partly cloudy, high near 57.  
**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, low around 38.  
**Friday:** Partly cloudy, high near 65.  
**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, low around 44.  
**Saturday:** Partly cloudy, high near 68.  
**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 49.  
**Sunday:** Partly cloudy, high near 73.  
**Sunday Night:** A chance of thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, low around 54.

## CrimeStoppers seeks assistance

This week, CrimeStoppers and the Urbana Police Department are seeking information regarding two burglaries to a business.

In November of 2006 and again during the night of March 31, 2007, an unknown offender broke out the front window of Upscale Fashions, located at 201 West Green Street, Urbana. Once inside, the offender removed

several suits, specifically Biani, Bonelli, and John Raphael brands, as



well as numerous pairs of Urban Edge brand jeans.

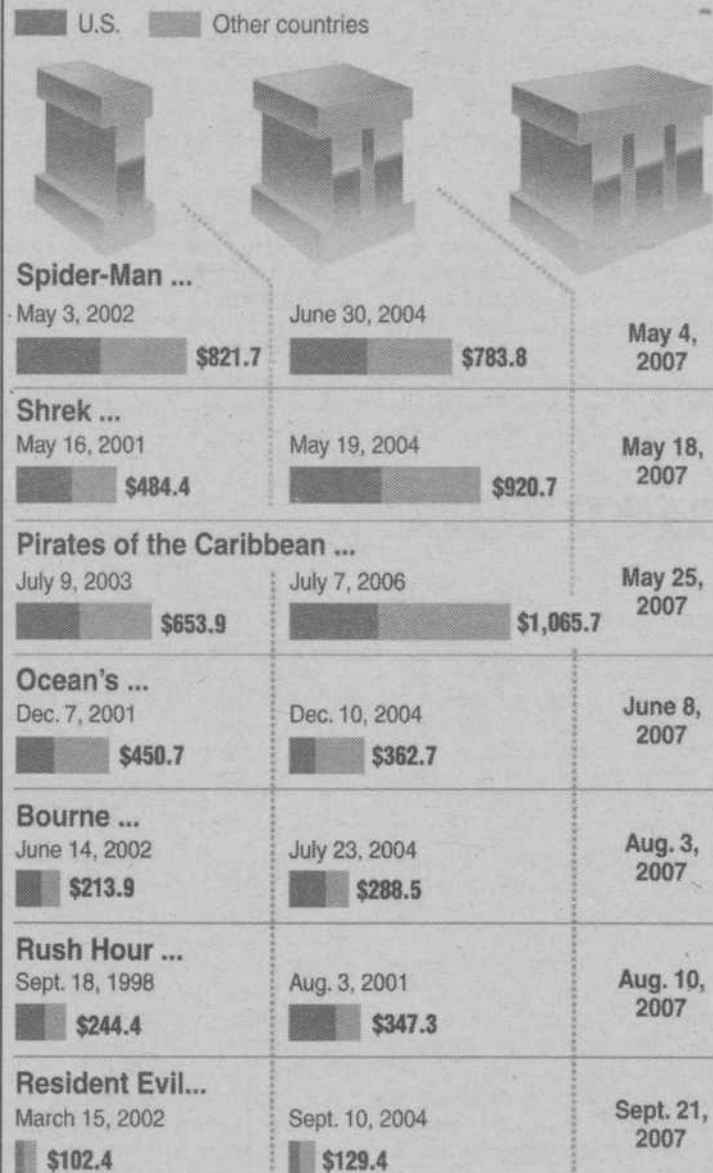
No suspect information is available.

If you have any

information regarding these crimes, 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 these crimes. Rewards are also paid for information on other felony crimes or fugitives in the Champaign County area.

## Third time around

Total box office grosses for some blockbusters whose third version is opening this summer, in millions, with release dates:



Note: The fifth Harry Potter movie is also opening this summer  
 Source: Box Office Mojo Graphic: Pat Carr, Lee Hulteng

© 2007 MCT

## Novelist Kurt Vonnegut dies at 84

By LEO STANDORA  
 New York Daily News (MCT)

Author Kurt Vonnegut, whose blend of satire, black comedy and science fiction in such novels as "Slaughterhouse-Five," "Cat's Cradle" and "Breakfast of Champions" made him an American counterculture icon, died Wednesday. He was 84.

Vonnegut, who often marveled that he had lived so long despite his life-long smoking habit, had suffered brain injuries after a fall at his Manhattan home weeks ago, said his wife, photographer Jill Krentz.

Vonnegut wrote plays, short stories and essays—some about his attempted suicide in 1985—but it was his novels that made him a literary idol on college campuses across the country in the '60s and '70s.

His early works, including "Player Piano" and "Cat's Cradle," were mostly science fiction—if somewhat unorthodox—but he later changed the form of his work to produce the acclaimed, semiautobiographical "Slaughterhouse-Five," published in 1969.

The novel centered on the firebombing of Dresden, Germany, by Allied forces in 1945, an event Vonnegut witnessed as a young prisoner of war. The work is generally considered to be one of the greatest American novels of the 20th century, and it made Vonnegut a household name at a time when the country was torn apart by the Vietnam War.

Vonnegut's experiences in the war, in which he won a Purple Heart, formed the core of at least six of his 21 books.

Vonnegut was born in Indianapolis, where his father, Kurt Sr., worked as an architect. During the Depression, while his father was in a long stretch of

divorced in 1979.

With his second wife, Vonnegut adopted four children, three of them the offspring of a sister who had died of cancer.

In 1947, he moved to Schenectady, N.Y., took a public relations job with General Electric and, three years later, sold his first short story.

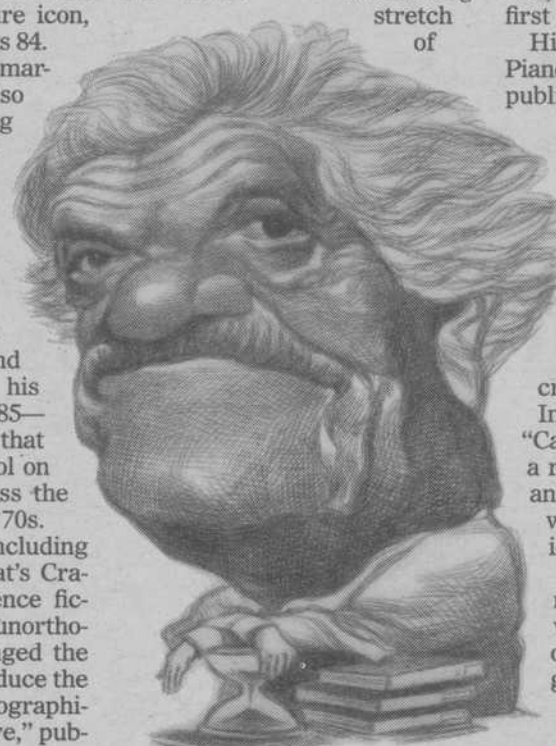
His first novel was "Player Piano," a satire on corporate life published in 1952.

It was followed in 1959 by "The Sirens of Titan," a science fiction novel featuring the Church of God of the Utterly Indifferent. In 1961, he published "Mother Night," about an American writer awaiting trial in Israel on charges of war crimes in Nazi Germany.

In 1963, Vonnegut published "Cat's Cradle," which depicts a religion called Bokononism and the destruction of the world by a substance called ice-nine.

Novelist Gore Vidal once noted that Vonnegut was very different from the other major writers of his generation.

"He was imaginative; our generation of writers didn't go in for imagination very much. Literary realism was the general style," Vidal said. "Those of us who came out of the war in the 1940s made sort of the official American prose, and it was often a bit on the dull side. Kurt was never dull."



unemployment, Vonnegut's mother committed suicide—an act Vonnegut said haunted him all his life.

After the war, Vonnegut married his high school sweetheart, Jane Marie Cox, and settled in Chicago, where they had three children and he worked as a police reporter for the Chicago City News Bureau. He and Cox

(c) 2007, New York Daily News.





**WIN a METALLIC PINK guitar already signed by TRISHA YEARWOOD....and to be personalized by GARTH BROOKS!**

Tickets for the raffle are 6 for \$5 or 12 for \$10

**Raffle & Concert:**  
**April 21 from 10AM-11AM**  
 606 West Anthony Drive, Champaign  
 (Old Best Buy Building)

## JAM WITH THE JAMMIES

Rock Concert for Kids

Champaign-Urbana's very own rock band for kids, The Jammies, will perform at the One Week Boutique Children's Consignment Sale! Kids — be sure to wear your jammies to the concert! Tickets for the concert will be available for a donation of \$5 per family



**Hit songs:**  
 Just Ketchup,  
 Daisy the Dog,  
 and The Funky Dance.

Tickets are available for purchase at Marcy McAnally State Farm Insurance, 900 South Mattis Ave., Champaign IL until April 20. Tickets will also be available during sale hours of The One Week Boutique on April 20 and also at the door on concert day!

Proceeds from the concert and raffle will benefit a local mother of three, who is battling Stage IV Melanoma. For more information about the concert or raffle, pictures of the guitar, or One Week Boutique please go to <http://www.oneweekboutique.com>

## Support a Parkland Alum—help fight skin cancer.

# Cobra baseball ready to endure tough schedule

## Games now available on Podcast

By **ERIC HARPRING**  
*Prospectus Staff Writer*

The Parkland Cobra baseball team has been on a roll as of late, winning 21 of their last 23 games, including a current 12-game winning streak and rank No. 3 in the country (NCJAA). Their current record is 27-6. They look to be in control of their own conference destiny as they are currently 16-0. After a disappointing start, the Cobras have really turned it on lately, averaging over eight runs per game, and holding their opponents to just over three runs per game in the 23-game stretch.

The pitching is lead by freshmen Andrew Burkett (Prairie Ridge HS), who is 5-0, Brooks Martin (Streator HS), who is 5-1, and sophomore Scott Kuhns (Hersey HS) who is 4-0 for the year. The offense is lead by sophomores Scott Gladstone (Marryatville HS, Australia), who is hitting .438 with four home runs and 42 hits, and Zach Skidmore (Dundee-Crown HS) who is hitting .451 with 46 hits and 3 home runs.

Coming on lately has been

local freshman Caleb King (Mahomet-Seymour HS) who hit 3 home runs in the double-header against ICC Sunday, while going 7-8 with 9 RBI and 7 runs in the two-game sweep. Fellow freshman Nathan Weglarz (Home-wood-Flossmoor HS) is hitting .379 with 23 RBI and is leading the team in hit-by-pitches.

Parkland, as a team, is hitting an astounding .330 for the season. With the season just over halfway completed, the Cobras are looking to continue their dominating ways in conference games, which most of their schedule consists of, as they have for most of the season. Since the team trip to Florida, the only slip up has been a game at Lake Land.

In Florida, the team played many nationally ranked junior colleges, such as Iowa Central and St. Louis Forest Park. In the near future, the Cobras will play No. 6 Oakton Community College, No. 7 Kankakee CC, and No. 16 Springfield College. The Parkland schedule is grueling, but they seem to be overcoming many rained-out games and scheduling difficulties due

to weather by dominating the teams they face. Part of the scheduling difficulty includes a stretch where the Cobras play ten games in six days. The Parkland team will next be in action on Wednesday as they face No. 6 Oakton and then on Friday as they travel to South Holland, Illinois to take on South Suburban.

A new technology has come to Parkland baseball, via Podcast. Bret Beherns, a local radio personality and Parkland student, has taken it upon himself to broadcast each home game for the Cobras. Each game is broadcasted on 88.7 Sports and is later posted on the Parkland Athletics website under the baseball section. Bret brings a very personable approach to the games as he calls it how he sees it and is very enthusiastic in his broadcasts. He and his partner Chris Beckman bring a newfound enthusiasm to the baseball atmosphere on the radio.

[Editor's note: Eric Harpring is a member of the baseball team, and sports writer for the Prospectus.]

# Softball team offense a premier force

By **MICHAEL LAIRD**  
*Contributing Writer*

The Parkland softball team scored a record-breaking twenty-six runs in the third inning as Parkland routed Springfield College 34-3 in the first game of a double-header on Tuesday. The Cobras won game two by a score of 12-0. Parkland pounded 18 hits in the inning and benefited from three walks and three Bulldog errors. PC hit three home runs in the inning with Kali Haussy, Erin Galloway, and Tiffany Brown all hitting homers. It was Brown's first home run of her career. Haussy finished the game with 5 RBIs; Galloway had 4 hits and 4 RBIs. Lindsay Watkins, Julie Kiska, and Jenna Haley also drove in three runs apiece.

The softball team only seems to be getting better as the Coach

Chuck Clutts and his group of nationally ranked girls have jumped to a 23-9 overall record and a 15-1 MWAC (Mid-West Athletic Conference) record.

"I believe we are doing very well, since coming back from Florida. The team is improving every day in some form or another," said coach Clutts.

The question still remains: do the girls still have what it takes to win that inaugural prize—a National Championship distinction? According to Clutts, "Their play has been at a championship level. If they get behind or in a close game, we see no panic. The girls go about their business and get the job done. Our goal is to play at our level of competitiveness, not at the other teams," he said.

Offense seems to be a major part of the Cobras game, outscoring their opponents so far

this season by 141 runs (254-113). This is very clear by the number of home runs that have been hit already this year. Leading the team in that category is Jessica Gourdir who has nine home runs and—at this pace—is on track to break the single-season Parkland College record of twelve that was set by Julie Steckler in 2001.

Going beyond potential is something that people like to see and is something that this team seems to strive for. "Everyone on this team has great potential, however the two players that have stepped up lately and produced have been Lacey Poulson, playing third base with a .404 batting average and a .488 on-base percentage, and Kali Haussy. Kali actually had shoulder surgery last summer and through hard work in rehab, has been very effective for the

Cobras hitting .378 with two homeruns and 20 RBIs," Clutts said.

The Parkland College softball team heads into the last three weeks of the regular season.

"The players all have different things they need to work on. Our pitchers need to be more consistent and our defense needs to be stronger. When you make a mistake against a team at nationals they will usually score," Clutts said.

Being ranked the No. 1 team in the country is a goal for any team, but the No. 7 ranked Cobras enjoy their placing, stating that "it's very nice to have the recognition throughout the nation—we look at it as putting a bulls-eye on our backs and we like that." Goals are certainly something that this team has been driven by this year and, according to Clutts, "Most of

the team goals have been met already or are extremely close to being met."

Injuries, in the past, have affected the Cobras different ways. However, it seems that Clutts is fielding more players now than he has all year. Just about everyone is back to full strength.

What does Clutts have to say about the 2007 national tournament? "We play game by game. If the team does the right things, they will be stronger and more confident every day. If the team stumbles, then they learn from their mistakes and that too makes them stronger. But we are confident," Clutts said.

Week seven of the regular season kicks off Sunday when the Cobras take on Robert Morris in an away bid followed by a two-day home stand against Lincoln and No. 8 Kankakee.