



# THE PRINCIPIA PILOT

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Nancy Glascock/photo

## Principia redoubles recruitment efforts

Admissions Rep Coordinator Julia Frank & Admissions Counselor James King utilize technological acumen to boost enrollment

by Caitlin Little

Staff writer

The May 1 deadline has arrived, and college decisions are due nationwide. Many prospective Principia students, both international and domestic, have completed their acceptance packages and paid their initial deposits.

As of last Wednesday, 140 students have been ad-

mitted for the 2009-2010 school year, according to Leslie Thompson, the Data Specialist in the Admissions Office. Forty-four of these students have officially accepted. This year, the Principia Admissions Office has worked to “streamline” the admissions process for incoming students through a variety of new tools and programs.

Admissions continued on Page 4

## Palmer appointed next CE

Will retain College President position

by Jeff Bailey

Staff writer

College president Jonathan Palmer will succeed David Anable as Principia’s Chief Executive effective July 1, the Board of Trustees announced in an email last Friday. Palmer will also retain his current position as president of the college.

“There are very few individuals who combine in one person the academic background and credentials with the management skills that are required for the job,” said current Chief Executive David Anable. “I’m extremely upbeat about Principia’s future, and being about to leave it in such excellent hands.”

While Palmer will essentially be performing two full-time jobs, he said he will be doing a lot of the same things he’s doing now. “I will be able to streamline my time,” he said. “[Anable and I] were in the same meetings ... there are only three people in this new position that I haven’t already been meeting with regularly. There is a consolidation here that isn’t purely additive, because I’ve already been at most of these meetings in any event.”

Anable agreed, explaining, “It’s not that difficult

to do the two jobs because they are closely connected. Jonathan and I spent a lot of time liaising about things, but he’s not going to have to do much liaising with himself ... In a sense, he’s already been doing a lot of what the [CE] job entails.”

Palmer added that some of his current duties may be given to others at the College, calling the process of delegation “a natural progression.”

The Trustees anticipate that the consolidation will save the College some money. Palmer will retain his current salary of \$220,000 annually, allowing Principia to use the extra \$200,000 they would have paid a CE to bolster initiatives on both campuses. In addition, Palmer said he expects the institution to benefit from a more efficient bureaucracy. “We’re paying a coordination cost, where we’re calling and meeting back and forth [between the campuses], and I see some streamlining of that,” said Palmer. As CE and President of the College, he will spend more time between the two

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## New abroads announced

by Kate Wells

Staff writer

The Principia Abroad Office announced the roster of 2010-2011 study abroad programs this week. In total, five full quarter-length abroads, including 4 brand new programs, will be offered during that year. No abroads will be offered during school breaks.

In the fall of 2010, professor Linda Bohaker will lead a trip to Japan, while Biology professor Mike Rechlin and Philosophy professor Chris Young head up a Philosophy, Religion, and conservation-centered abroad to Nepal. In the winter, Spanish professor Cecily Quintanilla will lead Principia’s first-ever abroad to Brazil, and during spring quarter, English professor Dinah Ryan will lead a creative writing and studio art-themed tour of Prague. Also in the spring, Political Science professor John Williams will take students on a tour of “China and the Silk Road.”

According to Linda Bohaker, who serves as Director of the Abroad Office in addition to teaching in the Business Administration department, nine abroads were proposed by faculty members this year. The abroad selection process is long, begun nearly two years in advance of the abroads themselves and presided over by a committee of eight members of Principia’s faculty

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Empty pockets



Amber Dahlin / photo illustration

by Amber Dahlin

Staff writer

After a long and arduous planning process, next year's budget has finally been secured with a near 10% reduction overall and similar reductions in each of the College's departments.

Chief Financial Officer Doug Gibbs said, "The budget process involves all areas of Principia, which include the School, College, Advancement, CIS, Finance, HR, Marketing, and Legal. All of the areas were asked by the Chief Executive to prepare scenarios reducing their expense budgets by 10% as an exercise to determine the potential impact to each area's programs or services for 2009-10." In the end, some areas contributed more of a reduction and some less.

Perhaps most immediately noticeable, reductions were made by postponing hiring for currently open positions. In the Philosophy department, for example, there has long been a desire for a second full-time professor to work alongside Chris Young, but funds continue to be unavailable. College Business Manager Karen Dearborn Grimmer said that the impact from such reductions "is pretty much across the board."

She referenced a *Dilbert* cartoon in which Dilbert's boss has good news and bad news, both of which are that Dilbert still has his job. Grimmer said, "If you work in a group with five people and four of them have their jobs eliminated, is it really a good thing to still have your job, or are you going to work five times harder?" No department has more than one position unfilled, she added, and in many departments it's only part of a position.

Principia's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. During an information-gathering period in August and September, departments, deans, and the president decide what their needs are and what, in turn, will be in the college's best interests. In November, the president brings these ideas to the Board of Trustees to give a rough estimate of the budget for the following spring. The trustees then approve the final budget at their meeting in April.

This year's process went differently than usual because of the market crash in September. "As the fall evolved," said Grimmer, "it became apparent that this would not be quickly resolved." The trustees said in November that they were

unable to give any decisive feedback, and the college was asked to come up with different budgeting ideas, one of which included the 10% reduction.

Traditionally, budget work has been completed by February, but this year it was finished just in time for the trustees' meeting. Typically, departments communicate their needs to the deans, who then communicate those to the president. This year, College President Jonathan Palmer had to ask the departments to address their budgets and work in some savings. Grimmer said that, in all areas where reductions were made, "they did so indicating that it would create challenges." She also said that she hopes the budget will not take as much time and attention again.

Gibbs said an update to the budget was presented at the trustees' meeting in February. "The planning took longer," he said, "because of the 10% exercise and our desire to delay certain decisions on funding as additional information was gathered."

For the most part, impact on students will be minimal. The March announcement that a position would be cut from the music department caused a stir among students and faculty, but the department has now reallocated some of their existing budget towards sustaining the position currently filled by Sara Rockabrand. But because the position was cut by 20%, the popular American Musical Theatre class will no longer be offered and funding had to be taken away from the yearly concert series. Jureit said, "I'm very grateful that we are being allowed to have this position because it's of great need to the students and to the school, but it is disheartening to think that we then have to deprive [some] other activities."

Grimmer pointed out that this case in the music department is an exceptional one. She said that the "monies in each budget are critical, so we can't just do that everywhere."

Grimmer also hopes that students will begin to think about how they can change their behavior. She said, "The students won't

be impacted unless they choose to be. I hope they will choose to be impacted and . . . join the community in a more sustainable way of living."

According to the budget calculator on Grimmer's desk, it costs roughly \$43,133 per year to educate each student. The college charges only \$32,000 per student. Grimmer said that students pay about a third of that on average. In other words, the money that comes in each year via students does not cover the majority of the college's expenses. That sum comes mainly out of the interest made on Principia's endowment. Since September's market crash, the endowment is not making that interest. Grimmer said, "the less we can use the endowment when it's low, the more opportunity we have for [it] to regain it's value" and continue making interest.

Grimmer expressed her gratitude for everyone involved in making the planning process go smoothly. She said, "It could've been such an in-harmonious process. . . . If there weren't the need to make this reduction in order for Prin to have a budget that is sustainable in the long run, we wouldn't ask it." She ended by saying that "as Christian Scientists, we can and do know that divine Mind is unlimited in the way that it's going to meet the human need," and that the gift that will meet our need doesn't have to be in the form of money.

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# Summer installation for cell tower

by Ben Foti  
Staff writer

After months of talks between Principia and various cellular carriers over the past year, a plan to install a cell phone tower on campus has been established and the project is ready to move forward. Principia will, at long last, become a fully connected campus.

This project will move in tandem with the Sylvester renovations, which have recently restarted over the past month with newly available funds.

Senior Emily Peck said that having a cell phone tower here on campus will be “much more accommodating

and will be a benefit to people.”

Richard Booth, Principia’s Chief Technology Officer, has been responsible for overseeing the cell phone tower project for the past year. His work included communicating with cellular vendors who expressed possible interest in the project.

The two vendors that expressed the most interest were Sprint and AT&T. Principia eventually chose AT&T over Sprint.

Referring to Sprint’s original plan, Booth said, “Their program was slanted toward exclusivity.... They were looking for a program where Prin was doing all the asking [while]

look[ing] to Prin to make up the cost differences.” Booth said that AT&T is “asking nothing of us in terms of capital or ongoing costs.”

One sophomore said that the funding from AT&T is “creative, especially in these times when money is tight – hopefully it will bring in revenue to the school.”

Booth said that Verizon would have also been an ideal carrier because “it is the

number one carrier in today’s market” in terms of reliability and reputation. He said that AT&T comes in as “a strong number 2.”

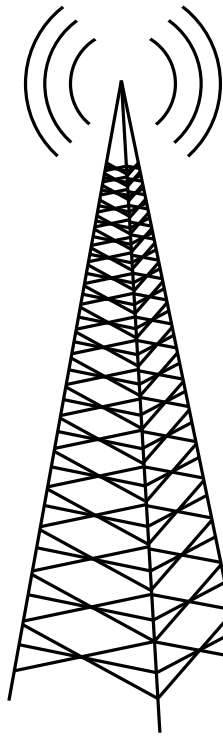
Booth said that the fact that AT&T is covering the costs of the tower is in Principia’s interest because the project will not conflict with the cost of the Sylvester renovations. All in all, construction is expected to cost AT&T approximately \$150,000.

Principia’s new cell phone tower will be at the baseball field on the third baseline on one of the light standards behind Ferguson, Joe McNabb and Gehner. “The intent is make [the tower] blend with the other light standards,” Booth said. Booth also mentioned that the cell site AT&T is leasing will be 53 feet by 15 feet.

In addition to AT&T, there will also be space on the tower for two additional providers, including possibly T-Mobile.

“We’re still talking,” Booth said. “T-Mobile wants to reopen discussions.” He added, however, that “part of my experience is knowing that characters can back out.”

Booth said that there will also be a 3G device installed with the tower. This device allows iPhones to receive information faster and more efficient-



ly.

While the project has been generally well-received, Booth mentioned that there were some concerns associated with the tower, especially with regards to radiation.

“I feel like if people are concerned about radiation, there’s so much room on campus where [the tower] can be placed,” said a sophomore.

After receiving two letters of concern about radiation, Principia hired an outside consulting firm, Hatfield & Dossen, to do a study on the impact of emissions. The firm conducted this study using a

radiation scale prepared by the Federal Communications Commission. The study concluded that the radiation emitted will be 3 percent of the FCC guidelines.

“We’re hopeful that our communications with the community will help resolve concerns,” Booth said. He added that he expects there will be a general feeling of excitement on campus as a result of the project.

Booth expects construction on the tower to begin during the summer and continue into next fall quarter.



Kelsey Otsuka / photo illustration

# Recrafting free speech at Prin

by Anna Hair  
Staff writer

Working closely with the administration over the past year, four students reconstructed the freedom of speech policy at Principia College, revising it to provide specific and identifiable guidelines for using free speech constructively.

These students, seniors Gameli Anumu and Noelle Matteson, and juniors David Miller and Frank Flavell, are finally seeing the results of their dedicated work. Presidential Board passed the new policy by a unanimous vote on April 19, and it took effect immediately after signing on April 28.

The four students believe that this new policy is important for the Principia community because, rather than restricting students, it provides guidelines for how to use free speech respectfully and responsibly.

The new policy is outlined according to five “Principles for Responsible Speech at Principia,” including spiritual foundation, tone, balance, accountability, and mediation. It is the first written policy to articulate these principles so that students are aware of what is and what is not appropriate. Before, the Office of Student Life decided on a case-by-case basis.

A line in the blue pages that limits discussion about homosexuality is affected by the new policy. The old policy reads as follows: “[Homosexual activity] also includes promoting,

through organized events or materials, a change to Prin’s policy on homosexuality.”

The new freedom of speech policy will take the place of this existing policy; however, it is not specific to homosexuality, nor is it intended to be.

Student Body President Will Buchanan explained that one positive consequence of the new policy is that “We can remove the clause about homosexuality because it is protected by the bigger clause.” He went on to state that while the new policy encompasses discussions on homosexuality, its main purpose is to provide more general guidelines for freedom of speech in all situations.

Buchanan also specified that “the document does not provide for universal and total free speech on campus and it’s not supposed to. Principia is a private institution and as such it can enforce certain standards.” However, Buchanan said that what constitutes free speech will now be more clearly identified. He said, “We will make it available for everybody,

so there will be no confusion on what free speech is [on campus].”

Anumu said that the need for the new policy originally stemmed from an incident in the spring of 2007 when a film made by a Peace & Conflict class was censored by then-College President Dr. George Moffet because of inappropriate content.

The film documented the experiences and thoughts of young Christian Scientists who are homosexual. Anumu, who was in charge of the Film Festival that year, was concerned by the censorship of this film and began working to change the pol-

film were to be re-submitted, Anumu does not believe that there would be any problems with showing it.

Anumu said, “My hope is that students and faculty, but particularly students, won’t be treated like children anymore, as I feel they often are.... We can start having more direct conversations about things that concern us.”

Both College President Dr. Jonathan Palmer, as well as Dean of Students Dorsie Glen, were centrally involved in this process, and Anumu said that they even suggested that the policy be amended.

Glen said, “I hope that students will feel they can discuss any topic freely and be open to listen to each other on any controversial issue.”

Buchanan shared a similar view, saying, “Now we can have better conversations and discussions and embrace issues and whole ideas that before we had not been able to at a liberal arts college.”

Both Anumu and Buchanan hope that with this new policy passed, more uncensored opinions and thoughts will be shared and discussed as a community. They believe that the new policy will encourage people to consider and discuss different ideas, rather than shy away from them.

The new policy will be provided to students this week so that they will be informed about the specific changes that Principia has adopted.



Ben Chernivsky / photo

Campus presidents and concerned students meet with administrators to discuss the new policy limiting what students can openly discuss.

With the new policy in place, if this



## Abroads, continued from 1

and staff.

Academic rigor, thorough travel planning, and an interdisciplinary curriculum are the main criteria used when the committee evaluates abroad proposals, said Bohaker. The strength and experience of the prospective faculty trip leader are also considered. Bohaker explained, “We know what we’re looking for in trip leaders: do they have the experience, the academic background, and knowledge in this particular area of the world? Plus, do they have the desire and ability to be the non-academic, character education leader – do they realize that’s what it really takes? It’s a 24-7 job.”

“This is not going to be an easy abroad,” said Rechlin, referring to the Nepal trip. “It’s going to be a growing abroad, and we’re looking to put students right on the edge of their comfort zone, maybe even beyond. We’re not going to look at Nepal; we’re going to do Nepal.” Regarding combination of conservation studies, Religion, and Philosophy—the first time in several years that Principia has offered an abroad specializing in either Religion or Philosophy—Rechlin said he was interested to see how the two areas will overlap. “I think there’s something there, something that’s going to be fascinating. The most spiritual people in the world live in Nepal. Plus, working with Chris [Young, co-leader of the abroad] is such a delight. I like to try to figure out how his mind works...and I’m sure he likes to do the same with me.”

Quintanilla will also blaze a trail with her program in Brazil over winter quarter. Offering concentrations in sustainable development and culture studies on top of Portuguese language courses, she said she feels the program is particularly timely. “Brazil in my mind is like China and India. It’s one of the crucial, emerging brick countries – yet it’s not as much in our consciousness.” Quintanilla said she plans for the abroad to revolve around a “solutions-based” examination of several prominent issues in the country. She said, “There are so many things that they’ve solved, [from] racial integration in northeastern Brazil [to] incorporating significant, substantive anti-poverty policies and building ‘green’ communities. We’ll really be looking at what we and the rest of the world can learn from Brazil.”

In yet another first for the college, Ryan’s spring quarter program in Prague will connect her expertise in literature, creative writing, and art for “the chance to form a creative community of artists and writers in Prague,” a nation in which she believes the arts “have made a big difference in changing a totalitarian culture to a culture of freedom of expression.” Ryan said, “Of course, anyone can be an artist or writer, and I’m looking forward to having students at all levels of development in the group.”

In the spring of 2011, Williams will find himself once more returning to China. The abroad comes only a few years after last spring’s China program found themselves nearly within reach of one of the most destructive earthquakes in that nation’s history. This time, however, the abroad Williams leads will have the opportunity to broaden their travels significantly, interweaving Chinese cultural and language courses with visits to significant sites along the historical Silk Road in neighboring countries.

Exploring cultural significance in depth is also one of Bohaker’s goals for the fall quarter Japan abroad. As the group studies Japanese history, language, and society, Bohaker intends for students to critically examine and question the future of Japan itself. In an email, Bohaker wrote, “It’s clear that Japan will need to make some radical and significant changes in the immediate future, but how does a country do this when its culture values tradition, maintaining harmony and order, group responsibility over individual leadership, loyalty, and respect for authority?” In working with these issues, Bohaker hopes that “focusing on how Japanese culture could foster or hinder change will naturally lead to discussions of the students’ own cultural values.”

These five programs will be the last abroads offered under Principia’s current quarter system, as the college intends to adopt the semester system with the arrival of the 2011-2012 academic year. After the change to semesters, future abroads will last a full fifteen weeks and contain five, rather than three, individual courses, though anywhere from two to five of those weeks may be spent on campus.

Bohaker said, “The downside and the concern that others and I have is that when we move to semesters, we anticipate offering only four abroads a year, and we’re just concerned about how students will fit [an abroad] in [to their schedules].... Part of it is that there is so much change going on, from the change to semesters to the change in general education requirements, which is forcing departments to rethink the way they offer their majors, their FYEs, and possibly a new sophomore program as well. We just want to make sure that students will be able to take an abroad, so the office is making selections earlier, and hopefully that advance notice will enable students to plan accordingly.”

## CE, continued from 1

campuses, he announced in an email.

The Board of Trustees will continue to meet regularly with Palmer and Head of School Marilyn Wallace, who oversees the operations of Principia’s St. Louis campus. Both Palmer and Anable said they thought the appointment would result in closer cooperation between the Elsay and St. Louis campuses. “This brings the College and the School closer together than perhaps ever before, which has been one of my goals,” said Anable. “It’s important that Principia adhere to the policy that this is ‘one Principia.’ This does that in a very forceful, clear way.”

The announcement has raised concern around campus, as some worry that too much power is being given to one individual. To them, the situation is similar to the governance controversy of 2006, which culminated in the split between the position of CEO and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. “People might naturally be concerned that that’s an awful lot of power to invest in one person,” said Professor Dave McFarland. He added that while he supports the consolidation and “trust[s] that the administration will listen to various constituencies,” he saw a few “eyebrows raised” among the faculty when the news was made public.

In response to such concerns, Palmer stressed the “substantive difference” between the CE/College President position and the CEO/Chairman of the Board position. “I don’t think it’s too much concentration of power in one person,” he said. He stressed that while the joint

CEO/Chairman of the Board position gave one individual authority over both policy and administration, the joint CE/College president position is “a merging of managerial responsibilities.”

Palmer said he felt “the strength of the leadership teams ... at both campuses” was “a wonderful check and balance to idea flow if there’s any sense of being overpowering in any way.”

“There are not decisions that are made in some back room,”



Fred Morrison / Photo

Dr. Palmer peruses advance copy for the *Principia Pilot*

he added. Though his administration has overseen large changes such as the switch to semesters, the restructuring of the gen-ed curriculum, and the suspension of the football program, Palmer stressed that the decisions “didn’t emerge full-blown from some meeting I had ... they emerged from what the

community was saying.”

“[Faculty, staff and administrators] are fully engaged in the decisions and discussions that support them,” he added. “The Board, rightly so, will retain its preeminent position in policy setting.”

Anable said that he felt concerns about centralized authority amounted to a “false alarm.” “Jonathan Palmer will report to the Trustees, not to himself,” he said. “He will have a purely management role, with the Board retaining the policy and fiduciary role.”

Palmer said that he recognized that there might be concern about the transparency of the hiring process. “It requires of me redoubling of efforts to make sure I’ve got communication channels available,” he said.

Anable, who was hired as Interim CE following the governance controversy of 2006, said he looks forward to restarting his retirement, which is largely filled with writing and oil painting. “My wife and I will be very happy to return to Maine and do all the things we otherwise would have been doing had we not been called here to give a hand,” he said.

Anable expressed optimism about Principia’s future, particularly as it relates to central management. “When I came, the goal was to sort of preserve and restore Principia,” he said. “We’ve gone through a lot of bumps ... [but] I leave Principia on a note of looking forward to new progress, expansion, and growth.”

## Admissions, continued from 1

For example, the Admissions Office initiated a program called ‘expedited admissions’ for prospective college students currently attending Principia Upper School. This process waives the application for Upper School students that meet Principia’s entrance criteria. Brian McCauley, Dean of Enrollment Management, said, “Principia has a policy that says we are one institution.”

This program relies heavily on guidance counselors and administrators at the Upper School. McCauley explained, “They know these students thoroughly. They know their test scores, their grade point average, their character, [and] their commitment to Christian Science. [They look at] all the things we check out here, but the thing is, they know them better.”

The number of Upper Schoolers attending the College has decreased recently. An average of 42% of Upper Schoolers have come to the College over the last seven years. The past three years has seen this number drop to 33%.

McCauley is hoping for a larger proportion this year. “I think we’ll do at least the average and perhaps better,” he said. As of last Wednesday, 29 of the 140 admitted are Upper School students.

Time- and money-saving solutions have also been implemented through several technological advances. Admissions counselors now do the bulk of their correspondence with potential students via social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

To aid in the acceptance process, the welcome booklet for new students has been downsized to include only a checklist of expectations. Previously, this book was filled with forms to be completed and returned before a new student could register in the fall.

Amber McCartt, College Weekend Coordinator, said, “We’ve just launched a new page on our website dedicated to ‘everything a new student needs to do before they get on campus.’ [This allows us] to streamline that process by putting everything online and get rid of paper and booklets.”

Visiting weekends, which directly correlate to enrollment, have provided the Admissions Office with an opportunity to think creatively in terms of marketing campaigns. The past few visiting weekends have been increasingly well-attended. The most recent weekend hosted a record-breaking 53 visitors.

Last January, generally a slow visiting month, the staff initiated an incentives program. That weekend, iPod Shuffles

were distributed to each of the 38 visitors.

“Big mistake,” McCartt said in retrospect, referring to the excessive cost of maintaining this expectation.

Now, said McCauley, “we have made the decision that the uniform gift for every weekend is a [Principia] hooded sweatshirt.”

By using a Principia Bookstore product as the incentive gift, the Admissions Office is also contributing to the financial wellbeing of the Principia Corporation. “We figured that if we were going to give something away, let’s let the college benefit as well,” said McCartt.

With the ongoing renovations of Sylvester House and the continued use of Gehner House as temporary housing, there is currently a limit to the number of beds available on campus. The Office of Student Life tallied 531 beds for next year. After considering the number of graduating seniors and the few students that will decide not to return in the fall, the total bed count for incoming students is roughly 141.

McCauley is not fazed by the low number of students that have accepted, however. “We are extremely confident between the accepts we have and the ones we are quite sure are coming, we’ll fill all 141 beds,” he said.



# Sustainability Luncheon series

By Ben Kniola

Staff writer

For the past three weeks, students and faculty have gathered on Wednesdays at 12:45 P.M. in a glassed-in dining room for the first-ever Sustainable Principia Luncheon Series. The entire Principia community is invited to learn from outside speakers about the college's participation in the local and global movement toward becoming environmentally sustainable.

Each Wednesday, a speaker involved in the sustainability movement leads the hour-long discussion with students, faculty, and Professor of Biology Dr. Mike Rechlin's Sustainable Development class, which has attended every talk. The discussions have examined how Principia is sustainable and what we can do better to become fully sustainable.

Sabine McDowell from Ourgreenchoices.com kicked off the series week 2 with a discussion on the greening-efforts of college campuses nationwide. McDowell said the U.S. is behind in the sustainability movement compared to Europe and the rest of the world. However, she was impressed with how Principia's work in sustainability compares to most other college campuses nationwide.

The second speaker during week 3 was Jason Hark, owner of Mid-America Advanced Power Solutions. Hark discussed the availability of alternative energies like wind and solar power while informing the group about the possibilities that exist for Principia to start using renewable, green energy.

Bob Slick, a representative from Siemens AG Sustainability Division, spoke Wednesday of week 4 on Principia's potential for saving money and being recognized through its work in sustainability. Slick opened the session by asking the audience to calculate

how much money Principia spends on keeping nearly 800 computers turned on at night. As it turns out, an estimated \$96,000 is spent to power computers throughout the night. Slick said if these computers were turned off at night, the college could save \$64,000 in energy expenses.

In addition, Slick advised Principia to consider signing on to the American College and University President's Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), an organization of higher educational institutions devoted to neutralizing greenhouse gas emissions. The college will gain ACUPCC accreditation if it undertakes additional sustainability projects after College President Jonathan Palmer signs the President's Climate Commitment. As such, Slick suggested that Principia hold off on its sustainability efforts until Palmer has signed the commitment.

Palmer said he is currently reviewing the President's Climate Commitment and also plans to sign the Illinois Sustainable University Compact, which his administration has been reviewing for the past two months.

While the possibility of Principia signing on to the President's Climate Commitment seems promising, Freshman Dana Gaubatz, a student in Rechlin's Sustainable Development class, disagreed with Slick's advice and said that we cannot hold back our sustainability efforts in order to be become accredited. "The world needs us now," he said.

A lot has been accomplished recently in the movement towards promoting sustainability on campus. Over winter break, faculty, with the help of stu-

dents, designed a new interdisciplinary minor in Sustainability in addition to forming the Principia Center for Environmental Sustainability. The center, along with the help of Rechlin, is responsible for organizing the Luncheon Series, which will continue until week 7. Ray Chapala, a home energy auditor, and Matthew B. Malten, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Sustainability at Washington University, will give the last two talks of the series during weeks 6 and 7.

Rechlin said, "Everything is hap-

pening quickly because of growing student and eco-head interest in raising awareness about energy use." He continued, "Students are advocating that universities become more responsible environmental citizens. The luncheon series is the manifestation of the Principia Center for Sustainability."

Rechlin added, "It's a neat thing, the nexus of student interest, a recep-

tive administration ... and facilities supportive to student demands and the green effort. It's an exciting time at the college."

Some students in the Sustainable Development class are also excited about their participation in the sustainability movement at Principia. This quarter the class will attempt to retro-fit the Biology department's pick-up truck to run on biodiesel from Dining Services.

Sophomore Katie Hueffner said, "The project involves a lot of commitment to the learning process and I hope that it works out because it would be really cool, and another step Principia can take to be greener."

The class is currently researching the science of biodiesel and the steps necessary to convert a truck to run on used cooking grease. This technology already exists but has not yet come into widespread use.

Gaubatz said, "What you can do with all of the fried oil is run a pipe to a co-op and have it pumped out." He added, "This is the new wave, this is what is going to change our world. Instead of gas attendants, there will be biodiesel attendants."

Our world is changing; and with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) predicting the creation of 24 million green jobs within the next ten years, there very well may be biodiesel attendants in our lifetime.

Rechlin said, "We are moving towards the green economy ...and we [Principia] are a part of that. It would be sad if we weren't."

Thornton recognizes that her piano recital will reflect the effort she has put into practicing. Thornton said, "What you put into it is definitely what you'll get out of it."

Rockabrand commented that each of the seniors came into the music department with very strong work ethics and have continued to grow in their creative expression and understanding of the "depth of feeling in music."

Based on four years of studying music, Oxford said that Principia has a "phenomenal music department" and "world-class professors." She cited Rockabrand as a "spiritually tuned-in" and very supportive teacher. Like Oxford, Seid-Graham appreciates Rockabrand's influence because "Sara understands that you have to support your students in more than teaching music."

Thornton said that she doesn't know how a "recital of this magnitude" would be possible without her "smart and intuitive" teacher, Dr. Marie Juriet.

Whether or not they pursue music after graduation, each of the seniors remarked that they have been well prepared by the department. Seid-Graham said, reflecting on her college-level musical education, "I don't think of myself as someone who does music anymore. I'm confident in saying that I am a musician."

Christa Seid-Graham's senior voice recital will take place in Davis Music Hall at 7 P.M. this Saturday, and Corey Thornton's piano recital will follow on Sunday at 8 P.M.



Jamie Eichar / photo

Bob Slick, representative from Siemens, and Dr. Mike Rechlin, Principia professor of Biology, compare notes on sustainability

## Senior Recitals

By Maija Baldauf

Staff writer

This spring quarter, the practice rooms in Davis seem busier than ever. Three graduating music majors have either just finished or are preparing for their Senior Recitals, which represent the culmination of years of work in the music department.

Senior Iris Oxford, a voice major who gave her hour-long recital on Thursday April 23rd, practiced two hours every day for two and a half quarters in preparation. Oxford said that she has worked on some of the music for her recital since the beginning of summer break nine months ago.

Seniors Corey Thornton and Christa Seid-Graham have followed fairly similar practice schedules in preparation for their upcoming recitals. Seid-Graham said that practice for her vocal performance started slowly at first, but became "a lot more intense" last quarter. Thornton is no stranger to the practice room either, as she has been working on pieces for her piano recital since last year.

Despite the daunting task of putting together a professional quality performance, Thornton and the others seem more excited to showcase their work

than anything else. Thornton said she understands that a recital is all about presenting yourself well and thinks the audience will enjoy her musical selection, which includes Beethoven's "Sonata #5" and Chopin's "E-flat Nocturne."

Seid-Graham said enthusiastically, "[I feel like] I've worked to the point of being accomplished enough to give my own one-hour recital." She is genuinely looking forward to the opportunity to "share with the audience what I've grown to love so much about [these] pieces."

Oxford and her fellow senior music majors have had an experience that few people fully understand or appreciate. Oxford said that she, Seid-Graham and Thornton "definitely rely on each other a lot" for support and often crossed paths in Davis in the weeks leading up to her recital.

Seid-Graham also expressed gratitude for the other majors. She said, "Music students stick together. We know all about the process, [and] we know what it really means to do all this."

What it means is a lot of hard work. According to Thornton, the grading process for a senior recital "[starts] on day one." In addition to disciplined practice, all graduating music majors have a dress rehearsal about two weeks before the scheduled performance time

so that a two-person "jury" can determine whether they are ready to share their work with the public. If the dress rehearsal doesn't go well, majors perform closed recitals. Then, of course, the formal recital itself is graded as a senior capstone.

Sara Rockabrand, the Principia choir director and voice instructor, said that she is "not looking for a totally finished sound" because the voice is not fully mature until a musician is about 25 years old. Rockabrand said that the evaluators look at "how [the performers] are able to use the technique they have, given the parameters of their voice." Although flawless performances are not the goal at this point, standards are still very high.

Fortunately, these seniors have learned to handle the pressures of performing. Oxford said that the dress rehearsal is "not really stressful," because when you have worked on a piece for nine months, "you pretty much know where it is" in terms of the level of preparation.

All three seniors remarked that they see their recitals as individual opportunities to witness their own progress. Oxford said that one of the joys of singing is being able to "perform a song and see the growth that's happened." Oxford added that her skills have come a long way since her junior voice recital. Seid-Graham said that because she has put so much work into her performance pieces, she has "[grown] a lot more with them than I normally would [just in voice lessons]."



# Kim Schuette talks with the *Pilot*

by Megan Scott  
Staff writer

The Pilot sat down with former Christian Science Army Chaplain Kim Schuette to discuss his experiences in the army and to talk about his new book, *The Christian Science Military Ministry*.

*Pilot: How did you first become interested in being a Christian Science army chaplain?*

KS: My first recollection was having a Sunday school teacher tell me about it when I was a junior in high school, and I think he had plans for me. Then I started finding out more about it when I was a junior in college; I started taking courses that satisfied requirements for becoming an army chaplain. So a Sunday school teacher got me started.

*Pilot: What was the most challenging thing about being a chaplain?*

KS: Maintaining spiritual vigilance was the most challenging thing.

*Pilot: What was the most rewarding aspect of being a chaplain?*

KS: Oh, there were so many things: for example getting to meet great men of faith from other denominations.

*Pilot: What were the most meaningful lessons you learned while in the chaplaincy?*

KS: I think it was part of my spiritual development and journey that laid the basis for doing other things. To some extent, I think that the experience was a precursor to my current job of writing this book and promoting it. One of the

most valuable things was the fellowship with other Christian Science chaplains, where we had the opportunity to share our experiences and to love each other. That was a remarkable thing, to meet in conference with other chaplains who knew what we were about but had a boundless amount of love to share.

*Pilot: How have you used the lessons you learned while in the chaplaincy in your everyday life?*

KS: There probably wasn't much difference between life and the lessons at that time. I've learned to look at the other people with new eyes and to be able to see the possibilities and the Christ in others, and some of it came from the educations and the familiarity with persons from other denominations, and some of it came from the studies which were broadening in thought... They've helped me see the other person as God's doing and creation, to see the light in the eyes of other people. And it's also helped me be free about giving a hand up to someone else, during the practice of the chaplaincy, it has always given me an [opportunity] to open hands to others.

*Pilot: Is there anything in particular that you would like to share with Principia students?*

KS: I think everybody has a chaplaincy, and it has to do with those that are around. It doesn't have to be thought of as a formal position, a chaplaincy is about loving other people... We are all representatives of Mary Baker Eddy's church.



Fred Morrison / photo

*Pilot: Tell me a little bit about your book, The Christian Science Military Ministry, and what made you want to write a book.*

KS: I thought it was important to put the history of this on record before it was lost. I sought some others, consulted with some others, and thought maybe I could get someone else to do this, and soon found this was my job and felt it was a commission, a divine idea to write the book. In the military, we understand what a commission is... and when you accept a commission, you head in that direction. So I accepted it as a divine commission and worked till it was finished. I had hoped it would only take two years, but it took ten years. The process of writing was very new to me. I had to research the book and then write the book. These were two jobs. I also had a business case to manage for the book. The writing was an almost every day event. Not four days a week, not five days a week, but every day. Or it was in mind every day. And sometimes I was provided information in very unusual and coincidental ways, and I thought that some of the material came through divine provision. That was neat to see. I did have, in finishing the book, 2000 hours of volunteer work in jobs like editing, assembling footnotes and endnotes, and that was valuable because you

can't edit your own work very well. So the perspective of the helpers was very useful in finishing the book and bringing it to the standard that it is.

*Pilot: Did you have any struggles using Christian Science while being a chaplain?*

KS: There were many opportunities to correct misunderstandings of Christian Science in the chaplaincy, perhaps more so than in regular civilian life because people were interested in talking religion with a chaplain. It was easy conversation in the chaplaincy. There are many experiences in the book, including a chapter that describes the healing work done in the subject of discrimination. In church headquarters, the Committee on Publication office tries to correct misunderstandings of Christian Science. Each chaplain was his own 'Committee on Publication' and served as the 'Committee of Publication' for the area he was in, so the collective attitude of the chaplains was to heal the misunderstandings through conversation, education, inspiration, and revelation.

Schuette signs copies of his book after his talk last friday night



Fred Morrison / Photo

## Opportunities for Spiritual Subtext

A talk by  
Historic Novelist  
Susan Vreeland



Monday, May 25  
Wanamaker Hall

A book signing  
will follow the talk



# Prin News Brief

Compiled by Lisette Sam Soulouck

## Embracing Our Periodicals

In partnership with local branch churches, Principia's Christian Science Organization held a Mother Church metaphysical meeting last Friday in Wanamaker Hall. For two hours, church and CSO members, as well as regular church and CSO service attendants, discussed the essential mission of the *Monitor*, *Sentinel*, *Journal*, *Herald*, and *Quarterly* in the Christian Science movement. They also considered the role of "the field"—the larger Christian Science population—in supporting that mission.

## Variety Show

The Parents' Weekend Variety Show took place in Cox Auditorium last Saturday April 25 at 8 p.m. The Variety Show is one of Prin's most popular perennial productions, and this time was no exception as hundreds of parents and community members crowded

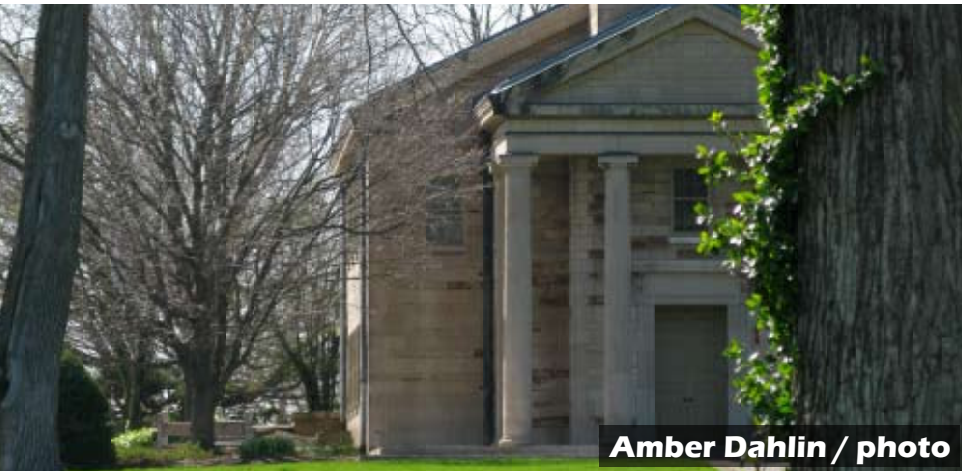
into Cox to watch the show. Students, faculty, and staff showed off their various talents, with acts including dance, song, instrumental music, comedy routines and acting.

## C.S. Nursing

On Tuesday April 28, the Joe McNabb women's dorm hosted a panel discussion on Christian Science Nursing. For one hour students and members of the Principia community enjoyed a presentation from the Christian Science nurses in Cox Cottage.

## Lunch with a Professional

Principia's Academic and Career Advising department is hosting several installments of its popular "lunch with a professional" series this week and next. The lunches started on Wednesday, April 29, and will continue through Monday, May 4 when State Senator Deanna DeMuzio comes to visit. Students have the opportunity to join professionals in various fields during lunch



Amber Dahlin / photo

time in the Dining Room to discuss and share their experiences in fields such as computer science, government and public service, journalism, and environmental management.

## Earth Day celebration

Principia will be celebrating Earth Day this Saturday, May 2, with lemonade, games, and free take-aways on the chapel green. At 10:00, students will meet at the flagpole to sort through a day's worth of Principia's trash to tally the percentage of recyclables that have been thrown away. At 12:00 on the green, lemonade will be served; frisbee, slacklining, and lots of green grass will be free for all; and several booths will be set up with info about on-campus clubs as well as shops and organizations from the surrounding area.

A highlight this year will be a table teeming with brochures, posters, magnets, and iron-ons promoting Fair Trade-certified goods. At 1:00, Briars Road will give one of their last performances on campus, and at 2:00, senior

James Arnott will speak briefly about his recent experience off-campus and share ideas about why we should and do care about climate change.

## Retraction

The Pilot would like to correct a comment attributed to Philosophy professor Chris Young in the "Prin News in Brief" article that appeared in our April 17, 2009, edition. The article read, "Philosophy professor Chris Young spoke out on the benefits of discontinuing Quiet Time, arguing that college is about learning to make choices without the structure of institutionalized prayer." While Young did speak about the importance of students learning to make choices within the framework of their college experiences, he did not advocate for discontinuing Quiet Time. The Pilot regrets this error.

peru  
abroad  
informational  
meeting

spring 2010

Tuesday :: Week 6  
7 p.m. :: GDR 2

BIG

PRINCIPIA  
CLOTHING SALE

PRICED AS MARKED

(except CLASSIC LINE @ 30% off reg. price)

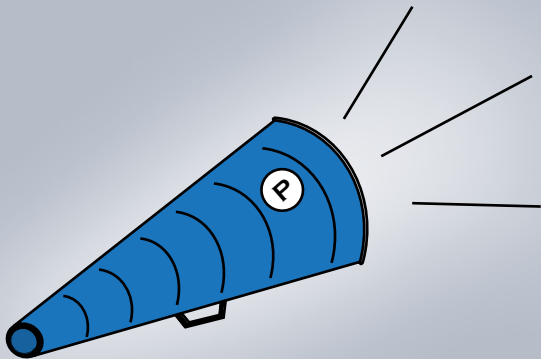


# SPORTS IN BRIEF

## A Furbush tale: Reflections of a graduating tennis star

### Sports Update

Compiled by Adrian Dahlin



#### Track & Field

This season has seen many athletes breaking the Principia's all-time top ten lists. Senior Rachael Richards achieved 2nd all-time in the 1500m with a time of 4:43.83 (comparable to a 5:00 mile), as well as 2nd all-time in the 5000m with a time of 17:46.27. These feats accompany her 3000m steeplechase school record from last year. Junior Adrian Dahlin achieved 7th all-time in the 800m with a time of 1:56. Sophomore James Poindexter achieved 10th all-time in the high jump with a 6'3" jump to pair with his indoor high jump record (6'6"). Junior Grant Grieshaber made it to 10th all-time in the hammer with a throw of 114'9".

#### Baseball

The Principia baseball team is now ranked 6th in SLIAC, with a conference record of 7-14 and an overall record of 14-20. Sophomore Matt Bowman was Hitter of the Week between April 13-19, with a batting average that leads the conference. Senior John Raffles and freshman Alan Cheatham are 6th and 7th in SLIAC, respectively. Bowman, Raffles, and Cheatham are among the top ten in conference in virtually every hitting category. From the pitcher's mound, Raffles and freshman Greg Ball are 7th and 8th in earned run average. Raffles and Ball are top ten in several starting pitcher statistics categories.

#### Rugby

The Thunder Chickens now have an overall record of 5-2, and they have had impressive victories the last two weekends. Two weeks ago, they beat the Sunday Morning Rugby Club, and this past weekend they played Washington University again, a 52-0 rout similar to their season opener. Senior Pat Nichols and sophomore Brett Banning both said that the physicality of the sport and the tackling are the most fun aspects of playing rugby. Nichols says that he loves lining up against another team and throwing himself into a battle of willpower won by who wants the ball more.

#### Softball

The softball team has played only two games thus far in the season, putting their record at 1-1. The women lost their first game to Washington University 6-3, and this past weekend they beat a combined Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (SIUE)-Saint Louis University team 8-4. Sophomore pitcher Andie Raffles had an impressive home run in that victory. The club squad of eighteen girls has enjoyed bonding, and they all hope that the team achieves varsity status in coming years.



Nancy Glascock / photo

Sophomore Matt Bowman at the plate

by Adrian Dahlin  
Staff writer

Jamie Furbush has just finished her final season of college tennis, but it will not be the last time she graces clay, grass, or asphalt with her presence. As she points out, playing tennis at Principia has really just been to develop what she calls her "old person sport" or "life sport."

2009 was a rebuilding year for the tennis program. This year's team was down three players who graduated in 2008 and one who is abroad this spring quarter. For a team that consists of eight women perennially, that's a big blow. As a result, this year's team included two senior captains (Furbush and K.C. Gahlon), three sophomores, and three freshman.

Furbush played at the first spot in singles and doubles competition this season. That was a big step up from her number six singles and number two doubles positions last year.

As a young team, the women worked to develop competitive maturity, a coach's way of saying a lack of high-pressure experience. They lost some points, games, and matches in which their skills might have done them better, but their lack of experience in the competitive setting held them back. Inexperience, however, is not a bad problem to have with such a young team.

Furbush followed an improbable path to stardom. Before joining the team her sophomore year, she had not played tennis since elementary school. She joined in 2007 on a whim, quickly found that she loved the atmosphere created by Coach Gerber, and became a dedicated team member. In her sophomore and senior years, Furbush showed up to most every practice an hour early to work on her skills. She says that this one-on-one time with Coach Gerber was "like a free lesson with a pro" every day. As previously mentioned, Furbush climbed

from the sixth spot of eight to the first spot in one year, clear evidence of hard work and progress.

Furbush feels that the value of the Principia women's tennis experience lies largely in the effectiveness of Coach Gerber. Furbush said that she likes "being in places where [she respects] the leadership," and that Gerber fulfills that role well. Furbush described her coach as "a good role model" who has been one of her greatest character educators. The long-time Principia



Heather Libbe / photo

tennis coach reportedly leads by a dynamite combination of example and direction, and she does so like a true professional.

Gerber has completed two stints of coaching for Principia, and her impressive resumé includes leading teams to the NCAA National Tournament in previous years. Outside of her work at Principia, Gerber serves as the president of the Gateway Confluence Wheelchair Sports Foundation, which she co-founded in 1999. To learn more about her awesome work in the greater St. Louis area, visit [confluencesports.org](http://confluencesports.org).

This past weekend, the Lady Panthers played in the St. Louis

Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournament. They went in seeded fourth of eight teams, and finished as expected. Furbush said that it would have been difficult for this group to earn a higher place in the tournament, but that it was conceivable for them to fall to fifth or sixth, so they were happy with how they played. Gahlon ended her college career as an all-SLIAC honorable mention at the number two singles spot, while sophomore Heather Libbe won all-Conference first team at the number three spot.

The women's tennis team looks forward to incorporating two talented incoming freshmen into the lineup next season. These recruits are expected to fill the top two singles spots next year. In team tennis, each individual plays at a certain ranking and will face the player of the opposing team with the same rank. Thus, when two top-quality players join a team, everyone moves down two notches from where they would be, making the team much more competitive. This will essentially be the reverse effect that last year's graduating class had on this year's team.

When asked what was the biggest lesson that she took from tennis this year, Furbush made an interesting connection between daily life and her experience on the courts. She said

that "when you're on the court it's especially obvious that getting mad about things doesn't help" a difficult situation. She continued to explain that, in our everyday lives we sometimes acknowledge that anger of the deconstructive kind does not help to resolve any situation, but this fact really becomes obvious in the middle of a tennis match. On the courts, you can see a clear cause and effect relationship between your attitude – or how you respond to adversity – and the end-game results. In tennis, as in life on a broader scale, anger only leads to further failure.



Nancy Glascock / photo

Junior Ezra Ranz, Principia Thunder Chicken, charges with the ball during a recent win against Wash U



Nancy Glascock / photo

Senior Chelsea Kendrick analyzes the field behind an Arkansas defender



# MEET ANNETTE KREUTZIGER-HERR



Benjamin Chernivsky / photos



Georgie Nikolaidis  
Staff Writer

Annette Kreutziger-Herr has grown up hearing about Principia. She first heard about it when her sister attended the College, and then again from her Christian Science teacher in Boston.

She came to Principia this spring from Berlin, Germany to teach in the German, music, and women's studies programs. She is teaching three courses: Women in Music, Milestones in German Culture, and German Conversation.

Herr was born and raised in Germany, though she went to college in Italy. She speaks German, English, and Ital-

ian fluently, and knows some French as well. Herr has a master's degree in cultural studies and received her first Ph.D. in musicology.

Herr has taught musicology and culture studies since 1993. For six years, she was assistant professor at Hamburg University and then became an associate professor at Hanover University in 2005. In order to become a tenured professor in Germany, professors must have two Ph.D.s. In 2005, Herr received her second Ph.D. in culture studies. She is now a professor of musicology and culture studies at the University of Cologne in Cologne, Germany, where she plans to return this fall.

Herr has written a number of books throughout her career, all reinforcing her focus on musicology and culture

**The "cozy environment of this campus makes it feel like a family, unlike many universities. You get to know everyone really well."**



Herr teaching her class milestones in German Culture

studies. These include *Composing Within a Culture of the Word*, *Yearning for the Middle Ages*, *The 101 Most Important Questions on Classical Music*, and, most recently, *History—Her Story: Women in Music*, published last year.

Herr is a fellow of the Mary Baker Eddy Library and is currently researching Mrs. Eddy's interpretation of Genesis.

Herr says she is most interested in the study of how certain ideas and concepts came to be, a study she says is emphasized more in Europe than here. She gives the example of heroism, following that idea over time across cultures.

Throughout her teaching career, Herr says, she has been striving to impart this curiosity to her students. She does not like teaching what has been taught before, but encourages students to learn by thinking for themselves.

While at Principia, Herr has been learning about the different back-

grounds of students who come here from all over the world. She says she has found that, based on her culture and upbringing, she has taken certain things for granted. Here, for example, she has to provide more details about such topics as composers who would be common knowledge in Germany. "She brings an interesting new perspective, having studied with Ph.D. students," said her son Vincent, a one-year enrichment student at Principia. Vincent is taking the Women in Music class and is a TA for the German conversation class.

Herr says that the "cozy environment of this campus makes it feel like a family, unlike many universities. You get to know everyone really well."

"This experience here at Principia really brings together my love for the university, where people can grow and learn, and my love for Christian Science," she adds. "I am so grateful to be here."



# Headline

## The Pilot's Perspective

Albert Einstein described insanity as “doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”

In 2006, Principia went through a governance crisis that was sparked when the same individual filled the positions of CEO of the Principia Corporation and Chairman of the Board of Directors, and there was no effective check on his authority.

Late last week, the Board of Trustees appointed Jonathan Palmer to succeed David Anable as new Chief Executive, while retaining his position as President of the College.

In the minds of many Principia students and faculty, the parallels between these two situations stray a bit too close to Einstein’s definition

of insanity. Whether that’s the case or not, the Board and the administration of the College must recognize the ease with which students and faculty can draw parallels between this decision and the events of two years ago. When will we learn not to concentrate too much power in the hands of one individual?

Dr. Palmer addressed this concern in Wednesday’s community email. He stressed that, unlike the previous situation, both the Chief Executive and College President positions are managerial positions, meaning that the Chief Executive does not make policy decisions affecting the College President. Palmer says that policy authority will remain in the hands of the board, and this is a fair argument.

However, Palmer will still enjoy an immense amount of control over the information that is available to the Board, and his administration needs to take care to avoid creating the perception that he will push a heavyhanded policy agenda.

We’ve reached this conclusion based not on a knee-jerk alarmist reaction, but by carefully weighing the pros and cons of this situation. We invite the student body, faculty and all other interested parties to join us. As students of Christian Science, we should never forget our duty to expect good in all situations, re-

jecting the human temptation to jump to conclusions. Despite the obvious advantages of cutting red tape, we see two major areas of concern.

First: Will Dr. Palmer be stretched too thin in an attempt to handle two high-pressure administrative workloads? The concern seems justified, at least on the surface. Both Palmer and Anable are busy, intelligent men who don’t appear to have an abundance of spare time. Perhaps there is enough administrative overlap between the two positions that one individual can handle both of them. But there’s no precedent for this move, and Principia needs a Chief Executive who has enough time to plan for future progress in addition to minding the day-to-day responsibilities of the institution.

Second: Outside of Dr. Palmer’s community email, the administration hasn’t done much to address fears of a potentially dangerous consolidation of power. Substantively, the CE and President positions are both managerial – rather than administrative – and Palmer will not enjoy the same degree of policy control that the previous CEO/Chairman did. The wounds of 2006 are, after all, still fresh.

In addition, there has recently been a widespread perception among both stu-

dents and faculty that the current administration has pushed through certain unpopular policy decisions without first creating a consensus. The most vivid example is the change from quarters to “plain vanilla” semesters. Context is everything. With this political landscape as a backdrop, Palmer’s consolidation of power evokes less of a promise of streamlining and more of a feeling of “ramroding.”

Dr. Palmer sees a coming decrease in “touchtime” as one of the only downsides of the appointment. His presence on campus has been noticed and is seen as valuable by students and faculty alike. Since their arrival at Principia, the Palmers have been a visible “first couple,” and we applaud them for it. We hope that this visibility will not suffer as a result of Dr. Palmer’s recent appointment to the position of Chief Executive of the Principia Corporation. The *Pilot* urges the administration to remember how powerful of a tool this can be.

We encourage the campus to engage the administration in discussion of those policies that matter most to us. An active, engaged community will ensure decentralized, democratic policy leadership.

## Letter TO THE EDITOR

I would like to say that I appreciated the editorial “Morally stifled” in the last issue of the Principia Pilot, as well as the recently conducted polls about house hours and locks. The purpose of the editorial was not merely to challenge house hours, but to discuss rules and policies at Principia that are unquestioned. In fact, people are sometimes shut down for even questioning the validity of certain rules. This is not simply a Principian phenomenon - it is a human one. It is much easier to stick with the status quo than to think of alternative solutions to ongoing issues. Still, there are many rules specifically at Principia that discourage dissent or activism, perhaps due to fear of angry and irrational confrontations. However, college should be

a place for inquiry. Students here are encouraged not to conform to worldly norms, but they are subtly discouraged from, for example, raising funds for activist groups and protesting Principia’s policies. I know that many are working for development in these areas, and changes have already taken place. Hopefully, we will all continue allowing Principia to be a more progressive and less stifling institution, without it losing its atmosphere of innocence and Christianly Scientific strength. Once again, thanks for the thoughtful take on rules and moral reasoning at Principia.

Sincerely,  
Noelle Matteson

## CSO CORNER

With half the quarter already under its belt, the Christian Science Organization is both grateful for the events that have already occurred and holding strong to meet what is yet to come.

We are excited to announce that we have received a brand new set of Hymnal Supplements for the chapel, and we look forward to integrating those into our services as opportunities arise. On that note, members of the community came together recently on a Sunday afternoon to help with the filming of a video about the supplement for this year’s Annual Meeting. As the Mother Church representative said, everyone sang beautifully. Keep your eyes peeled for your fellow Principians at the end of this year’s Annual Meeting in June.

The weather is gradually warming up, and that means that we will soon be having Tuesday testimony meetings on the chapel green! When a sunny Tuesday rolls around, the entire service will be held outside. Feel free to bring blankets and pillows, and come sit out on the grass! Some folding chairs will be available as well.

As you probably know, next weekend is the MidWest Spiritual Activism Summit in

Potosi, Missouri. This installment of TMC Youth’s international summits is projected to be the biggest one yet with hundreds of young Christian Scientists from the area and enough speakers and discussion topics to keep you thinking for decades—not to mention the live music and good times.

Next on the docket is this year’s spring lecture. Susie Rynerson-Jostyn will talk to the campus on Thursday of Week 8 to discuss the question “How do I know God has a plan for me?” Susie is a Christian Science lecturer and has been involved in several TMC Youth podcasts and projects. She is excited to come to Prin to talk!

The CSO is grateful to serve such a vibrant and active campus and looks forward to what God holds for the future!

Sincerely,  
Mark Evans  
CSO President

“God knows our need before we tell Him or our fellow-beings about it. If we cherish the desire honestly and silently and humbly, God will bless it.”  
--*Science and Health* 13:14

## Presidents' COLUMN

Hello, campus! In our first Pilot column we provided an update on major activity occurring within Student Government including the Go Bikes! program, new free speech policy, and planning for a new Student Center. Since then, student government continues to be hard at work preparing the Student Activities Fund budget, updating the Student Government handbook, and preparing for such activities as our upcoming Earth Day Celebration on May 2nd. In addition, we have student leaders working on several major administrative committees including the general education requirements committee, semester conversion team, and the daily scheduling team.

In our second column, we would like to share with you the two leadership tools we developed with the house boards at our Spring Quarter Leadershop. We believe that these tools will help us as a community to be more effective and efficient in our many endeavors. If these tools work for Student Government leaders, they will work for you too!

Our first tool is a checklist for better communication. A recent survey published in the Jacksonville Business Journal found that a lack of open, honest communication had the most negative effect on employee morale nationwide. This holds true for Principia, too. Abridged from resources at [www.newconversations.net/](http://www.newconversations.net/), our communications checklist reads:

- Begin conversations by explaining your reason for communicating.
- Listen carefully and affirm what someone has said to you before you re-

spond.

- Express yourself completely so the other person doesn’t make erroneous inferences.
- Ask open-ended questions so the other person has freedom to say what is important to him/her.
- Make requests instead of complaining or criticizing.
- Express gratitude and praise often, especially when making a request.

Our second tool is the concept of operationalizing. This is a term we learned at the U.S. Military Academy when we visited for a conference there last fall. The West Point cadets loved this concept! Operationalizing is converting long-term goals into short-term, actionable strategies and tactics. Our question to the Student Government leaders on campus was, “How do we operationalize our spiritual duties as Christian Scientists into our daily duties and job responsibilities?” How do we incorporate Christian Science into all of our activities throughout our day? Please join us in thinking and talking about these important questions.

We encourage you all to join with us as we put these ideas into practice. As always, please feel free to call us, email us or stop us in the halls with ideas and questions, and please take our survey on ideas for the new Student Center next week!

Yours very warmly,  
  
Will Buchanan and Chelsea Kendrick  
Student Body Presidents



# The end of security through fear



**James Poindexter**  
Liberal Columnist

THE PRINCIPIAPILOT

# Only when necessary



**Ron Myer**  
Conservative Columnist

THE PRINCIPIAPILOT

Who believes in capturing suspected enemies, using humiliating, and often extremely painful means to gather intelligence, and riding the world of all wickedness? Conservatives.

This sort of torture was used in the Spanish Inquisition and, later, by the Nazis.

The Bush administration and conservatives alike have claimed repeatedly that the waterboarding of Khalid Sheik Mohammad (183 times in a month) resulted in the foiling of an attack on the Library tower in Los Angeles. This argument is absurd. The supposed foiling of this plot occurred six months before waterboarding was even used on Mr. Mohammad!

So why has our nation as the moral and responsible leader of the world decided to use such methods during wartime? What about our legal protections like habeus corpus and due process?

Supporters of torture claim torture provides “vital military intelligence.” Today, supporters still believe this even after President Bush’s own FBI director Robert Mueller said, “...no attack had ever been foiled by information gained from torturing a criminal suspect.”

In 1949, the United States signed the Geneva Convention, banning the use of torture in war time. Even the U.S. Army field manual defines and prohibits torture as “...cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, in accordance with and as defined in US law including: forcing the detainee to be naked, performing sexual acts, or posing in a sexual manner, placing hoods or sacks over the head of a detainee; using duct tape over the eyes, applying beatings, electric shock, burns, or other forms of physical pain, waterboarding, using military working dogs, inducing hypothermia or heat injury, conducting mock executions, or depriving the detainee of necessary food, water, or medical care.” Still, the Bush administration authorized the use of these tactics throughout Bush’s presidency and barred suspects their due process rights for what he claimed were “our nation’s security interests.”

Senator John McCain, former prisoner during the Vietnam War, and most recently the Republican candidate for President of the United States said, “Our enemies didn’t adhere to the Geneva Convention. Many of my comrades were subjected to very cruel, very inhumane and degrading treatment, a few of them even unto death. But every one of us -- every single one of us -- knew and took great strength from the belief that we were different from our enemies, that we were better than them, that we, if the roles were reversed, would not disgrace ourselves by committing or countenancing such

mistreatment of them.” McCain understands from personal experience that this is not a partisan issue, yet his party leadership has made it so.

With all of this evidence, it is hard to understand why President Bush would endorse such actions under his administration. It seems that the only logical explanation is the Republican fear tactic.

By instilling fear in the American people, the Republicans hoped to hold onto control of our nation. By making torture (an issue that was solved long ago) a partisan issue, the GOP has managed to divide the nation on the basis of misinformation and fabricated fear into two mislabeled camps: those who want to protect the homeland regardless of the cost, and those who are soft on terror and “want the terrorists to win.”

By allowing torture and polarizing the electorate, Bush not only emboldened our enemy’s message against the

Trying to justify torture is a little bit like trying to justify killing. It is immoral to kill, unless it is done in the context of self-defense, punishment, or a state of war. It is wrong to torture unless we must do so to protect our nation.

Yes, I know that the Geneva Convention – a document more revered by liberals than the Constitution – bans torture. However, the wording prevents methods “by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental,” is inflicted on the individual being interrogated. This language is pretty ambiguous. Unlike the Constitution (through the Federalist Papers), we do not really know what the writers of this document intended.

Severe could mean a lot of things; I think Brian Roberts’ homework causes severe suffering, but I don’t see Congressional Democrats going after him like they have been going after the

Corpus. Let’s be clear, the Constitution protects Americans, not foreign terrorists. In fact, Bush did break Constitutional law when he authorized warrantless wire-tapping. The difference here is that the administration was illegally searching Americans. Our Constitution was designed to protect our freedoms, not to cripple America’s ability to defend itself.

Many liberals still deny that waterboarding helped keep us safe. After last week, there is no question that by detaining and interrogating enemy combatants, America is better defended against future attacks. Deputy Assistant Attorney General Steven Bradbury’s memo dated May 30, 2005 states, “intelligence acquired from these interrogations has been a key reason why Al Qaeda has failed to launch a spectacular attack in the West.” The memo continues by describing how senior terrorist Khalid Sheikh Mohammed first “resisted giving any answers” until he was waterboarded. Only then did he release “specific, actionable intelligence.” This information was used to stop Al Qaeda’s plan to crash a plane into a Los Angeles skyscraper.

President Bush, with all his faults and mistakes, was able to keep America safe after 9/11. While he may have made us safer had he worked better with other nations, he was still able to do what was necessary to prevent another 9/11. As my friends know, I don’t like defending President Bush, but in this case I have no choice but to give him credit.

While I am grateful that President Obama will not go through with a showy investigation of the former administration, I would hope that he would consider keeping all options on the table when dealing with terrorists. By taking the ‘high ground’ on this issue, he has made his job harder and our country more vulnerable. On the positive side, I’m sure this decision will make foreign countries like us more. However, I’m not sure I like the compromise between likability and safety.

The last weeks have given us a much deeper understanding of the efficacy of enhanced interrogation methods. We should use this wisdom and learn from history. No one likes torture, but waterboarding and other harsh methods should be available as a last resort. American life is too valuable to be left in jeopardy just because a few of our leaders have deranged moral compasses.



oppressive West, but he has also endorsed the violation of international laws. Bush allowed partisan politics to endanger our national security, alienate our closest allies, and empower our enemies. Lawrence B. Wilkerson, a Republican who was chief of staff to then-Secretary of State Colin Powell, says that many innocent civilians have been held and tortured in these prisons for 7-8 years without trial. This injustice, breeding anti-American sentiment, is dangerous to our national security.

President Obama’s recent actions of closing Guantánamo Bay and releasing the so-called “Torture Memos” are an important step for our country. It is imperative that the world know that the United States no longer condones the torture of its prisoners, and that those at the top (who are currently under federal criminal investigation) be held accountable for their actions. It is up to our newly elected president to begin rebuilding America’s image internationally as a moral, law-abiding nation and reestablishing our alliances. Only then can we truly be a secure nation once more.

Bush Administration. The Navy Seals have waterboarded and drowned their own soldiers during training exercises for years, but I haven’t heard Senator Dianne Feinstein go on MSNBC calling for investigation of the Navy.

The good news is that President Barack Obama said he would not pursue an investigation of the Bush officials who ordered and executed these methods. However, many Democrats still want to go after someone. They have chosen the attorneys who told the Bush administration that the wording of the Geneva Convention was elastic enough to use enhanced interrogation methods. Obama must insure that this “witch hunt,” as John McCain dubbed it, is stopped.

Incoming administrations should not investigate prior administrations because of policy differences. It’s a waste of time and sets an uncivilized precedent. By using harsh interrogation techniques, the Bush administration did not do anything morally wrong. Self-defense is not morally wrong. In fact, it should be expected that an administration do what is necessary within the bounds of the Constitution to protect its people.

Some argue that we denied terrorists their Constitutional rights to Habeas



# New perspectives on Palestine and Israel



I want you to imagine that your house has been taken from you and that you and your family have been forced to live in a different city in substandard conditions because you have nowhere else to go. You have been cut off from your school, your job, your church, and your community. You find it hard to hold a job, get to classes, or go to church because the 10-mile drive can take up to four hours. Now imagine that the only reason for all of this is that you practice Christianity.

This situation might sound unfathomable, or even resemble Nazi Germany or the Apartheid in South Africa, but this is reality for Arabs, Christians, and Muslims living in the Palestinian West Bank, occupied by Israel.

To be clear, equating Israel's actions to those of the Jewish people as a whole, or Palestine's actions with all Palestinians, would be grossly inaccurate. Not all Jewish Israelis agree with the actions of their government. There are peace movements led by Israelis who disapprove of government actions. We just don't hear about them in our news. There are also Jewish-Americans who have recognized the human rights abuses in Palestine and are working to raise awareness of the hardship caused by the Israeli government's illegal actions, which include forcing Palestinians from their homes in order to build Jewish settlements on Palestinian land.

So how did this problem come to be?

In 1947, the United Nations proposed using 54% of Palestinian land to create a Jewish majority state, even though at the time, Jews made up only 8% of the Palestinian population. This resulted in over 750,000 Palestinians being forced from their homes between 1947 and 1949. During this time, Israel also expanded until it occupied 78% of Palestine. I understand that after the horrors of the Holocaust, it was right to help a persecuted people who had been displaced, but it seems wrong to give away things that don't belong to you, and to push others out of the way to do so.



Anna Baltzer / photo

As a global society, we should be actively working toward ideas and social structures that encourage understanding, tolerance, and peace, in order to prevent tragedies like the Holocaust and other genocides. However, current U.S. foreign policy, which unconditionally supports Israel, is militarily and monetarily supporting the discrimination, displacement, and killing of Palestinians for not being Jewish. Of all the nations in the United Nations, Israel is the greatest violator of both

U.S. and international law. Israel also receives more U.S. aid than any other nation, including all of sub-Saharan Africa. That amounts to millions of dollars spent each day supporting the purchase of American weaponry and subsidies that the Israeli government uses to get people to move to illegal Jewish settlements in Palestine. That money is your tax dollars.

The reasons for supporting Israel are commonly known. We hear that the United States needs an ally in the Middle East. Let's consider that other countries in the Middle East are frustrated with Israel, perhaps because it is not being held accountable for the same actions for which other nations are pressured. If the United States would hold Israel accountable and stop supplying unconditional aid and support, we would stop ticking off so many people in the Middle East.

We also hear that Israel needs to defend its country and population. However, Israel does not have defined borders to control. The country keeps expanding beyond the borders set by the United Nations in 1947. Some Palestinians have been displaced twice: first in the War of Independence, or Al Nakba (The Catastrophe), depending on your perspective, and again, more recently, as the Israeli government encourages settlements on the West Bank that force Palestinians to flee their homes.

Perhaps we might consider whether it is right to protect one group by performing acts of discrimination, segregation, and violence on another. We might also consider whether it is right

to take land that does not belong to us.

I have heard arguments to the effect of, "this conflict has been going on forever – Jews and Palestinians just can't live together peacefully." I don't know where that idea came from. I once believed that the conflict had existed for thousands of years, when in reality, before the war in 1947, Palestine was made up of Arabs, Christians, Muslims, and even a Jewish minority who lived together peacefully.

We need to recognize that the goal of creating a place with a majority of any racial, religious, or ethnic group is likely to breed racism and discrimination. By its very nature, it must. It is wrong to deny rights to certain ethnic and religious groups. Separation doesn't solve racism, it breeds it. Misunderstandings about people we don't have contact with perpetuate racism, and cause us to see other people as so different from us that we don't care what happens to them.

So how can we create peace in Israel and Palestine? We can start by learning more about the conflict. We can talk about it with our friends and families. We can boycott American companies that profit from keeping the conflict going due to weapons sales to Israel. We can join groups like the American Association for Palestinian Equal Rights ([www.aaper.org](http://www.aaper.org)), which make organized efforts to educate people on the problems in Palestine. We can write letters to our congressmen, senators, president, and to the editors of various newspapers. Let it be known that you want a more compassionate American foreign policy: one that doesn't discriminate based on religion and ethnicity, that doesn't support illegal occupation, and that holds governments accountable for their actions and the way they spend U.S. aid money.

We can demand change and love everyone.

## Should Principia adopt coed halls?



The racial integration of Little Rock Central High was a vital step in the civil rights movement. Gender integration is just as vital for the advancement of gender equality.

Here at Principia College we have the opportunity, should we accept it, to further push and progress our gender paradigms through the expansion of upperclassmen coed housing.

Having only one upperclassmen coed house is not enough to meet the demand. Students should have more upperclassman coed housing options so that all who wish to continue the coed experience will be able to do so subsequent to freshmen year.

Of students sampled in a poll about expanding coed housing, a small majority said that they would like more upperclassmen coed houses on campus. Most students sampled said that they would probably feel comfortable on a coed hall.

There are more than enough stu-

dents interested to justify the implementation of more coed housing experimentation.

In Sylvester, for example, when students move back into the actual house, a hall could be selected to become coed, and then anyone in the house who would like to have the opportunity to experience more fully integrated coed housing would be able to.

As long as coed halls exist on an opt-in basis, they should be permitted.

Some see house hours or sexual tension as reasons why we should not have any coed halls. I think that Andy Beim-Esche's proposal for house quiet and roommate agreements should solve the house hours issue, especially since there is already plenty of precedent for Principia students of both sexes sharing living spaces on abroad.

Sexual tension does not increase when men and women live together; it simply becomes harder to ignore. In coed

housing, people have to think more about how they feel about the opposite sex and how they interact with the

opposite sex. For Christian Scientists, thinking is desirable. Complacency, on the other hand, is dangerous.

Men and women learn to interact as people rather than merely as potential mates when they live in closer proximity. Also, men tend to develop a stronger sense of courtesy and a better understanding of women.

There are some valid reasons for supporting both single sex and coed housing options. I think the bottom line is that students should have diversity of housing choices. That said, however, the question of which houses should become coed is more complicated than figuring out how to further the level of integration that Sylvester already enjoys.

I suspect that Buck, Lowrey, and Howard probably have too much single sex house spirit to be interested in becoming coed houses. Joe, Ferg, Clara, or Brooks, on the other hand, are all decent candidates.

Of these houses, Brooks is the most fit for coed status in terms of architectural layout. The other houses have essentially two floors, which means that in order for them to become integrated, all floors would have to be either coed or single sex, excepting perhaps for basement floors if the houses have them.

The approach of integrating entire floors would work better with Ferg and Joe than with Clara, because Ferg and

Would probably be comfortable on co-ed halls:

Men: 91%

Women: 77%

Would like more co-ed housing:

Yes: 54%

Neutral: 33%

Against: 13%

Joe could gradually start an exchange program with each other, whereas Clara does not have a convenient and similarly cultured house to trade with.

I think that it would be worthwhile for the student body to vote on which of these houses should become coed and then work with the selected house to make an acceptable transition to coed status.

Policy 14 of *Principia's Purpose and Policies* reads, "The Principia shall be a coeducational institution in the fullest meaning of the term."

Deciding not to increase the amount of coed housing options would be missing a valuable opportunity for men and women to interact with and learn from each other.

I encourage you all to speak to your houses, presidents, and the Office of Student Life about furthering coed housing on campus so that Principia can truly become "a coeducational institution in the fullest meaning of the term."



Fred Morrison & Steve Bailey / photo illustration



# Best coffee in St. Louis

**Kaldi's Coffee**  
700 Demun Ave  
Clayton, MO 63105



*Quality of Coffee:* Hand roasted and blended locally, this coffee makes quite the experience. Try a cup here and you will enjoy flavors that will make you never want a latte again.

*Quality of Food:* Kaldi's has great pies and pastries. Light meals are also available, like sandwiches and salads.

*General Ambiance:* A very subdued atmosphere with no Wi-Fi or electrical outlets makes for a great place to read or for a good conversation, but not for homework if a computer is required.

*Overall Rating:* Best for coffee

**Meshuggah Coffee**  
6269 Delmar Blvd. University City,  
MO 63130



*Quality of Coffee:* The coffee here is of good quality. Most of it is fair trade and

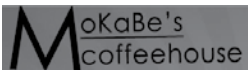
organic. However, they use Hershey's powdered cocoa for mochas, so it is better to stick with their non-flavored drinks.

*Quality of Food:* This place has great food with a more organic theme than most St. Louis Coffee shops. They have a wide variety of sandwiches made to order as well as soups and salads. The standard coffee shop fare in the way of pastries is also available.

*General Ambiance:* If Starbucks is at one end of the spectrum, then this is at the complete opposite. It has an organic feel to it with comfy couches and furniture that doesn't match. Nice patio seating is available that looks out on the Delmar loop.

*Overall Rating:* Best ambiance

**Mokabes**  
3606 Arsenal St St Louis MO 63116



*Quality of Coffee:* For a cup of good old-fashioned coffee, Mokabes is the place to go. They make a good solid brew that is not too fancy but hits the spot.

*Quality of Food:* The food here is good, but if you want the best experience, go for a Sunday Brunch Buffet. It is a bit pricey

at \$14, but it's one of the best brunches in St. Louis on Sunday morning. It also caters to vegetarians and vegans.

*General Ambiance:* It is a bit more spacious than most coffee shops in St. Louis and it is a good place to do work with plenty of seating and Wi-Fi.

*Overall Rating:* Best for food

**Park Ave coffee**  
2007 Park Ave St. Louis, MO 63104



*Quality of Coffee:* This is a good place to go for a decent cup of coffee, but Park Avenue's espresso drinks are done better. Try their lattes, or if you are daring, get a Cubano with a shot of espresso and raw sugar.

*Quality of Food:* There are no real meals here, but they are famous for their gooey butter cake, a traditional confectionary treat in St. Louis. Make sure you get a coffee with your cake, because you will need something to counteract the amount of pure sugar you will be eating.

*General Ambiance:* Think Starbucks with a soul. It's a nice shop in Lafayette



Square with a modern feel and it has an amazing back patio for when the weather is nice.

*Overall Rating:* Best for gooey butter cake

**Coffee Cartel**  
2 Maryland Plaza St. Louis MO 63108



*Quality of Coffee:* It is generally better to get an espresso drink than Coffee Cartel's daily brew unless you like really acidic coffee. But a latte or Thai iced coffee is sure to please.

*Quality of Food:* The food here is great and they have an amazing variety of quality bites. Gourmet cheesecake, a healthy amount of ice cream, flavorful wraps, quesadillas and sandwiches are all available.

*General Ambiance:* This is a spot for the night owl. It is a 24-hour coffee shop, and some of the best times to be had here are after midnight. Coffee Cartel, with its Wi-Fi and plenty of seating, makes for a great place to pull your next all-nighter.

*Overall Rating:* Best hours



# NUTS & BOLTS with Sam La Piana

When looking at the newest cars that have come out, two stand out from the others. One of them is the brave new Volkswagen CC. I call it brave because Volkswagen claims it is their rival for Mercedes. This caught my attention. Is a car as affordable as a Volkswagen supposed to be as good as a Mercedes? Also, you have the bold Mercedes E350 which is one way that Mercedes seems to reinvent the automobile.

As I walked into the Volkswagen dealership, they didn't swarm like you'd expect. However, they did greet me and offer help. I explained that I was interested in finding out more about the Volkswagen CC. They were ready and willing to tell me everything I needed to know.

The Volkswagen CC comes in many styles: the CC Sport, the CC Luxury, the CC 3.6L VR6 Sport, and the CC 3.6L VR6 4Motion. I chose to look at the CC Sport (manual), the CC Luxury and the CC 3.6L VR6 Sport. The Sport has a 2.0-liter, four-cylinder, turbo-charged engine with a six-speed automatic transmission with the tiptronic feature. The CC VR6 Sport has a 3.6-liter V6 cylinder with a six-speed automatic transmission, also with the tiptronic feature.

When I walked outside, I headed for the row of brand new CCs. They do look great. They even have a body line that runs along the side like some Mercedes. I got in the four-cylinder turbo and was instantly welcomed by the interior. It felt so ... expensive and European.

I pulled out onto the road and rolled up to the first stop light. At the light, I gunned it. It was hard to focus on all the car's bells and whistles while driving. Pushing the pedal down got the engine revved up and running fast. Picking up speed along the road felt great until I came to another stop light. At the light, I found the "bump" blinker, which blinks three times when touched and stops automatically.

We pulled onto a street which wove around. It was such an amazing feeling to accelerate through the turns. I was exhilarated flying around the turns, using the tiptronic mode to select gears.

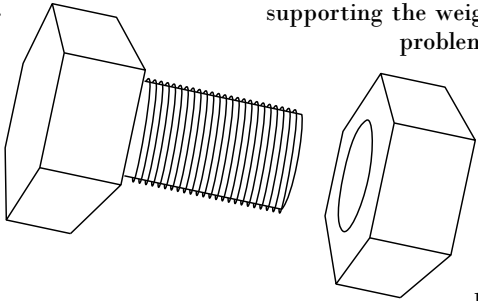
Then, it was time for the final test: the highway. As I came around the onramp, I pushed the accelerator closer and closer to the floor. I entered the highway above the speed limit and actually had to slow down to merge. The CC performed great on the highway. The suspension was nice and sporty on the curves, but once I hit the highway it was like I was gliding on thin

air.

I pulled back into the dealership and tried out the other cars. They both had the same airy suspension, the same luxurious, playful feel, plus the great interior and engine power. Both the VR6 and the four-cylinder had plenty of power. There wasn't much difference between the luxury and sport models, besides the in-dash technology.

Overall, I really liked the CC, and would definitely want one given the funds. However, I had no idea what I was about to encounter. The next place I went was just down the street. I walked into the Mercedes showroom, and my eyes were immediately drawn to the beautiful cars. A salesman

as the A pillars. This is so that in the case of a front collision, the tire doesn't blow back and smash your leg. Plus, if the car flips, the roof can hold so much weight that supporting the weight of the car is no problem.



Another amazing "X factor" feature (meaning why people like Mercedes but don't know why) was shown to me in the parking lot. Between the rear window and the area behind the back

seats is a space that allows air to travel into the trunk. Around the bottom of the rear of the car, there are several small rubber vents. This means that air travels through the car and into the trunk, building up



[cars.about.com](http://cars.about.com) / photo

approached and asked if I needed help. No pushiness, which was much appreciated.

I sat down with a sales consultant. I heard so many things about Mercedes that I hadn't ever learned. I always knew they were nice cars, but had no idea why. I also was not aware of all the little things they do. For instance, it has excellent safety features. The area behind the front tire and in front of the pedals is reinforced as well

pressure and flowing Volkswagen CC out of the rubber vents. This feature helps the front seat climate controls because instead of building up, it flows side by side. Also, they operate by pressure so that when the cars sit in high temperatures, they open up even when the car is turned off so that the car is cooler than the others around it. However, I didn't go there to see the car while parked.

The first test was on the open road. I liked the fun paddle shifters that come with the car as well as the seven-speed transmission and great acceleration. The suspension made it seem like I wasn't driving, but hovering. This was especially apparent when I hit a bump too hard. The car bounced up and came down - there was no bouncing recoil; the car just hunkered down.

The final feature that blows my mind is the fact that this car can do everything, including make you dinner. The new Knight Rider car should have been this one, because you can use your voice to command nearly everything. When you pull a lever, your word is its command. If you say "FM 106.5," the radio will change to that station. Even the navigation system can be done entirely by voice.

The part I find most intriguing, however, is what spurred my comment about the car making you dinner. Mercedes offers a system very much like OnStar with an optional function called the concierge package. You hit a button on the ceiling to dial an operator, and you can then do any variation of the following scenario:

You- Operator, I would like to go to New York on Tuesday. Can you get me a ticket?

Operator- First class or coach?

You- First class, please.

Operator- Done.

You- Also, I would like to eat at (insert name of any restaurant here).

And it's done.

In driving these two cars, it was clear to see why the Mercedes costs as much as your first-born and why the Volkswagen was much cheaper. It's not just the name: it's what comes with the name. Mercedes has the "X factor" that comes with its name. As for the Volkswagen, "affordable, durable, cheery, and fun to drive" come with the name. Both have the magnificent German engineering, so they are both worth it from that point of view. They also have radios that support auxiliary media (i.e. iPods and SD cards).

It's hard to compare sport to luxury, because the most part, the E350 isn't the Mercedes you'd buy for performance while the CC has all types. The Mercedes is a great car with many good qualities. The Volkswagen is as well, though with fewer bells and whistles. We have a case of the brave CC trying to compete with Mercedes, and the bold Mercedes once again creating a new measuring stick against which to compare other cars.



# In the Bronx, film school is reel ghetto



**Grant Grieshaber**  
Columnist  
THE PRINCIPIAPILOT

Prestigious film schools can't help attracting Hollywood's attention. After all, their students are the future of the film industry, churning out tomorrow's heavyweight directors, producers and screenwriters by the bundle. So, when student films are featured on E! Channel, IFC (Independent Film Channel), CNN News and *The New York Times*, you'd probably assume the young up-and-comers attend USC or UCLA, right? Think again. Boasting impressive credentials to match those of any established Southern California institution, Ghetto Film School (GFS) transports the expertise of student filmmaking from the Hollywood hills straight to the heart of New York's Bronx community.

New York social worker Joe Hall first toyed with the idea of an inner-city film school after attending graduate school at USC. Soon realizing he wasn't cut out for Hollywood film production, Hall was surprised by how many of his peers were rich white kids with prior family connections to the business. In an effort to curb this deplorable inequality, Hall concluded that opportunities should be offered to a wider audience of potential filmmakers. Combining his passion for film and community service, Hall set out to launch a new breed of film education and a school the first of its kind. Thus, the Ghetto Film School was born.

Since its inception in 2000, GFS has instructed over 400 aspiring filmmakers from all corners of New York's expansive metropolis. Students ages 14-21 are eligible for the program, in which they manage film courses around their normal high school schedule. Upon en-

tering the 15-month program, students enroll in Ghetto Film 101: Laying the Foundation whereby they study the fundamental principles of cinematic storytelling through workshops, screenings, and seminars with guest speakers—many of whom are distinguished Hollywood film directors and producers including Spike Jones, Jim Jarmusch, Sophia Coppola, and Harvey Weinstein. Students also try their hand at writing, directing and editing their first individual narrative short for faculty review. Exemplary work is screened at the prestigious Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

In Industry 101: Making the Connections, students study Hollywood's structure and culture while receiving advanced training in screenwriting, lighting and sound techniques. Special attention is dually given to career planning upon graduation. In *The Thesis Film: The Third Act*, students assume crew positions in collaboration on a high-quality short film shot produced

graduation, students experience the Hollywood film industry as interns and production assistants on film sets to narrow their focus and make valuable contacts along the way. Those who have completed the program are encouraged to work for Digital Bodega, the school's in-house professional-grade production company.

As the buzz surrounding GFS builds exponentially, the school has attracted many more students than it can accommodate. Because GFS is a non-profit organization, the school is funded by public grants and private sponsorships, which allow students to attend the school free of charge. Unfortunately, such circumstances often make the admissions process increasingly cut-throat. Prospective students are mainly recruited from high schools, churches, and community groups throughout the city. "We don't look at high school transcripts, grades, test scores at all, nor their financial background. The only thing we look for is that they demonstrate a talent for storytelling," Hall told *Newsday* in 2006.

Many of the films GFS students make reflect the plight of inner-city life in the Bronx, a neighborhood known for its minorities' challenges. Previous films have tackled issues surrounding gang violence, police brutality, and self-performed abortions. The most recent collaborative

thesis chronicles a man who has only 24 hours to live after being bitten by a poisonous snake. Top films appear in film festivals throughout the country and at the GFS Public Screening, an annual youth media event in NYC.

Due to the massive popularity of the program, GFS is sponsoring the creation of The Cinema School, a competitive public NYC high school set to open in fall of 2009. Unlike GFS, The Cinema School is a primary high school that teaches all academic subjects in addition to filmmaking. With

both schools operating simultaneously, twice the amount of students now have a chance to fulfill their dreams of Oscar winnings and Hollywood glory.

First and foremost, GFS is a film training program for urban teens who want to make movies. In being such, the school provides a valuable philanthropic service to students and the local community. According to Joe Hall, the "Ghetto Film School is committed to discovering raw talent, training young artists, and creating opportunity for our next generation of filmmakers." More and more, Hollywood is starting to recognize this talent themselves. Thanks to Hall's faith in their creative capabilities, Bronx youth not only aspire to make films, they're becoming filmmakers too. As students like George Valez would say, thanks for "giving kids like us a shot at the big time." Who knows? GFS might be churning out Hollywood's next generation of filmmakers as we speak.



cloudfront.net / photo



thebronxbeat.org / photo

## The Soloist



**Brian Swanson**  
Columnist  
THE PRINCIPIAPILOT

It's been a while since I reviewed a movie that I liked without reservation, but I am happy to report that this week's subject is a movie well worth seeing. For

once, I can apply phrases like "heartwarming" or "fantastic" if I so choose. It's a nice change of pace not to have to talk about how bad something is!

This time around, I went to see *The Soloist*, a film based on a true story and, unusually for me, not an action or comedy flick. I am happy to report that *The Soloist* is an excellent movie that grabs your attention, scares you a little bit, and ultimately makes you feel good about yourself.

*The Soloist* takes place in Los Angeles and focuses on an L.A. Times writer named Steve Lopez (Robert Downey

Jr.) who needs something to write about. Lopez is under the added pressure of difficulties with his family and the knowledge

that the newspaper industry is doing poorly lately. He stumbles upon a violin-playing homeless man named Nathaniel Ayers (Jamie Foxx). Ayers is mentally ill but claims to have trained at the Juilliard School of Music. Lopez, in desperate need of a story, does a little research and finds out that Ayers did indeed attend Juilliard, but somehow ended up on the street. Ayers

good bit of public acclaim. Because of this, Lopez continues to write columns about Ayers and becomes increasingly interested in helping and befriending him. Lopez tries in various ways to help his new friend, even though his help is frequently resisted or flat-out rejected.

There's a lot to like in this movie. For one thing, both protagonists are played by excellent actors whose performances are interesting and convincing. The cinematography is enjoyable. Unsurprising in a movie about a musical genius, the musical score is quite beautiful. But what really struck me

was how the movie gave us an insight into Ayers's problems and life – a glimpse of what it is like to be homeless, as well as, a look into Ayers's ongoing mental challenges.

As someone who grew up in the greater L.A. area, I felt that the film accurately portrayed the plight of the homeless. L.A. contains a sizeable homeless population, a large percentage of which is mentally ill. This film reflects the difficulty of this real-life challenge.

The feelings created by the film range from the heights of ecstasy when Ayers gets a new cello to the depths of terror when he hears voices in his head. There

soloistmovie.com / photo



loves music and is fantastically good at it, even if he doesn't always know what's going on around him. Lopez writes his column about Ayers, and it receives a

**Brian's Verdict**  
PRODUCTION The Soloist  
DIRECTOR Joe Wright  
SCORE A

is also a big contrast between Lopez's growing compassion and care for Ayers and his frustration with his ex-wife and with Ayers's stubbornness. Seeing the two main characters interact and grow together during the course of the film was rewarding.

If it isn't clear yet, I really enjoyed seeing this film. I never got bored. The story was very interesting; it felt real, and the characters were compelling. I didn't notice anything particularly wrong with this movie. It's a story about an unlikely but rewarding friendship. Watching the movie is an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. This may not be *Shawshank Redemption* or *Forest Gump* good, but it's definitely good. I recommend this one. Go see it.



# The Yoshinobu tune report

## Tinted Windows – Tinted Windows



Tinted Windows is the new super power-pop irony machine made up of drummer Bun E. Carlos from Cheap Trick, guitarist James Iha from the Smashing Pumpkins, bassist Adam Schlesinger from Fountains Of Wayne, and ... wait for it ... Taylor Hanson from HANSON on lead vocals! The odd mix apparently formed at a studio where both Hanson and Schlesinger work (plus, Schlesinger and Iha co-own Scratchie Records). When the trio got together and started writing, they thought it would be a good idea to invite Carlos, the godfather of the sugary pop they were trying to create.

The music itself is inseparable from the individuals making it. For starters, Schlesinger and Hanson are a powerhouse combo. Schlesinger is a seasoned vet in pop songwriting (he wrote the catchy theme to the movie *That Thing You Do*), and Hanson – well, you know what song he’s famous for. Songs like “Messing With My Head” and their first bouncy single, “Kind Of A Girl,” make you want to rollerblade, buy Furbies and relive age thirteen. If anything, a first listen of the album is a vivid reminder of the band members’ quirky musical pasts (except for Iha, whose dark and inventive guitar is hidden in the simple pop formulas).

What is most interesting about Tinted Windows is the timing of their inception. As the world comes to grips with the rule of the Jonas Brothers, the power-pop genre has been exposed to many who have never even heard of the genre’s architects, bands like Cheap Trick, Big Star, or Fountains of Wayne. Unsurprisingly, it’s Schlesinger who

has written music for the Disney-bred trio and consequently helped the Jonas Brothers succeed by using his genre as a platform. It’s hard not to notice the stark similarities between the two bands when hearing Hanson croon through the slower-paced “Back With You.” There is also something perplexing about a power-pop band in which every member is over the age of 40, save Hanson, 26. By now, shouldn’t the members of Tinted Windows know better than to write songs about prepubescent romance? Sadly, the thought that power-pop superkiddos still have a lot to learn about relationships just makes more sense. Perhaps that’s why Tinted Windows’ compositions seem more like retrospective vignettes than buoyant anthems for juice box suckers.

## Empire Of The Sun – Walking On A Dream



Quite possibly Australia’s most promising pop music export since Kylie Minogue, electro-pop duo Empire Of The Sun could also be Australia’s most interesting. Donning costumes that could get them mistaken for characters in 80s kids’ adventure movies (e.g. *The Labyrinth*), Luke Steele and Nick Littlemore incorporate hokey choruses and simplistic pop syncopations to transport listeners to worlds where your parents have gone out for dinner and David Bowie is your babysitter.

Initially considered a side project (since Steele belongs to rock band The Sleepy Jackson, and Littlemore is half of electronic dance duo Pnau), the two are taking this “side project” more seriously after slaying the Australian charts and dance floors. *Walking On A Dream* is evidence that the musical marriage may

not require prenuptials.

Obviously made by crafty wizards in dance pop, the album is a flurry of drum machine syncopations, with keyboards and guitars that skim in and out, enveloped by Steele’s sometimes harmonious, sometimes mewling voice. The album opener sounds like a military draft, with mesmerizing background harmonies conducted by a commanding drum machine. “Walking On A Dream,” the title track and the group’s most successful song to date, conveys the duo’s ability to write catchy, ascending hooks with zero gravity. Once the second single, “We Are The People,” kicks in midway, you feel like you’re part of a futuristic space-age task force.

Unfortunately, the latter half of the album floats into pseudo-psychedelic, half-realized works that have weighted Empire Of The Sun’s contemporaries like MGMT down. The song title “Swordfish

and with a small glimpse of an uncertain future. What *is* certain is that Empire Of The Sun’s sorcery has a limited effect on the masses, and may be short-lived.

## Download These Songs

Dave Matthews Band – “Funny The Way It Is”  
iTunes

“Somebody’s heart is broken and it becomes your favorite song,” sings Dave Matthews with certain despondency in the group’s first single after the passing of founding member LeRoi Moore. DMB addresses the sad ironies of society, while capping off their journey into a new creative era with a trademark Boyd Tinsley violin solo.

Basement Jaxx – “Raindrops”  
Myspace.com/basementjaxx (stream only)

The UK house duo, best known for that song played at sporting events when a player from the opposing team messes up (“Where’s Your Head At?”), brings sleazy auto-tune back to the dance floor. And with that, precipitation gets the inspirational nod again.

Major Lazer – “Hold The Line (featuring Santigold)”  
Maddecent.com/blog

If you enjoyed M.I.A.’s “Paper Planes” carving a birdhouse in your eardrums last year, check out this song from Diplo, the man responsible for M.I.A.’s production work. With his partner Switch, the two borrow surf-rock riffs and high tail it to Jamaica for a date with Santigold.



Hotkiss Night” is outlandish enough. However, the two finish the album appropriately, with the Purple Rainesque ending song “Without You” leaving you back on earth – melancholy, hazy,

# A fad more lasting than tamagotchis and pogs?



Alice Stanley  
Staff Writer

THE PRINCIPIA PILOT

When I think of fads that have infiltrated my life, I most often recall the beanie baby, the yo-yo and the Furby. Seems to me there’s a new fad on the streets these days: commitment. It is by no means a brand new word or concept. Last quarter, of course, some students put together the Commitment House in Williams. But I think the commitment craze has become an outright intangible fad lately. This quarter I feel like almost half of the people I talk to are committed to something personal. Now, not all these commitments are “official.” But, in general, there is a popular sense of dedication to self-improvement in the air.

Last week at musical rehearsal while I was talking about the chocolate cake I had for dinner, one of the cast members said she didn’t look at desserts in the scramble room anymore because she was on a 100 day commitment to not buy dessert. Interesting. She was inspired by a housemate who went 100 days without eating after dinner. I then remembered a friend, Junior Katie Duntley, sporting special commitment bracelets last quarter to help her work out in the volleyball off-season. The bracelets were rubber with the number of days the commitment had been going for on them. They were part of a character development program focused on purpose called Educare started by Sandy Wilder. Duntley found the process illuminating because

the argument with herself over whether or not to work out was eliminated. Senior Rachel Richards had the same commitment to work out half an hour every day from New Zealand. Both girls felt positively. Duntley said, “It just turns into a habit so you don’t even really think about doing it.”

But there is more to commitments than regulating ourselves to do things that we don’t always want to do initially. After asking around, I found many members of our community doing interesting personal commitments. Coach Sarah Jarvis has a slew of prayerful and physical commitments, as well as the promise to learn one new word per week and use it every day. Janessa Gans studies Arabic every day for at least ten minutes as one of her commitments. Among her goals, Alyson Wright has committed to reading the news for fifteen minutes every day.



Fred Morrison / photo

Doing this research inspired my roommate and I to keep mini seven day commitments on top of the workout schedule we had set at the beginning of the quarter. My roommate now appreciates the members of one of her classes daily. I have pledged not to complain about the small stuff this week. When I told this to a friend that I seldom see, she jokingly said that I should commit to talking with her at least once a day. So I took that up, too! Obviously, I have plenty of room to make any commitments I want for only seven days.

However, I have got to say I am a little torn about commitments. On the one hand, they support something you care about sincerely and help to better you. On the other hand, I can’t help but wonder if putting restrictions on your life might ever become oppressive—the antithesis of the point of commitments. If it doesn’t work out to follow through on a commitment one day, are we really following our highest sense of right by forcing it? Freshman Patty Harber, who has a whopping 15 commitments, stated, “Sometimes to get my run in I’ve had to run at 2 in the morning. This is very rare, but if I don’t make good use of my time during the day, it can happen.” However, Mary Ann Sprague countered by saying, “I realized that staying true to these commitments meant that a few unproductive things in my days had just dropped away.”

The trick for committing to something—no matter for how long—seems to be two-fold. Whatever you are doing, you must want to do it with purpose. Jarvis explained that her sit-up commitment “helps to break the feeling of resistance.” Physical commitments are not just arbitrary promises to help the body. Gans commented, “They are a way to demonstrate dominion, limitlessness, strength, and purposeful action. I also get such great inspirations on my runs or during my swims. There’s something about being outside or pushing myself that opens up my thought to hear God.”

The second trick is to give yourself “wiggle room,” as Wright calls it. She wanted to commit to running every day, but realized that during winter quarter some days would be too cold. Instead of feeling as if she were a failure or uninspired on those cold days, she decided in advance that joy was her key focus in

running. Her commitment was thus simply to partake in 15 minutes of “joyous activity.” So, a dance party could potentially replace the day’s run. Sprague added, “It actually took about 15 days of praying and doing my commitments to feel the peace to have them mould and change so that it wasn’t about the ‘commitment,’ but about movement of thought and progress in my ability to bless the world.”

The whole phenomenon of commitments is rather interesting. I begin to wonder, is it just a true fad? Does this have to do with our community? Our religion? I don’t know. I honestly think this is a growing trend, even if the evidence isn’t rightly available just yet. It has been a right of passage in American society to be labeled as an “irresponsible youth” by the generation before. What makes our current generation different? Maybe we have been surrounded by irresponsibility for too long. Our economy has busted open thanks to empty loans and mismanaged marketplaces. Our environment gets increasing media coverage and preservation efforts. Our society is also ridiculously stimulated all the time.

Before iPod Touches kept people entertained for hours and Blackberries enabled people to work from home, it was probably easier to find time to do the things that were important and natural to us. But in this fast-paced world, it takes more than the desire to do something consistently. It requires honest commitment. It doesn’t, however, require bracelets. I assure you that committing to things without them is just as easy—but perhaps not as fashionable. More fashionable than snap bracelets? That is yet to be determined.

For more information on commitment programs, see 100daycommitment.com.





## CAMPUSNAPSHOTS

1 The Chapel green looks extra stunning on one of the first warm days of spring quarter 2 Framed by two Bisbees, senior Fred Morrison makes a pass as he is tackled by a Washington University opponent 3 Sophomore Maegan Brewer takes a break from classes to have fun on the green 4 Lowrey's softball team prepares to take on another contender in intramural play 5 Freshmen Natalie Zdan, Martin Speer, Heike Verleih, Vincent Herr, and Amber Dahlin perform in the Parents' Weekend variety show 6 Briars Road senior Jeff Bailey and junior Will Buchanan perform on the pub patio 7 Benjamin Chernivsky 8 Senior Ben Tosto makes sure to abide by the pub's shirt policy while ordering a shake 9 Fred Morrison 10 Quasimodo makes a rare appearance for the Parents' Weekend variety show 11 Barbara Palmer