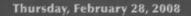
## Prospectus

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## **President Ramage sits down with the Prospectus**■ A personal interview with the new head of Parkland College

By GAVIN J. DOW Staff Writer

[Editor's Note: The following is an edited transcript of a February 15 interview between reporter Gavin J. Dow and Dr. Thomas Ramage, the President of Parkland College. All edits have been made in the interest of continuity and reworded phrases.]

G:Tell me about your academic background.

R:Illinois State University is where I started. I actually met my wife there. My wife is from Danville, so when we graduated, I ended up moving to Danville. Took a job at the school district there doing TV sorts of things. Taught for a year at Danville High School, went to Danville Area Community College for about five years-this had been '92 through '95-went over to the University of Illinois in '95, worked for the Office of Statewide Programming as a distance learning coordinator. The year after that, I moved over to an initiative called the Illinois Online Network, which is also out of the U of I system from the Vice President's office, and worked with community colleges in the state of Illinois, trying to work with faculty and administrators in advancing their progress toward putting courses and subsequently degrees online.

So, I got to travel around a bunch of community colleges, actually, all the community colleges in Illinois.

A position at Parkland opened up in 1998, a newly formed department called Distance and Virtual Learning, and that

was TV, distance education, and interactive video. So that was sort of like the perfect job for me. It was all the things that I had done in the past sort of combined into one little gig. So, did that for a couple of years, moved into an Associate Vice President position here for Academic Services. When our executive Vice President Dale Ewen retired, I moved into his spot as Vice President for Academic Services, the chief academic officer for the institution, and did that for almost five years. This past June, I was named Interim [President]. [January] 17 was the board meeting, and they removed the Interim label, so that was permanent.

So that's sort of the path. Along the way there, I earned a Master's Degree from George Washington University, and an E.D.D., a doctorate in education, from Nova Southeastern University, and I finished that in '03. So that's kind of the nutshell

G:It sounds to me like you have a big focus yourself on distance learning. Now, obviously, there are a lot of online courses at Parkland. Are you looking to expand that at all?

R:You know, the growth has been huge. In '98 when I first came to Parkland, we had probably ten or twelve classes online, and today we're upwards of 250 or so different sections. The growth has been huge, phenomenally huge, and obviously there's student demand, or we wouldn't have the nearly five thousand students a semester that we have now taking online courses. It's amazed me. I remember coming to a Parkland

board meeting, probably '99 or 2000, and the board chair at the time said, what do you think, as far as growth? Can we sustain this twenty percent per semester growth curve? My answer to that was, you know, it's going

a mix between an online and a traditional course, where some of your time is still spent on campus, but an equal or greater amount is spent online. I think that's where the growth is going to really continue. And there



to level out here sometime, I just don't know quite when, because there's a certain sort of student that's interested in an online course, whether it's convenience, or schedule flexibility, or because they're working two other jobs outside the college, whatever, but that's probably going to level off. And I've been wrong every year since then, because that growth has been huge.

Now, recently it has started to level off a little bit. We're seeing more like ten or fifteen percent growth instead of twenty. But is there an end in sight? Probably not, because I think we've learned is that that percentage of students that would be interested in strictly online, we're tripling that when we talk about hybrid courses, which is sort of

are certain courses that require that, like a speech course, for example – you have to be here to do a speech – or a lab course over in natural sciences. Some things that you just have to do on campus, or it's better to do on campus.

Fifty-three percent, I think it is, of the students that come here in the summer are enrolled in online courses. So, more than half of our total enrollment in the summer is online.

G:Where are we getting the online students from?

R:All over. Last time we looked, and this is a couple of years old now, about eighty percent were traditional students. They were here taking regular courses and online courses for

whatever reason, whether it was family or work, or just because they could. That other twenty percent, it really depends on what semester you're talking about. In the summer, we see a ton of students from a university someplace, they're enrolled fall/spring, come home for the summer, and want to enroll in gen-ed courses and progress toward their degrees. It's eighty-two bucks a credit hour, you cannot beat that price tag anywhere. They get a course that articulates to any of the public universities, and most of the privates in Illinois and elsewhere. So that probably takes care of the summer piece.

The rest of the other students, it's a mix. We get students from out of state, out of the country, people in the military, that's probably the bulk of it. The individual stories are amazing. We have a good number of international students that use online courses for flexibility, a whole variety of reasons.

G:What technological advances are you seeing that are making these classes better?

R:The technology, let's say in the last five to six years, it's value-added stuff. The basics are there. The course management system, ANGEL or Blackboard or WebCT, whatever an institution uses (we're on ANGEL here), that's been there for quite a while. That existed back in 1998 when we got started at Parkland. It's improved over time, but it's incremental. The things that students don't necessarily see is our data systems, all our student information sys-

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Next week from the Prospectus, or catch our stories early online at www.prospectusnews.com







## Spotlight

## **Prospectus**

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- The rules of correspondence: all submissions must be signed with a phone number and address. The *Prospectus* staff must verify the identity of letter witers. Correspondence may be edited to accommodate the space quirements of the paper. The dead-line for all submissions is 12 p.m. of the Thursday immediately before the



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## CHUCK SHEPHERD'S NEWS OF THE WEIRD

By CHUCK SHEPHERD

Lead Story

Several Duke University campus organizations, including the Women's Center, the Student Health Center and the Women's Studies Department, sponsored a "Sex Workers Art Show" on Feb. 3, at which nearly nude "artists" danced for students and others while vulgarly criticizing America via acts such as a woman's pretending to eat excreted dollar bills and a man's kneeling with an American flag inserted in his rear end. Two years ago, Duke's men's lacrosse team was vilified by the Duke administration and faculty merely for hiring two female strippers for a party (from which emanated false charges of rape and the eventual disbarment of the local district attorney). A university spokesman explained to a National Journal reporter that the recent show was acceptable because it was "art" and "social commentary," rather than malebonding entertainment.

### **Cultural Diversity**

•Brand-new Japanese parents receiving a gift are then customarily obligated to give a lesser one in return, and the Yoshimiya rice shop in Fukuoka recently created the ideal such return: small bags of rice of the exact weight of the newborn, printed with its face and name, so that original gift-givers (relatives, friends) can experience cuddling "the baby." Then, of course, according to Yoshimiya's owner, they can break open the bag and eat the rice, though he admitted some people have a problem with that.

•"We sleep with the snakes (meaning cobras), we eat with the snakes, we live with the snakes (but) we are not scared," said a 14-year-old girl in a village near Calcutta, India, to a Wall Street Journal reporter in November. Said a village leader, "Whenever I lie down in my bed, a cobra will just slide on top of me, without hurting me." In fact, more than 3,000 cobras live in one hamlet, mostly in peace, with few bite victims (though a cobra bite is often fatal because villagers initially trust the gods and spirit doctors to treat them). Cobras are so revered in the village that cobra bites are usually described as attacks by vipers or by "nonresident" cobras, based on a belief that local cobras are incapable of evil.

•There is usually a wellstocked Red Cross tent when the January "corralejas" (amateur bullfights) take place in towns in the Colombian countryside, reported The New York Times in January. "This year was calm, no deaths yet," said a newscaster in Sincelejo. Hundreds of wannabe matadors jump into makeshift rings, some sponsored by local merchants but others merely inebriated or sober and foolish, some gaudily dressed, some in bunches (with one group even picnicking). Wrote the Times, "A stream of men arrived" in the Red Cross tent, "intestines peeking out of a belly, bone protruding from a fractured shin, blood spurting from a gash in the buttocks." Said a local, "This is about the ecstasy of escaping death."

### Latest Religious Messages

Lord Balaji was a locally popular Hindu god in Hyderabad, India, until a few years ago when a priest noticed that more of his worshippers were complaining that valuable U.S. professional "H-1B" visas were harder to get. Overnight, Balaji was transformed from a purveyor of general prosperity to the "visa god," specializing in lucky H-1Bs, and the temple now draws 100,000 visitors a week. Said one, to a Wall Street Journal reporter in December, "I've never heard of anyone who's gone to the temple whose visa (application) got rejected" (even though typical advice from priest C.S. Gopala Krishna is simply to walk around the temple "11 times").

### **Questionable Judgments**

•In December, even after the widely reported tiger attack on a visitor at the San Francisco Zoo, the Houston Zoo was still allowing its visitors to play "tug of war" with its own lions and tigers. A 20-pound slab of meat, attached to a long rope, is tossed into the enclosure, and visitors are encouraged to toy with the cats by vanking on it as the animal lunges for it. Said a Houston zookeeper, the game keeps the animals from getting bored. Besides, a zoo official said, "(The lion or tiger) kind of lets us know when he wants to play, and we go along with that.'

•Two counselors in the Denver school system proposed in December that the school

board give high school girls who get pregnant at least four weeks of maternity leave, without academic penalty, so they can bond with their newborns. The counselors said the policy would encourage teen mothers to stay in school. (Meanwhile, the Department of Education of the Australian Capital Territory in Canberra granted permission for a 16-year-old student at Stromlo High School to take smoking breaks, based on a doctor's finding that she is so "clinically addicted" to nicotine that her work suffers without it.)

·A teacher at Yamata Elementary School in Yokohama, Japan, was disciplined in January after a finding that she improperly punished her class because a few students would not come to order. Officials said she lined up all students and walked down the row, slapping each one in the face.

#### **Family Values**

Geraldine Magda, 44, was arrested in Austin, Minn., in January, following a nursing-home visit to hold the hand of her dying sister in her final hours. Magda was charged with stealing the wedding ring from her sister's finger during the hand-holding. (2) A Chicago man traveled to Sheboygan, Wis., in December to finally meet the 18-yearold woman who was his biological daughter, but during the same visit, he was arrested and charged with sexually assaulting her while she was sleeping.

#### The Weirdo-American Community

In December, street performer John Domingue said the Huntington Beach, Calif., police have finally stopped hassling him for soliciting tips at the city's famous Pier Plaza when he demonstrates his skill at hammering nails into his nose without serious injury. (Some bleeding results, which is why police said they stopped him in the first place.) The American Civil Liberties Union said it is watching the case, citing Domingues' constitutional right to perform his nose-nailing, sword-swallowing and fire-eating acts for donations.

#### **Least Competent Criminals**

More Questionable Judgments: (1) David Holland, 46, gave a DNA sample last year to police in San Jose, Calif., to help resolve murder charges against his brother, but was then arrested for an until-thenunsolved 2001 rape when his DNA sample matched that left behind by the rapist. (2) Edward Debrow of San Antonio, Texas. who was sentenced to 27 years in prison for a 1992 murder conviction, appealed that sentence as too harsh. After a Texas appeals court granted his challenge and ordered a re-sentencing in October, a judge gave him 40 years. [San Francisco Chronicle, 11-20-07] [KSAT-TV (San Antonio), 10-24-071

#### **Recurring Themes**

Awesome Capacities: Jason Panchalk, 36, was admitted to the Pima County (Arizona) jail in December, facing a charge of trafficking in stolen property, buthearrived prepared. According to a jailer, Panchalk was carrying "some syringes, matches, lighter. heroin, marijuana, and an assortment of pills," all inside his rectum. And in October, court officials in Cork, Ireland, who were suspicious of a defendant's demeanor, had him medically examined. According to a report in the Irish Independent, doctors found a mobile phone, SIM card and charger, all wrapped in foil and coated with lubricant, inside his rectum.

### Least Justifiable Homicides

David Thomson, 49, was convicted in Edinburgh, Scotland, of smothering his mom to death after she had taunted him for his inept suicide attempt several weeks before (October). In Sydney, Australia, a man was charged with beating a neighbor to death because the neighbor was watering his lawn in violation of the city's water restrictions (October). The boss of a factory in North Korea was executed by firing squad before 150,000 people in a South Pyongan province stadium after he was convicted of the crime of making out-of-country telephone calls (November).

(Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at http://NewsoftheWeird.blogspot.com or www.Newsofthe-Weird.com.)

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## Local/Parkland

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tems, and the course management system are now integrated, so as soon as you register for a course in our traditional system, you're populated into the online system immediately, or with very little delay, so you have quick access. That was a manual process before, but that's all kind of behind the scenes.

New stuff, the things like podcasting, things like incorporating streaming video, streaming audio, that becomes easier. You don't need to be a computer scientist to be able to do that sort of stuff anymore, you can do it from your desktop fairly easily. Faculty are incorporating more of that in. The [University of Illinois] Global Campus is a big unknown. [In] September, a bachelor's degree completion program in business administration comes online, and with our relationship with the U of I, we expect, hopefully, some pretty good numbers. So that percentage will jump up again, of our credit students that are taking online courses.

But I wouldn't say it's technology driven, I think it's more students understand the concept. That's what's driving the enrollment increase as opposed to more accessibility, or some cool program. I've been a student for my last two degrees. I've been involved in online courses on the student side, and I far prefer it. It's the way to go as far as I'm concerned.

G:What advantages do vou see to taking a class online as opposed to in a classroom?

R:For me personally? allowed me to work full time in a job that was fairly time consuming, and still earn my degree. I could get a degree from a place like George Washington and not have to worry about babysitting, or leaving my family for weeks at a time, or doing a residency in D.C. It was the perfect way to go for a working type person, somebody with commitments beyond school, certainly.

G:The other side of the coin: what are the disadvantages?

R:The disadvantage? Well, there's always something to be said, and probably quite a bit to be said, for being face-toface with an instructor, face-toface with a person that you're in class with, having a discus-

sion about content, about materials. And that's different, obviously, online. It's pretty much still a typewritten interaction, and that can be burdensome. It takes a lot of time to respond via e-mail or a threaded discussion group or whatever. This conversation we're having would probably take twice as long if we weren't sitting here looking at each other. So there's some inherent slowdowns in the process, I think. But overall quality-wise, in terms of grade point averages, persistence, grades, and success, the gap between a traditional course and an online course is very much narrowing. There's almost no difference now in outcomes.

G:Did there used to be a difference?

R:A couple of percentage points. For probably a couple of reasons, the gap between traditional and online was fairly narrow [at Parkland]. Other institutions had pretty wide gaps, and a lot of that had to do with faculty training, how well they knew the system, and could interact with students and engage. Part of it in the early days was technology. Things weren't as reliable as they are today. The server would go down, the software wouldn't work, whatever. It was retention, mostly. Students would drop the online courses more frequently than they would traditional courses.

G:I talked to some of the faculty members here to get some input on what I should talk to you about, and one thing that everyone wants to know is what your plans are now going forward. They're interested to know what are your plans over, say, the next year? Or the next ten years? Because it sounds like you intend to stay here.

R:I do. Very much so. This next year, the plans are pretty much set. We have a couple of big initiatives going on. The first one is the conversion from our old student/financial/human resources databasing system to a new one. It's called Datatel. Our old one is about sixteen years old and it's not going to be supported anymore, it's going to go away. The software is obsolete. So we have to do something, and that's a massive undertaking. It's about three million dollars cost-wise, but the investment of time and energy from almost everybody on campus is going to be fairly significant. We're just getting started with that process, so that's about 24 months worth of work. When you have something that big, and that fundamentally altering the way we do things, we have to rethink everything we do, from how we show you what classes are available, how you register, how you get financial aid, how you get billed, all that stuff has to be reviewed, so it's big.

When you're doing something that large, to put other new initiatives on top of it, you kind of want to hold off a little bit. But we are, anyway. Another big one is the Kay's building out here on Mattis Avenue. We purchased that about six months ago, and we're remodeling about 20,000 square feet in the middle of it for a health professions facility. It's really substantial.

We're just about to start a master planning process in terms of the campus: our buildings, our facilities, what needs to be updated, renovated, remodeled, what sort of structures we need based on enrollment growth, all kinds of different things. What do we need to look at for the future? And that's a fairly substantial process that we'll begin very shortly also. So, without trying to overload everybody at Parkland College, I would point to those three things as major for the next year.

G:What about more in the long term? What would you like to see different about Parkland

R:First and foremost, one of my longer term goals is facilities. Most of this campus was built in 1973. This dark woodwork, the carpeting if you've been out in the college center recently, you've seen is not in great shape. We have a phased, probably six year plan to update all the various wings with the basics: lighting, paint, carpeting, the way the woodwork looks, signage. How we move students throughout this campus will be a major focus, as well as capital projects. We have a student services center, that's about an \$18 million structure that we want to get built here. It should have been built five years ago, but due to state funding and no capital bill for the last five years, we haven't had the funds to do that. We have to look at ways, without the state, to expand this campus based on the enrollment growth that we've already had, and to support new programs that our community is demanding.

G:You just mentioned enroll-

ment growth. Do you want to talk a little more about that?

R:2002, we built the D-wing. 96,000 square feet of space. When we built that addition, we figured that we could take about a 25% jump in enrollment from levels in 2001 before we would fill that wing to capacity. Now, prior to the D-wing, we were in serious space trouble. We hadn't had a major addition to campus in quite a while, and the enrollment had gone from let's say six or seven thousand students per semester to about ten, where we are now. So twenty thousand students a year, head count, are in this facility, and we had no room to expand. If we had a new program, we had no space. If we added faculty, there were no more offices to put them. So, the D-wing came at a very opportune time, and allowed us to grow from the levels we were prior to 2002.

After we built the D-wing, '02 to '05, that 25% that I was talking about occurred. We filled the D-wing with an additional 25% of the total population in just four years. So, we're at that space-crunch time again now, actually since '05. We're out of room. The only thing that saved us in terms of classroom space is online, because those students enroll in courses and they don't take up a classroom from 8:00 to 9:00 on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. So our enrollment growth has continued, but it's really because of this new medium, this new way we're delivering courses.

Longer term, if we want to continue the enrollment growth in traditional courses, traditional programs that have to have a physical place on campus, we have to start looking at new structures.

G:Do you expect to be doing

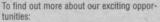
R:I do. Part of the master campus planning piece I've gone through with our executive team over the last about six months, and we identified things that we just knew about, and our list is \$55 million in new structures. You talk about a diesel program, an automotive program, a student services center, expansion of our art programs. They have always been at capacity. As soon as we've built a new art classroom, the next semester it's full. So, we could probably double the size of our art department and fill it instantly.

Health professions: our nursing program needs to grow. We'll move some other health professions programs that are on campus [to the new building on Mattisl, and then expand the nursing program here on campus. But we take sixty-five students a year now in nursing, and we need to be at a hundred. That requires a lot of space.

G:Why do you need to be at a

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## Swearingen Grammy Corrections Dewey Defeats Truman

By SHANE SWEARINGEN

Prospectus Staff Writer

Like most Americans with an IO above/age below 70, I don't watch the Grammys. Not so much because I'm averse to bloated commercial pageantry or have any particular semblance of a life: I just don't like terrible music or the glorification thereof. With that in mind. here are my corrections to the major 2008 Grammy Award winners, as well as the winners of some other awards I just made up.

### Record/Song of the Year

The Grammys went to: "Rehab" by Amy Winehouse

I'll spare you my annoyance over the fact that record production is deemed more important than either composition or performance in the Grammy Award hierarchy, and just dive right into the awards. They both went to the same recording. I've never heard it. It probably sucks.

The actual best record/song of 2007:

"Bros" by Panda Bear

While its title regrettably conjures images of monosyllabic, hacky-sack-jonesing fratboys, and its twelve-and-a-halfminute running time is likely to scare off mainstream pop fans, "Bros" is by a healthy margin the best song of 2007: a prismatic baroque-pop drone drenched in haunting atmospherics, mesmerizing polyrhythms and gorgeous Pet Sounds-style harmo-

There's little in the way of conventional song structure to be found here, but the melody is so strong and the whole song is so richly detailed that it almost functions like a classic '60s pop tune anyway. Only twelve-anda-half minutes long and with lots more chanting, fuzz, and glitchy electronic weirdness.

Honorable Mention: "Australia" by the Shins

#### Album of the Year

The Grammy went to: River: the Joni Letters by Herbie Hancock

With no obvious candidate emerging from the safe haven of popular music, Grammy voters wisely opted for an established

legend from a music genre the overwhelming majority of Americans (and Grammy voters) absolutely never listen to, in an attempt to muster credibility for the selections of terrible pop albums in the future. "Hey, we picked a jazz album once in the last forty years! We could pick an album from any genre any year! We hear many albums every year and have extraordinarily diverse palettes!"

This also continues the Grammys' recent tradition of giving the Album of the Year award to wholly inconsequential works by aging icons rather than unique and groundbreaking albums from artists still relevant today (other recent examples being Bob Dylan's goodbut-not-great Time Out of Mind and Steely Dan's god-awful Two Against Nature).

The actual best album of 2007: Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer? by Of Montreal

Wherein Kevin Barnes transforms despondency, alienation and unfocused psychosexual energy into a heady glam-rock opus bursting with ambrosial pop hooks and goofy, verbose song titles.

Hissing Fauna achieves a supremelyrarebalancebetween genuine, thoughtful introspection, cartoonish bombast, and impeccable musicianship to make it the best album/gimmick of its kind since Ziggy Stardust. Hissing Fauna also boasts at least three legit contenders for song of the year, with "A Sentence Of Sorts In Kongsvinger" narrowly edging out "Heimdalsgate Like A Promethean Curse' and "Gronlandic Edit," as the album's best, primarily on the strength of the lyrics of its first verse: "I spent the winter on the verge of a total breakdown while living in Norway/I felt the darkness of the black-metal bands/but being such a fawn of a man I didn't burn down any old churches/just slept way too much/just slept."

Also, if you get a chance to see the band live, do it: they put on an incredible show. It's sort of like the Gay Pride Parade, only with even more elaborate costumes and lots of blinding lasers. And the music is great, too.

See Grammy on page 5

By SHANE SWEARINGEN

Prospectus Staff Writer

Okay, so maybe I was a bit premature in awarding the Patriots the Vince Lombardi Trophy. Calling the Giants things like "comically overmatched," likening them to the Reform Party, questioning Eli Manning's legitimacy as a quarterback, secretly believing he has a learning disability, making light of the media hoopla surrounding Tom Brady's ankle injury: I was just flat-out wrong.

We all make mistakes, even part-time amateur quasi-journalists at community college newspapers. Only now that the Prospectus has gone online, my cretinous proclamations cannot be so easily disremembered. So, to the New York Giants, any gamblers I might have influenced, John Eby Publishing, and the one person I convinced not to watch arguably the greatest Super Bowl in history, I am truly, truly sorry

But let's not dwell on my glaring failures as a football prognosticator, and instead take the time to appreciate the things I got right:

### Commercials with talking animals

Of which there were no less than four. What can I say? I just had this wacky sensation that advertisers would rely on one of their most conventional and time-honored methods of being vaguely quirky and cutesy in their endeavor to sell assorted goods and services. I just had a hunch, you know? I did not, however, have the sagacity to foresee dancing animals in a commercial. Now, that's wild.

### Half of Tom Petty's halftime set list

Okay, I wasn't exactly going out on a limb with "Runnin' Down a Dream," since they played this during just about every Super Bowl XLII halftime show promotion, but I still deserve mild props for "Free Fallin'." I employed my shrewd deduction skills to determine that of all the songs in the Tom Petty catalogue, "Free Fallin" had the best combination of popularity (thirty-three weeks on the billboard pop singles charts), Christianity (the good girl in the song loves Jesus) and patriotism (ditto America)—the three most

exalted qualities in the Super Bowl. This isn't to say "Free Fallin" is in any way a religious or patriotic song, but a passing, not unfavorable allusion to a subject is usually enough to convince a drunken yahoo or a network executive what's at the heart of a song. Of course, "American Girl" has the word "America" in its title, so I deserve to be punched in the face for missing that one. Not that "American Girl," either, is a patriotic, or in any way political song-it's just a tragic love song, really. But that's how these things work.

The entire Tom Petty set "American Girl," "I Won't Back Down," "Free Fallin'," "Runnin' Down a Dream") was thematically appropriate for any Super Bowl, but a more appropriate set for Super Bowl XLII specifically would have looked like this:

#### "The Waiting"

In reference to the excruciating two-week layoff between the conference championship games and The Big Game, the interminable pre-game festivities, and the culmination of the Pats' pursuit of perfection and the Giants' quest for respect. You see, it works on a lot of different levels. Man.

### "Breakdown"

An allusion to the Pats' repeated lapses in pass-protection, which pretty much cost them the game. I know most of you who watched the game will probably point to their defensive meltdown in the final two minutes as the game's penultimate breakdown, but the Pats' defense isn't the reason they were 18-0, it's not the reason they lost the game, and they would almost certainly be heroes if not for the most ridiculously amazing catch in Super Bowl history.

## "You Got Lucky"

This could refer either to the Pats' attitude towards the G-Men, or mine towards Frank Caliendo: how the hell is that guy successful again? I mean, almost everyone can do a decent impression of someone. Only, you know, most people don't make millions of dollars for being able to do just one kind of okay impression without ever updating their material. Boom!

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## Local/Parkland

## GRAMMY

continued from page 4

Honorable mention: Friend Opportunity by Deerhoof

Bonus Awards

Most Irrelevant Grammy Award Category: Best Boxed Or Special Limited Edition Pack-

So help me god, this is a real category. I was originally going to give the nod to the almost-asridiculous Best Album Notes category, but then I reflected that album notes, for a comprehensive anthology on the history and culture of a particular music genre or movement, could quite possibly be educational and, therefore, not altogether irrelevant. But Best Boxed Or Special Limited Edition Package? WTF?

Honorable mention: Best Record Package

Honorable mention: Best Album Notes

Most Inexplicable Longevity: Kid Rock

This isn't to say I think there aren't other "artists" with as little talent as Kid Rock-just none that I can think of with as few discernable qualities of any kind. I mean, someone might make a case for Britney Spears, for instance, but at least people at one point found her attractive. Kid Rock has been a commercially viable entity for a decade on the strength of what, exactly? His acting prowess? His hats? His friendship with ZZ Top? I don't understand. Kid Rock was Kevin Federline before Kevin Federline, only stupider and more annoying.

## This show is a drag! ■ Entertainment at it's finest

By BETH VOIGT Features Writer

On Friday, February 29, some of Parkland's prettiest boys (and girls) will grace the stage of Parkland's theatre in a show that promises to be the most fun to be had while being politically (and probably biblically) incorrect at the same time. That's

right, folks, it's drag show time!

'But, what the heck is a drag show?" you may ask. It's a performance put on by a series of drag queens and/or kings, who often lip-synch and dance to popular songs. A drag queen is usually a man who dresses (or "drags") in female clothes: by the same token, a drag king is a woman in male clothes. A drag performer is not necessarily gay or transgender, but may be a straight person who simply dresses up for the fun of it.

Performers often wear elaborate costumes, sometimes imitating famous singers or celebrities. A drag performer may or may not try to "pass" as the opposite gender; sometimes you would never know that "she" is actually a man, or sometimes he might go all-out to deliberately look outrageous, over-thetop, and most certainly a man in drag.

Drag shows can feature one or more performers, singly or in groups, who may sing, dance, lip-synch to a song while dancing a choreographed routine, or perform skits or monologues. Tips are often accepted by performers who mingle with the crowd while continuing their performance-encouraging audience participation.

This will be the sixth Drag Show to be held at Parkland. In previous shows, there have been around a half-dozen Drag Queens (males as females) and two to four Drag Kings (females as males). Plans for this year's show have been in the works since last October, and there have been rehearsals several times a week since the beginning of January and continuing until the day of the show.

While Parkland's drag show is an uncommon treat, it is not the only performance of its kind in the area. Both the University of Illinois and Eastern Illinois University have their own drag shows, around Halloween and in the spring semester respectively. Closer to home, the C-Street bar in downtown Champaign holds regular drag shows on Sunday nights with professional competitive par-

Some of the performers that will be appearing at Parkland's drag show have also appeared in other productions in Champaign-Urbana and around Illinois. Leilani Stars, Parkland alums Aurora Lamont-Carrington and Theo Stars-Carrington, and current Parkland student Justin Zane have performed at both C-Street and the University of Illinois shows, and have participated in events as far away as Chicago.

Your hostess for this event will be the magnificent Leggz Akimbo, "an infamous Parkland talent relating to professor Thom Schnarre," according to her biography. "She has a tragic history of a mis-spent youth as a showgirl and then a Vegas



Beth Voigt/Prospectus

dancer before a tragic dance injury to her left pinkie caused her to end her dance ambitions and subsist on a diet of mostly

Members of Parkland's Queer and Ally group and students in the theatre department are also working to make this year's drag show a fabulous success. In addition to the performers

themselves, there are about a dozen people working on sound, lighting, and a variety of backstage jobs.

Other behind-the-scenes assistance has been provided by Randi Hard-the Parkland theatre's artistic director-and Bernie Wolff, the facility technical director. Technical director David Dillman has shared his expertise with the equipment around the theatre as well.

The drag show is also a performance with a cause. A portion of the proceeds from the show will be contributed to the Queer and Ally student organization, for various activi-ties such as attending the Midwest LGBT Conference, which will be held this year at the University of Illinois. In addition, part of the funds raised at the show will be donated to the Greater Community Aids Project (GCAP), a charity that gives support to those in the Champaign County district suffering from HIV and AIDS.

This is a one-night-only event, so make sure to be at the Parkland theatre on Friday, February 29. The doors open at 7:30 and the show will begin at 8. Tickets for this amazing show are only \$5 at the door, so bring your friends and your dollar bills to tip the performers as they bring the show out into the

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## Want to be a part of Parkland's Student Government?



In late March and early April, Student Government at Parkland College, will hold elections for the positions of

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Trustee and Senators. The Office of Student Life will be taking applications for these positions until Thursday, March 6th.

### So, what are the benefits?

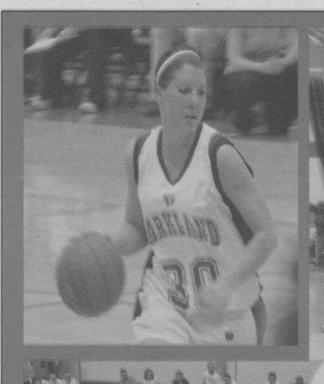
- · Attend off-campus leadership conferences
- · Networking with faculty and staff
- Office space with your own desk
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If interested, please note the following timetable:

- ☐ Pick-up an election packet in the Office of Student Life on or before March 6.
- Application, petition, and essay must be turned in to the Office of Student Life in room X153 by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 6.
- ☐ Candidates will attend a meeting in room X150 at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 7.
- ☐ Student elections will be held March 31, April 1 and 2 in the College Center.

Parkland 2007 Hall Of Fame

Photography by Andrew Serino Layout/Design by Briana Stodden



Parkland Basketball GO COBRAS!

mens basket 22-7 11-2 ... and bunting!

Mer Basketball
10-18, 7-7
... sorry guys.

Phalography by Andrew Serino Layout Design By Briana Stodden

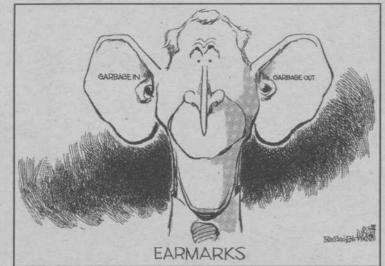
## Local/Parkland

## DEWEY

continued from page 4

"Even the Losers"

Pretty self-explanatory: a team quarterbacked by twelve year-old turnover machine Eli Manning and coached by Tom "Snow Miser" Coughlin defeats one of the three or four greatest teams in NFL history. It's probably for the best that "Refugee" was kept off the set, though. I don't think that would have gone over quite as well. Especially since the game was in Arizona and everything.



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Additional features and stories as well as email our stories or comment on your favorite writer.

## **PREZ**

continued from page 3

hundred?

R:Our employers: Carle Clinic, Provena, Christie. The demand for nurses is huge. They're importing nurses from the Philippines, from a variety of countries, and housing them in the Champaign-Urbana area because we can't locally meet the demand that they have for nurses. They just sent us a letter asking us, begging us, to take more students. And we have the students. We have four hundred students that apply to the nursing program per year. We can only serve sixty-five. So it's a pretty obvious need, that we need to address.

G:Is there anything in particular that you're just itching to talk about that I haven't brought up?

R:I can't think of any particular things. I would probably just reiterate what you've already read in the newspaper, and that's Parkland is from my perspective, or I guess a president's perspective, an ideal place to be. It's big enough to where you don't have to worry about a dollar a day, your budget is sufficiently flexible enough that you have the ability to adapt to priorities as they come in. We can put

some money into faculty development of courses that will support the Global Campus and not have to worry terribly about where we're going to fund that. It's not large enough to where you don't know everybody on campus. Just about every employee here I know. I can say, "Hey Pam," in the hallway, "how ya doin'?" and know a little bit about that person, whereas if you're much bigger than Parkland, and there are colleges that are, you lose that. So it's got a nice feel to it size-wise.

G:You just mentioned the Global Campus. What involvement do you see Parkland having in that?

R:A preferred academic partner is what they call us. The Global Campus intends to do the last two years of a bachelor's degree and they needed somebody that they could refer students to who needed one or sixty credit hours of their freshman and sophomore year, potentially online, maybe traditionally. We're that one college where they direct those students. So, for example, if you had applied to the Global Campus now, and you needed six credit hours in math and two more English courses, you would get that here, and we would make your transfer transparent to the Global Campus. You would be accepted at both places simultaneously.

G:That about covers it for serious questions, but I'm going to ask you a few more. I hear you're a big paintball fan.

R:(Laughing) Yeah, that's true. I have played a little bit here, obviously because things have been going on here, but yeah, my son and my wife and I, especially this last summer, the one before we played quite a bit. We very much enjoy it.

G:Your son: how old is he?

R:Thirteen years old. Actually, fourteen in a couple of days.

G:Besides paintball, what would you do with the rare spare time you have?

R:I knew this question was coming. There's not a lot of spare time, number one. Number two is, time at home with my family is fairly important. My wife is a superintendent up in Thomasboro, which is about nine miles north of Urbana, and her job is really demanding time-wise also, so as many hours as I can squeeze out at home, that's my priority. We throw paintball in there, we like to travel. Not so much paintball these days, but we very much enjoy traveling, so any time we can get off.

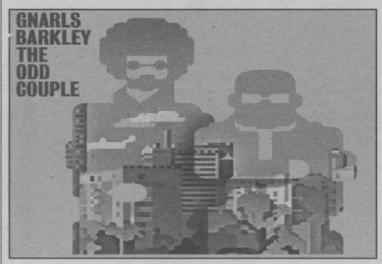
## Three Singles That Can't be Ignored

By JASON HARDIMON WPCD Correspondent

Gnarls Barkley -Run (The Odd Couple)

Fresh from riding the unprecedented success of their debut album, St. Elsewhere, dynamic duo Gnarls Barkley are preparing to release their second studio album, The Odd Couple, on April eighth. The albums first single, Run, is uncannily reminiscent of the soulful R&B made popular by James Brown in the late 1960's. Infact, Vocalist Cee - Lo Green even makes use of the godfather's signature catch phrase "Good Gawd." Even so,

been together since their formation in the late 1990's but have slowly been gaining notoriety in recent years. This new found fame has allowed them to tour in support of acts such as Daft Punk, Justice, and T.V. on the Radio. I saw the video for their fist single, "Seventeen," on You Tube by chance. I didn't know what to make of them at first, but when the chorus hit my jaw dropped. This was not due to any scandalous, seemingly meaningful, or obscene lyrics (although their album, Kings of the Worlds is full of them), but because I was so blown away by their bold combination of raw power and spectacle.



one aspect of Gnarls Barkley's music that makes them stand out from others is their unique approach to songwriting. I don't think Mr. Brown would have ever used the hook, "Run children, Run for your life." Furthermore I don't think he would have made a hit single built upon the hook, "Maybe I'm crazy."

Fancy – Seventeen (Kings of the Worlds)

"Fancy" is a French glam rock band, which makes some of the raunchiest, catchiest, low-fi noise fathomable. You-may not have heard them yet, but for better or worse, I expect that their music will grace your ears sometime in the near future. This flamboyant trio is native to Paris' Montreuil suburbs and consists of front man Jesse Chanton, guitarist "Mom," and bassist "Rae Mone." They have

Robert Plant & Allison Krauss – Gone, Gone, Gone [Done Moved On] (Raising Sand)

The line-up for the seventh annual Bonnaroo music and arts festival was released on February 6 and includes collaborators Robert Plant (Led Zeppelin) and (Champaign's own) Allison Krauss among headlining performers Pearl Jam, Kanye West, Metallica and Jack Johnson. This privilege has been awarded to Plant and Krauss in light of their joint release titled Raising Sand, on which Plant, Krauss and producer T. Bone Burnett give new life to the American roots music from which many of today's contemporary staples have been shaped. The album's first single, Gone, Gone, Gone (Done Moved on) maybe an old bluegrass number but its production style makes it capable of some serious genre crossing.

## Off Topic





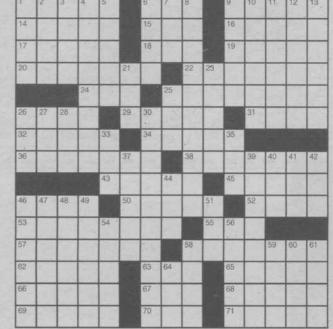




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## Crossword

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- Tranquilizes
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- 9 Stop, look and look?
- 14 Circa
- 15 "Dallas" commodity
- 16 Pay tribute to
- 17 Feel 18 One Gabor
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- lizard
- 20 Draws forth
- 22 Rigid bracelets
- 24 Santa \_\_ winds 25 Age-old rumors
- 26 Castle defender
- 29 Capital on the Nile
- 31 Freudian concerns
- 32 Harder to find
- 34 Laurel and Musial
- 36 Most passe
- 38 Silver services
- 43 Bart Simpson's
- mom 45 Inexpensive
- 46 Allergic reaction
- 50 Forest
- 52 Gymnast Korbut
- 53 Beautify
- 55 Doctor of music?
- 57 Swagger
- 58 Shrinking flowers?
- 62 Two-wheelers
- 63 Actress West
- 65 Journalist
- Shriver 66 Happening
- 67 Drop a fly, e.g.
- 68 Top spots
- 69 Takes five
- 70 Meat cut
- 71 Approaches
- DOWN
- 1 Perry Mason story
- 2 Genesis shepherd 3 Actress
- Anderson
- 4 Sweet wine
- 5 Pewter mug



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2/28/08

- 6 Bucks' mates 7 Fourth of
- MMXVI 8 Went into detail
- 9 Knee-ankle connection
- 10 Two-way switch 11 Computer type
- 12 Cesar or
- George 13 Expunges 21 USAF grp. 23 Without help
- 25 Be the right size 26 Wife's address
- 27 Mare's morsel
- 28 Southern
- constellation 30 Stargazer
- 33 "Losing My Religion" group 35 U.S. def. group
- 37 Made logs
- 39 Sneaker do-up 40 Slippery fish
- 41 Chasing game 42 Hot tub
- 44 Acquired

## **Solutions**

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- 46 Thief
- 47 Make it big 48 Underhanded characters
- 49 Lack
- 51 Star Wars, initially
- 54 Spars with sails 56 Kind of candle
- 58 Word of action
- 59 Ms. Bombeck
- 60 Level 61 Give guff to
- 64 "Exodus" hero

## Classified

**PROSPECTUS** Thursday, February 28, 2008 - Page 10

### For Sale

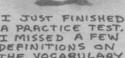
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EGRESS, SOMATIC
AND INTRACTABLE
MEAN? I'VE GOME
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Any questions can be directed to Kate Kaput, Business and Advertising Manager for the Prospectus at 217-373-3876.

## Just so you know, safety is everyone's business

Campus Safety

In light of recent events, safety is on the minds of a lot of us. We, as Parkland Police Officers, take safety on this campus very seriously. We are trained to handle a wide variety of emergency scenarios. However, it is important to remember that safety is everyone's responsibility. We must all be vigilant in keeping our campus as safe as possible. Always be aware of your surroundings. You should know where the entrances and exits are whether you are on or off campus. Also, someone says or does anything that conyou, we want to know about it right away. safety is everyone's responsibility, so lets work keep our campus as safe as humanly possible.



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## Weather Forecast

Friday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 44.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33.

Sunday: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 53.

Sunday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around

Monday: A chance of snow or rain showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high

near 42.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 34.

## CrimeStoppers seeks assistance

This week, CrimeStoppers and the Champaign Police investigators are information regarding an arson that occurred at a residence located at 607 East Beardsley, Champaign, in the early morning hours of Thursday, February 14.

The Champaign Police investigators are also seeking information regarding an armed robbery that occurred at the Circle K gas station and convenience store, located at 1101 North Prospect, Champaign. On Friday, January 25, at approxi-

mately 1:41 a.m., a sub- coat was pulled tight to ject entered the Circle K, threatened an employee with a knife, and took cash from the register. He then fled on foot. The subject is described

CRIME STOP PERS

as a black male in his 30's, approximately 6' tall, 190 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He was wearing a dark colored baseball cap, a black silk coat with a hood, and dark jeans. The hood on the

cover his face.

If you have information about this incident, please call CrimeStoppers at (217) 373-TIPS or (217) 373-

8477. The information you provide is confidential. You do not havetogiveyourname or appear in court.

CrimesStoppers will pay a reward if the information you provide leads to an arrest for these crimes. Cash rewards are also paid for information on other felony crimes or fugitives in the Champaign County area.

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## Cobras Start at #10 in quest of title A closer look at fielder Caleb King

By MICHAEL LAIRD Sports Writer

The Parkland college baseball team was ranked at No. 10 on this year's pre-season polls that were released recently.

Q: What is driving Parkland to do well this year?

A: The chance at playing for a shot at the national title, which the Cobras have not seen since 2005 where they finished second. Despite losing out at the Region 24 tournament in dismal form last year, the Cobras are willing to make amends for the disappointing performance that haunted them eight months

Headed by coach Mitch Rosenthal and pitching coach D.J. Throneburg, the Cobras have shown promising signs of the year to come throughout their winter workouts. They have put together a solid pitching staff and having several heavy-hitting bats that grace the length of the lineup.

Recently the Cobras have had two players named Pre-season All Americans: Brooks Martin, who had an amazing freshman year, looks to head the pitching staff, while outfielder Caleb King was also on people's minds when he got elected.

Parkland kicks their season off February 29, when they travel to Oklahoma to face top opponents in Northern Oklahoma and Redlands Community College. If they think that weekend will be difficult for them, they then travel the next weekend to Lees Summit, Missouri where they will take on last year's Division II NJCAA National Champions Longview Community College, before starting a tough conference season in April.

As stated before Caleb King was elected a Pre-season All American and looks to have another solid season.

Name: Caleb David King Year: Sophomore GPA: 3.9 Major: Biology Age: 20 Hometown: Mahomet, IL High School: Mahomet-Seymour H.S Family: Dave, Theresa and

Caitlyn
Position: Center Field
Interests: Anything Illini
(Basketball, Football, Baseball, Hockey—you name it
he likes it), Fishing, Camping, and hanging out with his

close friends. Hobbies: Baseball and sports in general.

Job: Works in the Physical Plant at Parkland College.

2007 STATS: Batting Average: .390 Hits: 71 Home Runs: 4 RBIs: 44 Runs Scored: 65

# Think Pink with Breast Cancer ■Initiative to raise awareness ■Women fall to Lewis and Clark

By ERIK PHEIFER Contributing Writer

Top-ranked Lewis and Clark Community College used a dominating rebounding effort and a pesky defense to down the 10th-ranked Parkland College women's basketball team 67-54 over the weekend in a game that was affiliated with the "Think Pink" initiative to raise awareness about breast cancer.

As part of the "Think Pink" initiative, the Parkland Athletic Department sold shirts for \$10 with half of the proceeds going to the local breast cancer clinic. Anybody that purchased one of the shirts or wore a pink shirt gained free admission to the game.

"Think Pink" was developed last year by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA), and its mission is to create "a unified effort to assist in raising breast cancer awareness on the court, across campuses, in communities and beyond."

In total, over 900 teams participated in the movement all over the country from Feb. 8-17.

The Trailblazers Kenyan tandem of Rose Ouma and Gladys Wanyama helped to out-rebound the Lady Cobras—especially on the offensive glass—by a significant margin and created many easy buckets by forcing frequent Parkland turnovers.

"We played decent defense

but didn't finish the possession," said Parkland head coach Karrie Redeker. She added that second chance points and points off of turnovers were the difference in the game.

The win essentially wraps up the Mid-West Athletic Conference (M-WAC) title for Lewis and Clark and will undoubtedly help them capture the top seed in the Region 24 tournament, which tips off March 3. The tournament, which includes Parkland, will send its winner to the NJCAA Division II National Tournament in mid-March.

The loss was the first for the Lady Cobras in their last 12 games. Coincidentally, that loss also came against Lewis and Clark by a score of 75-63 back on Jan. 7. The Trailblazers currently lay claim to a 13 game winning streak.

Parkland started off jittery leading to a quick 9-2 deficit, which forced Redeker to call an early timeout to calm her players

The Lady Cobras fought back to within two points at 19-17 with 6:18 left to play in the half. However, a methodical 15-7 run to close the half gave the Trailblazers a 10-point advantage heading into the break.

The lead would be trimmed to six points on two different occasions to start the second half before a seven point spurt for Lewis and Clark saw the lead double to 14 at 50-36.

Lewis and Clark held their double-digit lead until the final two minutes when the Lady Cobras rallied to cut the deficit to 60-54 at the 1:24 mark. But the rally would stop there as Parkland was held scoreless thereafter thanks in part to missed shots and untimely turnovers, something which plagued them the whole game.

St. Joseph native Ashley Runck led the way in the losing effort for the Lady Cobras with 17 points. Ashley Lillard and Jara Bachtold each scored in double figures with 12 and 10, respectively.

The other scorers for Parkland were Jessi Beachey and Heidi McKean with six each and Amanda VanEtta with three.

The Lady Cobras will travel to play Danville Feb. 20 before returning to their home court for the final time during the regular season on Feb. 23 against Lincoln.

They will close out their regular season at Spoon River on Feb. 27 with postseason play likely starting at home on March 5. A win in that game would see Parkland advance to the region final four on March 8 and 9 where the possibility of a rematch with Lewis and Clark looms if both can avoid potential road blocks. One of these potential road blocks that lies ahead could be No. 11 ranked Illinois Central College.