

Inside This Week...

- Page 2 — Spotlight
- Page 3 — Local/Parkland
 - Calendar
 - Professors win grants
- Page 4 — Local/Parkland
 - Julia Rietz
 - The Watch
- Page 5 — National News
 - Obama enters race
- Page 6 — World News
 - Turkmen & Democracy
- Page 7 — Diversity
 - Immigrant "Facilities"
- Page 8 — Judy Seyb
- Page 9 — Parkland Profiles
- Page 10 — Technology
 - Second Life
- Page 13 — Off Topic
- Page 14 — Classified
 - Did You Know
- Page 15 — Radio/TV/Film
 - Weather
 - CrimeStoppers
 - Amazon/TiVo
- Page 16 — Sports
 - Chicago & football
 - Coach Clutts

Is President's Day a fabrication?

■ Purple Heart and Washington holiday has changed dramatically

By **AARON GEIGER**
Prospectus Editor

On the third Monday of each February, postal workers and bank employees hit the snooze button and sleep in. Grade school students get the day off, and possibly learn some trivia about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln the previous week. At bookstores and libraries you might find a display of books featuring some or all of our Presidents of the United States.

President's Day, or Presidents' Day, Presidents Day, Lincoln-Washington Day, Washington-Lincoln Day, George Washington Day, or Washington's Birthday, is hopelessly as confusing as the different names that we give it. Teachers that are educating their students unwittingly pass on misinformation.

"Until this year I had been telling my kids that President's Day celebrated all of our Presidents. I had a big poster that mentioned how Nixon changed the holiday to incorporate all Presidents from Washington to George [W.] Bush. Now I find out that it's way more complicated," said a Champaign ele-

mentary teacher who asked to remain anonymous. "I can't even get a straight answer from online information from the federal government."

The teacher was referring to a common myth that President Richard Nixon, upon the implementation of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act in 1971, proclaimed that Washington's Birthday would be changed into a day to honor all U.S. Presidents. In fact, there is nothing to support this claim.

Look at your calendar—chances are that it has "Presidents' Day" listed as the holiday. According to our federal government, the actual holiday only exists as "Washington's Birthday"—and nothing else.

Why is there so much confusion? Who and/or what is causing a wide variety of misconceptions and variations of the original meaning of the holiday?

1. The U.S. Government: In the quest to provide holidays for federal workers, three new days were granted in the Uniform Monday Holiday Act—Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Washington's Birthday. The holidays were moved to Mondays to promote business and to increase the length of a weekend. Washington's Birthday was effectively changed, and became a permanently rotating holiday. The problem? Birthdays stay the same.

2. Abraham Lincoln: Washington may have been the Father of Our Country, but Lincoln's legacy is worth cele-

brating as well. His birthday, February 12, is only ten days away from our first President. It's only fitting that when President's Day is mentioned, we commonly associate Lincoln with Washington.

3. State Governments: In the quest to show their own form of honor and celebration, many different states have changed the names, dates, and length of ceremonies. Massachusetts, according to their state office, observes, "Washington's Birthday and all Presidents from New England." Georgia honors Washington and Thomas Jefferson (it seems the Confederacy's bitterness towards Lincoln still carries over to this day). Over ten states choose to memorialize Washington and Lincoln together, or as the cornerstone to a larger Presidents' Day celebration. "George Washington Day" is marked in Alexandria, Virginia.

4. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: As the years have passed since the tragic passing of Dr. King, more and more non-federal businesses and establishments have begun closing their doors on January 15 alongside their federal counterparts that observe Martin Luther King Day. Because non-federal commercial and industrial enterprises rely upon each hour of the day to be productive, they tend to choose holidays for employees carefully. Fewer businesses

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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Vox Populi (The Voice of the People)

By AARON GEIGER
Prospectus Editor

I've found a new way for the Bush Administration and FoxNews to collaborate on a new, easy-to-use media blotter for updates on the War in Iraq. Here's a sample of one of the "form" blotters that will help streamline efficiency from the moment news is "leaked" from the White House to the "correspondent" that will disseminate information to the masses. By using this method, FoxNews might very well jump CNN in speed and hype.

All you need is a pen, pencil, or highlighter, and choose the answer that fits.

"Today in (Najaf, Baghdad, Fallujah, Anbar Province, Mosul), a/an (IED, EFP, bomb, carbomb) exploded, killing several (soldiers; civilians, Iraqi police, worshippers). (The Pentagon, President Bush, the United States) quickly condemned the attack, vowing (swift action, a rapid response, a swift response, rapid action), and pledged to (allocate more resources, deploy more troops, impose a curfew, train more

Iraqi soldiers) in an effort to (bring stability, restore hope, bring justice, restore peace) to the area.

"Meanwhile, George W. Bush issued a statement, stating,



(America is strong, America is resilient, America will not back down to the face of tyranny)' and pledged his support for the troops.

"President Bush reasserted that he stood by his (pledge, commitment, vow) to (stay the course, finish the job, win the war, pursue justice), and asked for more (money, troops, equip-

ment) to help to (win, achieve victory, provide hope, ensure success) in Iraq.

"The Democrats decried Bush's measure. Senator (Clinton, Kerry, Obama, Kennedy) quickly used today's tragedy as an example of why the war should be ended soon. (He, She) proposed that the U.S. (implement a staged withdrawal, no longer fund the war, bring our troops home).

"There is no doubt that Iraq has been hit hard (economically, financially, industrially, emotionally) due to the ongoing conflict. Roughly one in seven Iraqis has fled to another country, such as (Iran, Egypt, Afghanistan, Syria, France, England) in order to escape the escalating violence.

"Recently, the U.S. Government has blamed the new wave of violence on (Shiites, Sunnis, Iranians, Al Qaeda, Chinese-made rifles, Russian explosives), and has adjusted their strategy accordingly.

"The Bush Administration released a statement yesterday, noting that progress was being made. Troop levels should begin to decrease (in six months, in

six more months, a few months more from the last time we said six months, six months from when we say six months from now that six months more will be the objective, soon, when we say so).

"Noting that the Democrats have 'no real plan' for the issue of Iraq, President Bush offered some words of advice, ('This business about graceful exit just simply has no realism to it at all [11/30/06]', 'You know, when I campaigned here in 2000, I said, I want to be a war President. No President wants to be a war President, but I am one [10/26/06]', 'I will not withdraw, even if Laura and Barney are the only ones supporting me [quoted by Bob Woodward]', 'I like to tell people when the final history is written on Iraq, it will look just like a comma because there is—my point is, there's a strong will for democracy [09/24/06]', 'You know, one of the hardest parts of my job is to connect Iraq to the war on terror [09/06/06]', 'I would guess, I would surmise that some of the more spectacular bombings are done by al Qaeda suiciders [10/21/06]').

Dollars and Sense from FinAid

Common FAFSA Errors

By DONNA MAYER
Prospectus Guest Writer

Making a mistake when filling out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can cause processing delays of at least 1 to 3 weeks. 1 in every 8 submitted FAFSA's has one or more errors.

To help insure that no errors are made, read each question on the FAFSA carefully. Be sure you understand it before answering.

#1 FAFSA error has always been leaving a field blank. If your answer on the FAFSA, or any financial aid form, is zero, put in -0-. If you leave a question blank on any form, it will be assumed that you didn't answer it.

The online FAFSA application system usually won't let you proceed with the application if you leave a needed field blank, but that is not a guarantee.

Following the tips listed below

will help you avoid other common FAFSA errors.

- Use Federal tax returns for the correct year. For example, use 2006 Federal returns to apply for the 2007-2008 school year.

- Must use Federal tax returns - do not use W-2s.

- Look at the correct line on the tax return to answer each question. If you have correctly entered the type of tax return you filed, the online application system will tell you what line number to look at for each question.

- Report all sources of untaxed income. Sources can include Social Security, child support, and Aid to Dependent Children (ADC).

- Make sure every required Social Security number is correct.

- Make sure the name placed on the FAFSA agrees with what is on that person's Social Security card.

- Mark the marital status that is correct at the time you complete your FAFSA.

- If you're a dependent student and your parents are divorced, information must be

with is remarried, information must be given for their spouse (your step-parent).

- If you're a dependent student, you must include yourself in your parent's household—regardless of whether or not you have been living with them.

- Make sure every required signature is on the FAFSA before submitting it.

- Each person required to sign the FAFSA must have his or her own PIN to sign electronically.

To avoid last-minute stress and greater chance of errors, submit your FAFSA early. Use the "Pre-Application Worksheet" to make sure you gather all the necessary information. It can be printed from the FAFSA web site <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

If you have any questions about completing the FAFSA or anything else about Financial Aid, please contact our office at finaid@parkland.edu, 217-351-2222, or stop by our office in Room A-170.



given on the parent whom you live with.

- If your parents are divorced, and the parent whom you live

Parkland Profs awarded grants

■ First from college to be honored by U of I

By MEGAN M. OLSON
Prospectus Staff Writer

Two teachers of Natural Science from Parkland are each a recipient of the Faculty Fellows Program grant from the University of Illinois Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership for 2007-2008. These individuals, Professors Toni Burkhalter and Heidi Leuszler, are the first Parkland staff to be awarded such a gift by The Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

"I felt very blessed once I found out I was to receive the award. This was something I didn't think I would have the opportunity to do," said Burkhalter, who will be teaching "The Fundamentals of Nutrition."

"I was excited," said Leuszler, who plans to update her "Entrepreneurial Environmental Awareness" course. "I was also humbled by the award. There are many, many wonderful entrepreneurial ideas at this institution. I am very grateful to have received this award."

This honor is a significant display of Parkland's teaching prowess and ingenuity. It shows that a community college is able to distinguish itself with a large university, like the U of I, in educational quality.

The two professors originally became involved with the program when Fay Rouseff-Baker, the Associate Vice President for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, sent out an email to Parkland faculty. Rouseff-Baker informed them that there were two grants from the Academy of Entrepreneurial Leadership that

were being offered. Parkland staff who were interested contacted her for additional information and filled out the necessary paper work. The hopefuls were required to write proposals for entrepreneurial courses. The intended proposals were reviewed by a committee, and Burkhalter and Leuszler's proposals were selected as recipients.

Staff who are fortunate enough to have the program's funds have two options on how to spend it. The money can be used to pay for either the materials needed in pre-existing entrepreneurial courses or for the expenses that arise in creating new courses. Faculty members may obtain up to ten or fifteen-thousand dollars.

Both Burkhalter and Leuszler will instruct their own respective entrepreneurial courses at Parkland for the next year. Students who enroll in their classes will have the benefit of the latest resources and supplies.

They will further develop their understanding of entrepreneurship and its application to people's lives. They will have first-hand experience in business type situations as well as the chance to sharpen their analytical and creative skills.

Burkhalter further clarifies about her course, "The Fundamentals of Nutrition" is being offered as an honors designated course with enrollment restricted to Parkland College Honor Students. It will enable the participating students to investigate and experience the entrepreneurship of product research and development in

the field of nutrition. Students will develop a snack food aimed to meet the needs of the active woman.

Although the course focus will be on establishing a new food product, students will demonstrate entrepreneurial skills critical in any market sector," said Burkhalter.

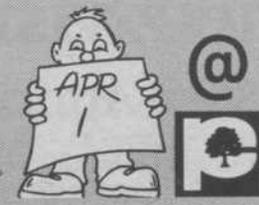
"My plan is to redesign the already existing "Entrepreneurial Environmental Awareness" class," said Leuszler. "I want to give students the entrepreneurial skills to go out in to their communities and identify environmental problems both small and large. They will examine the needs of all the people involved and propose solutions to the problems. Students will present their solutions to community clients, and we might even see some of the solutions being enacted."

The Faculty Fellows Program was founded to raise the awareness of entrepreneurial courses available at the University of Illinois. It also sought to increase the magnitude of courses which

are accessible to students. Professors teaching a variety of subjects vie for the resources offered by the program. In its running time of three years a total of twenty-nine faculty have been awarded grants.

"I used to think entrepreneurship was about creating a new business. As I've been learning more about it, I have found that it is a national movement to get people to actually make their ideas happen. We all have great ideas, but it takes certain skills, such as the ability to see new opportunities, to make those ideas become reality," said Leuszler. "These ideas can lead to a new business, a new product, or a new way of thinking. The field is interdisciplinary, and it can be very powerful."

"This course redesign allows me to be involved with each of my passions. In graduate school I focused on Research and Development. When I came to Parkland part time I fell in love with teaching. Now I can do them both together," said Burkhalter.



Parkland Planetarium

Friday, February 16:
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 17:
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 Art Gallery

Monday, February 19 –
Wednesday, March 28, 2007:

National Biennial Watercolor Invitational curated by Robert Barnum

Parkland Athletics

Saturday, February 17:
2:00 p.m.—Women's Basketball vs. Lewis & Clark

4:00 p.m.—Men's Basketball vs. Lewis & Clark

Wednesday, February 21:
5:30 p.m.—Women's Basketball @ Danville

7:30 p.m.—Men's Basketball @ Danville

Black History Events

Monday, February 19:
12:00-1:00 p.m.—Scramble Game/Trivia Drawing

Tuesday, February 20:
12:00-1:30 p.m.—"Back to Africa" Video/Discussion Rm. D116 w/ instructor Ibrahima Ndoye

Wednesday, February 21:
11:00a.m.-1:30 p.m.—Sweet Taste of Soul

Parkland Workshops

Thursday, February 15:
6:30-8:30 p.m.—Home & Office Organization Rm. B223
Fee: \$12

Saturday, February 17:
8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.—Severe Storms Rm. L216 Fee: \$36

Sunday, February 18:
12:00-4:00 p.m.—Couples Massage II Bauman Center Fee: \$90 per couple

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Rietz visits Parkland College classroom

■ State Attorney assists Ofc. Medlyn with Criminal Justice course

By ELLEN SCHMIDT
Assistant Editor

Police officer Mark Medlyn works to bring reality to the students of his criminal justice classes. While Medlyn works full time as a police officer he shares his expertise and talents—as well as stories—to the students enrolled in the 'Issues in Criminal Justice' class he teaches at Parkland College.

One of the ways that Medlyn is educating his students is through the exposure to members of the community that are involved in the law enforcement process.

Medlyn—who has been a police officer for nearly 28 years—shares a lot of the issues that confront law enforcement, both professionally and personally. He offers students a look into the world of law enforcement that offers something different everyday.

The first in a series of visits that students will be exposed to came from Julia Rietz, Champaign County State Attorney. While

they were instructed not to talk about specific cases they were able to ask general questions. Rietz is proud of being in the company of only 1 of 7 women in 102 counties that hold the position of State's Attorney in Illinois.

Rietz started her career as an intern working for current Judge Tom Difanis. She assisted Difanis on a double homicide case; she found it so interesting that when a position opened up at the end of the semester, she decided to stay.

Although in her mind she was destined to a career at a law firm in Chicago, her experience in Champaign led her down another path. What she learned from this was, "The best lessons you can learn are when you are out there trying things." Rietz added that students should not limit themselves and encouraged them to try new things.

She attributes a lot of what she learned to Medlyn who is considered legendary on the DUI circuit. "This is my dream job." "It's

been an amazing experience serving the people of Champaign County," Rietz said.

Her office is guided with the Illinois Supreme Court rule that reminds them to remember the "First duty of a public prosecutor is to do justice, not only to convict." They do that by including their ethics, moral and common sense in addition to their legal ability when making those determinations.

The main focus of the office is to prosecute criminal cases that include violations of state law. Her staff of 22 assistant attorney's and 25 additional support staff that include secretaries, investigators and advocates help in the process.

Rietz went over the list of misdemeanors and felony offense and explained their consequences. She shared the growing problem of drugs in the Champaign County specifically with Meth and crack cocaine. Rietz talked about the incidence of repeat offenders stating, "A large percentage of the crime is committed by a small percentage."

PRES.

continued from page 1

are choosing to observe Washington's Birthday, and instead opt to offer employees time to celebrate Dr. King.

5. Advertisers: In the early 1980s, advertising agencies pressed a campaign that boosted a market for "Presidents Day" (note the lack of an apostrophe). An impressive flood of teaching materials, posters, banners, cards, and paraphernalia poured into the mainstream. By promoting the nom-de-plume of "Presidents Day" and featuring cutouts of Washington and Lincoln, advertising agencies managed to create a profile for a holiday that began as a celebration strictly for George Washington's birthday, even before he assumed the Presidency. Advertisers are also responsible for standardizing pastel colors and animals for Easter, heart-shaped boxes of candy for Valentine's Day, and pictures of happy Indians giving Puritans large, roasted turkeys.

Will the concept of President's Day die? Will Washington's Birthday be restored?

"Not likely," said the anonymous teacher. "Commercialism has a stranglehold on this country."

"I do know that I always try to teach the truth. I do tell my kids that Columbus wasn't a hero, and that a lot of American famous people have made mis-

takes. I just don't know how to tell children...to explain to them the complexity [of President's Day]," she said.

"I'll just continue to talk about Washington and Lincoln, and how they made a difference in our nation. I'll leave it up to [the students] to decide what they want to do with the holiday when they get older," she said.

George Washington's birthday, originally February 11 on the Julian calendar, was updated to February 22 on the Gregorian calendar. This year we celebrate his birthday on February 19, the third Monday of the month. Ironically we never celebrate Washington's Birthday on his birthday. In 2011, we'll observe his birthday on February 21—the closest we ever get to the "real" date.

Another significant addendum to Washington's Birthday was the celebration of the history of the Purple Heart—a tradition that is rarely followed today. Washington created a badge of merit for the lowly soldier, which was later renamed as the Purple Heart on Washington's 200th birthday. His profile is the centerpiece on the face of the medal, which is still being issued to soldiers, sailors, and airmen who have been wounded in combat action against declared enemies of the United States.

This year will mark Washington's 275th birthday, and the 75th anniversary of the reinstatement of the Purple Heart.



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Public Safety presents...

The Watch

The Watch is a monthly feature to raise awareness of crime and emergencies that occur at Parkland College. The Police Officers of the Public Safety department provide this information to remind students, faculty and staff that anyone can be a victim of a crime anywhere, at any time. Our office is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is always a Police Officer on duty. If you witness a crime, contact Public Safety immediately at 351-2369. In case of emergency dial 911 on any office phone or use the emergency call boxes throughout campus.

Jan 3- Disorderly conduct, suspect urinating on wall.

Jan 3- Employee conduct report for physical altercation between student workers.

Jan 9- Student conduct report for students involved in theft and fraud off campus.

Jan 9- Student had purse stolen from Parkland Dance room. Purse was later recovered with currency missing.

Jan 10- Hit and run accident occurred. Developed suspect who was later issued two citations for the accident.

Jan 11- Student detained after witnesses saw him damage Parkland property. Student was found to have an active warrant from Cook County and was arrested.

Jan 20- Suspect convinced student to loan him money. Suspect repaid student with a check from a closed account. Further investigation pending.

Jan 27- Instructor reported student attempting to touch her inappropriately. Instructor also reported that others have told her of same student harassing females.

Jan 30- Student reported being harassed and threatened by another student. Investigation pending.

- Vehicle accidents- 10
- Hit and run reports- 3
- Traffic Citations- 9
- Theft under \$300- 3
- Medical Calls- 7

Obama enters 2008 presidential race

By **CHRISTI PARSONS**
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Sen. Barack Obama officially entered the race for president Saturday in the Illinois capital, urging Americans who hear “destiny calling” to join him in “the unfinished business of perfecting our union,” then headed out to start campaigning in earnest in the battleground state of Iowa.

Against the backdrop of the Old State Capitol where Abraham Lincoln once served in the state legislature, the Illinois Democrat launched his campaign surrounded by thousands of supporters who traveled from around the state and country and braved freezing temperatures to witness an event many of them described in historic terms.

Sounding themes of hope and common purpose, Obama invoked the memory of Lincoln in calling for an end to the cynicism he says cleaves the nation, so that a united America can confront its problems at home and abroad.

“People who love their country can change it,” Obama said. “That’s what Abraham Lincoln understood. He had his doubts. He had his defeats . . . But through his will and his words, he moved a nation and helped free a people.”

But as Obama departed immediately for Iowa, the raucous crowd and frenzied applause of the morning quickly gave way to difficult questions. Voters at a town hall meeting quizzed Obama about everything from the Iraq war and North Korea to education funding and race relations.

A seasoned electorate known for its careful vetting of candidates in the early presidential caucuses, voters in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, responded enthusiastically but with much more restraint.

“A small percentage of people here are supporting Barack Obama,” said Steve Govern, a former state senator and local Democrat who moderated the meeting at the Kennedy High School gymnasium. “Voters here take the caucus seriously and they measure candidates carefully. They’ll be back to hear Obama and other candidates many times before they make up their minds.”

It was a dose of reality Obama said he was expecting would come as soon as he announced his candidacy. The competition for the Democratic nomination is heating up more each day, with Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York raising the bar for campaign fundraising and a host of candidates crowding into the field.

Voters will want to “check under the hood and kick the tires” now, Obama said Saturday afternoon.

“The novelty’s going to wear off,” Obama said. “People are going to be (thinking), ‘Aw, it’s Obama, he’s coming through town again’ . . . People are going to be able to ask me some questions you couldn’t ask me this time out.”

The heavy presence of security around Obama was also a silent reminder of the change that took place with the announcement. Michelle Obama, the candidate’s wife, acknowledged it in an interview to air on CBS’s “60 Minutes,” in which she was asked if she fears for her husband’s life as a black candidate.

“I don’t lose sleep over it because the realities are that . . . as a black man . . . Barack can get shot going to the gas station,” observed Michelle Obama in the interview, set to air Sunday night. “You can’t make decisions based on fear and the possibility of what might happen.”

In Springfield, a crowd police estimated at 15,000 or more began to gather in the early morning around the stage erected on the lawn of the old Capitol. Supporters crowded inside the fence around the building and spilled out onto surrounding streets, clutching hand-made signs and cups of coffee to brave a single-digit wind chill factor.

Obama took the stage with his wife and two young daughters, as strains of the U2 song “City of Blinding Lights” blared over loud speakers. Sharpshooters watched from the tops of several buildings overhead while Obama delivered an address now familiar in its condemnation of political cynicism and its gauzy description of a better America.

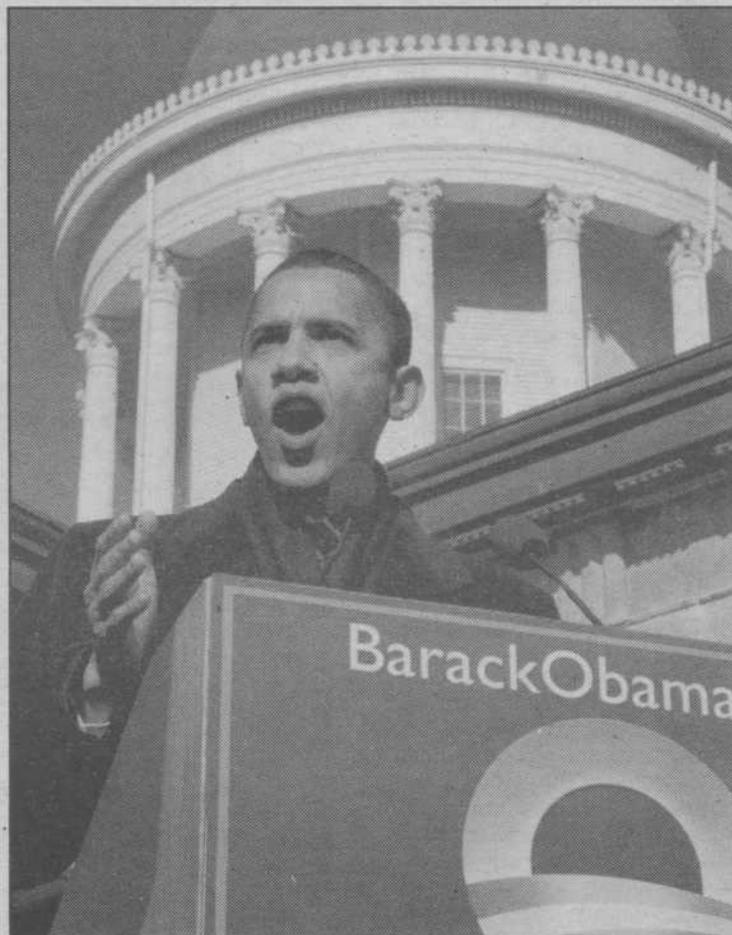
Though acknowledging what he called the “presumptuousness” of running for office after only two years in the Senate, Obama spun his lack of experience in national politics as a good thing.

“I’ve been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change,” he said. He extolled the benefits of his history as a community organizer in Chicago, a state lawmaker and civil rights lawyer, and called for quick action to

end the Iraq war and bring home American troops, as well as to provide quality health care for all and to end America’s dependence on foreign oil.

Repeatedly, Obama invoked

crowd had a hard time hearing Obama because of the loud chants of protesters objecting to Obama’s support for abortion rights. Obama spoke in an even tone and didn’t appear deterred



Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) announces his candidacy for President of the United States at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, Saturday, February 10, 2007.

Pete Souza/Chicago Tribune (MCT)

the memory of Lincoln, who delivered his famous “House Divided” speech in the building that served as his backdrop.

“It was here, in Springfield, where North, South, East and West come together, that I was reminded of the essential decency of the American people,” Obama said, referring to his time in the state legislature that now meets a few blocks away in the new state Capitol. “That is why, in the shadow of the Old State Capitol, where Lincoln once called on a divided house to stand together, where common hopes and common dreams still live, I stand before you today to announce my candidacy for president of the United States.”

Listeners in one corner of the

by them, though their presence was a not-so-subtle reminder that his future as a presidential candidate won’t be as easy and light as the months leading up to it.

Republicans also injected a bit of skepticism to counter the months of celebrity that Obama has enjoyed since his 2004 address at the Democratic National Convention.

“His speech could have been given by any candidate, Republican or Democrat,” Illinois GOP party chairman Andy McKenna said of the morning announcement. “He’s very popular, but will he embrace some ideas that distinguish him? It remains to be seen.”

(c) 2007, Chicago Tribune.

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Turkmen elections are unlikely to signal democracy

By **ALEX RODRIGUEZ**
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

MOSCOW — Turkmenistan's president-for-life, Saparmurat Niyazov, spent much of his time and his nation's wealth trying to convince his countrymen he was also larger than life, perhaps even a prophet.

His 400-page tome of spiritual teachings, Rukhnama, became mandatory reading for schoolchildren, civil servants — and anyone who wanted a driver's license. He renamed a port, city streets and the month of January after himself. In 2003, a government proclamation dubbed him "God's messenger."

Doctors swore an oath not to Hippocrates but to Niyazov.

On Dec. 21, mortality caught up with Niyazov, striking the portly, 66-year-old dictator with a fatal heart attack that left hanging in the balance the future of a Stalinist nation with one of the world's largest storehouses of natural gas and shared borders with both Iran and Afghanistan.

Voters go to the polls Sunday ostensibly to elect Niyazov's successor, but few believe the country's future will be decided by the voice of the electorate.

Instead, Turkmenistan's fate for now appears to rest in the hands of Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov, a former dentist and deputy prime minister who won the power struggle to become acting president after Niyazov's death. His backers have handpicked five obscure candidates to join Berdimukhamedov on the ballot. Doubts about the validity of Sunday's election grew even stronger when the country's central election commission chief endorsed Berdimukhamedov.

Central Asia analysts are unsure exactly what direction Berdimukhamedov will take Turkmenistan, assuming he is declared president after Sunday's election. About the only certainty in the post-Niyazov era is that the eccentricities and bizarre decrees are likely to cease.

"No one has any idea what Berdimukhamedov will do, but we realize he's a better person than Niyazov was," said Bairam Shikhmuradov, 33, an opposition leader living in exile in Moscow. His father, former Foreign Minister Boris Shikhmuradov, was jailed for life in 2002 after a

show-trial conviction on charges of engineering an assassination attempt on Niyazov. Bairam believes his father was framed because he mounted political opposition against the dictator.

"Niyazov wasn't a human being — he was an alien," Shikhmuradov said. "He was a brutal dictator, killing so many people. I'm pretty sure no one else could behave like that."

Berdymukhamedov, 49, isn't expected to usher in any kind of democratic rebirth for Turk-

men rolling back some of his predecessor's most damaging edicts, such as cutting back compulsory education to nine years and eliminating pensions for 100,000 elderly. He also promises unrestricted Internet access, all but banned under Niyazov.

Berdymukhamedov has yet to hint at how he will manage Turkmenistan's estimated 2.9 trillion cubic meters of natural-gas reserves, coveted by the U.S., Europe, China and Russia. Almost all Turkmen natu-

ral-gas exports flow through the pipelines of Gazprom, Russia's state-owned gas monopoly. But the U.S., Europe and China all would like to see Turkmen gas bypass Russia, and Niyazov's death has paved the way for those governments to push the issue.

with the Hudson Institute in Washington. "My concern is that this window will close before the West gets its act together and decides to engage." Niyazov's rule dates to 1985, when Turkmenistan's cotton fields and vast desert expanse belonged to the Soviet Union and Niyazov was the republic's Communist Party chief. A year after the country gained its independence amid the Soviet collapse in 1991, Niyazov was elected by 99.5 percent of the

met Hanamov, a former Cabinet member and ambassador now living in exile in Vienna.

Despite Turkmenistan's energy wealth, Niyazov kept his nation in grinding poverty. The State Department estimates the unemployment rate may be as high as 70 percent, though precise figures are not available because Niyazov kept economic data secret. In villages outside the white marble-clad buildings of the capital, Ashgabat, basics such as electricity and clean drinking water can be hard to come by, Shikhmuradov said.

Niyazov channeled much of the country's natural-gas revenue to bizarre endeavors, like the construction of a lake in the middle of the Kara Kum Desert and an \$18 million zoo featuring penguins — also in the desert. In the capital, gilded statues of Niyazov dot the cityscape; a 35-foot golden Niyazov atop the Arch of Neutrality contains a special mechanism so that the leader's countenance always faces the sun.

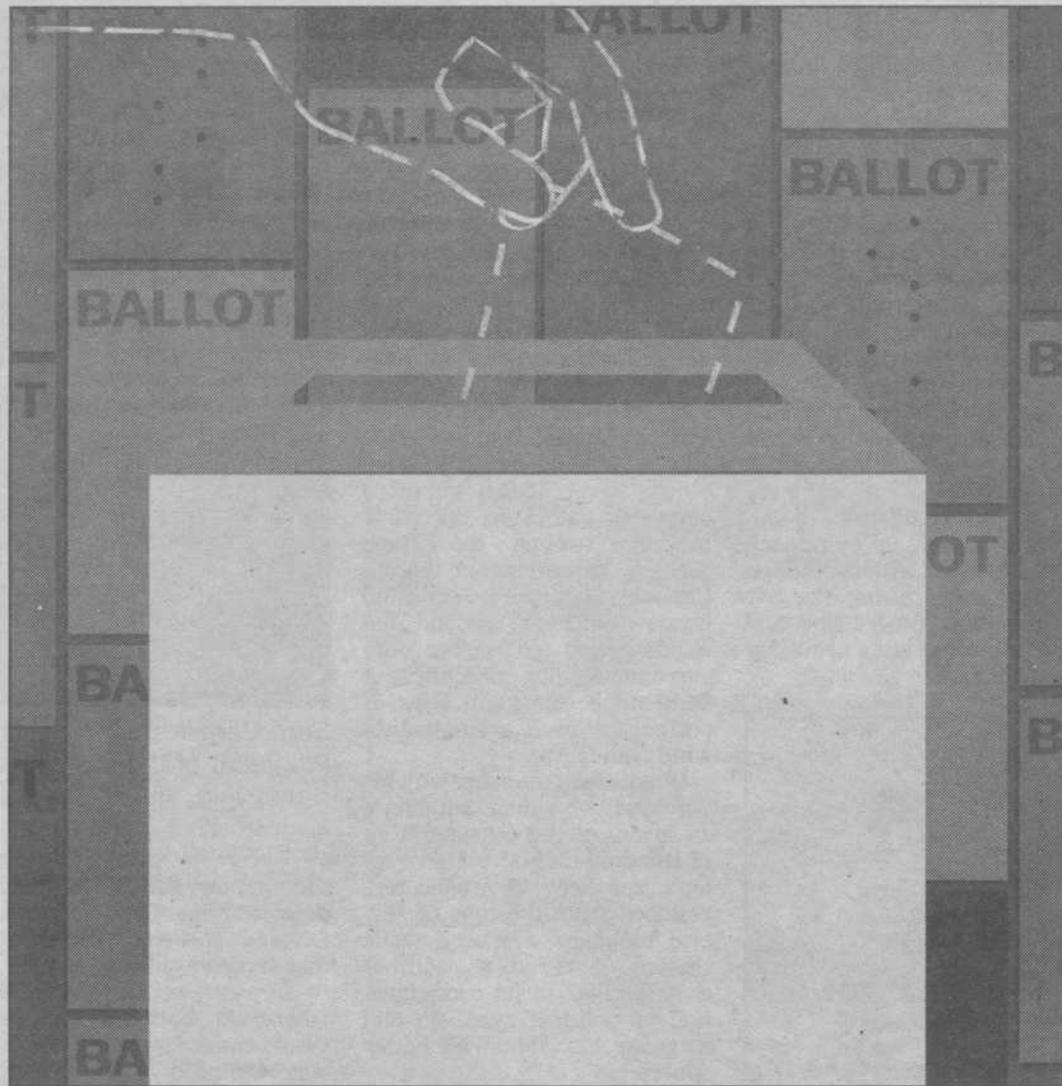
Many of Niyazov's edicts stretched the bounds of reason. He banned opera, ballet, the circus, car radios and lip-synching. He ordered his people to call him Turkmenbashi, or the Father of All Turkmen. In 2005, he shut down all national parks and all libraries and hospitals outside Ashgabat.

In addition to renaming January after himself, he renamed April after his mother, May after his father and September after his book, Rukhnama, Turkmen for "Book of the Soul." In the book's introduction, Niyazov likened its importance to the Koran or the Bible.

"You would never get an education or a job, or anything at all, if you didn't read that stupid book," Shikhmuradov said.

Opposition leaders and experts agree any movement that Turkmenistan makes toward forging civil society will be slow and tentative. The Rukhnama is likely to remain required reading in classrooms, they say, and Turkmen security agents aren't likely to stop hunting down dissenters and critics.

"Turkmenistan was Niyazov," Shikhmuradov says. "No one there knows what Turkmenistan will look like without him."



menistan, a country where ministers, politicians and journalists are routinely jailed for saying or writing anything that could be construed as dissent. Nor is he likely to relinquish the regime's reliance on the MNB, Turkmenistan's brutal KGB successor agency that keeps a watchful eye on every corner of Turkmen society.

Still, he has distinguished himself from Niyazov by calling for a series of reforms aimed at

vote in a contest widely dismissed as rigged.

At first, Niyazov introduced reforms to liberalize the economy. But when he saw that his reforms fostered entrepreneurship, Niyazov reversed himself and reverted to a centralized, state-controlled economy.

"I remember him telling me that if people got richer because of growth in the private sector, that it would be much harder to control them," said Nurmuham-

"What I see from both Europe and the U.S. is a decision to wait until after the election, when things settle down," said Zeyno Baran, a Central Asia analyst

(c) 2007, Chicago Tribune.

Federal officials defend immigrant facility

By PAUL MEYER

The Dallas Morning News (MCT)

TAYLOR, Texas—It looks like a maximum-security day care. Razor wire, strung high atop security fences, surrounds a “Backyard Adventures” swing set. Fake trees soften entrances to sunless cellblocks. And Sony PlayStations entertain immigrant children where Texas criminals once served hard time.

Depending on whom you ask, this former prison turned immigration detention facility is either a national human rights blight or the newest and most humane way to keep track of families facing deportation.

On Friday, amid mounting criticism, federal officials offered the media a first look inside Central Texas’ T. Don Hutto Family Residential Facility, one of two detention centers in the country for immigrant families, mostly mothers and children.

The center, just northeast of

Austin, has been home to three North Texas Palestinian families in recent months, including members of the Ibrahim family, whose controversial detention sparked a new round of criticism last week.

The federal government opened the Hutto facility in May, responding to complaints about the government’s “catch-and-release” policy that allowed illegal immigrants to remain free until their hearings. In many cases, they would skip the hearings and go unapprehended.

But human rights observers and civil rights advocates have condemned the decision to keep children in the Hutto center, citing abuses that include inadequate education, weight loss and psychological trauma. The government, they say, has a responsibility to find less-restrictive environments when the incarceration of minors is necessary.

The government denies the abuses.

“I think the criticisms are

unfounded and based on limited anecdotal information,” said Gary Mead, assistant director for the detention and removal operations of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Mead, who led Friday’s carefully choreographed tour, painted a picture of a place far removed from a penal environment—a place where children receive five hours of academic education daily, use a computer lab, play in a gymnasium and receive attentive medical care.

The 512-bed Hutto center, run for the government by the privately owned Corrections Corp. of America, houses mostly Latin American families from countries other than Mexico.

Barbara Hines, a University of Texas at Austin law professor and director of the law school’s immigration clinic, confirmed this week that the clinic is exploring legal action to stop the detention of children in Hutto, in conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union.

But on Friday, workers inside Hutto defended their attempts to provide a safe and humane environment, replete with certified teachers who work with nine classrooms of students from as far away as El Salvador, Iraq and Somalia.

“They care . . . and they’ve been hurt by the press,” said Jean Bellinger, assistant administrator of programs for CCA.

Irving, Texas, resident Nazmieh Juma Hazahza said there is only one way to describe her experience at the Hutto facility where she lived with her 11-year-old son, Mohammad: like being in hell.

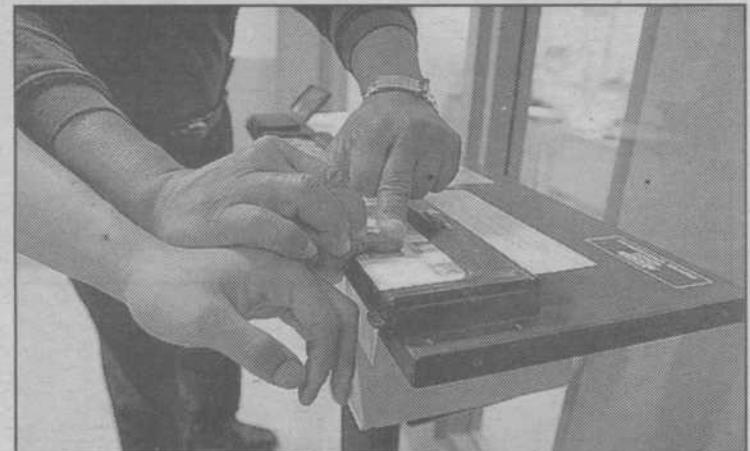
“A prison is a prison, no matter what. . . . For me it was very hard, being there day after day, each day worse than the next one,” said Hazahza, who was released from the detention center Wednesday evening after spending more than three months in custody.

The Hazahzas are one of three Dallas-area Palestinian families recently detained inside Hutto. While one family has been deported to Jordan, the Hazahzas and the Ibrahims have been released.

Salaheddin Ibrahim, who was being held apart from his family at a facility near Abilene, was released Friday, a day after an immigration judge set his bail at \$30,000, said his brother, Ahmad. Ibrahim’s wife and four

children, ages 5 to 15, were released Feb. 3 from Hutto, where they had been held since their arrest Nov. 2.

“It’s just ridiculous to hold young children,” said the Hazahzas’ attorney, Michelle Saez-Rodriguez. “No. 1, they’re lacking education, and there’s no way a facility like that can provide proper education for children.”



ICE Fugitive Operations team arrests immigration fugitives in Boston, Massachusetts, March 16 2006. Since October, 13,089 immigrants have been detained, representing a more than 60 percent increase from the same time period in 2004.

Photo courtesy of Immigration and Customs Enforcement/KRT

“If you have one adult member of the family (detained), that should be enough leverage.”

Hazahza and her son were sent to Hutto on an outstanding deportation order after the family’s political asylum request was denied. Like many others from Palestinian areas, they have been unable to obtain travel documents to leave the U.S.

Hazahza’s account of ill treatment inside Hutto is similar to that of other former detainees interviewed by The Dallas Morning News and by lawyers of clients inside the facility.

“The way we were treated is not good for any child or woman,” she said. “I feel like I lost my mind. I could not eat the food, it was so bad.”

Hazahza said she had medical problems, with back and neck pain, but when she asked for assistance, all she got was over-the-counter pain medicine.

Thomas Hochberg, the U.S. Public Health Service administrator in charge of Hutto, defended the facility’s medical care Friday, citing a staff that

includes a doctor, a full-time dentist and two mental health professionals.

Hazahza said that about two weeks ago, she started noticing efforts by center officials to make the facility look better.

Mohammad said he now knows why: “The only reason they did it was because they were going to bring cameras in.”

Mead said Hutto represented a well-thought-out effort to keep families together while better enforcing immigration laws.

Hutto houses about 380 detainees. Less than 10 percent of the population is male, and the average stay for immigrants not facing asylum cases is about 40 days, Mead said. One detainee seeking asylum has been in Hutto for 205 days, he confirmed.

“Everything we do here begins with the safety of children,” he said, adding that work to remove the remaining razor wire from the center is under way.

Brane and others, however, say the human toll is greater than whatever immigration enforcement benefit the facility may represent.

“I think one of the primary things we’re concerned about is the psychological effect” on children, she said.

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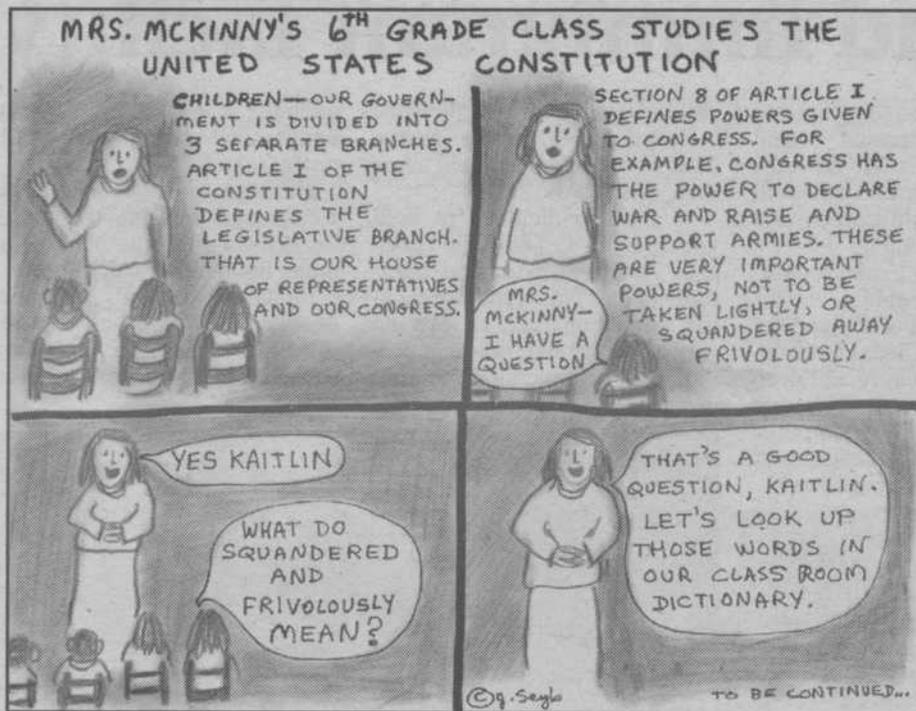
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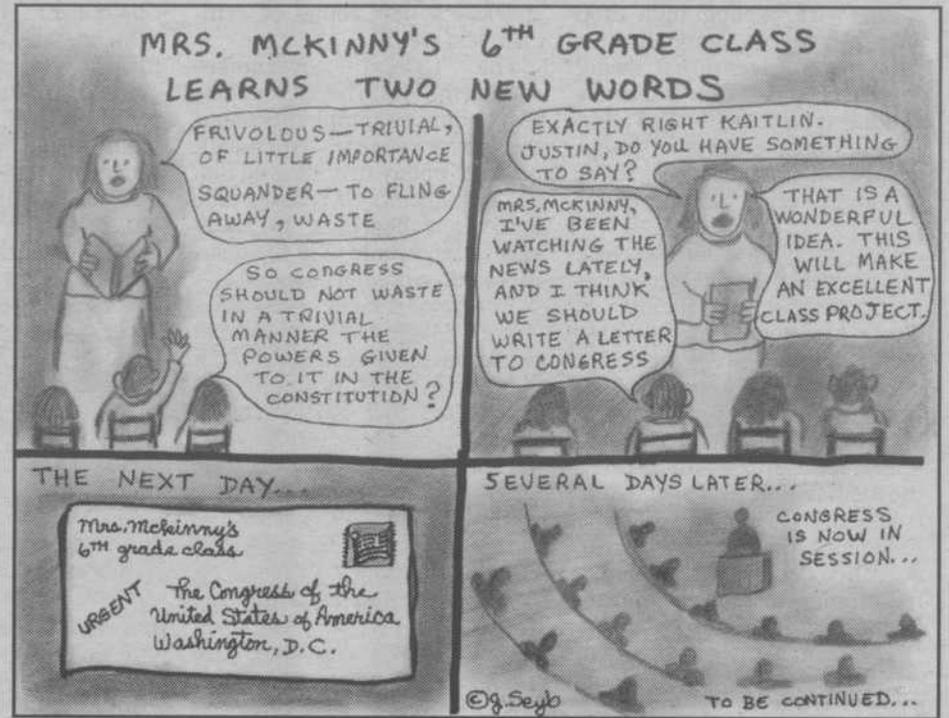
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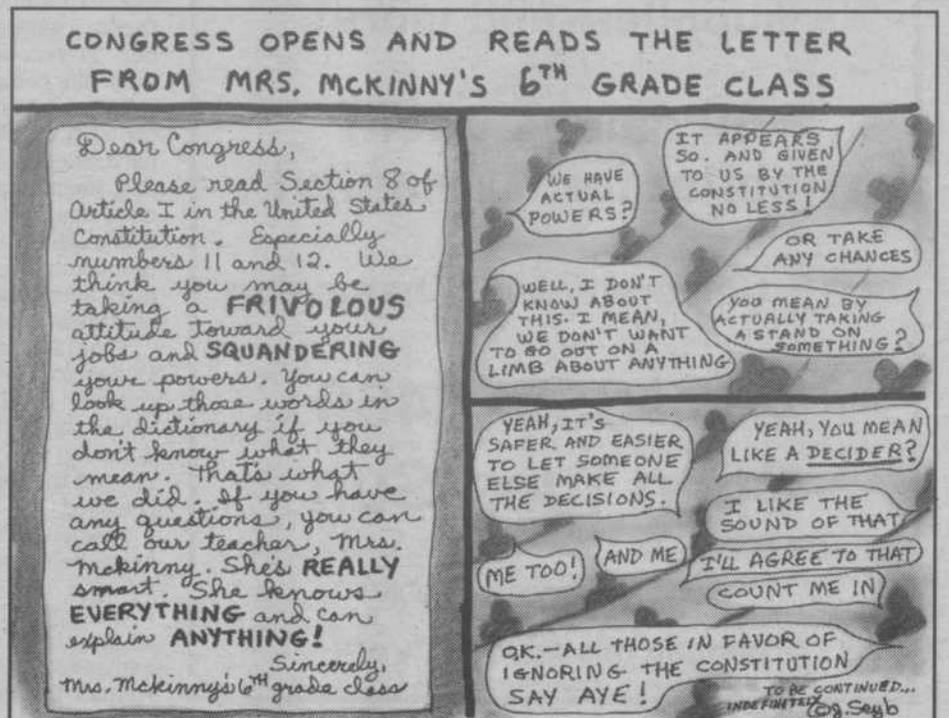
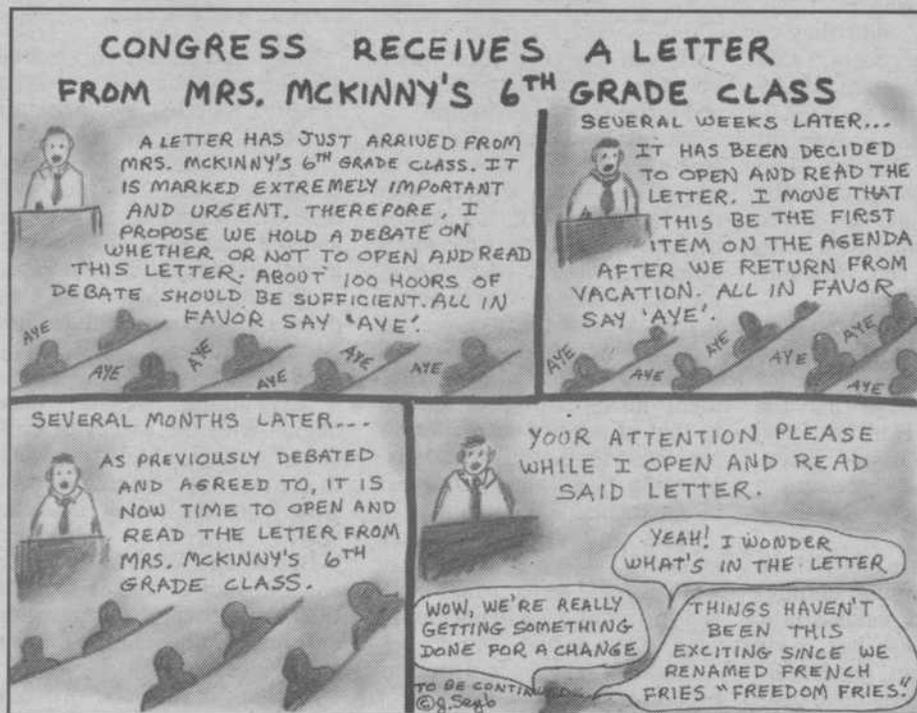
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The college is greatly organized. But what I would change is the students of Parkland College, their perception on the understanding of what this college is about; a center of socialism besides education.

Best part of the Prospectus?

Being student oriented, the truthfulness of the articles, and the direct connection to the students.

Staff:

Billie Mitchell



Title: *Director, Adult Re-entry Center*

Employed Since: 1988

Best part of job?

I love helping students reach their educational and career goals.

Where were you raised?

Monticello, IL.

Biggest inspiration?

My maternal grandmother, Katherine McPheeters

What would you change at Parkland College?

Not the much...but I would love to see the addition of a Student Service Center.

Best part of the Prospectus?

The pictures and articles on campus activities.

Staff:

Minor W. Jackson, III



Title: *Interim Director, Human Resources*

Employed Since: 2000

Best part of job?

No matter what the opportunity, issue or problem is, the solution is Human Resources.

Where were you raised?

South side of Chicago.

Biggest inspiration?

Jackie Robinson, Brooklyn Dodgers; Lary Doby, Cleveland Indians, 1947.

What would you change at Parkland College?

Architectural Design and structure.

Best part of the Prospectus?

Timely information plus student, faculty, and staff involvement.

Second Life is being hailed as the next MySpace

By CARY DARLING

McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

So I show up, first time in the place, and this fox is speaking to me.

Not talking here about the way-old-school slang for a beautiful woman but something closer to Animal Planet than the Playboy Channel. Bushy tail. Canine features. The works.

Can't remember exactly what the conversation was—a mere exchange of passing pleasantries before it walked off—but the whole thing left an unsettling feeling, like this could really get weird. Like I'd fallen through the looking glass and Alice definitely wasn't living here anymore.

That's because it was my first foray into Second Life, the buzzed-about and controversial online role-playing and social-networking site that's being hailed as the next YouTube, the next thing to bedazzle the tech-savvy and befuddle the technophobes.

Sort of a combination of My Space, The Sims and Monopoly with the three-dimensional touch of Star Trek's holodecks and the videogame World of Warcraft, Second Life is not a competitive pursuit—even though it's technically what's called a “massively multiplayer online game”—as much as an alternative state.

Users choose a fictional name and create an avatar, an animated version of themselves that can walk, run and dance, and then are dropped into a landscape where they interact with others' avatars, including those of real-life friends who are also “in world,” buy or sell Second Life land, set up businesses, build houses, buy clothes, work a job, go bar-hopping, make art and, yes, even some NC-17 activities. It's free to join but potentially expensive—in the site's made-up Linden dollars or in real currency—if you want a super kickin' SL lifestyle. Just like real life.

And if that doesn't sound all that much different from everyone's first life, it's their life buffed to perfection. You can be whomever—or whatever—you want. You can fly. You can teleport. No taxes. No politicians. No war. No terror. No War on Terror.

But there is plenty of hype. Hatched in 2000 by a San

Francisco company called Linden Lab, which didn't make the site publicly accessible until 2003, Second Life includes eBay co-founder Pierre Omidyar and Amazon pioneer Jeffrey Bezos as backers. Major companies and organizations—from Dell and MTV to the American Cancer Society—are flocking to the site to set up “islands,” worlds within the world dedicated to

as Anshe Chung—reportedly became the site's first real-life millionaire, buying and selling Second Life real estate.

“... One of the projects was they had to design a project that really fostered public life,” she says. “Somebody created a space to discuss virtual reality. Another created (in Second Life) the building he was designing. ... Somebody else did

dubbed “the Reuters Second Life bureau chief” who has been stationed in-world since October. “Some are there to start a business, some are here to create art or write software, and some are in it for purely the social nature.”

For all the glowing talk about community, sharing and a bright, shiny, happy future—an anarcho-libertarian paradise

into, forcing the company to contact the FBI and mandate that all residents change their passwords. There also have been cases of online harassment, called “griefing.”

On top of that, the government may start to take a closer look at the tax responsibility of those making money on so-called “unreal estate” through sites like Second Life. Economist Daniel Miller, whose congressional Joint Economic Committee has been investigating virtual gaming since October, is due to deliver a report early this year. “Congressional and IRS interest in this issue is simply a matter of time,” he was quoted as saying in *The Weekly Standard*.

“If you take money out of Second Life, then you're responsible for claiming that income, like eBay,” says Linden Lab's Catherine Smith.

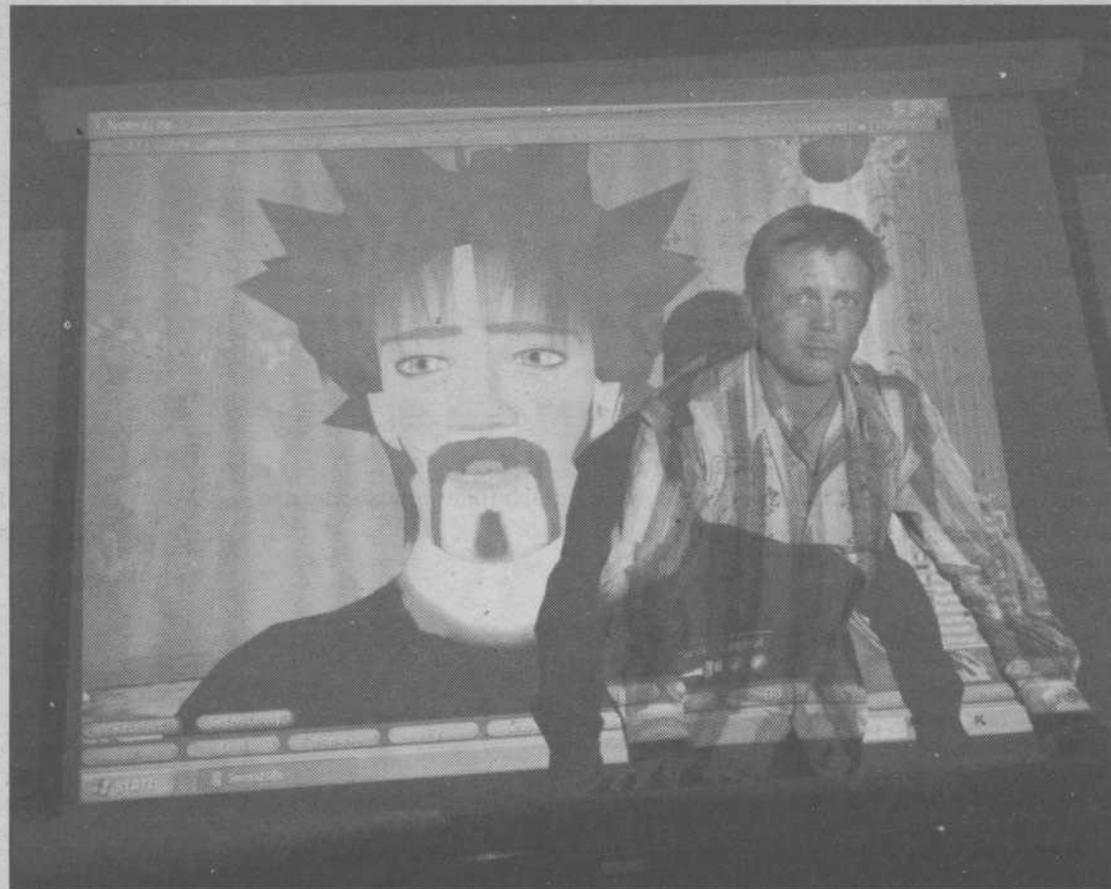
Pasick points out that the site has been the victim of more mundane issues. “As with any new technology, there are a fair amount of glitches,” he says. “The whole grid will go down periodically. That's been compounded by the fact that it's growing so quickly ... I get the sense they're constantly putting out fires to keep the thing running.”

“It's not very user-friendly, and for those who aren't technologically savvy, or their graphic card isn't up to speed, they may just get confused and never come back.”

For now, though, there's not a lot of bad news for Second Life. With a virtual land mass four times the size of Manhattan but with only 2 million inhabitants—and with generally around 20,000 online at one time—there's room for growth. Many “islands” are empty, real estate just waiting to be bought, traded or populated.

Certainly, there seems to be a lot of smiles at the privately held Linden Lab. Profit figures aren't released, but Rosedale told the *Chicago Tribune*, “We're very close to profitable. The business itself, on an operating basis, is very profitable.”

Second Life is no less susceptible to the same elements that have haunted the Internet since its inception—people not being who they say they are—than the often-criticized MySpace. Meanwhile, in September, Linden Lab's system was hacked



Linden Labs CEO Philip Rosedale stands in front of a computer projection of his avatar, “Philip Linden,” from the virtual world of Second Life in San Francisco, California, November 8, 2006.

John Lee/Chicago Tribune (MCT)

their products.

Former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner and Sun Microsystems have held press conferences in Second Life. Reuters news agency even has a reporter “embedded” in Second Life full time.

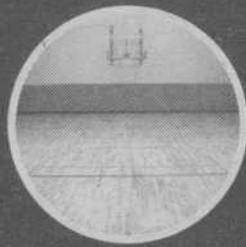
Although most of the site's 2 million-plus residents conduct their commerce in Linden dollars, some are raking in real money. Last fall, Linden Lab CEO Philip Rosedale estimated that \$1.5 million (in actual currency) changes hands through Second Life monthly. In November, a German woman named Ailin Graef—known on the site

a performance-art kind of work where your avatars would move through space with sound and art.”

“Sun (Microsystems) is using it as a way to meet each other and a way to communicate with their audience,” Smith says. “American Apparel has opened a store ... They can create a prototype for jeans and ask for feedback from residents ... It's a way to be super-creative and to fulfill a fantasy, say, of being a fashion designer or building something and going inside.”

“There are a lot of smart, creative people in Second Life,” says reporter Adam Pasick,

of unfettered creativity and commerce—there's a potential downside to Second Life. As the world becomes more populated—and subsequently moves away from being just a high-tech monkey bar for early adopters—it can become more prone to crime, hacking and inappropriate behavior, just like real life.



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A College Girl Named Joe

by Aaron Warner



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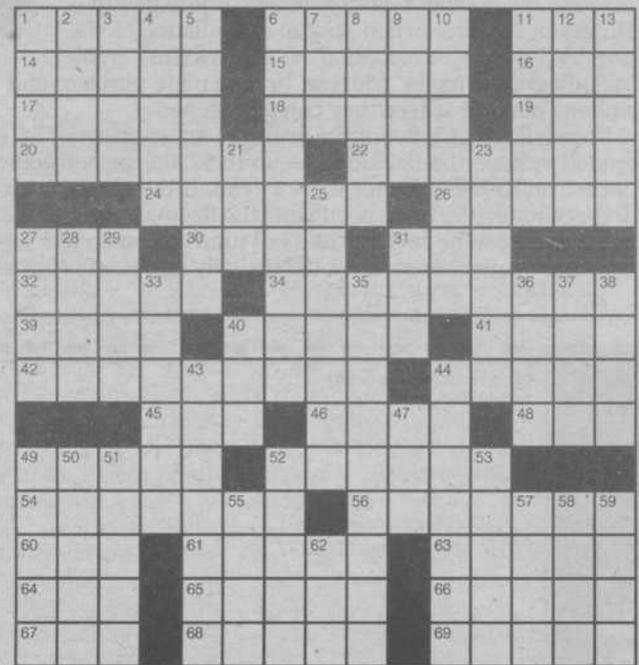
By Aaron Warner



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Crossword

- ACROSS
- Hilo hello
 - Hereditary social group
 - Mormon letters
 - Unconscious states
 - Sharif and Epps
 - Bullpen stat
 - Bad deeds
 - Composition for nine
 - WWII soldiers
 - Temporary routes
 - Stiff felt hats
 - Kills, old-style
 - Gene of oaters
 - Flow out
 - Corn units
 - Dog tags
 - Love of money
 - Repetition
 - Intestinal fortitude
 - Operation reminders
 - Solitary
 - Figurine
 - Program choices
 - Tolkien's talking tree
 - Hosiery shade
 - Guinness Book suffix
 - Zodiac sign
 - Shrewd
 - Article of clothing
 - Most tidy
 - Writer Levin
 - Eagle's nest
 - English ruling dynasty
 - Court call
 - Light haircuts
 - "Frasier" pooch
 - Before, in verse
 - Dove and Ivory
 - Bargains



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2/14/07

- DOWN
- Made a hole in one
 - Valentine word
 - Leave out
 - Saintly glows
 - Took for granted
 - Do the boa thing
 - Latin I lesson word
 - Uses emery
 - Sequoia or sycamore
 - Erik of "ChIPs"
 - On the up-and-up
 - Paint additive
 - Pert
 - Small inlet
 - Ado
 - Stuff of wills
 - Breakfast choice
 - Very dry, as champagne
 - Second of a series
 - Apr. addressee
 - High regard
 - Upright stance
 - Actress Skye
 - Burden
 - Brooding place
 - Harden
 - Defeats an incumbent

Solutions

S	T	V	L	S	D	S	V	O	S	E	R	E
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L	D	S	T	E	C	A	S	T	E	A	H	O

- Changed
- Regret
- Nimble
- Less common
- Really angry
- Open courtyards
- Practice piece of music
- Actor Franco
- Icelandic saga
- Begrime
- Vichy very
- Little devil

Classified

PROSPECTUS

Wednesday, February 14, 2007 — Page 14

Did you know that safety is everyone's business?

Traffic crashes are a common occurrence and could result in fines and citations to the person that is found to have caused the crash. However, being the offender of an unreported traffic crash (Hit and Run) could cost a great deal more in fines and include jail time.

Leaving the scene of a crash is a very serious offense no matter if the vehicle is occupied or unattended (parked). If a person leaves the scene of an accident where the vehicle is unattended, they should notify police immediately. However, the driver can stay in compliance of the law by leaving information on the victim's vehicle including their name, address, license plate number, and a phone number where they can be reached.

If convicted of leaving the scene of an accident of an unattended vehicle the fines can be up to \$2500, suspension of their IL driver's license and a jail sentence up to 1 year. If the crash involved personal injury to the other driver or its occupants the fines can go up to \$25,000, their IL driver's license can be revoked and jail time can be up to 3 years.

Please remember to drive defensively and always buckle up.



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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.

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25 words — \$4.00
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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, with a low around -3.
Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 14.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around -2.
Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 21.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 8.
Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 30.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 18.
Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 29.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16.
Presidents' Day: Partly cloudy, with a high near 35.

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 Windwood Lane and Army Drive in the Sandy Ridge Subdivision.

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 373-TIPS. Callers do not

From Amazon to TiVo to you: Users can download movies, videos

By **MONICA SOTO OUCHI**
The Seattle Times (MCT)

It's suddenly getting cozy in the living room. Amazon.com said Wednesday it would soon offer TiVo subscribers the ability to play movies and television shows either rented or purchased on its site—a day after Wal-Mart muscled its way into the movie-download business.

Amazon's service—"Amazon Unbox on TiVo"—will offer thousands of TV shows and movies from CBS, Fox Entertainment Group, Lions Gate, Paramount Pictures, Universal Studios and Warner Bros to the more than 1.5 million TiVo subscribers with high-speed Internet connections.

Amazon is testing the service with a select group of TiVo subscribers. The TiVo.com site asked customers to sign up for notification of the service.

The major Hollywood film studios have faced increasing pressure to sell movies online, as box-office receipts decline and peer-to-peer networks offer illegal movie downloads free.

But the studios have been

slow to loosen licensing restrictions that would give consumers the ability to unshackle content from desktop computers.

When Amazon unveiled "Amazon Unbox" in September, technology analysts widely panned the movie-download service for not offering the ability to burn movies to DVD for play on a television set—an issue they said would prohibit mass adoption.

With Wednesday's announcement, Amazon has solved part of that dilemma—hot-to-play digital content on television sets—but only for TiVo subscribers.

TiVo, which charges \$69.99 or more for a TiVo box, plus a \$12.95 and up monthly subscription fee to digitally record TV

shows, will compete with other high-profile devices.

Apple Computer recently introduced Apple TV, a \$299 device that wirelessly receives movies from a PC or Mac. But the device centers on movies purchased through Apple's iTunes video store, which features limited titles from Disney's movie arm, Buena Vista Home Entertainment.

Microsoft, meanwhile, launched a video-download service for its Xbox 360 game console Nov. 22, allowing users with a broadband Internet connection to download content from Xbox Live Marketplace and store it on the console's hard drive.

If all these services allow users to play content, Amazon

faces fierce competition when it comes to selling movies and TV shows online.

Wal-Mart on Tuesday announced its own movie-download service, the first backed by all the major film studios and featuring more than 3,000 movies and television shows.

At Wal-Mart, most new releases cost between \$14.88 and \$19.88.

Amazon's service charges between \$9.99 and \$14.99 for most movies. Rentals start at \$1.99.

The downloads are priced from \$1.96 for episodes of television shows, to up to \$19.88 for new movies.

(c) 2007, The Seattle Times.

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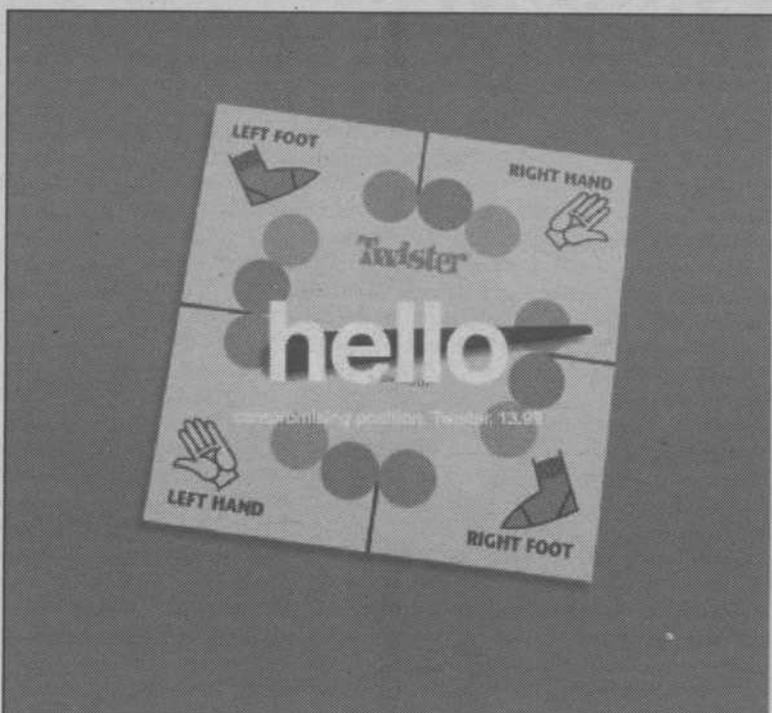
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Chicago, a basketball city, grooming football players with NFL help

By **TERRY BANNON**
Chicago Tribune (MCT)

CHICAGO—Chicago's Robeson High School wide receiver Charles Brown watched the Super Bowl with mixed emotions.

He saw his favorite team losing. And he saw someone with whom he can identify run his way into the history books when Kelvin Hayden returned an interception 56 yards for the touchdown that wrapped up the Indianapolis Colts' 29-17 victory over the Bears.

"I was sad the Bears were losing," Brown said. "(But) when I saw the interception return, I thought, 'That could be me.'"

Like Brown, Hayden is a product of the Chicago Public League's football program. In a city where basketball is king, football has made a comeback as feeder programs developed in the 1990s have begun to pay off.

"This means a lot," Public League football coordinator Mickey Pruitt said of Hayden's sudden success. "We have so many kids in the football program, and only so many make it into the NFL. It's getting better now, and we're getting more scholarship kids."

And that will lead to more NFL players. As recently as 2004, no Public Leaguers were on NFL opening day rosters.

Gradually, things have changed. Hayden, a Hubbard

graduate who was on the field because of injuries to two Colts teammates, was a second-round pick in 2005.

In 2006, a handful of rookies started showing up as Eagles receiver Jason Avant (Carver), Rams defensive end Victor Adeyanju (Curie), Dolphins defensive tackle Fred Evans (Morgan Park) and Patriots linebacker Corey Mays (Morgan Park) made NFL rosters. Mays also made a mark in the playoffs, forcing a fumble in the AFC title game, though the Colts recovered.

Hayden took a circuitous route to the NFL, first heading to Joliet Junior College because he initially didn't meet NCAA academic standards. Then it was off to Illinois, where coach Ron Turner, now the Bears' offensive coordinator, switched him from receiver to cornerback.

"I heard Kelvin say he dreamed about this the night before," long-time Public League football coach Roy Curry said. "With our kids now, they see something like this from Kelvin, it let's them know it's not a pipe dream. It can happen, but you have to put yourself in that position. That was just so fantastic."

Hayden is the first Public Leaguer to score in the Super Bowl since Julian's Howard Griffith delivered a pair of 1-yard touchdown runs to help the '98 Broncos beat Atlanta, 34-19, in the final game of Hall

of Fame quarterback John Elway's career. It gave Griffith's two rings because the Broncos had upset the Packers the year before.

The Public League was represented in the first two Super Bowls when Taft's Jim Grabowski was a backup running back in Green Bay's victories over Kansas City and Oakland.

Linebacker Keena Turner from CVS picked up four Super Bowl rings with the San Francisco 49ers of the 1980s. Whitney Young defensive tackle Russell Maryland, the No. 1 overall pick of the '91 draft, won with the '92, '93 and '95 Dallas Cowboys.

Defensive back Clarence Vaughn from Gage Park was a backup on the Redskins' 1987 title team, recording a sack in the NFC championship game victory over Minnesota. Defensive tackle Bobby Wilson of Austin was Washington's first-round pick in '91 and won a ring as a rookie backup.

Pruitt, a Robeson graduate who played three years for the Bears (1988-90) and two with the Cowboys (1991-92), won a ring with Maryland and the '92 Cowboys. He knows how Hayden is feeling.

"You can't get any bigger than winning the Super Bowl," Pruitt said. "He has done a great job. His vision was there, he saw the light. Not having any money at home when he was young, he has money now and is succeed-

ing.

"Whether it's Hayden or Howard Griffith, kids see them there, but they don't see the hard work."

The work begins in elementary school. Hayden was part of the Chicago Public Schools Tackle Football Program, which was started in the 1990s by former long-time Julian coach J.W. Smith, who was in charge of Public League athletics at the time.

"I didn't start playing football until I was in 8th grade," Hayden said before he was drafted. "There wasn't much publicity, but word has gotten out and more kids are interested. Most people look at Chicago as a basketball city. But the Public League is getting better (in football)."

Now, in the summers, about 150 players take part in two programs partially funded by the NFL, which furnishes equipment—the Junior Player Development program and the High School Player Development program, Pruitt said.

"It helps kids mature, not only as athletes," Pruitt said. "We also have motivational speeches and talk about academics."

Hubbard running back Robert Hughes, who signed a letter of intent with Notre Dame on Wednesday, said his 8th-grade experience helped his development.

"They showed me how to run the ball, how to be a leader," he

said. "They showed me how to be a better player and person."

Brown, who signed with Northwestern, said the program "helps you work on your fundamentals."

Curry sees it all working. "It means football all summer long; it used to be basketball," he said.

Hayden's alma mater, Hubbard, has become a Public League power, making it to the Class 5A semifinals in 2000 with Hayden and the 6A semifinals in 2005.

The only Public League team to make it to a state title game in any class since playoffs began in 1974 was Curry's 1982 Robeson team, which featured Pruitt at tailback. Robeson lost to Rockford Guilford 16-12 at Northwestern's Dyche Stadium.

Hayden was a high draft choice, though the Public League hasn't produced a first-round pick since Morgan Park offensive tackle Trezelle Jenkins went No. 31 overall to Kansas City in 1995.

Michigan State offensive lineman Roland Martin, a Harper grad who will be a junior this fall, may develop into one.

Curry, for one, is looking forward to more stories like Hayden's. "We'll win the state championship, we'll have more guys going to different universities and we'll have a No. 1 draft choice," he said.

(c) 2007, Chicago Tribune.

Parkland Softball, Clutts, have high hopes

By **MICHAEL LAIRD**
Contributing Writer

Chuck Clutts has not only compiled a long list of accomplishments in his time as the Parkland College head softball coach but has also turned this program into one of the finest in the country.

Coach Clutts has leapt into his seventh season as the Cobra's head coach with a staggering 288-81-2 record. He has also taken his team all the way to Nationals every year since 2001. Three times he led his team to a runner-up position. Clutts has earned the distinction of being honored "Coach of the Year" for region 5A no less than five separate times.

The 2007 season quickly approaches as Coach Clutts and his group of overpowering athletes set out to win a National Championship. The question remains though—do they have what it takes to win?

"Our goal is to win that National Cham-

ionship! The thing is we do not talk about it. For us to get there we have to take care of business one game at a time," said Clutts.

The key to success for this young team comes in the form of a few words—their motto. "The Goal is clearly Defined, What is Left is the Mission."

After an impressive fall semester, finishing 15-9, the Cobras head into the 2007 season on the back of several new recruits. When asked about his new crop of players, Clutts seemed to be very impressed with how hard they have worked across the pre-season. "The coaching staff is very impressed with the results of the fall season and our winter workouts," he said.

Whether it be Kelly McMahon (Westville HS) on the mound, Lindsay Watkins (Olympia HS) at second base, or Jessica Gourdier (Olympia HS) in the batter's box, Parkland seems to have the ability to get the job done right across the

board.

At the end of 2006, several key position players graduated and moved on. "This year's sophomores and freshmen have stepped up and filled those voids very adequately and the players were surprised in how quickly the team came together, especially on the defensive side of the game," Clutts said.

When it comes to pre-season workouts, injuries seem to be the topic on everybody's lips. But when asked about pre-season worries and injuries Clutts stated, "We have 2 ladies that are doubtful for the season due to injuries, but our biggest concern is the illnesses that seem to be going around like strep throat and the flu."

The competition this year in the Mid West Athletic Conference (MWAC) and Region 24 is the best that Coach Clutts has seen within the past six years. Although this may raise a few questions into the Cobra's quest for a National Champi-

onship title, Clutts seems to be rather confident with his team saying that he believes his team will do well again this year. He also stated that, "the girls are very focused on the mission, and this team seems like the type of team that if they have a small setback, will bounce right back."

Although pre-season polls are not out yet, the fact that Clutts and his team ended their season only falling short to a Phoenix team at Nationals should land Parkland a top-five berth.

The hard work, the long hours, the road trips, and the strenuous hours of study are all the things that this team seems to thrive on. And as the season fast approaches, the twenty-four girls on the Parkland College Softball team, along with Coach Clutts and his expert assisting staff live day by day, week by week, in hopes of working their way to the top and heading to Normal, Illinois in May for the chance of a lifetime.