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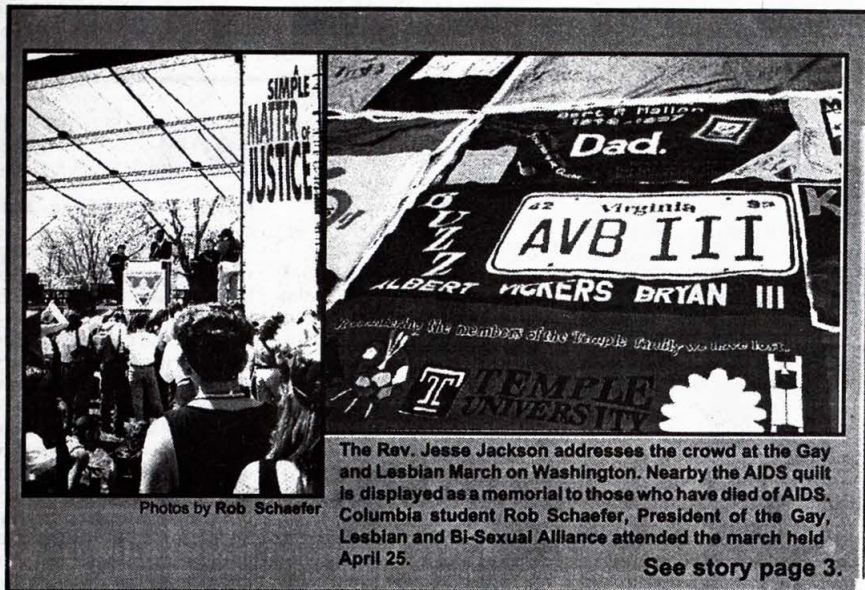
THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHRONICLE

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VOLUME 26 NUMBER 23

THE EYES AND EARS OF COLUMBIA

MAY 3, 1993



The Rev. Jesse Jackson addresses the crowd at the Gay and Lesbian March on Washington. Nearby the AIDS quilt is displayed as a memorial to those who have died of AIDS. Columbia student Rob Schaefer, President of the Gay, Lesbian and Bi-Sexual Alliance attended the march held April 25.

See story page 3.

Student awarded for leadership and service

By Alphonso Myers
Staff Writer

A Columbia sophomore was named one of the 100 most public-spirited young people of Chicago at a ceremony held in the Winter Garden of the Harold Washington Library on April 20.

Richard Blount III, a 22-year-old public relations major, was honored for his outstanding service in the Chicago community.

Blount has volunteered or worked for Operation PUSH, the NAACP, his church, Thornwood High School and the victorious Carole Moseley-

Braun Senate election campaign.

The event was hosted by Public Allies, an organization committed to assisting 18 to 30 year olds contribute to their communities. Blount was given his award by keynote speakers Father Michael Pfleger of St. Sabina and Bernie Wong of the Chinese-American Service League. Among those attending the ceremony were Mayor Richard Daley and Gov. Jim Edgar.

In order to earn the honor, Blount and the others were required to prove their dedication and leadership abilities in previous com-

munity work. The honorees also had to write an essay based on the theories of social change of Dr. Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi. The essay addressed the question, "How would you go about making social change within your community?"

Since Blount is currently working for Public Allies he had some misgivings for participating in the essay contest. But he feels "I am honored to be working around so many people that are focusing them-

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page 2

Paradise for film buffs

By Lisa Ramirez
Correspondent

There's only one place in Chicago where a broad spectrum of films - silent, documentary, experimental, classic American and international can be found. It's a film lovers heaven.

Located at 1517 W. Fullerton Ave., Facets Multimedia is a non-profit organization founded in 1975 that screens films, rents and sells videos, holds classes, presents performances and distributes videos under their own label.

According to Film Program Coordinator Reid Schultz, the

main purpose of Facets is to be an outlet for films that would otherwise not be shown in or promoted by movie theaters and chains in Chicago.

"We give chances to films as long as they're good. They can be from Hollywood, Kansas, or wherever, just as long as they're good, that's what matters."

Schultz says Facets is best known for its international "niche" of films but the organization serves a dual purpose of celebrating the different cultures in Chicago. An example of this is their International Children's Festival, now in its 10th year, which is the

nation's biggest movie festival for children.

Liz Shepard, director of the children's program, says the films offer an entertaining escape from the everyday violence depicted in TV shows and mainstream movies. Hundreds of films from over 40 countries are submitted to Facet's, where 150 to 200 of them are then showed to two juries. One made up of six to 14 year olds whose job is to pick the "Most Popular Films of the

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Making sense of AIDS

The last 15 years have been a time of dramatic change in the way many Americans view and practice dating, romance, love and sex.

Some in the Columbia community don't know of a time when AIDS wasn't a concern when they make love or even kiss someone. Until the search for a "magic bullet" to vaccinate the world is found, and there's no guarantee it will be, the best weapon against this killer is education. To that end, this week Columbia will present AIDS Awareness Week, a combination of the serious and the sublime with panel discussions, dance, drama and film.

The Chronicle talked to people involved with AIDS Awareness Week and other programs at Columbia designed to address AIDS.

Sheila Baldwin, of the English department, holds a presentation each semester about AIDS in the black community. This semester's presentation is at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 3, in the Hokin Hall. "The students are very inquisitive," Baldwin said. "They have a lot of questions."

The speakers talk about how people can catch the disease, what treatments are like and how other family members are affected by the disease.

Last year about 70 people attended the presentation,

Baldwin said.

"AIDS has increased in the black community and it should be discussed," she said.

Bruce Stein, who teaches Social Problems in American Society, has invited a member of Stop AIDS Chicago to speak to his class. The activist group gives a "very positive" presentation, he said.

The speaker tells the students the best protection against the disease is abstinence and then monogamy.

"He also talks in terms of race, economics and gender," Stein said.

Instructor Janina Ciezadlo told a personal story to her class about a friend who died of AIDS.

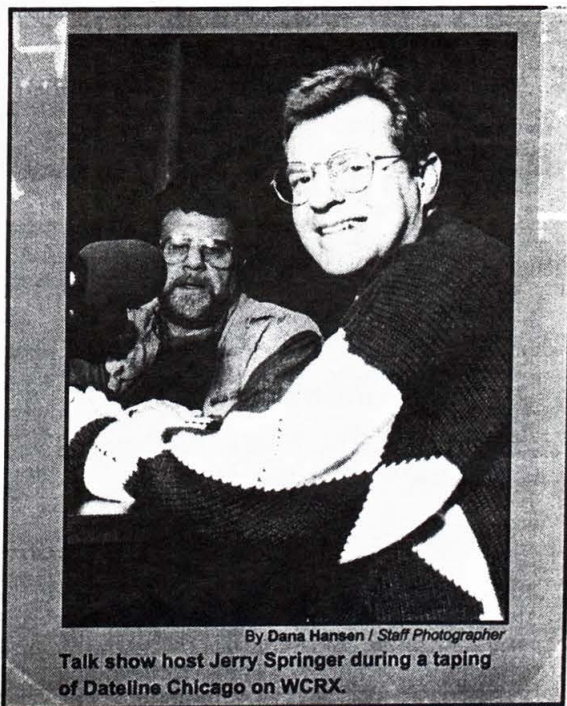
"I wanted to make it more real," she said. "The students looked depressed and thoughtful. I wanted to make it look possible."

Karen Osborne of the English department said she has never had a bad experience when talking about AIDS in the classroom.

"Columbia is more open minded than some other schools," Osborne said. "Everybody is pretty willing to talk about it. It is pretty positive."

Student organizations are also confronting the disease.

See AIDS
page 2



By Dana Hansen / Staff Photographer
Talk show host Jerry Springer during a taping of Dateline Chicago on WCRX.

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Noted novelist speaks his mind
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A Star Is Born

By Henry C. Allen

President Clinton has been in office over 100 days and already he's been faced with many pressing problems. One problem I'd like to see Mr. Clinton avoid is getting involved with the ongoing crisis in Bosnia. I understand the horrible crimes being committed by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's army need to be stopped, but I believe that the U.S. shouldn't be the one who always intervenes in such situations.

Britain and France have made it clear they oppose any military intervention while Russian President Boris Yeltsin (Clinton's new buddy) doesn't even want to recognize that there is a problem. The Clinton administration has got to learn to say no to entering any situation where there is a possibility of war.

The United Nations has already issued sanctions against the Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Montenegro. The sanctions include: banning all Yugoslav imports and exports, setting up a no-fly zone and freezing Yugoslav government and private funds abroad. The UN is showing that the goals will hopefully be achieved without the use of any added force. The U.S. has to learn that there is a time for action and a time for patience.

Many people view this situation to be a test for President Clinton. Being under considerable pressure to do something, people might believe that an aerial assault would be the best choice. You must try to realize what will happen if some of these planes are shot down while performing their mission.

The U.S. will be stirred up by the press and we'll be seeing flashbacks to the situation we had with Saddam Hussein.

General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he does "not believe air power alone can stop the Serbs." When the top man in the Defense Department gives advice on the situation, I hope President Clinton listens attentively. The only goal an air strike will achieve is that our ground troops will be called in later.

President Clinton will be meeting and consulting with members of Congress and other top advisors in the next few days to see if any further actions should be taken against Serbia. I firmly believe that the war should be stopped at all costs, excluding riskin; the lives of American troops.

No matter what decision President Clinton makes, he's bound to receive negative responses. Let's just hope the decision he makes isn't made solely to prove he's not afraid to use the military.

AIDS from page 1

"More people have died of AIDS than in the Vietnam War," says Rob Schaefer of the Gay, Lesbian and Bi-Sexual Alliance, which will be selling red ribbons to promote AIDS Awareness Week. Proceeds from the ribbons will be donated to an AIDS clinic.

More funding is needed for the disease, he said. "More heterosexual people have AIDS than homosexuals."

And not enough people are educated about the disease, he said.

"They should start teaching them in health class when they're in 7th grade," he added.

Another service the school provides is a fish bowl filled with condoms in the academic advising office.

The idea is "to make students more aware of AIDS and how to protect themselves," said Ronald Royster, an office clerk.

The multi-colored condoms are very popular with students, he said.

According to the official policy concerning AIDS in the Columbia community, the school insists on "making clear the commitment to a sensitive and humane response to any full-time faculty or staff member who contracts AIDS or any other life threatening diseases."

Paul Johnson, director of human resources, said the policy isn't the only benefit for people with AIDS and other diseases at Columbia.

"We have a top-notch in-

surance program that is available for faculty and staff," he said. "We try to make the environment as compatible as possible, even if a faculty member develops full-blown AIDS."

The policy ensures that faculty and staff may continue working as long as they are able to perform and their illness poses no threat to themselves, other employees or students.

Although Columbia's policy to PWA's (people with AIDS) is primarily geared towards all full-time faculty and staff, there are resources available to students with HIV or AIDS.

Madeline Roman-Vargas, assistant dean of student life, said that she doesn't counsel students on AIDS, but recommends professional counseling services.

"We have educational material and pamphlets," she said. "Planned Parenthood also comes to Columbia three times a year."

Sexually Transmitted Disease Day is one such event. Students receive a small bag of goodies, information on avoiding sexually transmitted diseases and contact sources.

Insurance for students is an option provided by Student Services and it covers the possibility that a student will contract AIDS or an HIV related illness.

A representative of Associated Insurance of Wheeling, Illinois, Terry Harkins, said that the insurance plan covers illnesses that a student contracts after policy coverage starts.

The coverage, provided by Benefits Administrative Systems, is the same as that of the full-time faculty here, according to Sharon Tylus of human resources.

Since the insurance is optional, students have to take the initiative to be covered. For treatment, students must go to their own doctors.

—Compiled by the Chronicle staff

AWARD from page 1

selves on uplifting their communities."

"My involvement started with the church. Basically, I feel like I've been involved all my life," Blount said.

During the historic Moseley-Braun run to be the first African-American woman elected to the Senate, Blount served as deputy coordinator for fund raising. He helped organize and did advance work for over 50 events that brought in \$6 million to the campaign. He played a part in the Loop pre-election rally for Bill Clinton and met the president, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Al and Tipper Gore.

"I don't know what I want to be doing five years from now," Blount said. "But whatever I do, I want to be working within the community with the people," he said.

Columbia announces lowest tuition increase in five years

Columbia College will increase its tuition by 5.5 percent for the 1993-94 school year, to \$6,928. The increase, the smallest in the past five years, is below the national average of 6 percent for private colleges reported in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Columbia's tuition remains the lowest among four-year private institutions in Illinois. Nationally, tuition and fees for private colleges average \$10,498 for the current school year, according to The College Board.

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Author recreates black history

By Antonio Sharp
Staff Writer

His overall talent has been described as an "emancipation proclamation" for black writers and he is described as "one of the most daring and comic writers of this generation."

Those are only a portion of the things people, mainly aspiring writers, have to say about Charles Johnson, the critically acclaimed author, professor of English and director of the creative writing program at the University of Washington in Seattle. Johnson spoke to a crowd of about 130 people on Wednesday evening, April 28 at Columbia's Ferguson Theater. The reading was sponsored by the fiction writing department. A conversation with the author was held earlier in the day.

Johnson's works include, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," "Faith and the Good Thing," "Oxherding Tale" and "Being & Race: Black Writing Since 1970." In 1990, he received the National Book Award for his novel, "Middle Passage," which will be made into a movie by Tri-Star Pictures. Johnson is the first African-American male to capture the coveted award since Ralph Ellison won in 1953 for his autobiographical novel, "Invisible Man." Some of his other

achievements include a 1988 Guggenheim Fellowship, a 1986 Writer's Guild Award and 1987 Prix Jeunesse Award for his PBS drama, "Booker," based on the life of Booker T. Washington.

"Middle Passage" tells the story of the adventures of a slave who is captured by a ship captain gone mad.

During the reading, Johnson read a chapter from "The Sorcerer's Apprentice." Applause from the audience prompted him to read from "Dreamer," his new collaboration on the tribulations of Dr. Martin Luther King, who he calls one of the "greatest civil rights leaders of the 20th century."

Johnson said in his youth he knew little about King and has always wanted to write a novel about him.

"I chose to chronicle his life from 1966 to 1968," he said. "In creating this book, my responsibility is to try to garnish the details about him that have been forgotten or silenced."

When asked by an audience member if King's widow, Coretta Scott King, is aware of his efforts and if he thinks he should censor himself, he replied, "I don't believe in self-censorship because the purpose is to heal, not harm."

"If the writer is not surprised in the creation of a novel," he adds, "then surely the reader of the book won't be moved or changed in any way."

Renaldo Tomez, a senior in film/video, said that he has only read "Being & Race," but will read more of Johnson's work after hearing him speak.

"I really appreciated him coming all the way from Seattle to speak to us," Tomez said. "There should be more black



Photos by Brad Menna
Author Charles Johnson

men of his caliber in the trenches."

Todd Leadingham, a junior fiction writing major, said that he is impressed with Johnson's imagination and his ability to create comical stories with serious overtones.

"I am curious and fascinated about how he can come up with

See JOHNSON
page 6

Marching to a different drum

By Rob Schaefer
Correspondent

On April 25, the March on Washington, a cumulative effort to afford gays, lesbians and Bi-Sexuals equal rights and liberation took place. The march involved more than one million people from all walks of life.

One of the main focuses of the march was to get Congress to lift the ban on gays and lesbians in the military and increase AIDS funding. Throughout the day, many celebrities spoke or took part in some way to show their support.

The speakers included Martina Navratilova, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Cybil Shepard and Phil Donahue.

When Jackson took the microphone, the crowd gave a rousing roar with cheers of "We love you Jesse." Several times Jackson had the crowd on their feet yelling and screaming in support of gay rights. Jackson is a powerful speaker who left the crowd with goose bumps and an overwhelming feeling of peace and hope that gays and lesbians might soon enjoy full civil rights.

Immediately afterward, Melissa Etheridge sang a song from her new album in support of the march. For a short while, a lighter mood prevailed and many in the crowd were up and dancing on the lawn and in the streets. There was definitely celebration in the air.

When people were not marching they were visiting the AIDS quilt. The quilt is a memorial to those who have died of AIDS related complications. Many people were silent and took a brief moment to remember a loved one that they had lost to this terrible disease. This was a very quiet and perhaps the most moving experience of the event.

Many straight parents, including my own father, attended the march, some sporting shirts or signs which said, "My son is gay and I love him" or "I have a lesbian daughter and I love her." These are just some of the ways parents and other family members showed their love and support for their children or relatives.

The march really allowed people — gay, straight, old and young — to say first-hand to Congress and others alike, that homosexual people are human beings too. It also allowed an opportunity to vent frustration at not having equal rights. The sentiment of the day was, "We are one, We are strong, We are here, We vote."

On a more personal note, the march was a truly moving event. Just to be among thousands of other people who also struggle with this culture's

See MARCH
page 6

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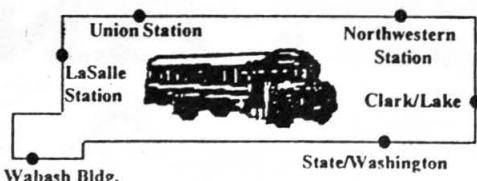


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Radio days are here again

By Ibis Antongiorgi
Correspondent



Radio theater will hit Columbia's airwaves this summer as students recreate drama and mystery programs popular in the 1940s, according to Al Parker, radio department chairman.

The concept is not new to Columbia. In the 1950s and 1960s, students studied and performed dramas during broadcast classes. What makes this idea different is that the programs will debut on WCRX.

The idea for the show came from Marc Wilson, a junior majoring in radio performance,

who brought the idea to Parker.

"I talked with some kids who weren't reading. They were watching a lot of TV and playing video games," Wilson said. "I would much rather have my child turn on the radio and listen to a program where they can let their imagination go."

Wilson looked for a director and chose theater major Eric Virkkala. They held auditions for actors in March. Sheldon Patinkin, theater department chairman, oversees Virkkala and acts as an advisor and teacher.

The show will air on WCRX twice a month for a half-hour during the summer semester,

Wilson said. Credits for the project and the number of shows that will be produced are still under consideration.

The program is in the beginning stages of development. Wilson is working to obtain some old-time scripts. One of the shows he wants to produce is "War of the Worlds," the radio script that caused widespread panic among Americans in 1939 when many listeners believed the broadcast and thought Martians were invading the earth.

Because of the myriad of programs Wilson can cover, the radio and theater departments do not have a particular style in mind.

"He has the freedom to emulate programs based on what he is trying to duplicate," Parker said. "Bringing radio up to present times gives us a sense of what radio was when it started 30 or 40 years ago."

Wilson said he's not sure what to expect in terms of audience reaction. "It's up to the listener."

With a good director, cast and talent, Wilson hopes to draw people into an era of visual mystery by producing shows that appeal to their senses.

"I hope its favorable; this is how it all started. Radio didn't start by people sitting down, playing records and talking," Parker said.

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Photo by Nick Oza

FACETS from page 1

Festival." Adult media and educational professionals make up the other jury. Shepard says the films are rated by "the way they appeal to a culturally diverse audience in a positive, humanistic way without being violent or exploitative." More importantly, says Shepard, over 5,000 children of all races and ethnicities from Chicago are invited to attend the festival to see what they share in common with other children all over the world.

For the past two years, Facets has also held non-technical classes on the aesthetic and thematic values of films. Schultz says that the six-week courses at Facets show a broad range of movies, from gay and lesbian themes to screwball comedies from the 1930s.

Another artistic innovation is its video theater, the only one exclusively for video in the country. "Because more people are working in the video media, this theater provides an outlet for them to show their work," Schultz said.

Facets aggressively markets its programs to film and video lovers through mass mailings. Marissa Reyes, marketing coordinator, says the response has been encouraging. "We have an extensive mailing list including retail stores, video stores and individuals interested in our

catalogs who want to become members, which is a good thing because it's our members who keep us going."

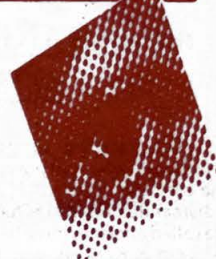
Reyes believes Facets celebrates multiculturalism because it carries many videos unavailable at chains like Blockbuster. "We tend to avoid Hollywood 'A' type films because they already have a market. We carry international films because we want Indians, Slavics and other ethnic groups to know there are movies for them here," says Reyes.

To attain this goal, Facets publishes and distributes various catalogs and journals. Currently available are African-American and Slavic film catalogs; Facets Features, a film and video journal on new releases and a bi-annual catalog that lists the 18,000 films on video and laser disc that the organization carries. Next year, catalogs devoted to French and Gay and Lesbian films and videos will be available.

Facets also markets its own label of 130 titles. To be carried by them, says Reyes, the film must be alternative in nature and originally done in video. The goal is to bring recognition to little or unknown Chicago film makers.

Films are shown daily at Facets. In May women film makers from across the country will be saluted. For more information on membership, catalogs, classes and screenings call (312) 327-3742.

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Sidley Shows: Ryan Stoeterau, Ben Yashon, Brian Swislow, Greg Rappin and John Bencivenga.

Sidley shows not much

By Boyd Raveling
Correspondent

A cold night found the band Sidley Shows headlining at Shay's, 1615 N. Clybourn Ave.

Led by Columbia student and lead vocalist Ben Yashon, this quintet filled the upper floor of the venue. The twenty-something crowd seemed generally pleased with the roughly 90-minute show that Yashon and company cranked out with a well rehearsed fluency.

Sidley Shows' musical style is a conglomeration of commercial heavy metal. Their four-song demo evokes images of Pearl Jam, but the band lacks the force to equal Pearl Jam's sound. The songs are relatively well structured, but lacking in delivery. A popish feel permeates even those

numbers that attempt to grab you with a driving bass. A deficiency within the fivesome is the drumming. The snare on the demo is thin, and Brian Swislow sets a tempo that often lags. The double guitar attack from Greg Rappin and John Bencivenga is somewhat far from striking and



the Mel Bay (a guitarist who writes elementary music instruction

on books) riffs just don't move. Ryan Stoeterau is on bass.

In all fairness to the band, their live performances are more impressive than their demo. You have to see them live because they're energetic and fun to watch. Yashon demonstrates rocker poise in his direction of the show.

Short Story: "The Window"

By Antoine Nixon

When "eye" look out my window an watch the white snow trickle down, "eye" smile with pure enjoyment. It comes down so soft - laying it's white coat making the ground look like it is covered with one massive white mink blanket. Looking out my window "eye" see the young children not only playin' in the snow, but embracing it passionately with each snowball thrown- snowman made and each wallow in the snow to make a snow Angel. Looking out my window "eye" watch; as the children cry just drip down their naive black faces. Yes they are naive that the snow will and must leave.

When it leaves it takes that massive white coat it laid. The white coat that covered the bare trees- who will now stand naked an raped! The white coat, it had to conceal the concrete destruction and roughness of a forgotten area of "DA CITY," who dismantled buildings have the same resemblance of those in Greece except they're called ancient ruins. Its whiteness doesn't make it pure, because all that is white- is not pure. Although, it brings light to a dark that needs- it gives hope to a place that needs it, as much as flowers needs dirt and water to survive. Like so many things in this world we live in- it's whiteness deceives you when it leaves. The first thing to appear is the slush- it truly shows the unfit region of land. The 40 ounce bottles roll around like bowling pins- the empty corners now full with a new kind of snow in little packets.

In all, the snow is camouflage to hide the decadence of a people-to hide the faces that were once full of promise to hide the 16 year old girl who must now mature because she is now a mother- the 13 year old male who in one day alone can become a man from an experience- the mother who will walk back and forth to the window and open the curtains so timidly to see if those conflicting streets have conquered them and the black male who is frustrated with "DA SYSTEM" that holds him down so much that he can't wait to explode to let the rage out! In no means whatsoever am I stating a dislike for the winter or the snow. Actually, I would have to like something in order to dislike it. I don't say it my window does. For it is my truthful eye and is reality and realism of where AH come from.

StreetWise

(for Vivian)

By Geoff Akins

On my way to school I play an urban version of hide-n-seek against the skeletal beggars and those homeless roamers selling their StreetWise pity papers. The whole damn thing makes me feel like a tired fighter trapped in the ring- dazed and shaken, dodging and faking their sometimes offensive attempts to capture my attention.

As the stalled, traffic-choked, Congress Parkway halts my progress, a young black man, in a too thin rat jacket, turns to me and I see his windblown armload of homeless papers. His eyes greet mine and smile. And, of all things, he dances a little dance! This is something totally unexpected...childlike, and it makes me laugh.

A moment later we trade paper, and he blesses me silent as I slide into the street sideways, humping bumpers, mazing my way through the gridlocked intersection: riding the rush of a dollars worth of honor.

Poetry Corner

Standing At The Edge Of A Cliff

By Michael C. Reed

There is going to come a time,
In your life,
When you have been pushed to the edge,
Standing and staring in disbelief.
Never before have you seen such a wide picture.
It is a long, long, way down,
You can see for miles around,
At the end of your eye meets the earth and sky.
Never have you viewed the world like this before,
You thought your reality so clear,
Just a moment ago,
When the sky was above,
And the ground, below.
So now a choice must be made,
Since complications have been thrown into things simple,
When you're pushed to the edge your pulse quickens.
As you lean forward with a lump in your throat,
There is temptation to jump,
To go where you have never gone,
Not knowing how it will feel,
No one to tell you if you're right or wrong.
The choice must be made,
You are afraid inside,
But right at this moment,
You must fall to the ground,
Or learn how to fly.

JOHNSON from page 3

fictional perspectives about controversial issues," Leadin-gham said.

John Schultz, chairman of the fiction writing department, said that Johnson is as gifted and prominent a storyteller as

was the late Alex Haley, but that the two men have very different writing styles.

"Haley created historical events as he saw them," he said. "Johnson creates imaginative historical events."

"One of the reasons we invite him to speak is that he is in touch with what is important

to students, especially the younger generations," he said.

Johnson said that many black male writers are virtually invisible in the ranks of such black women writers as Alice Walker and Toni Morrison, both of whom have won Pulitzer Prizes for fiction.

"The majority of people who

read books are women," Johnson said. "The fiction industry is mostly supported by women and the public wants to view the works of certain groups of people at a time. That's why it took 37 years for the National Book Award committee to choose me."

"America has scores of

African-American male writers, the system just has to acknowledge them," Johnson said, with the raise of an eyebrow.

MARCH from page 3

attitude toward homosexuals was an important validating experience for all.

Having only accepted the reality of my own homosexuality about a year ago, I know what it is like to live in the "closet", so to speak. Coming out of that closet is at minimum an uncomfortable process and often can be quite painful.

I have been the President of the Gay, Lesbian and Bi-sexual Alliance of Columbia College for the past school year. This experience has both helped me deal with my own sexual identity and forced me to make conscious decisions about being known as a gay person.

It seems to me that the aspect of being a gay person which straight people find most difficult to understand is that being gay is an intrinsic quality of our being, rather than a behavior. If I never have any relationship with another gay male as long as I live, I will still be a homosexual! I may be a very unhappy homosexual, but I'll still be a homosexual.

Being gay is a very small part of what I am, but it is something I am. I, just like you,

don't have a choice in my sexual orientation. Recent bio-medical research supports this view. I, like other gay people, was born gay.

Everyone is entitled to their own religious and moral viewpoints, all I ask is to have the same courtesy—to live my life as I need to live it. If you feel threatened by or don't understand homosexuality, why not try sincerely finding out about it. We're not all drag queens with outrageous behavior.

In fact, whether you realize it or not, you know many gay people—you just don't know they're gay. We're the police officer on the corner, the pharmacist in the drug store, the rock star on the stage, the soldier with war medals, the super model in the magazine, the all-star football player, your cousin, your brother, your sister, your aunt and most importantly your friend. All any of us ask is to be accepted as individual human beings with the same rights as anyone else. Most of us have the same common goals and desires straight people have—get an education, work at a job we like, be loved by our family and be a decent citizen.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE AIDS AWARENESS WEEK MAY 3RD THROUGH 7TH, 1993

MONDAY, MAY 3

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND AIDS

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the Hokin Hall
Panel Discussion

LOVING YOU ALL WAYS

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Hokin Hall
Panel Discussion involving survivors and caretakers of AIDS victims

TUESDAY, MAY 4

LATINOS AND AIDS

12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. in room 206, 623 S. Wabash bldg.
Panel Discussion

NEVER TOO YOUNG

12:00 noon in the 11th St. "Classic Theater"
Theatrical presentation dealing with AIDS, followed by a discussion with the actors (Red Cross certified AIDS counselors).

FRONTIERS IN RESEARCH AND TREATMENT OF AIDS

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Collins Auditorium
Panel discussion with up-to-the-minute information about research and treatment of AIDS.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

DON'T GET AROUND MUCH ANYMORE

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Hokin Center
AIDS jazz tap dance performance with piano, bass and percussion.

AIDS: FACT AND FICTION

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the Hokin Hall
Panel discussion concerning AIDS and HIV, involving persons who are HIV positive.

FIREHOUSE HIP-HOP HOEDOWN

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at the Harold Washington Library Auditorium
AIDS awareness hip-hop and D.J. competition.

THURSDAY, MAY 6

DON'T GET AROUND MUCH ANYMORE

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Hokin Center
AIDS jazz tap dance performance with piano, bass and percussion.

NEVER TOO YOUNG

12:00 noon in the 11th St. "Classic Theater"
Theatrical presentation dealing with AIDS, followed by a discussion with the actors (Red Cross certified AIDS counselors).

FRIDAY, MAY 7

AIDS JAM - AWARENESS IN MOTION

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Hokin Hall
AIDS dance performance

"CHICAGO HOUSE" SPECIAL FILM PRESENTATION

2:00 p.m. in the Hokin Hall
Special presentation of a film made by Columbia College student who died from AIDS

RECEPTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

3:00 p.m. in the Hokin Center
Reception honoring AIDS Awareness student art competitors, and award ceremony.

The Hokin Hall and the Hokin Center are located on the first floor of the Wabash Avenue campus.
The Getz "Classic" Theater is located at 72 East 11th St.
Collins Auditorium is located at 624 S. Michigan Avenue.
The Harold Washington Library is located at 400 S. State St.

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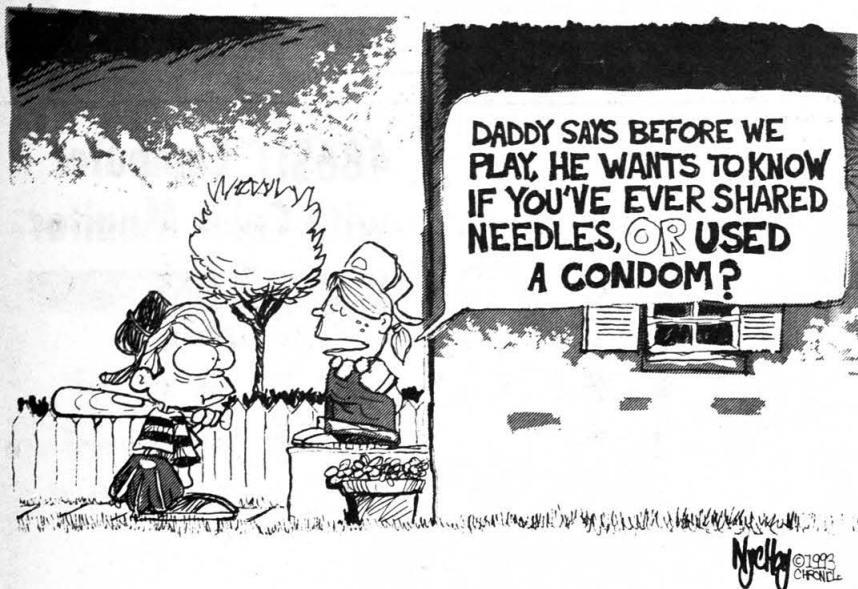
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MICHAEL SHEA'S IRISH PUB STYLE LAGER



Letters to the Editor

Taking a joke...

To the Editor,

Do you know what must be the hardest thing to do in the world today? No, not escaping the IRS, nor getting into clubs without a valid ID. Some could even say trying to maintain racial equality, well, that kind of comes close to what I'm trying to get across to all of you. No, the hardest thing in the world today must be trying to tell a joke. Yes, I said a joke. You remember those don't you? They're the things that make you laugh and are suppose to cheer you up. Yeah right!

Yes, telling jokes is becoming a long lost art in our society. And you know why? It's because nobody likes to be made a laughing stock anymore. Unfortunately, it seems that we all take ourselves so seriously. I mean, I remember when a person was judged on how well they could take jokes and laugh at themselves. If a person could laugh at themselves it showed they had heart and were a lot of fun. It also proved that you

could talk to them on anything, have a lot of laughs, a few beers and never feel uncomfortable or insecure with them. But not anymore. Now, it's a case of don't make fun of me because I'll sue you on a charge of discrimination or racial harassment. Oh, please! We all have faults and laughing at them is not meant to make us feel bad, but instead it is suppose to make you feel like you're part of the group.

The reason why I asked this question is that the other day, I tried to tell a joke. I started off with: "Did you hear about the Irish..." Unfortunately, one of the people I was telling it to said he was Irish. So I changed it to Polish. Then someone else who was present said they were Polish. How about a German? No, someone else was German. Mexican? No! Finally, I said, "Did you hear about the Australian..." and I managed to get through the joke. After the laughter had broken down, somebody said to me, "...but aren't you Australian?" After I said yes, they asked me why I made a joke about myself. I

replied, "So what if I'm Australian, if you can't laugh at yourself, then who can you laugh at...I mean all of you guys didn't want to be made fun of...It was a harmless joke..." I also remember watching two comedians on television, whereby one was slightly retarded and the other was deaf. Boy, were they absolutely hilarious and you know why? Because, as well as making jokes about the usual stuff like sex, politics and religion, they could make jokes about their handicaps. And they also made jokes about experiences they had as handicapped persons.

So the point is, telling a joke has become as hard as keeping politicians straight. And before you throw the paper down in disgust and say that some jokes are rather horrible, just remember that they aren't considered the clever jokes. In fact, one wonders if they're made to offend people, rather than to make them laugh, and that's what jokes are suppose to do. Make you laugh. But it seems everybody walks around with a Spike Lee/Mike Ditka attitude on their face. Come on lighten up everybody. Just remember, before you get all upset about having a joke told about you or your race, that there is always someone else who is in worse shape than you. A few years ago, a television show in Australia made up a phoney country so that they could use it as the butt of all their jokes. That would be a great idea to have right now, although I'm sure some 'serious sour puss' would come out of the woodwork and say; "...that's not right..." Well, so what! Remember, don't take life so serious, because it really is a funny place when you take a good look at it.

David Paul Moncur
Sophomore

Correction

The photo credit for the Earth Day car photo in last week's paper should have read Devon Whitmore. The Chronicle regrets the error.



UnCommon Sense

By David Harrell

More Super-Sanctimonious, Hardcore Holy Rollin', Crazy Christian, Rabid Right-Wing Religious Ranting and Raving.

Sinead ("Curly") O'Connor ripped up a picture of the pope, but for shocking publicity stunts, she's got nothing on ex-Roman Catholic Archbishop George Stallings. Over the Easter weekend, in Washington, D.C., the good archbishop publicly burned pictures of Jesus Christ.

Why? Well, because the man shown in the pictures was *white*. Afrocentrists who like to think that everything good in the world originated in Africa, as well as black Christian preachers who want to raise the self-esteem of their people, have tried to prove that Jesus, the most influential man in the history of the world, was black.

Was he?

Did he actually say, "Man shall not live by cornbread alone..."? Were there chitlins, collard greens and hamhocks at the Last Supper?

Well, first, what's black? There are almost as many definitions as there are people. Is it African, with dark brown skin and kinky hair? Half African? One-third African? Or just non-Caucasian?

In Blair Underwood's film, "The Second Coming," an imprisoned black Jesus utters these words: "Blackness is far more than perception... I'm black because black ancestral blood flows through my veins." Another definition.

The Bible (space does not permit me to demonstrate its accuracy) says Jesus was a "Jew"—or, more accurately, of the tribe of Judah. His ancestry goes back to Noah's son Shem, the father of all "Semites"—including the Arabs.

Of course Jesus didn't appear lily-white. He was a carpenter, and spent much time laboring under the hot Palestinian sun. But it's ridiculous to try to pin down his exact skin, eye and hair color or type. Today, there are people with both "black" and "white" skin who claim Jewish ancestry. And, as Garner Ted Armstrong writes in "The Real Jesus," "...Jesus could have been either blond, redheaded or dark-headed. There is no way to really tell, since members of the family of Judah regularly exhibit any of this range of complexions and/or colors of eye or hair."

He also writes, "...the only thing about Jesus' appearance that is somewhat important is that you understand that the cherished concepts of the Jesus of the pictures and movies are false."

Of course. He never sat for a portrait; the gospel writers don't describe his appearance. Stallings doesn't have a clue, and neither did Leonardo and Michelangelo. So why not burn *all* the pictures and smash *all* the statues? God Himself said He does not transfer His glory and power to images (see Isaiah 42:8). To Him, they are useless.

The last thing Jesus needs is for us to further distort him and his teachings; organized religion, sadly, has done enough of that. For just as surely as the biblical Jesus didn't look like Da Vinci's or Stallings's portrayals, he also wasn't born on December 25; didn't die on Good Friday; didn't rise on Easter Sunday; didn't believe in a jolly fat guy who slides down the chimney with toys, or an egg-laying bunny; didn't walk around under a glowing halo, flanked by little naked flying babies, striking serene and beatific poses; never cheated anyone out of their money; never said anything about popes, priests, or religious hierarchies; never burned anyone at the stake...I could go on for pages.

To understand these things, you need not have a doctorate in theology. You do need an open mind, and the wisdom that only God can give—and he gives to whoever asks. Also, you can't fully understand the Bible when viewing it through the confusing and distorting lens of religious tradition. *The Real Jesus* is based on that concept. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the author now gives the 310-page book away free, no strings attached, as part of his ministry; the number is (903) 561-2525.

The bottom line is: if you have faith in Jesus, it should not be because of his color, but because of the historical facts of His existence, life, death and resurrection. Self-esteem should derive from knowing what God wants to do with each one of us—to *finish* creating us, to make us into bona fide *children of God*—or, as C.S. Lewis put it in "Mere Christianity," "gods and goddesses".

Now doesn't it seem silly to argue about skin color?

CHRONICLE

Department of Journalism
600 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60605
312-663-1600 ext. 343
FAX 312-427-3920

Nancy A. Thart, Editor
Mark Giardina, News Editor
Alison Pryor, Features Editor
Heather Labuda, Design & Layout Editor
Omar Castillo, Photography Editor
Burney Simpson, Contributing Editor
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