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THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHRONICLE

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VOLUME 26 NUMBER 13

THE EYES AND EARS OF COLUMBIA

FEBRUARY 8, 1993

Sept. opening for first dorm

By Mark Giardina
News Editor

A four-year search for a dormitory building for Columbia College has come to an end.

The purchase of housing for over 300 Columbia students is in the process of being finalized and should be ready for occupation for the fall 1993 semester, said Bert Gall, Columbia provost and executive vice president. It will be the college's first residence hall.

The dorms will be located at what is currently the Lakeside Lofts Building, at 731 S. Plymouth Ct., a nine-story, 158,000-square-foot former printing plant in the nearby Printer's Row neighborhood, about three blocks from Columbia's South Loop campus.

"With the purchase of this classic building and its conversion to residence space, Columbia College is poised to enter an exciting new phase in its rich and remarkable history," said Columbia President John Duff. "The educational opportunities in the arts, media and communications that we currently provide to a mainly commuter population can now be further extended to our growing numbers of out-of-state and international students."

The main purpose of the dormitory is to provide housing for international and out-of-state students who might not otherwise attend Columbia. Students with long commutes would be considered next. The further away the student lives, the greater priority they will receive, Gall said.

The addition of the residence hall will increase

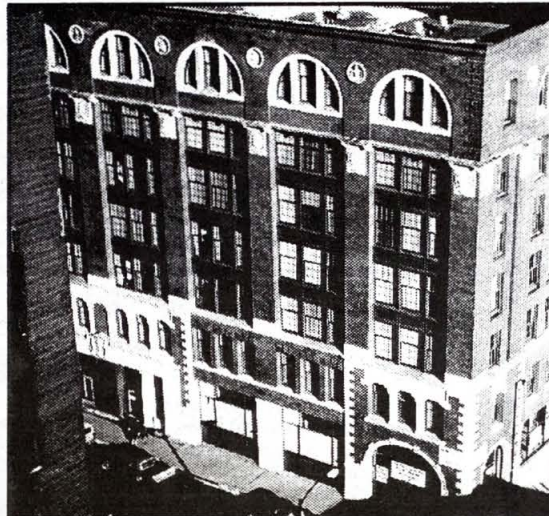


Photo courtesy of the Public Relations office
731 S. Plymouth Court, Columbia's new dorm.

Columbia's total investment in facilities to over \$40 million and will raise the campus size to 858,000 square feet. The building will be purchased with borrowed funds, Gall said.

Gall said the more he sees the building, the more he likes it. "It will be a real addition to the college."

Although the purchase price has not yet been disclosed, Duff said, "We are fortunate to be able to acquire this outstanding building at a very attractive price, in keeping with Columbia's philosophy of expanding in a fiscally conservative way."

The cost of renovating the building is estimated to be between \$1 million and \$1.3 million. The bidding process to find a company to do the work is in progress.

The building will house a maximum number of 346 students. A typical four-student suite will be 1,100 square feet and will be fully furnished. They will include two bedrooms, a living area, study area, kitchen, dining area and bathroom. The suites, which have 12-foot ceilings and oversized windows and closets, will also be furnished with a large refrigerator, freezer, dishwasher and full-sized range. The building will have a 24-hour security guard.

The cost for living in the dorms will be \$4,100 a year, according to Gall.

Current commercial space on the first two floors will be converted into rooms for recreation and educational support such as a learning resource center, computer lab, student lounge, game room and rehearsal space. New staff will include a director of housing and resident advisors.

Gall said that getting the all the work done on time will be tight, but that he expects it to be ready.

The college is considering setting aside some floors as single-sex and others as "scholars only" floors with noise restrictions, Duff said. Space will also be set aside for scholarship students.

CTA fare increases for 1993					\$78.00
				Monthly Pass for senior citizens, students & people with discounts	\$60.00
				Reduce fare for 20 tokens for senior citizens, students & people with discounts	
				Tokens (10)	\$30.00 \$33.00
Cash fares Off-peak	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.50	
	\$1.20	\$1.25			

CTA hikes fares

By Jodi Joss
Staff Writer

The fare increases put into effect on February 1, by the Chicago Transit Authority are causing frustrated anger across the city and Columbia students are not immune to the rise in prices.

Approximately 1.8 million people ride the CTA every day. Funds collected on all fares in 1992 totaled over \$351 million, according to CTA media coordinator Jeff Stern.

New cash fares for off peak hours rose from \$1.20 to \$1.25. Monthly pass buyers now have three options - the every day, the weekly and the new weekday only. The every day pass rose from \$60 to \$78 and the

weekly from \$15 to \$20.50. The weekday pass costs \$66.

The CTA experiment requiring pass holders to pay an additional 25 cents per use, has been done away with. Stern says it didn't work like they thought it would.

"The September fare experiment didn't work because the cash-paying people really were being had," Stern said. "They were paying up to \$1.80 one way or \$3.60 round trip every day while pass holders were paying less than 50 cents a ride."

Stern added that the experiment lost the CTA thousands of dollars and there would have to

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BAGIT gallery

Showcasing black art

By Antonio Sharp
Staff Writer

Oscar Edmond, angered and frustrated both with white-owned art galleries displaying the works of African Americans and the medias embracing the black experience only during the month of February, motivated him to open his own gallery.

Black Art Group International (BAGIT) is located in a converted loft at 900 S. Wabash Ave. BAGIT is a combination of artifacts, oil paintings, photographs and sculpture depicting both the past and present African-American experience.

"Many art galleries depicting the black experience are not black-owned," Edmond says. "There are plenty of black artists whose work would be better received at a gallery owned by an African American."

Edmond feels that his gallery, which opened this past September, breaks a myth that African Americans cannot own or appreciate artifacts created by their ancestors.

"I'm unapologetic about promoting the black experience," he says.

All of the artwork displayed is for sale, with some prices entering the thousands.

Visitors are greeted with a kaleidoscope of black history. On display are documented engravings dating back to 1884, a slave inventory bill from 1885, a deed signed by Frederick Douglass, a letter authored by Booker T. Washington and

handmade dolls and books. There is a portrait of the late rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix propped against a windowsill. Adjacent to the portrait are autographed photos of Eartha Kitt, Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald and Mahaila Jackson.

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Eric Bond / Staff photographer
Lestine Byers of the Black Art Group International Gallery, holding a baseball used in the negro baseball league.

Welcome Back!

Good luck, work hard and have FUN!!

News

Seeing through radio

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Feature

Powerhouse new band

Page 3

CRIS Radio helps the blind to see

By Lisa Ramirez
Staff Writer

In a world filled with news, it's hard to imagine that some people are not able to pick up a newspaper or watch television news to know what's going on in the world around them.

But for many blind people that idea is a reality. CRIS Radio offers a solution. An alternative to regular all-news stations, CRIS radio is a radio reading service for the blind, or "print

impaired."

CRIS began eleven years ago as a result of Ron Alridge, now editor of Crains Electronic Media, who at the time, was a *Chicago Tribune* columnist.

"Alridge wanted to know why the third largest city in the country didn't have a radio reading service," said Bonnie Miller, general manager of CRIS.

Alridge took the idea to his friend Paul Beltz, a blind attorney, and later got together with

the members of the Central Lions Club.

They joined forces with the Chicago Cultural Center, who donated their pedway space, and WBEZ Radio, who donated their subcarrier.

The station first went on the air in June of 1981. They began broadcasting six hours a day, five days a week. CRIS is now on 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including Christmas and New Years.

CRIS operates under Subsidiary Communication Authorization (SCA), or a sub-channel, and is not regulated under the Federal Communications Commission. It is also closed circuit radio, meaning it is not transmitted on the commercial radio frequency and

can only be picked up with a special receiver provided by the station.

According to Miller, receivers are bought by CRIS either new or second-hand and are only given to those listeners who qualify as print impaired.

"This includes people who are blind, handicapped, or suffer from a disease that has left them severely incapacitated such as arthritis, multiple sclerosis and cerebral palsy.

The station is made up of seven paid employees and 400 volunteers who do on-air live readings and talk shows. They also employ Columbia interns who are responsible for preparing the material read for each broadcast, as well as contribut-

ing to the on-air readings and talk shows.

Volunteers read whatever articles they have been assigned. They read from newspapers including the *Tribune*, *Sun-Times*, *Defender* and suburban dailies, to magazines including *People*, *Time* and *Sports Illustrated*.

Special segments of the news are read every hour, including the sports section, comics, editorials, local news, grocery store sales and special magazine features.

"CRIS radio's primary job is to read the newspaper to people who can't read it because they are blind. That is why we exist," Miller said.

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CTA from page 1

be new solutions. Among them, cutting 200-300 jobs and implementing early retirement to pay for half of the cost.

And the promised line to Midway that is supposed to begin running by the end of March may be delayed.

In an informal survey conducted at Columbia on January 17, 33 out of 50 people or 66 percent of students surveyed currently use the CTA daily.

Jennifer Strathee, 19, a

sound major, who has been riding the CTA for over six years said that students like herself will be pinching pennies.

"The new rates will increase the amount of money I spend on transportation monthly, therefore I will be even poorer," Strathee said.

Theater major, Laurence Davis, 19, who has been riding the CTA for more than ten years said that users of the CTA have no other option but to pay the increase.

"It's expensive, but we the ignorant, non-clout carrying

citizens must endure," he said.

Andy Chan, 33, an interior design major who has been using the CTA for five years agrees with Davis.

"I don't like the idea of the raise in fares, but we have no choice because it's a monopoly," Chan said.

Rick Ebil, 22, computer graphics major and a CTA rider for five years is simply fed up.

"I try to use the CTA less often because it's a pain and the new increase is horrible. Those bastards," Ebil said.

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Cornmother enlivens rock scene

By Tom Shea
Correspondent

Tight, spacey, intense, and laid-back are words that have been used to describe the dynamic music of Cornmother, one of Chicago's best underground bands performing today.

The band brought an original hybrid of sounds to the stagnant Chicago rock scene. Frustrated with playing clubs, Commmother moved into a huge loft and started putting on their own shows. In just a few short months, the "Night of Joy" loft parties have grown and garnered a reputation for showcasing adventurous new music free of the impersonal atmosphere and expensive club prices.

"It's more relaxed. There's a looser atmosphere at the parties than at a club," says guitarist/bassist Dan McDonough, 22.

Cornmother, named after a violent indian folktale about a fertility goddess, is made up of the McDonough brothers, Dan and Kevin who alternate on guitar and bass, and drummer Tim Krause. The

McDonough brothers have been playing together for years. Krause joined a year-and-a-half ago. As a trio, they explore folk, psychedelic, and heavy rock.



music while avoiding grunge and metal clichés. The band members are not fans of punk music but agree with the anyone-can-do-it punk ethic.

"You can be a technically shitty guitarist, but as long as you can make really good songs, it doesn't matter how good you play," Dan says. "Punk is terrible music but I like the idea. I think punks are good because they keep people in check."

"The one terrible thing in the music scene is that there's no crowd that just go to see bands just to see them," Dan says.

Although they refuse to slag any other bands, they refer to much of Chicago's music scene as "weak grunge" with "lame mosh pits." Through lots of hard work and dozens of great songs, Commmother has established itself as a powerhouse live band with an ever-increasing following because of their ability to stand out from the masses of the derivative, unoriginal bands.

A l t h o u g h
Cornmother has made demo
tapes, they say they are not
satisfied with any of the
recordings, compared to their
live performances, just yet.
Their current tape, which is
available for sale at their

shows or through the mail,
contains three prime
Cornmother tunes.

They will be renting equipment to record live in their loft within the next month. They are in the process of making a video to sell at their shows containing live, documentary footage, and the music video for their powerful song, "All Over Me."

"One thing that separates us from a lot of other bands," Dan says, "is that we work on songs for months just getting them together, before we usually play them out. We spend a lot more time on our songs."

"It's kinda like cheese," jokes younger brother, Kevin, 18.

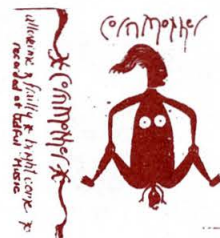
What kind of cheese?

"It would be fresh Wisconsin blue cheese because we're so radiant," says Kevin, tongue-in-cheek.

"Limburger, because we don't bathe that often," says drummer Tim.

"We should probably agree on the kind of cheese we're going to be," Dan says. "We can be a cheese mix."

For more information
on show dates or merchandise,
(tapes and T-shirts) contact
CORN MOTHER at: P.O.
BOX 148435, Chicago, IL
60614, (312) 227-7652.



BAGIT

from page 1

Yvonne Britton, an assistant to Edmond, is also fond of historic collectibles. She collected many of the items from over a decade of travels.

"Something like this is long overdue," Britton says.

"Some of the things I've collected are ceramic salt and pepper shakers shaped like Aunt Jemima and Uncle Remus. There is also a storybook of 'Little Black Sambo.'"

Along side the salt and pepper shakers sits sharecropper tokens and autographed baseballs by black baseball legends Ernie Banks, Frank Robinson and Reggie Jackson and the right glove and boxing shorts of Muhammad Ali.


Some of the works on display are interpretations of African-American life through non-traditional materials, such as a sculpture of Malcolm X crafted from a broken mirror. Many of the masks displayed were used for protection from harmful spirits and to cure sickness.

One doesn't have to be of African descent to visit or purchase art from BAGIT. People from all walks of life can discover this extravaganza and leave with valuable knowledge of African-American history. Black Art Group International is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 am to 7 pm. For more information call (312) 427-7600.

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