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“Islam Denounces Terrorism”

■ Parkland hosts seminar on author Harun Yahya

By **MEGAN OLSEN**
Prospectus Staff Writer

Parkland College and the Muslim Student Association hosted a seminar, “Islam Denounces Terrorism,” on author Harun Yahya last Wednesday, Jan. 24, in the flag lounge. Dr. Oktar Babuna and Dr. Ali Sadun, members of the Science Research Foundation of Istanbul, Turkey, spoke on behalf of the established author, who has spent his life struggling to express and share his views with others.

Harun Yahya, or Adnan Oktar—his real name—has an ideology that has been recognized throughout the world. He has penned several books, which have been translated into many languages, and a select few movies have been filmed that have been based upon his work.

Within the body of “Islam Denounces Terrorism” are three main points that Mr. Yahya pushes. The first and most important one is that Islam is not a religion of terror. He asserts that terrorism is totally unacceptable by Islamic standards—

it breeches the core ideals of Islam which are love, mercy, and peace. These same key components are found in both Judaism and Christianity as well.

“All of these three divine religions condemn killing. Therefore, there can be no Islamic terrorism anymore than Jewish and Christian terrorism,” clarified Dr. Babuna.

According to the Qur’an, killing innocent people is forbidden. Taking the lives of women, children, and the elderly—targets of terrorists—is unforgivable. Furthermore, it is also against Islam to kill oneself. Terrorists have no discrepancy with committing suicide. It is also against God’s law in Islam to destroy property such as houses. Islam itself encourages its followers to do good deeds and to live in harmony.

“It is simple. Either a person is a Muslim or a terrorist. There is no room to be both,” Dr. Babuna stressed.

Passages from the Qur’an have been misinterpreted by terrorists as justification for their deeds. It is due to that and the intentional blurring of the word ‘jihad’ that has helped to add a bad reputation to Islam.

“Jihad means ‘struggle.’ For instance, one of the most important jihads identified in Islam is the internal struggle a person’s lower self,” said Dr. Babuna. “Jihad is considered to be positive in Islam, because it leads to growth.”

The second point that Mr. Yahya

asserts is that there needs to be unification among people to end terrorism. Only the mutual cooperation of different religions such as Judaism, Islam, and Christianity will lead to peace. There has to be a combined effort to prevent war. This movement has to alter past ways of thinking that weapons, armies, and military strategies are a solution to terrorism. The only true answers to thwarting war according to his view point are to exercise tolerance and to properly educate future generations.

The third point of “Islam Denounces Terrorism” calls for an alteration in education as well. Yahya believes that humanity as a whole is teaching its children violence. He emphasizes that our cultures have become too materialistic and lack a spiritual focus. Additionally, the notions of constant struggle, as propagated by Darwinism, offer a false impression that life is constant conflict. As such, our youth grow up with a misconception that fighting and killing are ‘normal’ human behaviors and are applicable responses to disagreements. The result is war, fascism, and terrorism fueled by men like Hitler and Stalin.

“Terrorism is hatred and demands bloodshed,” Mr. Babuna declares. “It stems from a disbelief in God and the

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Prospectus

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• 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

Cell phones are a privilege, not an extension of personal influence, and definitely not an organic appendage.

After running a story in the *Prospectus* regarding driver safety, I was almost hit head-on by a young woman with a cell phone stuck to her face via her right hand, and a cigarette and the steering wheel was clasped by her left. She was cruising at a 30mph tempo, and literally came within a foot of hitting me. I hit my horn, and she didn't even glance at me, and she sped off to find a parking spot. The entire time, my vehicle was stationary.

Two minutes later, I was walking through the lot toward campus, and I watched a student back out of a parking space while text-messaging. I'm serious. He, too, sped off at a rather rash pace.

I'm reminded of two semesters ago, when a hip-hop ring tone blared in class. The student stood up, walked towards the door, and answered the phone. He started talking before he even got out the door. The teacher didn't do anything, because he, too, said he needed the phone on "in case of emergency". He couldn't blame the student, because he had chosen to lead by a cellular example.

What is the need for using

Nextel bleeps in the library, computer labs, and, well, *everywhere*? Since when has sharing an uninteresting conversation with strangers become vogue?



Why do cell phone ringers have to be set to a volume that I find unbelievable, given the diminishing size of cell phones?

Cell phone etiquette is absolutely necessary, and I'm astonished that Parkland faculty and staff put up with the nonsense. I've walked into an area that specifically states, "Turn off cell phones," and guess what? Somebody is standing there, talking loudly on the phone, while a staff member politely waits for the student to finish their conversation. Then said staff mem-

ber politely asks how he/she may help the student. I guess I shouldn't be surprised, since I see faculty walk through clouds of students' cigarette smoke just to open the door next to the "No Smoking Within 50 Feet" sign.

This is my last week to work in retail, and I won't miss having a customer come to the register, piles of books in hand, while squawking nonsense into a phone smashed between their shoulder and ear. Sometimes I have to ask questions, and sometimes I get strange looks that say, "How dare you interrupt my phone call?" Sometimes a pre-teen child will tell their mom or dad to hang up the phone, because, "You're being rude to that man."

Here's a short list of things that are ABSOLUTELY RUDE.

1. When you're talking to somebody, whether it's your doctor, a sales clerk, your friend, or a stranger, do not answer a ringing cell phone. It has a neat feature that will tell you who called, and it will even record that person's voice and a message that you can play over and over again, if you want it to. You can also call that person back. You

may not be able to do the same to the person you just rudely cut off.

2. Turn off your cell phone in public areas, or at least set it to vibrate. Nobody wants to hear your ring tone, just like nobody really cares what your car system sounds like after the waves have passed through a loose, fiber-glass chassis at 120 decibels.

3. It's one thing to have a quick conversation while driving on the highway, and it's another to dial numbers, send messages, and download ring tones while navigating urban streets. Did you not hear about the girl who killed a young man on his bike last year? She was downloading ring tones—just for a split second—and hit him. That tragedy happened in Champaign-Urbana.

4. Unless you're a blue-collar worker out on assignment, lose the Nextel bleeps and chirps. Hands-down, that is the singularly most irritating thing to hear. There is nothing positive about your image that you are presenting, except that you don't care about anybody else except the other people you network with on your phone.

Don't wait to experience an accident. Don't wait for somebody to tell you that you're rude. Lead by example. Most importantly, turn the cell phone off, and see what's going on around you.

Dollars and Sense from FinAid

■ Should I Apply for Financial Aid?

By DONNA MAYER
Prospectus Guest Writer

I don't think I'm eligible, so should I apply for financial aid?

Yes! There are several reasons to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for financial aid, even though you think you won't be eligible.

Students and parents often don't understand that guaranteed student loans are a form of financial aid, and you must submit a FAFSA in order to apply for one. There are three types of financial aid: grants that you don't have to pay back when you leave school, student loans that have to be paid back when you

leave school, and Federal Work-Study that allows you to earn a regular paycheck while you go to school. You must submit a FAFSA to apply for any of these types of financial aid.

Many scholarships from companies, organizations, and private donors require that you apply for federal student aid. It may not matter whether you're eligible for aid or not, but they will require that you apply.

Maybe you weren't eligible for grants when you applied for financial aid before. The financial situation in your family may have changed since then, or you may have a brother or sister in college now, which will help increase your chances of being

eligible for financial aid.

You may think you won't be eligible for financial aid because of the high amount of income



in your household. If there has been a dramatic drop in income or any major change in the

household financial situation, contact your financial aid office to find out if you qualify to apply for Special Circumstance that may help make you eligible for some financial aid.

ALWAYS apply for financial aid. Regardless of whether or not you think you're eligible for grants, apply for financial aid as soon as you (and your parents if you're a dependent student) complete your Federal tax returns for the previous year. Go online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> and submit your FAFSA. Applying only takes a few minutes of your time and can increase your options for financing your college education.

ISLAM

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scientific support of Darwinism's "The Law of the Jungle."

Overall feedback from the lecture was positive.

"I originally saw Mr. Yahya's work, his videos, books, articles, and voice recordings, and it was remarkable," commented Yousif Radeef, the president of the Muslim Student Association. "I thought that here was a way to clarify the name of Islam that has been blackened by the media of our era," said Radeef.

"I hope that everyone at the presentation will know that Islam is not a violent ideology or religion. I want people to understand that Muslims have a right to live peacefully and safely. Islam is not the source of terrorism," said Radeef.

Information: www.islamdenouncesterrorism.com; www.HarunYahya.com.



Off-campus bookstores offer alternatives for cash-starved students

By STEVE ROSEN

McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

After paying college bills for nearly three years, I thought I was immune to practically any financial surprise.

But then came a mid-January phone call from my oldest son who had moments earlier left the campus bookstore.

His message was a stunner: An \$875 bill to cover this semester's textbooks.

Those words practically burned the cell phone in my hand as I pondered the quick derailment of his semester's budget. Not only was his bookstore tab about twice as much as he'd ever tallied, it knocked right out of the park the \$807 annual average that students spend on books and supplies.

Oh, if only he had heeded my oft-repeated advice in this column: Check out alternatives to the campus bookstore.

In the past few years, the \$7.7 billion textbook industry has experienced the brave new world of competition. A slew of companies, including Amazon.com and eBay, have gotten into the online textbook business with promises of being cheaper than the campus stores, which are supplied by a handful of large wholesalers.

But there's another textbook option springing up around the country that parents and students may be unfamiliar with. It's called Beat the Bookstore, and its off-campus storefront shops are in a growing number of communities—St. Louis; Austin, Texas; Tucson, Ariz.; Iowa City, Iowa; and Athens, Ga., to name a few. (For the complete list, go to www.beatthebookstore.com.)

The brainchild of Mike Winward and his brother-in-law David Monk, the 4-year-old company started with a shop two blocks from the campus of Utah Valley State in Orem, Utah. Winward formerly worked for a textbook wholesaler, while Monk was a product manager in the high-tech industry. The owners' game plan was two-pronged: Serve the student by providing affordable textbooks for sale that will beat college-owned bookstore prices; and deliver top dollar on end-of-the-semester exchanges.

"Students just want to be paid a decent value," Monk said in an interview.

That concept caught on quickly with students, and the business has been branching out ever since. Today there are 22 Beat the Bookstore locations—all but one are now franchises—with three more planned in early 2007. One of those is scheduled to open in April near the University of Kansas in Lawrence, while a franchise is also in the works near the University of Missouri campus in Columbia.

Ninety percent of the textbooks sold by Beat the Bookstore are used, and about 10 percent are new. The stores on average stock about 2,000 titles, so most books are usually in stock and in good condition. Volume is built by buying and selling books from students and from several suppliers, such as Amazon.

The company also relies on its network of stores to trade books. If an economics textbook is no longer being used at the University of Iowa, for example, there might be a market for it at the University of Georgia. "That network is one of our advantages,"

Monk said.

While Monk said the company guarantees being able to offer better prices than campus stores, the bottom line for customers depends on the particular book and its condition.

Beat the Bookstore is "not trying to be everything to everybody," he said. That's a strategy borrowed from Herb Kelleher, the legendary founder of Southwest Airlines who rocked the airline industry by pushing discount prices and top-notch customer service.

In fact, Monk said, "We want to become the Southwest Airlines of the textbook industry. This industry is ripe for a change and it is only going to get more competitive."

Clearly, if he is correct, it can only mean good news for cash-starved college students—and parents trying to stretch their education dollars.

BE SMART ABOUT BUYING TEXTBOOKS

—Buy early: Plan ahead and avoid buying just before classes begin.

—Buy used: Second-hand books offer the largest savings.

—Consider older editions: If there have been no major updates to your subject, an older edition should be fine.

—Use the ISBN for rapid searching: Every book published since 1970 has an International Standard Book Number, which can be used to locate the exact book.



Parkland Planetarium

Friday, February 2:
7:00 p.m.—World of Science
Lecture—Dr. Angus Rockett
8:00 p.m.—Spirits From the Sky,
Thunder on the Land
9:30 p.m.—Ladies and Gentle-
men...The Doors!
Saturday, February 3:
7:00 p.m.—Follow the Drinking
Gourd
8:00 p.m.—Spirits From the Sky,
thunder on the Land
9:30 p.m.—Ladies and Gentle-
men...The Doors!

Parkland Theatre

Friday, February 2 & Saturday,
February 3:
8:00 p.m.—Black Coffee

Open Auditions

Sunday, February 4:
1:00-3:00 p.m.—Damn Yan-
kees
Monday, February 5:
6:00-9:00 p.m.—Damn Yan-
kees

Parkland Athletics

Thursday, February 1:
7:00 p.m.—Men's Basketball vs.
Joliet
Saturday, February 3:
12:00 p.m.—Women's Basket-
ball vs. Lincoln
2:00 p.m.—Men's Basketball vs.
Lincoln
Wednesday, February 7:
7:30 p.m.—Men's Basketball @
Illinois Central

Black History Month Events

Friday, February 2:
11:00-1:00 p.m.—Black Artists-
Exhibit & Talk
Library Reading Lounge
Monday, February 5:
11:00-1:00 p.m.—African-
American Read-In
Library Reading Lounge
Tuesday, February 6:
10:00-2:00 p.m.—Black Health
Fair
Gallery & Flag Lounges
Wednesday, February 7:
1:00-3:00p.m.—"The Cove-
nant"—Student Discussion
South Lounge

Don't be scared of V-Day

■ Tips and info to help you celebrate without seeing too much red

By **LEAH ZIMMERMAN**
Prospectus Staff Writer

Valentine's Day, or rather the image of, has developed a bad rap over the years. It has been described as cheesy, industrialized, and is often referred to as the "Hallmark Holiday" or "Singles Awareness Day". Many people complain that, "Love between people is celebrated all of the time," and, "Why does there need to be a holiday to show it?" Why do special gifts have to be bought or events have to happen on this one day, February 14, to show love for one another? And to those who have no special someone, Valentine's Day is a reminder that they are alone with no one to celebrate this greeting card holiday with.

But according to *Wikipedia*, "February 14th was originally dedicated to two ancient martyrs named Valentine." One—from Rome—was killed in AD 269, and the other—from Terni—was killed in AD 197. It is speculated that during the medieval period, rumors and legends about St. Valentine began. One such legend: "On the evening before Valentine was to be martyred for being a Christian, he passed a love note to his jailer's daughter that read, 'From your

Valentine.'" Another legend speaks of St. Valentine helping to arrange illegal marriages of Roman soldiers.

Regardless, the history, and the first traditional "Valentine" can be traced to the 15th century.

Valentine's Day can be a special time to remember the love shared between two people. It reminds people to take a few moments out of their busy lives and acknowledge that special someone. It reminds them to appreciate all the things about they love about their significant other. This can be shown in a gesture, in a gift, or in simple words. There is no written creed that proclaims that a card, candy, and flowers must be exchanged on February 14.

For singles, it can be a day to celebrate being single—getting together with other single friends and celebrating Valentine's Day, enjoying the love between friends, or the love of being single. In elementary school kids pass out Valentines to their class. Valentine's Day can be a reminder to all ages to love one another and to remember to show it once and a while.

Like most holidays, expenses can be intimidating, but there are many ways to avoid the cheesy, over-the-top gestures

America's romantic places

Some places in the United States with names suitable for celebrating Valentine's Day:



that have made Valentine's Day stressful and/or dreaded for many solos or pairs.

There are many traditional and nontraditional ideas for sin-

gles or couples that can fit the students' budget and still be fun and/or romantic.

Surprise that special someone with an indoor—or if you're brave enough—an outdoor picnic. Cook up delicious breakfast foods, or their personal favorite with flower petals sprinkled over a blanket and glowing candles to set the mood.

Feeling creative? Put together a scavenger hunt leading to a special spot. Write up clever clues and drop them around town or a home. The destination can be that candlelit picnic or a sweet message written in chocolates kisses, flower petals, candles, candy hearts or something alternative like fruit roll ups, pennies or Cheetos. It can be some lit candles and some slow music to sway back and forth to.

Other inexpensive ideas are making gifts for each other—whether it be a mix CD, homemade candy, or cookies (easy recipes available online)—or even a traditional heart-shaped valentine.

Ted Powers, Parkland psychology professor, recom-

mends ordering a heart-shaped pizza from Gracias. He and his wife celebrate by rushing the kids off to bed so they can enjoy some dinner and "snuggling" on the special day. Last year Powers picked up a puppy for his wife.

Powers and Tom Schnarre, Parkland English professor, agree that the most fun they had on Valentine's Day was partying with a bunch of their single friends. Powers went to a singles-only "Massacre Valentine's Day Party" and had a blast. Schnarre said he wasn't into the celebration much, but he had a lot of fun getting dressed up, going out to dinner, and partying it up afterward with his single friends. An inexpensive twist on the idea is having a potluck style dinner.

So even if this Valentine's Day is looking a little lonesome, it's still possible to have a great time without a honey. Just take the advice of two of our very own Parkland professors and have fun, even if you have a tight budget.

Hey Guys! (and ladies...) Bookselling pros have suggestions for you

By **AARON GEIGER**

So you can't write? Do your carefully crafted poems sound like a song from a childhood sing-a-long? Do you dislike sitting through long, sappy, romantic movies that feature scores of bleeding violins and/or a twinkle-eyed blonde that must fulfill her boring dead-end life with a man that doesn't seem to exist?

Whether you need a gift for a host at a Valentine party, or you're a guy that wants to hear your name in the same sentence as the word Renaissance, here are a few suggestions on romance novels, brought to you by the bookselling staff at Pages For All

Ages independent bookstore in Savoy, Illinois.

1. The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger
2. The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks
3. Gone With The Wind by Margaret Mitchell
4. Outlander by Diana Gabaldon
5. Boy Next Door by Meg Cabot
6. jemima j by Jane Green
7. Simply Sensual by Carly Phillips
8. Cornered Tigress by Jade Lee
9. Pleasure Seekers by Rochelle Alers
10. Summer of Roses by

- Luanne Rice
11. The Shell Seekers by Rosamunde Pilcher
12. Tongue in Chic by Christina Dodd
13. What a Woman Wants by Brenda Jackson
14. Conspiracy Game by Christine Feehan
15. The Secret by Julie Garwood
16. 16 Lighthouse Road by Debbie Macomber
17. Bachelor List by Jane Feather
18. Someone to Watch Over Me by Judith McNaught
19. Undead and Unwed by MaryJanice Davidson
20. Amanda by Kay Hooper
21. Highland Brogue by Elspeth Macpherson

Today's student travelers start younger and go farther

By JAY CLARKE

McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

Tracy Ann Foley loves to travel, and she does it the old-fashioned way—backpacking. But her travel style—and those of other college-age youths today—is definitely cutting-edge.

Unlike the backpacking travelers of earlier generations, who stuck mostly to Western Europe, Foley ranges far afield. She has trekked through Eastern Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand—and so have many of her peers.

Visiting such nontraditional destinations is a growing phenomenon among today's young travelers. Yes, they still love the old favorites—London, Paris, Amsterdam and Rome—but then they reach beyond. They head for Eastern Europe, especially Croatia, say editors at the popular Let's Go student travel guidebooks. They go to Africa and Asia, to South America and Oceania. Thanks to cheap fares, they're as likely to jet around a continent as take the train. They book their trips online, not through a travel agency, and they keep in touch with home via text messages, not postcards.

"Not only are today's youth more technologically savvy than most adults, they are also more likely to be willing to

travel to places that may have intimidated older generations," said Debbie Gibb, marketing director of the nonprofit Student and Youth Travel Association (SYTA.)

"We've seen a large growth in nontraditional travel—adventure and volunteer travel," said Kristen Celko, vice president of marketing for STA Travel, one of the largest youth-travel companies. "They go to Costa Rica for a conservation project, to Africa to help in orphanages, to China to work with pandas."

The helping-others trend extends to spring break. "Today's kids are more conservative than the 1990s partyers," says Michael Palmer, executive director of SYTA. "There are fewer party trips, more educational and multipurpose trips. I have a 21-year-old daughter who went on spring break to New Orleans to do Katrina cleanup. There are more of those kinds of spring breaks, and both parents and kids want them."

Altruism may motivate some youths, but whether it's spring or summer, many travel for no other reason than to enjoy themselves and get some cultural exposure in the process.

That's the point behind tours from Contiki, which takes more than 100,000 youths abroad annually to destinations that range as far away as Australia and as exotic as Egypt. But

Europe is by far the most popular locale, says Frank Marini, Contiki's president.

Contiki is different from most college-age programs in that its group tours take participants aged 18 to 35. "It's about half and half older and younger, with the average age about 25," said Marini. Packages include lodging, transportation, most meals and a lot of free time. A two-week European Discovery trip, which goes to London, Paris, Lucerne, Venice, Florence, Munich and Amsterdam, starts at \$1,550 and only in the off season, Marini says.

Most youths aged 18-26, however, travel independently, says Palmer, executive director of SYTA. Many are like Foley, who has traveled with companions but doesn't mind going it alone. "You can change plans whenever without disrupting others, you get to see things that a group doesn't," said Foley, who is 26 and lives in Canton, Mass. "You also learn to handle unexpected situations by yourself and you test your limits."

Hostels are the lodging of choice for most backpackers, and they too have changed over the years. "Today's hostels have Internet cafes and WiFi. Old barracks-type places are falling away; new hostels provide individual rooms or those that sleep four at most," said Palmer.

Foley said she paid an average of about \$20 a night in European hostels, much less in Asia. But she also splurged (\$40) on one in Italy that was "nicer than a hotel." Overall, she admits spending more than other backpackers, "about \$50 to \$60 a day. That's pretty high."

Most students visiting Europe travel by rail, but pricing has become more convoluted this year. Where once there was a single Eurailpass, now there are dozens of options, one of which is that the issuers may change prices during the year. In addition to the basic Eurailpass, most European countries now offer their own railpasses, so there are dozens of passes out there. Result: young travelers need to have a very good idea where they want to go before committing to a railpass.

Pass prices for 2007 have increased slightly from 2006, perhaps 1 or 2 percent. For youths planning to visit a few countries, the Eurail Select Youth Pass is a good option, as

it offers travel between three to five bordering countries. Sample prices: one person riding trains to three bordering countries for five days within two months, \$264; 10 days travel, \$397. Prices higher for more countries, more days of travel.

Rail Europe's Web site, www.raileurope.com, also lists special promotions and links to such sites as www.myisic.com, where students can obtain the

700 students on each of three long voyages per year. Around-the-world journeys are given in fall and spring, a shorter voyage to one region in summer. Classes are held on board every day at sea, but students get to explore ports of call all over the world. The prestigious University of Virginia is its academic sponsor.

Costs are high—\$17,000-\$18,000 for the longer voyages,

BizFact

Americans abroad

Spending by U.S. travelers abroad,* by world region, 2005:

Europe	\$23.3 billion
Latin America	\$21.9 billion
Asia and Pacific	\$14.2 billion
Africa	\$1.5 billion
Middle East	\$1.4 billion

all-important student identity card (\$22), which gets youths discounts to museums and other facilities, and to www.hostelworld.com, where one can book hostels.

This kind of travel is best for college-age youths, as few kids under 18 go on independent trips anywhere. They travel in supervised groups, and their numbers also are on the rise.

Not only that. "Kids are traveling at an earlier age than any in the past—even under 10 years old," said Palmer. Eighth graders are tops in sheer numbers of young travelers, he said. Most under-18s travel domestically, the favorites being Washington, New York and Orlando.

Two forms of educational travel for collegians haven't changed much: Semesters abroad and seagoing schooling.

Many students get their first taste of foreign stays when they take a semester of courses at a European university. Typically, this is offered by many American schools and comes between students' junior and senior years.

Semester at Sea, which has been offering educational cruising for many years, takes up to

says the company's Lauren Heinz—but she says Semester at Sea offers a lot of financial aid. Next summer, the ship will do a 65-day voyage to Latin America, its first to that region.

Now Semester at Sea is getting a competitor, Scholar Ship. This new company, backed by Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, will make its first voyage next September. "We have two programs," said Scholar Ship's Ronald Zigelboim, "one for undergraduates, one for graduates."

The ship will take 600 students and six colleges are involved: the University of California at Berkeley, plus universities in China, Australia, Mexico, Morocco and Ghana. Scholar Ship's price for its 112-day September sailing to Europe and Asia is \$19,950.

Wherever students go, however they go, the idea is the same: To come home a little more worldly, mature and confident. But wisdom isn't all they may find, it seems. Cupid often joins the trip.

"Love? We find love all the time," said Contiki's Marini.

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P/T Package Handlers

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U.S. soldiers were abducted, then executed in Karbala

By **LEILA FADEL**
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

KARBALA, Iraq—Four American soldiers, whom the U.S. military originally reported were killed when unknown gunmen stormed an Iraqi provincial office in Karbala last Saturday, were in fact taken hostage and later executed by their kidnapers, military officials said Friday.

The abducted soldiers were discovered, with shots to the head, when five Chevrolet Suburbans used in the attack were found abandoned, their doors open, near the city of Hilla hours after the attack. Hilla is about 24 miles from Karbala.

Military officials offered no explanation for why the men originally were reported as having died "repelling the attack." The Pentagon named the men in a news release on Tuesday and said they'd died "from wounds sustained when their patrol was ambushed while conducting dismounted operations."

That release identified the dead as 1st Lt. Jacob N. Fritz, 25, of Verdon, Neb., Spc. Johnathan B. Chism, 22, of Gonzales, La., Pfc. Shawn P. Falter, 25, of Cortland, N.Y., and Pvt. Johnathon M. Millican, 20, of Trafford, Ala. All four were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, based at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Another news release identified a fifth man killed as Capt. Brian S. Freeman, 31, of Temecula, Calif. The military said he died "of wounds suffered when his meeting area came under attack by mortar and small arms fire." Freeman was assigned to the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, Whitehall, Ohio.

Lt. Col. Todd Vician, a Pentagon spokesman, said that the Pentagon news release was "based on information provided by the Army." Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl, the U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad, didn't respond to e-mails and phone calls seeking an explanation.

Iraqi police officials in recent days have portrayed the Saturday raid as a major breach of security. A police official in Hilla told McClatchy Newspapers on Monday that one of the vehicles used in the attack carried a license plate stolen from a car of Iraq's minister of trade.

New details indicated that the attackers spoke English and posed as Americans to get past Iraqi security in one of the most sophisticated operations against American soldiers since the Iraq war began in 2003. They apparently were well enough informed about the

sible use of explosives to destroy the military vehicles in the compound suggests that the attack was well rehearsed prior to execution," Bleichwehl was quoted as saying. "The attackers went straight to where Americans were located in the provincial government facility, by-pass-

wounding three, the statement said.

After about 15 minutes, the gunmen snatched four soldiers and fled toward Babel province. As they passed a checkpoint into the province, police in the area grew suspicious and gave chase.

Iraqi police rushed him to the hospital, the statement said.

The U.S. statement on Friday did not identify any of the soldiers by name or say who was suspected in the attack. A guard at the coordination center told McClatchy Newspapers that all the guards there are now under investigation.

The guard, who asked not to be identified because he also is a suspect, said he'd handed his weapon to the attackers and allowed the men into the compound because they were dressed in American military uniforms, spoke English and were using interpreters. He said it was customary not to challenge Americans.

Babel police spokesman Capt. Muthana Ahmed told McClatchy Newspapers on Monday that the attackers had first gathered weapons at the police headquarters in Karbala before attacking the provincial compound. U.S. Humvees are now stationed at the police headquarters and Iraqi police commandoes are now providing security at both the police headquarters and the provincial headquarters.

Hilla police chief Maj. Gen. Qais al-Maamuri told McClatchy Newspapers that five vehicles used in the attack were found on Saturday and two vehicles were found the next morning.

Al-Maamuri said one of the vehicles bore a license plate registered to Iraq's minister of trade, Abdul Falah al-Sudani, a Shiite who belongs to the Dawa party whose members include Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. But it was unclear how the plate might have become attached to the vehicle. A spokesman for al-Sudani, who lives in the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad, denied that the plate had been stolen.

Al-Maamuri also said that police do not know how the attackers obtained military uniforms or IDs, but said that ownership documents had been found in two of the vehicles.

Al-Maamuri said the cars had come to Karbala along the road leading from Najaf, where anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr is headquartered. He noted they were unchallenged until they entered Babel province.



(clockwise from upper left) Spc. Johnathan B. Chism, 22, of Gonzales, Louisiana; Pvt. Johnathon M. Millican, 20, of Trafford, Alabama; 1st Lt. Jacob N. Fritz, 25, of Verdon, Nebraska; Pfc. Shawn P. Falter, 25, of Cortland, New York.

Handout/Anchorage Daily News (MCT)

compound, known as the Provincial Joint Coordination Center, that they went directly to where the Americans were in the compound, attacking with a barrage of grenades and rifle fire. Three American Humvees were destroyed.

"The precision of the attack, the equipment used and the pos-

ing the Iraqi police in the compound."

At the main building, soldiers heard the explosions coming from in the compound and tried to defend themselves. One grenade was tossed into the command center where the provincial police chief's office is housed, killing one soldier and

They found the five abandoned vehicles, doors still open, near the town of al Mahawil, east of the Euphrates River. Inside one vehicle two soldiers were handcuffed together and shot in the head. A third soldier, also shot in the head, was found sprawled on the ground. A fourth soldier was found wounded and died as

Same-sex households forming new family portrait

By DOROTHY KORBER
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Margaret Maddy Condon-Lorenz grins at her reflection in the picture window and cocks an eyebrow. "The story of how I came to be in a house with two dads," the 12-year-old says with aplomb, "is kind of a miracle."

Giggly and charming, Maddy is the cherished princess of her Elk Grove, Calif., family: gay dads Ed Condon and Norman Lorenz, and her little brother, Tim. Maddy's adoption in 1995 was the first for a gay couple in Sacramento County, making her both a pioneer and a poster child for same-sex parenting.

"Maddy makes up for the lack of females in this house," Lorenz says affectionately as his daughter dances off to change clothes—again.

The news last month of the pregnancy of Mary Cheney, the vice president's lesbian daughter, focused attention on a national trend: the number of gay and lesbian parents is on the rise.

Sociologists tracking this say that children of these households tend to be as well-adjusted and successful as offspring from heterosexual households. By some measures, they are faring better.

"It's pretty consistent—the overwhelming finding is that the children are fine," according to Judith Stacey, a sociology professor at New York University and a leading researcher in the area of gender and family. "And there are some findings of certain positive characteristics among them: self-esteem, popularity, warmer relationships with parents."

"These advantages have to do with the obvious fact that these are very desired children. They are unbelievably wanted."

That's clearly the case for Maddy and Tim.

Life isn't always perfect for these families—kids and parents alike have faced hazing and condemnation by outsiders. But, within the family circle, there is abundant love and acceptance.

For them, having two dads or two moms is perfectly normal. Even, as Maddy says, kind of a miracle.

Condon and Lorenz—their kids call them Daddy Ed and Daddy Norman—have been a

couple for 25 years. Condon is executive director of the California Head Start Association and Lorenz is a consultant with the state Department of Education. Previously, they owned several Montessori schools in the region.

After a dozen years together, the men realized they wanted to be parents. In the course of their inquiries into adoption, a pregnant woman sought them out.

She was Maddy's birthmother. "Out of the blue, she asked if we would like to adopt her child,"

know," she says. "They're, like, OK with it. But a lot of other people assume I have a mom. I just say: 'No, I have two dads.'"

Her friends' mothers often treat her like another daughter.

"It's sweet of them and good for Maddy," Condon says. "Raising a girl has been a different kind of journey for us. It's interesting—we've found that parents of boys are more guarded with us than parents of girls. It's a good thing we had our daughter first—we're more confident now. Maddy blazed the way."

Same-sex marriage laws

New Jersey's governor has signed a law making civil unions for gay couples legal. It is the third state to allow civil unions.

Current state laws

- Prohibit same-sex marriage*
- Allow domestic partnerships (limited marriage rights)
- Permit civil unions (give gay couples many of same benefits, protections as married couples)
- Permit same-sex marriage
- No state law



Source: Stateline.org Graphic: Pat Carr © 2006 MCT

Lorenz recalls. "We matched up with her in January of 1994. In March, Maddy was born."

Maddy's two dads were in the delivery room.

"Then they took me home in a convertible," Maddy announces with mock astonishment. "A convertible!"

Condon took four months off from work to care for the newborn.

"I'd never been left with a baby in my life. At noon on the first day, I called Norman and said: 'You've got to come home!' I was very needy as a new mother." He laughs. "My postpartum anxiety was quite real."

Tim, who is 9, joined the family in 1998 when he was 18 months old.

Perhaps Condon was anxious at first, but today both men are relaxed fathers. They say, and the children agree, that having gay parents has not proved to be a problem—or even an issue—for the kids.

Maddy says people sometimes are a little confused, however. "Almost all my friends already

Ask them about their futures, and the Condon-Lorenz kids sound like a typical boy and girl. Tim: "I wanted to be a policeman and a fireman, but now I think I only want to be a policeman. It's too hard to be both." Maddy: "I want to be an ER nurse and a hair stylist. And an actor."

As for her own gender identity, Maddy has no doubts, according to Lorenz: "She's very clearly told us, 'I am straight.' Maddy loves boys."

"I do," confirms Maddy, still nodding earnestly at her reflection in the window. "I love boys."

Terra Mikalson loves girls. And that has nothing to do, she says, with her mother's lesbianism.

At 17, Terra is as slim and poised as a ballerina. She and her brother Skyler—a cuddly, precocious 8-year-old—live with their two moms on a quiet street near downtown Woodland. The street may be quiet, but the small house often rocks with laughter.

Five years ago, Poshi Mikal-

son—the children's biological mother—ended her straight marriage and came out as a lesbian at age 41. She fell in love with Reed Walker, who has a grown son from her own marriage, and the two women began building a life together.

For Terra, the hardest thing about that transitional time was not her parents' divorce. Nor the news that her mother was a lesbian. Nor her own realization that she herself was a lesbian.

The hardest thing was the bullying of another student at her junior high, a boy whose relentless hazing made her dread school and even contemplate suicide.

"I went off to junior high and I was very open about myself and all into my rainbow stuff," Terra says. "I didn't realize that people wouldn't want to be friends with me. A lot of girls avoided me. And one boy harassed me every single day for six months. Not because my mom was a lesbian—that was an afterthought. It was because I was a lesbian."

Listening to her daughter, Poshi Mikalson's eyes fill with tears.

"She was ostracized," says Mikalson. "She was shunned. Once she told me about it, I got on the phone to the principal and he handled it very well. But who was the problem here? Not the gay student. The problem was the homophobic students and the teachers who turned their heads."

Now that Terra is in high school, things have mellowed and her confidence has grown.

She and her mother both bridle at the suggestion that Terra is gay because Poshi Mikalson is gay.

"First of all, she was showing signs of being lesbian before I ever came out," her mother says. "It's not a choice—it's who you are. And, if having a lesbian mother makes a lesbian daughter, so what? By even raising the question is to suggest that there's something wrong with being gay. Do you ask straight parents why their kids are straight?"

Terra and Skyler, who both visit their father regularly, see the benefits of living in this unconventional but loving home.

"I think Skyler is really lucky," Terra says. "He's being raised by Mom and me and Reed, and he's able to knit and still fart at

the dinner table!"

In a townhouse on the outskirts of Davis, there's another dinner table. This one overflows with textbooks, papers, computer gear, and a huge canister of red licorice. Beside it is a card table with a partly finished, devilishly difficult jigsaw puzzle.

The companionable juxtaposition of the two tables says a lot about the relationship of Sharon McDonnell and her 16-year-old daughter, Shannon. A high school junior, Shannon is awash in the homework of a full schedule of honors classes. So her mother does the puzzle nearby.

Neither mother nor daughter knows the identity of the donor whose sperm impregnated Sharon.

"I was in a long-term relationship with a woman, and we decided to co-parent," McDonnell says. "We had Shannon—and then a year later the relationship ended."

McDonnell's ex co-adopted Shannon six years ago; the two women share custody. So Shannon has two single-parent moms.

McDonnell, 48, came out as a lesbian at 20. Her own parents, who reared a big family on a Rancho Murrieta turkey farm, discouraged her from parenthood.

"They were very adamant that I shouldn't have a child—but I am stubborn and I wanted a child, so I did it." She smiles at her daughter. "Now they adore Shannon."

Asked about the difference between same-sex parenting and heterosexual parenting, McDonnell shrugs. "Other than the concern that someone would harm your child because her parents are gay, I don't think there are any differences. We love this kid. Like other parents, we want to give her everything she needs."

Shannon believes that her unusual family has made her very tolerant of other people's differences. It's an attribute many children of gays and lesbians share, researchers find.

"It's made me more open-minded," says Shannon. "I can see how things are different, from one family to another. But really not all that different, after all."



**PCTV PROGRAMS
FEBRUARY 2007**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4,
11, 18, 25**

12am Classic Arts Showcase
6:30am Parkland Announcements
8am Classic Arts Showcase
5pm Parkland Announcements
5:30pm Cooking Around the World
6pm Parkland Challenge: St. Thomas More v Blue Ridge
6:30pm Parkland Challenge: St. Thomas More v Villa Grove
7pm Parkland Report: Senegal Travel-Study Course
7:30pm Parkland Voice: Entrepreneurial Leadership
8pm For Arts Sake: Malcolm Mobutu Smith
8:30pm Parkland Challenge: St. Thomas More v Blue Ridge
9pm Parkland Challenge: St. Thomas More v Villa Grove
9:30pm Parkland Report: Senegal Travel-Study Course
10pm Parkland Voice: Entrepreneurial Leadership
10:30pm Classic Arts Showcase

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5,
12, 19, 26**

12am This Legacy is Yours, Local Black History, Archives
1am Local Black History: The Community, Archives
1:30am Parkland Voice: Black History Month
2am Live & Learn: Community Ed Programs
2:30am Guten Tag: Beginning German, Lesson 4
3:00am Classic Arts Showcase
6:30am Parkland Announcements
8am This Legacy is Yours, Part 1, Local Black History
9am Local Black History: The

Community
9:30am Parkland Voice: Black History Month
10am Live and Learn: Community Education
10:30am Guten Tag: Beginning German, Lesson 4
11am Classic Arts Showcase
12pm This Legacy is Yours, Part 1, Local Black History
1pm Local Black History: The Community, Archives
1:30pm Parkland Voice: Black History Month
2pm Live and Learn: Community Education
3pm The Power of Non Violence: Arun Gandhi
4pm Accounting Telecourse
5pm Parkland Announcements
5:30pm Cooking Around the World: Italian
6pm Live and Learn: Community Education
6:30pm Parkland Threads: Soccer & Softball
7pm Surrounded By Science: Vet Science & Technology
7:30pm Parkland Voice: 3-D Landscape Design
8pm For Arts Sake: Watercolor Invitational '05
8:30pm Parkland Threads: Soccer & Softball
9pm Live and Learn: Community Education
9:30pm Parkland Report: Civic Engagement
10pm We Are All on the Same Team: Early Childhood
10:30pm Classic Art Showcase

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6,
13, 20, 27**

12 am This Legacy is Yours, Part 2, Local Black History
1am Local Black History: The Businesses, Archives
1:30am Parkland Voice: Entrepreneurial Leadership
2am Live and Learn: Community Education
2:30am Guten Tag: Beginning German, Lesson 5
3am Classic Arts Showcase
6:30am Parkland Announcements
8am Accounting Telecourse
9am Local Black History: The Businesses
9:30am Parkland Voice: Entrepreneurial Leadership
10am Live and Learn: Community Education
10:30am Guten Tag: Beginning German, Lesson 5
11am Classic Arts Showcase
12pm This Legacy is Yours, Part 2, Local Black History
1pm Local Black History: The Businesses, Archives
1:30pm Parkland Voice: Entrepreneurial Leadership
2pm Live and Learn: Community Education

2:30pm Guten Tag: Beginning German, Lesson 5
3pm Classic Arts Showcase
4:30pm Dollars & Sense: D. Miller, J. Solon, M. Jackson
5pm Parkland Announcements
5:30pm Cooking Around the World: American BBQ
6pm Children Explore Science: Early Childhood
6:30pm Parkland Voice: Alternative Spring Break
7pm Surrounded By Science: Physics Van
7:30pm Parkland Voice: Entrepreneurial Leadership
8pm For Arts Sake: Red Threads Project
8:30pm Parkland Threads: Automotive tips
9pm International Magazine, English Version
9:30pm International Magazine, German Version
10pm Children Explore Science, Early Childhood
10:30pm Classic Arts Showcase

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY
7, 14, 21, 28**

12am Challenge, Support, Achieve: Personal Stories
1am Local Black History: Education, Archives
1:30am Parkland Voice: 3-D Landscape Design
2am Parkland Report: Senegal Travel-Study Course
2:30am Guten Tag: Beginning German, Lesson 6
3am Classic Arts Showcase
6:30am Parkland Announcements
8am Challenge, Support, Achieve: Personal Stories
9am Local Black History: Education, Archives
9:30am Parkland Voice: 3-D Landscape Design
10am Parkland Report: Senegal Travel-Study Course
10:30am Guten Tag: Beginning German, Lesson 6
11am Parkland Announcements
12pm Challenge, Support, Achieve: Personal Stories
1pm Local Black History: Education, Archives
1:30pm Parkland Voice: 3-D Landscape Design
2pm Parkland Report: Senegal Travel-Study Course
2:30pm Guten Tag: Beginning German, Lesson 6
3pm Accounting Telecourse
4pm Live and Learn: Community Education
4:30pm Dollars & Sense: Peter Fox, Paul Tatman
5pm Parkland Announcements
5:30pm Cooking Around the World: Caribbean Cuisine
6pm Highly Usable Music: Early Childhood

6:30pm Parkland Voice: Significant Learning
7pm Surrounded By Science: Forensics
7:30pm Parkland Voice: 3-D Landscape Design
8pm For Arts Sake: Ceramics, 2006
8:30pm Parkland Threads: Gallery, Theatre, Planet'm
9pm Live and Learn: Community Education
9:30pm Parkland Report: Study Abroad
10pm Highly Usable Music: Early Childhood
10:30pm Classic Arts Showcase

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY
1, 8, 15, 22**

12am Classic Arts Showcase
1am Local Black History: The Arts
1:30am Parkland Voice: Center for Academic Success
2am Parkland Report: Senegal Travel-Study Course
2:30am Guten Tag: Beginning German, Lesson 7
3am Classic Arts Showcase
6:30am Parkland Announcements
8am Parkland Challenge: St. Thomas More v Blue Ridge
8:30am Parkland Challenge: St. Thomas More v Villa Grove
9am Local Black History: The Arts, Archives
9:30am Parkland Voice: Center For Academic Success
10am Parkland Report: Senegal Travel-Study Course
10:30am Guten Tag: Beginning German, Lesson 7
11am Classic Arts Showcase
12pm Accounting Telecourse
1pm Local Black History: The Arts
1:30pm Parkland Voice: Center For Academic Success
2 pm Parkland Report Senegal Travel-Study Course
2:30pm Guten Tag: Beginning German, Lesson 7
3 pm Classic Art Showcase
4:30pm Dollars & Sense: Doug Mills, Greg Lykins
5 pm Parkland Announcements
5:30pm Cooking Around the World TBA
6pm Parkland Challenge: St. Thomas More v Blue Ridge
6:30pm Parkland Challenge: St. Thomas More v Villa Grove
7pm Parkland Report: Senegal Travel-Study Course
7:30pm Parkland Voice: Entrepreneurial Leadership
8pm For Arts Sake: Malcolm Mobutu Smith
8:30 Parkland Challenge: St Thomas More v Blue Ridge
9pm Parkland Challenge: St Thomas More v Villa Grove
9:30pm Parkland Report: Sene-

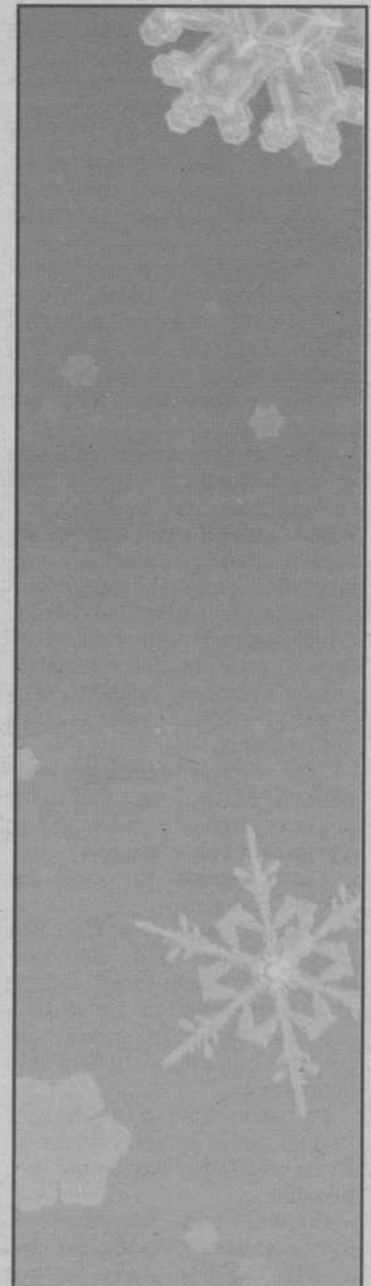
gal Travel-Study Course
10pm Parkland Voice: Entrepreneurial Leadership
10:30pm Classic Arts Showcase

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 9,
16, 23**

12am Classic Arts Showcase
6:30am Parkland Announcements
7am Accounting Telecourse
8am Classic Arts Showcase
5pm Parkland Announcements
6pm Classic Arts Showcase

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3,
10, 17, 24**

12am Classic Arts Showcase
6:30am Parkland Announcements
8am Parkland Telecourse
5pm Parkland Announcements
6pm Classic Arts Showcase



SUPER BOWL BINGO

Sleeping kid in jersey	Person on cell phone	"D" + fence sign	Any politician	Coach's challenge
Wardrobe malfunction	Full face paint	Live animal	End zone dance	A limp
Coach hiding mouth from spies	Touchdown blow by non-QB	FREE SPACE	Too much makeup	Championship ring
John 3:16 sign	Team owner	Falshout No. 1 finger	Towel waving	Lip-synching glitch
Cheerleader belly-button ring	Dot-com you don't know	Celebrity	Gatorade bath	Fan watching mini-TV

SUPER BOWL BINGO

Football fan or not, here's a game everyone can play

By DEBRA BASS
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

THE RULES:

1. Read your game cards and voice your reservations about the clues before the game starts. No whining allowed after the kickoff.

2. Playing multiple cards is allowed. You decide what people "pay" for extra chances to win.

3. Winning doesn't have to conform to a straight line with five squares in a vertical, horizontal or diagonal row. Maybe in honor of football-viewing tradition, you might want to have a six-pack version. This means you have two adjacent rows of

three adjacent clues that look kind of like a six-pack if you viewed it from the top (this can occur anywhere on the card). Or you can insist that all of the clues be checked off for a game card to win.

4. When you see one of your clues on-screen, you have to call it out. If various people have the same clue on their card, you can either play nice and say that everyone gets to mark off the clue whether they saw it or not OR you can insist that only the first person(s) to shout out gets to mark off the clue and the others will have to wait for another shot of the redheaded cheerleader or what have you.

5. Keep going until one player completes the designated bingo pattern and wins the prize.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

SUPER BOWL BINGO

Coach's challenge	Bottle-fisted drinker	Clas or cheek Band-Aid	The wave	Shirless fan
Body slam	John 3:16 sign	Kicker practicing	Triple butt smack	Talking pet commercial
Female interviewer	Full face paint	FREE SPACE	Leaping chest thump	Wardrobe malfunction
Lip-readable cursing	Nose-strip wearer	Cheering with a beer can	"Hi, Mom" sign	Coach hiding mouth from spies
Women's product commercial	Muteawk	Nonblind cheerleader	Sleeping kid in jersey	Fireworks

SUPER BOWL BINGO

"Hi, Mom" sign	Nose-strip wearer	Female interviewer	Fireworks	The wave
Surfower seed-spitter	Women's product commercial	A player's parents	Lip-readable cursing	Guy in dress
Blocked kick	Towel waving	FREE SPACE	Leaping chest thump	Someone tripped on sideline
Cheering with a beer can	Body slam	Kicker practicing	Person on cell phone	Triple butt smack
Player celebrates a sack	Talking pet commercial	Redheaded cheerleader	"I'm going to Disneyland"	Coach's challenge

SUPER BOWL BINGO

Lip-synching glitch	Full face paint	"D" + fence sign	Touchdown blow by non-QB	Bottle-fisted drinker
A player's wife	Talking pet commercial	Championship ring	Fan watching mini-TV	A limp
Clas or cheek Band-Aid	Celebrity	FREE SPACE	Endzone dance	Coach pumping fist
Kicker practicing	First-aid oint on field	Fan with wobbles carved in hair	Female interviewer	Body slam
John 3:16 sign	Live animal	Nonblind cheerleader	Coach's challenge	Too much makeup

SUPER BOWL BINGO

Muteawk	QB putting on a balloon	Cheerleader belly-button ring	Falshout No. 1 finger	Lip-readable cursing
Person on cell phone	Gravity-defying commercial	Shirless fan	Gatorade bath	Fan with problem carved in hair
Wardrobe malfunction	Sleeping kid in jersey	FREE SPACE	Someone tripped on sideline	Towel waving
A player's parents	Dot-com you don't know	First-aid oint on field	Wash-poker	"Hi, Mom" sign
Cheering with a beer can	"I'm going to Disneyland"	Coach pumping fist	Guy in dress	Surfower seed-spitter

Science envisions cats that help sightless see

By ALAN BAVLEY

McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

COLUMBIA, Mo.—Frisky 4-year-old Ginger Snap doesn't know it, but she could become the cat with the bionic eye.

The auburn Abyssinian is part of a cohort of cats at the University of Missouri with a hereditary condition that slowly causes blindness. This makes them ideal subjects to test a silicon microchip that holds promise for restoring at least partial sight to people who are robbed of vision by retinal diseases.

The microchips are packed with thousands of tiny solar cells that turn light into electricity. The chips are implanted within the retina, where they can stimulate still-healthy cells.

A preliminary study on a small group of human subjects with retinitis pigmentosa suggests that the chips may improve vision in people who were going blind.

Ten Abyssinian cats at the University of Missouri will be used to test a more advanced version of the chip.

"We're in the initial stages of this research. It will take years. But it's a start to a very exciting era," said Kristina Narfstrom, the veterinary eye specialist who is leading the study.

Just as cochlear implants have given limited but useful hearing to people who are hearing-impaired, researchers are hoping that retinal implants one day may restore vision to the blind.

Bionic-vision research has been ongoing for decades but only in recent years has the

technology taken off. At least six teams of scientists around the world have done or are planning tests on people, and at least 23 devices are under development, the journal *Science* reported last year.

about one in every 4,000 people in the United States, destroys the rods and cones, dimming and destroying vision.

But the disease leaves intact cells inside the retina that process the signals from rods and



Kristina Narfstrom, a professor of Veterinary Ophthalmology at the University of Missouri-Columbia Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, inserted a microchip in the right eye of Ginger Snap to restore the cat's sight in Columbia, Missouri, January 19, 2007.

Mike Ransdell / *Kansas City Star* (MCT)

Some devices involve elaborate gadgetry, such as cameras mounted on eyeglasses or even implanted in the eye.

The microchip under study at the University of Missouri takes a simpler approach. The chip, produced by Optobionics Corp. in Naperville, Ill., is just two millimeters in diameter, about the size of a nail head. It works on its own to boost the effectiveness of retina cells that are active.

A healthy retina has receptors called rods and cones that turn light into nerve signals. Retinitis pigmentosa, which affects

cones. The Optobionics chip is inserted inside the paper-thin retina, where its electrical

impulses can reach the healthy processing cells.

So far, 30 people have received the chip. A study published on the first six patients showed that all made improvements. Several patients were able to see smaller letters on a vision chart. One patient was able to perceive colors, such as green grass and the red and white checks of a tablecloth for the first time.

One surprising finding: The area of the retina that showed improvement was greater than the researchers had expected from such a small chip. They have suggested that the electrical current produced by the chip may itself be beneficial to the retina.

"It appears to have a neuro-protective effect," Narfstrom said. "The theory is that the electrical current can stimulate growth factors."

Narfstrom has implanted the chip into 10 cats, including four that were blind at birth. Her tests found that the implants did produce electrical signals on the retinas. She is analyzing data to see what kinds of signals reached the cats' brains.

"We can only say that the implant is working, but we can't say what they are seeing," she said.

Cats are good subjects for vision experiments because their eyes are comparable to human eyes in size and construction, Narfstrom said.

The Abyssinian cats are part of a group that Narfstrom has been studying for nearly 30 years. The cats have a naturally occurring mutation that causes a condition similar to retinitis pigmentosa. They begin to lose their vision by the time they are 2 years old. By age 4 or 5, they are blind.

Narfstrom plans extensive tests on the Abyssinians, even putting them through a maze to see if their vision improves enough to help them maneuver. Each cat will get the chip in one eye, so that Narfstrom can make comparisons to the unaffected eyes. Some of the cats will be studied for years.

(c) 2007, The Kansas City Star.



OPEN AUDITIONS

Damn Yankees

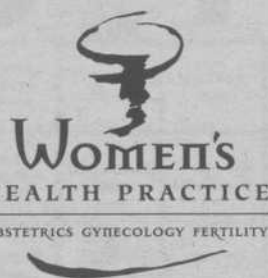
By G. Abbott and D. Wallop • Music and lyrics by R. Adler and J. Ross
Director: Randi Collins Hard • Musical Director: Tim Schirmer
Choreographer: Dallas Street

Sunday, Feb. 4 • 1 to 4 pm OR Monday, Feb. 5 • 6 to 9 pm
Callbacks and dance audition by invitation will be held on
Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.

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A College Girl Named Joe by Aaron Warner

THANKS FOR COMING ALONG WITH ME TO SHOP FOR MY WEDDING DRESS, JOE.

OH, I LOVE IT! IT'S SO EXCITING!

BESIDES, I ONLY HAD ONE CLASS TODAY, AND IT'S SO BORING I DON'T MIND SKIPPING. I'M SURE I'M NOT MISSING ANYTHING.

GOOD MORNING, CLASS. TODAY'S MODEL IS JOHNNY DEPP.

A College Girl Named Joe by Aaron Warner

GOSH! CAN'T YOU TWO FIND ANYWHERE ELSE ON CAMPUS TO MAKE-OUT OTHER THAN THIS DORM? I HAVE TO LIVE HERE, TOO, YOU KNOW.

WE COULD GO BACK TO MY PLACE, BUT THAT JUST SOUNDS LIKE A CHEAP PICK-UP LINE.

FORGET IT. I'LL FIND SOMEPLACE ELSE TO GO.

DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO MY PLACE?

Two Dudes by Aaron Warner

WELL, DUDE, I'VE DECIDED NOT TO TRANSFER AND I'LL CONTINUE GOING TO SCHOOL HERE IN THE FALL.

SWEET, DUDE! WE CAN DO ALL THE THINGS WE'VE BEEN PUTTING OFF ALL THESE YEARS.

LIKE WHAT?

GOING TO CLASS.

Two Dudes by Aaron Warner

DUDE! CHECK IT OUT! WE GOT INVITED TO GO TO A WEDDING!

I KNOW. I HEARD ABOUT IT, DUDE.

BASICALLY THAT MEANS GET A HAIRCUT, BRING A PRESENT, AND WEAR PANTS.

YOU SOUND LIKE MY MOM, DUDE.

THAT'S ALL I HEARD DURING CHRISTMAS VACATION, TOO!

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Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Set to rest
 - Pop, to some
 - Eyes, in poems
 - Dutch cheese
 - Skater's leap
 - Combustible material
 - Bar legally
 - Italian city
 - Hamburg wife
 - Siberian plain
 - Extinct reptile
 - "Love Me ___"
 - Lash marks
 - Radar gun's target
 - Emulate Perry White
 - Tailless amphibian
 - Dairy farm sound
 - Type of kick
 - November winners
 - Handing out gratuities
 - Loco
 - Quit working
 - Musical syllable
 - See socially
 - Speech impediment
 - Footstool
 - Domain
 - Hard hits
 - Pretentious people
 - Exclude
 - Math subj.
 - Fifty percent
 - Separate portion
 - Actor Morales
 - Between ports
 - Gain knowledge
 - Take ten
 - New Jersey five
 - Blundered

- DOWN**
- Gets older
 - Found partner?
 - Pipe sealant
 - Took into the family
 - Barked like a peke
 - Tree fluid
 - Rust, for example
 - Craving
 - Arkin of Hollywood
 - Counteracts
 - Rustic
 - Humdinger
 - Disparaging remarks
 - Foes
 - In debt
 - Kind of kick
 - Slammer or clink
 - Johnnycake
 - Sunrise direction
 - Contributed
 - Choose
 - Mosque prayer leader
 - Computer fodder
 - Garden of earthly delights
 - Light haircuts
 - Fe
 - Unlawful
 - File

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1/31/07

Solutions

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|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 48 Magic word | 55 Map dot |
| 50 Three-bagger | 57 Comparison word |
| 51 Competitive runner | 59 Teddy ___ |
| 52 Obliterate | 60 Field measure |
| 53 Mythical weightlifter | 61 Tear apart |
| | 64 Notes of scales |

Classified

PROSPECTUS
Wednesday, January 31, 2007 — Page 14



Weather Forecast

Wednesday Night: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 30.

Friday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 22.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 19.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 18.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 18.

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 Sale

Computer IBM Compatible— (just built) 512 MB Ram, 60 GB hard-drive, Videocard, ethernet, CD burner, DVD, 3 1/2 drive, monitor, cordless keyboard/mouse, speakers \$300. 373-1363 Also 128 & 256 MB Ram memory sticks.

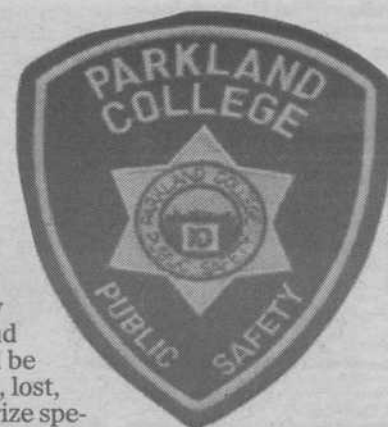
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510 S. Mattis, C— Leasing for immediate occupancy. Brand new, gorgeous, huge 2 bedroom 2 1/2 bathroom townhomes at \$875/mo unfurnished and 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bathroom townhomes at \$1150/mo unfurnished. Units include washer/dryer, central A/C, garages, top of the line appliances, patios. Great west Champaign location! BARR REAL ESTATE, INC., 356-1873, www.barr-re.com



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

Ad Insertion Order

FCC to investigate woman's death after radio show contest

By **CHRISTINA JEWETT**
McClatchy Newspaper (MCT)

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission has directed its enforcement division to investigate the on-air water-drinking contest that preceded the death of Jennifer Strange, 28, a mother of three, a spokeswoman confirmed to The Sacramento Bee on Wednesday.

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin called for the probe based on a letter sent this week by Sacramento attorney Roger Dreyer, who also represents Strange's family in a civil lawsuit against KDND.

"(Martin) was troubled by the information presented in the letter and wants to commission to ascertain the facts," said FCC spokeswoman Tamara Lipper.

In the letter Dreyer sent this week, he calls for the commission to terminate KDND's license because its conduct "ultimately led to the death of Jennifer Strange."

Strange participated in a "Hold your Wee for a Wii" contest, with the object of drinking as much water as possible with-

out throwing up or using the bathroom. She was found dead in her Rancho Cordova, Calif., home hours after leaving the radio station, visibly ill, other contestants said.

"We believe action of this nature is required by the FCC to send a very clear and unambiguous message to radio station ownership across this country that this type of irresponsible conduct that degrades, humiliates and endangers citizens will not be tolerated," Dreyer's letter says.

Also Wednesday, a Washington, D.C., attorney urged the FCC to consider Strange's death when deciding whether to allow Entercom—which owns the station—to buy radio stations in Ohio, Texas and New York.

"The situation with Jennifer Strange really emphasizes the fact that they're not responsible broadcasters," said attorney Arthur Belendiuk, who represents Royce International Broadcasting Company.

Charles Sipkins, a spokesman for Entercom Sacramento, said only that the station would cooperate with the FCC.

The contest in question took place Jan. 12 in the break room

CrimeStoppers seeks assistance

This week, CrimeStoppers and Champaign County Sheriff's Office are seeking your assistance in solving several burglaries from motor vehicles that occurred in Savoy.



Sometime between the hours of 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, and 8:30 a.m. on January 20, unknown suspect(s) entered several vehicles located in the 1700 and 1800 blocks of Lyndhurst Drive, as well as

in the 100 block of Sterling Court. After the suspect(s) entered the vehicle, they took two

black and white iPod Nano's. Also taken were a garage door opener, a Canon digital camera, an in-dash CD player, and a wallet containing \$50 cash and several

credit cards.

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

of the Madison Avenue radio station. Strange drank 224 ounces—nearly 2 gallons—of water before she dropped out of the contest, accepting tickets to a Justin Timberlake concert.

Strange spoke on air about having a headache and feeling light-headed. She called co-workers to report that she would not be into work hours before her mother found her dead.

Sacramento coroner's officials said Strange's death is consistent with water intoxication.

The broadcast of the show, obtained by The Bee, reveals that disc jockeys were aware of the danger of excessive water

drinking, with one asking if you can "get water poisoning and, like, die." Another disc jockey recalled the case of a "college kid," likely a Chico State student who died of water intoxication in a well-publicized 2005 hazing incident.

Five days after the broadcast and Strange's death, Entercom Sacramento officials fired 10 staff members who are responsible for the "Morning Rave" broadcast, including on-air personalities Adam Cox, Steve Maney, Patricia Sweet, Matt Carter and Pete Inzerillo.

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Character, not color, defines Dungy and Smith

By MIKE BIANCHI

The Orlando Sentinel (MCT)

ORLANDO, Fla.—You want to know why this is going to be an incredible Super Bowl?

It's not because the two coaches are black men; it's because the two coaches are great guys.

This is not to depreciate the historical significance of two black head coaches being on the grandest stage in sports for the first time, but it's to appreciate that this is about much more than just race.

It's about class, too.

It's about two soft-spoken, God-fearing coaches—Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith—who have proven you can get to the top of the coaching profession without being a miserable human being (see Bill Belichick); without being a raving, screaming, paranoid, lunatic, workaholic madman.

"To see two African-American coaches go to the Super Bowl when it has been historically difficult for black coaches to break into the NFL is terrific," U.S. Senator and presidential candidate Barack Obama said during a news conference this past week. "But what makes it even better is that they are both men of humility; they are both men of God. They never trash-talk. They are not yellers and screamers on the sidelines. They are a couple of class individuals."

Too often these days, self-

important football coaches think what they do supersedes all else. They think their job is more critical than your job or my job or even the job of the president of the United States. Remember when Nick Saban turned down dinner with President Bush in August because he couldn't drag himself away from breaking down special teams tape during Miami Dolphins training camp? Pathetic.

I always go back to Jimmy Johnson during his final days as a coach and the unpleasant epiphany he came to on the day he buried his mother. He realized then he had spent his entire coaching career neglecting his mom, his children and all the other people who mattered most.

"There's a time you pull back and say, 'Be with the people you care about. Don't shortchange them. They love you. Give them just a little bit back,'" Johnson said then. "You hear football coaches list their priorities, and they always say religion first, then family and then football. And yet they work at football 15 hours a day, seven days a week. And they spend an hour a week at church and two hours a week with their family. To me, that tells me football is first, and everything else is second."

Believe it or not, Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith actually do put their faith and family first. They actually do treat their children, their players and even the cursed media with love and

respect. The Super Bowl may be the biggest game of their careers, but it isn't the most important part of their lives.

"I know the type of person Lovie is," Dungy says. "He has the same Christian convictions I have. He runs his team the same way. I know how those guys are treated in Chicago and how they play—tough, disciplined football without a lot of profanity from coaches or a win-at-all-

to be a head coach, could not lie.

"I will try my hardest to win a Super Bowl," he replied, "but coaching is not the most important thing. I will not sleep in the office and be here 24 hours a day."

Dungy didn't get the job.

It should be noted that Dungy's successor in Tampa, Jon Gruden, who wakes up at 3:17 a.m. every morning to

Why do you think it is that on the morning Lovie's Bears were playing the New Orleans Saints for the NFC championship, Bucs linebacker Derrick Brooks phoned his former position coach at 6 a.m. just to let him know every player Lovie ever had coached was rooting for him?

And why do you think it is that Tony's players and former players, at the strangest times, will get a phone call or text-message from Dungy that says, "What are you doing to be a better husband and father right now?"

I'll tell you why it is. It's because these coaches are concerned just as much about making a difference as they are about making the playoffs.

Historians will tell you Martin Luther King was the perfect man at the perfect time to lead the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Why? Because he was an eloquent man of faith who led peaceful marches, endorsed nonviolent protests but preached an enormously important message.

Likewise, Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith are the right men at the right time to be coaching in the most socially significant Super Bowl in history.

Not just because of the color of their skin.

But because of the content of their character.

(c) 2007, The Orlando Sentinel (Fla.).



costs atmosphere. For two guys to show you can win that way, I think that's important for the country to see."

Dungy once told me the story when he was an up-and-coming black assistant trying to get a head-coaching job in a profession dominated by white men. One obsessive owner during the interview asked Dungy, "Is coaching your No. 1 passion?"

Dungy, as much as he wanted

start work, requested coaching "sleeping rooms" be included in the blueprints for the Bucs' recently built training facility.

Tony and Lovie have proven you don't have to be consumed by coaching to excel at it. They have proven you don't have to intimidate and scream and cuss to get your message across. They have proven it's OK to treat players as human beings and not as human cap numbers.

Basketball minute with Coach Warren

By ERIC HARPRING

Prospectus Staff Writer

Parkland men's basketball has been on a roll lately, and that has much to do with the attitude of head coach Chris Warren and his effect on his players. Matt Neaville is a sophomore guard who is leading the country in points per game this year—averaging over 30 points per game.

He is not, however, without company. Robert Hubbard, also a sophomore, struggled at times early in the year, but according to Coach Warren, has been the most consistent player since the team left for their trip to New York in mid-December.

Hubbard has played so well lately that it is almost expected of him to get double digits in points and rebounds every game. He has improved noticeably since

last season—last year he did not get significant minutes as a freshman, but has really found new gains both offensively and defensively this season.

Also leading the team, but not always getting the publicity that he should, is sophomore point guard Drew McCool.

"He is the best defensive player in Region XXIV. He always guards and shuts down the other team's best player. He's the glue to our team. He is savvy and has high basketball I.Q.," said Warren.

Warren has been both pleasantly surprised, and mildly disappointed with how his season has shaped into. Early in the year they lost eight games to top-ranked opponents, and Warren felt that with just a little bit better performance in those games they could have won a few. Recently he has been surprised with how well his team has meshed together and progressed as a team, however.

In Wednesday's win over Spoon River, Warren felt that the first half went very well—the Cobras held their opponent to 20 points. In the second half he was disappointed with the point total the team gave up, but was pleased because, "It's hard to keep intensity up when you're winning by fifty."

"Everything is for this season. We are preparing the next two weeks for a run at the conference championship. You prepare all season long for the Region XXIV tournament," said Warren. While he is concentrating on this season, Warren needs to look to next year, since the team is losing eight sophomores. Warren is targeting about four or five freshman for next year because, "Freshmen make freshmen mistakes, and you just can't trust them like you can sophomores."

Chris Warren has been a basketball coach at Parkland for about 11 years. He

was the assistant coach for "four or five years" and has been head coach for 6 seasons.

He coached one year of high school basketball at University High School in Urbana. "I like the job here. Both my wife's parents and my parents live here, and I love teaching. I love helping kids who are not sure what they want to do, like I was as a student, discover themselves."

The team goals for the season were to win the Mid-West Athletic Conference championship and advance to the National Championships. Another goal that was set was to play a specific style of basketball. "We want to play a tough brand of ball. We want to take charges, dive on the floor for loose balls and play hard all the time," Warren said. The Cobras will face Joliet on February 1 at 7pm at Parkland.