

## See page 8



### Inside This Week...

- Page 2 — Spotlight
- Page 3 — Local/Parkland
  - Calendar
  - Retiring the Chief
- Page 5 — National News
  - Vets and college
- Page 6 — World News
  - Brazilian crime
  - Mideast Universities
- Page 7 — Diversity
  - Immigrant finances
- Page 8 — When it snows...
- Page 9 — Parkland Profiles
- Page 10 — Technology
  - Google and pirating
- Page 13 — Off Topic
- Page 14 — Classified
  - Did You Know
- Page 15 — Radio/TV/Film
  - Weather
  - CrimeStoppers
  - Grammy awards
- Page 16 — Sports
  - Illini trauma
  - Hardaway's hate

## Winter still very much alive

### ■ C-U digs out, helps neighbors in spite of weather

By AARON GEIGER  
*Prospectus Editor*

Just as everybody was wondering what happened to the weather in December, a double storm and a low-pressure system sandwiched the Midwest, unloading about a foot of snow. Compounding the problem were 40-mph gusting winds that awarded Illinois with a blizzard warning that lasted the duration of a day.

"I had Valentine's Day planned early, 'cause my girl is a waitress, and had to work on the actual day. We were gonna hit up a nice restaurant and go to the club. We ended up helping her momma get her car out of the Kraft parking lot," said Keith Williams. "We didn't even get that accomplished. I was mad. Sure enough, my girl had to go to work, and everybody and their dog was there for dinner."

Plows were effectively halted, except for clearing main arteries and roadways. "It was ridiculous. I would drive a perimeter circuit around a parking lot downtown, and by the time I got back to where I started, the snow had completely

covered my previous tracks," said Derek, who moonlights as a plowman and has a son at Parkland. "I couldn't see where I was going, and I ended up helping another guy get his rig out of a drift. It's been a long time [since the last blizzard]. If I were a kid I'd be going crazy."

The University of Illinois closed down for the first time in decades, twice, and generated heated issues with their employees—some of which weren't paid for the snow days, according to the *News-Gazette*.

Parkland College also closed down for two days. The parking lots were filled with snow, and were inaccessible from one entrance for a day.

After the blizzard, four more inches fell on the area, and again the winds picked up, creating dangerous driving conditions on the highways. As drivers left the immediate metro area, hazardous winds, blowing snow, and covered "black ice" patches caused dozens of wrecks within the vicinity. No vehicle type or make was spared. Within thirty miles between Champaign and Farmer City on Saturday afternoon, over fifteen vehicles were wrecked or stuck in the snowbound ditches and medians. SUVs had flipped, a semi had jackknifed, four-door sedans were stranded, and sports cars were facing the wrong way next to the barren cornfields.

In the middle of the initial torrent of Valentine snow, a silent cadre of C-

U citizens went to work. They pushed cars out of apartment lots, they plowed business entrances, they delivered flowers and candy, they rushed accident victims to Carle and Provena, and they shoveled the walkways for elderly neighbors.

"I have this lady that lives next to me, and she's like, eighty or something, and she walks her little dog every day, three times a day, without fail. There was no way her dog was going anywhere the morning after [the blizzard]. I had my little boy help me shovel out a path for her dog. It felt good doing that. We never told her," Justin Lake, a deliveryman, said. "It was good to get outside anyway. I couldn't work, and the kids were jumping off the walls inside, and my wife played Solitaire [on the computer] until she got a headache. Video games can only get them so far."

Conditions are still hazardous. As the mounds of snow melts during the day, freezing temperatures at night quickly patch up the streets with sheets of ice. Icicles, sometimes growing longer than six feet, hang above businesses and homes, and come crashing down during the day, possibly damaging cars or even people. The blowing winds can quickly drift snow from the open cornfields onto roadways even seconds after a plow runs through. Emergency personnel want to remind people to exercise caution, even though the sun is shining, and temperatures are rising.



## Prospectus

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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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Top right—Aaron Geiger/*Prospectus*



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# Vox Populi (The Voice of the People)

By AARON GEIGER  
*Prospectus Editor*

Europeans and Americans spend \$17 billion for pet food annually (2004, Worldwatch Institute). As of 2004, it was estimated that \$19 billion was needed per year to eliminate global hunger and malnutrition.

According to the UNDP, Europeans alone ate \$11 billion in ice cream, yet all the world needs is \$1.3 billion to immunize every child from disease.

As I had written before, and has been published by the U.S. Government, our country has spent \$505 billion on the war in Iraq. President Bush has earmarked \$100 billion for the remainder of 2007, and \$140 billion for 2008. Universal literacy could be achieved with as little as \$5 billion (Vital Signs, 2002).

The Economist has noted that the world spent \$18 billion on makeup in 2004, yet \$12 billion would serve the reproductive health care of all women.

It's easy to look up factoids, read progressive articles, and gripe about the state of the world; especially when I habitually drink my diet coke (respon-

sible for poisoning and/or displacing thousands of Indians and Bangladeshis), throw away tons of food waste at my other job, and perch on my couch to watch *The First 48* on television.

money contributed to \$14 billion in global spending on cruises? Or will you think even further, to how only \$10 billion is needed to provide fresh drinking water across the earth?

and Iraq when you make a purchase.

Wal-Mart doesn't have an option for you to pay double your price on the shirt you just bought—so you could offer to help the destitute child in Guatemala that made your clothes.

You pay \$60, \$80, \$100 dollars for a textbook, and \$5 could fund a child's yearly education in Senegal. But there's nowhere for you, or I, to conveniently request that \$5 be added to our tab for the sake of another student that could vastly benefit.

My point is, American society is so adept at making sure that small fees are added to every expenditure—so long as the money fuels the business that sponsors it. Virtually no one puts forth the effort to streamline charity for charity's sake.

How easy would it be to tell Bergner's that every time we use their store credit card to buy something, a fraction of our cost would be used to repair or better the life of someone we will never know? We're so good at ruining the life of a global counterpart for the sake of a cheap product the least we can do is begin to make amends.



The real question lies within how and when we make decisions that will affect the lives of someone that we will never see or hear about. When you take a cruise on an ocean liner, will you think about how your

There is no kiosk at the mall that sells reproductive female health care for global strangers.

Petsmart doesn't have cans of rice and beans that automatically ship to Somalia, Columbia,

## Dollars and Sense from FinAid

### ■ Am I Dependent or Independent for Financial Aid?

By DONNA MAYER  
*Prospectus Guest Writer*

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) asks a series of questions to determine if you're a Dependent student and need to submit parent's information, or an Independent student and only need to submit information on you and your spouse (if you're married).

The government operates under the belief that most parents help their college-age children financially, whether it's from saving for years for their college education, or by giving them money for some living expenses while they're in school.

Since the government assumes that Dependent students are getting financial help from their parents, those students would be expected to have more annual income than Independent students who aren't receiving that help from their

parents.

To be considered Independent for financial aid, you must be able to answer at least one of the following questions "yes."

• Were you born before January 1, 1984? (For the 2007-08 school year)

• At the beginning of the school year, will you be working on a master's degree or doctorate program, such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD, or graduate certificate? (You can only do that at a four-year university, not at a two-year college.)

• As of the date you complete your FAFSA, are you married?

• Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?

• Do you have dependents other than your children/spouse who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2008? (for the 2007-08 school year)

• Are (a) both of your parents deceased, or (b) are you (or were you until age 18) a ward/dependent of the court?

• Are you currently serving on active duty in the U. S. Armed

If you can answer "yes" to at least one of the above questions, the government will consider you an Independent student for financial aid purposes.

Exceptions to these requirements can be made in rare and extreme situations. If you think your situation might qualify for a dependency override, contact your financial aid office for more information.

Even if you think you won't be eligible for financial aid if you have to use your parent's information, still submit the FAFSA, and let the government make that determination. Regardless of your eligibility for state and federal grants, you need to submit the FAFSA to apply for Federal student loans, as well as many scholarships.

If you have any questions about this, or any other financial aid issue, please contact our office at [finaid@parkland.edu](mailto:finaid@parkland.edu), 217-351-2222, or stop by our office in A-170.



Forces for purposes other than training?

• Are you a veteran of the U. S. Armed Forces?



## University of Illinois prepares to retire Chief Illiniwek

By JODI S. COHEN  
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

CHICAGO—Unless a judge stops them, University of Illinois officials will announce Friday that Chief Illiniwek, the controversial and storied mascot who has performed for 81 years, is to dance for the last time next week.

University officials had made extensive preparations for Friday's announcement. But according to a source familiar with the university's plans, the process took a turn Thursday when the two students who portray the chief filed a lawsuit against the university and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The students are seeking a restraining order that would prevent the university from dumping the chief and would lift the NCAA's sanctions against the university's sports teams. A Champaign County judge will hear their application Friday morning in Urbana.

The university will decide how to proceed after that hearing, the source said.

The chief, a barefoot student who performs at athletic events in a buckskin costume and feather headdress, made his first appearance on Oct. 30, 1926, during halftime of the Illinois-Pennsylvania football game. The tradition would end Wednesday at Assembly Hall, during halftime of the varsity men's basketball game against Michigan, the final home game this season for the Illini.

Retiring the chief would be a victory for those who have pressured the university for years to dump the mascot, which they say is humiliating and creates a hostile environment on campus.

It also would open the way for the university to host postseason games, currently prohibited by the NCAA because Chief Illiniwek violates the organization's rules, including next month's National Invitation Tournament in basketball.

But the university's decision would be a bitter defeat for those who have lobbied hard to keep Chief Illiniwek, saying it is a revered tradition that honors Native American culture. It also could mean a hit in alumni donations as the university embarks on a multibillion-dollar fundraising campaign.

Steven Raquel, who portrayed

the chief in 1992 and '93, said he would be disappointed if the tradition ended with only a few days' notice.

"It is a dishonorable ending to 80 years of an honorable tradition," Raquel said. "The tradition and the origins and the efforts that we have made over the years have only been done in respect of the history of Illinois and the history of the Illinois tribe. To see that linkage and that appreciation go by the wayside... without an opportunity to find common ground is disappointing."

Raquel said university officials did not tell the Council of Chiefs, the group of 27 living alumni who portrayed Illiniwek, about their decision.

Others, however, applauded the plan.

"It would be the end of the chief, but the beginning of finally having our voices heard," said Charlotte Wilkenson, 32, a Native American graduate student. "This will be a time when we finally honor the people who have been fighting the issue, who have been saying all along to retire the chief in name, in symbol, in performance."

In 2005 the NCAA ruled that Chief Illiniwek and some mascots at other universities were "hostile and abusive." The resulting sanctions have prevented the university from hosting men's tennis and women's soccer championship games.

Last month, university board of trustees Chairman Lawrence Eppley said a decision about the chief's future would be made this year in response to the NCAA ruling. Eppley did not return a call seeking comment Thursday.

The students' lawsuit against the university and the NCAA alleges that being forced to abandon their positions as chief would violate, among other things, their freedom of speech, academic freedom and future economic earnings.

The students are Dan Maloney, who performs at men's football and basketball games, and assistant chief Logan Ponce, who performs at women's basketball and volleyball games.

According to their complaint, retiring the chief would damage their reputations and jeopardize their ability to receive academic credit. The students receive credit from the School of Music for portraying Chief Illiniwek, according to the com-

plaint.

In a similar lawsuit in North Dakota, a state district judge granted a preliminary injunction in November that allowed the University of North Dakota to keep its "Fighting Sioux" name and use of Native American imagery without NCAA penalties pending a trial.

The U. of I. students' attorney, Brent Holmes, did not return calls for comment. Maloney said he couldn't comment until after Friday's hearing.

NCAA spokesman Bob Williams said Thursday that the NCAA believes its sanctions are legal.

"We intend to aggressively defend our position if it comes to a court hearing," Williams said. "We not only have the right but also the obligation to ensure our NCAA championships are conducted in an atmosphere free of racial stereotyping and one in which all of our student athletes, athletic staff and fans feel comfortable."

Maneuvering over the chief has accelerated in recent weeks.

Last month the Oglala Sioux tribe that sold the university some of the chief's rega-

lia, including moccasins, peace pipe pouch, breastplate and war bonnet with eagle feathers, demanded them back. The university later found documentation that it already had returned the eagle-feathered headdress to the tribe at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

On Feb. 1 university officials held a campuswide forum to address racism on campus after a student who opposed the chief was threatened on an Internet site.

Last week, the Council of Chiefs sent a letter to university President B. Joseph White asking for ownership of the chief trademark.

Roger Huddleston, co-founder of the Honor the Chief Society, a pro-chief group, said he would be interested in how things sort out after the court hearing. But after years of debates about the chief, this one may not end after all Friday, he said.

"It is never over until it's over," he said.

(c) 2007, Chicago Tribune.



### Parkland Planetarium

Friday, February 23:  
7:00 p.m.—Winter Prairie Skies  
8:00 p.m.—Spirits From the Sky, Thunder on the Land  
9:30 p.m.—Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon  
Saturday, February 24:  
7:00 p.m.—Follow the Drinking Gourd  
8:00 p.m.—Spirits From the Sky, Thunder on the Land  
9:30 p.m.—Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon

### Parkland Theatre

A Weekend of One-Acts!  
February 23 @ 8:00 p.m.  
February 24 @ 3:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.  
February 25 @ 3:00 p.m.

### Parkland Art Gallery

February 19- March 28, 2007:  
Watercolor -07 State of the Art 2007: National Biennial Watercolor Invitational  
Thursday, February 22:  
6:00-8:00 p.m.—Reception in Gallery

### Parkland Athletics

Saturday, February 24:  
5:30 p.m.—Women's Basketball @ Spoon River  
7:30 p.m.—Men's Basketball @ Spoon River

### Black History Month Events

Tuesday, February 27:  
11:00-2:00 p.m.—"Blacks and Relationships"

### Flag Lounge

Wednesday, February 28:  
12:00-1:00 p.m.—"Becoming A Man"

### Special Events

Friday, February 23:  
Norman Lambert Scholarship Fundraiser  
6:00-11:00 p.m.—The Great Impasta  
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### Parkland Theatre

Thursday, February 22:  
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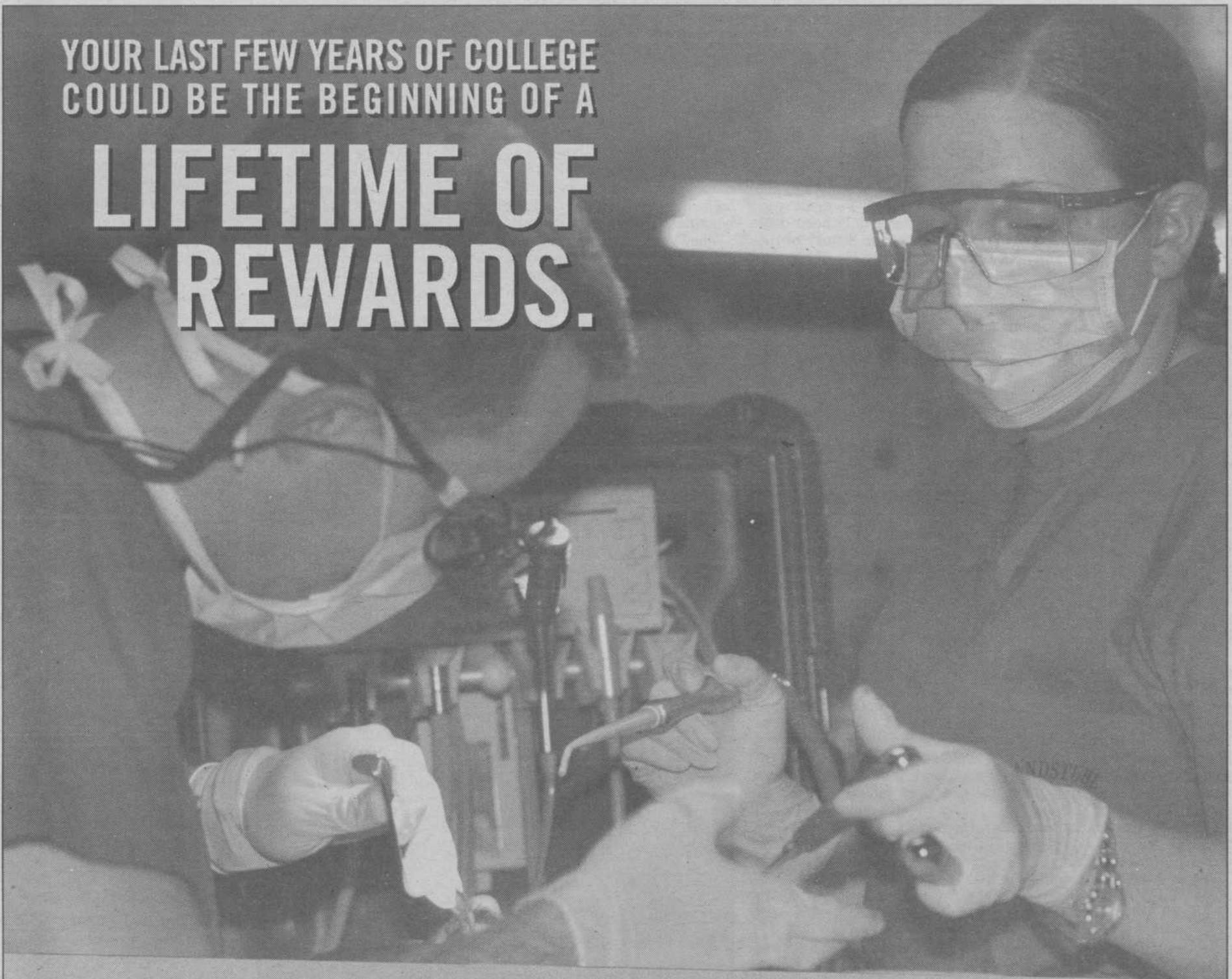
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## Vets experience rough transition to college life

By MEGAN TWOHEY

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (MCT)

Jake Warner lashes out when his classmates at the University of Wisconsin-Madison protest the war.

Katie Nelson, a junior at UW-Milwaukee, gets confused by her financial aid.

Four years after enrolling at UW-Oshkosh, Todd Johnston still feels lonely; he misses having friends by his side 24 hours a day.

A slew of government benefits, including a new Wisconsin G.I. Bill, is propelling record numbers of veterans into Wisconsin's colleges and universities.

Thousands of men and women—many back from tours in Iraq and Afghanistan—are seizing the chance for a free, or nearly free, education.

But even with the financial assistance, the transition to college can be difficult, as veterans such as Warner, Nelson and Johnston can attest.

"It's a lot," said David Pelis, a counselor at the Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Milwaukee who has worked with veterans at area colleges. "On top of their class schedules, they're dealing with readjustment issues that the average 21-year-old student doesn't have."

Veterans at UWM have formed a support group called Welcome

Home, which has drawn more than 100 participants. Veterans at UW-Oshkosh are contemplating a similar organization.

Many miss the tight-knit community of a military unit, said Johnston, an Air Force veteran who served in Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

"At school you don't get the same feeling you have when you're stuck with the same people for three or four months at a time, every day, all day," he said.

Other aspects of campus can take adjusting.

Warner, a UW-Madison junior, gets frustrated by what he sees as laziness in some of his classmates and professors. A former Marine Corps squad leader who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, he snaps at professors when he thinks they are doing a poor job.

And don't get him started on students who protest the war or military recruiting on campus.

"I was full of pride coming back from war, thinking I really did the right thing," Warner, 24, said. "These guys have no idea what they're talking about. They'd hand me anti-war literature, and I'd say 'Go to hell.'"

Tony Jawson, a 24-year-old Army veteran in his freshman year at UWM, said his memory has slipped since he served in Iraq—the result, he suspects, of his blowing up ammunition. He

can study for hours, and when he sits down to take a test, forget everything that he reviewed.

"I have to write everything down in order to remember," he said. "And then hope I remember where I put it."

Jawson also struggled to sort through the variety of benefits for veterans. None of the officials he talked to could answer all of his questions. The paperwork was difficult to decipher.

Katie Nelson, a UWM junior, experienced similar difficulties.

"I didn't know what benefits I was entitled to," said Nelson, 22, an Army Reserves veteran. "It took a lot of questions. No one is sitting you down to do the paperwork."

Nelson was attending UW-Parkside when she was called up to go to Iraq in 2003. Transferring to UWM upon her return was not difficult; it was early in her nursing studies.

"If I was interrupted now," she said, "it would be really hard to get back to school."

Pelis, of the Veterans Medical Center, works with veteran students who face the possibility of a second tour of duty who have "depression and anxiety through the roof."

Other veterans, however, are eager to return to service.

"Every time I see a movie about the military, I want to go back," Warner said. "I miss that focus of my life."

veterans attending the University of Wisconsin System or Wisconsin Technical College System. A 100 percent tuition break will kick in for the WTC system starting this summer and for the UW System this fall. Veterans must have entered active duty from Wisconsin. Spouses and dependents also are eligible if the veteran died in the line of

tem, Technical College System or approved private colleges for 100 percent of their tuition and fees not covered by other grants, scholarships or remissions. Veterans must achieve at least a 2.0 grade-point average and have a household income below \$50,000. They have up to 10 years after leaving active duty to use the benefit.



Tallahassee Community College student Melishsa Fairman, 28, an Army veteran from Hopkinsville, Kentucky, is waiting for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to process her claim for education benefits.

Mark Wallheiser/Tallahassee Democrat (MCT)

duty or suffered an injury that federal officials say amounts to a 30 percent disability. The benefit covers 128 credits, or eight semesters. Participants can be in graduate or undergraduate programs. They must be full-time students.

Wisconsin Veterans Education Reimbursement Grant: Reimburses veterans in the UW Sys-

tem, Wisconsin National Guard Tuition Grant: Provides 100 percent tuition reimbursement for enlisted soldiers or warrant officers of the Wisconsin National Guard attending a college or university in Wisconsin.

Chapter 30 Montgomery G.I. Bill: Monthly benefit for veterans in college or certain types of job training. The level of the federal benefit, which can range from a couple hundred dollars to more than \$1,000, is based on the veteran's length and type of service.

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## Brazilians demand tougher action against Rio's rampant crime

By JACK CHANG

McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—The annual Carnival festivities get under way this weekend, but many Brazilians are in no mood to party.

Thousands have taken to the streets to demand tougher action against crime after the horrific death Feb. 7 of a 6-year-old boy who was caught in his seatbelt and dragged beside his mother's car for 4 miles through Rio de Janeiro's streets during a botched carjacking.

By the time the car came to a halt, Joao Helio Fernandes Vietes' head, knees and fingers had been torn from his body. His death has become a symbol for Brazil's out-of-control crime problem in a city in which bloodshed is a daily occurrence.

"The sad thing is this death was just another one," said butcher Marcone Duarte, who joined hundreds of mourners Wednesday in downtown Rio de Janeiro during a memorial service. "Tomorrow, it could be my boy. It's too much. Every day, there's a new horror."

The violence has fueled desperation among many Cariocas—as Rio residents are called—that their world-famous city is in serious trouble.

Residents already had been recovering from a wave of violence that had upped the city's grim casualty rate. Experts blame cocaine trafficking and the growing firepower of the

city's powerful drug gangs for much of the violence.

In late December, gang attacks—including in some of the city's richest, most protected neighborhoods—left 19 people dead. Many speculate that the violence was meant as a warning to incoming Rio state Gov. Sergio Cabral, who took office Jan. 1 pledging to crack down on gang violence.

Scores also have died in the crossfire between gang members and illegal off-duty-police militias, who are fighting for control of the city's slums.

Brazil has the world's highest rate of firearms deaths and one of the highest homicide rates. Criminal gangs are in virtual control of large parts of the country. Gang attacks that claimed dozens of lives paralyzed Brazil's biggest state, Sao Paulo, three times last year.

Rio state, which includes the city of Rio de Janeiro and outlying areas, is the country's deadliest, with a homicide rate in 2005 of about 62 for every 100,000 residents. The murder rate in the United States was 5.6 per 100,000 people that year.

"This city was never like this," said Kelli Salaroli, whose friend Dayana Ribeiro disappeared last month and is feared dead. "Joao's death was a landmark. Things have to change. We have to rescue our city."

That sense of desperation is particularly strong as Rio prepares for Carnival, which begins Friday. The event long

has been the heart of Brazilian cultural life and a good measure of the national mood, which this year seems nostalgic for less troubled times.

The marchinha, a traditional Carnival music set to a martial rhythm that was popular from

Sergio Cabral, the father of Rio's governor and a co-author of the musical, said the phenomenon reflected public longing for the city's celebrated past, before drugs and violence took over. The lyrics to one marchinha, "Marvelous Rio,"



People hold pictures of loved ones lost to crime outside a February 14, 2007, memorial service in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for a boy who was dragged to death the week before.

Jack Chang/(MCT)

the 1920s to the 1970s, returns to the festivities this year. The number of groups playing the music as well as traditional samba has exploded on the city's streets, and a musical that showcases the marchinha has sold out all its shows.

describe a mythical city full of tropical gardens and ever-present music.

"The show is trying to say our city is much better than it seems to be," Cabral said. "It represents what we've lost with all this violence. The happiness of

the show and of the marchinha is part of Rio de Janeiro's character."

The story of Joao's death, which has dominated Brazil's newspapers and news programs, paints a much grimmer picture of the city.

Five men, ages 16 to 23, have been arrested in connection with the killing. The police allege that a witness who drove up beside the speeding car said he'd heard one of the suspects call the boy his Judas doll, a puppet that's ritualistically beaten and incinerated during Easter ceremonies. Police haven't released the names of any witnesses.

About a thousand people, including Joao's family, filled Rio's Candelaria cathedral Wednesday to remember the boy and voice their outrage. Many demanded that legislators increase the maximum sentence for juvenile offenders and lower the age at which people can be prosecuted.

On the church's steps, relatives of other homicide victims raised pictures of their fallen, while 19-year-old Livia Serpa held a sign that read "Peace."

Serpa said that despite the tragedy, celebrating Carnival was an act of survival this year.

"We can't let the violence stop us from living our lives," she said. "We have to celebrate and show the world we aren't defeated yet."

(c) 2007, McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

## Battle between Fatah, Hamas scars 2 Mideast universities

By DION NISSENBAUM

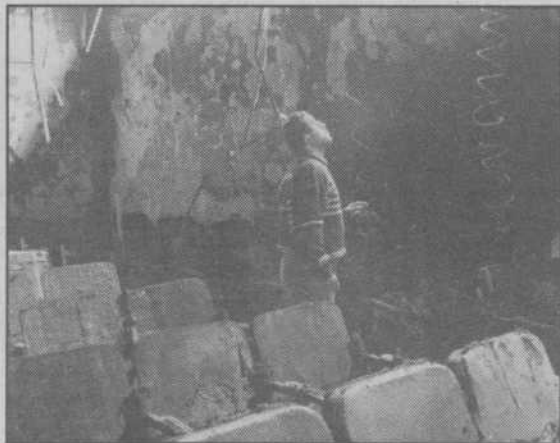
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—The smell of charred books drifted through the library as dozens of students gingerly stepped through candlelit hallways littered with shattered glass.

Young women in headscarves whispered as they peered into the ravaged rooms of the Islamic University's main library, where they once studied English, math and science.

"I can't recognize it," said math student Rihan Riha, 20, as she stood on a pile of rubble and took cell phone pictures of the wreckage. "It's totally destroyed."

Palestinians have grown accustomed to Israeli air strikes on government buildings, police stations and even this Hamas-allied campus, but this attack came from within. Months of violent clashes between the militant Islamic



As'ad Keita looks over the damage caused to Al Quds Open University during recent Fatah-Hamas clashes in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, February 8, 2007.

Dion Nissenbaum/(MCT)

group Hamas and the secular Fatah party battered the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian universities there before the leaders of the two groups last week formed a coalition government.

But the attacks on competing colleges allied with the two factions are visible reminders of how deep the divisions between Hamas and Fatah run, how fragile their power-sharing deal may be and what could happen if the two return to open warfare.

Students said they're worried that, even with a unity government, the wounds from the clashes will hardly have time to heal before new battles begin.

"I'm not very optimistic about what will happen," Riha

said. "This shows that some people in Fatah want to destroy any kind of agreement."

Sitting in his office overlooking his damaged 25-acre campus, Western-trained Islamic University President Kamalain Shaath said the assault did more than damage buildings; it undermined the Palestinians' drive to end decades of stateless poverty and depression.

"The most prominent achievement of the Palestinian people in the last 40 years has been the establishment of universities in Gaza and the West Bank," Shaath said. "In fact, they are the cornerstone for the whole society, and to have someone attack this university—or any university—I think it is shooting his own heart. The heart of Palestinian society."

(c) 2007, McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.



## Undocumented immigrants enter financial mainstream in U.S.

By **AZAM AHMED AND KAROUN DEMIRJIAN**

Chicago Tribune (MCT)

Undocumented workers may not have visas, but they increasingly can have VISA cards.

Bank of America's announcement that it is offering credit cards to workers in the U.S. without a Social Security number drew sharp criticism from advocates of tougher restrictions on undocumented immigrants Wednesday and concerns from Homeland Security Department officials about identity theft.

However, the Bank of America credit card plan is merely the latest example in a growing national business trend of granting undocumented immigrant workers checking accounts, loans, mortgages and credit as their numbers increase.

Some companies have been issuing bank cards and loans to undocumented workers for years, often relying on individual tax identification num-

bers in place of Social Security numbers to process the applications.

While the Bush administration and many Democrats in Congress are seeking ways for illegal immigrants to gain citizenship eventually, critics of that approach argue that businesses are skating too close to breaking laws through a tacit amnesty that will encourage more illegal immigration and could pose security problems.

For University of Chicago finance professor Raghuram Rajan, the move for Bank of America was a "no-brainer." It helps the financial services sector by expanding the market and it provides needed services that make immigrants' lives more manageable, he said.

"Access to credit is really very important for the poor and underprivileged, and clearly illegal immigrants are part of that group," he said. "Not only are you drawing them into the fold, but you're making their life better and the life of oth-

ers better because their money goes through the system."

People like Javier, an undocumented immigrant living in Chicago, have felt the impact of such programs. A Venezuelan native, Javier, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is illegally in the U.S., managed to secure a credit card from Capital One by providing proof of employment and his taxpayer number.

"Here, businesses believe in immigrants," he said. "They know we come here with good intentions and with a desire to work hard."

But Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., a vocal critic of illegal immigration, suggested Bank of America's actions could be illegal and that its plan could be used by terrorists to finance their efforts.

"Clearly, Bank of America established this program for the explicit purpose of aiding and abetting illegal aliens," said Tancredo.

Other lawmakers welcomed the effort.

"First of all, I've been a member of financial services committee for the last 14 years—I can assure you that what they are doing is within the letter and the spirit of the law," said Rep. Luis Guterrez, D-Ill.

The Department of Homeland Security, however, saw the bank program, which started in Los Angeles and may be expanded nationwide, as a problematic endeavor that raises security concerns in the post-Sept. 11 era.

"At face value it's very problematic," said Russ Knocke, a department spokesman. "It seems to lend itself to possibly perpetuating identity theft, or even facilitating certain types of financial crimes."

According to a recent study by the Brookings Institution, immigrants spend \$2 billion a year on check cashing facilities and pay another \$2 billion a year to send remittances, mainly back to relatives. And though not all immigrants are illegal, banks have entered the field knowing there is a vast market to be tapped.

Undocumented immigrants are a roughly 12 million-person market for companies looking to expand in a fiercely competitive financial services industry. It could be quite lucrative, though economists could not estimate the potential dollars involved.

"Immigrants represent a largely untapped source of new business for the financial services industry because they have low rates of bank account usage," said Anna Paulson, senior finance economist at the

rolled out to 51 locations in the surrounding area. The company said that the cards are not targeted for illegal immigrants. Others don't believe that.

"Its practical effect is an amnesty for illegal aliens," said

### Sending money to Latin America

National survey shows that immigrants from Latin America will send about \$45 billion to their homelands, up 51 percent since 2004.

2006 estimates (in millions of dollars)

0-\$100    \$500-\$1 billion  
\$100-\$500    Over \$1 billion    No data



Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago. "This was just a logical thing for businesses that were trying to grow and attract new business."

In 2005 Bank of America announced that it would allow people to send remittances to Mexico for free, a tactic used at other banks as well to compete with Western Union and to encourage clients to open accounts. Citibank has offered credit cards to undocumented workers for three years under both its own name and its subsidiary Banamex. Wells Fargo also offers home mortgages to workers without a Social Security number.

Now, for a fee of \$99, clients in the controversial program at Bank of America receive a \$500 line of credit. To be eligible, they must be Bank of America account holders for three months without any overdraft fees. After six months, the initial \$99 is reimbursed if the customer is in good standing.

The Bank of America program began three months ago at five banking centers in Los Angeles and has since been

analyst John Keely at the Center for Immigration Studies, a Washington think tank that favors strict enforcement of immigration.

Immigration advocates say its fair, and that people working in this country deserve to be treated with dignity.

Economists, however, say that there are economic contradictions about the program. Some point to the irony that while it is illegal to hire undocumented workers, it isn't illegal to give them credit cards.

Rajan, the U. of C. finance professor, says that the Bank of America move, while economically sensible for illegal workers already in the U.S., could embolden more immigrants to come. "Doesn't that then make it much more attractive for people to cross the border illegally? We don't know the magnitudes of how much additional immigration this would encourage."

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## When it snows...



Erika Porter/ *Top left*  
Aaron Geiger/ *Top right and bottom left*  
John Eby/ *Bottom right*



## Student:

Ben Sterrett



**Major:** Pre-Med

**Student Since:** 2007

**Groups involved with:**

Parkland Marketing Department.

**What's after Parkland?**

Illinois Wesleyan.

**Favorite Parkland course(s):**

Website Design and French 104.

**What would you change at Parkland College?**

More building maps and better food.

**Best part of the Prospectus?**

It lists activities and events all in one place.

## Staff:

Jody Littleton



**Title:** Executive Director, Community Relations

**Employed Since:** 1996

**Courses taught?**

Used to teach Public Speaking, Interpersonal Communication and Business/Professional Speaking.

**Previous education?**

Associates from Lake Land College in Communications. BA from EIU in Communications and MA from EIU in Communications.

**Favorite quote/saying?**

"Communication works for those who work at it."  
— John Powell

**What would you change at Parkland College?**

I would like to see a new student service center so our students have more space to interact.

**Best part of the Prospectus?**

Having such a great group of students working on it. It is an excellent student paper.

## Staff:

Tom McDonnell



**Title:** Program Director, Mass Communication

**Employed Since:** 1990

**Courses taught?**

COM 105, 106, 142, 143, 144, 145, 292 and SPE 101.

**Previous education?**

BA in Journalism from Iowa State University and MA in Speech Communication from Eastern Illinois University.

**Favorite quote/saying?**

"Failure to prepare is preparing for failure."  
— John Wooden.

**What would you change at Parkland College?**

I would move the campus to Florida or Arizona during the winter months.

**Best part of the Prospectus?**

It's a great opportunity for students to get practice writing experience.



## Google aided pirating Web site, affidavit claims

By ELISE ACKERMAN

San Jose Mercury News (MCT)

SAN JOSE, Calif.—For nearly a year, a legal document charges, Google employees aided a Missouri-based company that provided software and tech support to people who downloaded pirated software and movies.

Among the victims were Microsoft, Symantec, Adobe and Intuit, according to a sealed affidavit filed late last year in the Southern District of New York and obtained by the San Jose Mercury News.

The affidavit provides new details regarding Google's alleged role in promoting piracy in a lawsuit involving two Missouri men and seven of the country's largest movie and TV studios.

Google declined to discuss the allegations. In a statement, Google said it was looking at steps to screen out "potentially problematic ads." The company said it prohibits advertisers from using Google to promote the sale of copyright-infringing materials.

But Luke Sample, 26, a guitarist from Cape Girardeau, Mo., and his business partner, Brandon Drury, 26, who owns an independent recording studio, maintained as one of their defenses in the lawsuit that a Google employee suggested they advertise the availability of pirated copies of movies such as "Batman Begins" and "Cinderella Man."

"The movie names were never requested by Internet Billers," the men stated in court papers, referring to an off-shore company they had established on the Caribbean island of Nevis. "They were suggested by Google."

The affidavit also states that Google recommended an advertising campaign be built around keywords referring to pirated software.

The men's statements are embarrassing for Google, which has been trying for months to get permission from the studios to legally distribute their content on its YouTube subsidiary. Last week, Viacom, which owns Paramount Pictures, requested that YouTube take down more than 100,000 unauthorized clips. Paramount Pictures is a party in the suit against Sample and Drury.

According to a sealed affida-

vit submitted by Sample on Dec. 22 and obtained by the San Jose Mercury News, Sample and Drury paid Google more than \$800,000 for advertising to promote Web sites offering people software for downloading, playing or burning copies of films,

com, www.easydownloadcenter.com, www.directdownloader.com and www.themp3place.com. In exchange for a one-year membership that cost \$29.95, customers got a copy of a popular file-sharing program and step-by-step instructions on

vidual Google employees. "I contacted Google at that time to complain that while we were paying Google large amounts for sponsored links—more than \$150,000—we were unhappy with the conversion rate," Sample wrote in the affidavit. While

Sample said the Google representative "expressed familiarity with our business and the content of our Web sites" and, in November 2004, he offered to have Google optimize their advertising campaign.

Sample said Google suggested sponsored links referring to the names of specific artists: Ryan Cabrera, Usher, Nellie and others, whose music was available on illegal file-sharing networks. According to the affidavit, "In January 2005, Google suggested and we agreed to an 'optimization' for another campaign for the same website, sic geared toward downloads of software programs.

"Among other things, Google proposed that we buy sponsored link advertisements such as: Microsoft XP Software, Download Unlimited Top Software, Join Now—See Our Special Offer!

"Google proposed, and we agreed to run, similar sponsored links for other popular software companies, none of which we were authorized to distribute, including: Microsoft Word, Norton Anti-Virus, Photoshop and Quicken. The keywords associated with these advertisements combined with software titles with the words 'free' and 'download.'"

Microsoft, Symantec and Adobe said they hadn't heard about Google's role until a San Jose Mercury News reporter contacted them. "If it is true and not an isolated incident, then these are very serious allegations, and we will be following them closely," said Whitney Burk, a Microsoft spokeswoman.

Intuit, which sells Quicken and is one of Google's close partners, did not comment.

Sample and Drury shut down their business in October 2005 after the studios sued them. In total, the men estimated they sold more than 30,000 memberships and took in about \$1.1 million, virtually all, they said, from Google searches.

In a Jan. 2 letter to the federal judge who is overseeing the case, an attorney who is representing the studios said they were negotiating a settlement with Sample and Drury. A hearing is scheduled for Friday.

(c) 2007, San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.).



television programs and software they found on the Internet.

Sample and Drury, who are representing themselves in court, did not respond to repeated requests for interviews.

According to the affidavit and other documents, Sample and Drury launched a business in June 2003 operating four Web sites: www.thedownloadplace.

how to use it. A "lifetime" membership cost \$39.95.

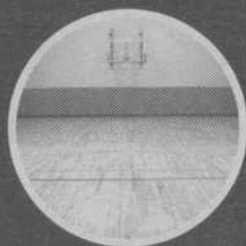
In his affidavit, Sample said he first contacted Google through its automated AdWords program that lets advertisers bid on "keywords" or search terms that trigger advertisements that run alongside Google's search results.

Beginning in April 2004, however, Sample said he began communicating directly with indi-

people were clicking on Sample's ads, they were not buying memberships at his Web sites, he explained.

By the summer of 2004, Sample and Drury were spending about \$20,000 a month on Google advertising. "In the fall, apparently due to the amount we were spending, Google assigned employees to be our personal account representatives," the affidavit stated.





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**Two Dudes** by Aaron Warner

DUDE! CAN YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?

... AND I DON'T MEAN A FEMALE TELEMARKETER THAT HAS TO TALK TO YOU, BUT A REAL LIFE GIRLFRIEND.

I KNOW, DUDE. ONE MINUTE I'M NOTHING, AND NOW I'M STILL NOTHING, BUT I HAVE SOMETHING.

**2 Dudes** By Aaron Warner

WHOA, DUDE! CLASSES HAVE NEVER COST THIS MUCH BEFORE.

IF IT COSTS THIS MUCH JUST TO ENROLL FOR ONE SEMESTER, I'LL NEVER AFFORD TO GET MY DEGREE.

DO YOU JUST MAKE THESE NUMBERS UP, DUDE?! HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO PAY THIS?!

THAT'S YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.

**A College Girl Named Joe** by Aaron Warner

I LIKE RYAN A LOT, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. I HAVEN'T HAD VERY GOOD LUCK WITH GUYS.

JUST REMEMBER, MEN ARE A LOT LIKE SHOES.

THERE'S A LOT OF HEELS OUT THERE. IT TAKES TIME TO FIND A PERFECT FIT, AND THE REALLY GOOD ONES ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

**A College Girl Named Joe** by Aaron Warner

SO, ARE YOU GOING TO SAY ANYTHING TO RYAN NOW THAT HE'S SINGLE?

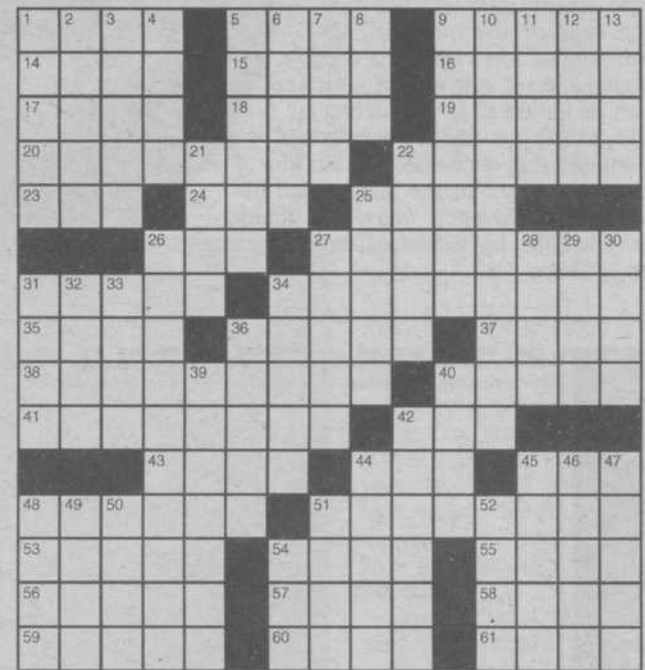
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

WHEN YOU SEE A MAN YOU WANT, WHY WORRY ABOUT WHAT TO SAY? THE RIGHT LOOK WILL GET A BOY TO DO ANYTHING.

I HAVEN'T PAID FOR MY OWN MOVIE SINCE I WAS LIKE TWELVE. AND THAT WORKS?

## Crossword

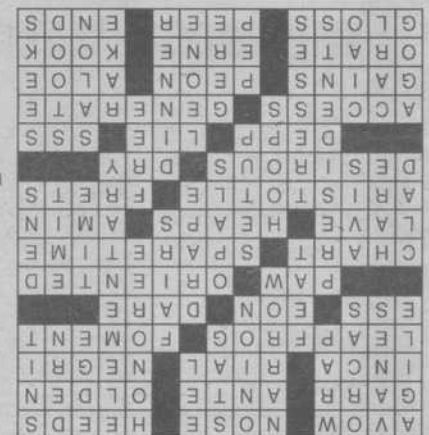
- ACROSS**
- Confess
  - Tiny victory margin
  - Pays attention to
  - Actress Teri
  - Pot starter
  - Of long ago
  - Machu Picchu builder
  - Iranian currency unit
  - Old-time actress Pola
  - Jumping game
  - Agitate
  - Snaky shape
  - Long, long time
  - Take the plunge
  - Handle rudely
  - Familiarized with new surroundings
  - Visual aid
  - Leisure
  - Bathe
  - Dilapidated cars
  - Idi of Uganda
  - Plato's prized pupil
  - Guitar ridges
  - Wishful
  - Thirsty
  - Johnny of "Sleepy Hollow"
  - Untruth
  - Sound of a leak
  - Means of entry
  - Produce
  - Advancements
  - Exploited laborer
  - Lotion additive
  - Speak spectacularly
  - Sea eagle
  - Eccentric one
  - Luster
  - Equal
  - Breaks off
- DOWN**
- Nimble
  - Wind indicators
  - Killer whales
  - Swaddle
  - Constricted
  - Leek's cousin
  - Males-only affair
  - Sushi bar offering
  - Award recipient
  - Simple
  - Brink
  - Laura or Bruce
  - State of irritation
  - Stunt
  - Expos
  - Hang in loose folds
  - U.S. leaders
  - Iridescent gems
  - Prison term
  - Send out
  - Lairs
  - Attired
  - Fabled also-ran
  - Rara follower
  - Arrangement
  - March Madness sport
  - Locks
  - Emancipated
  - Main meal
  - Sierra



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2/21/07

## Solutions



- 45 Permanent place?
- 46 Got up
- 47 Goes in search of
- 48 Intensely eager
- 49 Astronomer
- Sagan
- 50 Greeting in Genoa
- 51 Richard of "Chicago"
- 52 Garden tool
- 54 Vigor

8	6		4			9	5		
			3		9				
4	5				3				
			9				8	7	
6		7	5		8	3		1	
3	8				7				
			3					1	9
					5		8		
	3	8				9		6	4



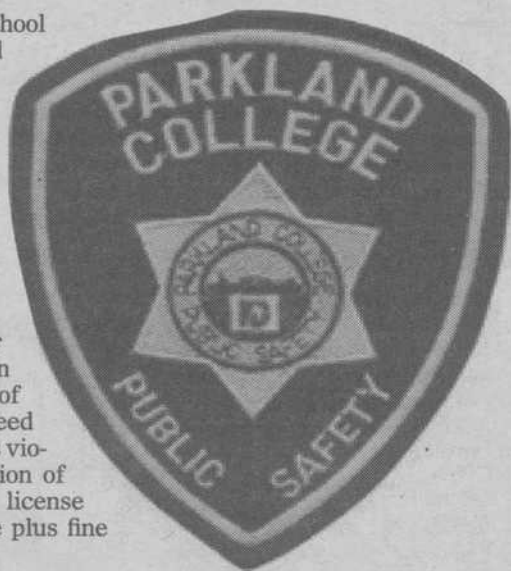
# Classified

PROSPECTUS

Wednesday, February 21, 2007 — Page 14

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

When passing a stopped school bus please observe the road lanes of the roadway. If there are only 2 lanes you can NOT pass the bus in either direction. However, if there are 4 or more lanes of traffic or a marked median you may pass if you are traveling in the opposite direction of the bus. Same side traffic must stop behind the rear of the bus until the bus driver has retracted their signal arm. A stop arm violation can be called in by the driver of the school bus and does not need to be seen by a police officer. This violation can result in the suspension of registered owner's driver's license to 3 months for a first offense plus fine up to \$150.



### ■ For Sale

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### ■ Part-time Job

**P/T babysitter needed**— Individual needed to babysit my 7 yr old daughter in my home. References a must! Must be able to pass a background check. Call Kimberly at 799-5195. Email Kroche@parkland.edu.

### ■ 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.

### ■ For Lease

**Courtyard on Randolph**— Now renting for August starting at \$630/mo., two and three bedroom apartments. 713 S. Randolph, Champaign. Includes cable, water, trash, laundry facility and seasonal pool. 352-8540 a.m., 377-4677 p.m. www.faronproperties.com

### ■ For Lease

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Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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# of words \_\_\_\_\_

Dates to run \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Ads cannot be canceled after the above deadline.

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2. Advertisers must verify ads for accuracy. The Prospectus is not responsible for any errors from the advertiser.
3. 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:** Mostly clear, low around 29.  
**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, high near 46.  
**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, low around 30.  
**Friday:** Partly cloudy, high near 44.  
**Friday Night:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, low around 38.  
**Saturday:** Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, high near 49.  
**Saturday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, low around 40.  
**Sunday:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, high near 45.  
**Sunday Night:** A chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, low around 29.  
**Monday:** Mostly cloudy, high near 43.

## CrimeStoppers seeks assistance

This week, CrimeStoppers and the Mahomet Police Department are seeking information about six vehicles and one residence that were damaged as the result of being shot with a small caliber handgun or rifle. The damage occurred in the early morning hours of

Saturday, January 27, on Windwoon Lane and Amy Drive in the Sandy Ridge Subdivision.

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.



If you have any information, please call CrimeStoppers at

# Dixie Chicks, Mary J. Blige get Grammy vindication

By EVELYN MCDONNELL  
 McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

Early in the Grammys show Sunday night, the Dixie Chicks defiantly sang they were "still waiting" to make nice after the uproar that greeted Natalie Maines's negative comments about President Bush in 2003. At least they got some satisfaction by evening's end: The

Chicks, who had been shut out of other recent country music awards shows, took home three trophies. "For the first time in my life I'm speechless," Maines said.

The evening also belonged to a woman whose 15-year wait to be not just the Queen of Hip-Hop Soul but the queen of music's biggest awards night was over—a difficult, street-tough diva who, as she said again and again in her acceptance speeches, has learned to make nice: Mary J. Blige.

"I want to use this success to build bridges not to burn them," Blige said as she accepted the award for best female R&B vocal performance, one of three trophies she took home from L.A.'s Staples Center for songs from her appropriately named album, "The Breakthrough."

Other multiple award winners at the 49th annual Grammys were the Red Hot Chili Peppers (three, all in categories not presented on the CBS telecast), John Mayer (two), and Justin Timberlake (two).

The Chicks set an unusually outspoken tone for a show known for either genteel musicianship or grand productions. They weren't alone: songman John Legend sang "Coming Home," a piano ballad about a soldier. The alternative soul duo Gnarls Barkley performed their haunting ballad "Crazy" to a martial beat while wearing flight uniforms that seemed to be an homage to the film "United 93," especially when Cee-Lo sang, "My heroes had the heart to lose their lives out on the limb." Even Shakira and Wyclef Jean finished their



Mary J. Blige, winner Best Female R&B Vocal Performance for "Be Without You," Best R&B Song for "Be Without You" and Best R&B Album for "The Breakthrough," at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards February 11, 2007.

Amanda M. Parks/ Abaca Press (MCT)

belly-dancing Busby Berkeley homage "Hips Don't Lie" by promising, "No fighting!"

It was a vindication for the Chicks, who have been largely shut out of country radio since

"Idol" winner who was named best new artist. "I love country," shouted Underwood, still breathless from singing a tribute to the Eagles with Rascal Flatts.

The awards show also tipped its hat to "American Idol" with the My Grammy Moment contest, in which viewers could vote on which of three unknown singers would get to perform live onstage with Justin Timberlake.

Blige talks about contrition, but singing with a full orchestra, her performance of "Be Without You" and "I Never Wanna Live Without You" was all about, well, breaking through.

In general, most of the Grammy performers preferred to make their mark on the evening with dramatic musical performances, not with big sets and dance numbers. The show started with the reunion of the Police singing their '78 hit "Roxanne." It was the first time the group had played together in two decades.

(c) 2007, The Miami Herald.



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## Carlwell's presence, win help ease Illini's trauma-filled week

By NEIL MILBERT  
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

CHAMPAIGN, Ill.—After the most traumatic week of an adversity-filled season, the fortunes of the Illinois basketball team took a turn for the better Sunday at Assembly Hall.

Seated at the end of the bench was Illini freshman Brian Carlwell, who suffered a severe concussion late Monday night as a passenger in a car that was driven by teammate Jamar Smith and slammed into a tree.

Dee Brown and Luther Head, who starred on the Illinois team that lost in the 2005 NCAA championship game, took advantage of the NBA All-Star break to return for the game, helping fuel the sellout crowd's fire.

Northwestern was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Holding the Wildcats to season-low 30.6 percent shooting, the Illini (19-9, 7-6) secured a 48-37 victory to move into a fourth-place tie with Iowa, with three games left in the Big Ten race.

"The mental strain, the blizzard, the accident, the unknown really did take a toll," coach Bruce Weber said. "We were a

dysfunctional family last week.

"My sister, Carrie, got killed in a car wreck 28 years ago. I have flashes of that night the phone calls, the screaming, the crying. The other night was very similar. I never got to see my sister again. This time we have two guys who are alive, so we have a lot to be thankful for.

"Having Brian here was good, and then to have Dee and Luther take their one free weekend [of the NBA season] was a nice boost."

Illinois was returning from a seven-day break in the schedule and didn't get in sync offensively until early in the second half.

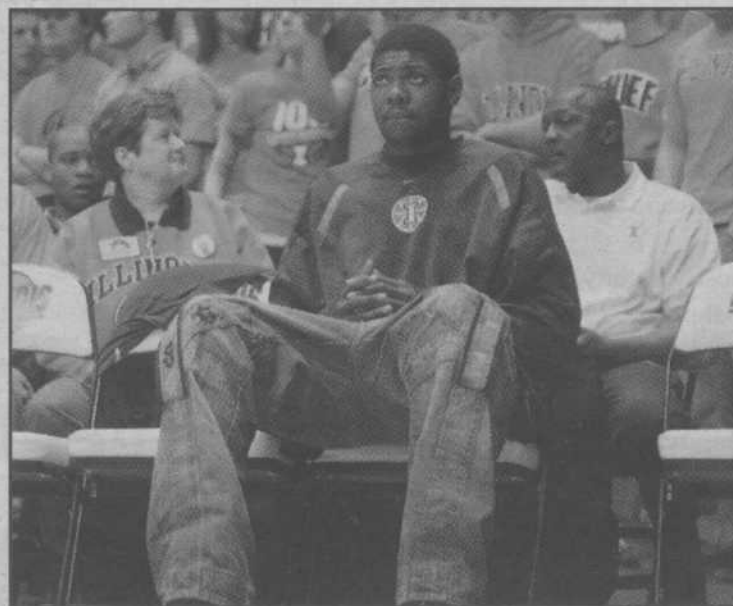
The Illini fell behind 25-23 when Northwestern's Kevin Coble opened the second half by hitting a three-pointer.

But then they scored 15 of the next 19 points to take an insurmountable 38-29 lead.

The Wildcats (12-14, 2-11) played a respectable defensive game but couldn't cope with the three-point shooting of Rich McBride throughout the game and the strong inside play of forward Warren Carter and center Shaun Pruitt in the second half.

"Rich kind of carried our team at the beginning," said Carter, who was hindered by a sprained right ankle he suffered at prac-

won." McBride did all of his shooting from beyond the arc, making 5 of 10 shots for 15 points.



Illinois' Brian Carlwell, who was injured in a car accident, sits on the bench during game against Northwestern Sunday, February 18, 2007.

Nuccio DiNuzzo/Chicago Tribune (MCT)

tice Wednesday. "Our defense was still there. That's why we

Carter got all 10 of his points in the second half.

Pruitt rammed home four of his eight points late in the game.

"Last game against them (15-point Illinois victory on Feb. 7), they ate us up in the middle," Northwestern's Tim Doyle said.

"This time we didn't want them to beat us in the middle. It was a successful plan because it came down to them making some outside shots.

"Toward the end we were gambling more and had a couple of breakdowns."

Doyle's scoring opportunities were limited by double-teams when the 6-foot-5-inch forward tried to post up. But Doyle capitalized on drives and fast-break layup chances to score nine points. Coble also had nine, but the freshman forward was just 4 of 13.

"We try to tweak our offense and work on our defense," Northwestern coach Bill Carmody said. "It showed in the first half. In the second half I wasn't that disappointed in our defense. I was more disappointed in our offense."

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## The haters are the ones who should be in the closet

By ANN KILLION  
San Jose Mercury News (MCT)

The NBA's All-Star fun continues. Saturday's sprint between Charles Barkley and referee Dick Bavetta would have been the week's most amusing event, if not for the fact that Tim Hardaway was originally in Las Vegas under the auspices of the NBA Cares program.

Hardaway has since been shipped away from the proceedings to ponder the meaning of "unclear on the concept." His hate-filled, homophobic comments didn't sit well with Commissioner David Stern. The NBA Cares, and it really cares about not spewing ignorant venom toward a segment of its ticket-buying public.

Before his banishment, Hardaway participated in an NBA Fit Clinic in Las Vegas, along with Jennifer Azzi, Jerome Williams and Sheryl Swoopes. There's a sweet publicity photo taken on Tuesday, the day before his poisonous Valentine's Day statement, showing a smiling Hardaway with his arm around Swoopes.

I'm wondering how that photo would sit with Hardaway's growing "at least he's honest" fan club. (I also wonder how those pro-hate folks managed to evolve enough to type e-mails and dial phones with their knuckles.)

Swoopes, as everyone, including Hard-

away, knows, came out of the closet publicly 17 months ago. She did it in the same forum, ESPN the Magazine, used earlier this month by retired NBA player John Amaechi.

Swoopes is a three-time Olympic gold medalist. She has played in the WNBA for a decade. She was married and came under scrutiny when she returned to the court shortly after her son Jordan was born. She is a far bigger name to her sport than Amaechi is to his.

As it did for Amaechi, it took a lot of courage for Swoopes to make her statement. But the reaction was quite different.

Her revelation garnered a great big yawn. None of her teammates denounced her. Her sexuality didn't become a hot topic. She said it. It was accepted. And that was that.

"It was never really an issue," she said recently in an ESPN radio interview, "as long as I was doing my job and taking care of business on the basketball court. I've had only positive things happen since making that announcement."

Is the different reaction because women are a more highly evolved species? Because women such as Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova have already broken that ground? Because women are used to being marginalized by

society? (If that's true, shouldn't minorities also be more sensitive because they, too, have been marginalized? Just a few decades ago, the same foolish things Hardaway is saying about gays were commonly said about black men.)

Or is the contrasting responses to the Swoopes and Amaechi announcements a reflection of society's sad stereotypes about athletes?

You know the ones: male athletes are he-men, womanizing, testosterone machines, whereas female athletes are unfeminine man-haters.

Do we have to point out here, in the 21st century, how ridiculous those stereotypes are? How widely they have been disproved both anecdotally and statistically? Still, the troglodytes of the world hold them dear.

Hardaway said he hates gays. So does he hate Swoopes and was just faking the photo-op? Or does he not hate her because she's a woman and he's not personally threatened by her sexuality? (Hardaway might give new meaning to his "killer crossover" move.) Or he doesn't hate her because she's a woman athlete and therefore doesn't count in his mind? Or he doesn't hate her because he happens to know her and therefore manages to exclude her from his bizarre, bigoted thinking?

Who can be sure? What I do know is that Hardaway could use a little sensitivity training. Living in two of the most gay-friendly areas in the world—South Florida and the San Francisco Bay area—didn't manage to pierce his homophobic bubble and make him any more sensitive.

Stern could hire a trainer for the NBA. Someone like Kirk Reynolds, who was fired by the 49ers for producing a video designed to explain diversity to players. He made the video after running back Garrison Hearst said similar things (though not quite as hateful as Hardaway's remarks) about gay players. And though some of Reynolds' points were made crudely, the overall message was important: People are different. Accept it.

"I think everyone needs to be careful with the words that they choose," Swoopes said last week. "Hate is a very powerful word."

And the haters are the ones who belong hidden in the closet, with the cobwebs, the dust and the mold from yesteryear.

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