

Allegations of academic fraud touch Bulls star Derrick Rose SPORTS



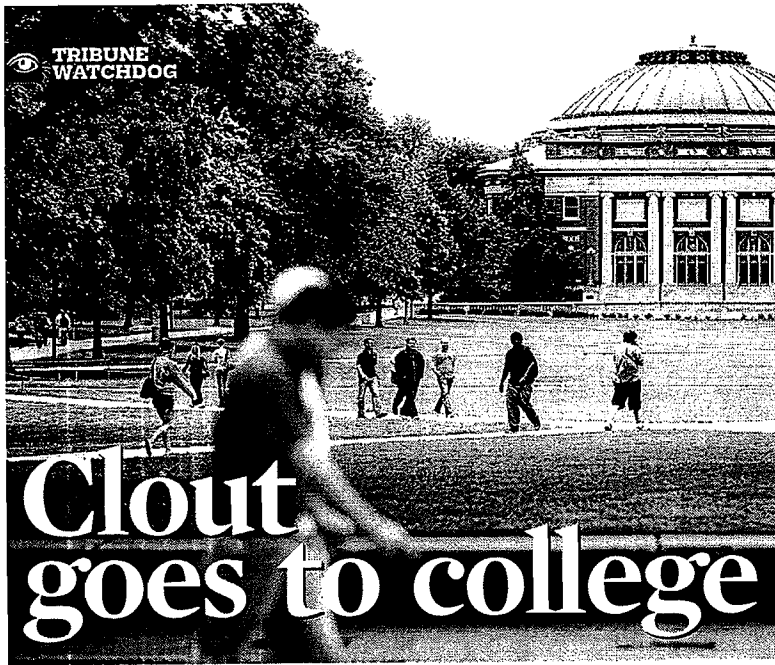
SCOTT STRAZZANTE/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Chicago Tribune



FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2009 | The Midwest's largest reporting team | 24 hours at chicagotribune.com

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TRIBUNE WATCHDOG

Clout goes to college

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is the state's top public college, and many fear a clout list taints it. ZBIGNIEW SZDAK/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Rezko relative is among those admitted to U. of I. in shadow system influenced by trustees and other insiders

By Jodi S. Cohen, Stacy St. Clair and Tara Malone
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

At a time when it's more competitive than ever to get into the University of Illinois, some students with subpar academic records are being admitted after interference from state lawmakers and university trustees, a Tribune investigation has revealed.

Hundreds of applicants received special consideration in the last five years, according to documents obtained by the Tribune under the state's Freedom of Information Act. The records chronicle a shadow admissions system in which some students won spots at the state's most prestigious public university over the protests of admissions officers, while others had their rejections reversed during an unadvertised appeal process.

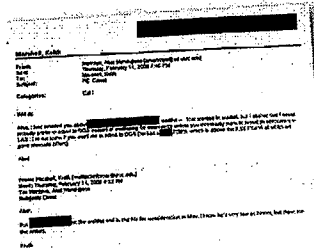
In one case, a relative of Antoin "Tony" Rezko, the now-convicted influence peddler for former Gov. Rod Blago-

jevich, got admitted after U. of I. President B. Joseph White wrote an e-mail stating that the governor "has expressed his support, and would like to see admitted" Rezko's relative and another applicant.

White's message to the university chancellor was passed on to admissions officials on the same day they entered a rejection decision for the Rezko relative. "He's actually pretty low," replied an admissions officer, referring to the applicant's ACT score and other credentials. "Let me know when the denial letter can go out."

Instead, the relative was admitted. Since 2005, about 800 undergraduate students have landed on the clout list for the Urbana-Champaign campus. It's unknown how many would qualify for entry on their own, but their acceptance rate is higher than average. For the 2008-09 school year, for example, about 77 percent were accepted, compared with 69 percent of all applicants.

Please turn to Page 4



"Put [redacted] on the waitlist. ... I know he's very low at Benet, but those are the orders."

—Keith Marshall, associate provost for enrollment, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, to admissions officer Abel Montoya

STATE OF CORRUPTION

Quinn deals on campaign donations

SPRINGFIELD—Reform met reality Thursday when self-styled outsider Gov. Pat Quinn cut a deal on the high-profile issue of campaign contribution limits that critics blasted as weak, ineffective and partly designed to benefit the governor himself.

The legislation would put in place the first-ever limits on how much individuals and interest groups can give to politicians, in theory starting to tame a system described as the "Wild West" of campaign fundraising.

See story on page 6 and complete coverage of Springfield action at chicagotribune.com/clout.

EDITORIALS

No tax hike before reform

Springfield, you're asking for trouble with voters if you raise the income tax before you pass thorough and meaningful ethics and spending reforms. PAGE 2A

ENDING 'PAY TO PLAY':

Lawmakers enact solid reform in state contracting. PAGE 2B

CHICAGOLAND



Alderman indicted over land dealings

Al. Isaac Carothers is charged with selling his office for playoff tickets, air conditioning and other home improvements. PAGE 9



Going Up **** for Pixar's latest MOVIES

SPECIAL SECTION

A primer on Lit Fest

Check out the schedule of events in Printers Row and find a map of exhibitors and a list of participants.



Summer music preview
Tribune critics forecast the best Chicagoland concerts. ON THE TOWN

PHIL ROSENTHAL

Leno's last 'Tonight Show'

Jay Leno bids farewell Friday as host of NBC's "Tonight Show," a chance few broadcast personalities receive. PAGE 21

SPORTS

Zambrano out for 6 games

Cubs pitcher apologizes for outburst; next start pushed back two days. PLUS: Zell says Cubs sale is not a done deal. BUSINESS

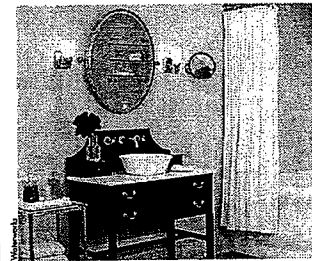
TOM SKILLING'S FORECAST

7 A.M. 57 NOON 71 6 P.M. 68

Skilling's complete forecast is on the back of Movies SECTION 3

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PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

Records reveal a shadow admissions system at U. of I.

E-mails detail influence

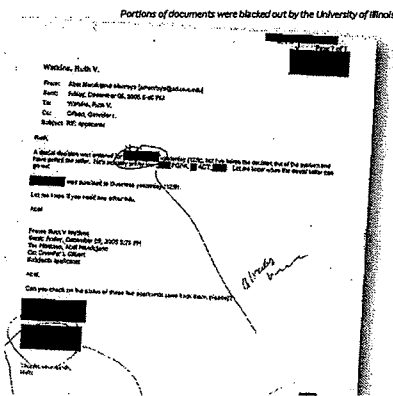
The Tribune analyzed 1,800 pages of e-mails and other documents in which officials of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign chronicle a shadow admissions system for select applicants. Here are some sample findings:

The denial of a student related to Tony Rezko is reconsidered

Gov. Rod Blagojevich sends word through Trustee Lawrence Eppley that he would like to see a Rezko relative and another student admitted. U of I President B. Joseph White forwards the information to the admissions office, which says that the Rezko relative has been denied. The rejection letter is pulled from the system, and Rezko's relative is later admitted.

"I've taken the decision out of the system and have pulled the letter. [The student's scores are] actually pretty low."

—Admissions officer Abel Montoya (2005)



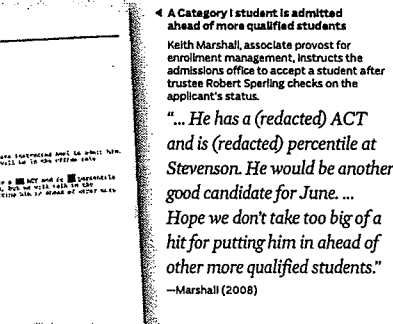
Portions of documents were blacked out by the University of Illinois

A Category I student is admitted ahead of more qualified students

Keith Marshall, associate provost for enrollment management, instructs the admissions office to accept a student after trustee Robert Spurling checks on the applicant's status.

"... He has a (redacted) ACT and is (redacted) percentile at Stevenson. He would be another good candidate for June. ... Hope we don't take too big of a hit for putting him in ahead of other more qualified students."

—Marshall (2008)

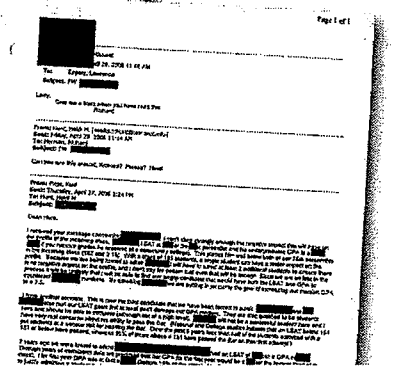


A Category I student is pushed for law school, even though he would bring down the school's profile

Paul Pless, assistant dean of law school admissions, rails against admitting an unqualified student. He suggests the student will drag down the school's GPA and LSAT goals, meaning the university will have to admit two additional students to offset any negative impact to the program's reputation.

"... This is now the third candidate that we have been forced to admit. ... (Redacted) will not be a successful student here and I have very real concerns about his ability to pass the Bar. ... we are setting this young man up to fail."

—Pless (2006)

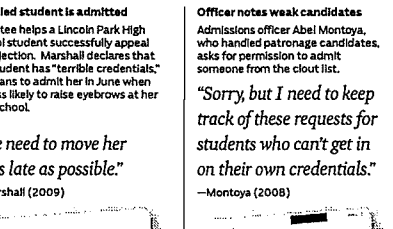


A student is admitted late

Marshall instructs the admissions officer in charge of clouted candidates to place a "fairly weak" Fenwick student on the wait list. The admission officer responds she will do it, but that it will look unusual to the applicant's high school. The student was later admitted.

"... I don't have any wiggle room on this one."

—Marshall (2009)



A denied student is admitted

A trustee helps a Lincoln Park High School student successfully appeal her rejection. Marshall declares that the student has "terrible credentials," but plans to admit her in June when it's less likely to raise eyebrows at her high school.

"We need to move her in as late as possible."

—Marshall (2009)

Continued from Page 1

That's in spite of the fact that patronage candidates, as a group, had lower average ACT scores and class ranks than all admitted students, records show.

In 2006, for example, freshmen on average ranked in the 88th percentile in their high school class, while clouted students ranked in the 76th percentile.

High school counselors and admissions experts said letting clout affect admissions compromises the integrity of the university.

"Whether it's a Rezko relative or any other kid who takes a spot, he typically takes a spot of someone who is more qualified. That's the part that gets my blood boiling," said Jim Conroy, a New Trier Township High School college counselor. "This is not a private institution. This is yours and mine. Our flagship state university should not be part of any political shenanigans."

President White said it's not unusual for selective universities to receive input on applicants from interested parties, and it's important to have a system to track the requests. The additional information can help the admissions office make a more informed decision, he said—though the university discourages applicants from sending letters of recommendation, saying on its Web site that "sending unsolicited materials can be distracting."

He declined to discuss specific cases, including the Rezko relative, but said: "I would never support admission of a student over better-qualified students simply because of connections and pressure."

But the Tribune review of about 1,800 pages of documents shows politically appointed trustees and lawmakers routinely behave as armchair admissions officers, advocating on behalf of relatives and neighbors—even housekeepers' kids and families with whom they share Hawaiian vacations.

They declare their candidates "no brainers" for admission and suggest that if they are not accepted, the admissions system may need reworking.

The investigation found:

- University officials recognized that certain students were underqualified—but admitted them anyway.
- Admissions officers complained in vain as their recommendations were overruled.
- Trustees pushed for preferred students, some of whom were friends, neighbors and relatives.
- Lawmakers delivered admission requests to U. of I. lobbyists, whose jobs depend on pleasing the lawmakers.
- University officials delayed admissions notifications to weak candidates until the end of the school year to minimize the fallout at top feeder high schools.

For example, this spring an applicant described as having "terrible credentials" by the undergraduate admissions office was denied admittance. She sought help from Trustee Frances Carroll, who encouraged her to appeal the denial—an option not mentioned in rejection letters or any university literature. Carroll forwarded the appeal to University Chancellor Richard Herman and sought his help. The applicant was admitted.

Then, to avoid drawing attention at the applicant's high school, where her acceptance could raise eyebrows, documents show the university planned to wait until the end of the school year to notify the applicant.

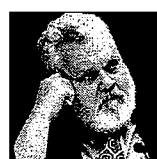
Carroll said the Lincoln Park High School senior, whom she didn't know, had a 3.2 grade-point average, participated in many extra-curricular activities and deserved a spot at U of I. Carroll said she likes to help disadvantaged students who may not understand the system.

Patronage has become such an entrenched part of the admissions process that there's even a name for the applicants with heavy-hitting sponsors: "Category I."

While some trustees and lawmakers said they didn't



U. of I. Trustee Frances Carroll said he helped a student who she didn't know.



Trustee Kenneth Schmidt called his repeated forwarding of applicant names an "epidemic."

realize there was a separate category for their requests, the records showed they needed only to forward a name and a few vital statistics to have the student placed in it.

And many did so without reservation. Trustee Kenneth Schmidt referred to his repeated forwarding of applicant names as an "epidemic" in one 2006 e-mail and asked the chancellor when he could "check up on my crop en masse." Schmidt did not return a call from the Tribune.

Abel Montoya, who oversaw Category I applicants for about five years until he left the university in October, said he watched as denial decisions were overturned.

In a 2008 internal memo, Montoya refers to some Category I applicants as "students who can't get in on their own credentials." Montoya told the Tribune: "I don't really know the reason or rationale why some decisions were changed. I just knew that it came from someone above and I wasn't in the position to ask questions."

The university denies that Category I candidates receive extraordinary treatment.

But the man who oversees the undergraduate admissions process acknowledges the system's flaws.

"I do try to work very hard to maintain the integrity of the admissions process," said Keith Marshall, associate provost for enrollment management. "The whole Category I process is a bit of a challenge to me, but I don't believe it is unique to this university."

The system has affected the quality of the student body records show. In 2006, the Law School's admissions dean argued that admitting a Category I applicant would require the admission of two additional students to offset the impact it would have on the school's ranking.

"There is no track record of success and when [the applicant] is faced with the rigor of our program there is absolutely no reason to expect anything other than failure," wrote Paul Pless, the law admissions dean.

The Tribune is unsure whether the student was admitted because the university did not respond to a request for that information. The university blacked out all references to grades, test scores and class rank, a move the newspaper is appealing under open records laws. It also hid applicant names.

Of the record-setting 26,000 applicants to the University of Illinois this year, 160 were classified as Category I. In one case, Marshall instructed an admissions counselor to place a student on the waiting list even though she seemed an obvious rejection.

"I know she's fairly weak at Fenwick, but I don't have any wiggle room on this one," he wrote. "Done, but this will look off with the high school," replied admissions officer Jennifer Percy. "Understood," Marshall wrote.

Herman said Category I applicants may have a higher rate of admission "simply

SOURCES: The University of Illinois, Tribune reporting

KEITH CLAXTON / TRIBUNE

Chicago Tribune

It's a DOGFIGHT!

The very epicenter of the U.S. hot dog wars is Chicago. Who wins? **PAGE 10**



AP PHOTO



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STATE OF CORRUPTION



Gov. Pat Quinn (left) and House Speaker Michael Madigan testify on campaign finance reform Friday in Springfield. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE PHOTO**

Reform, tax-hike bills in limbo

House Democrats abruptly call it a day with no consensus

Feeling the pressure as the clock ticks on a budget, Democrats huddled for hours Friday but couldn't agree on whether to raise the Illinois income tax or by how much.

"We're looking for courage," said Rep. Art Turner (D-Chicago). "We've got it spelled C-O-U-R, but we're looking for the rest of it."

With Republicans unwilling to go along, Democrats floated everything from a temporary tax hike to an even bigger tax increase than Gov. Pat Quinn wants.

They left the Capitol abruptly, hoping to return with new perspective **SATURDAY STORY ON PAGE 4**

TRIBUNE WATCHDOG CLOUT GOES TO COLLEGE PART 2

U. of I. admits it bowed to clout

President says school will review admissions system

By Jodi S. Cohen, Tara Malone and Stacy St. Clair
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Facing outrage over preferential treatment given to some well-connected University of Illinois applicants, school officials pledged to clean up an admissions system they acknowledge was sometimes subjected to outside influence.

"To the extent some problems were pointed out, we can and will correct them," said U. of I. President B. Joseph White.

The reaction came the day a Tribune investigation revealed that some students with subpar academic records are being admitted to the university's Urbana-Champaign campus after interference from state lawmakers and university board members.

The Tribune reported Friday that about 600 undergraduates have landed on the clout list—known internally as "Category I"—since 2005. About 150 students were placed on the list this year after trustees, lawmakers and others in powerful positions sent e-mails or placed calls on their behalf.

"To the extent that the story points out that there has been a small number of instances of inappropriate pressure to admit students ... in the sense, jump some students over other students,

Please turn to Page 6



U. of I. President B. Joseph White is to meet with senior staff on the issue Monday. **JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE PHOTO**



Passing the 'Tonight' torch

With a touch of dampness in his eyes, comedian Jay Leno ended his 17-year run as host of NBC's "The Tonight Show" on Friday by welcoming new host Conan O'Brien as a guest. **LIVE PAGE 16**

Sushi at the Shedd Aquarium

Preparation class comes with side of awareness. **PAGE 3**

Weekend weather

SATURDAY
High 75
Low 50

SUNDAY
High 76
Low 62

See Tom Skilling's complete forecast on back of sports



Frankie Sullivan of Survivor relaxes in Palatine. **E. JASON WAHRSIGANS/TRIBUNE PHOTO**

Rockin' the suburbs

Midwest vibe suits many musicians as they roll toward senior tour status

By Megan Twomey
TRIBUNE REPORTER

For Frankie Sullivan, "Eye of the Tiger" was the ticket to a new world. The 1982 Grammy Award-winning theme song of "Rocky III," which he co-wrote as a guitarist in Survivor, catapulted the band to cult status and introduced Sullivan to all the glitz of rock stardom.

Now in his 50s, the only original member still with the group

might be expected to be "hangin' tough," as the song instructs, in New York City or Los Angeles, home to many of the industry's movers and shakers.

Instead, the Northlake native is settled on a quiet street in Palatine—one of a number of aging rockers from the '70s and '80s who are rooted in Chicago's suburbs, where they can be found shopping at the neigh-



DeYoung



Marx

Please turn to Page 2

Saturday planner

Kraft Family Series at Harris Theater
The series finale features Grammy Award winner Dan Zanes (and Friends) joined by Plisen Neighborhood Children's Choir.
When: 1 and 4 p.m. **Where:** Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph St.
Price: \$25-\$30, \$15 for children 12 and younger; 312-334-7777, harristheaterchicago.org

Belmont/Sheffield Music Festival
The Lakeview street festival is in its 25th year and still bringing high-quality local and national entertainment with cutting-edge fine arts and crafts.
When: Noon-10 p.m. Saturday (also noon-9 p.m. Sunday)
Where: On Sheffield Avenue between Belmont Avenue and School Street. **Price:** \$5 donation; 773-868-3010

Legends: The Artwork of Rock and Royalty
If a painting by Jimi Hendrix is of the same skill as his musicianship, it must be a masterpiece. See for yourself at an art exhibition at the newly opened Wit Hotel, which also includes works by musical legends such as John Lennon, Janis Joplin, Jerry Garcia and Grace Slick. **When:** 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (also 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday). **Where:** the Wit Hotel, 201 N. State St. **Price:** Free; 312-467-0200

Windy City Rollers
Catch some of roller derby's finest (yes, they're still rolling, well, since 2004): the *Marie Antoinette* battling *Hell's Belles*, and the *Double Crossers* facing off against the *Fuming Fury*. **When:** 6:30 p.m. **Where:** UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine Ave. **Price:** \$20-\$40, \$15 for seniors, \$10 for children 12 and younger; 800-745-3000, ticketmaster.com

—Regina Robinson

PHOTO: JASON WAHRSIGANS/TRIBUNE

Your complete guide to summer fun **Magazine**

Chicago Tribune

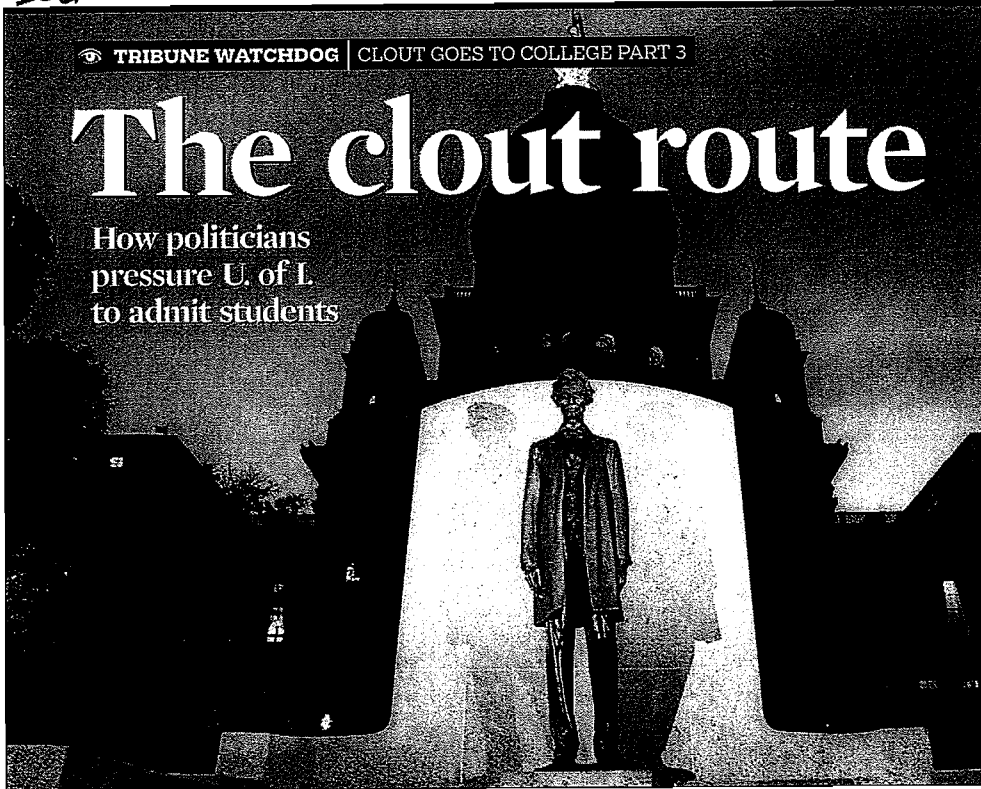


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TRIBUNE WATCHDOG | CLOUT GOES TO COLLEGE PART 3

The clout route

How politicians pressure U. of I. to admit students



From the state Capitol in Springfield, lawmakers have often given subpar applicants with clout an extra push to get into the University of Illinois. TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE PHOTOS

STATE OF CORRUPTION

Reform faces uphill climb

Even as House Speaker Michael Madigan and Gov. Pat Quinn declared mission accomplished last week on reforms, the governor's own ethics czar was urging lawmakers to do better. So goes political reform in Illinois. While some measures tackled by lawmakers drew widespread praise, the bills that most directly affected politicians in offices were dead on arrival, gutted, watered down or tabled. And now any impetus to pass meaningful reform may be overruled by the looming budget crisis. ANALYSIS, CHICAGO/LAND, PAGE 1

Reform score card: Where the varied measures stand in the legislative process. CHICAGO/LAND, PAGES 5

Democrats in disarray: The majority party can't agree on how to handle the budget. CHICAGO/LAND, PAGE 5

Tribune editorial: One thing Quinn has always had is a reputation for being principled. You have to wonder, though, if this business of being governor has gotten to him.... He has surfaced lately standing alongside Madigan, heralding a "landmark" campaign spending bill that contains more loopholes than limits. PAGE 27



House Speaker Michael Madigan has urged the admission of 34 applicants since 2005.

By Stacy St. Clair, Jodi S. Cohen and Robert Becker
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

State Sen. Chris Lauzen believed a student deserved admission to the University of Illinois law school in 2005, and he let the university's lobbyists know.

The school's dean thought otherwise. "She won't hurt us terribly, but she certainly won't help us," then-Dean Heidi Furedt wrote to Chancellor Richard Herman. "She will almost certainly be denied admission if the process unfolds as we predict. But she can probably do the work. If you tell me we need to do this one, we will. We'll remember it though!"

"Please admit," the chancellor replied. "I understand no harm."

The e-mail exchange, one of hundreds received by the Tribune under a Freedom of Information Act request, embodies an ongoing power struggle between educators who want to protect the integrity of

the state's most prestigious public university and administrators who also feel compelled to appease powerful lawmakers.

The Tribune on Friday reported evidence that subpar applicants gained admission to the U. of I. with the sway of state lawmakers and university trustees. The investigation revealed that acceptance decisions at times occurred over the objections of admissions officers in deference to power brokers.

University officials issued statements saying they "mostly get it right," but welcome the opportunity to address inequities outlined in the Tribune coverage.

Further analysis of the 1,000 documents reveals how intertwined admissions decisions were with political maneuverings in Springfield. The Tribune found in-

Please turn to Page 4

TRIBUNE EDITORIAL

The admissions scandal at Rezko U.

The questions surrounding this scandal are grave: Is the role of political clout in admissions noxious but perfectly legal or have university or other state officials conveyed a valuable public asset—admission to the U. of I.—to clouted applicants? Have officials defrauded tens of thousands of applicants by hiding from them a shadow enrollment system

that secretly penalizes those without clout? Have Illinois taxpayers been deprived of the honest services of public officials who have participated in a long-term illegality? These are the kind of questions that have to be asked every time public officials appear to be treating the people's valuable assets as their own. READ THE FULL EDITORIAL ON PAGE 27

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Chicago Tribune



A VIP 'Enemies' list
Hollywood hits town for Chicago premiere. LIVE!



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TRIBUNE WATCHDOG CLOUT GOES TO COLLEGE



FRANK OLIVO

Though short of the college requirements for a graduate program at the University of Illinois, Olivo's firm, Olivo & Peck, advised the admissions committee that Olivo's firm had worked for his benefit.

KERRY PECK

A relative of prominent Chicago attorney and Democratic donor Kerry Peck was admitted to the law school despite the concerns about the applicant's past crimes and admission record.

Whose relatives got clouted into U. of I.?

Cases of questionable acceptances show pull of elected officials, Blagojevich contributors

By **Stacy St. Clair** and **Jodi S. Cohen**
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

A relative of Chicago Ald. Frank Olivo's didn't have the required grades for a specialized accounting program at the University of Illinois but got accepted anyway after Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan's office intervened.

Another applicant—the relative of a prominent attorney who, along with his firm, contributed more than \$121,000 to ousted Gov. Rod Blagojevich's campaign—got into the law school despite objections from the admissions dean.

A relative of convicted Blagojevich influence peddler Antoin "Tony" Rizzo's was going to be rejected until a series of powerful patrons got involved, in a case previously reported by the Tribune.

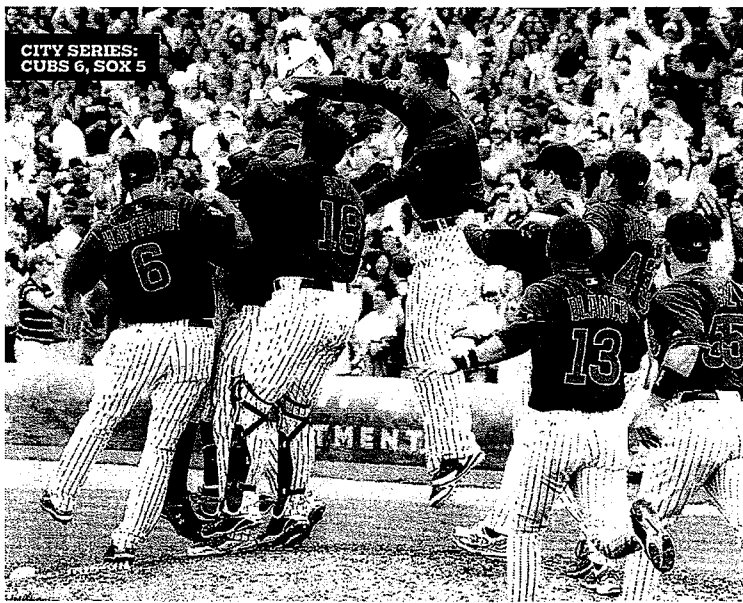
While these scenarios suggest that admissions at the state's flagship university may have been used as a political plum, the connections may not be apparent to a special commission looking into how influence affects admissions at the U. of I. The commission has decided not to press for the names of more than 600 politically connected applicants.

Please turn to Page 4

MORE INSIDE

Feds subpoena 3 Illinois universities

Already defending itself against charges that clouted applicants got special treatment in admissions, the University of Illinois has received a federal subpoena for documents that could show whether Gov. Rod Blagojevich and his associates played a role. Authorities also subpoenaed two other state schools. PAGE 4



CITY SERIES: CUBS 6, SOX 5

Cubs players swarm Alfonso Soriano after he delivered the game-winning hit Thursday at Wrigley Field. PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Round 2: North Siders

IN SPORTS: In a dramatic, come-from-behind victory the Cubs scored five runs in the final two innings to even the rain-shortened two-game series. Goovany Soto hit a solo home run to tie the game in the eighth, and Alfonso Soriano singled in the winning run.

IN BUSINESS: Tribune Co. is no longer negotiating only with the Ricketts family on a deal for the Cubs. Sources confirmed Thursday that the company recently has entered into separate discussions with a group led by former Chicagoan Marc Utay.



Leukemia patient Rhesha Craigen (left) and daughter Anne celebrate Anne's high school graduation. Craigen got a cord-blood donation from a public bank. Doctors laud such donations. MICCO DIMAZZO/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Parents bank cord blood; doctors question the value

By **Trina Tesuderis**
TRIBUNE REPORTER

The advertising makes it hard for parents-to-be to say no. Pay to bank your child's umbilical cord blood, they urge, because someday she, or another relative, may need it.

"The first and most important investment in your baby's future health," counsels CoCell. "Your love and cord blood are two of nature's most powerful protectors," assures FamilyCord.

"Years from now, the cute outfits won't fit ... the stem cells will!" jokes NeoCells.

More than 70 diseases, from childhood leukemias to sickle cell anemia, can be treated with cord-blood stem cells, the companies note. And research into new ways to use them is promising, including work on spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries and diabetes.

But talk to physicians who treat children and often you'll hear a different story. "I think people are paying for nothing," said Dr. Eliane Gluckman, president of the European School of Haematology and the

Please turn to Page 17

CHICAGOLAND EXTRA



ROBIN LOZNAK/GRE AT FALLS TRIBUNE PHOTO

Summer's sting almost upon us

This slow-starting summer has cut down on barbecues and beach trips, but it has kept the mosquitoes away. Well, that's about to change. Experts predict that mosquitoes will be buzzing in parts of the region as soon as Sunday, boosted by rising temperatures and rainfall. The recession has left foundations unfinished and pools abandoned—providing prime breeding grounds for the mosquito that can transmit the West Nile virus. STORY IN CHICAGOLAND EXTRA

A view from inside the Senate chamber

Commentary: Lawmakers enacted significant reforms, Senate President John Cullerton writes. PAGE 33

JOHN KASS



NANCY STONE/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Serving up rib tips

Check out Kass' column and video about doing up some special barbecue and peppers for Father's Day. PAGE 2

WEATHER

7 A.M.	NOON	6 P.M.
73	85	82

See Tom Skilling's forecast on the back of Movies section 3



Chicago Tribune



SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Family travel

How to get the most out of your extended-family vacation.



SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2009 | 24 hours at chicagotribune.com | Mostly sunny early; high 84, low 67.

EARLY EDITION

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TRIBUNE WATCHDOG CLOUT GOES TO COLLEGE

Trustees no strangers to clout

U. of I. board members backed applicants nearly 100 times in 3 years

By Robert Becker, Tara Malone and Jodi S. Cohen
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

In September 2006, the dean of the University of Illinois' law school e-mailed a colleague in admissions to say that a U. of I. trustee had "just called me about getting his [relative] into law school here next year."
Dean Heidi Hurd asked the administrator to walk the board member, Dr. Kenneth Schmidt, through "all the variables and considerations to the admissions process."
"Needless to say this one takes velvet gloves," Hurd wrote, public records show. Schmidt's relative was admitted.
As stewards of the state's most prestigious public university the politically appointed trustees must now restore confi-

More inside

The U. of I. medical school admits applicant got unfair advantage. PAGE 4

dence in an admissions system tainted by revelations that it could be influenced by powerful patrons. Yet several of the trustees charged with fixing the system were among its most frequent users.
Newly obtained records reveal nearly 100 instances where trustees backed applicants in the last three years alone, including their relatives and the children of colleagues and "key employees."
Every member of the board took part, except for Edward McMillan, who became a trustee just months ago.

Please turn to Page 4



Board Chairman Niranjan Shah pressed administrators to consider students. JOSÉ M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE PHOTO

TRIBUNE EDITORIALS

At Clout U, it's time for ethics class

"Pulling strings to help an unqualified applicant get into a taxpayer-sponsored university—at the expense of qualified applicants who play by the rules—isn't a constituent service. It's an abuse of power." PAGE 23

STATE OF CORRUPTION: True reform won't be realized unless the people who run this state feel they face real competition. Illinois needs better candidates. PAGE 23



SPORTS

A lesson learned

Jarrett Payton isn't giving up, just like his father, Walter.



PARADE

Father-in-chief

The president writes about what it means to him to be a dad, and the key role fathers play in society.

SMART

Money matters

What's a dad to do when his son gets into debt?

DADDY'S HOME!



(A lot more than before)

Since losing his job 13 months ago, Joseph Blanco of Clarendon Hills has made breakfast every day for daughter Varonica and son Kai. LANE CHRISTIANSEN/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Nobody wants to lose a job, but some fathers are finding nice benefits

By Barbara Brotman
TRIBUNE REPORTER

Within moments of picking his daughters up from camp the other day, Joseph Mockus began trying to wheedle out of them what they had made him for Father's Day.
"Give me a little hint," he said as he drove Jane and Grace, 7-year-old identical twins, back to their Lake Forest home.

"No," the girls chorused from the back seat.
"Is it a replica of the Sears Tower?"
"No!"
"Is it a decorated potato?"
"No!" Grace said, rolling her eyes.
"Why would I give you a decorated potato?"
Jane changed the subject to her discovery of a Twix wrapper in the back seat.
"Mom," she began, not entirely

paying attention.
"I'm Dad," Mockus said helpfully.
The girls know Mockus is Dad, of course. He's sillier than Mom, drives slower and tells stories like the one about visiting a foreign country riding the animals there and returning home the same day which they knew was not true but enjoyed hugely just the same. They also know that the reason Dad,

Please turn to Page 18

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U. of I. jobs-for-entry scheme

CLOUT GOES TO COLLEGE

E-mails reveal law school put price tag on admission of unqualified candidate

By Jodi S. Cohen, Tara Malone and Robert Becker
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

What does it cost to get an unqualified student into the University of Illinois law school? Five jobs for graduating law students, suggest internal e-mails released Thursday.

The documents show for the first

time efforts to seek favors—in this case, jobs—for admissions, the most troubling evidence yet of how Illinois' entrenched system of patronage crept into the state's most prestigious public university. They also detail the law school's system for handling "Special Admits," students backed by the politically connected, expanding the scope of a scandal prompted by a Chicago Tribune investigation.

In one e-mail exchange, University of Illinois Chancellor Richard Herman forced the law school to admit an unqualified applicant backed by then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich while seeking a promise from the governor's go-between that five law school graduates would get jobs. The applicant, a relative of deep-pocketed Blagojevich campaigner...

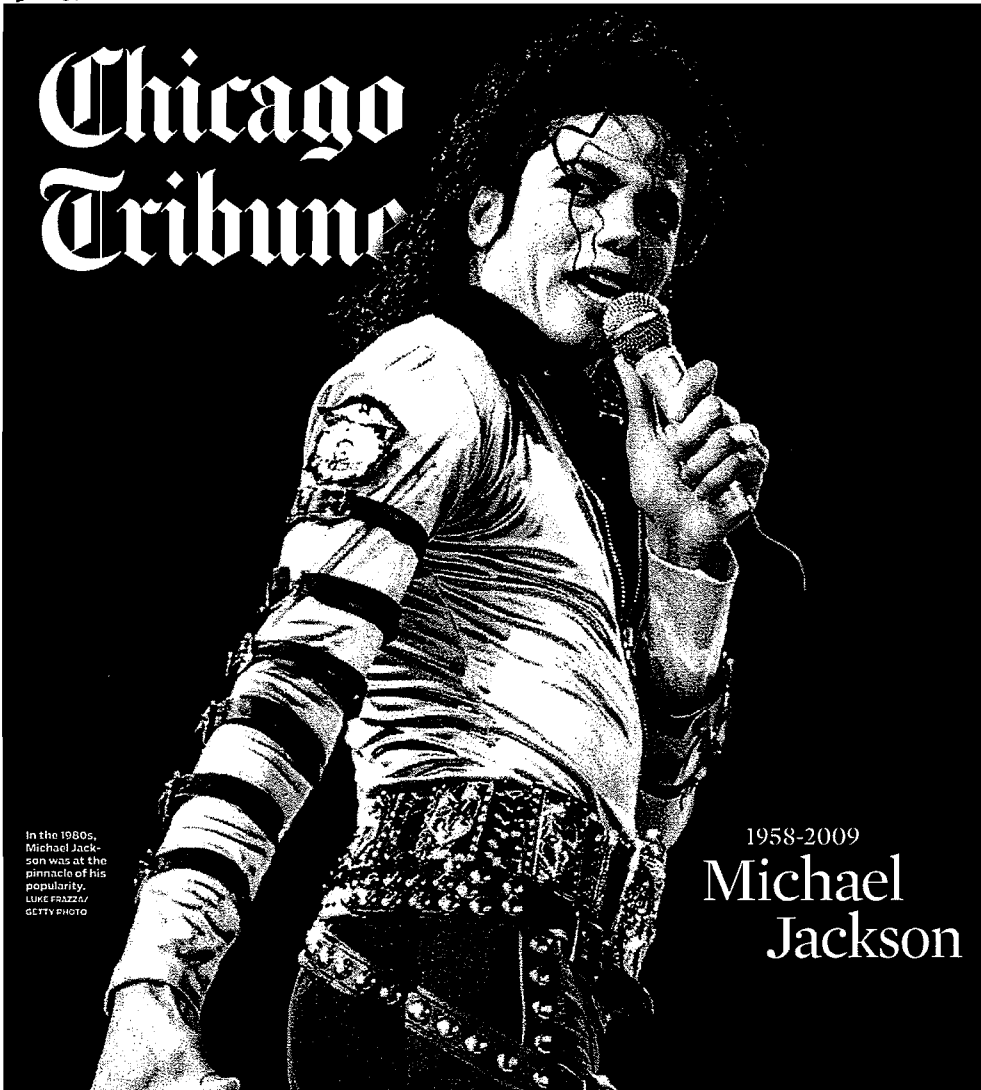
Please turn to Page 13

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FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2009 | The Midwest's largest reporting team | 24 hours at chicagotribune.com

Chicago Tribune



In the 1980s, Michael Jackson was at the pinnacle of his popularity. LUKE PRAZZA/GETTY PHOTO

1958-2009 Michael Jackson

Eccentric superstar surprising to the end

By Geoff Boucher and Elaine Woo
TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

Michael Jackson was fascinated by celebrity tragedy. He had a statue of Marilyn Monroe in his home. He bought the publishing rights to Buddy Holly's songbook and studied the sad Hollywood exile of Charlie Chaplin. He married the daughter of Elvis Presley. Jackson met his own untimely death Thursday at age 50. More than any of those past icons, he left a complicated legacy. As a child star he was so talented he seemed

lit from within; as a middle-age man he was viewed as something akin to a visiting alien who, like Tinkerbell, would cease to exist if the applause ever stopped.

It was impossible in the early 1980s to imagine the surreal final chapters of Jackson's life. In that decade, he became the world's most popular entertainer thanks to a series of hit records—"Beat It," "Billie Jean," "Thriller"—and dazzling music videos. Perhaps the best singer and dancer of his generation, he created his own

Please turn to Page 5



Fame came early for Gary native Jackson, who led his family act The Jackson 5 as a talented child singer. TRIBUNE PHOTO 1972

Pop music legend dies on eve of comeback bid

By Harriet Ryan, Chris Lee and Scott Gold
TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson, a seminal figure in music, dance and culture whose ever-changing face graced the covers of albums that sold more than a half-billion copies, died on Thursday shortly after going into cardiac arrest at his Los Angeles chateau. He was 50 years old.

Jackson spent much of his life as the most famous person on the planet, and to many, his premature death felt both unthinkable

and, oddly, inevitable. Paramedics found Jackson in cardiac arrest when they arrived at his home shortly before 12:30 p.m. Pacific time, 3 minutes and 17 seconds after receiving a 911 call. His personal physician was already in the house performing CPR. Jackson was not breathing, and it appears he never regained consciousness. Paramedics treated Jackson at the house for 42 minutes, and he was declared dead at 2:26 p.m. at UCLA Medical Center, about 2 miles from his

Please turn to Page 5

OBITUARY

'Charlie's Angels' star Farrah Fawcett

A rare form of cancer claims the actress who in the 1970s became a hugely popular pinup model and star of the television series "Charlie's Angels" and later gained critical accolades for more dramatic fare, including the 1984 TV movie "The Burning Bed." [more](#)

CHICAGOLAND

In Englewood, no immunity to violence

As police investigated the killing of a girl who was shot while washing her family's dogs in Englewood, a gang member was sentenced for killing a girl in the same neighborhood in 2006 as she celebrated her birthday. [more](#)

SPORTS

Cubs' Lou Piniella: I still have fire

The manager defends himself against a perceived loss of passion but can't say for sure that he'll be back in 2010 for the final year of his contract. Plus, the City Series with the White Sox shifts to U.S. Cellular Field on Friday. [more](#)

NATION & WORLD

School strip-search unconstitutional

The strip-search of a 13-year-old Arizona schoolgirl suspected of hiding pain-relief pills was unreasonable and unconstitutional, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday. The justices' 8-1 decision set new limits on how far officials may go to inspect for drugs on campus. [more](#)

WEATHER

7 A.M. 74°
NOON 85°
6 P.M. 83°
See Tom Skilling's forecast on the back of Movies section 3

PHOTO: MICHAEL JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES

FROM THE FLAMING LIPS TO ELTON JOHN, FROM BEYONCÉ TO RASCAL FLATTS, THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN **on the town**

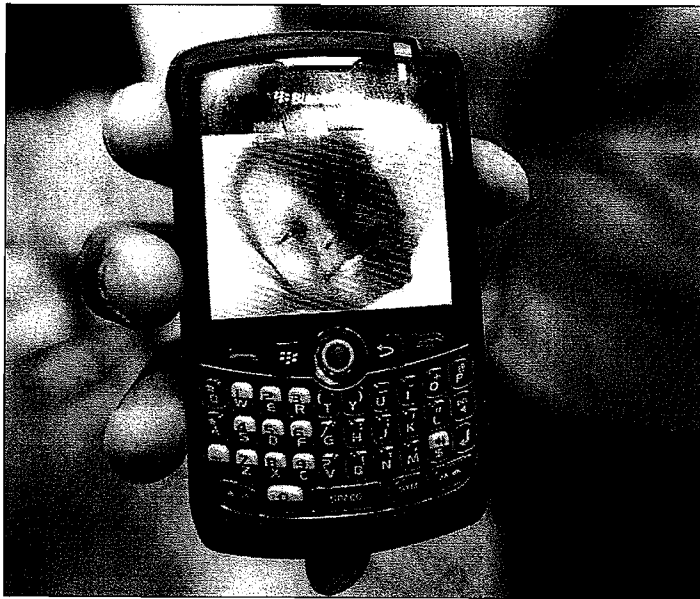


Chicago Tribune



FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2009 | The Midwest's largest reporting team | 24 hours at chicagotribune.com

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Walter Walker's BlackBerry shows an image of a smiling Jonnel Galloway recovering in his hospital bed. HEATHER CHARLES/TRIBUNE PHOTOS

'We're all supposed to be safe in our home'

Injured 8-year-old among victims of violent night



By Annie Sweeney
TRIBUNE REPORTER

When Walter Walker talks like a minister about his young son being hit by stray gunfire inside the boy's South Side home, the words flow.

We've got to stop the violence. Kids are killing kids. But ask him how he feels as a dad and he pauses for a moment and shrugs his shoulders.

"I can't explain it," says Walker, 35, a minister at Wings of Heaven International Ministry for four years. "I can't explain it."

On Thursday, his son Jonnel Galloway, 8, was smiling and posing for photos, asking

for his favorite pizza and playing video games with his older brother in a hospital room just a day after being shot.

The stray bullet had pierced a window of the family's second-story apartment in Englewood about 11:30 p.m. as Jonnel was watching TV, according to family and Chicago police.

In the hospital lobby, his mother silently cried in the arms of a friend. And his father—a former street-gang member who says he has left that life a decade after serving time for attempted murder—vowed to be at his side through what his doctor said will be a long recovery. The most

Please turn to Page 8

Walter Walker talks Thursday about his son Jonnel Galloway, who is recovering in University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital after he was shot Wednesday.

TRIBUNE WATCHDOG
CLOUT GOES TO COLLEGE

Who had clout? Kids at affluent high schools

Hundreds on U. of I. list came from just 22 schools

Looking to land on the University of Illinois' clout list? You may need to relocate.

A Chicago Tribune analysis of U. of I. admissions data found clout clearly thrived in places—the North Shore and some western suburbs, in particular—where families were well-positioned and politically savvy enough to tap into connections with elected officials and university trustees.

More than half of the 616 graduating Illinois students whose applications received special consideration from 2005 to 2009 graduated from just 22 high schools, all but one in the metro area. Meanwhile, at least 668 Illinois high schools had no clouted applicants at all.

Highland Park High School is at the top of the list, with 31 students being designated as "Category 1"—or worthy of special attention in admissions—in the last five years. Loyola Academy in Wilmette comes in second with 27.

Despite its size, the entire Chicago Public Schools system had only 25 applicants on the lists since 2005.

"Those numbers are astounding and it just highlights the privilege of the wealthy," said Maribeth Vander Weele, one of seven commissioners on a panel charged with looking into U. of I. admissions practices. "It piled one advantage upon another to already advantaged children." NEWS FOCUS, PAGE 4



How many students at your school got on the clout list?

Search the university admissions data with our new online tool at chicagotribune.com/cloutschools

NATION & WORLD

Obama to NAACP: Fight on

While paying tribute to the civil rights body on its centennial, the first black U.S. president says discrimination still festers. PAGE 13

WEATHER
7 A.M. 63
NOON 67
6 P.M. 62
MORE, BACK OF SEC. 3

CHICAGOLAND



Who knows where the Willis Tower is?

Not many people on the first day of the tower's renaming. PAGE 4
Business: David Greising on what's in a name change. PAGE 23

Therapist puts clients to work

Starts cleaning firm to help sweep away stress of joblessness

By Margaret Ramirez
TRIBUNE REPORTER

As a psychotherapist in Oak Park for the last 30 years, Doris Ayala counseled hundreds of clients through abuse and anxiety.

But for those suffering depression due to unemployment, there was a limit to how much she could help. Five years ago, the doctor prescribed a different medicine and started Sweeping Dimensions, a cleaning service providing jobs for her out-of-work Latino clients and other unemployed individuals.

With the same thoroughness she uses in therapy, Ayala often goes out with her crews as they clean luxury homes and offices across Chicago. She supervises the mopping and scrubbing and does some dusting and vacuuming. She leads a double life—



Doris Ayala (foreground) cleans a Near North Side condominium with employee Maria Garces, a former patient of Ayala's. ALEX GARCIA/TRIBUNE PHOTO

part clinician and part cleaning boss—helping her clients and employees turn their lives around.

"You can provide psychotherapy until you're blue in the face. But that's not going to make them feel better if

they don't have a job and they have to support their families and feed their children," said Ayala, 57, co-founder and executive director of the Latino

Please turn to Page 8

Chicago Tribune

Inside
Netflix's
biggest
secret
Live! SEC.3

See how 42 employees in Carol Stream move 60,000 DVDs a day

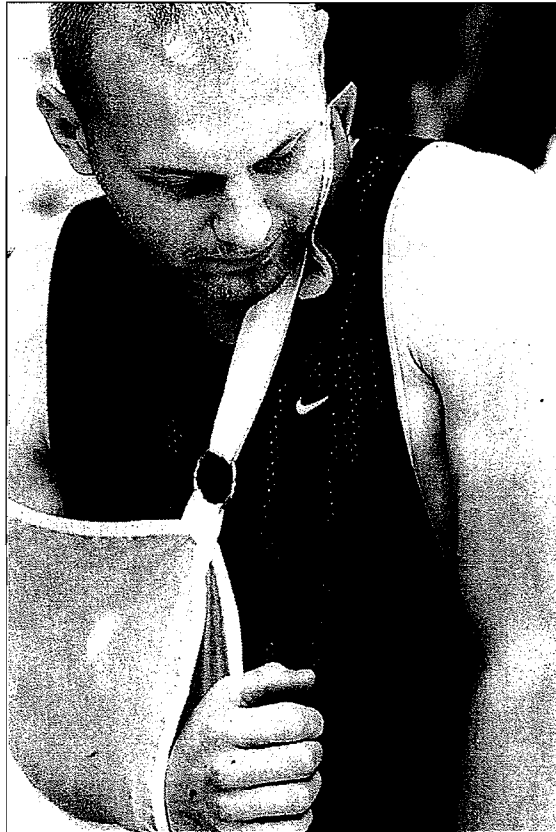
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2009 | The Midwest's largest reporting team | 24 hours at chicagotribune.com

75¢ CITY & SUBURBS, \$1.25 ELSEWHERE—163RD YEAR NO. 216 © CHICAGO TRIBUNE

8 friends trying to get home in SUV are rammed by reputed gang member in alleged case of mistaken identity



Shalimar Santiago was charged in crash.



Robert Thompson was in the SUV and was hurt when the minivan rolled the SUV. "We tried to avoid them and they kept sideswiping us," said Thompson, 21. ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Survivors recount deadly end to night on the town

By Annia Sweeney, William Lee and Matthew Walberg
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

A few hours before sunset, the eight young friends from the west suburbs were just trying to get home in a black Lincoln Navigator SUV when they got turned around and lost on Chicago's West Side.

Passing the other way early Saturday was Shalimar Santiago, 27, a reputed gang member driv-

ing through the neighborhood about an hour after a buddy had been shot by someone in a black SUV, law enforcement sources said.

Within moments, Santiago allegedly rammed and sideswiped the Lincoln with his minivan, causing the SUV to flip over and hit a light pole. The law enforcement officials are calling it a tragic case of mistaken identity in which a group of people became victims of a gang feud, with deadly consequences. And this

time, the weapon was a minivan. "We tried to avoid them and they kept sideswiping us," said Robert Thompson, 21, a passenger in the youths' SUV. "We tried to lose them by going left but they hit us dead-on. ... I remember flipping once, twice maybe, and that's it."

On Monday, one SUV passenger, Stephanie Herrera, 18, died in Mt. Sinai Hospital, according to the Cook County medical ex-

Please turn to Page 10

TRIBUNE WATCHDOG CLOUT GOES TO COLLEGE

Scandal claims 2nd at U. of I.

With review panel set to upbraid him over admissions, board chief quits



By Tara Malone, Stacy St. Clair and Jodi E. Cohen
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Days before a state panel is set to blast him for his heavy-handedness in University of Illinois affairs, board Chairman Nirarajan Shah resigned his powerful post Monday while accepting some blame for his role in a far-reaching admissions scandal.

An Oak Brook businessman and prolific political donor, Shah becomes the second university trustee to step down amid allegations that he overstepped his authority in meddling with undergraduate and graduate applications. Trustee Lawrence Eppley resigned last week, saying he wanted to restore public confidence in the Urbana-Champaign campus.

Shah's departure leaves behind a fractured board grappling with an uncertain future. The remaining seven governor-appointed members will be urged to submit their resignations when the Illinois Admissions Review Commission releases its report this week. "I don't know who else might decide to resign, so it leaves the

Nirarajan Shah, chairman of the University of Illinois board, is the second trustee to resign in a week. PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Tribune editorial

Other trustees will likely quit in short order. It's the only honorable thing for them to do. PAGE 14

board in limbo," trustee Frances Carroll said. "My concern is we won't be able to do the business of the university if everyone is resigning."

Shah and fellow board members came under scrutiny following revelations of clout lists that gave well-connected applicants an admissions edge at the state's most selective public university. Records show that Shah's sway also influenced housing and employment decisions involving his relatives and at least one employee's child.

Please turn to Page 10

BUSINESS



LOS ANGELES TIMES PHOTO

Strange tablemates chew over label law

The restaurant industry is stewing over a federal bill that would require larger chains to post calorie counts on menu boards—and the battle has created some unexpected alliances. PAGE 17

SPORTS

Bears shuffling starters on offense

Greg Olsen replaces Desmond Clark even though Clark is the first Bears tight end since Mike Ditka to post three straight 60-catch seasons. David Haugh writes on Clark's classy response.

CHICAGOLAND

State probes access to old charity's funds

A Waukegan man says he's trying to revive the Lake County Humane Society but the Illinois attorney general's office is probing his access to the charity's nearly \$1 million in assets. PAGE 6

For the first family, first-rate health care

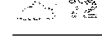
President Barack Obama, in his push for health-care reform, notes that he receives excellent care and says less privileged Americans deserve better medical treatment. Just how good is the first family's health care? Well, there's a White House medical staff only steps away, plus VIP treatment at military hospitals, an ambulance accompanying the president on motorcades, a quick-to-assemble operating room on Air Force One and the nation's most skilled specialists at the family's beck and call. Members of Congress do pretty well themselves, with access to an on-site clinic for a fee. And no one gets disqualified because of "pre-existing conditions." NEWS FOCUS, PAGE 4



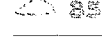
JEWEL SAMAD/GETTY-ASP PHOTO

TOM SKILLING'S WEATHER

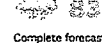
7 A.M.



NOON



6 P.M.



Complete forecast on the back of Live! SECTION 3

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEWEL SAMAD

Panel: Leaders failed U. of I.

Report on clout admissions urges trustees to quit, vast reform

By Jodi S. Cohen and Stacy St. Clair
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

After an eight-week investigation found that the state's culture of political slush-fund money seeped into the admissions process at the University of Illinois, a state panel called Thursday for resignations and reforms to move the school past the embarrassing scandal.

To start, the Illinois Admissions

Review Commission urged the university's trustees to resign and had harsh words for the top administrators—President B. Joseph White and Chancellor Richard Herman—for acting unethically by enabling an admissions process that allowed subpar students sponsored by powerful people to get into the state's most prestigious public campus.

"The University now finds itself in a full-fledged crisis purely of its own making," the report states.

Tribune editorial

Report makes the case that White and Herman must go. PAGE 12

"Public confidence in the University and its leadership has eroded, and the University must set out in earnest to regain the public's trust and repair the damage done to its reputation."

While the report stopped short of

calling for White's and Herman's resignations, it strongly encouraged a newly reconstituted Board of Trustees to review the leaders' roles in the scandal. The commission suggested that Gov. Pat Quinn determine which trustees, if any, should continue to oversee the state's flagship university. Quinn is expected to address the admissions fallout Friday.



U. of I. President B. Joseph White said Thursday he will not step down. ABEL URIBE/TRIBUNE PHOTO

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Chicago Tribune



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NATION & WORLD

Sotomayor makes history



MARY ALTAFFER/AP PHOTO

Sonia Sotomayor was confirmed 68-31 by the Senate on Thursday, setting the stage for her to become the first Hispanic justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. While her ethnicity has made headlines, other facets of her background likely will influence her decisions in ways hardly mentioned.

STORY AND ANALYSIS, PAGE 13



ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE PHOTO

TRIBUNE WATCHDOG

Olympic committee member Michael Scott has won aldermanic backing to develop a swath of city land near a proposed 2016 site. The plan includes homes, shops — even a Nike store.

Daley insider corners prime Olympics lots



Lots along the 1100 block of South Albany Avenue are among those earmarked for Michael Scott's group. ABEL URIBE/TRIBUNE PHOTOS

JOHN HUGHES

1950-2009

'HE PUT CHICAGO ON THE MAP'



Director-writer's coming-of-age movies dominated the '80s

John Hughes' name became synonymous with a brand of comedy in which young, rebellious yet good-at-heart characters battle the establishment. Films

such as "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," "The Breakfast Club" and "Home Alone" took on an iconic status, all while his productions revitalized Chicago's film industry and launched the careers of scores of young actors, such as Matthew Broderick, Molly Ringwald and Macaulay Culkin.

OBITUARY IN MOVIES

By Todd Lighty, David Heizmann and Kathy Bergen
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

A member of Mayor Richard Daley's team working to bring the Olympics to Chicago has quietly arranged to develop city-owned land near a park that would be transformed for the 2016 Summer Games, potentially positioning himself to cash in if the Games come here, a Tribune investigation has found.

Developer Michael Scott Sr., an early member of the mayor's Olympic committee, leads a group planning a residential and commercial project on lots kitty-corner from the proposed Douglas Park sporting venues, a location where land values could jump if the city gets the Olympics.

The plan—which would include a Nike store—already has gotten crucial support from the local alderman, who has set aside the lots for Scott and his group.

The city generally sells taxpayer-owned lots for \$1 apiece for affordable housing projects, and in other cases negotiates land prices.

Scott owns Michael Scott &



Three people fish at the south end of Douglas Park's pond Wednesday. The park is proposed to be the site of some Olympics events if Chicago snares the 2016 Summer Games.

Associates, a real estate development and investment firm. He also serves as president of the Chicago Board of Education, and was in the news earlier this week when he said he was subpoenaed to testify before a federal grand jury looking into admissions to the city's elite public schools.

Scott's designs on the public land are sure to reinforce concerns of residents that it's the mayor's friends who would benefit from Daley bringing the 2016 Olympics to the city. The story is a familiar one in Daley's administration, where City Hall insiders have personally profited from even the most civic-minded

of projects, from recycling garbage to building Millennium Park.

The development team includes six West Side ministers, some of whom are politically connected.

Scott, who acknowledged

Please turn to Page 4

LOLLAPALOOZA

Greg Kot's picks for this weekend's can't-miss acts

ON THE TOWN

7 A.M.	NOON	5 P.M.
67	79	77

Full forecast on the back of Movies section 3

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE



WILLIAM DESHAZER/TRIBUNE PHOTO

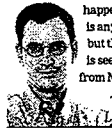


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WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

Mystery surrounds lost tax bill

More than a decade ago, Standard Federal Bank sent the Cook County treasurer's office a check to pay Mary McLean's 1996 property taxes from escrow. What happened after that is anybody's guess, but the county now is seeking payment from McLean.



JON YATES, PAGE 20

SPORTS

Bradley apologizes for poor behavior

In what could be his last "official" act as a Cub, outfielder releases statement in apparent effort to rehabilitate his reputation, improve his chances of being traded.

CHICAGO 2016

Oprah says yes, but will she say more?

Oprah Winfrey will travel to Copenhagen next week to support the Chicago 2016 bid — but it's not clear if she'll be one of the city's 10 speakers on Oct. 2 for its 45-minute pitch to Olympic voters. [PAGE 5](#)

JOHN KASS

Chicago Way awaits contractor's return

As Marco Morales awaits extradition to Chicago, where he could talk about his dealings with City Hall, his son, Marc, keeps getting millions in city contracts. [PAGE 2](#)

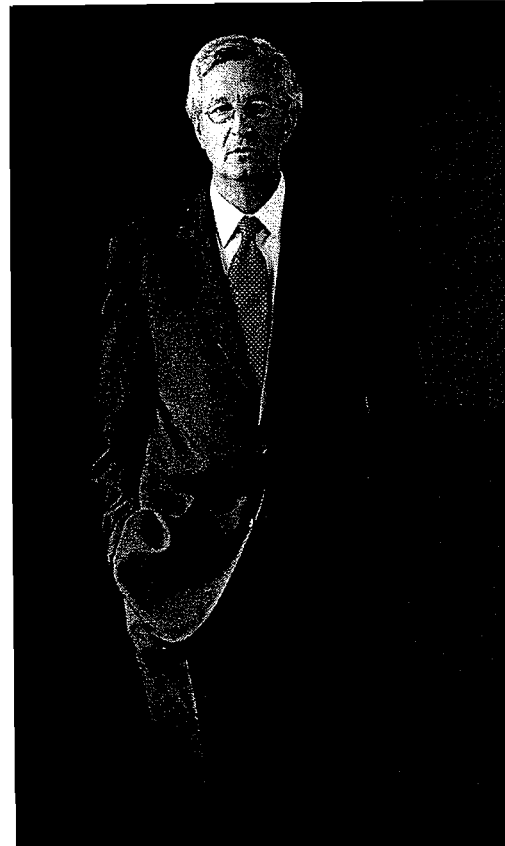
WEATHER



Read Tom Skilling's forecast on the back of Live!

CLOUT GOES TO COLLEGE

Admissions scandal sinks U. of I. leader



University of Illinois President B. Joseph White said he will step down at the end of the year, forgoing a \$475,000 retention bonus due in February. [TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO](#)

White's departure marks latest fallout over clout list for connected students

By Jodi S. Cohen, Stacy St. Clair and Tara Malone
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

As pressure mounted during the summer from an all-consuming admissions scandal, University of Illinois President B. Joseph White carried in his pocket a motivational card reminding him to "Keep Calm and Carry On."

And for several months, he did. He launched an overhaul of the admissions system. He publicly apologized for the abuses. He defended his record.

But on Wednesday, White announced he no longer could carry on as president. He said he will step down at the end of the year, forgoing a \$475,000 retention bonus due in February and allowing a new board of trustees to choose a leader.

White's resignation is the latest fallout from revelations that the university had a formalized admissions system that allowed subpar but politically connected applicants to get in over more qualified candidates. Six trustees have already been replaced.

"Joe White has shown great leadership in this decision and leaves the university without the scars of a termination," said board Chairman Christopher Kennedy, who was appointed by Gov. Pat Quinn last month.

White, who teaches about ethics and leadership, will remain at the university as a business professor earning about \$300,000 a year, as allowed in his contract. White also will continue to work on a fundraising campaign.

Please turn to [Page 4](#)

You read about it here first

The Breaking News Center's alert about White was sent at 7:39 a.m. Wednesday. Get all of Chicago's latest news at chicagobreakingnews.com

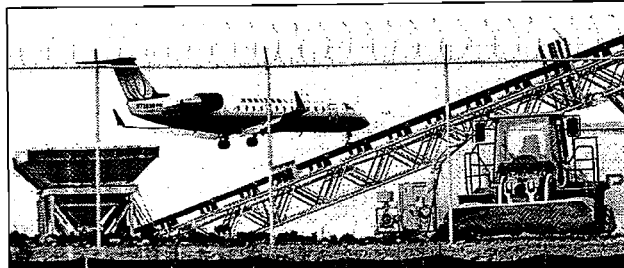
INSIDE



Will former President Stanley Ikenberry be tapped for interim role? [PAGE 4](#)

EDITORIAL

White made the right move. Chancellor should be the next to go. [PAGE 26](#)



A report says debris from construction sites near O'Hare runways can endanger airplanes. [CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE PHOTO](#)

O'Hare cited for safety violations

TRIBUNE EXCLUSIVE FAA's warning notice lists hazards that endanger takeoffs and landings

By Jon Hilkewitch
TRIBUNE REPORTER

Federal inspectors found numerous violations at O'Hare International Airport that endanger airplanes at the most critical phases of flight — takeoffs and landings, officials said

Wednesday
The safety breaches, uncovered by the Federal Aviation Administration during routine inspections last month at O'Hare, range from debris on runways to excessive amounts of tall grass and weeds that create hazards for planes by attracting birds and

other wildlife.

A warning notice from the FAA to Chicago said the inspections show that O'Hare is seriously out of compliance with federal aviation law. The notice, called a "letter of correction," also chastised the Chicago Department of Aviation for what the federal agency called a pattern of false statements in its self-inspection program.

Please turn to [Page 16](#)

October 3
LUXEHOME
OPEN HOUSE
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SHOP, EAT, DRINK AND LEARN AT MORE THAN 30 LUXURY KITCHEN & BATH BOUTIQUES

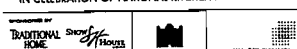


KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
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10:30 - 11:30AM
North Lobby, First Floor

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IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL KITCHEN AND BATH MONTH

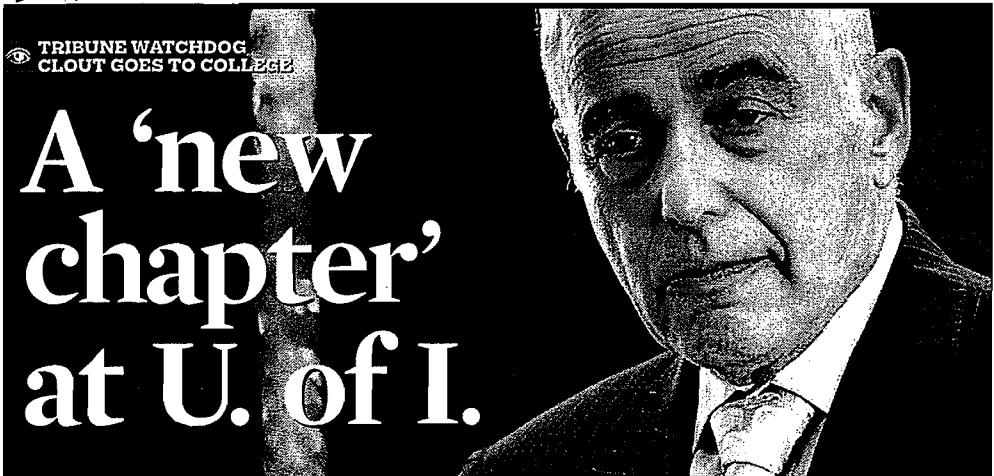


PHOTOGRAPH BY JONATHAN WILSON

Chicago Tribune

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TRIBUNE WATCHDOG
CLOUT GOES TO COLLEGE

A 'new chapter' at U. of I.

With chancellor's departure, campus can move beyond 'the trauma' of admissions scandal

By Jodi S. Cohen, Tara Malone and Stacy St. Clair
TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Beleagued University of Illinois Chancellor Richard Herman announced his resignation Tuesday, marking a near-wholesale turnover of the university's most senior leadership. University and state leaders lauded Herman's departure as a significant decision that will allow the university to move

Tribune editorial

Perhaps the scandal's biggest hit is to the school's integrity, which only now can begin to recover. It will be a long climb. PAGE 22

beyond an admissions scandal that rattled the Urbana-Champaign campus and caused other universities nationwide to reexamine their admissions policies. "There are few universities in the coun-

try that have ever taken comparable steps to turn the page," said former U. of I. President Stanley Ikenberry, a nationally renowned educator who will return as the interim president Jan. 1. "What we have here is the opening of a new chapter with most of the trauma of the last four or five months behind us."

Herman's resignation follows that of President B. Joseph White, who will step down at the end of the year. Six university trustees also have been replaced after revelations by the Chicago Tribune of preferential admissions practices that let applicants connected to trustees, lawmak-

ers and other officials get into the school. Please turn to Page 8

WATCHDOG UPDATE

Task force hears of nursing home crisis

Social workers and nursing home residents demanded on Tuesday that Illinois stop placing younger, mentally ill felons in facilities that house geriatric and disabled residents. PAGE 9



CHICAGOLAND

CLTV host's parents found shot to death

Two bodies found in a suburban forest preserve were identified as Milton and Ruby McClendon, parents of CLTV talk show host Garrard McClendon. PAGE 11

972 sick students close high school

St. Charles East canceled classes through Friday after 972 absences. No swine flu was confirmed, but officials saw kids with flu-like symptoms. PAGE 7

GOOD EATING

Mini burgers, mega taste

Those bite-size sliders have grown in popularity and variety. Check out the recipe for chef Wolfgang Puck's classic sirloin slider with remoulade.

WEATHER

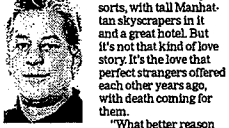
8 A.M. 60°
1 P.M. 69°
4 P.M. 70°
See Tom Skilling's forecast on the back of Live! SECTION 3



Arnulfo Ponce, left, and Gregory Frederick. TINA FINBERG/PHOTO FOR THE TRIBUNE

Strangers united by horror to reunite in a celebration

Two Chicago women, Faye Gilmore and her daughter, Leigh, are throwing a reunion party at their home on Saturday for two special guys from New York.



John Kass
"What better reason to have a party than to thank someone who saved your life?" said Faye, 73.

For the last eight years, the Gilmore women didn't even know the men's names. "The men didn't know their names. Each pair thought the other might be dead.



Faye Gilmore, 73, and her daughter, Leigh, 50. MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE PHOTO

It happened in New York eight years ago, on the morning of Sept. 11.

Faye and Leigh, 50, in a wheelchair and suffering from multiple sclerosis, were guests at the Marriott World Trade Center hotel. Now known as "Hotel Ground Zero,"

Please turn to Page 2

Brown's Chicken killer gets life in prison

Like Luna, Degorski is spared death penalty

A Cook County jury on Tuesday recommended life in prison for James Degorski, who was convicted last month for the murders of seven workers at the Brown's Chicken restaurant in Palatine in 1993. Two jurors refused to impose the death penalty on him. The verdict left some of the victims' relatives disappointed, but all were thankful that their 16-year ordeal had come to some kind of closure. PAGE 4



Diane Clayton, mother of victim Marcus Nellson, becomes emotional after the verdict. NUCCO DINUZZO/TRIBUNE PHOTO

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AMERICA'S LARGEST INDEPENDENT TIRE DEALER

From: Hurd, Heidi M. [mailto:HHurd@law.uiuc.edu]
Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2006 9:45 AM
To: Herman, Richard
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Only very high-paying jobs in law firms that are absolutely indifferent to whether the five have passed their law school classes or the Bar.

Sheeshk. It's enough to make one want to be a Republican.

Heidi

Heidi M. Hurd
Dean, College of Law
David C. Baum Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy
Co-Director of the Program in Law and Philosophy

From: Herman, Richard [mailto:rhh@uiuc.edu]
Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2006 9:38 AM
To: Hurd, Heidi M.
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Heidi,

Straight from the G. My apologies.
Larry has promised to work on jobs (5). What counts?
Richard

From: Hurd, Heidi M. [mailto:HHurd@law.uiuc.edu]
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2006 11:14 AM
To: Herman, Richard
Subject: FW: [REDACTED]

Can you turn this around, Richard? Please? Heidi

From: Pless, Paul
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 2:24 PM
To: Hurd, Heidi M.
Subject: [REDACTED]

Dean Hurd,

I received your message concerning [REDACTED]. I can't state strongly enough the negative impact this will have on the profile of the incoming class. [REDACTED] or the 41st percentile and his undergraduate GPA is a [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] if you remove grades he received at a community college). This places him well below both of our 25th percentiles in the incoming class (162 and 3.15). With a class of 185 students, a single student can have a major impact on the profile. Because we are being forced to admit [REDACTED] I will have to admit at least 2 additional students to ensure there is no negative impact on the profile, and I can't say for certain that even that will be enough. Since we are so late in the process it will be unlikely that I will be able to find any single candidate that would have both the LSAT and GPA to counteract [REDACTED] numbers. By admitting [REDACTED] we are putting in jeopardy the goal of increasing our median GPA to a 3.5.

I have another concern. This is now the third candidate that we have been forced to admit. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] also hurt our LSAT goals but at least don't damage our GPA median. They are also qualified to be students here and should be able to compete (although not at a high level). [REDACTED] will not be a successful student here and I have very real concerns about his ability to pass the Bar. (National and College studies indicate that an LSAT below 151 put students at a serious risk for passing the Bar. Over the past 5 years less than half of the students admitted with a 151 or below have passed, whereas 95% of those above a 151 have passed the Bar on their first attempt.)

2 years ago we were forced to admit [REDACTED] had an LSAT of [REDACTED] but a GPA of [REDACTED]. Through years of correlation data we predicted that her GPA for the first year would be a [REDACTED] (or the bottom third of the class). Her first year GPA was in fact a [REDACTED] (bottom 15% of the class). [REDACTED] predictive index is 2.6. I find it hard to justify admitting a student that we know will struggle here and that we know will struggle to pass the Bar.

I apologize for the bluntness of this email, but we are setting this young man up to fail. His GPA in his junior year was a [REDACTED]. His GPA in his first semester of his senior year was a [REDACTED]. There is no track record of success and when he is faced with the rigor of our program there is absolutely no reason to expect anything other than failure.

Paul