

3-4-1996

## Columbia Chronicle (03/04/1996)

Columbia College Chicago

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# THE CHRONICLE

OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

VOL. XXIX, No. 16 17

March 4, 1996

*"This is the first time Columbia students get the opportunity to expand their knowledge of other cultures, to develop skills of interacting with people of other countries, and to showcase Columbia College's talent."*

Helen Ladron de Guevara

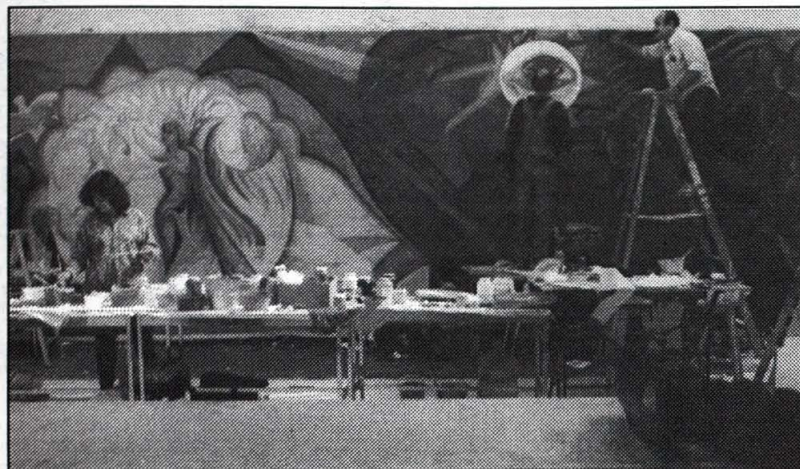


Photo courtesy of College Relations

During a trip to Mexico last December to finalize a cultural and academic exchange between Columbia College and the University of Guadalajara, art students and faculty from both colleges created this mural on the "La Cianaga" University campus in Ocatlan, Jalisco.

## ¡Vamos a la escuela-en Mexico!

By Christine Lock  
Staff Writer

You say you'd like to visit Guadalajara, Mexico, this summer but you can't because you have to go to summer school?

Now you can do both.

This summer, Columbia students will have a chance to take language and content courses for college credit at the University of Guadalajara, as well as spend a weekend in Puerto Vallarta.

"This trip is to promote cross-culture communication," said Latino Cultural Affairs Director Helen Ladron de Guevara, who is organizing the program. "This is the first time Student Services has created a program of this nature and the first time Columbia College students get the opportunity to expand their knowledge of other cultures. It will also help to develop skills of interacting with people from other countries, and to showcase Columbia College's talent," she said.

The language courses focus on conversation, writing, grammar and Spanish-to-English translation. The content courses include mass communications in Mexico, film-making in Mexico, Mexican literature and the history of politics and economics in Mexico. All courses are taught in Spanish except for Mexican architecture and Mexican murals.

The creative workshops, which don't count for

credit, are Mexican crafts, drawing and painting, Mexican cuisine, and Mexican folk dance, guitar and singing.

Last November, Ladron de Guevara took Columbia students to Guadalajara to help local students paint a mural. This summer's first session, Summer 2, runs from June 10 to July 12 while Summer 3 runs from July 15 to Aug 16. The cost of the trip includes tuition, registration, and "home stay." The home stay is a good opportunity to see exactly how Mexican families live; they will be able to speak English, but will speak Spanish for your benefit. The University of Guadalajara is the country's second largest, with 175,000 students on 10 campuses. Guadalajara is also the second largest city in Mexico. Visiting students can enjoy tours, theaters, beaches, galleries and city life. "It is about the size of Chicago," Ladron de Guevara said. "The temperature in the summer is around 75; it is dry heat instead of the humidity like Chicago."

Due to the value of the dollar, tuition and other costs are lower in Mexico than in the U.S. Since the trip is still in the planning stages, questions about prices, exact credit equivalency and other details will be answered in a general meeting. You can pick up an application in the Student Services office in room 301 of the Wabash campus or call Ladron de Guevara at 663-1600, extension 5812.

## Black, gay, and proud

Leon Tripplett  
Staff writer

They took a march down history lane to find out that some of the most noted black Americans—Alice Walker, Alvin Ailey and Angela Davis, among others—were in fact gay, lesbian or bisexual.

Black History Month ended Lambda Force style, celebrating the contributions of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender African-Americans whose sexual preferences have been written out of their great history.

The group, which boasts about 50 members, assembled at their annual weekly meeting to discuss usual business and to make preparations for OutWeek, their annual "coming out of the closet" celebration. And more importantly, to make people realize that there is a support group on campus.

But as Columbia College made month-long preparations to showcase black pride and talent among people of color, Lambda Force was inadvertently left out. "It was probably more our fault than the organizers, because we didn't plan ahead of time for it," said Jim Dimitriou, co-president

of the group.

Being late is a rarity for this organization, whose activities are usually well publicized and garner a great deal of response especially during OutWeek and other activities that the Force showcases.

As the month came to an end Lambda Force made its presence felt by highlighting notable African-Americans. The celebration was not confined to civil rights struggles recorded in history books. Rather, it was a commemoration of gay, lesbian and bisexual African-Americans who faced homophobia, as well as racial tension.

It was this theme that prompted Lambda Force to invite the editorial coordinator for "BlackLines" magazine, Rhonda Mundhenk, the only African-American to successfully launch a publication for African-American gays, lesbians, and bisexuals, to grace the event. Mundhenk, a Northwestern journalism and law graduate talked to the 20 students, admitting that "some would not want to see such an event happen." She talked

Lambda, See page 2



Photo by Steve Matteo

OUCH!...Danica Cho (right) grimaces as Life Source Blood Services worker Nancy Bartose draws blood from her arm. Cho, a computer animation major, was one of 55 students to donate blood on Feb. 28 in the Wabash Building.

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## Students named to new council

By Bob Chiarito  
News Editor

The Feb. 23 meeting of Columbia's Institutional Policy Council (IPC) turned out to be its last. Created in its wake was the College Council, an advisory group, like the former IPC, drawn from the college community that brings issues to President Duff to address. The main difference, besides having a majority of faculty members, is that for the first time in Columbia's history, two undergraduate students were named to the council.

Academic Dean Jean Lightfoot submitted five students to the council, and after hearing short biographies and recommendations, the council selected freshman Leon Tripplett and sophomore Lucy Puente.

Both students are active in the Columbia community. Tripplett is a host with the Columbia College Electronic Newsletter, director of public relations for

Columbia's Association of Black Journalists, part of a weekly news talk show on Columbia's WCRX, and a former anchor on 600 South. Puente is involved in the Year-One Student Discovery Program and is the vice president of AHORA, a student group that deals with Latino issues.

According to Television Department instructor and council member Luke Palermo, selecting the students was not a clear-cut decision.

"It was a very tough choice because all the students were very comparable," he said.

Tripplett, who described himself as being "nonplussed" when he found out he was chosen, agreed that the spotlight may be more focused on Puente and himself because Columbia has no student government group.

"I hope that the students feel comfortable coming to me as a fellow student to voice their concerns," he said. "I hope Lucy and I could have meetings with the

students in order to report back to them and also so that they could tell us their concerns."

Although Tripplett and Puente only constitute two votes of a 43-member council, Tripplett feels that he and Puente have the ability to make positive changes at Columbia.

"Politics is a negative word to the average person but I think that it can also be a good thing if you use it in the right way," Tripplett said. "I hope that's what I will use it for instead of just having a title and not actually doing anything."

Council Chair Charles Cannon, who is also Chair of Columbia's Science and Math Department, said the IPC was dissolved rather than reorganized, because of a change in scope and the addition of many faculty members, who now account for a majority of the council members.

"We needed a new animal, even if only for perception sake," he said.



# Lambda Force battles misperceptions

By Leon Tripplett  
Staff Writer

Whether you want to admit it or not, Lambda Force is arguably the most active organization at Columbia College. Equally interesting, is that it is probably the most misunderstood, inside and outside of the organization. Their main objective, contrary to popular belief, is not recruitment but to serve as a support group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and friends.

It has been an uphill battle for Lambda Force's public relations director, Loyal Williams who is fighting a battle from within. Williams "has an interesting spin" on gay issues. Williams is not homosexual or bisexual. He is just an officer with Lambda Force. When he joined the group a year ago, he was met with some opposition by gay members of the group who questioned his motives for joining.

"There was a lot of resentment about me being there," Williams said admitting that there was pressure and what he calls "selfishness," on the group's part to get him to become gay and attend social events. Williams added that the pressure was so great he began to question his sexual identity. "I began to question whether I was gay or not."

After a brief struggle, Williams dismissed those thoughts and began to look at the bigger picture Lambda Force members were his friends but he wasn't going to become gay on account of his friendship with them. "I've set the trends, since then there have been other members who are not gay but have

joined the group."

But there have been other misgivings. Williams said that he cannot understand why "everything revolves around sex" with his gay friends. "Sex

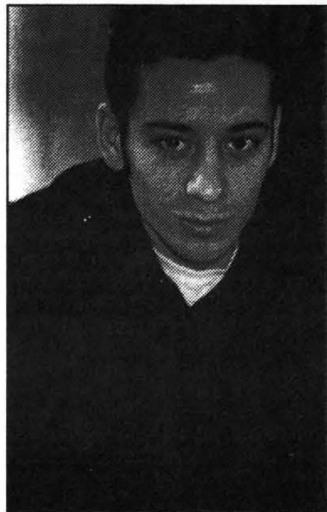


Photo by Natalie Battaglia  
Lambda Force Co-President Jim Dimitriou.

is not a crucial role to me...my education is," he said. Despite the misgivings, Williams is playing a major role in Lambda Force by trying to bridge the gap between those who are gay and

those who are not.

For the presidents of Lambda Force, Victor Olvera and Jim Dimitriou, it has been a much different battle. They're both gay males with similar stories.

Victor Olvera, a freshman at Columbia, knew at 12 that he was homosexual. "I didn't admit it until much later," he said. Jim Dimitriou, a senior, acknowledges that "I knew that there was always something different about me." But they each attest to one thing — that coming out of the closet lifted a great burden off their shoulders. "I was in my second year of college and was 19 years old. 'I was really scared, but when I came out everything fell in place,'" described Dimitriou.

Olvera likes to deal with the politics



Photo by Natalie Battaglia  
Lambda Force Co-President Victor Olvera.

people. Coming out will give them peace of mind," said Olvera.

of gay issues including arguing with the Christian community that has openly dismissed such lifestyles as sin. "I love arguing with Christians," Olvera said grinning. The Bible is just literature. Everyone interprets it in their own way." Raised in a Catholic church, Olvera now believes that "religion is just something that Christians use to vent their anger."

Meanwhile, Olvera puts to rest myths about homosexuals being out to recruit members. "In the group I automatically consider every person a person... that's it," he said.

Lambda Force now attracts about 30 members to its weekly meetings. But for those still hiding in the closet, Olvera gives some advice. "The gay community is made up of all sorts of people. Coming out will give them

## THE CHRONICLE

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The Chronicle is a student-run newspaper of Columbia College. It is published weekly during the school year and distributed on Mondays. Views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Journalism Department or the college.

## Project aims to show journalists real Chicago

By Jackie Gonzalez  
Staff Writer

Chicago is famous for its sports teams, landmarks and Al Capone, as well as stories of urban strife and upheaval. With the Democratic National Convention being held in Chicago this August, these are the kinds of stories that journalists might focus on.

But there is more to Chicago than the architecture and crime and a new program has been designed to show journalists just that. Called the Community News Project, it aims to take the focus off the Loop area and instead delve into what really makes Chicago tick. The brainchild of the Community Media Workshop (CMW), it is led by Columbia instructor and the co-founder and president of CMW, Thom Clark.

"The idea of the program is to tip reporters onto stories that they may have overlooked," said Clark who believes that journalists can take a different approach to the news around them and discuss different topics that are important to communities in Chicago.

Columbia instructor and fellow board member, Rose Economou, agrees with Clark. "I feel that the major media has ignored the voters in the communities and that concentrating on different communities will give other cities a better view of Chicago," she said.

If the project succeeds, it could open a whole new side of Chicago to the masses. For instance, the neighborhood around the United Center where the convention is being held, is an area that has been labeled as unsafe and run-down. Despite its problems, the West Side neighborhood has begun to see some changes such as housing

development and school reform.

In line with the program, CMW is trying to give people in neighborhoods a greater voice by offering a Professional Media Relations Workshop. Its purpose is to train community leaders and activists in communicating effectively with reporters and editors. There is even a public forum held every Thursday at Columbia College where "vital issues that deserve more news play than they are getting" are discussed.

Also, in order to prepare for the rush that will descend on the city in May and June, CMW sent information to 1,000 journalists and news organizations in February. Clark is hoping that the other 10,000 journalists who are expected to be in the area, will become involved in the Community News Project through word of mouth. As accessibility is the key, reporters will be able to look for story ideas on the Internet via CMW's World Wide Web page.

But despite all the planning and guidance offered through the program, Clark feels that some stories will still be comparisons between the 1968 and 1996 conventions. The convention of 1968 was very turbulent, resulting in riots and the arrests of many anti-war demonstrators. Clark is hoping though, that the project which has been billed "The Public Journalism Effort," will give the nation a look into Chicago's heart and soul, and give people something else to read about besides the crime and the violence.

People have stopped watching television news or reading newspapers because they are tired of seeing crime hogging the headlines, he said. It boils down to the point where people think that "if it bleeds, it leads," said Clark.

### Lambda, From page 1

unflinchingly to the mixed group who came, some out of curiosity and others who were loyal members.

While briefing the audience on why we needed to continue celebrating the accomplishments of blacks, Mundhenk recited Thurgood Marshall: "Because it hasn't been that long."

After going through a litany of famous blacks, past and present, who gave their time and often lives to fighting the good fight, Mundhenk would often pause and add a footnote, "He or she was gay."

But while some glossed over the sexual persuasion of prominent blacks, Mundhenk reminded students by quoting Ralph Ellison's acclaimed book, "Invisible Man." "Why they see only my surroundings," wrote Ellison. Mundhenk called it "collective amnesia" adding, "we're

not looking at the reality of our society."

Halfway through the program a film was shown about African-American gays, bisexuals and lesbians and how they cope with the struggle to be accepted as an equal part of society.

"Karen" an African-American woman, said her mother told her that she was different from the rest of her peers. The difference was that she was a lesbian.

"Jackie," a lesbian school teacher explained that she doesn't want to be accepted. "I don't ask for acceptance, I don't think that that's something that can be granted," she said.

The students came away from the lecture and film with a greater awareness of what gay African-Americans go through every day of their life.

"I thought it was essential to see what we saw today," said Jeff Vinn, a member of Lambda Force.

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# Fiction student wins big

By Jeff Mores  
Correspondent

Dedicated writers constantly pour their minds and souls into their work in hopes of one day tackling that big breakthrough opportunity. Ebony Magazine recently assured Carmena Fleury, a Columbia College fiction writing student, that she is on the path to success by naming her the \$5,000 first-prize winner of the Sixth Annual Gertrude Johnson Williams Literary Contest.

Fleury's short story, "The Leavin," is written in the form of a letter about a senior citizen couple concerned with foreclosure on their marginal farm. The letter is written by the wife to her sister describing the inner turmoil and emotional struggle attached to leaving her home of 40 years.

In the Fiction Writing Department, students do a number of exercises to stimulate the imagination. Fleury said her idea for "The Leavin" came about in one of her beginning-level fiction writing classes when she was asked to pick a place or environment to write about. The place that came to her mind first was a farm.

Although she has never lived on a farm, Fleury com-

mented that she has always wanted to. "I love going on drives in the countryside," she said. Every time Fleury passes a farmhouse on one of those drives, she asks herself: "I wonder what those people are like? I wonder what they're going through?"

The Gertrude Johnson Williams Literary Contest was started six years ago by John H. Johnson, editor and publisher of Ebony Magazine, in memory of his mother. "We at Ebony," Johnson says, "have noted the relative scarcity of black writers. We want to encourage the abundance of talent we believe exists."

Fleury, 42, said the award "was a big help financially," explaining that the \$5,000 will take some of the stress off of her husband, Gerard, a truck driver who alone provides for their family of seven. But most of all, "It confirmed that I have a real possibility of establishing a career as a writer," she said. "That was the biggest thrill."

Randy Albers, chairman of the Fiction Writing Department at Columbia, commented that Fleury "has really become a fine writer."

Taking first in the contest is an extraordinary achievement, Albers said, and has produced "positive incentive for other students in the department."

When asked if she could see herself as a writer for Ebony Magazine in the future, Fleury commented, "Right now, I am leaning more toward becoming a freelance writer." She did say, however, that if Ebony offered her a job, she would seriously consider it.

# Direct student loans still alive

By David Harrell  
Copy Editor

Direct student loans survive — at least, for another year.

Fears that congressional Republicans in pursuit of a balanced budget would get their way and end the program have not yet been realized. Columbia's Financial Aid Director John Olino is glad they haven't.

"So far, so good," Olino said. "We expect the Direct Student Loan Program (DSL) to be fully operational during the '96-'97 school year."

Under the DSL, students can borrow directly from the federal government, eliminating the "middlemen"—banks and guarantee agencies. Olino is all for the program, saying the Republican budget-cutters don't understand its "greater efficiency and effectiveness."

"The theory," he said, "is that if you cut out the banks and the guarantee agencies you'll save \$500 billion over 6 years."

The DSLP was instituted to offset the inconveniences of the already existing Federal Family

Educational Loan Program (FFELP). So far, Olino said, it has served that purpose well.

"It serves students better, it cuts down on the waiting. Before direct loans, when we were in the Federal Family Education Loan Program, [students] dealt with 350 banks. Each bank had its own quirks, each guarantee agency had its own quirks. Now we only have one bank — the U.S. Treasury."

"We used to have actual physical checks, and we'd get about 3,000 a semester, and had to process them all by hand. That was a real nightmare," Olino said.

Now, the funds are wired directly from the U.S. Treasury. "It's smoother this way — seamless is the word."

Although the FFELP's problems have lessened, the last thing Olino wants is to return to it.

"In my many, many years in financial aid, I've never seen a family loan program work as well as the Direct Student Loan Program," he said. He urged students to speak out in favor of the program.

"When it comes to voting time — vote. With a capital V. You've got to express yourself at the ballot box or it'll be right back to business as usual."

# Campuses fall off the wagon

By College Press Service

Efforts to curb alcohol abuse on college campuses are starting to slip, a new study says.

Although universities worked hard for more than a decade to prevent alcohol abuse among students, research shows their efforts peaked in 1991 and have begun to taper off, possibly because of funding.

"We're finding a downward curve," said Angelo Gadaletto, a West Chester University professor. "Hopefully we can reverse it."

Gadaletto co-wrote the study with David Anderson, a public health professor at George Mason University.

The study, released at a recent conference, began in 1979 and surveyed 330 universities. When the study started, the researchers found that only 54 percent of the schools required students to serve non-alcoholic drinks at parties. Nearly two-thirds let party organizers advertise that drinks would be served, and only one-third offered group counseling for alcohol abuse.

But by 1991, the researchers noted significant progress in the colleges' efforts to curb alcohol abuse. About 95 percent of the schools required soda or juice to be served at parties. Only about one-third or 31 percent let students advertise that alcohol

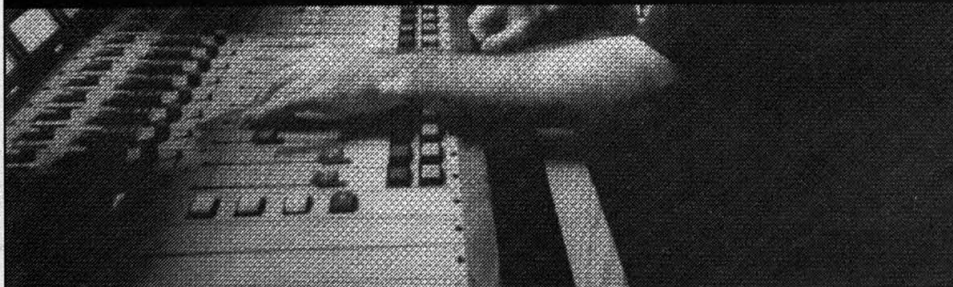
would be served at parties. Group counseling was offered by 72 percent of the schools. Then, efforts began to drop off slightly, says Gadaletto.

In 1994, they found that about 90 percent required non-alcoholic drinks to be served at parties. About 37 percent of schools now allowed students to advertise that alcohol would be served at parties. And the number of schools offering group counseling fell to about 59 percent. "Those numbers are small decreases, but we've been doing this since 1979, [and] everything has been constantly increasing," Gadaletto said. "We need to persevere."

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## African Heritage Celebration Columbia College Chicago



**February 12 - March 7**

***"Black/Word/Brown: An Art Exhibit"***  
Hokin Gallery, 623 S. Wabash

**February 14 - 25**

***"And the Trees Don't Bleed in Tuskegee"***  
New Studio Theater - 11th Street Basement  
For tickets call: (312) 663-1600 x 6000

**February 20**

***Opening Reception*** - 4:00 p.m., Hokin Gallery  
623 S. Wabash, featuring *Najwa Dance Corps*

**February 21 - March 20**

***Documentaries:*** A weekly video series from noon to 2 p.m. - Hokin Center, 623 S. Wabash

**February 23**

***Apollo 96*** - Auditions from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. in room 306, 623 S. Wabash

**February 27**

***Ensemble Kalinda*** - musical performance  
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Hokin Gallery  
623 S. Wabash

**March 6**

***"Science & Technology" - Ozie Owen of the Amoco Research Center*** - lecture, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., Hokin Annex, 623 S. Wabash

**March 7**

***"Covering the African American Story"***  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 11th Fl. Torco, faculty lounge, 624 S. Michigan, sponsored by the Journalism Club, Moderator: Warner Saunders  
***Columbia's Showtime at the Apollo '96***  
6:00 p.m., Hokin Annex

**March 11**

***"The Impact of African-American Literature on American Culture"*** Hokin Hall, 623 S. Wabash  
A Lecture/Discussion by Dr. Erskine Peters

**March 12**

***"Telling Our Story - The Legacy of Dance and Drama in the African American Community"***  
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Hokin Annex  
623 S. Wabash

**March 13**

***"Women in the Civil Rights Movement"*** - Panel Discussion, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Hokin Hall  
623 S. Wabash

**March 22**

***Closing Ceremonies*** (time/location TBA)

**March 25**

***Gwendolyn Brooks*** - Poetry Reading, 1:00 p.m.  
600 S. Michigan (Reception Hokin Annex -Wabash)



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Committee, English & Journalism  
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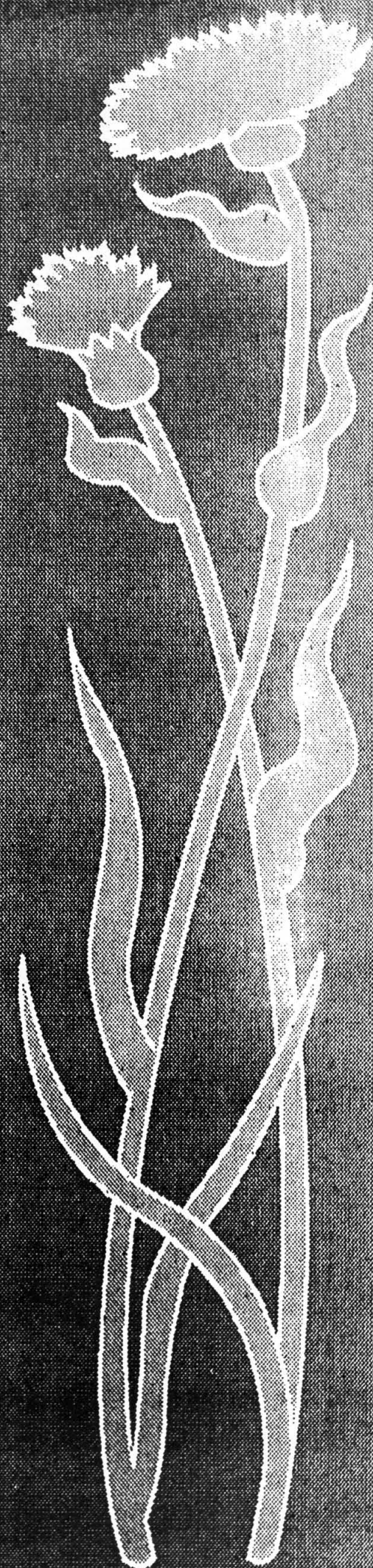
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Gwendolyn Brooks*



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1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
The Ferguson Theater  
600 S. Michigan Avenue*



*Reception immediately  
following in the Hokln Center  
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# Chronicle blows its own horn

By Yasmin Khan  
Copy Editor

The Columbia Chronicle was honored with seven awards at the recent Illinois College Press Association (ICPA) convention Feb. 24. More than 20 schools battled for the awards given out to excellence in editorial and advertising content in university and college newspapers in Illinois.

This was the Chronicle's first attempt in recent years, and it did the college proud when it won first place in three categories, two second places and two honorable mentions.

Said Journalism Chairman Nat Lehrman, "The Chronicle has been terrific this year and all credit goes to its Advisor Jim Sulski, the Editor-in-Chief Nancy Laichas and a terrific staff. I am thrilled that this excellent publication has received its due recognition outside the school."

Being recognized outside school is of the utmost importance to photographer, Chris Sweda, who just graduated from Columbia and had three awards to show for his two-year dedication to the Chronicle. "This is a valuable asset and I hope that prospective employers will now take a closer look at my work," said a beaming Sweda. "Now I feel like I have accomplished something. I couldn't be happier unless I had won all three first places."

Sharing his view was the Chronicle's current Photo Editor Natalie Battaglia, who won an Honorable Mention in the "Shoot Chicago" photography competition held in conjunction with the convention. Battaglia's picture made it to the front page of The Chicago Tribune's Chicago Metro section on Feb. 26.

"It was a good challenge and the competition was tough. It is a great feeling of accomplishment and it keeps me motivated," she said.

Entertainment Editor Ryan Healy was the first place winner in the "News Story" category. The news story which he worked on together with staff writer Robert Stevenson, was an in-depth piece on Columbia's notorious elevators.

"As I was writing it, I realized how out-of-hand the problem was. Students really wanted something done with the elevators. There was a lot of outside reporting done. We spoke to the elevator inspectors and city hall, among others. It was a lot of work."

The Chronicle's only unsung hero was Managing Editor John Biederman, the brains behind the newspaper's layout and catchy, unique headlines. Biederman's "Trains, Pains and Automobiles" headline about the perils of parking around Columbia helped the paper win second

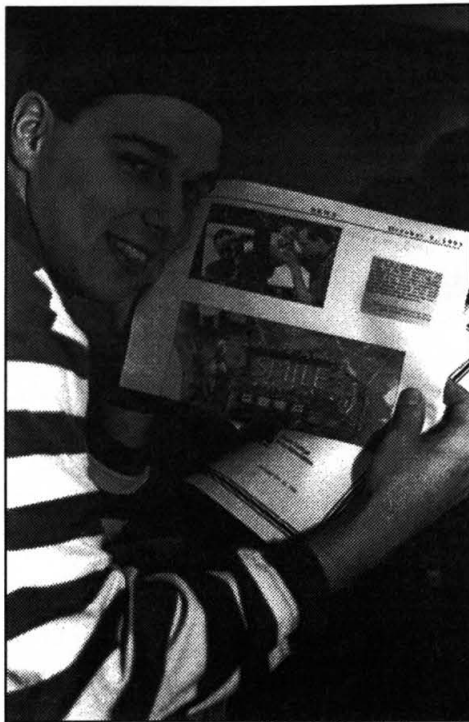


Photo by Natalie Battaglia  
Former Chronicle Photo Editor Chris Sweda shows off his award-winning photo essay.

place in the Headline Writing category. "It confirmed my belief that you can be different and still be recognized," said Biederman.

But the staff of the Chronicle isn't sitting on its laurels. Editor-in-Chief Nancy Laichas is already working on "the categories we didn't win."

Still, the icing on the cake must have come from student Barry Sorkin, who won first prize in the "Critical Review Other Than Film" category. Sorkin, who wrote for the Chronicle last semester, had no idea that his review of a play had even been submitted. And unlike the other winners who were either inspired to do better or saw it as a stepping stone to a successful journalism career, Sorkin had this to say.

"I am really happy, but I only majored in journalism to improve on my writing. At this time, I have no intention of being a journalist. In fact, I am working on opening a bar which has been my dream for a long time."

Well, so much for stepping stones ...

## People you should know

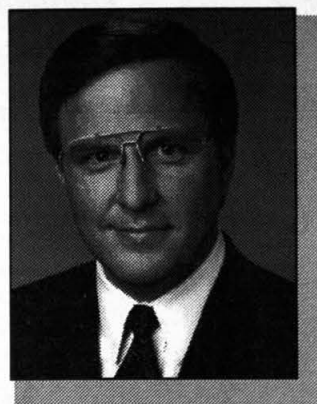


Photo courtesy of NBC

### Phil Rogers

By Danielle Curley  
Correspondent

#### Who he is:

Rogers is an investigative reporter for NBC, and teaches Investigative Reporting in Columbia's Journalism Department. He also worked at WBBM-AM for 14 years.

#### On working at NBC:

The atmosphere is wonderful. The people there are fabulous and very talented.

#### On teaching at Columbia:

A lot of people in this business feel that they have a responsibility to give something back. There are a lot of obstacles in journalism, and students can only learn this from someone who deals with it on a day to day basis. It is critical to understand what is happening in the real world.

#### On the myths of broadcast journalists:

Broadcast Journalism gets a bad rap for reporters not being nice to people, using people to get a story. That only happens in the movies.

#### His hobbies:

It is hard to make plans in this business because of a very unpredictable schedule. I spend my spare time with my daughter. Also, I fly airplanes, and travel.

## ICPA honors awarded to the Chronicle

### First Place

■News Story: Ryan Healy and Robert Stevenson (non-daily category)

■Feature Photo: Chris Sweda (non-daily category)

■Critical Review Other Than Film: Barry Sorkin (overall category)

### Second Place

■Headline Writing: Staff (non-daily category)

■Photo Essay: Chris Sweda (non-daily category)

### Honorable mention

■Shoot Chicago Photography competition: Natalie Battaglia

■Spot News Photography: Chris Sweda (non-daily category)

## Are you as smart as you think you are?

By Colleen DeBaise  
College Press Service

PRINCETON, N.J.—More than half of the students at the University of Florida cannot name a state bordering Kansas, and students are more likely to name a cast member of the TV show "Friends" than they are a Supreme Court justice.

Those are the results of a recent survey by the UF's student newspaper, The Independent Florida Alligator, in which staff members phoned 150 UF students at random and quizzed them on their general knowledge. To many, the results weren't that surprising.

Although they may easily pull As and Bs on exams, many college students are not as smart as they like to think. When it comes to testing their CQ, or culture quotient, even college-educated Americans don't know a lot of basic world facts.

For example, a July 1988 poll by the Gallup and the National Geographic Society announced that Americans 18- to 24-years-old ranked last among their peers of nine nations in their ability to locate on a map places like France, Britain, Japan, Central America and the Persian Gulf.

"College students are so focused on what courses they are taking that they don't often look above their books," Sam Andrews, assistant dean for student services in UF's College of Education, told the "Alligator." "That's not negative. There are many other things that can keep a student from watching the TV news or reading a newspaper, like taking too many hours, or having a job or a boyfriend or girlfriend."

But if you wondered how your CQ measures up, a new Princeton Review guidebook claims it can give you some answers.

"Culturescope: The Princeton Review Guide to an Informed Mind" is 712 pages of trivia, ranging from architecture to religion, politics to war. And everything in between.

Michael Freedman, an author of "Culturescope," said the Princeton Review noticed "some surprising gaps in the knowledge of our students" when doing education research a few years ago.

So to do more than ask why, the Princeton Review's head honchos asked researchers to put all the stuff that students don't know, or knew once but can't remember, into a book, Freedman said.

Although the plan was kind of "cocky," Freedman admits, they were able to produce "Culturescope," a collection of three books for grammar school, high school and college students.

The real challenge, of course, was determining exactly what students needed to know to be "culturally informed."

The researchers interviewed educators, surveyed students, studied school textbooks and gathered a field of experts around them. For instance, one expert was a movie buff—"one of those people who knows every movie," Freedman explains—and he put together the list "Forty American Films You Should See." ("Apocalypse Now," "Gone With the Wind" and "Casablanca," just to name a few.)

Other fun lists include "Ten American Authors Worth Reading" and "Ten Top-Rated TV Programs of All Time."

But the book contains a lot of serious information, too, about the Battle of Wounded Knee, the shifting of the continents, the doctrine of original sin, the Tet Offensive and Freud's three components of personality (the id, ego and superego).

The Princeton Review book begins with a

multiple choice "Culturescope Quiz." College students can compare their answers with how thousands of their peers nationally surveyed by the Princeton Review did. That way readers can determine their CQ.

Here are some results from the national survey: While 98 percent of college students could identify what the term NAFTA stands for, 43 percent knew Sid Caesar was the host of "Your Show of Shows," and only 16 percent knew the term "nickelodeon" refers to the first permanent movie theaters.

Catherine Barnes, marketing director at the Princeton Review, said the books contains concise information about topics including history, mathematics, religion, literature, geography, science, sports and entertainment.

"These are some of the facts that students should be learning as they progress through school," Barnes said. The guide provides "a nice check" to make sure students know the material, she added.

But some educators disagree, saying cultural literacy cannot be learned in a Cliffs Notes-like version. "It strikes me as very foolish," said Mark Trachtenberg, professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania. "That's not how you learn. If you want to become an educated person, you can't do it on the cheap."

Author Paul Rogat Loeb, who wrote "Generations at the Crossroads," said being culturally aware and understanding our nation's past is critical if students are going to learn how to view their own role in society. But that knowledge probably isn't going to be found by just watching the TV news or MTV. "You need to ferret out facts and arguments on issues you care about, which usually means finding books and articles that do them justice," he said.



# *Columbia Authors Alliance*

## MEETING

When: March 14, 1996

Where: 623 South Wabash, Rm. 304

Time: 5:00 p.m.

refreshments will be served

## academic



## excellence



## awards



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## Letters to the editor



### Too Proud Not To Care

An open letter to Yasmin Khan:

No, Ms. Khan, the streets of America are not paved with gold. We have our problems, very serious problems. Still, thousands of people choose to emigrate to the U.S. every year.

We all have choices, Ms. Khan. Being that you emigrated to the U.S. in your 20s, I can only assume that you chose to be "ripped" from your comfort zone. I wonder why you chose to come here. Could it be that you felt job opportunities were better here? Maybe you like to chew gum or occasionally forget to flush and you don't want to be prosecuted for it.

Maybe the rights of the press are not protected as well as they are here. Maybe you didn't like living under such an oppressive government.

I have traveled extensively and have seen overwhelming poverty. I have seen limited opportunity for intelligent young people. I have seen women oppressed and female children murdered. I have seen men pulled from their homes in the middle of the night and never heard from again. I could go on and on.

The point is that America is still the freest country in the world. I am very proud and grateful to be an American.

My very wise fourth grade teacher told me to leave a place better than I found it. I am offering this same advice to you. You have the ultimate power. The power of the press. Use that power to make America a better place. Do not become complacent, Ms. Khan. Leave it better than you found it.

You chose to come here. I recommend that you embrace this country for its beauty, its bounty, its opportunities and its kind-hearted people. No, Ms. Khan, the streets of America are not paved with gold. You can make it a better place.

D.J. O'Rourke

### A Pleasant Read

Just a few thoughts about the Chronicle this semester. The paper is much better than last year. I especially enjoy the feature "Around Columbia" except for the article about pornography in the adult bookstore, which degrades women. Why not promote instead the Harold Washington Library, the Spertus Museum, the DePaul Music Center, and the Management Department's gift shop in the Cultural Center, to name a few examples? I also enjoy the various views expressed in "Stuff from Staff." I took

Sandra Taylor's advice about skin care and was wondering what she thinks of the store the Body Shop? (There's one at State and Madison.) But I didn't like her putting down libraries in her column about bookstores. People can talk out loud in the library and most libraries are open evenings. Most importantly of all, libraries are free. Not everyone can afford to buy expensive new books. Libraries will always be around because they'll always be people who can't afford to buy books, magazines, videos, computers or nice clothes to show off in.

I also wish the main character in the comic strip "Certain Confusion" didn't have a cigarette dangling from his mouth which indicates smoking is cool, which no one can believe anymore. But I like your promoting Columbia grads. I hope it will encourage students to hang in there and not get discouraged. That's all for now. Keep up the good work.

Mary Cooper  
Library Assistant

### Band-Aids for Stab Wounds

To the Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to the article "Beat Cop" in the February 19 issue. Earlier in the year, I was sitting over at the Wabash Campus one morning, drinking coffee in the Hokin Center. It was pretty empty. Except for myself and one of those "street vagrants" Bob Chiarito's article spoke of, the only other patrons were a sparse variety of what appeared to be members of the faculty.

I overheard one of these professor types speaking with the girl behind the counter. Apparently she was requesting a cup of coffee for the homeless gentleman to justify his existence in the school cafe. With obvious reluctance, the girl gave her the coffee. The woman walked over to the man, whom I had observed muttering out loud to himself, and gave him the coffee. She patted him on the shoulder and said something like, "Here sir, have some coffee, it's okay."

Pardon me for saying so, but it certainly is not okay. I was happy when I saw a security guard escort the man out, telling him that he couldn't stay there. Am I cruel and heartless? Perhaps evil? I don't think so. Let me tell you something, that compassionate moron that encourages this behavior could do more good, volunteering quality time to a homeless shelter or soup kitchen. I wonder if she invites vagrants into restaurants to dine with her, or occasionally has a slumber

party in her home for those who are left out in the cold.

The reason I so vehemently oppose this sort of nonsense is because friends of mine as well as myself must pass through a succession of homeless inquisitions every time we make our way to school. It starts at the Harrison stop and doesn't end until the front door of whatever Columbia building is shut behind us.

We have been confronted, verbally harassed and even physically threatened by the bolder type of street folk. The last thing I want to see is that certain people invite them inside my learning facility of choice for a cup of coffee.

Yes, I realize that not every homeless person has these lovely qualities. There are a handful of likable StreetWise vendors and such that we see on a daily basis and politely converse with. However, I don't think this was the case in the Hokin Center that morning.

No matter what their mental condition happens to be, they have no right to wander into our buildings. It's hard enough to deal with the mental cases that happen to be legitimate students.

Now I read that Ron Dorsey is on the job, out on the street, patrolling the campus between four and midnight, ridding the path of unwanted street vagrants.

Of course he can't do anything unless the suspect is leaning against one of our buildings, but hey, it's a start. I have yet to see one of these homeless people perched up against the side of school, but if it does happen, Ron will take care of it.

One more thing. Martha Meegen-Linehan, director of administrative service, has come up with an ingenious plan to cut down on the plague of thefts in this school.

As if they don't already have enough to do, perhaps staff members could patrol the hallways. But whoever you sucker into doing it, they will hopefully be observant enough to realize when a quarter of a million dollars worth of computer equipment is walking off the campus.

The moral of the story is that you can't fix a stab wound with a Band-Aid, and sometimes the problems come from the INSIDE.

Melanie Finch

### Unhappy with Underground

My school schedule allows me an hour-and-a-half break between class on

Mondays. Not being a brave soul, I lack the substance to venture out into the cold to find a place to eat lunch.

Unfortunately, Columbia's industrial-strength microwaves scorch any pre-packaged meal I attempt to zap and the college does not provide a refrigerator to leave pre-cooked food in.

Thus I am faced with only one frightening option — eat at one of the school's two student-run cafes.

So, every Monday I habitually return to the Underground Cafe in the 600 South Building. Upon entering, I am greeted by a foul and mysterious odor I am regretfully unable to truly bring to you on paper.

I am then faced with a long line at the counter because normally only one or maybe two people are working at the front counter.

The menu selection is fair. However, this is a false front. Usually I find only about half of the items listed are actually available.

So, I order my fifth choice and then pay an average \$5 or \$6 for a meal that is less than satisfying.

As I watch the "chefs" in the kitchen scoop up my meal, I notice none of them are wearing hair nets and only some are wearing gloves.

My next painful step in my lunch routine is to find a seat. This involves standing for at least ten minutes until someone moves away from one of the few tables available.

Finally, I sit down at a table I am quite certain the Underground staff has never laid a towel on. These tables are covered with food, cigarette ash and a general Underground filth.

I returned to my second class reeking of cigarette smoke with "crusty table stuff" stuck to my sleeves and my stomach rumbling.

Lately, those vending machines with the frozen burritos in them have started to appear appealing, but then I remember I'd have to cook them in one of those industrial-strength microwaves.

I appreciate Columbia College's desire to provide its students with places to eat, but I have confidence they can come up with a cleaner, healthier alternative.

Jessica Brannon

From the editor: As reported in the Feb. 26 issue of the Chronicle, the Class of '96 gift committee is planning to renovate the Underground Cafe.

## WEBMASTER WANTED

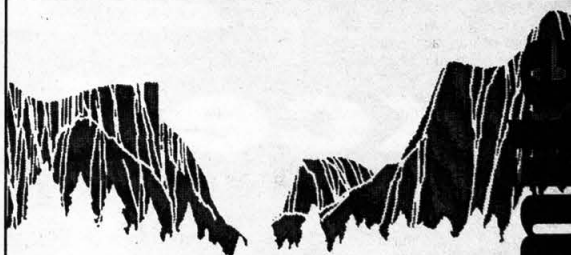
**The Columbia Chronicle is seeking a computer savvy student to compose and edit WEB PAGES for an online version of the Chronicle.**

**This paying work-aide position is available through the remainder of the Spring semester.**

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# How's Your Steak?

John Henry Biederman  
Managing Editor



## Don't 'offense' me in

"Can I speak to a manager please?" How's Your Steak? called Jewel Food Stores at Clark and Division.

"How can I help you?" The manager answers.

"I have a complaint. I'm offended when I visit your store and hear that 'light rock' music."

There's a pause. "You don't like the music?"

"Yup."

"In what way?"

"It reminds me of a dentist's office. It's boring and it depresses me. Gets me down on the whole artistic future of the human race. I would prefer something more upbeat, a little more intelligent. Rock me while I'm thumping those melons."

"Well it changes everyday," he answers. "What you've heard, it...doesn't keep playing."

"Do people complain about the music often?"

"Only if it's loud music."

A-ha!

There is a point to this. People whine every day about something that offends them. They whine that the Internet has dirty pictures, that books and songs poke holes in their religions, that other people are having sex in ways they disapprove of.

Legislators, store owners, people in charge of school libraries—they take these sniveling crybabies seriously. It doesn't matter that these people can choose to avoid what they find offensive. They have pitiful, repressed, hung-up lives and have nothing better to do, so they whine, and people listen.

You'll notice the Jewel manager made no offer to change their music.

Those who are better adjusted are constantly offended by things like Jewel's music for the comatose. We just realize it's not important, and we don't have time to unite and bawl about it. But I can't help wondering how things would be if we complained more often...

S-chips: Yes, we'd have every television equipped with a stupidity chip, so we couldn't accidentally turn on local news, award ceremonies or even commercials.

F chips: The perfect compliment to the S-chip. The flesh chip would automatically turn your TV to any channel showing a little flesh (Hey, kicks are a little hard to come by in my life lately). And there would also be a chip to help find dirty internet pictures.

M-chips: I'm not sure where we'd install these. Maybe in your shoes. Anyway, whenever you'd go somewhere with horrific music playing, it would shut off. The other day I entered a washroom and actually heard an elevator version of a Dan Fogelberg song. I didn't think it was possible. Nobody should be subject to that.

New Warning Labels: There would be a variety, including "This book is overly politically correct—may offend anyone with an IQ over 30," "This CD contains no explicit lyrics—those who demand a meaningful artistic message will be disappointed," or "The following television show makes references to religious texts as if they were proven, scientific works—free-thinkers and those with fulfilling sex lives may feel degraded."

It's only a daydream, and I could feel bad about that. But, unlike the whiny, vocal minorities, I can take comfort in the fact that I've mostly adjusted to reality.

In the end, you have to feel sorry for those nuts.



PRESIDENT DUFF EXPLAINS  
THE REASON FOR OUR SCHEDULE

## Modern school, outdated calendar

As Columbia begins its fourth week of spring semester classes, other schools in the area are gearing up for mid-terms. Meanwhile, students are beginning to come to grips with the fact that, come June, they will be preparing for final exams while other area students will be one month into summer vacations.

That is the least of the problems stemming from Columbia's unorthodox schedule. Starting a month later than other local schools, our pre-spring semester break must come later, in addition to a Christmas holiday break. As pointed out in a January 16 news story by staff writer Cristin Monti, due to our schedule: Students' internship possibilities are limited, the extra break drastically increases out-of-town students' travel expenses and students are naturally disposed toward apathy and lower quality work for the fall semester's post-Christmas weeks.

President John Duff's standard reply has been that our schedule is a tradition, the same as that of the Ivy League schools. So Duff is comparing Columbia College Chicago, trumpeted an alternative to the university system and its stringent admission requirements, to Harvard?

Of course, the chief reason for sticking to this insane schedule is the opportunity to enroll students who began their semesters at other colleges but dropped-out early, disappointed. As an answer to the first argument, there's good reason that most schools have dropped the traditional schedule. And in answer to the second, Columbia has grown out of the "college of last resort" reputation into a first-class, first-choice establishment.

Administration has indicated that once our computerized pre-registration procedure is fully implemented in three years, the schedule might change. But Monti's article quoted Duff as saying, "In the nearly four years that I've been president, there hasn't been any big protest or agitation to change Columbia's schedule."

We hear differently—in classes, in our halls, and in our elevators—every day. The Chronicle has quoted, and received correspondence from, teachers, administrators and students who would like to see the traditional schedule put to rest. And the Chronicle fully agrees with their complaints.

Through all the input we've received, other than President Duff there have been no calls to keep this traditional schedule. The most intelligent decision is clear: Change our schedule.

## Family values--with exceptions

State Sen. Peter G. Fitzgerald (R-Palatine) has introduced a bill banning same-sex marriages, which may come as a surprise considering the issue hasn't been brought before the General Assembly.

Same-sex marriages may become legal in Hawaii, however, thanks to a court challenge, which means our state would have to honor them under the "reciprocity" provision, whereby out-of-state marriages are automatically blessed unless specifically prohibited by Illinois law.

Fitzgerald sees this as one of our more prominent problems, even though the Illinois Federation for Human Rights believes same-sex marriages in Hawaii are still a couple of years away.

Calm down, Senator.

Funny how legislators like Fitzgerald spend so much of their time preaching for family values and against loveless sex, but see red when homosexuals ask for the simple right to form a family.

In the February 27 Chicago Sun-Times, conservative columnist Dennis Byrne supported Fitzgerald's effort by launching into a paranoid diatribe claiming same-sex marriages are not "on the same moral, social, legal level as heterosexual marriage." Through some naive and twisted logic, however, Byrne has the nerve to be riled that some would call him homophobic.

If the slur fits, wear it.

Same-sex marriage is no threat to family, children or anybody's sexuality. To the contrary: How can you expect family values from a society that forbids certain members from forming a family?

# Stuff From Staff

By Bob Chiarito  
News Editor



## Squeak for grease!

A couple of weeks ago, someone brought an eight-year-old copy of the Columbia Chronicle to my attention. Besides the repulsive layout, nothing stood out until I started paging through it.

In the issue there was a photo poll, with the question "What is your biggest complaint about Columbia College." Among the answers the students polled gave were slow elevators, a bad registration process and harassment from the homeless who lurk around campus. Surprised? I didn't think so.

Since Columbia students have been moaning about the same problems for years, it is time to turn negative energy into action.

Last week I was talking to a friend who informed me that I was a negative person. I've heard that complaint before, but I was taken aback by her failure to understand why.

First of all, from time to time I do recognize the good in things, but what good does it do? Secondly, nothing ever changes by focusing on the positive.

For instance, does thanking someone for giving you a bandage make up for the stab wound they inflicted upon you? No.

In my view, you should thank the person who revenged your stabbing, not the person who stuck the knife in your back.

When President Duff was asked why Columbia still begins the fall semester in late September and ends the spring semester in June, he said that not many students have complained about it.

When I first heard Duff's reaction, I didn't believe him. I figured he ignored the complaints or that he wasn't around to hear the complaints, like most of Columbia's upper echelon. Depending on which secretary you talk to, you would think that the college administrators all work four hours a day, are constantly traveling or are drying out in some distant flophouse (everywhere, it seems, except for Columbia). But considering the mentality of Columbia students, who are nothing more than riff-raff and circus runaways, I now believe Duff was telling the truth.

If you want change, it won't happen by itself. Complain and get your friends to complain. Organize and let your feelings be known. But don't start a petition, because Duff will only use it to line his bird cage or as emergency toilet paper. You have to do something to really get noticed.

Hey, since the Democratic National Convention is coming to Chicago again, it would be a nice tribute to start rioting.

On second thought, if you really want to get noticed, hit Columbia in the only spot they care about - Boycott your tuition payments!



# Aragon Ballroom turned Internet ban delayed into alternative sound 'Oasis'

By Christine Locke  
Staff Writer

Oasis kicked off their sold-out show Feb. 27 at the Aragon with "Morning Glory." Enthused onlookers immediately began crowd-surfing.

They went on to play "Supersonic," from their first album "Definitely Maybe," and "Live Forever," from their most recent effort "What's The Story (Morning Glory)." The title of this album was inspired by an American journalist.

Noel Gallagher, lead guitarist for the band, treated the crowd to a few acoustic selections. Dressed in a T-shirt and blue jeans, he sat on a stool in complete darkness, with only a spotlight illuminating his figure. Ignoring

shouts from the crowd to play "Talk Tonight," Noel opted

for "Wonderwall," the band's chart-topping hit. He also played "Don't Look Back in Anger" with equal brilliance.

Liam Gallagher, vocalist, joined Noel on stage for "Champagne Supernova," "Hello," and "Roll With It."

The highlight of the night was Oasis' rendition of the Beatles' song "I Am The Walrus."

Oasis is made up of Noel Gallagher, Liam Gallagher, Paul Arthurs (Rhythm Mellotron), Paul McGuigan, also known as Guigys



Noel and Liam Gallagher of Oasis.



(Bass), and Allan White (Drums, Percussion).

Despite their reputation as being egotistical jerks, back-stage after the show they seemed downright cheery. Chilling with a beer in one hand, Liam confessed that he likes touring in America though he finds it a "bit weird" at times.

Noel told a story about "Columbia," the first song that he and Liam ever recorded together. And Guigys, when asked how he felt about Americans, replied: "I've only felt four or five, and they felt quite good."

Oasis is currently enjoying the success of "What's The Story (Morning Glory)," which has gone platinum eight times in the United Kingdom and once here in America.

Despite the band's overwhelming success, Oasis is not without problems. Their former drummer, Tony McCarroll is suing the band for damages. McCarroll alleged that he was wrongly removed from the band.

Oasis will wrap up their American "What's The Story (Morning Glory)" tour in three weeks.

By College Press Service

The U.S. Justice Department has agreed not to prosecute anyone under a new controversial law that bans the transmission of "indecent" or "patently offensive" material on the Internet.

The Feb. 22 agreement stands until a three-judge panel considers a lawsuit in federal court in late March. The American Civil Liberties Union, one of 19 groups to file the lawsuit in protest of the new law, negotiated the deal with the Justice Department.

ACLU attorney Chris Hansen called the deal "a victory" that expands protection for Internet users beyond the temporary restraining

order granted earlier this month in a Philadelphia federal court.

U.S. District Judge Ronald L. Buckwalter ruled then that the restriction on "indecent" material was too vague to be enforceable.

However, he let stand the ban on "patently offensive" material, such as words or pictures related to sexual or excretory activities. Educators were concerned that topics such as abortion or sex, and even many classical works, could not be discussed on the Internet because they would violate the "patently offensive" standard.

If the law is upheld, the government reserves the right to prosecute later for violations dating from the Feb. 8 passage of the law.

## Sites for spring break (sidebar to lower piece)

### Where to Surf This Spring Break

- [ ] Daytona Beach  
<http://www.america.com/mall/store/springbreak.html>  
<http://www.intbc.com/daytona/index.html>
- [ ] Cancun  
<http://www.cancun.com/>  
<http://www.iminet.com/mexico/cancun.html>
- [ ] South Padre Island  
<http://www.sopadre.com/springbreak>  
<http://www.rscmm.com/wwspadpadre.html>
- [ ] Florida  
[http://florida.com/fl\\_fact.htm](http://florida.com/fl_fact.htm)  
<http://www.goflorida.com/>
- [ ] Fort Lauderdale  
<http://www.ftlauderdale.com/>  
<http://www.ftlauderdalewww.com/AreaGuide/ftlaud.html>
- [ ] Panama City Beach  
<http://www.travelfile.com/get/pcbeach>  
<http://interoz.com/springbreak>
- [ ] Colorado  
<http://www.colorado.com/>  
<http://www.destinfi.com/>  
<http://www.gulf.net/places/ftwalton/>  
<http://www.GuideNet.com/GuideNet/cities/ftwalton/>
- [ ] Spring Break - 95 Yearbook  
<http://springbreak.iag.net/>

# Students surf the Internet for spring break destinations

By Colleen DeBaise  
College Press Service

Your skin is as pale as the underbelly of a fish. Your campus is shrouded in a blanket of snow. Your favorite accessory these days is a parka.

But not to fear, spring break is only a few weeks away. Imagine soft grains of white sand beneath your feet, hot rays of bright sun on your skin, rushing sounds of blue ocean waves in your ear.

But before you surf, perhaps you should surf - the Net, that is.

Many popular spring break paradises now have sites on the Web, true treasure troves of information on local hotels, nightclubs, tourist attractions - even vivid pictures to give a weary student a fix until its time to cavort on the beach.

Whether your dream vacation spot is sunny Florida or the ski slopes of Colorado, chances are there's a web site you can visit way before you jump onto the plane or cram into your roommate's '85 Chevette.

Not only can you gather some great ideas on which paradise to visit, but you can also find out lots of practical information: where to stay, whether a passport is required and what you should tell your parents about why you need to go there.

For instance, there's Daytona Beach. Or, as its web site deems it, "the hottest break on the planet!"

Underneath a picture of scantily clad student-types frolicking in the surf are the words: "Spring Break in Daytona is Hot. Twenty-three miles of wide, smooth, sandy beaches. Driving directly on the beach. Outrageous clubs. And thousands of college students from every corner of the continent."

From the main page, browsers can link to The Beach, Night Clubs, Health Clubs, Sports Illustrated Beach Club, Accommodations, or Weather ...

Click on Weather, and, like other sites, the Daytona Beach site lists up-to-the-minute online weather report. Today, the forecast is "dense fog developing." That doesn't sound good, perhaps a reason why the site explains, we have had many days with lots of bright sunshine, perfect for getting a great tan. How is it where you are?

The site also provides answer to some serious, commonly asked questions. For instance, can you still drive on the beach? (Yes.) What is the legal drinking age in Daytona Beach? (Twenty-one years of age, but many nightclubs admit students 18 and up.)

And, more importantly, why will my parents want me to go to Daytona Beach? (Career Fair, March 14-16.) Apparently, student can meet with major employers from across the country on those days, and the attire is casual. But bikinis may be too casual.

Before you leave this site, be assured that the mayor has actually proclaimed Daytona Beach the Spring Break Capital of the Universe, in case there were any doubts.

It's time to leave sunny Florida and explore virtually the wonders of Mexico.

Welcome to Cancun, says this site on a bright turquoise background. The World's Most Popular Resort.

The site features an online form, which you can fill out with any questions you might have on lodging, food or entertainment. But the site still offers plenty of useful facts, including some colorful Caribbean history ...

Little more than 20 years ago, Cancun was just a Mayan name, a deserted, sun-drenched island off the Northeast tip of the Yucatan peninsula, the site reads. After the first hotel opened in the 1970s, Cancun was well on its way to international resort stardom.

Average temperatures hover in the 80s,

and the sun shines more than 240 days of the year. In addition, the site informs browsers, the turquoise waters host swimming, windsurfing, parasailing, snorkeling, scuba diving and sport fishing.

And the site lists the practical stuff: Bring your passport or your original birth certificate. Don't forget the sunblock and a light cotton sweater for cool evening breezes. Exchange your money in small amounts, since the peso cannot be exchanged back to U.S. dollars. Don't forget to buy a bottle of Kahlua.

If you speak the language, the site also claims a little Spanish goes a long way in building a friendly warm relationship with the Cancun natives.

The Cancun site, similar to the Daytona Beach one, also answers some commonly asked questions. Is the water safe? Cancun is home to the largest water purification system in all of Mexico, the site claims.

One more thing to add about this site: it has coupons for student who like to clip and save, or rather print and save. For instance, get a free cap or T-shirt with the purchase of an island cruise, snorkeling trip or jungle tour. And Carlos N Charlies offers a free pitcher of margaritas with lunch or dinner.

For those not interested in Florida or Mexico, the web site of South Padre Island in Texas invites users to explore the Lone Star States only true tropical island with the words, Lets Padre!

If you didn't know it, now you do: South Padre Island is the center of the party universe during Spring Break with its Gulf of Mexico location, 34 miles of coastline and 125,000 of the hottest guys and gals from more than 100 colleges and universities.

No shoes, No shirt, No problem, boasts the site. Where to stay? Choose from more than 5,000 hotels and condos, some with views of the Gulf, other with views of

placid Laguna Madre Bay and the twinkling lights of mainland Texas beyond.

And then there's the practical information, such as what airlines fly there (Southwest, American and Continental) and what airports serve the island (the well-known Harlingen Valley International and Brownsville/SPI Airports).

This site, too, has a check the weather link, complete with a four-day forecast. Mostly sunny and unseasonably warm, high from the middle 80s to the middle 90s.

Of course, let's not forget that to some, winter is not a bad thing.

For those students, there are the virtual slopes of Colorado. This website contains everything, from a list of the resorts to cool pictures of skiers and jagged mountains etched against the skyline.

There's a map of Colorado, and vacation packages and specials for resorts in Aspen, Vail and Colorado Springs, among other locations.

And not only is there a link to the statewide weather report (snow in the mountains, going down to 20s), there's a link to statewide ski conditions.

For instance, at Arapahoe Basin, there's a powder surface and between 93-119 inches of base. Sixty-one out of 61 trails are open, and so are all five lifts.

So, as you sit in your dorm room and wait for spring break, remember there's more to do than just dream. It's never too early in the year to Surf.

One last website to visit is Spring Break 95 Yearbook, which is a collection of pictures, grouped by state and then by college, of party animals on location during last years spring break. Anyone can submit photos via mail or the Internet.

See above sidebar for a list of spring break internet addresses.

*California governor gets his way*

## College honors ban on Affirmative Action

By Colleen DeBaise  
College Press Service

SAN FRANCISCO—Despite a bitter public feud earlier this year, the University of California regents did a recent about-face, agreeing to UC President Richard Atkinson's plan to postpone the controversial ban on affirmative-action policies.

In a voice vote, the regents agreed Feb. 15 to apply the ban to undergraduates entering in the spring quarter of 1998, not fall of 1997 as originally planned, a university spokesperson said.

The ban on racial and gender preferences will still apply to graduate and professional students entering in the fall quarter of 1997.

Atkinson found himself heavily criticized by the regents and Gov. Pete Wilson when he first ordered a delay, stating there was not enough time to redesign the application process on UC's nine campuses.

Facing hints that he might lose his job, he later apologized for the decision. Now, the regents seem to have had a surprising change of heart.

But Regent Ward Connerly, who once said he was "furious" at Atkinson's decision, told a local radio station that the regents voted for the delay to bring peace to the university and not necessarily because they

agreed with Atkinson.

The regents' vote last July to abolish racial and gender preferences has met with student protests at several UC campuses.

The unrest continued this week when Charles E. Young, chancellor of UC-Los Angeles and a vocal opponent of the ban, announced that he will resign next year.

Young has led UCLA for 27 years, longer than any major American University chancellor. "It is time to hand over the reins to new leadership," he said, in announcing his retirement.

Although he plans to stay at UCLA and teach political science, Young told reporters that the regents' decision

to drop affirmative-action policies played a role in his decision.

Some UC students fear they are losing one of their most influential allies and worry that the regents will replace Young with a chancellor more sympathetic to them.

"He has spoken out. He has increasingly become a thorn in (the regents') side," Charles Lewis, chair of UCLA's Academic Senate, told the school's student newspaper, The Daily Bruin. "The political views of the regents cannot help but contaminate the choice of academic leadership."

"This is the end of an era."

**"This is the end of an era"**

**--Charles Lewis, Chair of  
UCLA's Academic Senate**

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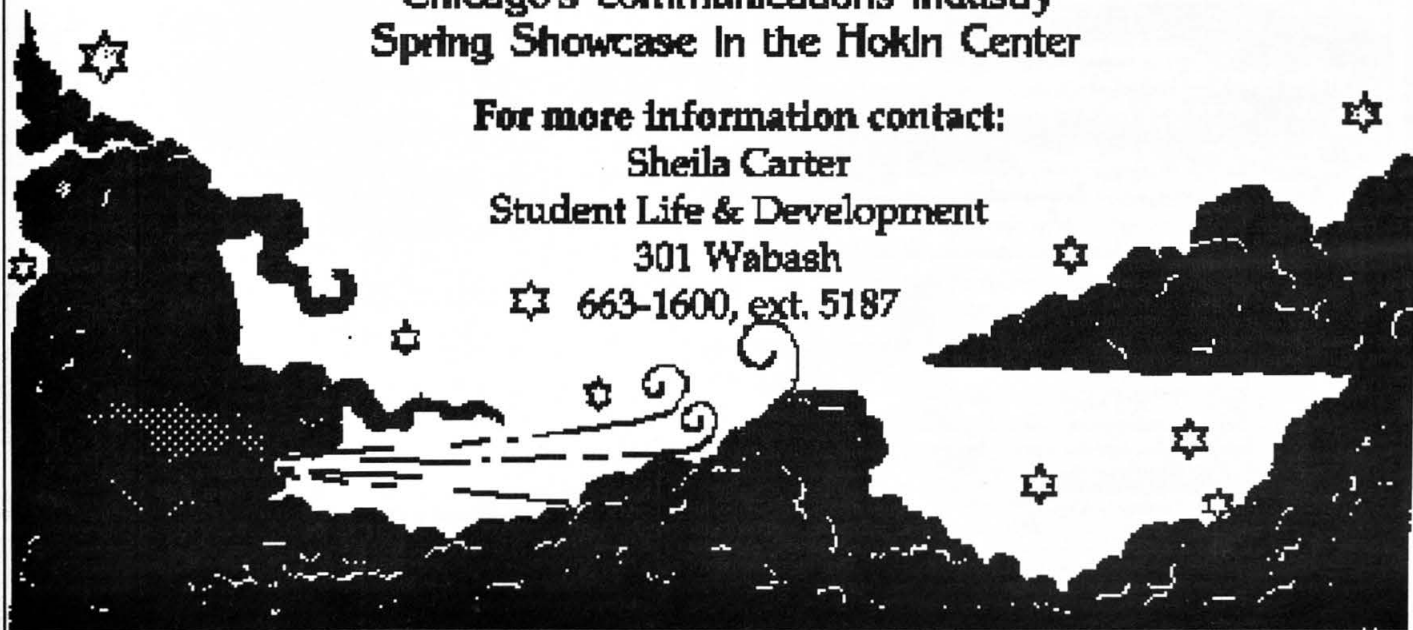
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## Mascis, AKA Dinosaur Jr., plays unplugged at the Smart Bar

By Chris Olvera  
Correspondent

For about the last ten years, J. Mascis has led an onslaught of surging guitars woven through lengthy solos, coupled with his scratchy, just-woke-up voice. This onslaught is more commonly known as Dinosaur Jr., sometimes a trio, sometimes a one-man band. But no matter what the lineup is, it's really the J. Mascis show.

J. Mascis is Dinosaur Jr. He writes all the songs, produces them, and on the 1991 release "Green Mind," he played all the instruments.

On the more recent of the Dinosaur Jr. albums, Mascis showed a mellow side. For a handful of songs, he lost the distortion and picked up the acoustic guitar. And on an import album of B-sides and previously unreleased material he performs some Dino classics acoustically. With all these acoustic songs popping up, one hoped Dino might play an acoustic set during one of their stops in Chicago. Last fall, hopes became a reality. J. Mascis performed acoustically at Lounge Ax.

Then on Feb. 24th, he came back.

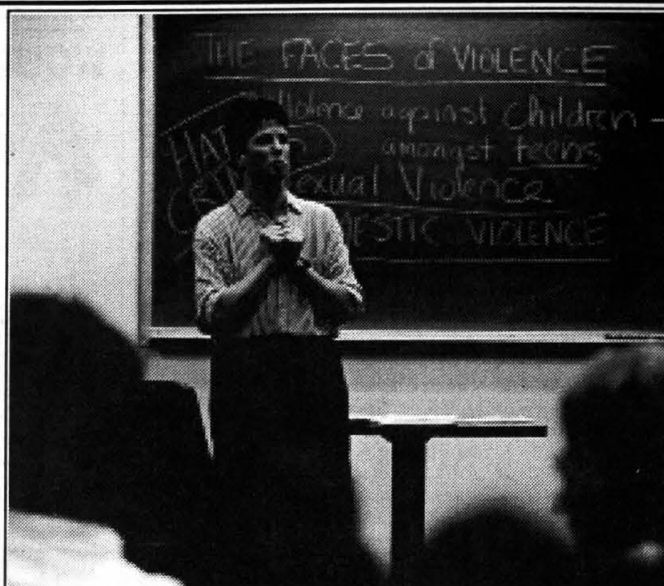
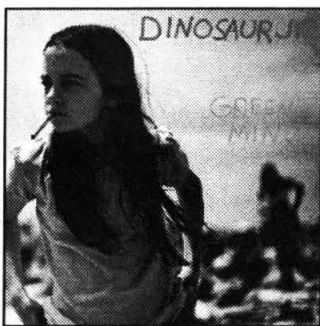
Unfortunately, this time the show was at the newly revamped Smart Bar. The stage was about two inches high, so only the first ten people up front could see. This was a sold out show, meaning everyone there had bought a ticket in advance. There were no tickets available at the door, yet only a third of the crowd actually paid attention. The rest of the crowd were too caught up in their own conversations to notice he was playing. But the crowd can't really be blamed. Without something to look at, a live performance doesn't seem so live.

Mascis stepped up to the challenge of enthusing the crowd by strumming out Dino greats ("Thumb," "What Else Is New" and "Repulsion") and Dino not-so-greats ("Turnip Farm" and "Grab It"). He also played a few covers,

including "The Boy With The Thorn In His Side," which he had hoped to sing to Morrissey's face, and the Heinz ketchup song "Anticipation."

All this was great except that he played almost all the same songs at the Lounge Ax show. What seemed so special then, seemed like the same old story now. The most upsetting of all was the length, about 50 minutes.

Don't get me wrong, J. sounded great. His acoustic renditions of Dino songs were incredible. He just needed to play for at least an hour, at a different venue, and play different songs.



**Campus Safety Awareness Week** took place from Feb. 26 through March 1. Pictured is Nancy Lanove, talking to Columbia students about personal safety and self-defense during a seminar for city survival skills Feb. 27, 1996.

## Sandler reinvents the golf comedy

By Ian Spelling  
College Press Service

Adam Sandler is looking to hit an ace with his latest movie, the golf comedy "Happy Gilmore." Yes, a golf comedy.

"Caddyshack was one of my favorites, but it had nothing to do with this. I just had the idea," says Sandler, who moments earlier awoke from a mid-afternoon nap on a couch at Universal Studios' Manhattan offices. "My buddy played hockey, and I was at the driving range with him when we were in high school. He was out-driving my dad, and my dad's a good golfer. So, I always thought that'd be a good idea for a movie, a hockey player who's a natural golfer."

And thus was born the Sandler-scripted "Happy," in which the former "Saturday Night Live" star plays a talentless would-be pro hockey player with the planet's meanest slapshot. When he learns his grandmother's home is about to be repossessed, Happy seeks to raise money. He stumbles upon the ability to cream a golf ball, an event witnessed by the one-handed golf coach Chubbs Peterson (Carl Weathers). If Chubbs can calm Happy down, hone his tee shot, and educate him on the fine art of putting, Happy could be up there with Shooter McGavin (Christopher McDonald), the arrogant tour champion.

Sure enough, Happy starts winning money, improving his game, attracting hordes of unconven-

tional Happy fans, romancing the tour's PR director (Julie Bowen), and driving McGavin to fits of jealousy. At one point, Happy teams with Bob Barker for a celebrity Pro-Am, and the men wind up in a slugfest.

"I thought it'd be interesting to do a movie where the lead guy, on paper, isn't very likable," says Sandler. "He's got a bad temper. He's hitting people. He doesn't listen to advice. It's not obvious that he can be likable, but he is. He's just . . . driven."

Moviegoers should get a kick out of seeing Weathers, Apollo Creed in the "Rocky" movies, and Barker, the 70-something host of "The Price Is Right," sharing the screen with Sandler. Sandler certainly did.

"We got a call saying Carl liked the script and wanted to play Chubbs," recalls Sandler. "I said, 'Really?' He's the greatest guy. Did you know he played for the Raiders during the Madden days? Bob wrote into the script. I grew up watching 'Price Is Right' all summer or any time I'd fake being sick during school. So, it was weird to work with him."

And what if Weathers and Barker got into a fist fight? Who'd win? Sandler chuckles at the image. "You'd have to go with Carl. You can't deny the man's in shape. If I had to go for Bob or me in a real fight, I'd go with Bob. Really. He's always got his guard up. He throws a punch and keeps his hands up. You've got to watch out for that man."

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## A Call for Women Photographers

The Women in the Arts Committee is requesting images of women by women for a photo exhibit.

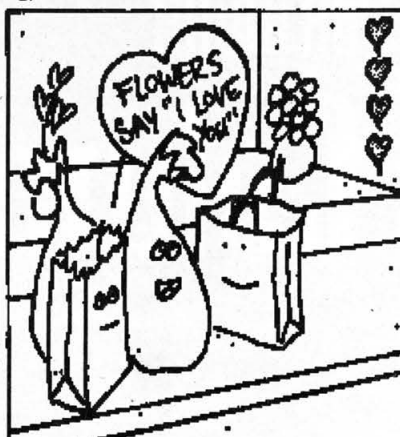
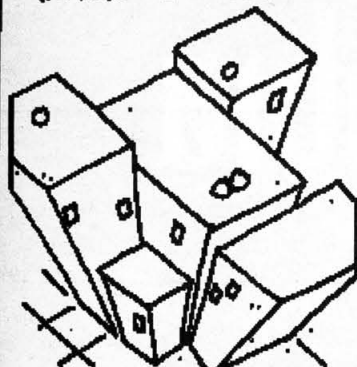
Women in the Arts Celebration will be held during the week of March 14-21 at the Hokin Center 623 S. Wabash.

For more information contact Renee Hansen, X5517 or Sandra Taylor, X5343.

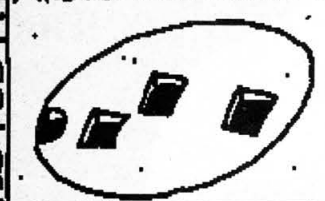
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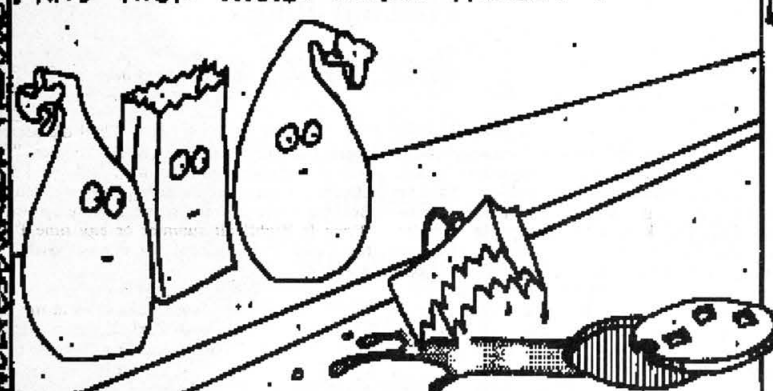
## BAGMAN and the CURETTAGE

D A PEACEFUL MID-DAY  
IN NEW GOTHAM...A GROUP OF INNOCENT CITIZENS  
ARE WINDOW-SHOPPING DOWNTOWN  
AS A BIZARRE SCENE UNFOLDS

D THE MANHOLE AHEAD...



D AND THEN THERE WERE THREE...



Meanwhile... D COMMISSIONER GORDY'S OFFICE

...SO, AS YOU CAN SEE, BAGMAN,  
WE HAVE QUITE A SITUATION...[BUZZ] EXCUSE ME,  
COMMISSIONER......THERE HAS BEEN AN ATTACK DOWNTOWN... JUST LIKE THE  
OTHERS... THE WITNESSES ARE IN A STATE OF SHOCK...  
THEY'RE JUST STARRING INTO SPACE... ITS KIND OF  
BERRIE... CAN SOMEONE PLEASE GET THEM OUT OF  
HERE... THEY'RE GIVING ME THE CREEPS...

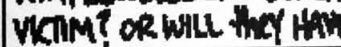
YES?



WELL, BAGMAN?

WHAT DO YOU  
MAKE OF THIS?

WELL, WHAT?

OH... SORRY, JUST ADDING  
SOME FIGURES IN MY  
HEAD... UM, WHERE WERE  
WE?... OH, YES, THE  
DISAPPEARANCES...YOU WERE  
SAYING... FIVE,  
WASN'T IT?

SIX...

YES, YES,  
RIGHT, SIX...  
OF COURSE...WHAT SCOURGE LIES BENEATH NEW GOTHAM? CAN THE BAGMAN SOLVE THE CITY'S SECRET BEFORE IT CLAIMS ANOTHER  
VICTIM? OR WILL THEY HAVE TO CALL SUPERMAN? TUNE IN NEXT WEEK, SAME BAG-TIME, SAME BAG-CHANNEL.



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# Wha's up with the fashion magazine editors, girlfriend?

Sandra Taylor  
Fashion Writer



You can't take it for granted that every fashion magazine will give you good advice--but Sandra Taylor tells it like it is

Browsing through one of my fashion magazines the other day, I noticed that most of the fashions in this particular magazine were plain and unattractive. Page after page I turned, hoping to get a glimpse of a reasonably priced outfit. But, to my surprise I felt as though I was in a hay stack looking for a needle.

Every garment in this magazine was priced for kings and queens. I guess I need to look at magazines designed for middle class individuals. For example, in the March 96 issue of "W" the fashion editor felt a need to show us high priced mix patterns. And what patterns he showed.

What's up with fashion editors these days? Are they laughing at us, the consumers of American goods? Do they truly believe it is alright to mix plaids with stripes? Well, I'm here to tell you, don't you even try to mix stripes with plaids.

Now get this, the title of the layout in the "W" is "The Clash of '96", and clash is exactly what you will see on the 10-page spread. Imagine, pale blues, orange-brown (yes, orange-brown) and barnyard green in a plaid shirt. This is combined with green pants with big sunflowers drawn all over them.

The editors could have shown smaller plaids, but no, they had to give us big bodacious plaids. The kind of plaids you expect to see a clown wearing while he is working at the circus. The ones you see nerds dressed in when

they go out on their first date. Alright I won't get carried away with my dislike for mixing patterns. But, there is a catch to this story.

We know that the editor is insulting our intelligence by showing fashions that are not acceptable for us to walk down the street in. And the message is that you must act cool. How can a person act cool when everyone is laughing at them for looking like a clown and not getting paid a clown's salary? Naomi Campbell modeled for the photo layout. (Get ready, I'm getting ready to take you there). Girl-friend--girl-friend--this child

looked s-t-u-p-i-d in those dumb clothes. But not everyone considers me her friend, so I'll make the following statement: the colors they had her wearing made her look like a

clown. Thanks to the higher one, Ms. Campbell gets paid more than any clown.

It is alright to have exciting clothes, just try to pair your exciting gear with something that will compliment it. I have a zebra double breasted blazer and when I wear it everyone glares at me. You can see the question in their faces asking themselves, how can she wear that jacket? What soothes the beast in my on-looker is, I pair my jacket with a black pair of pants or skirt. So, do wear your fun, kinky clothes if they enhance your body. Remember your body is a temple--please dress it like one.

"How can a person act cool when everyone is laughing at them for looking like a clown and not getting paid a clown's salary?"



Students from the The School of The Art Institute of Chicago team up with Columbia College marketing students Lan Urso (left center) and Safiya Hoskins (far right) to paint the "Growing to Serve You Better" barricade for the site of Swedish Covenant Hospital's Jack and Dollie Galter Medical Pavilion. The building is slated for completion in the summer of 1997.

## Dates To Remember

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Performed Fridays and Saturdays at 11 p.m. at the Bailiwick Art Center, 1229 W. Belmont. For ticket information call (312) 883-1090

March 5, 6, and 8

Celebrate Women's History Month at the Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St. On March 5, Allison Abner will be on-hand at 7:15 p.m. to discuss her book "Finding Our Way: The Teen Girls' Survival Guide." On March 6 Rober Coles will discuss his book, "The Story of Ruby Bridges," at 7:30 p.m. and on March 8, Patricia Lynn Reilly will discuss her book "A God Who Looks Like Me: Discovering a Woman-Affirming Spirituality" at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free for all authors.

March 8

Benefit Performance: Deaf Variety Show at 8 p.m. for Columbia's Interpreting Club's spring trip to Gallaudet. Ferguson Theater, 600 S. Michigan. Tickets \$13, \$10 for students with I.D. Call Yessenia Dominguez for ticket availability information at (312) 536-5597.

UIC Undergraduate Korean Club's semi-formal Spring Dance will take place at Schilla Restaurant's Banquet Hall, 5930 N. Lincoln Avenue, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door and \$10 at the door after 11 p.m.

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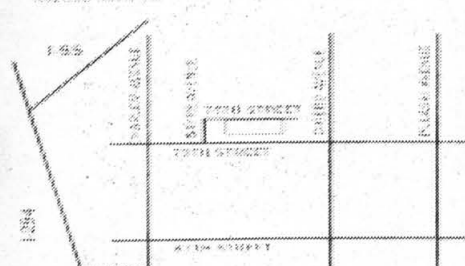
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# Iceman heats up Columbia's new radio show

By Lisa Manna  
Staff Writer

"Stupid fun."

That's how producer Eric Rowe and host Scott "The Iceman" Trunda describe "The Morning Ice Capades," their new morning radio show on Columbia's WCRX that airs every Wednesday through Friday.

"I guess that doesn't exactly sound too good," said Rowe. "But that's what our show is about — fun."

But stupid fun is just what it is. Trunda and Rowe have managed to get a number of unique interviews for their new show. Everything from a microbiologist who wrote "Ten Things You Should Never Touch," to two women who came up with 101 uses for tampon applicators.

"Next week we are going to have the hog-calling champion of the world and a love psychic," said Trunda.

On their premiere show, they interviewed actor J.D. Peck from "The Young and the Restless," and television talk show host Mark Wahlberg. Rowe plans to snag interviews with former Columbia grads Andy Richter from the Conan O'Brien show, Pat Sajak, and Andy Dick who plays Matthew on NBC's "Newsradio."

Trunda and Rowe said so far their weirdest interview on "The Morning Ice Capades" was with a woman from Nashville who just had her arms stolen.

"We read on the wires that somebody had stolen this woman's Cadillac, and in the trunk were her arms," recalled Trunda. "She didn't have any arms so her prosthetic arms were in the trunk. We decided to call her to talk about it. Very nice lady. We told her that her story was all over the wires. She was really happy because we were spreading the word about her stolen arms. That was an interesting interview."

"My biggest goal is to get Bill Clinton," said Rowe. "I think we have a shot. I don't really have a plan yet, but could you imagine, President Bill Clinton on Columbia College radio?"

With the amount of time Trunda and Rowe put into the show, it would be a surprise if they didn't get the president. They spend between 30 and 40 hours a week on the air prepping for the next show.

"Scott is a hard worker," said Rowe. "Out of everyone I have worked with in radio, he has been the best. He really pushes me to work harder. He makes me want to go to work and have fun."

The morning duo met last summer and then worked together on Trunda's afternoon show this past fall.

"The show changed completely when we switched to mornings. Afternoons here are very music intensive, but we still did some comedy bits," said Trunda, a junior radio major. "We never had any guests...everyone told me to go to mornings so I could do more of what I wanted to do. I



Photo by Natalie Battaglia

"The Iceman," Scott Trunda (left) and his producer Eric Rowe, always appear to blur the line between work and play. Rowe describes their show as 'stupid fun,' striving to be as much unlike a college radio show as it can.

really want to do the morning shift for a career. I like waking people up."

"We're much more focused now," said Rowe, a senior majoring in radio producing. "We can be more creative now and we have more sound effects. We don't want to sound like a college station, so we work very hard."

Both Trunda and Rowe have worked at other stations and said that those experiences are what adds up to a successful show at WCRX. Rowe produced the graveyard shift at Mix 101.9 and interned for a year with FM100 morning host Steve Cochran. Trunda has worked at three other stations in various positions, including a stint as a weekend morning news anchor at national public radio

station WNJ.

Although only in their third week, "The Morning Ice Capades" and Rowe said they have big plans for "The Morning Ice Capades" and just "want to keep going strong." For future shows they plan to have more celebrities, local personalities and comedy bits.

"We just try to turn something out of nothing," said Rowe. "Everyone around here is great. That's what is cool about the Radio Department, everyone helps everyone out."

"The Morning Ice Capades" is on every Wednesday through Friday from 7-11 a.m. on 88.1 FM WCRX.

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## CERTAIN CONFUSION

by Brian Cattapan



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## Face Value

By Lisa Braico

If you had to vote for a Republican presidential candidate, whom would you vote for and why?



Kelly Gorski  
Interpreter Training  
Junior

I would go independent before I would go Republican, because I feel both sides have a lot to offer. I would not want to limit myself.



Yoonsu Lee  
Sound Recording  
Freshman

I'm an international student from Korea, I can't even work here.



Gerah "Seizure" Cook  
Radio Broadcasting  
Junior

As a Black person, I wouldn't vote because this country's establishment is a result of American Indian murder and African slavery.



Dara A. Teague  
Radio Broadcasting  
Junior

None of them because they do not have African-American in their plan for rising to the top. They would eliminate the African-American voice.



N. John McDonald  
Film  
Senior

If I had to vote for one of them, all I know is I wouldn't vote for Fuhrer Buchanan!



Claudia Beruben  
Advertising Art  
Freshman

I would vote for either of them. I just hate Dole because he used to be a Klan member. Buknan (sic), he's just against everything (abortion, movies, etc.).

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