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THE CHRONICLE

OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

VOL. XXX, No. 18

March 3, 1997

Fin. Aid workers suspended *Drinking on the job costs one month's pay*

By Bob Chiarito
Investigative Editor

Financial Aid Advisor Diane Brazier and receptionist Marlita Davis were each suspended last week for one month without pay.

The suspensions, equal to the longest suspensions in Columbia's history, came after the school's administration investigated allegations of on-the-job drinking, prompted by a Feb. 24 story in the Chronicle.

As first reported last week, the allegations were made by a Financial Aid Department work aide, who wished to remain anonymous, former Financial Aid Department work aide Robert Stevenson and a Financial Aid advisor who also wanted to remain anonymous.

They each alleged that when Brazier, Davis and 19 year-old Pendry drank, they drank in Brazier's office between the hours of 5 and 6 p.m., at which time the Financial Aid office closes.

According to sources, Pendry was not reprimanded in any way. Financial Aid Director John Olino refused to comment on Columbia's course of action.

Director of Human Resources Paul Johnson refused to comment on the investigation, but did say suspensions at Columbia are rare.

According to Johnson, Columbia has issued fewer than ten suspensions in the last eight years, the amount of time Human Resources has existed. During that time, the longest suspension was a month long, equal to Brazier and Davis' penalty.

Information about any disciplinary action before Human Resources was created was unavailable.

While it is unknown if Brazier and Davis admitted to the allegations during the College's investigation, according to a statement issued by Columbia Counsel Darryll Jones, "Columbia's investigation supported the allegations." When telephoned, Jones refused to comment further.

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Columbia brass makes it tougher for drug dealers

By Maria Tacderas
Staff Writer

In the Fall of 1996, Columbia's powers-that-be switched from Ameritech and Sheffield Systems' subversive, voice mail-accessible public phones to those of rival MCI Metrocom, whose non-

voice mail accessible retrieval system is touted as a method to stop drug dealing.

Non-voice mail accessible phones do not allow a caller to enter extra digits after a call is connected, a process that is necessary to enter a number into someone's pager or access an answering machine or voice mail system remotely. Non-

voice mail phones have been used in high schools and certain areas of Chicago, while being touted as a means to stop drug dealing, as drug dealing is connected with pagers in public opinion.

Yet Traci Cargo, assistant to the vice president of finance at Columbia, said that the change

was purely profit-motivated.

"We never saw any money (from Ameritech and Sheffield Systems)," Cargo said. "I'd walk by and see students lined up to use the phone. Now, we get 10 percent from Metrocom."

Cargo also contends that the school has housed Metrocom

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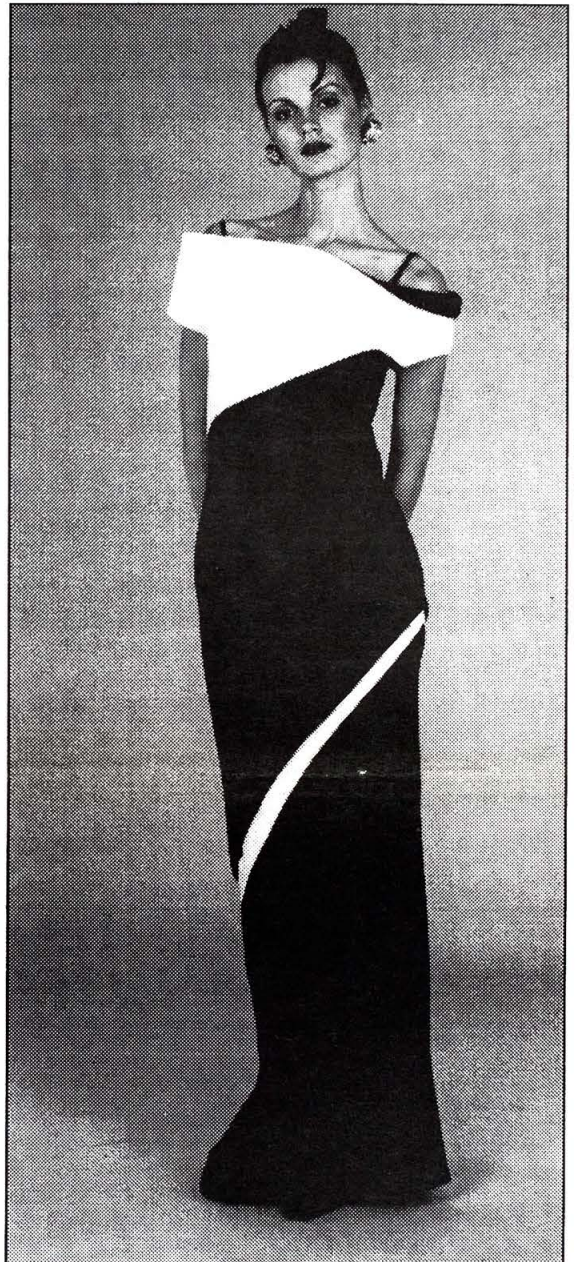
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Fashion Passion


Model Lancaster shows off a black silk crepe sheath with a double skirt and black-lined decollete. Fashion columnist Sandra Taylor undresses the myth behind the dress.

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Photo by Pascal Barin



INSIDE



"For Better or Verse," debuts this week with poetry from security officers Patricia Ridge and Corporal Deforest King

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Students a lucrative market for credit cards *'Spend now, pay later,' is mantra in college*

By Claudia Rivera
Staff Writer

The concept of "spend now and pay later" has caught the attention of many consumers who find it easier to make purchases or go on trips without contemplation. Credit card companies are now targeting that marketing to a group easily persuaded by that philosophy—college students.

Many students don't have steady jobs or savings, yet they are considered to be a lucrative market because they are likely to carry big balances due to undisciplined spending.

Although students may not have jobs, many times all it takes is a completed application to get a card. Some students get intrigued with free gifts such as T-shirts, water bottles and even free phone cards offered by card issuers for simply filling out an

application. After doing so, the applicant may not actually expect to be receiving a card in the mail but, once it arrives, it becomes impossible to discard.

"I currently have one store credit card but I am looking into getting a Visa card," said an unidentified Columbia College student.

Card issuers such as Visa, American Express and MasterCard have special programs for card members who are in college.

"Visa's Instant Rewards Offers" includes student breaks, with airlines offering discounts on airline tickets and retailers such as Body and Bath Works," said Heather Cornwell, Consumer Credit Manager for Visa. "We have a fall, winter and spring series of offers that are constantly changing."

MasterCard offers a program called "Outstanding College

Students of America," which provides lowest airfares, a traveling service and purchase warranties. American Express offers a "Student Card" solely for students enrolled in a four-year college or university.

At the moment of receiving a credit card, the borrowing limit begins usually at \$400 or \$500, but card issuers quickly raise them as a card is used. Many times an increment of as much as \$5,000 is offered to the card holder.

"After having my Visa card for about five months, they were offering me a credit increase of \$4,000," said Vicky, a senior at Columbia. "It must have been because I was doing really well with my monthly payments, but now I'm in trouble."

Many students own credit cards and most are carrying

balances too high to pay off
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THE CHRONICLE

Journalism Department
623 S. Wabash Ave., Suite
802
Chicago, Illinois 60605

News desk:
(312) 663-1600 Ext. 5343

Photo desk:
(312) 663-1600 Ext. 5732

Advertising desk:
(312) 663-1600 Ext. 5432

FAX:
(312) 427-3920

e-mail:
Chron96@interaccess.com

Web page:
http://www5.interaccess.com/chronicle

Editor-in-Chief
John Henry Biederman

Managing Editor
Mema Ayi

News Editor
Leon Tripplett

Assistant News Editor
Jason Kravarik

Features Editor
Jill Schimelpfenig

Assistant Features Editor
Michelle DuFour

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Robert Chiarito

Opinion Editor
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Jo Machado
Brian Markiewicz
Lisa Mendez
Stacy Morgan

Faculty Advisor
Jim Sulski

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Bittenbinder urges students to take control

Top Chicago cop warns thieves prey on the weak

By Sheryl Tirol
Correspondent

On Monday evening of last week, a Columbia College work aide was supposed to be on a normal walk home. But along Balbo, between Wabash and State Street, a man darted out of a dark alley under the el tracks, grabbed her purse and ran off.

Ironically, guest speaker Detective J.J. Bittenbinder came and spoke to students about "Street Smarts," a program that teaches techniques on how to avoid being a victim, the next day. Bittenbinder has appeared on Good Morning America, Oprah, CNN and numerous other television shows discussing street safety and awareness.

Bittenbinder's appearance at Columbia was sponsored by the Student Life and Development office. He spoke about murders, sexual assaults and car jacking, along the way relating "How Bad Guys pick their victims."

"I am the lifeguard and we are all swimmers and there are sharks out there,"

Bittenbinder said. "But we can teach our swimmers how to keep sharks off."

He went on to say that, usually, thieves look for weak people.

"You can not be vulnerable because your body language says a lot about you. Thieves don't want to be physically beaten, identified or, obviously, caught by the police," Bittenbinder commented.

He went on to say that lowering your head when you walk past someone tells a thief immediately that you are vulnerable.

Bittenbinder advised pedestrians to keep their heads up, sweep the area with their face but never allow their heads to go down, stressing the importance of body language.

Bittenbinder said that, when a criminal is going to strike, between him and the victim the one who is not preoccupied will win. He advised forming a quick, simple plan because there isn't time for a sophisticated one. In real life, it takes only a matter of seconds for a crime to be committed. Bittenbinder said the most common phrase police and detectives get from victims recounting crimes is, "

Officer, it happened so fast!"

A few simple suggestions Bittenbinder provided for avoiding victimhood werelowed—move, learn to manage private places and if you don't like someone on the elevator—get out! Follow your instincts.

Bittenbinder specifically addressed the crime carjacking. He said to always drive with your car doors locked and, if someone does get into your car, to get out—there is no car worth dying for.

Here are some other pointers Bittenbinder gave that morning:

Have an extra set of keys; don't ever let a purse be seen in the car or under the car.

Keep on walking if you're on the street, don't let anyone stall you; if a thief demands money, keep a money clip and throw the money and give it up.

Bittenbinder concluded by saying, "This is your life and you are responsible for yourself. You don't have to be a victim."

School, students toss environmental issue

By Rui Kaneya
Staff Writer

In many ways, Columbia College is considered a progressive school. The exceptions to that rule are environmental issues, especially recycling.

Of all the four-year colleges and universities in the Chicago area, Columbia is the only school where no recycling program currently exists.

Under the direction of Susan Babyk, assistant to the provost, the effort to revive the recycling program is underway. However, that attempt is being stalled by the lack of student participation,

Babyk says. There are three paid positions that have to be filled by students to implement the program, but only one position has been filled so far.

"This program is dead in the water," says Babyk. "The college is willing to pay several more students to work with the recycling program. Until I get that going, I have no way to judge its effectiveness."

Unlike Columbia College, other universities in Chicago area seem to be keen on environmental issues.

"Students are quite conscious of this particular issue," says Kennedy Jones, physical plant

department administrative supervisor at Roosevelt University. "We've always been somewhat involved in recycling. But the program has stepped up in the last two years or so."

Roosevelt has garbage containers throughout its building for recycling use. The recyclable materials are picked up by janitorial crews and taken to a processing plant by private contractors.

University of Illinois at Chicago conducts a more extensive recycling program called Ucycle. Started at the end of 1994, Ucycle covers over 60 buildings along with a paper recycling program that has collected paper since 1989.

UIC was awarded a grant of \$50,000 from the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs for its recycling program. It was spent, along with the university's own budget, to purchase three trucks that will collect the recyclable materials on campus.

"Every person who works at the university has to empty their own trash, instead of having people who feel like it," says Diane Beedle, coordinator of Ucycle. "A couple of people grumbled, but most people are really happy that the university is recycling."

The recycling program at Loyola University also covers all buildings on their campus. But its effort goes beyond the conventional recycling according to Joe

Paich, campus safety coordinator at Loyola.

Loyola's "Bag-it" program, which started roughly two years ago, collects any usable materials that will otherwise be thrown out. Loyola's human resources department sets aside those materials contributed by students and donates them to charity organizations.

Some Columbia students seem to be frustrated with the inadequacy of the school's commitment to recycling, unlike that seen at other colleges.

"Recycling system is really an embarrassment to the school," says Dan O'Connell, founder of Columbia's first official environmental club, Environmentalists of Columbia Organization.

ECO is seeking to promote awareness of environmental dangers in the society through varieties of activities such as marching in this year's St. Patrick's Day parade. O'Connell maintains however that it is not their goal to solely deal with Columbia's recycling program, which they believe is the school's responsibility.

"Every stance that we hear from Columbia College is that they want us to volunteer our time," says O'Connell. "I think that when they saw ECO started, they wanted us to go around and pick up all the cans. But that's not the case."

Phones, from page 1

phones since October of 1995, but some students swear that the statement is simply not true.

Those of us who merely had to check on the status of a hospitalized loved-one have also suffered the consequences of the virtually undetected exchange.

"In the Torco building, I think I wasted over a dollar on a couple of phones until I figured out what was going on," said music major Otto Castillo. "Then I noticed the Metrocom label on the phone and I was like 'What is this cheap piece of crap?' I walked over to the '600 Building' and it was the same deal there. You can dial the phone number you need...but that's it."

The Wabash building, as well, hosts a copious number of Metrocom wonders to tempt and tease the voice mail set.

"I was waiting for a call from my proctologist's office. I couldn't access my voice mail because the...phone wouldn't let me. I couldn't contact them before the office closed," said an anonymous marketing major. "Needless to say, I had to pay full-price for my medication."

Perhaps those honest students can find consolation in the fact that their drug-dealing classmates have a price to pay as well: a one-block walk to the nearest pay phone in the El Taco Loco restaurant.

After public officials as high-profile as Mayor Daley have touted non-voice mail accessible phones as a weapon in the War on Drugs, many students are unconvinced that it didn't play a part in Columbia's decision.

"If the school thinks they are actually doing their part in drug prevention, they've got another thing coming," said Castillo. "Drug dealers can be very enterprising. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to walk two blocks to find a pay phone."

Drug dealers also have cel phones. The extra 12 cents it will cost to make the transaction will most likely not pose as an impediment. Besides, the narcotics industry can be quite profitable. The high returns will no doubt cover the overhead.

Week-long efforts to contact anyone at the MCI subsidiary proved futile. An Ameritech spokeswoman said only, "Hmmm. I really don't think I should talk about that."

"We as a student body need to come together and petition to get Ameritech's bright, shiny beeper-friendly pay phones back in the school," said the unidentified marketing student.

Pagers, voice mail and the technological-like are no longer the luxuries or necessities of solely the medical profession or drug cartels. Despite the impersonal aspects, many people are dependent on pagers, voice mails and answering machines—and, considering Columbia is largely a commuter school, our pay phones play a crucial role in that scenario.

"Someday we're going to reach a high-speed, 'Star Trek' level of communication," said Castillo. "Columbia better get with the program."

Credit, from page 1

balances too high to pay off any time soon. In a survey conducted of fifty Columbia students regarding the amount of credit cards they possess, 35 owned at least one major credit card but no more than three. As for store cards, 18 students owned at least one but no more than three and 10 students owned three or more. "All three of my major credit cards are maxed out," said one student.

More than in any other generation before, this one is weighed down by debt. Not only do college students become burdened with credit card debt, they are concerned about a large balance from loans used for paying their education. It seems almost impossible for college students to avoid debt these days, especially with tuition rising almost every year. Although several scholarships are available for students to take advantage of, colleges are assigning a greater share of financial aid packages to loans.

"A \$35,000 loan is the highest I am aware of for a Columbia stu-

dent," said Gloria Andrews, Debt Management Advisor in the Financial Aid Office here at Columbia. During their last semester, students who have taken out school loans must go through an Exit Interview with Andrews to discuss repayment of all loans and avoid problems that can result in default. Avoiding debt problems for college students has become a large focus with schools and credit card companies.

Credit card issuers are now trying to teach the use of credit. "We are proposing a program called 'Choices and Decisions' as an interactive educational program to help teach students about payments, credit and finance charges," said Cornwell. "To begin in the fall we are working towards having mandatory sessions for all incoming freshmen in order to avoid going into debt. We are working with many schools on this."

Newsletter launched at dorm

By Arjumand Hashmi
Staff Writer

Administrators at the Columbia College Residence Center on South Plymouth Court have long been dubbing the dorms a "community." To help establish this setting they've started publication of a new newsletter entitled "The Columbia Community Newsletter."

"It will never be called a 'dorm,' or just a mere residence center. Now, the Columbia College Residence Center is a community of residents living together in a learning environment," said Daniel Betts, Director of Residence Life, in the first newsletter.

In keeping with the spirit of promoting a community environment the Residence Assistants (RAs) are now referred to as Community Assistants (CAs).

According to CA and co-editor Symon Ogeto, he feels that Columbia College includes everybody, but many people don't know about the residence center. "This newsletter is a communicative tool which gives the residence center an opportunity to write what they want to write," Ogeto said.

The newsletter serves as a bulletin board for the residence center students that is both up to date and informative. The articles are about news and upcoming events around campus.

"It's provided for the students to express themselves and its open to them. If the submitted material is acceptable then we will print it for them," said Graduate Assistant Emily Duff.

The format of the newsletter is free. The disclaimer says the newsletter is designed to cover residence center news, issues, information and problems.

Their main goal is basically to voice the opinions of the students in the residence. The staff of the newsletter encourages students to submit their positive thoughts as well as their comments on problem areas. There is space available for columns and a poetry.

Although, the newsletter does go through an editorial board, Betts says that he doesn't censor issues that students send. "I don't take out things that the students write in. We'll take a look at the issues or policies," said Betts.

He continued to say that he would personally follow up with the individual students and hear them out.

According to the staff, the comments, suggestions and concerns will not go unheard. A copy of the newsletter is sent to the president, provost and to the dean of students.

"I think we are doing a good job! The newsletter goes through enough channels, the proper corrections are made. I like to see students take advantage of this opportunity," said Betts.

New class dives into Atlantic world

By Sheryl Tirol
Staff Writer

It's 6:20 p.m. on a Monday evening and, within ten minutes, room D on the second floor of the 600 South Michigan Building is quickly starting to fill with people. Unlike many Columbia classes, this is not one where the students seem to pick their own starting time. But this is not an average class; it's Topics in History: Atlantic Studies; Race, Color and Culture. The class is taught by Dr. Glen Graham, who also teaches the Freshman Seminar program.

Atlantic Studies examines interaction among peoples of the Atlantic World: Africa, the Americas and Europe.

"It's a new class that was developed with a grant from the Lily Foundation," explains the class' instructor, Glen Graham. "We wanted to develop a class with diversity and multi-culturalism to talk about Africa, Europe and the America's race and class issues."

The effects of voluntary and forced migration on the development of racial consciousness, capital markets and social class are but a few examples of the topics this class discusses.

"I don't want my students to think the way I think," Graham said. "I want them to be able to learn how to process the information and think on their own. I prefer talking to the class and not lecturing."

Unlike many classes, with traditional desks and chairs facing one direction, the format in this class is a roundtable discussion. That way, students can interact while looking directly at each other. Graham also believes that humor should play a part in teaching, especially for those "hard to learn topics."

"I think it [this format] also is inspiring better communication," said Graham, who believes every class could benefit from the interactive format. "I want students to talk to each other and know one another's names when they have intellectual discussions."

The format seems to work. Although the class is in the evening and has a relaxed atmosphere, students are attentive and in a learning mode. With a wide-window view of Grant Park, street lights and cars passing outside, it would be easy for thoughts to drift, but students seem pleased with Graham's way.

"I have a better understanding of what slavery was and why it happened," said senior Carissa Gillespie. "I've learned about the capitalistic and financial side. Dr. Graham is down to earth and he tells it like it is."

"I think the class is very intriguing," said student David DiGangi. "It's not traditional but it's thought-provoking and I really like that. [It's] a better way of learning."

What does Graham hope to accomplish by semester's end?

"I hope they gain a broader perspective in the interaction of the four continents we study, and look at race in an open-minded way," he said.

How's Your Steak?



With
Knuckles Von Chuckler
John Henry Biederman

Knuckles, you dodo, get out of my photo!

I hope you don't mind that this column today's, a poem with meter and timing, But Knuckles hit me so damn hard in the head, that now I just cannot stop rhyming! It's truly bizarre—and real tough to explain—this even has stumped a good medic,

I wish Knuckles hit me at some other time—instead of while waxing poetic!

"This just can't go on!" **KNUCKLES VON CHUCKLER SAYS.**

I don't know what happened to scramble your brain, but I think I'm doing just fine,

Now if you don't like it, got four words for you, you nitwit: This column is mine!

"Of all the crazy ailments to come down with after getting hit in the head with a computer monitor, you had to pick this...this Slim Whitman junk!"

I THINK KNUCKLES MEANT TO SAY WALT WHITMAN.

"Shut up!"

FOR THOSE WHO ARE CONFUSED, I AM A FREELANCE NARRATOR. NIPSY HIRED ME BECAUSE JOHN CAN'T RELATE A WORD WITHOUT RHYMING AFTER KNUCKLES CAUGHT JOHN NAKED WITH KNUCKLES' SISTER, BUCKLES, LAST WEEK...

What's this talk of Nipsy, my foul evil twin? He isn't allowed at this paper,

With all this confusion that's all that we need, is him and another crude caper.

"We have to get somebody else running things up here. Robert Freeze won't do!"

KNUCKLES MEANT ROBERT FROST.

Now listen here, Knuckles, you fascist bonehead, your sister asked me to undress—

So she could massage me—your own brilliant plan—and help me to feel much less stress.

She's not quite the angel you think that she is and I'm not int' rested nonetheless

But who says that I have to give up the reins? My skills are the same and no less.

NOTICE JOHN SWITCHED FROM AN A A B B RHYME SCHEME TO AN A A A A.

"Clam up smarty pants! John, you can't go on..."

There's one thing right now that I want you to do,

That's tell me, please tell me, oh Knuckles, "Says who?"

This is the Silly Police. We've warned you...

Oh please coppers please I must beg I must shout, Just leave us alone—we can work this all out!

We can't let this go on. We realize it's Von Chuckler's fault, and you have our sympathies, but we have laws. We'll let you finish this column, but you must find a fill-in, at least until you stop playing the idiot's Ogden Nash.

"I'll do it!"

I'm sorry there Knuckles, but you have been banned, from penning your dreck in this column

Last year you took "How's Your Steak" right down a hill, as if page three here was a slalom.

UGH! THE RHYMES ARE GETTING UGLY.

"What about Nipsy?"

Nipsy is evil, a crude rotten sort

I'll only let him write here as last resort!

"My sister Buckles! She once attended the Berwyn College for Cheese Log Design and Column Writing!"

I sure wish that I had more options, more choices

For all of you characters have nutball voices!

"That's why you need more characters!"

I wish all you puppets would banish, say "bye," this little experiment has gone awry

Beyond this here column now growing more shmucky, how will I pass classes? how will I get lucky?

"Leave it to a liberal to worry about his sneaky steak at a time like this!"

Excuse me, guys, but time is running out.

There isn't a chance that I'll give this to Knuckles.

And Nipsy's a fiend so I guess I'll pick...Buckles.

Okay, Buckles it is. Now wrap this mess up.

Can someone please help me before this gets worse?

I must find a cure for this obsessive verse!

"Hold still! I'll whack you with another monitor..."

KRR-ACK!

"How's that? Say something!"

You stupid potato head—gave me a lump!

I still can't stop rhyming 'cause you're such a chump!

WILL JOHN EVER BE CURED? IS BUCKLES TALENTED? TUNE IN NEXT WEEK—IF YOU'RE REALLY STARVED FOR ENTERTAINMENT!

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Smoking: the destruction of your lungs

By Sue Ter Maat
Correspondent

If you ever had to walk up the stairwells of the Torco Building or passed outside 600 S. Michigan around noon, you may have noticed that many Columbia College students smoke.

"I've been smoking for ten years, and I don't think I'll ever quit," said Soo Chun, 25, a freshman majoring in film and video.

All of the Columbia College students interviewed who smoke said that smoking was bad for them; however few knew exactly how smoke from cigarettes destroys their lungs.

"If they only knew what it really did, they would never smoke again," said Lisa Stranc, a 28-year-old Northwestern medical student and an ex-smoker. Stranc tried to kick her 10 year, 2 pack a day habit many times, but said that she could not until she went to medical school and learned the exact mechanism of lung destruction caused by smoking.

Medical doctors link three basic lung diseases to smoking: emphysema, chronic bronchitis and lung cancer. Usually, emphysema and chronic bronchitis present themselves together encompassing a condition called chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (known as COPD to those familiar with lung diseases). Researchers studying COPD found that over time smoking dissolves the spongy tissue of the lung, causing it to lose elasticity.

"We were taught in school to think of the damaged lungs to be like the elastic undergarment; once they've been stretched out of shape, no matter what you do, you can never get it back," said Stranc.

With the irreversible loss of this elastic nature, people with emphysema can not exhale properly, leaving air inside the lungs. Therefore, when people with this condition try to inhale, they become hyperinflated because of the excess air trapped inside their bodies. Also, due to the lung tissue destruction caused by years of smoking, less oxygen gets into the bloodstream of people suffering from emphysema.

"Most of my patients suffer not only from the physical problems caused by emphysema but from the psychological ones as well," said Dr. Tom Corbridge, director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and a lung disease specialist. "It's such a heroic effort for these people just to get around they tend not to get out anymore. They lose friends and become depressed."

Chronic bronchitis, the other component of COPD, creates a situation where smokers experience frequent coughing spells and the need to clear their throats of mucus build up. Specialized cells embedded in the lung tissue produce a thick, sticky mucus. Also lining the lungs are hair-like structures called cilia that produce an upward, waving motion. When a person breathes in bacteria, like pollutants

and carcinogens (cancer causing agents), the cilia, coated with the mucus, traps the undesirable substances and directs them up toward the mouth where a person either swallows it or spits it out. Medical studies show that prolonged cigarette smoking paralyzes the cilia. Therefore, everything that smokers should expel from the lungs stays there. The lungs, not designed to combat certain bacteria and viruses, cannot defend the body as easily so smokers usually experience more lung infections such as pneumonia and infectious bronchitis than nonsmokers.

In response to all the undesirable material now lodged in the lungs, the mucus cells start to enlarge and multiply at an accelerated rate. With more mucus cells working over time, more mucus gets trapped in the lungs where a person has to physically cough it up to clear an air passage.

"It's a rather dramatic process," said Stranc. "The lungs are inflamed and highly irritated. You're basically coughing up a thick mucus full of pus."

Lung cancer, the most deadly and well known of the lung diseases, can be directly related to smoking in numerous documented studies done all over the world. Around ninety percent of those diagnosed with lung cancer are smokers.

"We are constantly making abnormal cells that can lead to cancer but the body's defenses can destroy them. We are not sure exactly why one day the body cannot overcome these cancer cells and they just keep

multiplying, but tobacco is an extremely potent carcinogen," said Dr. Al Benson a cancer specialist and faculty member at Northwestern Medical School.

Despite reading the negative consequences of smoking in newspapers and magazines, many Columbia students said that they still cannot quit smoking even though they may want to do so.

"I've tried to quit twice," commented Jun-hak Cha, 25, a junior majoring in media management. "I know I can't jog for a long time and it's due to smoking, but it's really hard to quit especially when things get stressful."

Although many treatments are available such as the nicotine patch and nicotine gum, many health professionals believe that people may fail to quit because these treatments do not address the psychological factors involved with smoking.

"When I hear people say that they want to quit and are not able to, that tells me that they cannot do it alone. They need to join a support group of some kind and talk to people going through the same problems as they are," said Benson.

The good news for young people who smoke and do manage to quit is that usually people diagnosed with emphysema, chronic bronchitis and lung cancer have smoked at least one pack of cigarettes for about thirty years or more.

"A person in their twenties who has smoked everyday for about ten years and quits today, has a trivial chance of getting a lung disease," Corbridge stated.

An interview with Jay Allen

By Tim Mathews
Staff Writer

At 27-years-old, Jay Allen (program director of 106 Jamz) has done more in five years what most people do in a decade or two. I had a chance to talk with Jay about his coming up in radio, school, and life and I must say, if you're in the entertainment field, Jay is someone you better know or you'll wish you had!

Tim: Chicago felt a major loss when Isadore Pink (a. k. a. Pink House) departed from our lives late last year. With him being your standout disc jockey, what was it like for you?

Jay: We met in college because of our local radio battles with him doing WKCC and myself at WCRX.

I was more of an R/B person and Pink helped me to learn about Hip-hop. It was just so much stuff going on.

We went out for lunch everyday with record people because I always wanted him to converse with them about some of the joints he played of theirs on his show.

Part of my career is dedicated to Pink. We always talked about taking Jamz to the next level and that time is now. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about that man.

Tim: He's always here in spirit Jay. What was it like growing up as Jay Allen?

Jay: My life has been like a storybook. I've been pretty blessed all my life. My parents have always been there for me in full support of what I wanted to do with my life.

At first, when I brought the prospect of being a DJ, they thought I was crazy. I looked at a lot of schools and Columbia seemed to be the best thing for me. What made that decision so good was that it was right here in my hometown. My friends all went away for school, so when I started at Columbia I didn't know anyone. That was kind of good for me because I didn't have any distractions to hold me down.

Plus, I've always been the type to keep to myself anyway. Soon as I got to Columbia I just dove right in. My time at Columbia were the best years of my life. Columbia was fun, I learned a lot, and people were good to me.

I came in there wanting to be the next Tom Joyner and all of a sudden I became interested in the different compartments of radio, such as programming, promotions and sales.

I learned how to use the music selector system. Columbia prepared me to get started in the business. I have a woman that's been in my corner since college and we've just got engaged Friday. If I did now I'd be a happy man.

Tim: Not many people can make that statement. You seem like you spread a lot of happiness.

Jay: I try to be there for everybody when I can. I'm a fair person. I try to project a love and a trust through Jamz. The results have given us the highest ratings ever in the history of this station. We're the youngest radio station in Chicago. We only possess 1/2 a signal and have the recognition of our competitors. We're #2 in our demographics. We'd give WGCI a run for their money if we had a full signal.

Tim: (In a country voice) Gonna have them looking over their shoulder, huh?

Jay: (Laughing) Yeah. This will definitely be an interesting year. I'm sure we're going to make some noise in Chicago this year and we're looking forward to it. I really don't look at what I do as work. I get paid to have a ball. I enjoy what I do. I get up in the morning and I look forward to going to work. Every day is an adventure. You meet a lot of unique people. Now that I'm coming up in the ranks, I'm getting exposed to a lot more. My boss, Don Moore, he's been like a good mentor to me, trying to teach me the business aspect of radio. He realizes that people like myself and the rest of the crew at Jamz are the future. Don has been very good at sharing his knowledge to help us move on to the next level.

Tim: Who's the one person that gave you the jumpstart that you needed?

Jay: Barry Mayo. He is the former owner of this company. At that time the company was called BPI, which stands for Broadcast Programmers Incorporated. He was responsible for creating WGCI and WVAZ. He's a 44-year-old millionaire who was a Howard graduate. He's a very good friend of mine. At times I say to myself I want to be just like Barry. He sold the company and retired. He's accomplished so much at such a young age. Don't have a bit of gray hair. The guy is so full of energy and knowledge. I read a lot about him when I was at Columbia. I never thought I'd have the opportunity to meet with him or even work with him for that matter. I was in a position when I was with 950 AM. John H. Johnson, the owner of the station, became a good friend of mine too. Barry was buying the station from him. Usually, when radio stations get bought people are let go, starting right at the top. I don't know what it was but Barry wanted to meet me. His first words in our conversation was "You were the first person I was going to fire." After we talked for a while he realized that I was a young man eager to learn and I just needed some polishing. He gave me the opportunity and the rest is history. He's always been there in my corner giving me guidance. I got a lot of love for that man.



Photo by Stacy Morgan
Jay Allen, program director
at WEJM-106jamz

Truth EN Action guides the spirit

By Erin M. Bonillo
Staff Writer

Their intent faces painted white, bodies dressed in full black, they came to Columbia with a message. Meet Truth En Action.

Confronting issues of today through the performing arts is what this seventeen-member team is all about. For over an hour, the group performed dance, mime, comedic skits and music to express the importance of morals, truth and spirituality.

"People take in ideas visually," said lead member Diane J. Bell. "If they can see the truth, and feel the message we are expressing, they are more likely to understand what we are communicating."

The performance consisted of seven short scenes that focused on such issues as gangs, teenage pregnancy, drugs, dreams, morals and warfare between different religions. They used mime to portray all the emotions and internal turmoil these issues create in lives and then explored outlets to resolve those inner conflicts.

One particular scene that was especially moving focused on the theme of using spirituality to see beyond people's "labels" and stereotypes.

Judging by the tears and emotion felt by the small Columbia audience that gathered at Ferguson Theatre on Feb. 21, it seems that Truth En Action was successful at communicating their message. The audience's perception and interpretation of the production was individual, as each scene addressed different issues in people's lives.

"That's the key," said member Tony Trotter. "We are not affiliated with a particular religion. We are here to present issues and ideas about individ-

ual's spirituality. We promote 'one on one' spirituality. How you interpret the performance, and it's message, is what makes your experience unique."

As I sat back in the audience, I waited semi-anxiously...certain that the big "preaching" was right around the corner. Instead, the visual performances just kept right on tugging at issues facing everyone at some point in their lives. The simplicity of concepts and the way they were presented made Truth En Action truly powerful. It wasn't the "shove down your throat" ministry I expected.

The vitality and youth of the performers (their ages range from 6 into the mid-20s) help make Truth En Action role models to young people.

"Youth need a core of values to live by," Trotter asserts. "This is not an easy world for young people today. If our message can hit a nerve with someone, then we have succeeded."

Truth En Action performs any place they are welcome, from churches to prisons. They believe their unspoken message will cross boundaries that traditional ministering will not.

"People usually cry when we perform," Diane Bell said. "Sometimes individuals are afraid of religion because of all the rules involved. We want to show people that a relationship with God is a individual spiritual experience and that it should be positive and empowering. People see that in our performances and it is encouraging."

Truth En Action was an impressive approach to introducing values and spirituality to audiences, relying on creative visual performances to relay issues all too familiar to youth today.

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'Ivanov' relates inner-most feelings

By Kit Wolden
Staff writer

The lights go down and a hush grows over the small crowd. A few minutes pass and the lights slowly return. A small stage appears through the dim lights expertly decorated with wicker chairs and a backdrop of cleverly placed curtains.

A man reads quietly at the table. In walks a younger man, a distant relative, who wants to talk to Nikolai Ivanov, a permanent member of the county council and an impoverished landowner who doesn't want to listen to him because he has enough problems of his own.

So begins Columbia College's Theater and Music Departments' presentation of Chekhov's "Ivanov"—A Russian play set in the late 1880's that still has relevance in today's world.

"It was a play I wanted to work on for a long time," said Sheldon Patinkin, director. "I decided it was time to do it."

Many people can relate to Nikolai's feelings of being

trapped and unhappy. Nikolai Ivanov is a man with many problems. There are many people who contribute to his feelings of worthlessness and self-doubt. And there is the guilt that he feels because of his wife's strained relationship with her family.

Anna Petrovna, born Sarah Abramson, gave up everything for the man she loved and got nothing in return but a sickness that effects more than her health. Nikolai's distant realative, Misha, manages his estate and has to make sacrifices in order to keep it running. But he has big ideas and expects that everyone should listen and follow his advice.

Then there is the Count, Nikolai's uncle, who feels his best years have passed him by. He stays home with Anna to keep her company and watch over her so Nikolai doesn't have to feel guilty about leaving her alone.

The doctor who cares for Anna seems to be jealous of the love that Anna has for Nikolai. He stays with Anna to keep her company and all the while he reminds Nikolai how sickly his wife has become.

Pasha, a wealthy landowner and friend, tries to understand what Nikolai is so upset about. Pasha even goes as far as lending Nikolai money at the cost of his own relationship with his penny-pinching wife. Then there is Pasha's daughter, Alexandra, a young idealistic woman, who thinks her love can change Nikolai.

These complex and emotional relationships are the hardest for Nikolai to deal with. It is these complexities that ultimately bring his down fall.

"I thought the play was good," said Scott Stadig, a member of the audience. "The set was cool."

The set and costumes were designed by student Christopher Wren and former student Kristie Jodlowski respectively. "The play opens this Wednesday and Thursday," said Susan Padveen, Director of Audience Development, "and we expect a good turn out."

"Ivanov" performances start Feb. 26 and run through March 6 at the New Studio Theatre, 72 East 11th Street. Tickets are \$2. For more information or reservations call (312) 663-1600 ext. 6126.



The uncompromisable dress

By Sandra K. Taylor
Fashion Writer

Despite what most fashion writers claim, the dress has never gone anywhere. According to an article written in the February edition of Bazaar magazine, "Fashion Flash: The Dress," the dress had become an unnecessary item.

Women can look into their closet and all they will find are pants, sweaters and shirts, but not one dress? Yeah right!

whatever that means. A woman can exert the power of womanliness, act frivolous (just a little) and flirt better in a dress (like Sharon Stone did in "Basic Instincts"). Regardless of fashion promoters hyping the dress issue, it's wonderful to know that women have the choice of going into a retail store and picking a great dress.



Louis Feraud black and white feathers print silk sheath with shawl-feathered neckband.

Women on the West Coast have always preferred dresses over pants, but keep in mind that West Coast women are body-conscious. They love showing off their Tina Turner legs.

In the Midwest and on the East Coast, women have to don pant—and do we have to be told why? According to the Bazaar article, the little dress is being redefined for an audience who has discounted the item as "nonutilitarian and out mode,"

Louis Feraud is a designer whose fashions are beautiful and feminine. His fashions reflect his love of

women." His designs seek to be "Always in fashion, but never a slave to short-lived fashion trends," he said. Feraud believes that many couturiers try to impose overdone creations on women.

"Real fashion is something women should live with comfortably," he explains. "Its excellence should be such that it increases the wearing enjoyment for its owner." Now that's the fashion truth and, like style, dresses are forever."

An insider's war

By Rui Kaneya
Staff writer

IN THE HOLD
By Vladimir Arsenijevic
Translation by Celia Hawkesworth
128 pp. New York:
Alfred A. Knopf. \$20

During the last months of 1991, an unnamed narrator takes us through his life in war-afflicted Serbia within the pages of Vladimir Arsenijevic's *In The Hold* (Alfred A. Knopf; 128 pages; \$20).

It is a wonderfully sensitive story that tells what it means to live during the war that, with every article, commentary and analysis, had become twisted and deformed in the Western media.

The story focuses on the young narrator, a man who is awaiting the birth of his first child with his former drug-dealer wife, Angela. During this pregnancy he learns the tragic and mind-numbing news that the Serbs and Croats, and many of his friends and relatives, have gone to war with each other. "All too often, not even a full month would have passed since the last of the deaths when here was a new victim hovering over our heads for a moment and then vanishing forever."

Among the narrators friends and relatives are his Zenned-out brother-in-law, Lazar, who is drafted into the Yugoslav National Army, surrendering to the seduction of "a childish cowboys-and-Indians perception of the Serbo-Croat mutual slaughter." He is killed shortly thereafter, as is his best friend, Dejan, who, after losing his right arm at the front

line, commits suicide.

The story's narrator is continuously haunted by the fear of draft. "Who could have possibly thought that I was not afraid?" he tells us.

"More and more people were being sucked into that whirlpool. One day, I thought, they would bang on my door as well, and then my knees, like those of so many others in recent months."

The sense of powerlessness and confusion rests underneath the author's bright humor dispersed throughout the book. The tone is ironic, and it offers us the insight into the reality of a war that is uncovered by the network news. Lying on the bed as the birth of their child approaches, "a kind of psycho-twilight materialized above us; a dense, doughy mass covered us, and we felt as though we were in the hold of a ship, condemned to play the role of culprit it for all the world's sufferings."

It is not the self-pitying war novel that the author is trying to create. But it is a genuine tale of the young who refuses to be torn apart despite the cynicism of many who have shut down themselves in the face of chaos.

The soft-spoken voice of Vladimir Arsenijevic, the youngest recipient of the NIN Prize (his country's highest literary award), is similar to the mix of the two distinct styles of Generation X writers and Vietnam-era American war correspondents.

Beautifully translated from Serbo-Croatian by Celia Hawkesworth, Arsenijevic's wise novel not only portrays a generation of Yugoslav youth, but also witnesses the demoralizing war that was horrendously brought on to the people in the Balkans by a few nationalistic thugs. It is a work that is rare, compassionate, strong, brutal, tragic, moving and worthy of being read.

Romance reveals harsh political truth

Director Mort Ransen's latest film tells the sad tale of a couple whose lives are devastated by inhumane working conditions.

By Melissa Thornley
Corresponet

Margaret MacNeill vows she'll never marry a miner. But in a small mining town in Nova Scotia, there is nothing else. The mine is everything to everyone: no one survives without it, even when survival comes at great costs.

"Margaret's Museum," directed by Mort Ransen, explores the community that lives and dies at the hands of the coal mine.

More than an exposé on the coal mining industry, "Margaret's Museum" is a remarkable story of romance and family. Margaret (Helena Bonham Carter) has lost both her father and brother to the greedy man-eating coal mine.

Working in the town hospital, she's plagued by the sirens that announce the incoming damaged and dead. At home Margaret and her mother (Kate Nelligan) struggle to keep little Jimmie (Craig Olejnik) out of the coal mines and Grandfather (Peter Boretski) alive as he drowns in his coal-stained lungs.

Margaret lives her life just a thumbnail beyond total despair. The despair seems to vanish, however, when Margaret meets Neil (Clive Russell), a former miner that plays the bagpipes

and washes dishes to survive. Ignoring her bitter mother as she rants and raves warnings, Margaret marries Neil and together they build a beautiful house on the ocean's shore.

The honeymoon ends quickly, however, when Neil loses his dishwashing job and is forced back into the mine.

At last October's Chicago International Film Festival, Ransen discussed his fascination with the real life miners and their survivors. He sees the story as a political one: "the bottom line vs. humanity and human life."

Rather than just a moral tale of oppressed workers against the all-bad, all-mighty company, Ransen decided that "the romance would tell the political tale."

Although they take place on opposite shores, "Margaret's Museum" feels strikingly similar to Lars von Trier's amazing "Breaking the Waves" (which also debuted at the 1996 Chicago International Film Festival). Both films are set in rural communities and possess phenomenal female characters that survive tragedies by using extreme measures. Most importantly, both use a romance to tell a story that's bigger and more powerful than the audience could ever expect.

SHOOTS AND

LETTERS



DEPARTMENT

"All the nuts that are unfit to print elsewhere!"

This page rated SH--the discretion of a sense of humor is required. The opinions represented herein are not those of the college, Journalism Department, Chronicle or, in some cases, anybody in their right mind.

When sending correspondence to the Shoots And Letters Department, please also include your name and phone number for verification purposes. You can "write" us in the following ways: Mail: c/o Columbia College Chicago Chronicle, 623 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60605; FAX: (312) 427-3920; e-mail: Chron96@interaccess.com; Web page message board: http://www5.interaccess.com/chronicle. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for length and clarity.

A Male-bashing mini-manifesto

I am so sick and tired of men who are too macho to ask for directions and then blame their girlfriends/wives/significant others for their mistakes.

Leyla
Via the Chronicle's e-mail

Leyla: Do we sense a spurned lover here? Or do you ask for directions because, as a woman, YOU CAN'T READ A SIMPLE MAP! Hey, you started the stereotyping! Anyway, the males here at the Chronicle had a fabulous, touching, sensitive response for you but...well, the women up here kept changing their minds about some of the phrases to use and...—Eds.

An 'Itty-bitty' Response

To the Chronicle Staff:
They do not call me Itty-Bitty for my lack of intelligence. I did not mean that I wanted to or even enjoy hearing the all famous n-word. What I meant is simply this: Why is it OK to insult yourself but no one else can? I am proudly Polish-American—I hate the word Polock. I'm sure an Italian-American hates "Dago". The truth of the matter is that

everyone—white, black, Hispanic, Asian and anyone I didn't mention—needs to stop and listen to themselves. We all need to teach the younger generation that insulting one another is not OK.

By the way, in my educational experience I have been the "bad guy" for my color many times. The problem is that it was for speaking the truth.

"Itty-Bitty"
Via the Chronicle's e-mail

Itty-Bitty: We weren't talking about the size of your IQ. (Guess it'll take you two more weeks to figure it out now!) We, too, regret that it's okay to insult one's self—which you've just so aptly proved! And tears came to our eyes reading your John Lennon-esque remarks on race—until we read the "angry white boy" comment you so eloquently closed with.—Eds.

Silent Bob Babbles Again

Well, Mr. Biederman, you have truly shined again. I thought your sincere and totally honest reply to my previous letter SUCKED! First of all, unlike you, I don't need a blow-up doll when I'm looking to get some. I guess you must be into dolls, because you'll never get a woman following Mema's

advice. Second, I guess you must resort to mindless drivel in an attempt to make me look bad because you can't match me in a battle of wits. As a matter of fact, I doubt that you could outwit anyone with an IQ that's larger than their shoe size. To be quite frank, I could write a better column than you in my sleep. Why don't you stop trying to be funny with your lame ass act and try being journalist. Once again, get a dollar, buy a fucking clue. You don't have enough class to smoke anything better than a Swisher Sweet, so leave the Macanudoes to us big boys.

Love,
"Silent Bob"
Via e-mail

PS Once again, a terrible column. Maybe you should write to the convict in Arizona for journalistic advice.

Readers please note: The above writer: A) Boasts of sexual and literary talents while B) conveniently refusing to reveal his real identity all because he's C) inordinately angry over a silly, inconsequential newspaper column. Is anybody from the FBI paying attention here?—Eds.

Two Bobs don't make a point

Dear Robert [Stevenson—Opinion Editor]:
[Sent as a reply to Silent Bob's above letter]

I guess I should explain something. The person that is writing the letters to the Chronicle is my friend. He ["Silent Bob"] attends Columbia and is not to [SIC] fond of the articles in your paper. Even though I go to DePaul, I have read them though...and, well, what can I say. I understand that writing for a newspaper can be a tough thing to do [?]. I can see where the struggle can come into play. The issues that the articles are trying to address are valid, but I don't think they do it well. They seem to be more along of the lines of a "youth in angst" theme. The replies to the letters that my friend has sent that get published are also pretty bad. Telling someone to watch out for the fuzzy wookiee doll is not exactly a response to put in a paper. Comments like those do nothing to add to the respectability and credibility of your paper.

If you would like me to write a[n] article for you, just give me and topic and I'll give it a shot at journalism (even though I'm a psychology major). I apologize for his harshness...he can be brash sometimes.

Bob

So "Silent Bob" is your friend? Hmm. You need to get out more. But we have learned something from your letter—didn't know DePaul had a grade school before. We'd comment further on your letter but...well, we honestly don't have a clue as to what your point is.—Eds.

Imposter among the Paparazzi

Upon Hours of searching this thing called the "Web" I have unearthed a rare photo of the "How's your Meathead" at his favorite Charity organization! The annual meeting of the Gene Simmons Lesbian Fanclub! See for yourself!



"Nipsy"
Via the Chronicle's e-mail

"Nipsy"—You're not Nipsy. The "real" Nipsy (we're humoring Biederman) claims he had nothing to do with this—and has an alibi. So, you're not impersonating Biederman (which would be frightening enough) but Biederman's CHARACTER... This is the wrong forum for the kind of help you need.—Eds.

A Day In The Life...

Sam Walters

Monday, 9 a.m.; school has begun anew. School has begun anew for some, anyway, as for whether or not that applies to you, you don't know because you've lost your class schedule and your largely corroded brain, still pickled in alcohol from last night's revelry, is mis-sparking even more than usual.

What to do, what to do?

And then a thought comes! A severely hobbled, pathetically disfigured thought that has pulled itself half-formed from the primordial bog-mire of your cerebrum, yes, but a thought nonetheless! Why not call the school? I'm sure the nice people in records would be more than happy to look your schedule up and parley it to you over the phone.

"Records."
"Hello? Oh hi, uh, I lost my schedule and was wondering if you could check on your computers to see whether or not I have a class this morning."

"No."
"Er, why not?"
"There's a line here. It'll be easier for you to just come in and have us print one up for you."

No it wouldn't, that's why I'm calling.



"Ah yes, well, you see the thing is, I live in Skokie."
"You live in Skokie, and you go to Columbia?"
"Yes, I'm, uh, very committed."
"Hmm, well, my caller I.D. indicated you're calling from the 312 area code, so you must be in town for a visit or something huh?"
Busted.
"Uh... well I'll be a monkeys uncle! You're right! I am in town for a visit; I'd completely forgotten!"
"I'm sure; we'll see you soon, Mr. Walters."

Oh hell.

So you head out at 9:20 AM into the "brisk" Chicago morning (In fact, it is cold enough to freeze the balls off a snowman) and arrive shortly at Columbia College where you discover, of course, that you have no class, nor anything else to do, nor any money to do it with.

You migrate to the "Hoarkin" with the intention of regaining as much sleep as you can, but your napping plans are thoroughly foiled by a performance art major rustling around the room in a newspaper body suit. He or she is frolicking about, picking up and playing with an assortment of objects in a seemingly pointless and random fashion, which surely has some greater metaphorical subtext at its core and isn't just a bunch of ill-conceived twaddle.

This stirring display of genius is accompanied by an electronic sound scape, replete with pulsing quasars, and broadcast at a terrifying volume through the "Hoarkin" sound system, with some of the speakers shuddering and then erupting in flame from the sheer wattage demands being made on them. Plaster is cascading from the ceiling, cracks are running the length of the walls and people are bolting screaming from the cafe stanching nose bleeds. So jarring is this bold sonic statement, this fresh dimension in stereo, this sound of two moog's fucking, that it is everything you can do to keep from having an aneurysm or suddenly becoming wildly and explosively incontinent as a result of having your synapses blown out.

Having suffered major brain trauma, you teeter, smoke pouring from your eye sockets, out onto the street, eventually stumbling aimlessly into the "Harrison" where you sit huddled in a corner, drooling, shivering, mumbling incoherently to yourself, nursing a cup of toilet silt masquerading as coffee and waiting expectantly for the onset of food poisoning.

Attention Students, Faculty and Staff, send us your letters!

There's no excuse not to write us so do it!

E-mail:
Chron96
@interaccess.com

FAX:
312-427-3920

Snail Mail:
The Chronicle
623 S. Wabash
Ave., Suite 802
Chicago, IL
60605

This Is This



Bob Chiarito

E-mail still a dream

While just about every college in America provides free e-mail accounts for their students, Columbia is still trapped in the stone age.

It is true that there are computer labs on campus that allow students to log on to the Internet and that e-mail accounts are provided to faculty members. But, as usual, Columbia students are getting the short end of the stick.

Last week I was looking through some old issues of the Chronicle, searching for anything that resembled journalism, when I found a Nov. 6 1995 story I wrote about Internet access at Columbia. I began reading through the article, which seemed only to be about Columbia regaining Internet access after the college's server was stolen in September 1995. Since most Columbia students probably aren't aware, a server is a master computer that links files and information to other computers, or Internet users.

After reading on, it hit me like a pigeon bomb on lower Wacker Drive. But it wasn't bird crap, it was more talk from a Columbia staff member. It always seems that members of Columbia's staff and administration are quick to announce a plan to make everyone happy. What they can't do is live up to their word.

Specifically, Columbia's Computer Services Librarian Gary Phillips, the person who runs the school's Internet server, was responding to my question which asked if Columbia students would ever get e-mail accounts. He responded by saying "Undoubtedly, that day will come, but it may take another year."

That quote ran in the Chronicle on Nov. 6 1995, more than 14 months ago. While Phillips is not the sole reason students don't have e-mail accounts, he was speaking for the College.

Geoffrey Goldbogen, chairman of Columbia's Academic Computing Department, was also quoted in the article, saying that he "...Can't wait until the day Columbia students have complete access to the Internet."

After calling Phillips the other day, it now seems the day Goldbogen said he couldn't wait for may never come to Columbia. Phillips told me that things are not the same as they were in 1995. He explained, saying "My guess is that the school will not get e-mail accounts for students because it's so easy to get it free elsewhere. For the school to provide it, there would either have to be an increase in tuition or a separate charge."

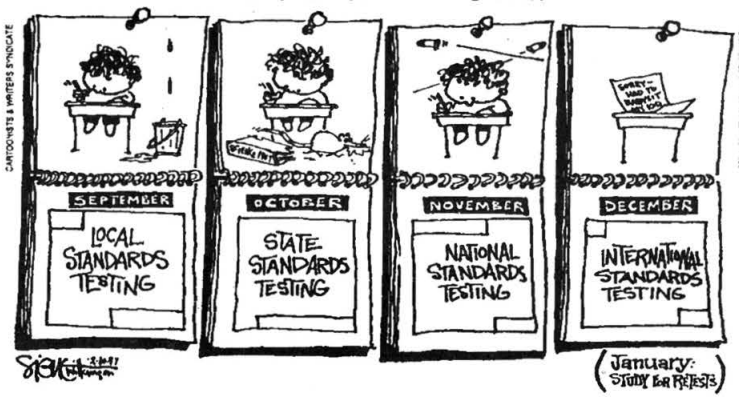
I was unable to reach Goldbogen and the person in charge of Columbia's Web site, Associate Academic Dean Peter Thompson, for comment. While not reaching someone for comment is usually a pet-peeve of mine, in this case I'm happy. And they should be, too. This way no one will be able to write a column next year pointing out their falsehoods.

Don't be afraid, I'll be there

What has long been suspected was stated publicly in the Chronicle last week. If anyone read my story about the allegations against Financial Aid workers, the main reason the accusers came to me before the administration was because they feared nothing would be done.

While most at Columbia probably don't have e-mail accounts, if you do have access to e-mail and want to send a tip to me, my e-mail address is Bchiarito@aol.com

HOW SCHOOL REFORM IS SHAPING UP:



Reach out and touch who?

In many ways, Columbia College Chicago dwells on the cutting edge of science and technology.

Our phone systems are a glaring exception.

You'd have to pay somebody—good money, mind you—to say anything good about the voice mail system for the college's office phones, but that's a matter for another time and forum. What does concern us now is the state of the pay phones at the College.

As related in Maria Tacderas' front-page story, many of the pay phones in Columbia buildings belong in some other age. Non-voice mail accessible phones, in an age when most everyone has a pager, voice mail or, at the very least, an answering machine at home. Non-voice mail accessible telephones at the ultimate in commuter schools? Non-voice mail accessible phones at a school where large portions of the student body have jobs, families, friends and significant others they could hear from, on important matters, at any time?

There's one word to describe this scenario: Ridiculous. Okay, it's the best word we can think of at this time and still a remarkable understatement.

We believe that any way you arrange, state or manipulate the facts involved here, non-voice mail accessible phones are nothing more than a sham where drug-deal prevention is concerned. And Traci Cargo, assistant to the vice president of finance at Columbia, seems to agree. Cargo told us that the reason for installing this good-as-antiquated phones was money, that Ameritech and Sheffield Systems, providers of the voice-mail accessible phones, did not provide us a cut of the money they made from them.

Columbia College Chicago saw no other alternative than to switch phone companies? This institution could do nothing else to rectify that situation? This institution—with thousands of students feeding coins into them, most of whom have entered this age of pagers and voice mails out of necessity?

Something doesn't sound right to us about these facts. So, if you are a student or faculty member who has entered the technological age and could use some voice mail-accessible phones at the college you spend so much time at, why don't you speak up?

An investigation brings results

Many important issues have been addressed throughout the years in the Chronicle, and many well-researched and thought-out opinions have been expressed here, on the editorial page. Rarely do the stories or opinions of the Chronicle directly influence the actions of administration here, however, and we've long been content to know that we've done our part; that we may have spurred others to action.

The results of last issue's investigation into drinking at our Financial Aid Department, however, remind us that, now and then, the power of our press can bring about change. At the same time, it serves to remind us that we, as journalists, still serve an important function in today's world.

Those results are related in Bob Chiarito's front-page follow-up to last week's piece: an investigation with results supporting the allegations set forth and the resulting one-month suspension of the wrong-doers involved—except for the one party concerned who was underaged and thus less accountable.

Today's follow-up also informs us that suspensions here are rare, and that those resulting from Chiarito's investigation tie the record for the longest yet (1 month). We hope this means that wrong-doing itself is rare within the College's halls, but can only wonder...

We recall that the original reason whistle-blowers gave for coming to the Chronicle first was a fear of inaction by administration—and the simple fact that the fear exists makes us leary. It also worries us that nobody from administration was willing to comment much on the situation for Chiaro's follow-up.

Maybe there is little to be said, at this point. And again, maybe Columbia is, by and large, relatively free of wrong-doing. Nonetheless, we have an obligation to this school—to bring students and faculty the truth. And while we naturally share in the triumph of making the school a little better through Chiarito's investigation, we must assign most of the credit elsewhere: to those who were brave enough to speak up about it.

As we've written countless times, this newspaper belongs to all of us. We only hope that students take our investigation and today's follow-up as an example of what we, together, can accomplish.

Stuff from Staff



Robert Stevenson

What is the truth?

Do you solemnly swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

Wait! Before you answer this question, consider this:

"Every truth passes through three stages before it is recognized. In the first it is ridiculed, in the second it is opposed, in the third is regarded as self-evident."—Arthur Schopenhauer

I think Art has something there. Telling the truth is much harder than you may think, even though everyone is raised to be responsible and tell the truth.

Let's expand on these stages.

Stage one, ridicule:

Some just say "I don't remember seeing that happen." While the honorable say, "Yes, it did happen and I saw it."

Once this is said, watch out, no one may trust you again.

Think about it. If you're the whistle-blower at work, do your peers say "Good job" and "That took guts to come forward."

Those are not the things you hear.

Let's try "back stabber," "asshole," "rat," "fink" and things of that nature. You know, the names that make you feel real good for doing the right thing. Although a few will and do think you have done the correct and honorable thing.

Being ridiculed is probably the hardest part of telling the truth. Could you stand being treated that way day after day?

During Harry S. Truman's presidency a popular slogan was "Give 'em hell, Harry." Truman said, "I don't give them hell. I just tell the truth and they think it is hell!"

Sounds like the second stage, opposition. Opposition isn't necessarily a bad thing, getting both sides to the story is the way to find truth. But, when people have closed minds and put too much emphasis in relationships, not the facts, the truth becomes unimportant to them.

I don't mean to say that feelings should be ignored, but when something is wrong, feelings should be set aside to consider what is true.

People opposed many things that were later proven true. Just look to the past.

Galileo Galilei, a pioneer of telescopic astronomy and modern physics, was convicted in 1616 by the Inquisition and ordered never to defend or to teach Copernacism, the theory that the Earth is not the center of the universe.

Just because the problem is ignored, does not mean it is not true. When the facts are realized, they are seldom accepted by the ones who don't want to believe them, even if they are in plain sight. Accepting is the hardest part of the truth.

Who would want to accept something that may make your best friend lose their job or go to jail?

Another problem with telling the truth is that people twist it make it subjective. The truth is never subjective, only objective. This may be hard to prove, since one man's truth is another's falsehood and everyone is influenced by personal bias. But facts are facts, no matter what.

To all of the people out there who do tell the truth, thank you! You are the one's who make things better. Who make things change.

It may not be astronomical, like Galileo Galilei. It may just be something small and non-consequential, just remember it's a lot harder to tell the truth than to ignore it or lie.

Like the Hebrew proverb says "Truth is heavy; few therefore can bear it."

Those that do bear it deserve our adulation, a pat on the back and a "Good job!"

TV's February ratings sweeps as easy as ABC 7

On Media



Jason Kravarik

The February sweeps are over, and it's time for the local stations to evaluate their performances during this winter's ratings period.

Dominating the local news market once again is WLS-Channel 7, which pulled a 15.8 rating and 26 share for their 10 p.m. newscast. One ratings point equals 31,243 households and share is the percentage of sets in use.

Coming in second was WMAQ-Channel 5 with a 13.1/21. And just when you thought WBBM-Channel 2 had hit rock bottom, they chiseled their way further down further to trail the competition with a 6.6/11. The Channel 2 average was even lower than WGN-Channel 9's 9 p.m. newscast, which scored a 6.9/10. Even WFLD-Channel 32 seems to be closing in on Channel 2. The Fox station posted a 5.2/8, up from a 4.4/6 a year ago.

In the past, the argument for Channel 2 was their poor network lead-in ratings. But even though the CBS network has risen to second place nationally, Channel 2's ratings have gone down anyway—and show no signs of bottoming out.

For example, last week's Grammy Awards televised on CBS drew a 13.8 rating in Chicago between 9:45 and 10 p.m., a large audience for Channel 2 to work with. Instead of keeping that audience for the newscast, about 116,000 viewers, or 3.7 ratings points, tuned out Channel 2 News at 10.

In the national network ratings, NBC claimed its ninth sweeps in a row. With the help

Ratings Scorecard

Here's how some of your favorite shows performed in the February Sweeps. The first number is the rating (one point equals 31,243 households), the second is the share, or the percentage of television sets in use.

Show	Feb '97	Feb. '96
Today Show	3.3/12	3.3/14
Gd. Mn. Am.	5.8/21	4.9/20
Fox Thing	2.3/8	2.3/10
Oprah	10.7/38	7.9/30
Inside Edtn	8.0/23	8.3/26
Simpsons/5:30	10.4/21	8.1/15
2 Nws at 6 pm	3.8/7	4.7/8
Ch. 5 nws at 6	5.7/11	6.4/11
Ch 7 nws at 6	11.7/21	13.6/24
Home Imp/6	11.1/21	10.8/19
Wheel/Fortn	16.4/28	17.4/29
Seinfeld/ch 32	12.3/21	11.6/20
Letterman	3.9/8	5.7/12
Tonight Show	6.9/15	6.8/14
Nightline	9.7/19	10.0/19
Tom Snyder	2.7/7	2.6/8
Cn. O'Brien	2.3/8	2.5/8
Oprah (Rpt)	6.8/18	7.5/20

Local Prime Time Averages (Monday through Sunday)

ABC-Ch. 7	12.0/18	11.8/18
NBC-Ch. 5	13.7/21	14.0/21
CBS-Ch. 2	8.2/13	9.7/15
FOX-Ch. 32	8.2/13	7.6/12
WGN-Ch. 9	7.0/11	6.8/11

of the miniseries "Asteroid" and Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List," NBC finished with an average of 11.2 million households. CBS was second with 9.7 million, and ABC was third with 9.3 million.

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All Students, Faculty, and Staff Welcome
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Computer Workshops • Room 403 Wabash

Foundations	Graphics	Web Design
Computer Basics 2/24 Mon. 7:00-9:00	Photoshop 3/6 Thurs. 1:00-3:00	Intro to Web Design 3/4 Tues. 7:00-9:00
The Internet 3/3 Mon. 6:00-8:00	Illustrator/Freehand 3/20 Thurs. 1:00-3:00	Basic Web Design 3/18 Tues. 6:00-8:00
Word Processing 3/10 Mon. 6:00-8:00	Photoshop 4/10 Thurs. 1:00-3:00	Advanced Web Design 4/8 Tues. 6:00-8:00
Graphics 3/17 Mon. 6:00-8:00	Illustrator/Freehand 4/24 Thurs. 1:00-3:00	Intro to Web Design 4/22 Tues. 6:00-8:00
Computer Basics 3/24 Mon. 6:00-8:00	Photoshop 5/8 Thurs. 1:00-3:00	Basic Web Design 5/6 Tues. 6:00-8:00
The Internet 4/7 Mon. 6:00-8:00	Illustrator/Freehand 5/22 Thurs. 1:00-3:00	Advanced Web Design 5/20 Tues. 6:00-8:00
Spreadsheets 4/14 Mon. 7:00-9:00	Skills You Need	
Word Processing 4/21 Mon. 6:00-8:00	No pressure environment Beginners encouraged Come to one or many For more info, stop by 400 Wabash	
Scanning 4/28 Mon. 6:00-8:00	Limited Spaces Mark your Calendar Now Sign-Up in Room 400 Wabash or call 312-663-1600, ext. 5526	
The Internet 5/5 Mon. 7:00-9:00		
Databases 5/12 Mon. 6:00-8:00		

Columbia College Association of Black Journalists

Presents an

AFRICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

"Express Yourself"

Here's your chance to share your talents and show the true you.



Come sing, dance, act, rap, read poetry or whatever you feel the true you may be.



"Express Yourself" will be held on

March 6, 1997, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Hokin Annex.

Immediately following the show, please C.C.A.B.J. in an "African Heritage Food Tasting"

Come taste the many delicious foods of Africa.

Please be prepared to *"Express Yourself"*
 We hope to see your face in the place!!

Things to do in Chicago when you're dead, (or just plain bored)

Columbia Festivities

The Turtle Press Exhibit
The Book and Paper Arts Center.
218 S. Wabash, 7th floor
March 7-May 9.

The 3rd Annual African Film Festival: African Visions III - Voices of the Screen Griots.
Celebration party
March 28 at 6 p.m. \$25
Festival
April 28-30, April 25-27.

ECO (Columbia's Recycling club) to march in St. Patrick's Day parade
March 15.

1996 Albert P. Weisman Memorial Scholarship recipients will exhibit their projects (mixed media art, computer generated images, photography, film/video, sculpture and performance).
Hokin Gallery
March 3-20.

Irish Theater Workshop
Columbia students perform a collection of Irish poetry and drama that explores Irish cultural history.
Lunar Cabaret
2827 N. Lincoln Ave.
call Ext. 6131 for times.

City Events

Exhibits and discussions

"The Visible Soul: Revealing The Spiritual" exhibition
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Gallery 2
present-March 21.

"Rolando Castellon: A Legacy of Mud-Post Columbian objects 1981-1997"
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
March 7-April 23.

Sacred Hearts of Haitian Vodou exhibit
The Field Museum
present-April 13.

Culturas de la Costa: Cultures of the Coast
A discussion on how ancient and modern South American artisans honor the natural world.
Brookfield Zoo
March 13, 7 p.m.

Sharks: Maligned, Magnificent, and Threatened
A discussion about conservation issues concerning South America's western coast.
Brookfield Zoo
March 27, 7 p.m.

Theater

"Babette's Feast"
Presented by Theater Oobleck in association with The Rhinoceros Theater Festival and The Lunar Cabaret. Production includes eight course feast.
Lunar Cabaret
Wednesdays present-April 2
\$17 donation preferred

"Vices"
The namesake production company presents a high-energy musical.
Theatre Building
1225 W. Belmont Ave.
Sunday, March 16 at 7 p.m.

"The Fantasticks"
The popular Broadway musical about love and innocence comes to Chicago.
Centerlight Theatre
3444 Dundee Road
Northbrook, IL
March 21-April 13
847-559-0110, Ext. 237.

"1,001 Afternoons in Chicago"
Live Bait Theater and Prop Thtr announce a production that recaptures the energy and rhythms of a midwestern metropolis crawling with convicts, flappers and recent immigrants.
The Fire House
1625 N. Damen Ave.
March 16-April 27
773-871-1212 for showtimes.

House of Blues

Robert Hunter-March 4
Cowboy Mouth-March 8
Jason Bonham-March 10
Joshua Redman-March 12
Drovers-March 15
Willie Nelson-March 18-19
De La Soul-March 21
Chick Corea-March 25

329 N. Dearborn St.
Shows begin at 9 p.m.



OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS
LESBIGAY STUDENT ART EXHIBITION
MARCH 17 -APRIL 17 1997

OPENING RECEPTION THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 6:00-8:00PM

Quality student work of all mediums accepted by March 13 at 7:00pm to the Hokin Center, 623 S. Wabash. All work must be ready for display (ie. paintings wired, photography and illustrations matted to our specific sizes) 8"x10", 11"x14", 16"x20", 20"x24", and 30"x40" Contact Michael-Alistair Wernik at ext. 5696 with ????

AEMMP signs "Brando's Charm"

By Paul Zabratanski
Staff Writer

Columbia's Music Business Decision Making class, which forms the corporation AEMMP (Arts Entertainment Media Management Productions) Records, signed the band Brando's Charm to a record contract on Feb. 24 as part of the program's annual project.

The program, founded in 1982 by Irwin Steinberg, who subsequently started Polygram Records, currently has 19 students enrolled. Together they form AEMMP.

"This class fills most offices that you would have for a record company," said Debra Hale, faculty advisor for AEMMP Records. "Students really put their talent to practice in this class and they take it very seriously. It really is great experience for the students."

"We meet as a corporation, we don't meet as a class," said Kim Cooper, president of AEMMP. "This program is the whole reason that I came to Columbia in the first place. This is one of the only schools in the country to run a program like this and it's everything that I hoped it would be."

AEMMP originally solicited over 170 demos from different bands from both the city and suburbs. They received all types of music ranging from piano bar style to heavy metal.

"It was a very time-consuming and tiring process," said Reggie Lampkin, co-director of marketing. "On the other hand, we're real excited that we did this from start to finish."

When it all came down to it, Brando's Charm was



Photo by Brian Markiewicz

From the over 170 demos that AEMMP received, Brando's Charm was chosen as the most promising band. The musicians signed a one-year contract on Feb. 24.

chosen by the class consensus as the best band to sign. "We felt that they were the most promising band," stated Trevor Peters.

AEMMP knew they were making the right choice when they saw Brando's Charm live.

"They had stage presence, they had the sound and they're serious about what they're doing," said Lampkin.

Brando's Charm consists of five members: Schuler; Lawrence Tio, rhythm guitar; Stelio Kalkounos, lead guitar; Michael Casey, drummer; and Ako, head vocalist.

Casey stated that Brando's Charm cannot really be categorized when it comes to their type of sound. "We

have an edge to us, more of a diverse sound."

The band was signed to a one-year licensing contract that entitles AEMMP to promote and sell the band's compact disc and other merchandise. In addition, 1,500 to 2,000 compact discs will be released by Brando's Charm and AEMMP.

"Our objective is to take the artist to a new level and create a little bit of a buzz for them," stated Steve Lockett, co-director of publicity. AEMMP hopes to jump start the band's career, so that they can go on to bigger and better things.

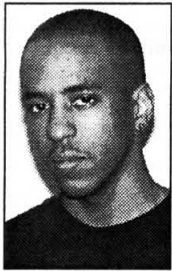
The band, which has been together almost three years, seemed to be as enthusiastic about the deal as AEMMP Records. Schuler, when addressing the AEMMP employees stated, "We're excited to have you guys helping and working with us. We want to make it like one big band that you are all a part of."

The band will release their new compact disc near the end of March and they feel extremely good about it.

"I didn't even think we could sound that good, we're really excited," said Schuler. The band currently has two compact discs on the market but wanted to create something unique for this release. "We're trying to stray from the Pearl Jam comparison. That's a really hard stigma."

Brando's Charm will be playing at the Penny Road Club in South Barrington, for "Winterjam 97," a contest among 50 to 100 bands, on March 5 at 10 p.m. Following that, the band can be seen on March 14 at Navy Pier, where they will be headlining a show for the Irish Youth Fellowship.

◆◆ Power Of Our Rhythm ◆◆



With Tim Matthews

If you're about to throw a party that needs some loungin' flavor and a relaxed mood, then look no further. DJ Sativa, a Columbia student who loves De La just as much as I do, is up and coming so you better grab hold of him while he's still on the ground. His collection of hip-hop/techno music is a new wave that is catching momentum. He can be reached at 773-404-0886.

Every Sunday at Union Hall there's nothing but a big band boogie going on. Bell Jam Records Presents "Sunday Delights." Music featured will be reggae, hip-hop and disco. Action jumps off from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. with ladies getting a freebie until midnight. There's also an Open Mic from 12:30 to 1 a.m. The event will be hosted by Spank Boogie and Aquaman. For more information, contact D-Flat at 106jamz (312) 360-9000.

So which one did you guys do this past Thursday night, the C.U.M.A. Showcase or the Records' Row special that channel 11 aired at 9 p.m.?

The Columbia College Association of Black Journalists will throw a "Talent Showcase" March 6 in the Hokin Annex with a 6 or 7 p.m. start. Although the auditions were late last week, there could still be a spot for one more act. Contact the lovely Michelle Y. Johnson by faxing (312) 431-9755 or just leave a message in their mailbox in Student Life on the 3rd floor in the Wabash Building.

Chicago Tribe, along with M.I.S. invites you to attend the Salon Las Americas, at North Milwaukee, across the street from the Congress theater.

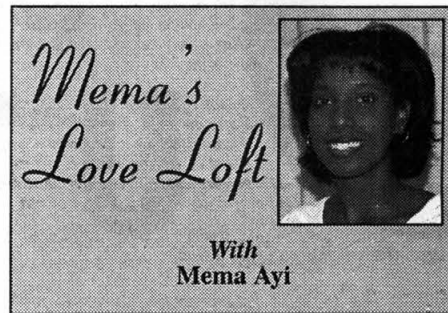
The "joint" will be wide open Friday, March 14 at 8 p.m. There's a \$5 charge and on the Wheelz will be DJ sprite, SJ Shazam and GQ.

"It's Off the Record, Off the Hook!!!" will be coming at cha in March at the Chopin Theater, 1570 1/2 North Damen. For more information on the event and information on advanced ticket sales, call (312) 250-1266. Take my word, if New York, L.A. and Atlanta are all dooin' it well, you know it's butta when we touch it. Big ups to the infamous B*Cole, comedian extra ordinaire. B*Cole had his own hour-long special on BET's "Comic View - Grand Stand" this past Tuesday. Once again, Chi-town was represented well and hilariously!!

If you're the type that says and does "Keep It Real" at all times, then March 22 is the date to mark on your calendar. 106jamz will give a beautiful music tribute to the late legendary Isadore Pink a.k.a Pink House during it's Spring Break Bash. Jay Allen, da Man over there, guarantees a night to remember. You want to know who's the special recording guest artists will be? Yeah, I know you do!!

So So Def Records, label home of Chi-town's reigning hip-hop queen Da Brat, is looking for Demo Packages from the Midwest. Though number was left, Lil' John, the National Director of A/R for them is the man to do business with. So get on the phone and call "Hotlanta" A.S.A.P.

Hey Do Or Die, Nice remix!!
Peace out and Much Love!!!



With Mema Ayi

Hi. I hope you could provide me some advice with my love problem.

I've known this girl for a month. She lives in California and I in Chicago. We met each other through AOL chats. A while later we shared postal addresses and we actually did write to each other. Later, we went further with phone numbers.

A while back, I managed to buy her a Valentine's Day gift a week before Valentine's Day. Way ahead of all the guys. I bought a doll. Two white mice hugging each other with a heart attached between them. They're 18" tall. It cost me quite a bit to package it for mailing too. She called me when she received it. She told me she liked it a lot and said it's on her bed.

I called her the day before Valentine's Day. Before we hung up, she said she'd call me back on Valentine's Day. Now the problem is this: I've waited since Valentine's Day and still haven't heard from her yet. It's been more like over a week! What's going on? I don't know if I should call her or not. I know I love her a lot, but I don't really know what she's thinking of.

I don't know why I cried myself to sleep on Valentine's Day night. I'm probably getting too emotional at the moment, like I'm scared of losing her. I never felt like this before. Once this feeling strikes me, at once I start to feel like not doing anything at all besides confining myself at home.

Please help me!
A.M.

Hi, A.M.

You obviously missed my Valentine's Day column about not getting all worked up about that ridiculous Hallmark holiday. Valentine's Day doesn't have to mean anything—unless you want it to. It's just another day. But, I guess this year it meant something to you.

Here's the thing: You can't get too close to people you meet on-line. You don't know enough about them and it's really not

a safe way to go about meeting people. So you have to be a little more realistic about your expectations in those relationships.

In a way, it's not even real. It's all computers. You don't see the people you're talking to and they don't see you. You've heard the phrase "if it seems too good to be true..." that's what this is like.

You met this wonderful (perfect) woman on-line and you're into her and she's into you and life is great and you finally found the woman of your

dreams—only she lives over 2,000 miles away. There's your first problem. Do you really think she's been telling people that she met this great guy on-line and she's moving all the way to Chicago to be with you?

Your other problem is that you don't know what she's in this for. This woman could have a boyfriend or a husband (and maybe a couple of kids) who she's having communication problems with and just using this whole meeting guys on-line thing to deal with it.

Now, this doesn't necessarily mean that she was just using you to get herself through a rough period, but it's altogether possible.

Although I'm sure she appreciated your gift and was touched that you even thought of her, but chances are that she spent Valentine's Day trying to repair her relationship with the boyfriend/ husband/whatever.

A.M., you've got to go on with your life! You "met" her on-line! Get a grip! You make it sound like you're in love with her or something.

Here's what you have to do: First, you should leave your house. I know it's hard to do, but women can't come knocking on your door if they don't even know that you're in there because you're sitting around all day checking e-mail messages, looking out for the postman and waiting for the phone to ring. (A watched phone never rings, by the way.)

Second, you need to go places where you can meet real people and have face-to-face conversations. There are a lot of single people in the Chicagoland area just waiting to meet someone just like you.

I could be wrong about all this though. (Unlikely but possible.) She could have just been really busy the past few weeks. You two could get together and live happily ever after. If it happens, let me know. In the meantime, look to meet real women that you can come in actual contact with.



For better or worse

Keep Your Faith

By DeForest King

Wave battered shores painted salt and brine, weathered mountains with crests upon high. Feathered doves on the wings that it flies, blazing star over head in a heavenly sky.

Man's plight isn't so lofty and true, as things mother nature and father time do. Over decades and centuries not unlike me and you.

Through evolution did all creatures thrive, even man had to struggle before he could strive. That others go on before him ere dies, to gain knowledge, give ideals then keep them alive.

Oh it is hard when dealing with fate, it haunts and surrounds you like a ghostly wraith. Weary become angry and lash out with hate, in times such as these you hang on to your faith.

For soon, all rights will cancel out wrongs, keep faith dry your eyes it shall bare you along. On this path with its hardships it shall give your heart song, to reward you one day if you keep your hope strong.

Adam Reed Ridge

By Patricia Ridge

Lord my nephew has gone away,
And now I live just day by day,
Suddenly he was taken and there he laid,
God help me see this through I pray.

Lord why couldn't I have a little more time?

To hold him close and to call him mine.
They say that only the strong will survive,

This is the highest mountain I've had to climb.

Adam was just to young to go.
And when he did it hurt me so.
But in my mind there is a glow,
And in my heart he takes front row.

I can't forget your smiling face,
No one on earth can take your place,
And even time can not erase.
Fact is, of you there is no trace.
It's getting close to the day that you died,
The twelfth of August in heaven you now reside.

Sooner or later our paths will collide.
Then in God's arms we both can hide.

And when I die I will see you then.
That's when I'll never leave your sight again.

But until that day my love I do send.
And my broken heart will continue to mend.

* This is the Chronicle's first installment of a regular feature highlighting poetry and short fiction.

King and Ridge write from experience

By Ann Gabor
Staff Writer

DeForest King, a Wabash Building security guard, wouldn't be writing today if his mother hadn't given him the gift of reading. Interestingly, it is everyday life events that inspire him to write.

"What you do and how you live is more important than anything you read in a book," said the 28-year-old King. "It's this experience that influences other's lives."

King's poetry demonstrates how people view themselves and learn from life's lessons, as well as illustrating how a person's different dimensions blend into one individual.

King's poems "The Stonecutter" and "Beauty" are based on Chinese proverbs that teach the value of learning from life experiences.

"The goal of the poetry is to tell a story that is common to everyone so the story matters to everyone," King explained.

His poetry also concerns such

topics as current events, the breakup of a relationship, and the first time one rebels against authority figures.

King was not enthusiastic about a future as a professional poet. He said writing is his hobby. King explained he could not produce a poem on command because he writes when inspiration hits him. However, King's plans for the future involve returning to school with an interest in architecture.

"I'll try to keep my horizons as wide as possible," King said.

Patricia Ridge is shy.

A 42-year-old security guard at Columbia's dorms, Ridge is a lifelong resident of Chicago.

"If I get a job in writing, I just want to be anonymous," Ridge said with a bashful smile about her future as a writer. "I want it to be fun."

Ridge began writing prayers 13 years ago, but life began to move too fast, and her writing fell by the wayside. Eight months ago she picked up her pen again while

recovering from a broken leg she suffered from a fall.

"I've been doing a lot of writing," Ridge said.

Her broken foot caused life to move slower for Ridge, and enabled her to stop and think about her life experiences.

Ridge writes for others that are experiencing the problems she has lived through. "When I write, I know I'm not the only one that's been through it," she said.

She hopes her poetry will show others that there is a solution to the problem, and she writes mainly so others see they are not alone.

Ridge's writing also helps her put to rest past events of her life that have troubled her.

"When I write, I think about them, and then I put it away, and I don't think about them anymore," she explained. "It's a way of clearing my mind."

Ridge's family has been influential to her during life's harsher moments and similarly to her poetry.

"They always believed in me," she said.

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Another take on Academy

Astonishment, and perhaps a little ego crushing, is most prevalent with this year's Academy Award nominations for Best Picture. For the first time in the Academy's 68-year history, Hollywood's major studios were shut out of this category. The films reviewed below stem from companies that are better known for producing artsy or independent films: Gramercy Pictures ("Fargo"), Fine Line Features ("Shine"), Miramax Films ("The English Patient"), October Films ("Secrets and Lies") and Tri Star Pictures ("Jerry MacGuire"). What hasn't altered Academy history, though, is the lack of cultural diversity among the five films in question. Few can forget last year's protests over the "Hollywood Blackout" and in this respect, this year seems to have more on that same theme.

Jerry MacGuire

By Sandy Campbell
Correspondent

Whether you are a movie fan or not, you probably realize that this year's Academy Awards resembles last year's Sundance Film Festival, rather than a glitzy gala honoring the best of the studios' fall commercial releases. All but one of the five films that are nominated for best picture this year is from the independent foray.

Ironically "Jerry MacGuire," the studio's release, could have easily been an independent film due to the director/screenwriter Cameron Crowe, who is best known for making small films such as "Say Anything." It is truly a studio release due to the presence of Tom Cruise and the highly paid athletes that pop-up throughout the film.

I avoided this film as long as I could because it was advertised like a "big-ego, world-revolves-around-me, highly overexposed Tom Cruise" movie. In part the movie is, but it is also a well-written movie about friendship. The movie explores the different types of friends, ranging from agent/client to romantic companionships. The movie also explores how real friends surface when times are tough.

Tom Cruise stars as a sports agent named Jerry MacGuire who suddenly becomes morally conscious when the son of a hockey player gives him the finger for making his hockey player/father (who has a stereotypical, so-called "Canadian accent") play for tons of cash after an unfortunate accident. As a result, he writes a document saying that agents should be more for the caring of and being there for the athletes rather than making the most money for themselves and their clients.

He sends a copy of the document to everybody in the agency, which makes him a hero, but they dump him within a week. So now the "free agent" must recap all of his clients. He loses all but two of them to Bob Sugar (Jay Mohr), the big cheese whom Cruise's character taught everything he knows to and was also fired by. He also loses his bride-to-be (played by Kelly Preston).

Office worker Dorothy Boyd (Renee Zellweger) is the only agency worker who joins Cruise on his solo career, after he challenges the entire staff to join him, because she finds his document (which she refers to as "memo") sincere. She has a cute son (Jerry Lipnicki) whom one could squeeze the stuffing out of.

One client that stays with MacGuire is Ron Tidwell (Cuba Gooding Jr., also worthy of an Oscar nod). He is a football player who is very good at what he does, but doesn't get any recognition by the press or the fans because he is loud-mouthed and arrogant. Only a faux pas this unrealistic could happen in the movies. Right? I am going to bravely state that Cuba Gooding Jr. (All grown up from "Boys in the Hood") is going to be, if he isn't already, the next Denzel Washington. In fact, their mouths look oddly similar.

Kudos to the casting director, who assembles a well-organized cast and takes a chance on newcomer Zellweger. She fits the part perfectly with her naive sweetness.

Besides best picture, the film is nominated for five other awards including Cameron Crowe and Cuba Gooding Jr. (for best original screenplay and best supporting actor respectively).

As for Tom Cruise, what can I say, he is the best at playing Tom Cruise. I have to admit he is charismatic and likable for an over-exposed superstar, unlike Madonna and Dennis Rodman.



Fargo

By Joseph Schrank
Correspondent

The viability of "Fargo" as a best picture nomination leaves me with a couple of probing questions. Was it chosen because of a lack of quality movies in 1996? The other four nominees merit 3 contenders ("Shine", "The English Patient", "Secrets and Lies") and a seeming throw-in ("Jerry MacGuire"). Then again, was it nominated for its new and different coverage of a movie-fan favorite, the grotesque multiple-murder spree?

Overall, I thought "Fargo" was an average to below-average depiction of a real-life event that didn't totally translate to the screen. At fault for this are the brother team of Ethan and Joel Coen. They co-wrote "Fargo" (Joel directed and Ethan produced.)

"Fargo" is based on an actual series of crimes that took place in Minnesota in 1987. The Coens' statement that the movie is exactly what happened is enough to put anyone on guard.

William H. Macy stars as Jerry Lundegard, a Minneapolis car dealer who conspires to kidnap his wife and split the ransom with the kidnapers. The idiocy of the plan and more so the kidnapers, Carl Showalter (Steve Buscemi) and Gaer Grimsrud (Peter Stormare) begins in Fargo, N. D. where Lundegard initially meets the kidnapers. No further action takes place in Fargo and the name of the movie probably signifies the start of the horrid events to come.

Showalter and Grimsrud commit three murders in Brainerd, Minnesota one of which was a state trooper. This results from a routine highway stop where Grimsrud decides to kill the trooper. All this because the kidnapers have no vehicle tags for a car Lundegard stole for them and is to be used to get his wife in Minneapolis.

The subsequent action gets more bizarre and ends in the kidnapers turning against one another and Lundegard fleeing the metro area. Several murders later the viewer is left with a great appall at the depravity humans can sink to.

The "innovativeness" critics hail "Fargo" for having is also its weakness. The human realism of characters in dress, dialogue and manner seems to be a little thick at times. The "backcountry" lingo and outright stupidity of locals paints a far from gratifying portrait of Minnesota natives.

The police officer who solves the case, Marge Gunderson (Frances McDormand), is about the only intelligent person in the film. Nevertheless, she appears slow and "earthy" and so are other law enforcement officers. Her cunning in figuring out the crimes seems at times a stretch. McDormand received a nomination for Best Actress.

An odd note is that the only characters without an accent were the two kidnapers. The Coen's, however, never reveal where they are from.

I guess it's just hard for me to see people in Minnesota acting like they were portrayed in "Fargo." Some of the characteristics are there but not enough to accept "Fargo" as a great film let alone a best picture nomination.

Award Nominated Films



Shine

By Adam D. Payne
Correspondent

"Shine," a prodigy picture, is the true story of the virtuoso pianist David Helfgott.

The film follows David from early childhood and into adolescence while he endures and learns from his stern and ardently tempered, yet compassionate, father. This relationship is largely the essence of the entire picture and wonderful performances by Armin Mueller-Stal as the father and Noah Taylor as the adolescent David are the basis for the film's overall success, including its Oscar nomination.

David attends the Royal Academy of Music in London against his father's demand. His professor (played by the incomparable John Gielgud) takes him through a competition in which he attempts the hardest piece he knows of, by Sergi Rachmaninoff. He begins to flirt with his future madness while at the Academy, having the "guts" to do the infamous "Rach III." Throughout the film he is not afraid, and perhaps more accurately, happy to display these "guts."

Geoffrey Rush tops the film off with his portrayal of a middle-aged David, fully immersed in his schizophrenia. This role earned Rush an Oscar nomination and a well-deserved one at that, but Taylor captures the support and sympathy of the audience as young David. He really made Rush's job possible by setting up the character with such extraordinary appeal that I found myself hoping for another flashback.

Skeptics beware: This film is too passionate and pure for those who admire only masterful direction or cinematography. While the photography is beautiful, there are often distracting, drifting cameras that one may not be able to look over. It is the marvelous execution of every single role that makes this film so memorable.

Similar films have failed to reach into a character as this one does. "Searching for Bobby Fisher," for example, is a film with a similar theme and subject that does not delve into a single mind as this does.

"Shine" approaches the plateau of mesmerizing at moments, especially those that are David's point of view. Manipulation of sound and shocking use of silence allow this film to do so. Whenever David approaches "ecstasy" while performing, the sound is what carries the effect most proficiently. Appropriate, you might say, as this is a film about music, of music and for music.

"Shine" is also reminiscent of Truffaut's "Shoot the Piano Player," the story of a celebrated pianist driven from the throne of his profession and later found entertaining small bar crowds. David Helfgott, however is not an imaginary character but, is so fantastic that he may as well be.

Every time David finished a piece, I felt like applauding. While I did not enjoy the endlessly drifting camera work, I could not help but fall in love with this film and its wonderfully complex characters. Whatever trend made Hollywood elect this film to the Academy Glory Sphere, let's hope it last for a while.

This year holds an interesting ballot on hand for us as Oscar night approaches, and that is largely due to the nomination of "Shine" with such heart breaking performances. Encore!

Secrets and Lies

By Eileen La Valle
Staff Writer

B-O-R-E-D-O-M. That's the main thing I got out of Mike Leigh's film "Secrets & Lies," not to mention a little nausea.

The film, which won the Golden Palm, International Critics' Prize, and Brenda Blethyn an award for best actress at Cannes, must have been judged by British folks who were drinking some funny tea and wine. The dreaded soap opera is torturous to watch and was a noble, but feeble attempt on Leigh's behalf.

The film is full of bitter neurotics, all whom are depressed about one thing or another. The so-called plot has Hortense (Marianne Jean-Baptiste), whose parents are recently deceased, deciding to go on a mission to find her birth mother, who gave her up for adoption 28 years ago. Hortense is a young black optometrist who discovers that her mother is a middle-aged and unstable card-box factory-worker whose also a white, drunken, manic-depressive named Cynthia (Brenda Blethyn). Critic John Simon put it well when he said, "Brenda's portrayal of Cynthia should have earned her Best Crier instead of Best Actress."

Cynthia, who desperately cries, wails,

whines and smokes throughout the entire film, is unaware, at first, how she could have a black daughter considering she is white (she had mistaken the identity of the father and never saw the baby at birth).

Her other daughter Roxanne (Claire Rushbrook), the street cleaner who despises her mother, walks around hating the world with a gigantic chip on her shoulder and frown on her face, sulking about lulling in her piety.

To add to this pathetic anguished family Cynthia's brother Maurice (Timothy Spall) and his pain-in-the-ass wife Monica (Phyllis Logan) are added to the deranged picture. Maurice's character is the only thing that adds a small amount of humor to the dull saga. The only part of the movie that is deserving of a small snicker of laughter happens in Maurice's photography studio when we see shots of absurd people having their portraits taken.

Despite some of the positive reviews and numerous awards, "Secrets & Lies" just plain sucks. There is some annoying background music throughout almost the entire wannabe comedy/drama.

So unless you wish to waste your money foolishly, or are in dire need of a good nap, I don't suggest going to see it.

The English Patient

By Sandy Campbell
Correspondent

Probably the most talked about movie at the Academy Awards this year is "The English Patient," which I have to say is highly over-rated.

The main plot of the movie really doesn't matter, because the highly erotic and sensuous sex scenes between Ralph Finnes and Kristin Scott Thomas make up the movie. If you like beautifully directed sex scenes (as does yours truly), then this movie is for you. When watching the love scenes, one cannot help but

feel compassion for the ever-loyal husband played by Colin Firth, whom Scott Thomas is cheating on.

Another reason I like this movie is because it contains Canadian characters. As a Canadian watching mostly American characters in movies all my life I could not feel a sense of relief. In fact, Americans are only in the movie for two short scenes and they are not portrayed in a positive light. In the first scene they are loud and obnoxious while partying.

And in the second, they almost arrogantly run over a bridge that is booby-trapped with a bomb while proudly waving the American flag from their humon-

gous tank. That bomb is being diffused at the same time by Naveen Andrews character (Juliette Binoche's east Indian lover and probably the real hero of the film).

That quick shot of the tank with the American flag is placed in the film's advertisements against heavy background music (probably in both the U.S. and Canada). I doubt there are any Canadian flags in the Canadian advertisement.

The cinematography is superb and breath-taking, which helps establish the epic feel of the movie.

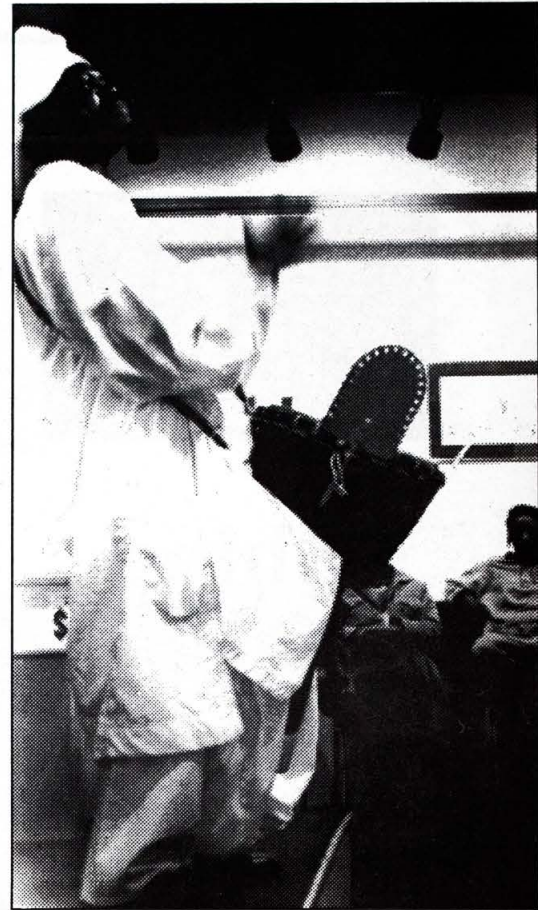
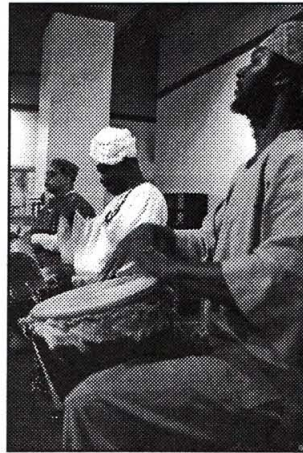
Ironically, "The English Patient" feels and tries to be very Hollywood for an independent film. This is probably because of producer Saul Zaentz, who has had two other films (One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Amadeus) nominated for best picture. Zaentz will also be the recipient of the Irving A. Thalberg award during the Academy Awards ceremony.

"The English Patient" is nominated for practically every award in front of and behind the camera, with one notable exception: best make-up.

The horrific state Ralph Finnes is in physically, when Juliette Binoche finds him, makes the audience wonder if this is the same man in the titillating love scenes.



Columbia Celebrates African Heritage Month



Bobbi Wilson and She perform for Columbia Students Feb. 26.

Chronicle Photos by JoAnne Machado.

Face Value

By Brian Markiewicz

What would you do to pay off your student loan?



Joe Arnold
Undeclared
Sophomore

Get a job and pay it off.



Candi Dias
Film
Sophomore

I would work while I am in school and live at home as long as I can so I can save up as much money as possible.



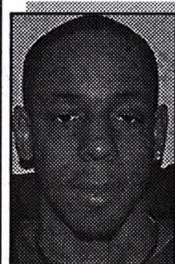
Shane Fidler
Music
Freshman

I'd become a dancer.



Angela Prater
Interpreter
Training
Junior

Hopefully after I have received my degree I will get a well-paying job and have no problems repaying my student loan.



Seneca Woodson
Music business
Sophomore

Run with the mafia and rob banks.



K. Von Chuckler
Public Relations
Senior

What a stupid question! You need to fire that editor!